

KERTLAND, Douglas Edwin (1888 – 1982)

Over a career that spanned more than 40 years, Toronto-based architect Douglas Kertland achieved international respect for his work. At the time of his death he was an Honorary Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Architects, the American Institute of Architects and the Ontario Association of Architects. In 1956 and again in 1958 Kertland served as President of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. Known particularly for his designs of homes, banks and hospitals, examples of his work are found all over Ontario.

Born in Toronto in 1888, he moved to England with his parents at a young age. Here he received his early education and his training in architecture. During the first world war which interrupted Kertland's budding career, he served as a Captain in the Canadian Corps of Engineers.

When the war ended he returned to Toronto and worked with the noted architect John M. Lyle. However, in 1926 he struck out on his own and established what was a long and successful practice. One of Kertland's most notable designs, the Automotive Building (1929) at the Canadian National Exhibition, came as one of the several com-

petitions he won throughout his career. A classically inspired Art Deco design, the building with its fluid lines and ornate embellishments evokes images of the flamboyant architecture of Hollywood of that time. Kertland's residential designs, often executed in a Tudor-Jacobean style tended to be more conservative but extremely popular. The residence for J. Wickett, Toronto (1928), the residence of J. L. Tyrrell, Toronto (1928) and the residence of W. H. Tait, Forest Hill Road, are good examples. Hospitals in Kincardine, Chesley, Woodstock and Listowel as well as The Canadian Bank Note Company, Ottawa, were designed by Kertland.

Interestingly, he always did his own drawings and resisted the practice of supervising while employees prepared the designs.

An active man, Kertland was an oarsman for the Argonaut Rowing Club until the 1930s, a past President of the Toronto Gyro Club and a past Master of Harcourt Masonic Lodge. He was also a member of the Arts and Letters Club.

He was married twice, his first wife was Mary McMurrich. Later he married May Warren Bray. After a long and successful career, Kertland died in 1982 at the age of 94.