



TORONTO
SOCIETY OF
ARCHITECTS

2013 Activities Report

date prepared: January 26, 2014

The 2013 TSA Executive was comprised of the following individuals:

CO-CHAIRS | Heather Dubbeldam
CO-CHAIR | Richard Witt
VICE-CHAIR & TREASURER | Jason Dobbin
PAST-CHAIR | Meg Graham
EXECUTIVE | Evelyn Casquenette
EXECUTIVE | Maria Denegri
EXECUTIVE | Antonio Gómez-Palacio
EXECUTIVE | Helena Grdadolnik
EXECUTIVE | Bindya Lad
EXECUTIVE | Charles Lau
EXECUTIVE | Joe Lobko
EXECUTIVE | Kevin McIntosh
EXECUTIVE | Drew Sinclair
EXECUTIVE | David Sisam
EXECUTIVE | Adam Thom
SECRETARY | Jessie Huang

The following is a list of the 2013 activities undertaken by the TSA with the participation of its active members.

1. Membership

Total 2013 membership was 1,215, up from 1,123 last year.

2. OAA Society Visit

The TSA hosted OAA President Bill Birdsell and OAA Executive Director Kristi Doyle on October 22nd at the Spoke Club. President Birdsell provided a brief overview of OAA activities and announced that the new OAA headquarters mortgage has been paid off.



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3. Urban Affairs Forums

Now in its sixth year, the TSA Urban Affairs Forum is a series of public discussions with expert panelists on topical urban and architectural issues. This year, we added a new type of discussion to our series, called an “Ideas Forum”, a Pecha Kucha–style lecture format featuring emerging Toronto architecture firms. Themes will vary in the future. The 2013 Forums were:

APRIL 2013 | Walkable City – Strategies from Chicago and New York City

MODERATOR | Joe Lobko, TSA Executive

PANELISTS | Stephen Buckley, General Manager, City of Toronto Transportation Services | Sam Schwartz, Sam Schwartz Engineering, a.k.a. “Gridlock Sam”

Over 60 people were in attendance. Rogers TV recorded the proceedings.

SEPTEMBER 2013 | TSA Ideas Forum: Emerging Voices

SPEAKERS | Reigo & Bauer, Workshop Architecture, OMA, Studio Kimiis, nKA, Partisans, Denegri Bessai Studio, blackLAB architects, Studio Junction

Approximately 200 people attended this forum. The TSA plans to continue to organize Ideas Forums in 2014.

OCTOBER 2013 | World Fairs

MODERATOR | Ian Chodikoff, Fora Strategic Planning

PANELISTS | Councillor Kristyn Wong–Tam, City of Toronto | Carmen Sylvain, Senior Strategic Advisor, Borealis Infrastructure | Dr. David Roberts, Professor, Urban Studies Department at the University of Toronto | Doron Meinhard, Associate, Hariri Pontarini Architects

Over 50 people attended this forum.

NOVEMBER 2013 | Unlocking the Avenues: Wood Construction

MODERATOR | Richard Witt, TSA Executive

PANELISTS | Steven Street, Technical Director, Wood Works | David Moses P.Eng, Owner, Moses Structural Engineers Inc. | Marco VanderMaas, Design Director, Quadrangle Architects | Paul Bedford FCIP, RPP, Adjunct Professor, Urban & Regional Planning Department at the University of Toronto

Over 70 people attended this forum.

The 2013 Urban Affairs Forum series was generously sponsored by LRI Fire.



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4. Building Tours

Building Tours are a series of three TSA members-only events taking place each summer. Each Tour features a newly completed or renovated Toronto space and is led by an architect who worked on the project. Tours are limited to 20 participants each and are followed by an informal dinner where participants, tour leaders and TSA executives further converse and network. The 2013 tours were:

JUNE 26 | George Brown Centre for Hospitality and Culinary Arts & Chef's House
Kearns & Mancini Architects, Gow Hastings Architects
Two tours were led by Jonathan Kearns, Valerie Gow, and Phillip Hastings. 13 TSA members attended the two tours.

JULY 24 | Bloor Gladstone Library
Rounthwaite Dick & Hadley Architects, Shoalts & Zaback Architects, ERA Architects
Two tours were led by Bob Goyeche, Tyler Sharp, and Gerry Shoalts. 40 TSA members attended the two tours.

AUGUST 14 | Regent Park Aquatic Centre
MacLennan Jaunkalns Miller Architects
Two tours were led by David Miller and Troy Wright. 40 TSA members attended the two tours.

5. Toronto Architecture Tours (TAT)

2013 is the fourth season that the TSA has offered TAT, the only architecture tours in Toronto offered on a regularly scheduled basis. 12 volunteers served as tour guides this year. Small changes to the tour scripts include the addition of the Mirvish/Gehry proposal to the Art & Performance Tour. 166 tickets were sold for 46 tours, down from 191 sold for 45 tours in 2012. In addition to these regularly scheduled tours, we provided group tours at Doors Open, the OAA Conference, TBEX Travel Bloggers' Conference and for a group of Sony photographers visiting Canada.

6. IIDEX 2013

The TSA and Workshop Architecture co-presented a seminar entitled "School Work: Innovative Architecture for Learning" at IIDEX 2013. The presentation focused on the design of elementary and post-secondary learning spaces and addressed topics including the incorporation of new design approaches for current learning models and technologies, designs for students with special needs and schools through P3, and engaging students in the design process.



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7. Website and Logo Redesign

The TSA's logo has been redesigned and is scheduled to launch soon. The new website will better address the needs of our membership, including mobile viewing, announcements, calendar feeds, as well as a user-only section. It will also encourage more input from the TSA membership with regards to local events, participation in TSA initiatives, and feedback. It is anticipated the new website will go live in early 2014.

8. Architects' Studio Tours

Architects' Studio Tours is a new TSA programme taking place during the Doors Open Toronto weekend in May. The TSA coordinates a group of architects to open their studios to the public in addition to those who sign up through Doors Open. This is a rare opportunity to see inside the spaces where architects work, to view their studios, and to learn about the work they have completed or are developing. Featured firms have staff available to provide information and answer questions about their work spaces, design approaches, and current and past work. The 2013 participants were Cannon Design, Diamond Schmitt Architects, DTAH, GH3, Montgomery Sisam Architects, Moriyama & Teshima, Rego & Bauer, Studio Junction, the Ventin Group, and Zeidler Partnership Architects.

9. Architecture Film Series

TSA and Hot Docs partnered to present "Oppositions: Architecture on Film", a monthly series offering insights into the role of design in the built environment. There were four evenings in the series. At each presentation a pair of films examining the same issue from opposing perspectives is shown and between the films, there is a brief discussion or workshop with film directors, practitioners, academics and activists. The pairings this year were *Citizen Architect* and *Up the Yangtze*, *Children of Men* and *Edward Scissorhands*, *Darwin's Nightmare* and *Food Inc.*, and *The Pruitt-Igoe Myth* and *Utopia London*.

10. Guide Map

1 - Toronto Architecture 1953-2003

Work on updating Guide Map #1 to include projects completed after 2003 began in 2011. The Guide Map committee, consisting of Heather Dubbeldam, Richard Witt, Joe Lobko and Jessie Huang, anticipates that the new edition will be available in 2014.



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2 – Open Spaces

In 2011, it became apparent that a second map was needed to illustrate the category of open spaces, public infrastructure, and other civic gestures. The Guide Map committee will continue work on this new map in 2014.

11. Advocacy

The TSA sent a letter of support for the Toronto Board of Trade's initiative regarding funding through different taxes and fees, *The Big Move*. Recipients include Carol Wilding, President and CEO of the Board of Trade, Joseph Pennachetti, City Manager at the City of Toronto, Bruce McCuaig, President and CEO of Metrolinx, Kathleen Wynne, Premier of the Province of Ontario, Glen Murray, Minister of Transportation of the Province of Ontario, and Jennifer Keesmaat, Chief Planner of the City of Toronto,

The TSA also renewed its support for the Immigrant Professionals Leveraging Architectural Knowledge for new Opportunities (IPLAN) program, a bridging initiative for international educated architects organized by JVS.

12. Year-End Bash

The TSA hosted its annual fundraiser at the St James Cathedral Centre. 400+ TSA members and guests attended the event and 63+ members participated in the building tours given by architects from ERA and Architects Alliance.

The event was sponsored by: Architects Alliance | Blackwell | Local 27 Carpenters Union | Bulthaupt | Flynn | Dalton | Entuitive | Halsall | RJC Engineers | Turner & Townsend | A. W. Hooker Quantity Surveyors | Lynch+Comisso Architecture+Light | DTAH | Dialog | KPMB | Quadrangle | ERA Architects | Kirkor Architects & Planners | Montgomery Sisam Architects | Picco Engineering | Regional architects | Scott Torrance Landscape Architect | WZMH Architects | BBB Architects | Astley Gilbert | Zaneen Lighting

13. TSA Sponsorship and Partnerships

This year the TSA expanded the presence of architecture in the City by sponsoring the following:

AWARDS:

- Heritage Toronto Awards
- Toronto Urban Design Awards



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SCHOLARSHIPS:

- Ryerson University Scholarship
- University of Toronto Scholarship

EVENTS:

- Green Line Ideas Competition
- Ryerson University lecture series
- Architecture for Humanity forum
- Venice Biennale
- Dr Kongjian Yu lecture at Ryerson University
- “Design is One” film screening at Hot Docs Bloor Cinemas
- “Sagrada – The Mystery of Creation” film screening at Hot Docs Bloor Cinemas

EXHIBITION

- Ron Thom & the Allied Arts exhibition & publication