



## WIMBS, John (1928 – 2004)

John Wimbs devoted his architectural career to continually broadening the public perception of the role of the architect by energetically tackling new and varied passions. His contributions extended beyond traditional building design and construction, and included government policy, legislation, event planning, marketing, the fine arts, music, acting and becoming a playwrighting.

Born in Scotland on 24 February 1928, he came to Canada in 1957 and settled in Toronto where he contributed to the success of a number of important firms including Crang & Boake, Mathers & Haldenby, and Sullivan & Pacek. He was directly involved in the design and construction of more than thirty significant buildings in Toronto, Oshawa, Calgary, Edmonton, Ottawa, Kingston, Brantford, Penetanguishine and in London, England. These include the Nova Computer Centre, Calgary (1982), the Grenada Theatre in London (1956), and the Anglican Village in Aurora, Ont.

His well-publicized achievements include the adept handling of all aspects of the visit to Toronto by His Holiness Pope John Paul II (2002), and he made an invaluable contribution to the City of Toronto Transition Team, creating a structure and system for the delivery of Planning, Building, Economic Development, Heritage, and Cultural services to the public. He also successfully lobbied to have Viljo Revell's Toronto City Hall (1959-64) established as the permanent seat of the new municipal government.

He volunteered many hours of his time to the Ontario Association of Architects, serving as Director of Public Information, as chair of the Convention Committee and the Awards of Excellence Committee, and became Editor of the Toronto Society of Architects Newsletter. He was the recipient of the OAA Order of da Vinci in 1994, and recipient of the OAA/Toronto Society Award.

As a politician, John was responsible for introducing the idea of municipally-sponsored Design Awards in the City of Scarborough, a programme which has been enthusiastically adopted by many municipalities across Ontario. He also served as a Director of the National Ballet of Canada, the Metro Housing Company, and the Metro Toronto Catholic Children's Aid Society.