

# Minutes

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**Toronto Society of Architects**  
**March Meeting**  
6 March, 2007 – 6:30pm to 8:30 pm  
Arts and Letters Club, 14 Elm Street

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**Present:**

Andrew Macpherson	Helea Plumb	Micheal McClelland
Antone Frisina	Ian McGilliray	Nancy Smith
Antonio Gómez-Palacio	Jennifer Conron	Phil Goodfellow
Arslan Shabbir	John Blumenson	Philip Goldsmith
Bill Greer	June Komisa	Sabine Nevermann-Stevart
Bindya Lad	Lyn Northey	Scott Sorli
Bruce Semple	Macy Dubois	Susan Lewin
Carmen Franky	Mark Roberts	Tamara Anson-Cartright
Deborah Hossack	Mary Glendinning	Tim Jones
Dinu Bambaru	Matthew Searle	Ute Maya-Giambattista
Donalda Badone	Max McQuinn	
Ericka Stephens- Rennie	Mel Chapple	

## 1. Introduction

- Antonio started the meeting by welcoming those that were in attendance.
- Handouts provided (agenda, list of activities, and the minutes from the previous meeting) were pointed out. Meeting procedures and the mandate of the TSA were discussed. Executives present at the time (Phil and Bindya) were introduced.
- 'Around the room' introductions followed.

## 2. Approval of February 2007 Meeting Minutes

- Minutes of the last meeting, held February 9th, 2006, were circulated.
- Lyn motioned to approve the minutes, Susan seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

## 3. TSA Initiatives

Antonio indicated that the TSA is a volunteer-based launching pad for initiatives, and encouraged all to become involved with ongoing initiatives or by submitting ideas for future events/initiatives.

- *120<sup>th</sup> Year:*

- Antonio indicated that it was the TSA's 120<sup>th</sup> year of operation. He noted that the event is to be celebrated in partnership with sister organizations, and venues were being sought.
- *fAd:*
  - Antonio indicated that the TSA were organizing a design competition, and for members to look for future announcements.
- *Carpenter's Union:*
  - Antonio shared that he had been contacted by Ontario's Carpenter's Union, who are celebrating their 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May. He indicated that they were interested in organizing a travelling photographic exhibit of construction sites and have asked for our assistance. He encouraged members to dig through their archives and to look for an announcement regarding the exhibit.
- *Guide Map:*
  - Antonio spoke briefly about the Guide Map project. He noted that the first map was an inventory of buildings that were of interest, and that the second map is to focus on open spaces. There was a hiatus with the second map; however, it is now moving forward.
- *Website:*
  - Antonio provided an update on the website project. He indicated that the website was going through a revamping process and that members had come forward to assist with the project. As a result, work is currently being done on the content. In the mean time, the gap is being filled with e-bulletins and the bulletin board which provides a database of urban related events.
- *Urban Affairs:*
  - Phil informed the agenda for 2007 and introduced Michael as well as the topic of discussion for the meeting.
  - Andrew questioned what ICOMOS stood for, and it was explained that it represented the International Council on Monuments and Sites.

#### **4. Current Affairs – Heritage**

This month, we had the opportunity to discuss the topic of 'Heritage' with the help of guest speakers Dinu Bombaru, Tim Jones, and Mark Roberts. The session was skillfully moderated by Michael McClelland. Thanks Michael!

Michel introduced our guest speakers:

- Dinu Bombaru is the secretary General of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and is also largely involved in Heritage Montreal, an independent, nonprofit, private organization dedicated to the preservation of Montreal's urban, architectural, landscape and social heritage. For further

information on Dinu's work, please visit: [www.heritagemontreal.org](http://www.heritagemontreal.org);  
<http://canada.icomos.org/>

- Tim Jones is the Chief Executive Officer of Artscape, a non-profit enterprise that builds creative communities and expands knowledge about the dynamics of creative places. For further information on Artscape, please visit: [www.torontoartscape.on.ca](http://www.torontoartscape.on.ca)
- Mark Roberts is a Toronto based entrepreneur; know for his recent revival of The Carlu of which he is the managing partner. Mark is also an active member of Heritage Toronto. For further information on The Carlu visit: [www.thecarlu.com](http://www.thecarlu.com) and for Heritage Toronto: [www.heritagetoronto.org](http://www.heritagetoronto.org)

Highlights of the discussion included:

- *Heritage: Montreal vs. Toronto*

Dinu presented the notion of 'architecture as a living forum of urban art' noting that historically architecture has introduced social improvement in cities. Montreal's heritage efforts were discussed in some detail and compared to some of Toronto's conservation efforts.

- *Heritage Interests*

Mark highlighted the capacity of heritage to allow for infiltration of other interests, allowing it to attract investment from other sources, triggering the realization and adaptive re-use of heritage buildings, making them viable properties, and opening up investment opportunities.

- *Culture + Heritage*

Tim spoke about the importance of artists in an urban context and their relation to a city's culture. He provided details about a recent project, Wychwood Barns, that Artscape had undertaken, which involves redevelopment of a former TTC repair barn into an arts and environmental centre for the local community. In this case, the heritage structures animated through art and by artists, will become a catalyst for neighbourhood activities.

- *Creative City*

Tim and Mark also elaborated on their involvement in the Mayor's Task Force for the development of a Creative City, and discussed the notion of a 'creative class' as key contributors to urban economic development, who are also attracted by environments with successful heritage conservation.

- *Other Discussion*

- Further discussion, led to the importance of recognizing local history and the inherent challenge of disseminating and adapting historical knowledge, in a Toronto of evolving cultural demographics.
- It was suggested that heritage in Ontario is often associated with a negative connotation – the private sector has steered away from heritage properties, because they perceive it to be riddled with restrictions. Consequently, it was proposed that we need to re-orient the perception of heritage buildings in Ontario, casting them as premium properties.

## 5. ICOMOS

- As the discussion drove to a close, ICOMOS members pointed out a study tour that was scheduled and invited TSA members to attend. Further information can be obtained by visiting <http://canada.icomos.org/>.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.**

**The next TSA General Meeting will take place on Wednesday April 11th, 2007, at 6:30 pm, at the Arts and Letters Club.**