



Ontario Association
of Architects

VENTIN, Carlos Alberto (1931 – 2018)

Carlos A. Ventin was among the most prolific and successful restoration architects in Canada, and he holds the enviable record of being credited with more than 100 major civic projects in Ontario completed during the period from 1972 to 2014. He was singularly responsible for the retention and revival of courthouses, city halls, public libraries, museums, theatres, academic buildings, churches, railway stations, fire halls, post office buildings, and many private residences.

A native of Argentina, Ventin was born in Resistencia and studied architecture at the Universidad Nacional del Nordeste. After graduating, he won a scholarship to study at the India Institute of Technology in Kharagpur, India, and it was there that he trained under the leading architect Balkrishna V. Doshi, who collaborated with Le Corbusier on projects in Chandigarh and Ahmadabad. Ventin arrived in Canada in 1964 and worked briefly in London, Ont.

as project architect for the London Board of Education, and then joined the office of Warren A. Smale in Simcoe, Ont., becoming the successor to the practice after the death of Smale. Ventin opened his own office in 1972, and he was instrumental in building a reputation for innovative adaptive reuse of historic properties. His first major project, on the distinctive 19th C. Town Hall in Simcoe, Ont., drew attention from planners, politicians, and heritage professionals throughout the province, and served as a successful template for dozens of examples by Ventin that were to follow throughout Ontario.

He was the recipient of more than 50 architectural awards from provincial and municipal organizations, including three OAA Design Excellence Awards for outstanding work to integrate both old and new, and to restore important civic landmarks for a new generation of owners and occupants. Ventin died on September 25, 2013, but his legacy has been sustained through new works by his successor firm, The Ventin Group Ltd., with offices in Toronto, Brantford, and Ottawa.