



The Royal	L'Institut	National	Bureau
Architectural	royal	Office	national
Institute	d'architecture		
of Canada	du Canada		



2007 RAIC Gold Medal recipient to speak at Festival

OTTAWA April 5, 2007 – The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada is pleased to announce **Mario Saia, FIRAC** is the recipient of the RAIC Gold Medal for 2007.

In selecting the recipient, the Gold Medal Selection Committee noted:

Of the slate of significant and literate architects in Canada, there is little doubt that Mario Saia is one of the most provocative. His buildings depart from the realm of the familiar, the comfortable, the conservative. He pushes the frontiers of conventional design and incites both users and passers-by to reflect on the meaning and purpose of architecture, of city planning, and of milieu. He consistently addresses context with concern and innovation, resulting in a body of work that is diverse, creative and meaningful.

Mario Saia earned his degree in architecture in his hometown at Université de Montréal in 1963. With a bursary from American Standard (1963) and a Commonwealth Bursary (1964-1965) he continued his studies at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. He then apprenticed for a year in Copenhagen. He now directs the Montreal architectural firm he co-founded in 1968 – Saia Barbarese Topouzanov architectes.

According to Saia, practice and research work hand-in-hand in the development of architectural ideas and he continually submits his ideas to the measure and the challenge of other architects through competition work. Towards this end he surrounds himself with recruits from diverse cultural and academic horizons. His studio is known as a sort of school from which have emerged several practising architects well-known on the Canadian scene for the high quality of their work.

As project architect and principal designer he has been recognized with a series of architectural distinctions and awards including two Governor General's Medals in Architecture, 13 Prix d'excellence from l'Ordre des architectes du Quebec, gold and silver LEED® certifications, a Home of the Year Award (US, Mexico and Canada) from *Architecture* magazine as well as the HUE international award for use of colour and the Pan-American Wood award for the use of wood in architecture.

The **RAIC Gold Medal** is awarded in recognition of significant contribution to Canadian architecture, and is the highest honour the profession of architecture in Canada can bestow. It recognizes an individual whose personal work has demonstrated exceptional excellence in the design and practice of architecture; and/or, whose work related to architecture, has demonstrated exceptional excellence in research or education.

As part of this recognition Saia will be speaking at 10:45 a.m. Saturday May 12 during the OAA/RAIC Conference and Festival being held in Toronto May 9-12, 2007. For more details and to register, see www.raic.org.

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 3,500 architects, the RAIC provides the national framework for the development and recognition of architectural excellence.

- 30 -

For more information:

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