



Ontario Association
of Architects

GRIFFITHS, John Anthony (1931 – 2018)

John A. Griffiths has been added to the OAA Honor Roll for his important contribution to contemporary architecture in the Ottawa region through the development of his own firm called Griffiths Rankin Cook Architects, a partnership established in 1985 with Alexander J. Rankin and John C. Cook. Born at Market Drayton, England, he graduated from the London Polytechnic in 1958 and obtained a job with Powell & Moya, Architects, a leading and widely admired architectural firm in London, and assisted them with significant commissions on the university campuses in Oxford and Cambridge. In 1965, under his own name, he won an open competition for the Civic Centre in Castleford, England, a major performing arts facility opened in 1970. Griffiths moved to Canada in 1969 and settled in Ottawa where he worked in the office of Hart Massey, and later became a partner in the busy office of Murray & Murray, Architects. With two other

architects from that office, they established the new firm of Griffiths, Rankin & Cook.

His major international projects include the Natural Resources College in Malawi, the Canadian High Commission in Jamaica, as well as local Ottawa projects, including the Embassy of Kuwait, the Festival Plaza at Ottawa City Hall, student residence buildings at Carleton University, and Churchill Avenue Elementary School.

Griffiths was also a strong advocate for professional development of the OAA in eastern Ontario. In the 1970s, he was one of the founders of the Centretown Citizens Coalition—an important heritage initiative formed to prevent unnecessary destruction of the Centretown neighbourhood. He was later elected to OAA Council in 1993, and was endorsed by his colleagues as President of the OAA in 1996. The following year, he was nominated as a Fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. Griffiths died in 2018 but his firm, now called GRC Architects, remains active and has recently merged with Barry Padolsky to form GRC/BPA Architects.