

ORSA experienced a year of transition, bringing fresh leadership to the organization with the election of a new executive and almost an entirely new group of volunteers joining the board. Guided by our OAA Council Liaison, Gord Erskine, the executive is well balanced, consisting of both seasoned and newly licensed architects, as well as an intern architect.

The implementation of a new executive taught us that there are challenges with corporate memory in a volunteer-led organization. To ease this transition in the future, one of our goals for 2019 is to develop an executive “user manual.” This will include contact information for services, access codes, banking contacts, log-in codes and other aspects.

As the year unfolded, we concluded that the organization faced challenges in communications. The ORSA website, created several years ago, had become dated and was inefficient for communicating with members. The new board struggled to come to terms with access to the site, as well as transference of governance responsibility including hosting, communications, social media, financial accounting and otherwise. In the fall, a new media company was retained to retool the website, repair basic infrastructure and improve functionality. It is hoped that 2019 will see the relaunch of our website, with cohesive communications across all platforms and development of a sustained presence.

In 2018, ORSA funded support for the Women of Architecture (WOA), which aims to champion women throughout their careers in architecture and related fields in the National Capital Region. A WOA talk was held in June, as well as a WOA Mingle event in August. Both were well attended and more events are planned for 2019.

ORSA supported Ottawa Architecture Week (OAW) 2018, *[Re]defining Affordability*. OAW included several events that were well attended, such as a PechaKucha night, sketch tours, a visit to a Passive House rental project, outdoor film night and vernissage of a local artist’s work that centred on a photographic series of some of Ottawa’s most praised, and most controversial, examples of affordable housing.

ORSA is looking forward to a year of rebirth in 2019, with integrated communications, events that align with OAA and other City of Ottawa initiatives, as well as outreach to members beyond the core. We hope to have monthly meet-ups to reconnect with members to tackle key issues facing the community.

Toon Dreessen, OAA, FRAIC, AIA, LEED AP  
Chair, Ottawa Regional Society of Architects



## Annual Report 2018

### Executive Committee

Chair	Toon Dreessen, Architect
Vice Chair	Zoe Label, Intern Architect
Treasurer	Vanessa Worell, Architect
Secretary	Tamara Khou, Architect
Registrar	Darryl Hood, Architect
OAA Liaison	Gord Erskine, Architect
RAIC Liaison	Vacant
Carleton University	Vacant

### Contributors:

Ottawa Architecture Week:	Women of Architecture:
Roberto Campos	Alexandra Blanchet
Darryl Hood	Anne Camille Baello
Paolo Marinelli	Tamara Khou
Mitch Vanderborn	Monique St. Pierre
Edward Solodukhin	Carolyn Gillespie
Anne Camille Baello	Alix Laimite
Tamara Khou	Zeynep Ekim
Alexandra Blanchet	

### Report on Activities:

#### 1.0 Annual General Meeting:

At the AGM, held on May 9 2018 at the Mill Street Pub, members heard a summary of the year's activities and events from the ORSA Executive including an update on ORSA Financials, presented by Treasurer Jayant Gupta. Roberto Campos, Chair, thanked all for attending and promoted the activities of the group, including the 2017 Architecture Week festival. Nominations were accepted for a new executive, who were elected by acclamation. No volunteers stood for the role of Registrar and Darryl Hood, gratefully, agreed to serve an additional year.

A key note presentation was made. Neil McNulty & Eric Stein, Associates at EVOQ Architecture, Tobias Fellows, Principal at NORR Ottawa and Jean-Michel Carriere, P. Eng, Principal at Adjelian Allen Rubeli (Structural Engineers) discussed the renovations to 180 Wellington, a 2018 OAA Design Excellence Award Winner. The role of architects in the preservation of this historic landmark was featured, along with the role of this project in the on-going evolution of a decades long project at the Parliamentary Precinct.

#### 2.0 Golf Tournament

An annual Golf Tournament was held on June 26 2018 to fundraise over \$8,000 for the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO).

#### 3.0 Building Tours

ORSA members were given an opportunity to tour some of the more significant projects in Ottawa as they neared completion and then, likely, will be off-limits to the public. On July 20, Jayant Gupta arranged for a tour of the West Block, and On October 31, arranged for a tour of the Government Conference Centre (temporary Senate, former Ottawa Train Station).



#### **4.0 Financial Support**

ORSA provided the following support:

- A financial donation from the proceeds of the Golf Tournament;
- A financial donation to Carleton University in memory of Margaret (Nan) Griffiths Memorial Fund as part of Giving Tuesday (matching funds from the University)
- Support to a Carleton University student

Funding was gratefully received from the OAA in support of Architecture Week.

#### **5.0 Website and Communications**

Immediately prior to the AGM in May, the hosting of the website was moved and most functions of the website ceased to operate properly. The new executive has spent most of the balance of the year attempting to obtain access codes, hosting information, banking information, access to Facebook and other social media accounts and other governance information from prior executive members. This has been a slow process but, as of the writing of this report, is nearing completion. A significant hurdle has been access to e-blast capabilities on the website, with a very low reach rate (due to outdated web security protocols), difficult integration platform for creating e-blasts, and inaccurate/outdated member databases. A new consultant was retained to undertake website updates, reporting and integrate all the various social media accounts to create a more cohesive overall communications platform for 2019

As a result, the year has been very quiet other than events noted. Goals for public engagement and events have been shelved until communications with members is possible.

A key lesson from this has been the need to generate a proper “transition” binder of information, including critical information, contacts, log-in information and other documents needed to ensure a strong corporate memory.

The goal for 2019 is to have an integrated platform for communications to all events and committees.

#### **6.0 Women of Architecture**

With special project funding provided by the OAA, Women of Architecture (WOA) organized two events:

- WOA Talks on June 12 2018 provided a moderated panel discussion on success/failure and the drive to keep creating in the built environment.
- WOA Mingle on August 29 2018 provided a networking opportunity for the broader National Capital Region design profession.

On-going discussions with the WOA steering committee include an on-going relationship with ORSA, governance model and financial support.

#### **7.0 City of Ottawa**

ORSA has continued to attend and participate in meetings with the City of Ottawa on Document 600 Supplemental Conditions, with support from OAA Practice Advisors. A positive move has been that the City of Ottawa is at least willing to review conditions, discuss proposed SC's and come to agreement on some of the more problematic concerns. To date, many of the less contentious ones have been accepted or resolved, with the serious issues being parked for a more detailed discussion. Additionally, quarterly meetings with City of Ottawa procurement, facilities and the local CEO chapter are proving to be positive with a desire on the part of the City to consider changes to its relationship and method of doing business with the design community.



## 8.0 Architecture Week

By far, the year's most successful and public and member engagement event of the year. Running now for many years, this event features numerous opportunities for the public to become engaged with architecture. The event takes significant planning and all those involved are to be commended for a significant effort.

This year's theme was focused on [Re]defining affordability:

*The word 'affordability' itself is somewhat innocuous, however when combined with the concept of housing it generates varied and strong ideas and opinions. This year's Ottawa Architecture Week will explore this complex issue throughout the week, including an in-depth investigation at this year's Panel Discussion.*

Day	Event	Attendance
Monday	<b>Tour: Co-op Beausoleil – The Last Stand:</b> Presented in partnership with Jane's Walk Ottawa, this tour of the Beausoleil Housing Project was led by Patrick Chen, who studied Architecture at McGill and Regional Planning at the University of Ottawa before joining the City of Ottawa in 1973 as a planner. Patrick spoke about the City's approach to urban renewal in the area, and their use of eminent domain to force out existing residents. However, a group of community activists banded together to save part of the neighbourhood, and resulted in the Parc Beausoleil Housing project.	13
	<b>OAW Opening Night Party + Vernissage:</b> OAW's opening night party was hosted at the Sussex Contemporary Gallery and featured a vernissage of photographs by local artist Daniel F. Effah. Effah's photos focused on the tenants at Heron Gate who were facing eviction from their homes so that the land could be redeveloped by the property owner, Timbercreek. The evening also featured a presentation by Toon Dreessen about the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) Housing Affordability Working Group.	90+
Tuesday	<b>Site tour of CCOC passive house rental development:</b> This sell out tour was organized with the help of the Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation (CCOC), a non-profit housing organization that today provides roughly 1600 units of affordable housing to Ottawa residents. The tour was of the redevelopment of the previous housing on the site designed to higher standard of energy efficiency and to offer more family-oriented rental housing in Centretown. The tour was led by the site's designer Anthony Leaning, of CSV Architects, and Ray Sullivan, Executive Director of CCOC.	20
	<b>Sketch Tour: Hintonburg Neighbourhood:</b> Our second tour took place in the Hintonburg neighbourhood and focused on the changing character of the neighbourhood. The tour also incorporated a sketching aspect where participants were invited to practice their urban sketching skills on some of the buildings being discussed. The tour was led by Linda Hoad, a Heritage Ottawa and Hintonburg Community Association Board Member for tour content and Colin White for sketching..	15
Wednesday	<b>Tour: Sandy Hill Housing Co-op Walk:</b> This event was the second tour organized with Jane's Walk Ottawa and focused on housing co-ops in the Sandy Hill neighbourhood. The tour was led by Cynthia Mitchell, who spoke about her experiences living in a co-op and the different way of living the co-op represents to traditional apartments and marketing housing. While the tour was supposed to just be of the building exteriors, a resident was outside during the tour and generously offered to bring the group in to see a unit.	10
	<b>Panel Discussion: [Re]defining Affordability:</b> The panel discussion on Wednesday was hosted at the Library and Archives Canada building on Wellington Street. The panel was moderated by the CBC's Joanne Chinallo and featured: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anthony Leaning, CSV Architects</li> <li>• Saide Sayah, City of Ottawa Affordable Housing Unit Program Manager</li> <li>• Ray Sullivan, Centretown Citizens Ottawa Corporation Executive Director</li> <li>• Norma Jean Quibell, ACORN Ottawa</li> </ul> The panel analyzed the current housing crisis and efforts to try and solve it. When we organized the panel, we wanted to ensure that we included a diverse range of voices on the subject, so we were pleased at being able to get someone from the City of Ottawa as well as a tenant advocate to participate to join an architect and non-profit developer.	+100

Thursday	<b>Vernissage - Director's Project / Murray and Murray Prize 2018:</b> This event was a vernissage featuring selected works by Carleton University Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism. It took place at 7 Clarence Street in the ByWard Market, right next to the courtyard where the Outdoor Urbanism Film Night took place.	+20
	<b>Outdoor Urbanism Film Night:</b> This event took place in the courtyard at 7 Clarence Street and was presented in collaboration with the New Urbanism Film Festival and Capital Pop-Up Cinema.. The space at 7 Clarence was great because there was a lot of walking traffic through the area, and many people stopped by to watch some of the short films on display.	+30
Friday	<b>Tour: Living Together on Metcalfe:</b> Our final tour of the week, presented in collaboration with Jane's Walk Ottawa, featured local writer and historian Chris Ryan guiding a tour of apartment buildings on Metcalfe Street. Chris spoke about when the buildings were constructed, the original land owners, their initial capacity and the context in which they were built. Something particularly interesting was that Chris was able to find the rental rates for the apartment units from the time when they were built, so through a general inflation calculation, we could compare how much the rent would cost in today's market. With that, we were able to think about and analyze affordability in a historical context and compare it to today.	16
	<b>Gimme Shelter, Powered by PechaKucha:</b> Our final event of the week was a sell out PechaKucha night, hosted at the recently-opened Ottawa Art Gallery. The PechaKucha format requires speakers to present 20 slides for 20 seconds each all organized around the theme <i>Gimme Shelter</i> . That evening we had roughly 12 speakers from diverse backgrounds, including local artists, practicing architects, and organizations like Canada Without Poverty and the Canadian Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity.	150

## 9.0 2019 Objectives

Our first objective is to relaunch an updated and repaired website. Combined with this, ORSA anticipates a proactive outreach to current members, supporters, and the public to raise awareness of the Society, its role in the community and its activities.

Additional objectives for the year include:

- Monthly networking events across the region; the ORSA catchment area includes many areas beyond the City of Ottawa itself, as well as a sizeable suburban community;
- A workshop with members, coupled with a membership survey, to help set a strategy for growing membership involvement, growth, and public awareness;
- A networking event with the local chapter of ARIDO, timed to coincide with the (pending) regulatory change;
- A networking event with the local chapter of IES;
- Active promotion of World Architecture Day in relation to OAA Activities along with local events, including possibly tying in Architecture Week events;
- Promoting membership in the RAIC, and,
- Funding/supporting Continuing Education Sessions for members.
- Creation of a "knowledge book" for future ORSA Executives to provide continuity and knowledge transfer.

## 10.0 Financial Summary

Attached is the financial summary presented at the 2018 AGM.

### Summary

While 2018 has had its challenges, the ORSA Executive is committed to seeing 2019 as a year of renewal and growth.