

PAGE, Forsey Pemberton B. (1885 – 1970)

Forsey Page was awarded the Coronation Medal in 1952 for his work in the architectural profession and it was one of a number of distinguished awards received in his long career.

Descended from United Empire Loyalist stock, Forsey Page was born in Toronto in 1885. Educated at Harbord Collegiate and St. Andrew's College, Page attended the University of Toronto but left before graduating. Page spent a year travelling and studying in Europe before working for the Toronto architect S. H. Townsend. In 1912 he opened his own practice but his career was interrupted by the outbreak of World War I. From 1915 to 1918 he served overseas. After the war he worked in various architectural offices before joining forces with Harland Steele in 1925 in a firm that has today become one of Toronto's establishment firms, still operating under their name.

In their early years Page and Steele were known for the design of residential and educational buildings. For their smaller buildings particularly residences they generally employed traditional Georgian vocabulary as exemplified in Page's own Toronto home and the alterations to the residence of R. Mohen in Cobourg. The Forest Hill schools are also in this conservative yet pleasing style. Their apartment buildings

were more innovative with "The Park Lane" being the first of its kind in Toronto. Its sleek stream-lined art moderne style was copied by others during the late 1930's and 1940's and reused by Page and Steele in many of their other apartment designs such as the Whitehall Apartments. The Garden Court apartment building in Leaside, designed around garden squares, was a radical departure in apartment design for the time. Other Toronto works by Page and Steele are Benvenuto Place on Avenue Road, the Ontario College of Pharmacy's restrained modern Georgian offices on Gerrard St., St. Clement's Church, North Toronto, the O'Keefe Centre (with Earle C. Morgan), and the Queen Elizabeth Building, Exhibition Park (with Peter Dickinson).

Page, a President of the Ontario Association of Architects (in 1933-34) and the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, described himself as moderately modern in his tastes. Page was a chancellor, College of Fellows, RAIC, Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects and academia of the Royal Canadian Academy. Married to Nellie Pentland 1910-1935, and Laura Emerson 1946-1970, Page's interests included music, literature (particularly Charles Dickens) and sports such as golf and tennis.

Important work:

Page & Warrington

St. Clement's Anglican Church, Toronto 1924

Page & Steele

Forest Hill Prep School, Toronto 1936

Park Lane Apartments, St. Clair Ave. W.,
Toronto 1937

Garden Court Apartments, Leaside, Toronto 1939-1942

Ontario College of Pharmacy, Gerrard St. E.,
Toronto 1940-41

Forest Hill Town Hall, Lonsdale Rd.,
Toronto 1944

Wallberg Building, University of Toronto,
Toronto 1946-47

Forest Hill Collegiate, Eglinton Ave. W.,
Toronto 1947-48

Jewish Community Centre, Spadina Ave. at
Bloor St. W. Toronto 1950