

ARCHITECTURE CANADA

613-241-3600 | fax/télé. 613-241-5750 | info@raic.org

RAIC announces 2010 Firm Award recipient

OTTAWA March 1, 2010 – The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada is pleased to announce that it has selected **Bing Thom Architects Inc.** as the recipient of its 2010 Architectural Firm Award.

Founded in 1982 in Vancouver BC, Bing Thom Architects (BTA) has executed a wide spectrum of projects in North America and overseas, from single-family residences to the design of entire cities.

Principals **Bing Thom, FRAIC**, and **Michael Heeney, MRAIC**, share a fundamental belief in the transformative power of architecture to improve, not only the physical, but also the economic and social conditions of a community.

The firm's belief in this power, and with it the social responsibility of architecture, has become the grounding philosophy for the office, and has resulted in architecture that consistently taps into something beyond aesthetics. BTA's buildings are not just beautiful, they also add to the health of the communities in which they reside.

The firm is a collective of people from 18 countries, who speak 15 different languages and whose energy and cultural diversity adds richness to the firm's work. Most staff have areas of expertise and interest that extend well beyond architecture and many have worked for the firm for over a decade.

BTA has long espoused the "Master Builder" approach to architecture, encouraging the design team's involvement in all aspects of a project from inception through funding, construction and even throughout the lifecycle of the firm's buildings. BTA's professional practice is enriched through the work of *BTAworks*, an independent research and development group that helps BTA better understand the demography and trends in the communities in which BTA works and that helps the firm stay on the forefront of sustainable applications in architecture.

Upon being notified of the prize, Bing Thom said, "This is a particularly gratifying award as it recognizes the breadth of talent that we have in the office. Our work is very much the result of a collaborative effort, and it is great to see it recognized as such."

In choosing **Bing Thom Architects Inc.**, the Jury noted the firm "has developed a practice that seeks out inventive collaborations between stakeholders, as in the Surrey Central City project where the Simon Fraser University satellite campus was built on top of a commercial centre as a way to reactivate one of the largest suburbs in Canada. Their work with Fast + Epp engineers has produced highly innovative roof structures and their Chan Centre for the Performing Arts is one of the architectural jewels of Vancouver. Besides that, BTA's acclaimed architecture has won major commissions in the United States, including the nearly completed Arena Stage Performing Arts Center in Washington, D.C."

Details and downloadable images are available at: [RAIC Firm Award](#)

The **RAIC Architectural Firm Award** recognizes the achievements of the firm for its quality of architecture, its service to its clients, its innovations in practice, contributions to



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architectural education and to professional institutions and associations and public recognition.

The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada is a voluntary national association established in 1907 as the voice for architecture and its practice in Canada. Representing more than 4,000 architects, the RAIC is the leading voice of architecture in Canada whose mission is:

- To affirm that architecture matters;
- To celebrate the richness and diversity of architecture in Canada; and
- To support architects in achieving excellence.

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For more information:

Sylvie Powell
MédiaLane Communications Inc.
(613) 290-1497
spowell@medialanecom.com

