

## LENNOX, Edward James (1855 – 1933)

**B**est remembered for landmarks such as the 1889 Toronto City Hall and Casa Loma, E.J. Lennox was called “the builder of Toronto”.

One of the city’s most influential architects, his original, robust and progressive work changed the face of Toronto.

A Torontonion by birth, Lennox attended the city’s grammar and model schools and architectural drawing classes at the Mechanic’s Institute where he was first in a class of 60 students. Lennox spent five years in the office of architect William Irving and travelled to study the latest in architectural design and construction techniques. From 1876 he practiced with William McGaw. In 1881 this partnership dissolved and Lennox had no other partners until his son, Edgar Edward joined him in 1929. While not a partner, his brother, Charles also worked in the office for almost 35 years.

Lennox was known for his genius as a designer and for his meticulous attention to each detail in the construction of his buildings. By the time he was in his early thirties his practice was one of the largest in Canada and his prestigious commissions included the landscape plan for Queen’s Park (1876), Bond Street Congregational Church (1878),

and a Hotel for Edward Hanlan on Toronto Island (1879). In 1889 he was selected from some 50 architects to design Toronto City Hall.

Modelled on H.H. Richardson’s Allegheny Courthouse in Pittsburgh, the richly decorated Romanesque City Hall was one of the biggest municipal structures in North America. In 1892, frustrated by difficulties with contractors, Lennox took on the supervision of this massive project and introduced the eight-hour working day for his laborers. The City Hall was officially opened in 1899, and at midnight on New Year’s Eve the tower clock rang for the first time to herald the 20th century.

While working in historical styles, Lennox designed very modern buildings for the time. His Freehold Savings and Loan Company (1889-91) was fireproof and was the most completely equipped office building in Canada. The King Edward Hotel (1901-1903); the Toronto Athletic Club (1891) (now the Stewart Building); Casa Loma (1910), and Lennox’s own home, Lenwill (1915) are also among his many notable commissions.

A great self promoter, Lennox was a member of the Toronto Transit Commission, the Board of Trade, and the Architectural Guild which preceded the formation of the OAA.

### Important work:

Toronto City Hall, Queen St. W., Toronto	1890-99
Toronto Athletic Club, College St., Toronto	1891-92
St. Paul’s Anglican Church, Bloor St. E., Toronto	1891-92
Freehold Savings & Loan Bldg., Victoria St., Toronto	1889-91
Power House for Toronto & Niagara Power Co., Niagara Falls, Ont.	1906-08
Casa Loma, Austin Terrace, Toronto	1909-11
Residence for Hart Massey, Jarvis St., Toronto	1883-85
Bank of Toronto, Yonge St. near Shuter St., Toronto	1906-08