



Ontario Association
of Architects

MORIYAMA, Raymond (1929 – 2023)

From humble beginnings and overcoming significant hardships while confined in several Japanese-Canadian internment camps during the Second World War, Raymond Moriyama made outsized architectural contributions to Canadian society through compassion and determination.

In 1958, he began practising architecture in Toronto. Moriyama's first groundbreaking project was the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre in 1964, garnering national attention for its balance of contemporary design and recognition of Japanese culture in the emerging multicultural mosaic of Canada's post-war period. In 1970, Moriyama joined Ted Teshima to form Moriyama Teshima Architects, a practice rapidly establishing itself with numerous Governor General's Awards in Architecture and recognition through projects receiving architecture and building awards from Ontario, national and international organizations.

His community-driven approach to architecture resulted in several iconic projects that asserted their urban presence with craft, durability and pride of place. Projects include the Ontario Science Centre (1969), Scarborough Civic Centre (1973), Toronto Reference Library (1977), Sudbury's Science North (1984), Canadian Embassy in Tokyo (1991), the Bata Shoe Museum (1995), the National Museum of Saudi Arabia (1999), and the Canadian War Museum (2005). These civic, cultural, and institutional projects remain loved and appreciated through their timeless expression, intelligent and respectful use of materials, and human scale, which continue to uplift the spirit through architecture. Moriyama has received some of the highest professional and civic honours, including

the Confederation of Canada Medal (2012), the RAIC Gold Medal (1997), the Order of the Rising Sun in Japan, Order of Ontario (1992) an Officer of the Order of Canada (1985) followed by the promotion to Companion of the Order of Canada (2008), the Sakura Award from the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre in Toronto (2010), a Lifetime Design Achievement Award from the Ontario Association of Architects (2012) and honorary degrees from 10 Canadian universities.

In 2014, Raymond teamed up with the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) to establish what is now called The RAIC International Prize, an awards program intent on encouraging Canadian architects to aspire to international excellence. The prize is awarded to a single work of architecture judged to be transformative within its societal context and expressive of the humanistic values of justice, respect, equality, and inclusiveness.

Always supportive of the profession, emerging professionals, and his clients, Moriyama was humble and hopeful about the insightful and impactful energy he brought to his work. His significant impact and legacy resonate as a foundation for contemporary Canadian society, just as his architecture continues to represent Canada abroad. He leaves behind a legacy of design excellence in architecture and a strength of moral character which continues to inspire architects and all those he worked or connected with throughout his prolific career. Moriyama exemplifies the ideals of our profession, leading by example and creating beautiful works of architecture that are thoughtful and well-crafted with a determined belief to leave the world in a better place.