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## Festival of Architecture and Forum to feature 2009 RAIC Gold Medalists

**OTTAWA March 19, 2009** – The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2009 RAIC Gold Medal: Vancouver-based architects **John Patkau, FRAIC** and **Patricia Patkau, FRAIC**.

In choosing John and Patricia Patkau, the Gold Medal Selection Committee noted:

*“They fulfill the dream that ordinary people have about architecture: that life can be more whole, more harmonious, more livable because such a building exists.”*

*“Their work as architects and teachers has inspired generations of aspiring architects across Canada.”*

*“They create architecture that matters.”*

**Patricia Patkau, FRAIC** graduated from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Interior Design degree in 1974 and from Yale University with a Masters in Architecture in 1978. **John Patkau, FRAIC** attended the University of Manitoba where he received Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Environmental Studies degrees in 1969 and a Master of Architecture degree in 1972.

They founded Patkau Architects in Edmonton, Alberta in 1979. In 1984 they relocated to Vancouver, British Columbia. Both are Fellows of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, Honorary Fellows of the American Institute of Architects and the Royal Institute of British Architects, members of the Royal Canadian Academy of Art, and Members of the Order of Canada.

Patkau Architects has received significant national and international awards, including twelve Governor General's Medals, four Progressive Architecture Awards, sixteen Canadian Architect Awards of Excellence, an RAIC Innovation in Architecture Award of Excellence, and three AIA Honor Awards. In 1996, Patkau Architects was selected to represent Canada at the Venice Biennale. In March of 2009, Patricia will be awarded the 2009 Tau Sigma Delta Gold medal for exemplary commitment to architectural education and to the practice of architecture.

John and Patricia have been committed to both teaching and practice throughout their careers. Patricia is a member of the faculty at the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at the University of British Columbia, and both Winnipeg-born architects have travelled Canada and the world to teach, lecture, and participate in symposia.

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.



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As part of this recognition, John and Patricia Patkau will be the featured speakers at the Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup> luncheon during this year's Festival of Architecture and Forum being held June 17-20, 2009 in Montreal. Following the luncheon there will be a panel discussion featuring this year's recipients and the recipients of the past two Gold Medals, Montreal-based architects **Dan Hanganu, FIRAC** (2008) and **Mario Saia, FIRAC** (2007). The panel will be moderated by **David Covo, FRAIC**, former Director of the School of Architecture at McGill University. For more details, visit [festival2009.raic.org](http://festival2009.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 almost 3,800 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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