

# update

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The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada  
The voice of architecture and its practice in Canada

## The Path towards Renewal and Relevance

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President

Royal Architectural Institute of Canada



The renewal of the RAIC Syllabus Program is a significant priority for the RAIC Board. This valuable Program provides access to Architectural education, to Canadians who, for reasons of geography or personal circumstances, are unable to attend one of the 10 Canadian University Schools of Architecture, as well as to International Architecture Graduates (IAGs), who come to Canada and

require additional courses.

Since 1978, the Syllabus has been an English-language, self-paced program of academic studies, design studios, and practical experience leading to an RAIC Diploma in Architecture.

In 2002, following written concerns from a provincial licensing body, the RAIC began a thorough review of the Syllabus Program. The review determined that making the program bilingual would extend its reach to more Canadians and appeal particularly to IAGs with a French education. Also integral to renewal was the need for an institutional partnership, and for the program to be "accreditable, accessible and unique". Funding for a study on IAGs, and the barriers to their integration, was secured in 2006, enabling the Syllabus renewal to move forward.

In July 2006, after a significant research, the RAIC and Athabasca University signed a Memorandum of Understanding to explore the opportunities offered by an institutional partnership.

A partnership with Athabasca University satisfies the goals of renewal established by the Task Group:

- The major advantage that Athabasca University has over other institutional partners is that its focus is exclusively on distance education. This makes them a strong partner for the RAIC;
- It provides the ability to offer the Syllabus Program in both English and French, through its liaison with Université du Québec – TÉLUQ – l'université à distance;
- Its mission and academic policies are consistent with the RAIC Syllabus Program, and has academic rigour in program administration and delivery consistent with "accreditable" standards;
- It will enable the expansion of the Syllabus Program and offer the ability and capacity to embrace new challenges such as IAG certification and competency-based assessment (if required).

### Students – now and the next

Administrative restructuring of the RAIC Syllabus Program, including a partnership agreement with Athabasca University, guarantees the program an exciting and long-term future.

Students presently registered in the RAIC Syllabus Program can proceed with their original career plan of studies with very little change.

Tuition and course expenses are consistent with distance education courses offered by any of the Canadian post-secondary institutions.

In short this partnership will serve well all future and existing Syllabus students and expand their professional and educational opportunities.

### Next Steps

As part of the IAG study, we have been consulting with hundreds of firms, associations and IAGs across the country, to assess, among other things, how the Syllabus Program can specifically accommodate them.

Concurrently, the RAIC and Athabasca University have been studying the implications of partnership and identification of opportunities available through collaboration. Program development strategy preserves the existing Syllabus Program track for students presently registered while at the same time engaging the challenge of both short- and long-term program upgrading. This will naturally be an extended process, which will draw heavily on experience as well as on input from Canadian Architects. Consultation with mentors and students in the existing program will form part of this stage. This will be mediated, of course, by the opportunities of state-of-the-art distance education program delivery that Athabasca University provides. The future of the Syllabus Program is therefore not only secure but one filled with the promise of new opportunities and possibilities.

At this extraordinary time in Canadian Architecture, when Architecture is valued more than ever, I hope the RAIC Syllabus Program can be positioned to meet the needs of future generations of practitioners, of clients, of our growing and dynamic immigrant community.

For more information, see [www.raic.org](http://www.raic.org).

## CACB to process applications of Syllabus Graduates

The Canadian Architectural Certification Board decided at its meeting of October 27-28, 2006 to renew processing of applications for certification of Syllabus graduates. The CACB Assessment Committee will review each application individually through the standard assessment process. This decision will assist recent Syllabus graduates and those in the final phases of the Syllabus program. Future assessments will be contingent on the successful renewal of the RAIC Syllabus program, an initiative well underway by the RAIC and Athabasca University.

The RAIC applauds this decision of the CACB, the only authority in Canada to certify the academic qualifications of individuals holding a professional degree/diploma in architecture who intend to apply for registration.

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## 2007 Festival starting to take shape

Start planning now to be in Toronto May 9 -12, 2007 for the OAA/RAIC Conference and Festival. Themed *The next 100 years: Healthy Buildings, Healthy Communities*, two confirmed speakers are setting the tone for the gathering.

- Lord Norman Foster, leader of one of the world's most respected design firms, has lectured throughout the world and taught architecture in the United Kingdom and US.
- Prof. Francine Houben, architect-director of Mecanoo architects in Delft (The Netherlands) is one of Europe's most active architects with many publications, conferences, exhibitions and the curatorship of the First International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam.

Mark your calendar and make plans to join us for RAIC's centennial anniversary.



## Longstanding tradition



Congratulations to **Eric Haldenby, FRAIC** recently named a Fellow during the 2006 RAIC Festival of Architecture in Vancouver. The designation makes him a third generation Fellow – a distinction believed to be the only one of its kind, and the second Eric Haldenby to be inducted, which is definitely one-of-a-kind.

Eric follows a tradition set by his father **Douglas Charles Haldenby, FRAIC** (inducted in 1968) and his grandfather **Eric W. Haldenby, FRAIC** (inducted in 1939).

## Membership perks

### *Marmomacc and Veronafiere lauded*

There is no better way to report on the benefits of attending Marmomacc and Veronafiere than through testimonials.

*"The RAIC course at Veronafiere is a total immersion in Italian culture that begins with geology and ends with a dessert wine. The organization of the week was a perfect balance between course work, socializing with other architects, site visits to beautiful buildings and towns that used the types of stones we had been studying. I most enjoyed the visits to the quarries and manufacturing yards. The hands-on approach to learning about stone has this new palate of Italian stone engrained in my mind in a collage with Baccala Mantecata, Valpolicella, Scarpa and Palladio. I feel privileged to have attended and would encourage anyone who is interested in learning about materials (and food) to attend. An experience of a lifetime."*

**Sheryl Boyle, MRAIC**

*"The entire experience far surpassed my expectations. I do not believe that the quality and quantity of information imparted could have been substantially better organized. My ambition is to extend the learning received during this excellent conference. In order to share my learning with my colleagues, I have arranged an in-house seminar for the HOK Studio based upon my recent experience."*

**Evan Webber, MRAIC**

*"I must admit, I went to Verona with very little experience working with stone. I learned a great deal about stone. However, the brilliance of this seminar series is bringing 32 Architects from around the world together. We learned so much from each other, and established relationships that will be long lasting."*

**Ron Wickman, MRAIC**

SHERYL BOYLE, MRAIC



Architects at block yard

SHERYL BOYLE, MRAIC



Lesson at porphyry quarry

## Board update – fall 2006

**Paule Boutin, MIRAC** has been elected 2nd Vice President and Treasurer. Members in Ontario Southwest have re-elected **Randy Dhar, FRAIC** to continue as Regional Director.

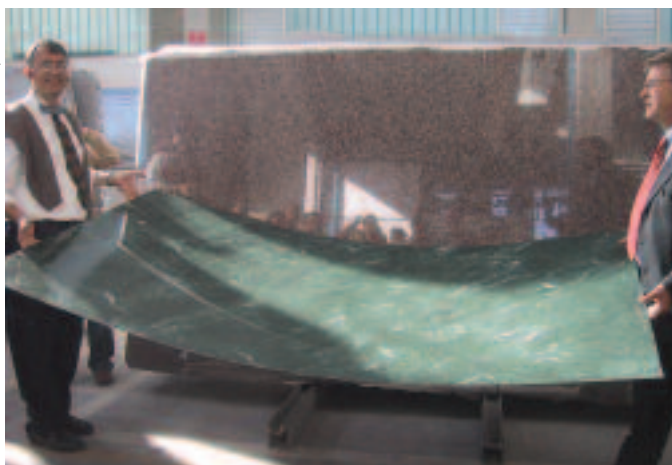
The Practice Committee has been re-activated to ensure the timely review and updating of all standard contracts documents and to advise the Board on policies with respect to CCDC documents and other matters. Members of the newly appointed committee include:

- **David Simpson, PP/FRAIC, Chair**
- **Brian Sim, PP/FRAIC**
- **Herman Bell, MRAIC**
- **Christopher Fillingham, PP/FRAIC**
- **John Emmett, FRAIC**

The Task Group to update **Document Five, Canadian Rules for the Conduct of Architectural Competitions** has completed its research and prepared a report. It outlines the contents of the proposed new Document Five and is available on the RAIC website for comment. It will also be circulated to the provincial and territorial associations of architects.

The winner of the free 2007 membership is Intern Architect **Jeanna South, MRAIC**, an Urban Design Manager with the City of Saskatoon. 553 respondents completed this year's Membership survey.

SHERYL BOYLE, MRAIC



Thin stone demonstration