

## RAYMORE, William Gerald (1903 – 1969)

**W**illiam Gerald Raymore practiced architecture in Toronto for almost forty years. He was best known, however, for his involvement in architectural education, especially in his twenty-four years as a professor at the School of Architecture, University of Toronto, and for other contributions to the development of the profession in Ontario and across Canada.

Gerry Raymore was born in Toronto in 1903. He was educated in public elementary and secondary schools in Toronto, including Central Technical School (where he took an industrial course in architecture) and Harbord and Jarvis Collegiate Institutes, obtaining senior matriculation in 1923. He then studied architecture in the Department of Architecture, School of Practical Science, University of Toronto, graduating with the degree of Bachelor of Architecture in 1927. He was registered with the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) in 1931, and became a member of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) in 1935. He was elected a Fellow of the RAIC in 1961.

After graduation in 1927 Raymore worked for one year for Penrose V. Stout, Architect, New York City, and for three years for Mathers & Haldenby, Architects, Toronto, where he was responsible for the detailed design of the exterior ornamentation of the Canada Permanent Building, a much admired office building on Bay Street in Toronto. In 1932 he joined the staff at Danforth Technical School, Toronto, where he taught architectural drafting for fifteen years. A meticulous draftsman, he prepared many tracings of blueprint plates on architectural history and construction to assist in the instruction of his students. He also wrote a curriculum for teaching Construction Technology which was used in technical and vocational schools throughout Ontario until 1969.

In 1947 Raymore joined the faculty at the School of Architecture, University of Toronto, where he taught for twenty-two years, until his retirement in 1969. He was appointed a full professor in 1959 and was responsible for organizing the technical component of the curriculum. For many years, he was also a partner in the Toronto firm Horwood & White, Architects, where he was responsible for two major projects, the headquarters of the Children's Aid Society of Toronto on Charles Street

East, and the rebuilding of Varsity Stadium at the University of Toronto. He also designed a number of private residences in Toronto.

In his career as an educator Raymore specialized in imparting to his students the practical knowledge which they would need in practice, teaching courses on the materials and methods of construction, specifications and professional practice. He helped several generations of students to understand that architectural design involves more than the visualization of forms and spaces, and more than drawings and presentations. He emphasized the need for students to understand the process of construction. In the words of one obituary he was "credited with bridging the communication gap between the classroom and the building contractor".

Raymore was also influential in shaping architectural education in Ontario and in maintaining high professional standards. He served as the Chairman of the Committee of Examiners of the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) Registration Board from 1953 to 1965, acted as the Director of Professional Studies from 1962 to 1967, and established the first OAA Registration Course in 1963. For that course he edited two publications, "Legal Aspects of Architectural Practice" and "Economics of Building", the former becoming a best seller. He also coordinated a national survey of the profession and edited its report "Survey of the Profession" (1966) for the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) with Pat Keenleyside and Douglas Lee, and wrote the RAIC brochure "Architecture as a Vocation".

Raymore's interest in the technical aspects of architecture was also expressed in his work as a member of the RAIC Committee on Architectural Research, and as a member of the Technical Committee of the Specifications Writers Association of Canada (later Construction Specifications Canada), through which a national system of writing and organizing specifications was developed. Following his retirement from the University of Toronto he began a study of the applications of computer programming to architecture, a new technology at the time.

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Gerry Raymore died in Toronto on December 5, 1969, survived by his wife Blanche and their three children, Jean, Hugh and Ross. He was remembered with respect by his colleagues and friends, and by the many students whom he had taught and influenced through the years.