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# 2014 Activities Report

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The 2014 TSA Executive was comprised of the following individuals:

CHAIR | Jason Dobbin  
VICE-CHAIR | Maria Denegri  
TREASURER | Charles Lau  
PAST-CO-CHAIR | Heather Dubbeldam  
PAST-CO-CHAIR | Richard Witt  
EXECUTIVE | Taymoore Balbaa  
EXECUTIVE | Helena Grdadolnik  
EXECUTIVE | Bindya Lad  
EXECUTIVE | Kevin McIntosh  
EXECUTIVE | David Sisam  
EXECUTIVE | Adam Thom  
EXECUTIVE | Megan Torza  
ADVISORY | Antonio Gómez-Palacio  
ADVISORY | Meg Graham  
ADVISORY | Joe Lobko  
ADVISORY | Drew Sinclair  
SECRETARY | Jessie Huang  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR | Anthony Lombardo

**The following is a list of the 2014 activities undertaken by the TSA with the participation of its active members.**

## **1. Membership**

Total 2014 membership was 1017 members.

## **2. OAA Society Visit**

The TSA hosted OAA President Bill Birdsell and OAA Executive Director Kristi Doyle on November 18, 2015 at the Spoke Club. President Birdsell provided a brief overview of OAA activities, including an update on the Fees Validation Study and the new IO VOR process.

## **3. Urban Affairs Forums**

Now in its seventh year, the TSA Urban Affairs Forum is a series of public discussions with expert panellists on topical urban and architectural issues. We held a very successful Forum with Harold Made, Director of Urban Design at the

City of Toronto, on May 13, entitled “First Impressions, Key Priorities and Charting a Course.” **With OAA Special Project funding**, this forum was professionally videotaped and it will soon be available on a soon to be launched new TSA Youtube channel.



*Urban Affairs Forum with Harold Madi*

Unfortunately, a planned Forum on “Mobility Hubs in Mexico City,” featuring Silvia Blancas, had to be cancelled due to circumstances with the speaker beyond our control.

**OAA Special Project funding** will be used to digitally record and produce our next Urban Affairs Forums centred on the topic of healthy cities.

#### 4. Technical Series

In 2014 we launched a new “Technical Series” on topics related to professional architectural practice. These forums were 1.5 hours in duration and consisted of a presentation on a technical issue followed by a discussion with the audience. These events were accredited for a structured OAA credit. **With OAA Special Project funding** these events were digitally video-recorded and we are working to process these videos for online availability.

We held three events in the spring of 2014:



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April 22 | 2012 Ontario Building Code  
Steve Grant, Leber/Rubes Inc.  
91 people attended this event.

June 4 | Accessibility in Ontario  
Lisa Miller, Leber/Rubes Inc.; Amy Pothier and Jesse Klinitz, AccessAbility Advantage  
96 people attended this event.

June 18 | OBC and Toronto Green Standards  
Adolfo Silva, Ecovert Sustainability Consultants  
102 people attended this event.

***The 2014 Urban Affairs Forum and Technical Series were generously sponsored by LRI Fire Protection & Building Code Consulting Engineers.***

## **5. Toronto Architecture Tours**

The 2014 season saw the return of 8 of our experienced volunteer guides and the recruitment and training of 8 new guides to help fill out our tour schedule. We maintained the 3 existing tours with several refinements including the removal of the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts due to feedback from tour attendees (citing it added too much distance and time to the tour), and the addition of the CBC Building to our Art & Performance tour. In 2014 we also made a departure from the \$20 per person fee per tour to a \$10 per person to increase accessibility and grow participation. The results indicate this was a very successful strategy. Ticket sales more than doubled, and only 7 of the 63 tours were cancelled due to no sales (compared to 15 cancelled tours in 2013). Our Average tour size also grew from 2 people to 5 people per tour and weekends where all three tours ran increased from 48% to 67%.

In addition to our regular scheduled weekend tours, we also delivered tours to several conference groups including the AIA's Large Firm Roundtable conference, IIDEX, and a group of 40 Docents from the Chicago Architecture Foundation. Toronto Architecture Tours continued its support of the IPLAN program with JVS Toronto by coordinating walking tours for their participating members as a means to introduce these internationally trained professionals to the city's rich contemporary architecture.

Including a surplus carried forward from 2013 OAA Special Project Funding, the 2014 tours came in on budget without any additional sources of funding.



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## 6. 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 capacity and are followed by an informal dinner where participants, tour leaders and TSA executives further converse and network. The 2014 tours were:

JUNE 25 | Fraser Mustard Academy

Kohn Shnier Architects  
24 TSA members attended the tour.

JULY 30 | Shangri-La Hotel

Hariri Pontarini Architects and the Design Agency  
28 TSA members attended the tour.

AUGUST 6 | Ryerson Imaging Arts Centre

Diamond Schmitt Architects  
34 TSA members attended the tour.

## 7. TSA Archives Project

The TSA received **Special Project Funding from the OAA** to launch the TSA Archives Project. This project, led by TSA Executive member Megan Torza, will create a digital archive of the TSA's exciting 128 year history.

A brief 'teaser' of the project was presented at the 2014 TSA Year End Bash; the slideshow can be viewed at:

<http://www.slideshare.net/tosoarch/tsa-archives-project>

The project will be launched in early 2015.

## 8. Doors Open Toronto

On Saturday, May 24, 2014, the TSA partnered with the City of Toronto to present a pecha kucha style talk on "Redesigning Toronto." This event, organized by TSA Executive member Adam Thom, considered important issues related to architecture and design in Toronto. This standing room-only event featured six presentations:

- 1) "Grappling with Heritage Properties" – Michael McLelland (ERA Architects)
- 2) "Site Unseen: Infills, Languages and Other Hidden Architectural Opportunities" – Donald Chong (Williamson Chong)



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- 3) "Architectural Attractor" – Siamak Hariri (Hariri Pontarini Architects)
- 4) "Evolution of a Neighbourhood" – Helena Grdadolnik (Workshop Architecture)
- 5) "The Future of the Gardiner Expressway" – Paul Raff (The Paul Raff Studio)
- 6) "Corktown Common and the Pan Am Area" – Joe Lobko (DTAH)

## 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 *Garbage Warrior & Work Hard/Play Hard*; *People of a Feather & Trouble in the Peace*; *Visual Acoustics: The Modernism of Julius Shulman & Mock-ups in Close-Up*; *Architectural Models in Film*; and *St. Henri, the 26<sup>th</sup> of August & My Brooklyn*.

## 10. Additional Events

### Jennifer Keesmaat and the Development Permit System

The TSA was excited to partner with the OAA on this presentation held September 24, 2014 at the OAA offices. TSA Chair Jason Dobbin and Vice-Chair Maria Denegri spoke at the event.

### Mix / Mingle / Network

On October 16, 2014, the TSA partnered with the Interior Designers of Canada and the International Facility Management Association to host a Mix/Mingle/Network event at Steelcase WorkLife Toronto. Each sponsoring organization was able to offer 50 tickets to this networking event for interior designers, architects, facility managers and other related professions. Discussions about holding similar events in 2015 are underway. *We were grateful for support for this event from LRI Fire Protection & Building Code Consulting Engineers.*

## 11. RULA Maps

The TSA helped Ryerson University's Department of Architectural Science to obtain content for its RULA Maps, a mobile application which uses GPS to showcase the architectural and historical relevance of buildings, including drawings and video when the user is near. This project continued in 2014.



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## 12. Advocacy

In August 2014, the TSA issued an open letter to all Toronto mayoral candidates to provide their vision and strategy for architecture and design in the city by providing responses to a standard set of questions. Each of the 'top 5' candidates were contacted directly, as were all other candidates from whom contact information was available. The open letter was also promoted widely on our social media outlets and our membership newsletter. We received five responses that were posted publicly on the TSA website and likewise promoted through our distribution channels.

The open letter, with the associated survey questions, and the responses are available on the TSA website:

Open letter: <http://www.torontosocietyofarchitects.ca/?q=node/1396>

Survey responses: <http://www.torontosocietyofarchitects.ca/?q=node/1406>

## 13. Year-End Bash

The TSA hosted its annual Bash at the Fort York Visitor Centre on November 25, 2014. Over **400 TSA members and guests attended** the event and 48 members participated in the building tours given by Kearns Mancini Architects. The 2014 Bash received support from:

**Event Sponsors** | A.W. Hooker Associates Ltd. | Blackwell | Bulthaup Toronto Inc. | Carpenters Union Local 27 | Cloud9 Audio Visual (In-Kind AV Sponsor)

**Event Patrons** | Adamson Associates Architects | Entuitive Corporation | Kearns Mancini Architects Inc. | Read Jones Christoffersen Ltd. | Turner and Townsend Plc

**Event Partners** | Boszko & Verity Inc. | BTY Group Inc. | DIALOG | DTAH | ERA Architects Inc. | Halsall Associates | Hariri Pontarini Architects | HOK | Kirkor Architects & Planners | KPMB Architects | Montgomery Sisam Architects Inc. | Mulvey & Banani International Inc. | Page + Steele / IBI Group Architects | Picco Engineering | Quadrangle Architects Limited | RWDI Consulting Engineers & Scientists | Scott Torrance Landscape Architect Inc. | Swallow Acoustic Consultants Limited | Tatar Art Projects | Turner Fleischer Architects Inc. | Upper Canada Specialty Hardware Ltd | WZMH Architects



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**In-Kind Sponsors** | Astley Gilbert Ltd. (Printing) | Revelateur Studio (Photography) | Zaneen (Lighting)

#### **14. TSA Sponsorship and Partnerships**

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

**AWARDS:**

- Heritage Toronto Awards

**SCHOLARSHIPS:**

- Ryerson University Scholarship
- University of Toronto Scholarship

**EVENTS:**

- Ryerson University lecture series
- Venice Biennale

**EXHIBITION**

- Ron Thom & the Allied Arts exhibition & publication