

MARANI, Ferdinand Herbert (1893 – 1971)

Born in Vancouver, Marani spent a good deal of his childhood sketching ships. When he moved east to attend school, his grandfather advised him that if he wanted to stay in the east, "you'd better start drawing buildings; you won't see many ships". Influenced by this advice and by his father, Ceasare Marani an instructor at the School of Architecture in Toronto, Marani spent over 50 years designing buildings all over Canada.

After Ridley College in St. Catharines, he entered the University of Toronto, graduating in 1920. During World War I he interrupted his studies to serve with the Toronto Regiment. During off hours he practiced drafting, and after the Armistice designed summer cottages and homes, many in a romantic pseudo-tudor style. He also studied architecture with Eden Smith and Sons and Sproatt and Rolph. In 1926 he formed a partnership with Lawson and Paisley. In 1928 Paisley left and Marani and Lawson brought in Robert Morris as a partner. In 1940 the firm became Marani and Morris. During World War II, Ferdinand Marani designed special buildings as a works officer for the Royal Canadian Air Force. In 1942 he was promoted to Group Captain and was

awarded the Order of the British Empire in 1945. In 1959 M. F. Allan joined Marani and Morris as a partner. In 1964 Marani was in partnership with Rounthwaite and Dick.

Marani designed schools, hospitals, residences, commercial and industrial buildings. Prolific and accomplished, he won a gold medal from the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada for the spare, modern Bank of Canada (1937) in Ottawa, and a silver Massey Foundation Medal for the Canadian National Exhibition Grandstand (1949). His design for the modern style Medical Arts Building (1928) in Toronto was a great success with both doctors and patients. Banks and medical buildings were among the most numerous of his commissions. Marani's work in the Georgian style is well represented by buildings such as The Lower School (1928) at Ridley College, St. Catharines, and the Gore Mutual Insurance Company (1935) in Galt.

Ferdinand Herbert Marani was chairman of several organizations including the Ontario Association of Architects, Toronto Chapter; the Ontario College of Art; the Advisory Housing Committee, City of Toronto. He was an academician of the Royal Canadian Academy and a fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.