



RAIC | IRAC

2023

# Annual Report

Royal  
Architectural  
Institute of  
Canada

Sq'ewqel Community School by **PATKAU ARCHITECTS**  
2023 Architectural Practice Award Recipient

# Putting the **Built Environment First**

The RAIC is the only national voice for excellence in the built environment in Canada focused on providing Canada's architectural community with the tools, resources, and education to elevate their practice.

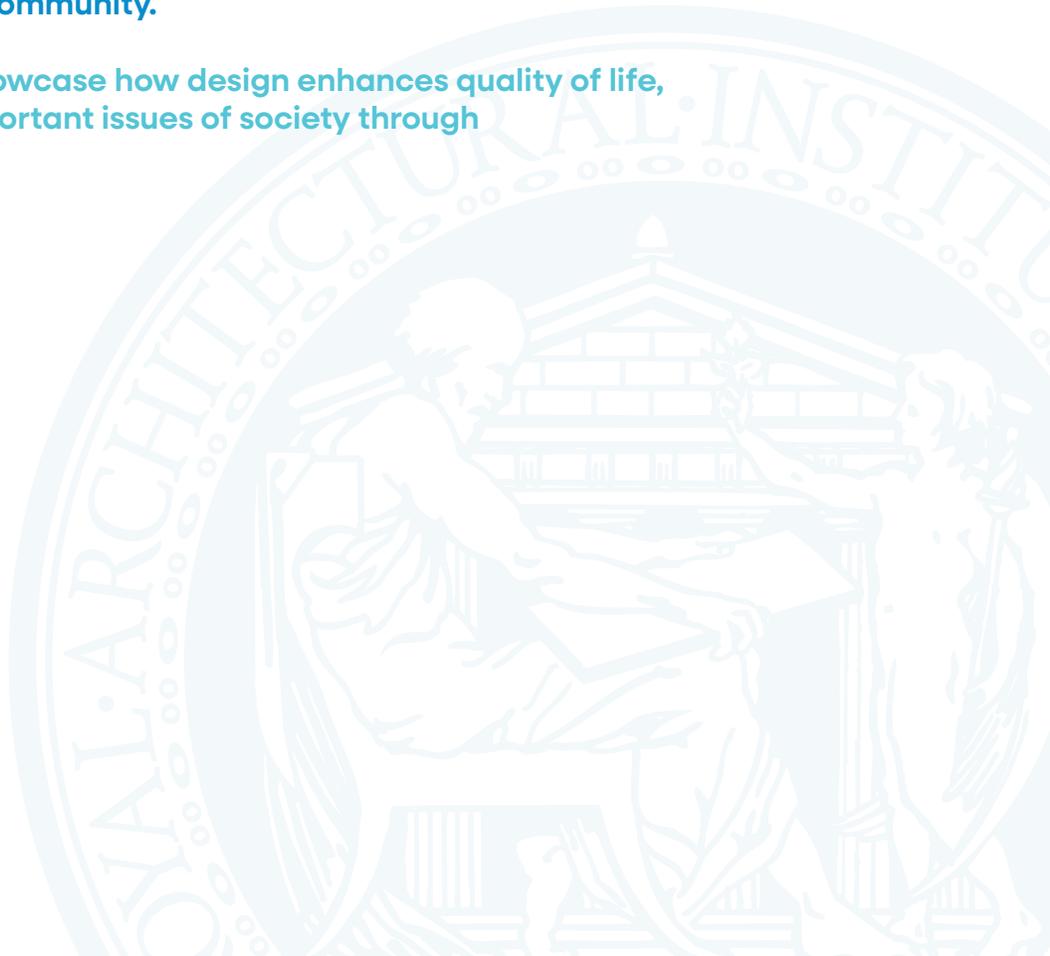


**Our vision is a strong architectural community that is valued and empowered to create change.**

**Our mission is to create a better world for all by empowering Canada's architectural community.**

**Our commitment is to showcase how design enhances quality of life, while advocating for important issues of society through responsible architecture.**

Royal  
Architectural  
Institute of  
Canada



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# President's Message



In the past year, we have been actively advocating on your behalf, both nationally and internationally. We are engaging with federal and provincial governments to ensure that the voice of the architectural community is heard in all decisions related to the built environment. We were especially focused on building a case for fair procurement and competition processes.

We have been successful in generating awareness and enthusiasm for architecture among the public and in providing you with the necessary tools to do the same. We believe that by working together and involving the public in our work, we can increase their appreciation of architecture and its impact on the community. In turn, this allows you to focus on your true calling: designing innovative structures, mentoring the next generation, and creating a better world for all.

As my term as President ends, I would like to express my gratitude to all of you for supporting the new initiatives that the Board and staff have implemented over the past two years. We have taken bold steps towards truth and reconciliation, social justice, and accessibility, and continuously increasing our advocacy to government. Additionally, we have developed a strategic plan for implementation in 2024, which will put a strong emphasis on developing a Canadian culture of design. This will enable all of us to engage with the international architectural community, support climate action plans, and continue celebrating excellence in the built environment.

The RAIC is a community of practitioners, educators, and students from diverse backgrounds committed to exceeding the minimum standards in the design industry. Your dedication to intentional design and the care of the community has been truly inspiring, and I have enjoyed witnessing how your individual successes have contributed to our success as a profession.

Finally, I would like to recognize the hard work of our staff, CEO and volunteers. Your insights from outside our profession and your continued support have been invaluable. I am confident that together, we are making a positive impact on our profession and Canada's growing culture of design.

Thank you once again for your unwavering commitment to architecture.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Robbins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot above the second 'i'.

Jason Robbins, FRAIC, President

# CEO's Message



In 2023 we made significant strides in advancing our strategic priorities. We prioritized elevating the value of our membership and saw increased growth and engagement as a result. We also made significant progress in various areas such as climate action, social justice, equality, and inclusion. Together, we are establishing a strong presence in the industry by working towards our common objective of creating a better built environment for all.

From partnerships to events, there has been lots to get excited about in 2023. Let's look at some of our greatest successes last year:

In May, we had a highly successful RAIC Conference, welcoming over 700 participants to Calgary for our first in-person version of this event in over 3 years, which held plenty of sold-out educational sessions and workshops. The conference provided a platform for professionals from all stages of their careers to learn, explore, and discuss the challenges and opportunities faced by their practice.

We held our first in-person Congress on Architecture in October, where we discussed Climate Action and Architecture in Canada as well as our continued commitment to building relationships based on recognition of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership with Indigenous Peoples. The event led to the foundation for the development of the Climate Action Plan and strengthened connections between professionals and the design community.

In addition to our continued commitment to the existing annual awards, we are proud to have launched 3 new awards that will be a part of our annual programs. These awards were included to further our priorities of advancing advocacy, innovation and celebrating the architectural community.

Success in our membership department was achieved as we recruited and retained 5,212 members across all categories, up 139 total members from our previous year. Our renewal retention rate was an impressive 90%, indicating a high level of satisfaction among our members. We are also happy to have welcomed 328 new members to the RAIC family, including 97 registered/licensed architects and 78 intern architects. We take great pride in elevating the value of our RAIC membership.

Our commitment to education and achievement within the architectural community remains of the utmost importance in 2023 and beyond. Our continuing education team facilitated over 7200 enrollments in webinars and courses last year, offering 40 new sessions consisting of live sessions, on-demand webinars, and online events.

As a part of our initiative to promote accessibility, we provided the Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ (RHFAC) training program in addition to our standard programming. The aim was to equip architects with the knowledge and resources required to design a more inclusive and accessible world.

Our partnership efforts to strengthen and engage the architectural community led to partnerships with organizations such as Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC), and the National Research Council Canada (NRC) this year. We also focused on advocacy earlier in processes to help gain influence and provide advice at the Federal, Provincial and municipal levels, helping us to advance action on the areas of importance to the architectural community.

In 2023, the RAIC Advisors to Professional Practice (RAPP) was created to support professional practice in Canada. The RAPP has six members and engages licensed architects and subject matter experts to develop resources that empower the architectural community to create change. The RAPP provides insight into the evolution, unmet needs, and challenges of architectural practice in Canada to inform advocacy initiatives and practice advisory services offered by the RAIC.

I would like to express my gratitude to the staff, membership, volunteers, and Board of Directors for their unwavering support in advancing excellence in Canada's built environment. I am optimistic that we will continue to explore new ways to prosper as we prepare to implement the 2024-25 strategic plan in the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Brennan', written over a faint background watermark of the RAIC seal.

Mike Brennan, Hon. MRAIC, Hon. RAIA  
Chief Executive Officer

# Board of Directors and Staff

## Board of Directors

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### President

Jason Robbins, FRAIC

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#### Treasurer

Johanna Hurme, FRAIC

#### Immediate Past President

John Brown, PP/FRAIC

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#### Alberta/Northwest Territories

Cynthia Dovell, FRAIC

#### Saskatchewan

Paul Blaser, MRAIC

#### Manitoba

Reanna Merasty, MRAIC

#### Ontario Southwest

Drew Hauser, FRAIC

#### Quebec

Deirdre Elis, MRAIC

#### Atlantic

Paul Frank, PP/FRAIC

#### Director Representing Interns and Intern Architects

Jonathan Monfries, MRAIC

#### Chancellor of College of Fellows

Gerrie Doyle, FRAIC

#### Director Representing Canadian Council of University Schools of Architecture (CCUSA)

David Fortin, MRAIC

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#### Project Manager

Danielle Catley

#### Executive Assistant

Alex Wesang

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Deepthi Padekallu Ganapathi

#### Finance Administrator

Mozhdeh Karami

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#### Senior Manager of Business Development and Events

Katie Russell

#### Event Coordinator

Patricia O'Donnell

#### Program Coordinator

Melanie Scott

#### Project Coordinator

Camille Rivard

#### Business Development Assistant

Al Mehrabi

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#### Director of Syllabus

Ivan Martinović

#### Syllabus Coordinator

Portia Ymer Sobel

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#### Vice President of Member Engagement

Chantal Charbonneau

#### Honours & Awards Manager

Amanda Shore

#### Membership Manager

Sarah Holtman

#### Membership Coordinator

Nyota Kabika

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Diane Wessman

#### Marketing and Communications Manager

Melonie Fullick

#### Managing Director of Education

Ellen Savitsky

#### Education Administrator

Pamela Burke

#### Education Assistant

Caleigh Nordan

#### Education Assistant

Matejs Garijans

#### Education Assistant

Michael Stevens

#### Marketing and Communications Coordinator

Jose Nanquen

#### Marketing & Communications Assistant

Noorulabdeen Ahmad

#### Web Developer

Ali Linares

### PRACTICE

#### Vice President of Practice

Gregory MacNeil

#### Practice Coordinator

Stacey Hamilton

# Honours and Awards

The RAIC's national awards program for architecture promotes excellence in the built environment by showcasing outstanding achievements and heightening awareness of architecture and the people who create it.

2023 was a productive year for the RAIC Awards Advisory Committee as they continued to review the annual awards program. They worked to integrate the RAIC's updated mission, vision and values into each award in the RAIC's Honours and Awards program. The Committee also reviewed and updated the terms of reference for the RAIC Gold Medal, the Architectural Practice Award and the Emerging Architectural Practice Award. They updated three of the bi-annual awards of excellence awards into annual awards to better reflect the RAIC's updated priorities of strengthening, engaging and celebrating the architectural community.

We would like to thank the current committee members for their ongoing contributions and hard work and recognize the efforts of the 2023 outgoing members: Susan Ruptash, FIRAC and Samuel Dubois, MIRAC.

The call for submissions for the 2023 awards was issued in October 2022, with Fiona Boey being the professional advisor for the 2023 Annual awards.

## 2023 Jury Members

- Stephan Chevalier, MIRAC
- Juan Du
- Francine Houben, Hon. FRAIC
- Bruce Kuwabara, FRAIC
- Michael Leckie, MRAIC
- Janna Levitt, FRAIC
- Brent Bellamy, FRAIC
- Charles-Mathieu Brunelle
- Michael Green, FRAIC
- Jenn McArthur
- Shallyn Murray, MRAIC
- Betsy Williamson, FRAIC

## 2023 Award Recipients



The **Royal Architectural Institute of Canada's Gold Medal** is the highest honour that the Institute can bestow in recognition of a significant and lasting contribution to Canadian architecture. The honour recognizes a significant body of work deemed to have lasting influence as demonstrated through excellence in design; excellence in research; and/or excellence in education.

### 2023 RECIPIENT – The late Claude Provencher, FIRAC

**Jury comments:** "Claude Provencher—architect, teacher, mentor, colleague—elevated the quality and awareness in architecture in Montreal, Quebec, and Canada. He demonstrated a lifelong commitment to building and advocating for improvement in the conditions, recognition, and opportunities of the profession. His legacy of built work and advocacy will have a lasting impact on the profession of architecture in Canada."



The **Architectural Practice Award** recognizes a Canadian architectural practice that has consistently produced distinguished architecture. The award recognizes the achievements of the practice, considering seven core areas: quality of architecture, quality of professional services, innovations in practice, contributions to the profession, exemplary approaches to environmental sustainability, support and advancement of social justice, and commitment to the future generation of architects.

### 2023 RECIPIENT – Patkau Architects

**Jury comments:** "Patkau Architects has remained a north star for over forty years: providing practitioners and the academy alike with a model for the authentic pursuit of design excellence in a range of building typologies and budgets. Equally compelling is how the firm's drive for innovation is resolved at every scale, with extraordinary attention to detail. Each building is an essay in place-making and an authentic response through form, light, and material."

## 2023 Award Recipients (cont.)

The **Emerging Architectural Practice Award** recognizes an emerging Canadian architectural practice that shows exceptional promise for contributing significantly to the future of Canadian architecture. The award recognizes the early career achievements of the practice, considering six core areas: quality of architecture, quality of professional services, innovations in practice, contributions to the profession, exemplary approaches to sustainability, and the support and advancement of social justice.

### 2023 RECIPIENTS – [Fathom Studio](#), and the [Studio of Contemporary Architecture \(SOCA\)](#)



**[Fathom Studio] Jury comments:** “Fathom Studio has differentiated itself by confidently curating an interdisciplinary approach, seamlessly integrated within one studio, which resets the way architects collaborate and engage with their teams, clients, communities, and contexts. The evidence of a shared language and mission between the firm’s landscape, architecture, planning and environmental design projects is clearly demonstrated in the resolution of built form, landscape and graphics. Fathom is owning the space where many younger practitioners and students are heading: that is, at the intersection where allied arts meet, the boundaries fall away, and the real discussions begin.”



**[Studio of Contemporary Architecture (SOCA)] Jury comments:** “The vision with which the two partners at SOCA established their practice is long overdue and incredibly exciting. It has provided their practice with a diverse portfolio of buildings and advocacy activities, all undertaken to demonstrate how the profession can participate in socially inclusive, relevant, and beautiful buildings and spaces. From Granny’s House to the speculative Alexandra Park Master Plan, they demonstrate their skill to recalibrate what constitutes a rich environment for architectural activity. SOCA is primed to develop into a powerful architecture firm that will make its mark on the Canadian design world.”

## Updated 2023 Annual Awards

Three updated awards of excellence were added to the annual awards roster: the **RAIC Advocate for Architecture Award**, the **RAIC Research and Innovation in Architecture Award**, and the **RAIC Architectural Journalism and Media Award**. These awards will now be offered each year along with the existing annual awards.

The **Advocate for Architecture Award** celebrates an individual, or collective of individuals, who has made a significant public contribution to the advancement of Canadian architecture through their advocacy, patronage, and/or other forms of support.

### 2023 RECIPIENTS: [Carol Bélanger, FRAIC](#) and [Kollektif](#)



**[Carol Bélanger] Jury comments:** “Carol Bélanger is not just an advocate for architecture, but an advocate for procurement reform, design excellence and civic life.... Bélanger’s advocacy and support for the procurement and execution of great design is an inspiring example to municipalities, professionals, and the public, and sets a beautiful example for improvements in procurement processes across the country.”



**[Kollektif] Jury comments:** “Kollektif’s promotion and support of the local architecture community has become a vital resource that connects designers in conversation and empowers them with new ideas that promote innovation and elevates the quality of work within the profession. Their easy-to-consume and well-curated information, made accessible across different platforms, has effectively engaged Quebec’s broader community, elevating awareness and appreciation for design in a way that should be seen as a model for the entire country.”

## Updated 2023 Annual Awards (cont.)



The **Research & Innovation in Architecture Award** recognizes excellence from an architect, architectural practice and/or disciplinary knowledge in research and/or innovation in architectural practice, technology, or pedagogy. Celebrating initiatives that advance professional practice and/or disciplinary knowledge, it considers exemplary approaches to sustainability, and the support and advancement of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

**2023 RECIPIENT – [Limberlost Place – Innovation Through Mass Timber Construction and Prefabricated Envelope System](#)**, by Moriyama Teshima Architects / Acton Ostry Architect Inc. in collaboration.

**Jury comments:** “The architects have skillfully demonstrated that the most aspirational environmental goals can be achieved in a building that is also inspiring for its beautiful and joyful spaces. Limberlost Place is what architecture should be in Canada.”

The **Architectural Journalism and Media Award** recognizes an architect, architectural practice or individual that presents a narrative about architecture which promotes public understanding and awareness of architecture, the role of architects and their impacts on society, and/or the value of design and design excellence.

**2023 RECIPIENTS: [Ruovttu Guvlui / Towards Home exhibition, at the Canadian Centre for Architecture main gallery exhibition](#) and [Dalhousie Architectural Press](#)**



**[Ruovttu Guvlui] Jury comments:** “As an exhibition, Towards Home presents a wonderful diversity of spaces, elements, and intentions, bringing visitors into life in the North. Using both architecture and artefact, the CCA has created a beautiful, experiential exhibit that tells an important and valuable story, especially in light of the ongoing path towards truth and reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples, and our global efforts to live on—and preserve—an increasingly fragile planet.”



**[Dalhousie] Jury comments:** “Our ability to celebrate the unique voices of architecture across Canada is predicated on the dedication of journalists and media focusing time and resources that are increasingly scarce and more global in focus. A review of the publications produced by Dalhousie Press (formerly TUNS Press) shows that for over 40 years, it has covered the breadth and depth of Canadian architecture from coast to coast. Regional publications, historic documentation, and monographs by emerging practices and architecture’s stalwarts are represented in carefully curated and beautifully published books. As a small press focusing on our built culture, it positions Canadian architecture within the broader international context, while teasing out the aspects of our own history and culture that makes the work truly Canadian. The jury was unanimous in its support and gratitude for the work of Dalhousie Architectural Press, with its continued impact on Canadian architecture.”

### Honorary Membership

**Honorary Membership** recognizes individuals who have given valuable and distinguished service to the architectural profession and upheld the objectives and values of the RAIC, including support and advancement of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

We are pleased to welcome the following 2023 recipients:

- Brian Hall, Hon, MRAIC
- John Ralston Saul, Hon, MRAIC
- Rim Safar Sakkal, Hon. MRAIC
- Martin Segger, Hon, MRAIC
- Robert Wright, Hon. MRAIC

### Student Medals and RAIC Honour Roll

The **Student Medal** is awarded annually to a student graduating from a professional degree program in each accredited University School of Architecture in Canada who, in the judgment of the faculty of the respective school, has achieved the highest level of academic excellence and/or has completed the outstanding final design project/thesis for that academic year. [View the recipients for 2023.](#)

The **RAIC Honour Roll** recognizes those students of an accredited professional degree program of Architecture in Canada who have achieved high academic standing in the top 10% of their graduating class. For each School of Architecture, a maximum of four students from the top 10 per cent of the graduating class shall receive honour roll certificates from the RAIC. In addition, the top student shall also receive the Student Medal. [View the recipients for 2023.](#)

# College of Fellows

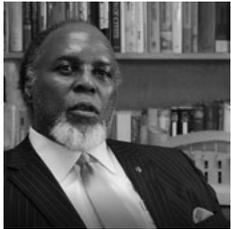
## The 2023 Honorary Fellows

Honorary fellowship recognizes extraordinary achievement and exemplifies the tremendous impact that architects have—not only on the built environment but also on public life and the world around them.



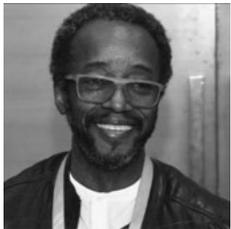
**Javier Sordo Madaleno Bringas, FAIA, Chairman of the Board, Grupo Sordo Madaleno (GSM) and Sordo Madaleno Arquitectos (SMA), Mexico City, Mexico.**

Born in Mexico City in 1956 and graduated from the Architecture Faculty of the Universidad Iberoamericana, Javier Sordo Madaleno Bringas leads the architecture firm Sordo Madaleno with a global perspective and visionary mindset since 1985. Javier has created transformative architecture throughout his career of more than 40 years that has proven to be a catalyst for positive change and has improved urban fabric and social equity in a creative and inclusive manner.



**David Hughes, FAIA, Ohio, USA.**

David Hughes, FAIA, was a pioneer in advancing the knowledge of Africa's contributions to global architecture. He was the first African American to join the Faculty of Architecture at Kent State University in 1985. Hughes' research and writings helped unknown African architects gain international recognition, and Peter Malefane became the first Black African to receive Honorary Fellowship from the American Institute of Architects.



**Tokunbo Ómisorè, RIBA, FNIA, PPAUA, Hon. AIA, Lagos, Nigeria.**

Tokunbo Ómisorè is a visionary architect and developer with over four decades of professional experience. He is committed to advancing excellence in Africa's built environment and expanding economic development opportunities through responsible architecture.



**Sumayya Vally, Johannesburg, South Africa.**

Sumayya Vally, Principal of Counterspace, explores hybrid identities and territories, with a focus on African and Islamic conditions. Her process draws on the overlooked aspects of history and work, including the oral, aural, sound, ritual, and supernatural. The World Economic Forum has recognized Vally as a Young Global Leader, and she is a board member of the World Monuments Fund.

Sordo Madaleno Bringas, Hughes, Ómisorè and Vally were inducted into the RAIC College at a ceremony during the RAIC 2023 Conference on Architecture, which took place in Calgary from May 2nd to 6th.

## 2023 New Fellows

A Fellow is a member of the Institute who has achieved professional eminence or has rendered distinctive service to the profession or the community at large. The College of Fellows of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada is composed of those members who have been approved by the Board of Directors of the RAIC and advanced to Fellowship by the College of Fellows in accordance with these Rules and Regulations. The Fellows and Honorary Fellows shall be known collectively as the College of Fellows.

These individuals were named as Fellows for 2023:

### Alberta & Northwest Territories

- Kate Thompson, Calgary, AB
- Henry Tsang, Calgary, AB

### Atlantic

- Jill Bambury, Saint John, NB
- Silva Stojak, Charlottetown, PEI

### British Columbia / Yukon

- Amela Brudar, Vancouver, BC
- Oliver Lang, Vancouver, BC
- Ana Maria Llanos, Vancouver, BC
- Mitch Sakumoto, Vancouver, BC
- Chei-Wei Tai, Vancouver, BC
- David Thom, Vancouver, BC
- Mark A. Whitehead, Vancouver, BC

### Ontario (Northeast & Nunavut)

- Mohammed al Riffai, Ottawa, ON
- Robert Martin, Ottawa, ON
- Thierry Montpetit, Ottawa, ON
- Danica Robertson, Ottawa, ON

### Ontario (Southwest)

- Farida Abu-Bakare, Toronto, ON
- David J. Lieberman, Toronto, ON
- Anna Madeira, Toronto, ON
- Brian Porter, Ohsweken, ON
- Olga Pushkar, Toronto, ON
- Colin Ripley, Toronto, ON

### Quebec

- Jonathan Bisson, Quebec, QC
- Claude Bourbeau, Montreal, QC
- Georges Drolet, Montreal, QC
- Tudor Radulescu, Montreal, QC
- Jozef Zorko, Montreal, QC

# Chancellor's Report



I am truly honoured to have been elected the Chancellor of the RAIC College and wish to thank Susan Ruptash, FRAIC, immediate Past Chancellor for her incredible contributions to our membership during her tenure.

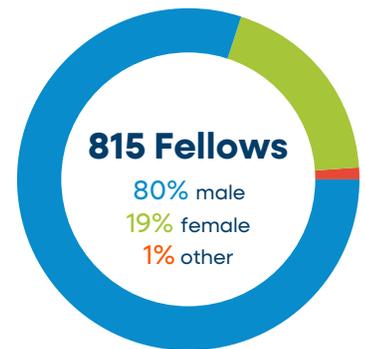
The 80th Convocation of the RAIC College was held last May in Calgary. We welcomed 26 new Fellows including nine who identify as female, and four new Honorary Members. I was thrilled that we returned to an in-person event and to take part in celebrating everyone's amazing achievements.

We now have a total of 815 Fellows – 80% male, 19% female, 1% other.

As a new Trustee of the RAIC Foundation, I look forward to contributing to its important work and its commitment in advancing excellence and knowledge in Canadian architecture.

I am grateful for the support that my fellow Officers have provided me as I entered into my new position and look forward to our continued work.

I wish to thank the Regional Committee Chairs and their committee members for all the hard work they do across the country; these individuals play a major role in the nomination of new Fellows and in organizing local events. It is my hope that we will have more Fellows contributing their time to support regional activities.



Thank you,

  
Gerrie Doyle, FRAIC  
RAIC College Chancellor

## National Committee and Regional Committee Chairs

The Chancellor and the National Committee of the College of Fellows administer the affairs of the College of Fellows. The National Committee consists of the Chancellor, the Dean, the Registrar, who are elected by Fellows as well as two immediate past presidents of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada who have completed their term on the RAIC's Board of Directors. Each of the past presidents serve a two-year term.

- **Chancellor:** Gerrie Doyle, FRAIC
- **Registrar:** Liza Makek, FRAIC
- **Dean:** Thomas Emodi, FRAIC
- **Past-Presidents:** Samuel Oboh, PP/FRAIC, Michael Cox, PP/FRAIC

The Regional Advisory Committees of the College of Fellows provide regional feedback, play a major role in the nomination of new Fellows and organize local events. The Chair is appointed by the Chancellor, in consultation with the National Committee and the outgoing Chair of each regional committee.

# Events

## Conference on Architecture

May 2023 heralded the return of the RAIC Conference on Architecture, our annual event that brings together professionals across Canada at every stage of their careers to learn, explore, and discuss challenges and opportunities facing their practice.

After 3 years of virtual conferences, the RAIC was proud to host the 2023 conference in Calgary, AB, providing participants with 5 days of live workshops, educational sessions, and special experiences on a diverse range of important topics. Over 700 participants attended a variety of events, including 36 continuing education sessions, 8 local architectural tours that were curated in collaboration with a local stakeholder committee and the launch of a very popular architectural studio crawl. We have also embraced and integrated the insights gained from our time online by offering many of the continuing education sessions in on-demand format for post-event access.

Conference 2023 also included collaborations with partner organizations including the Canadian Architecture Student's Association, where a sponsorship-matching program provided access to over two dozen free all-access and day passes distributed across all accredited schools and the RAIC Syllabus program.

Overall, we are immensely proud that Conference 2023 could enable a connected community, with meaningful learning opportunities, exceeding expectations in the registration and sponsorship categories and achieving an important level of satisfaction.



Photo was taken by RAIC @ 2023 Conference in Calgary, Alberta.



Photo was taken by RAIC @ 2023 Conference in Calgary, Alberta.



Photo taken by RAIC @ 2023 Congress at the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre, Whistler, BC.



Photo taken by RAIC @ 2023 Congress at the Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre, Whistler, BC.

## RAIC Congress on Architecture

In 2023, the RAIC was pleased to offer the first in-person Congress, a two-day event that annually begins on World Architecture Day, the first Monday in October. The theme was "Climate Action and Architecture," and we brought together over 450 participants to ignite action, create, and strengthen connections and collaborations and share ideas, strategies, and leading practices.

Held at the Great Hall of the award-winning Squamish Lil'wat Cultural Centre in Whistler, the 2023 RAIC Congress on Architecture was focused exclusively on Climate Action and Architecture in Canada. As a first-time event for RAIC, it opened with an Indigenous Sharing Circle, a moderated discussion with Indigenous presenters focusing on how nature, ecological and indigenous knowledges and practices must be at the centre of climate-resilient solutions. It was followed by a presentation of the current state of where we are now and giving knowledge perspectives from the Canadian architectural community. It closed with an inter-professional discussion on what actions must come next with respect to advancing the climate agenda and influencing system change. In addition, all delegates had an opportunity to contribute to the national dialogue by participating in a Climate Jam event.

Congress also was the event where the Low Carbon Workshop (a national partnership with CaGBC) was launched. This free workshop included a curricula of four modules including climate change literacy foundations, climate-responsive design foundations, making the case for change, and integrative design thinking and regenerative design. The RAIC extends its gratitude to all volunteers and participants of the Congress and values the significant contributions this event has made to advancing the Climate Action Plan.

# Digital Communications

## Social Media

RAIC continues to leverage its social media presence to inform, connect, and advocate for members and professionals. As of December 2023, RAIC has 22,257 followers across all its social media channels, with our LinkedIn platform being our highest driver of engagement and impressions. Our organization continues to strive for excellence in engaging and connecting the architectural community and has built a strong platform in the digital space to enhance the ability to achieve these objectives and foster community.

## RAIC Connects



RAIC Connects has fostered meaningful conversations within the profession since its inception in October of 2020. With over 5200 members by the end of 2023, the platform (free to all RAIC membership categories) has ignited discussion on a vast array of issues including top discussion items:

- **Climate Action Plan – Three Wishes**
- **Climate Action Plan – Practices**
- **Use of the Title – Architectural Designer**

In addition to the RAIC member community, the platform contains over 20 other communities including topic-specific ones for Emerging Practitioners and Climate Action, communities for RAIC committees, task forces, working groups, chapters, networks, and the College of Fellows, among others. The number of topic-specific communities in use continues to increase with FPAA North Region Community and the RAIC Awards Advisory Committee added in 2023.

Additional Discussion Topics in the RAIC Member Community included:

- **Rising to the Challenge: Workplace Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**
- **In the Value of Architectural Awards**
- **Climate Action Plan Question Series - Share Your Insights, Perspectives and Reflections**
- **Canada Green Buildings Strategy**
- **Race to Zero**
- **Innovations in Professional Business Models**
- **So, What Is “Architecture” Anyway?**
- **Canada’s Green Buildings Strategy and the Breakthrough Agenda Report 2023 Buildings**
- **RAIC Percentage Fee Calculated on Construction Cost Hard Cost Only?**
- **Using CCDC Model Contract Documents**
- **Cities, Density, Housing**
- **Human Rights Day**

Find topics relevant to your practice through RAIC Connects:  
<https://raic.org/user/login?destination=oauth2/authorize>

# Chapters and Networks

RAIC Chapters and Networks across Canada have hosted events, engaged in activities that meet the educational, advocacy and networking needs of members, and enabled the organization to fulfill its mission and vision.

2023 was no different, with the Alberta, Nova Scotia, and British Columbia chapters of RAIC providing unique solutions and resources to their respective regions. Each chapter is unique and activities range from meetings, webinars, community engagement and social events. Monthly newsletters enable members to gain insights and discover geographically specific content relevant to their practice.

## RAIC British Columbia

(Metro Vancouver, Mid-Island, and Vancouver Island South)

- Hosted regular virtual meetings.
- Formed a local stakeholder group comprised of over two dozen members representing 14 firms to support the 2024 RAIC Conference held in Vancouver.

### Vancouver Island South:

- Held 5 online education sessions, and hosted panel discussions and an exhibition of architect John Di Castri's works at Wentworth Villa Architectural Heritage Museum.
- Most events were recorded by Shaw Spotlight for community TV titled *RAIC Architect Dialogues*.

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## RAIC Alberta

(Edmonton and Calgary)

### Edmonton:

- Ian Mulder, MRAIC appointed as the new chair of the Edmonton Network.
- Co-sponsored 3 events jointly with MADE (Media Architecture Design Edmonton).
- Held 2 Chapter meetings, 1 in-person social event, and several meetings with the Edmonton Public Library staff to lay a foundation for an Architecture for Young Readers collaboration.

### Calgary:

- Members joined the local stakeholder group that assisted in the curation of architectural tours for the 2023 RAIC Conference in Calgary.
- New chapter leadership was elected in December 2023:
  - Alana Kerr – Chair
  - David Minke – Co-Vice Chair
  - Tia Watson – Co-Vice Chair

## RAIC Nova Scotia

(Halifax and South Shore)

- Hosted regular virtual meetings.
- Held a spring 2023 Lecture Series in partnership with the Lunenburg School of the Arts, 'Extraordinary Homes' in the South Shore.

**RAIC SOUTH SHORE NETWORK**  
**SPRING 2023 LECTURE SERIES**

**BRIAN MACKAY-LYONS, FRAIC, RCA, (HON) FAIA, INT FRIBA, NSAA, AAPEI, AANB, OAA, VT, NH**  
**EXTRAORDINARY HOMES**  
Thursday, April 27, 2023  
7:00 p.m. AT

**JANE ABBOTT, M.ARCH NSAA LED AP**  
**EXTRAORDINARY HOMES**  
Thursday, May 25, 2023  
7:00 p.m. AT

**SUSAN FITZGERALD, M.ARCH, PHD**  
**EXTRAORDINARY HOMES**  
Thursday, June 22, 2023  
7:00 p.m. AT

The lecturers will, through their work, discuss the “meaning “of home and how technology, form and culture play into how we perceive the home.

info: [lunenburgarts.org](http://lunenburgarts.org)

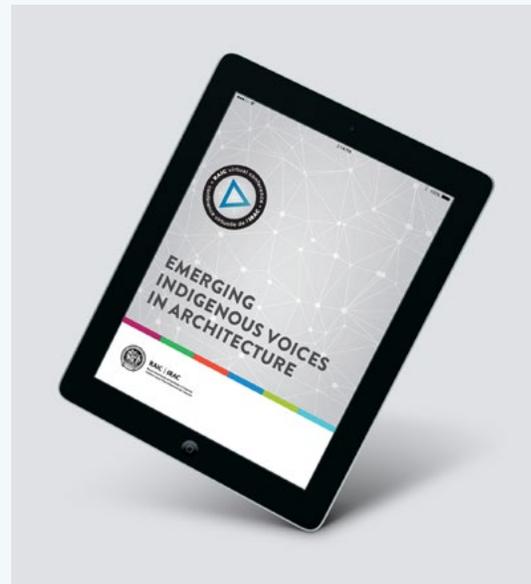
**RAIC | IRAC**  
Royal Architectural Institute of Canada  
Institut royal d'architecture de Canada  
**NOVA SCOTIA**  
**NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE**

# Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups

## Indigenous Task Force

The Indigenous Task Force (ITF) is an Indigenous volunteer-led group launched in 2016 during the RAIC Festival of Architecture and was formed to enable architects to seek ways to foster and promote Indigenous design in Canada. The network consisted of 30 members upon its founding, and as of 2023, is now comprised of 42 members. Activities in 2023 include:

- **Indigenous Members Directory** – The ITF reviews and submits quarterly updates of the RAIC Indigenous Member Directory, with 21 current members giving consent to have their contact information listed. Requests for the directory by external stakeholders must be approved by the ITF before being released.
- **Emerging Indigenous Voices in Architecture** was published – This book is a collection of master's theses of four emerging, Indigenous intern architects. The publication has been made available for open access as an eBook.
- **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (NDTR)** – Two members of the ITF participated in the RAIC commemoration of the 2023 NDTR. Members and attendees could engage in two days of education.
- **Low Carbon Education Training** – A member of the Indigenous Task Force was one of the key presenters for the Low Carbon Education Workshop provided on October 3, 2023.
- **Indigenous Task Force Meetings** – This year the Indigenous Task Force moved from a Chair to Co-Chair model. They hosted an Indigenous Sharing Circle at the RAIC Congress in October 2023. The ITF members also started the process of reviewing the ITF Terms of Reference.
- Members of the ITF contributed to an interactive experience that was created as part of the International Union of Architects (UIA) Indigenous Peoples Work Programme (IPWP) as part of the UIA Congress in Copenhagen. The IPWP created an exhibit that invited participants to engage with video presentations from IPWP members worldwide.



## Truth and Reconciliation Task Force

The RAIC Truth and Reconciliation Task Force (TRTF), co-chaired by Dr. luugigyoo stewart (Nisga'a), and Alfred Waugh, MRAIC, has a mandate to facilitate sustainable actions that will foster reconciliation within the profession, in particular making recommendations for concrete actions for the RAIC to implement over the next five years. 2023 achievements include:

- Reconciliation. The RAIC also partnered with NVision Group for the 2nd year to coordinate two Indigenous awareness days: Day 1 – History and Context, and Day 2 – Relationships with the Land Through Architecture and Design. Over 400 registrants attended each, and educational and virtual webinars were made available on demand.
- Engaged in Congress October 2023 by participating in an Indigenous Sharing Circle, an in-person session exploring how Indigenous knowledge is vital to any climate action response.
- The Truth and Reconciliation Task Force started an initiative to encourage Indigenous cultural awareness education within the schools of Architecture in Canada.

# Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups (cont.)

## Committee on Regenerative Environments

The Committee on Regenerative Environments (CORE), chaired by Mona Lemoine, AIBC, MRAIC, LEED AP BD+C, RELi AP, supports the profession's collective capacity, collaborative agency and ability to respond to complex, systemic challenges. CORE seeks to enact change in a way that is inclusive, inspiring, and equitably enabling so that we can collectively help create a world that nurtures quality of life and empowers people and places to thrive.

2023 highlights include:

- The addition of two new members in January 2023, Kelly Alvarez Doran, MRAIC and Alanna Quok, MRAIC
- Hosting three sessions at RAIC Conference 2023: The CORE Regenerative Environments Session, Climate Action Engagement and Enablement Plan Session (CAEEP), and the Thriving Forests and Regenerative Built Environments – A Conversation About Mass Timber.

- Participation in Buildex Vancouver in February 2023
- Fostering national stakeholder relationships with National Research Council Canada.
- Supporting the organization of the October 2 event day at the Congress on Architecture event.
- Review of the Terms of Reference.

### CAEEP – Climate Action Engagement and Enablement Plan Steering Committee

The Climate Action Engagement and Enablement Plan Steering Committee is a sub-committee of CORE, a diverse group of professionals in the practice of architecture committed to the development of the RAIC's Climate Action Engagement and Enablement Plan. In 2023, in addition to the advocacy work this team engaged in, CAEEP collaborated to expand their work to include liaisons to the Indigenous Task Force (ITF) and a liaison to the Promoting Equity and Justice Advisory Committee (PEJ-AC).



Photo taken by RAIC @ the Low Carbon Workshop held in Whistler, BC.

## RAIC Promoting Equity and Justice Advisory Committee

The RAIC Promoting Equity and Justice Advisory Committee was formed in April 2021 to support the development and implementation of the "Taking Action: Promoting Equity and Justice" strategy and plan. In 2023, new developments included:

- Producing updated versions of two open access resources, the *Promoting Equity and Justice Glossary of Terms*, and the *Promoting Equity and Justice Resource Guide*.
- Holding the first of a 3-part educational series titled "The Sum of all Parts: Disability Culture as a Key Component of Inclusive Design". Holding a session at RAIC 2023 Conference in Calgary – "A Shared Vision for Equity in Architecture".

- Participating in a Climate Jam session with members of the RAIC Climate Action and Engagement Steering Committee.
- Two PEJ-AC members participating in the Low Carbon Education workshops as subject matter experts during Congress 2023.

A promotional graphic for a webinar. It features a vertical bar on the left with colored segments (purple, green, blue, orange). The text reads: "FALL EDUCATION SERIES", "The Sum of all Parts: Disability Culture as a key component of Inclusive Design\*", "September 14, 2023, 9:00 am PT | webinar", and "\*offert en anglais seulement". At the bottom, it says "Promoting Equity and Justice Advisory Committee" and "Comité sur la promotion de l'équité et de la justice" next to the RAIC logo.

## Practice Support Committee

The Practice Support Committee (PSC) has a dual purpose. It engages members and Fellows to guide, develop, and maintain resources for architectural practice in Canada. It also provides insight into the evolution, unmet needs, and challenges of architectural practice to inform advocacy initiatives and practice support services offered by the RAIC.

Key activities in 2023 include:

- Reviewed and provided feedback on multiple CCDC documents.
- Developed conference sessions related to practice.
- Contributed to the Canadian Architectural Practices Benchmark Survey.

## Fees and Procurement Working Group

Formed in 2021, the key responsibility of the RAIC Fees and Procurement Working Group (FPWG) is to engage the knowledge and experience of members regarding the goals, objectives, activities, and resources as it relates to fees and procurement.

Activities in 2023 for this group include:

- Contributed to the Canadian Architectural Practices Benchmark Survey.
- Laid foundation for an RFP review process.

## Long Term Care Design Working Group

Formed in 2021, the key responsibility of the Long Term Care Design Working Group (LTC-WG) is to engage the knowledge and experience of members regarding the goals, objectives, activities, and resources as it relates to LTC design.

Activities for this working group in 2023 include:

- Contributing to the update of CSAZ8000.
- Publishing a [statement on Long-Term Care and Inadequate Standards and Codes](#).

## UIA Indigenous Peoples Work Programme

The UIA Indigenous Peoples Work Programme aims to foster and promote the value of design and architecture based on Indigenous Knowledge. The RAIC continues to be the secretariat for this work programme. The main activity in 2023 was to host 2 events at the UIA 2023 Congress in Copenhagen – a presentation and an exhibition.



Photo taken by RAIC @ the UIA 2023 Congress in Copenhagen.

# Advocacy and Engagement

## Ways we worked for you in 2023

The RAIC has taken on a proactive stance towards federal and provincial level advocacy, advancing action on areas of importance within the architectural community in an earlier stage of the decision-making process in matters pertaining to fair competition processes and more.

### Collaborations:

The RAIC aims to collaborate, partner, leverage relationships, share information and resources, cross-promote initiatives with external organizations and individuals or stakeholders that further the work and aims of the RAIC. Initiatives in 2023 include:

- Partnership with Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC) for the Low Carbon Education Training project with an aim to deliver low carbon education to 500 architecture professionals in person, live, online and on-demand.
- The Venice Biennale in Architecture is the most prestigious event in contemporary architecture. In 2023 the RAIC provided some funding support for the development of the “Not for Sale!” exhibition in the Canada Pavilion for the 18th International Architecture Exhibition--La Biennale di Venezia.
- A continuation of the partnership with the Rick Hansen Foundation and the NVision Group to deliver professional development that is aligned with strategic priorities, accessibility and reconciliation, respectively.
- New in 2023, a partnership with Debbie Hicks Consulting was formed to deliver a “Managing Construction” series as part of professional development options for the architectural community.
- RAIC assisted in sponsoring Canadian Architecture Students Association (CASA) to support 17 representatives to attend the RAIC Conference and present their Student Work Showcase, highlighting the work of 34 Canadian architecture students.



Photo taken by RAIC @ the 2023 AIA Conference in San Francisco. Left to Right: Jason Robbins, Emily Grandstaff-Rice and Patrick Stewart.

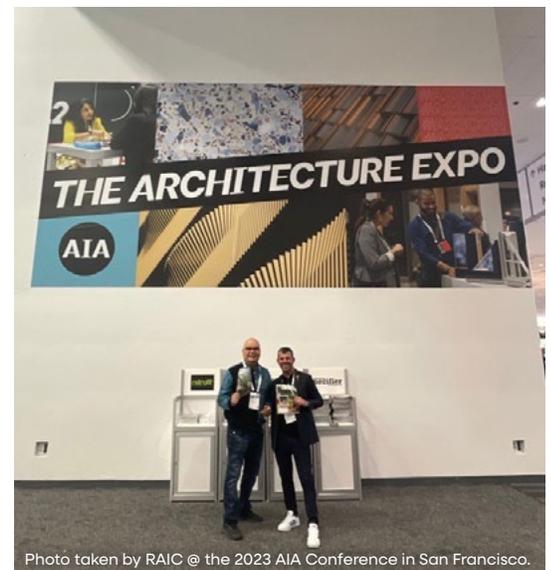


Photo taken by RAIC @ the 2023 AIA Conference in San Francisco.

## RAIC Syllabus

The RAIC program continues to enhance resources for students, coordinators and instructors. We are grateful to the dozens of volunteer studio coordinators and instructors who support the program with teaching, mentoring and supervising students.

GRADUATES  
(DIPL. ARCH)

4

NEW  
STUDENTS

37

TOTAL ACTIVE  
STUDENTS

169

STUDIOS

13

# Continuing Education

The RAIC continued to provide members and professionals of all levels with innovative virtual courses, webinars and workshops throughout the year.

The Continuing Education Advisory Committee guides the development of continuing education programming that is relevant, accessible, and most beneficial to the architectural community. The committee is chaired by the RAIC's Education Manager and composed of RAIC staff and volunteers from across Canada.



**The Path: Your Journey Through Indigenous Canada** course was created by a majority Indigenous-owned company and has been developed in consultations with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis advisors and reviewers. This course introduces participants to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis – the three Indigenous peoples recognized in the Canadian constitution. In 2023, a new updated version of the course was launched, demonstrating the commitment and foresight to invest in strengthening relationships with Indigenous peoples. This online course is interactive, includes videos, text, exercises and knowledge assessment questions. It is available in English or French and is the only course of its kind to focus in equal depth on all three Indigenous peoples.

**Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification™ (RHFAC) Training** is made available to the architectural community, in collaboration with the Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) and Athabasca University. In Canada, almost 50 percent of adults have or have experienced a permanent or temporary physical disability or live with someone who has. This course teaches participants fundamental knowledge of the RHFAC methodology and the skill to rate buildings on their level of meaningful access.

The **Managing Construction Series** empowers participants to manage and mitigate project risks by focusing on the roles and responsibilities of parties involved. The foundation of a successful project is understanding the commitments, expectations, responsibilities, “whys” and risks/rewards for all parties, in all the stages of a project. This series was designed to assist architects in “thinking differently” about project management, breaking out of industry silos, and raising the bar in construction for everyone. The Managing Construction Series offers six courses delivered as live online sessions.

## 2023 Continuing Education in Numbers

7200+

LMS Enrollments for webinars and courses

320+

LMS webinars and courses

40 new

LMS webinars and courses

## 2023 Most Popular Learning Management System Webinars:

- Quantifying Quality: Understanding, Evaluating, and Communicating Design Expectations
- Washrooms for All. A case study approach to gender-neutral, accessible design
- Zeroing In on Net-Zero Recreation Complexes
- The Voice of Indigeneity to Amplify Architecture
- A Bottom-Up Approach to a Healthier City
- Architecture for a Regenerating Life

## 2023 Most Popular Livestreamed Events:

- Celebrating the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation: Relationships with the Land through Architecture and Design
- Introduction to the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada
- Removing Barriers: The Cost to Retrofit Existing Buildings to Ensure Meaningful Access

# Continuing Education (cont.)

The “**Project Management for Architects**” workshop remains very popular among architects interested in the Project Management Professional (PMP)<sup>®</sup> Certification. The course provides both project management knowledge in the context of architectural practice and prepares participants for the Project Management Institute’s PMP<sup>®</sup> certification exam. In 2023, the course was offered in two cities: Toronto and Vancouver. Participant feedback demonstrates appreciation and value for the course.

## What we heard

### Project Management for Architects:

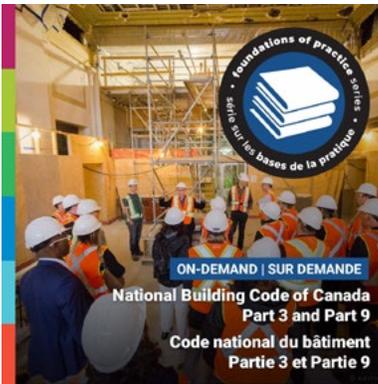
“ I had previously taken the regular PMI course but (this) course was much more relevant and useful to me as an Architect. I would recommend it to anyone in the Design and Construction Industry - whether they intend to take the exam or not.” - Architect participant

### Managing Construction:

“ A fantastic course to deep dive into supplementary conditions and consider what they \*actually\* mean from different construction industry perspectives.” - Architect participant

### RHFAC:

“ This course has helped me advance my specialization in inclusivity and social impact related to the built environment by expanding my knowledge of accessibility and universal design. It has helped me see our surroundings in a new, crucial light.” - Architect participant



The **National Building Code of Canada** courses continue to grow in demand. Since 2021, the NBCC online courses surpassed the 500-enrollment mark. To complement the virtual iteration of the course, the RAIC hosted four live Q&A sessions, branded as an “Ask an Expert” throughout 2023. These sessions were made available not only to the participants of the online courses, but to anyone who wished to attend. The NBCC online courses are available in three iterations:

- NBCC Part 3 Fire Protection, Occupant Safety and Accessibility
- NBCC Part 9 Housing and Small Buildings
- NBCC Part 3 and Part 9 Package



**Your Portfolio: Impression, Immediacy, Impact:** In 2021, the RAIC and Toronto Metropolitan University started a collaboration to support events for architectural students in Canada. As part of this ongoing effort, in 2023, the RAIC held a series of events, under the umbrella “Your Portfolio: Impression, Immediacy, Impact”. This initiative is conducted in partnership with the Business + Higher Education Roundtable, and with support from the Government of Canada and RBC Future Launch. The 2023 events were well received, with an average satisfaction rating of 9.3/10. The initiative is growing, attracting students from universities across the country.

# Membership

As of December 31, 2023, the RAIC maintained 5,212 members across all categories. Additionally, 328 new members joined.

The RAIC has embarked on a new and innovative onboarding initiative in 2023. New members now receive personalized phone calls within three months of joining, allowing us to extend a warm welcome and gather invaluable feedback on enhancing their membership experience. This proactive approach underscores our dedication to continuously improving and meeting the evolving needs of our community.

The member badge and signature banner were distributed on February 22, 2023. These assets are designed for sharing on social and professional networking sites, via email, or on personal websites.



## Resource Guide

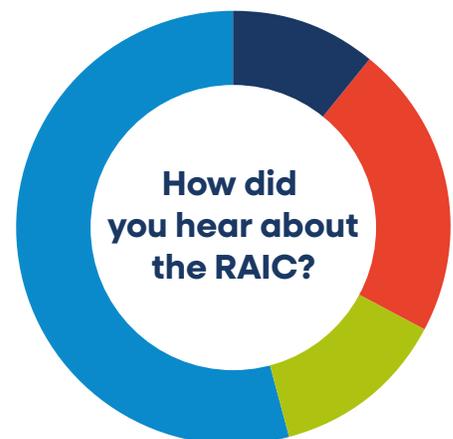
The RAIC Resource Guide features directory listings of all members who elect to be included in our online and printed directories. The resource guide also includes information about the institute and features the RAIC's corporate affiliate program. The publication is distributed to all members in an electronic format, with an added option to receive a printed copy by mail.



## New Member Survey Summary

Overall, the responses from the new member survey summary reflect a diverse set of motivations and needs within the membership, highlighting the RAIC's role as a hub for education, networking, and professional growth within the architectural community.

Responses regarding how individuals heard about the RAIC reveal a diverse range of channels, including educational institutions, professional associations, word of mouth, and online resources. Reasons for becoming a member also vary widely, encompassing goals such as professional development, staying informed on industry trends, and networking opportunities. Valued benefits, events, and services include educational resources like the syllabus program and webinars, alongside networking opportunities like the annual conference. Suggestions for improvement center on enhancing communication, providing clearer guidance regarding benefits, and increasing access to resources, while advocating for issues like fee reduction and sustainability.



# Practice

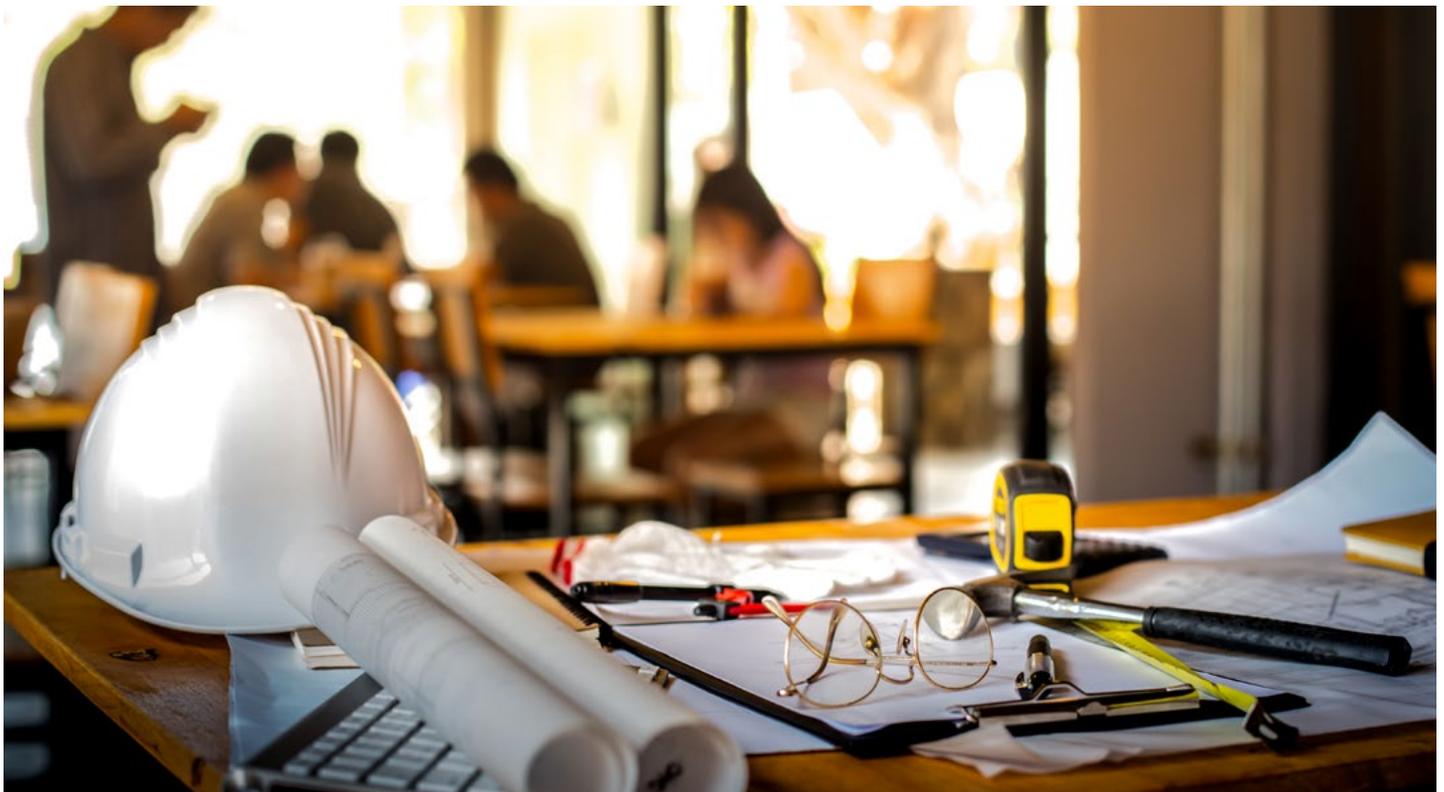
## RAIC Advisors to Professional Practice

In 2023, RAIC established the RAIC Advisors to Professional Practice (RAPP). This initiative was designed to support Canada's architectural community through the expert knowledge of our members and colleagues. The RAPP was designed to engage the knowledge and experience of subject matter experts, including architects, educators, and collaborating professionals, to guide, develop, and maintain appropriate resources to support architectural practice in Canada. The RAPP provides insight into the evolution and challenges of architectural practice in Canada to inform advocacy initiatives and the practice advisory services offered by the RAIC with the goal of fostering excellence in the architectural profession. We welcome and thank our advisors:

- Silvio Baldassarra
- Anna Batebe, MRAIC
- Lawrence Bird, MRAIC
- Andrea Lee, MRAIC
- Yew-Thong Leong, FRAIC

## Canadian Architectural Practices Benchmark Report, 2023 edition

In November 2023, RAIC released the *Canadian Architectural Practices Benchmark Report (2023 Edition)* produced in collaboration with Canadian Architect with the goal of providing comprehensive, anonymized data on the current standards for compensation, billings, equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI), and other key indicators among Canadian architectural practices.



# Treasurer's Report



I'm delighted to present the Treasurer's report for the RAIC's financial year 2023, which showcases our organization's financial achievements. Throughout 2023, we experienced substantial growth, with our total revenue reaching \$4,032,160, marking an impressive increase of 12.11% compared to 2022. The success of key initiatives such as the RAIC conference, the CaGBC Low Carbon Training project, and government grants and contracts primarily drove this growth.

In conjunction with our revenue growth, our total expenses also rose, amounting to \$4,145,443, reflecting a 15.96% increase from the previous year. Despite these heightened expenses, we operated with a deficit of \$33,283. However, factoring in additional spending on Special Projects, the total deficit for the year increased to \$113,283.

We received confirmation from our auditors, Welch LLP, that the RAIC's Financial Statements for 2023 accurately portray the Institute's financial position, operations, and cash flows as of December 31, 2023. This independent verification underscores the transparency and accuracy of our financial reporting, providing reassurance to our members.

As we progress, the RAIC remains steadfast in its commitment to sound financial management practices, recognizing the challenges and opportunities ahead. We are resolved to address the deficits encountered in 2023 with strategic measures to optimize our resources and maximize efficiency. As we navigate the complexities of the financial landscape, we will maintain our dedication to transparency and accountability, ensuring that every decision aligns with our overarching goals and values.

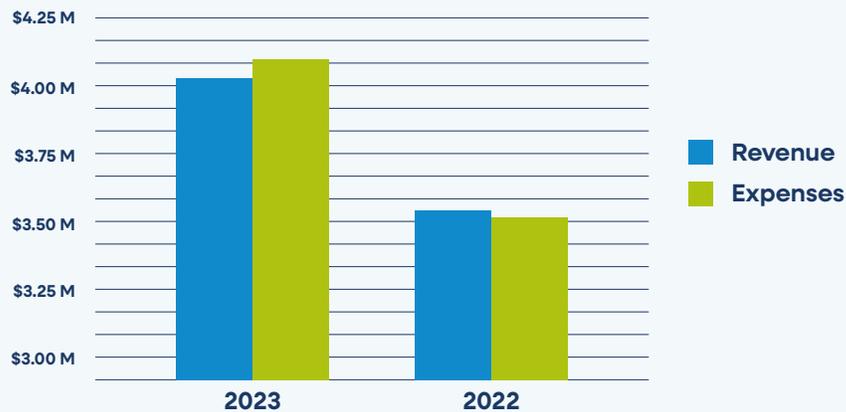
As we set our sights on the future, the RAIC stands firm in its mission to advance the field of architecture, championing innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity. With a renewed focus on fiscal responsibility and adaptability, we are prepared to overcome obstacles and emerge more vital than ever. Together with our valued members, sponsors, and partners, we will forge ahead, shaping a dynamic and vibrant landscape for architecture and design that inspires progress and leaves a lasting impact on society.

  
Johanna Hurme, FRAIC, Treasurer

# Financial Highlights

This section provides a general overview of RAIC finances. Members can obtain a copy of the audited financial statements by contacting [finance@raic.org](mailto:finance@raic.org). The statements will be shared at the 2024 RAIC Annual General Meeting.

## Revenue & Expenses



## Revenue Stream Categories



- 32% Practice & Continuing Education
- 17% Conference & Congress
- 4% Syllabus
- 3% Honours & Awards
- 2% RAIC Operations
- <1% Support of Chapters
- 11% Advocacy & Engagement
- 31% Membership Services



- 48% Practice & Continuing Education
- 4% Conference & Congress
- 4% Syllabus
- 5% Honours & Awards
- 1% RAIC Operations
- <1% Support of Chapters
- 2% Advocacy & Engagement
- 36% Membership Services

Capilano Library by **PATKAU ARCHITECTS**  
2023 Architectural Practice Award Recipient



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Institute of  
Canada

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