

WATERS, Mackenzie (1894 – 1968)

Lieutenant-Colonel Mackenzie Waters, a prominent Toronto architect, remembered largely for his handsome neo-Georgian and colonial designs was equally skilled in the Art Deco and International Styles. Actively interested in Ontario's architectural heritage, he helped form the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and worked on the restoration of Barnum House, the first restoration of its kind in the province.

A native of Belleville, Ontario, Mackenzie Waters was born on October 1, 1894 and received his early education at his home town. His architectural education at the University of Toronto began in 1910 but was interrupted by service in World War I. While a student in 1913 he worked as a draftsman for the architectural firm Wickson & Gregg. After the armistice Waters resumed his studies in 1919, the same year he married Alexandrina Garvin, graduating in 1920. The following year he set up practice in Toronto and began an association with architect F. Hilton Wilkes.

Success came quickly for Waters. During the 1920's and 1930's he won no less than 22 awards in the biennial Architecture Shows at the Toronto Art

Gallery and was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1935 for his design of Gilbey's Distillery, New Toronto (1933). That same year at the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada's show, he received the first award for his design of a residence for General Hogarth.

His works include Blakely Cottage, Cobourg (1927), a clapboard colonial house; alterations to Ravensworth, Cobourg (1927) its magnificent neo-Georgian paneled study won Waters an honorable mention at the CNE for interiors over \$50,000; the Elizabethan style store for Ridpath's (1928); Canada Permanent Building, Toronto (1928-1930) an Art Deco office tower with an extravagant interior and Toronto's Art Deco Sports Palace, Maple Leaf Gardens (1931) in collaboration with Jack Ryrie and the Montreal firm of Ross & Macdonald. Water's use of the neo-Georgian style for a house at 45 South Drive which had a difficult site illustrates his particular skill while Elgin House, an International Style complex on Lake Joseph (1939) shows that he was equally adept in the "modern" styles.

Waters had a distinguished military career that included service in two world wars. He retired as Colonel, A. D. C. Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario.

Important work:

Residence for Mrs. Perkins Bull, Park Rd., Toronto	1926-27
Ridpath's Showroom, Yonge St., Toronto	1928
Maple Leaf Gardens (with Ross & MacDonald and Jack Ryrie), Toronto	
1931. Gilbey Distillery, New Toronto	1933
Restoration of Fort York, Toronto	1934
Residence of Major Gen. D.M. Hogarth, Toronto	1935
The Deck, Elgin House Hotel, Lake Joseph, Muskoka	1938