

CURTNER, Brian

(1950 – 2015)

In a career spanning more than 30 years, Brian Curtner made a significant contribution to the architecture of the Toronto region before his untimely passing in August 2015. Born in 1951, he studied briefly at the School of Architecture at the University of Toronto, then moved to London, England where he studied under Alvin Boyarsky at the Architectural Association and graduated in 1975. He returned to Canada and started his own office in Toronto in 1980, and later became a founding member (with Les Klein) of Quadrangle Architects in 1986.

His major achievements as an architect with that firm include the design of the BMW Showroom (2004), in which he devised a dramatic transformation of an industrial plant into a highly visible commercial landmark on Eastern Avenue. He also planned The Corus Entertainment Co. Headquarters on the Toronto waterfront (2010), and developed

the unique and unprecedented design of the 130 Bloor Condominium Building (2007), in which he integrated a new residential tower constructed on the roof of an existing 1960's modernist office block. The latter received the prestigious Innovation Award from the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada in 2008.

Brian was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada in 2010, and during his career he also took an active part in professional organizations as well as local community groups. This included a term as OAA Representative to the University of Toronto Faculty of Architecture, and serving as the Chairman of the Toronto Society of Architects. His talent and contribution to the work of Quadrangle Architects led to the firm receiving five Awards of Excellence from the Ontario Association of Architects between 1990 and 2010.