

ARCHITECTURE CANADA

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2010 RAIC Gold Medalist to speak at Festival President's Dinner

OTTAWA February 23, 2010 – The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2010 RAIC Gold Medal is **George Baird, FRAIC**, former Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design and Professor of Architecture at the University of Toronto, and partner in the Toronto-based architecture and urban design firm Baird Sampson Neuert Architects.

In choosing Mr. Baird, the Gold Medal Selection Committee recognized his: “scholarship as the author of the critically acclaimed *The Space of Appearance*, in which he argued for a politically engaged architecture deeply aligned to the public sphere. He has fostered countless cross-border intellectual alliances and, both as a Professor of Architecture at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design and as Dean of the University of Toronto's Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design privileged outstanding research and continued building endowment. For decades he has provided significant mentorship for Canada's most acclaimed architects and thinkers. As a theoretician, competition advisor and master planner, Baird's work has been critical to the deepening complexity of the Canadian city.”

Prior to becoming Dean at the University of Toronto in 2004, Mr. Baird was the G. Ware Travelstead Professor of Architecture at the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University. He has published and lectured widely throughout most parts of the world.

He is co-editor (with Charles Jencks) of *Meaning in Architecture* (1969), and (with Mark Lewis) of *Queues Rendezvous, Riots* (1995). He is also the author of *Alvar Aalto* (1969) as well as *The Space of Appearance* (1995). Most recently, his researches in architectural theory have focused on the question of the political and social status of urban public space, and on debates revolving around the subject of “critical architecture”. In this regard, his much discussed essay: “Criticality and Its Discontents” was published in the *Harvard Design Magazine* in Fall, 2004, and his subsequent text: “The Criticality Debate: Some Further Thoughts” appeared in September 2006 in *T/A Magazine*, Shanghai.

Mr. Baird's consulting firm, Baird Sampson Neuert is the winner of numerous design awards, including *Canadian Architect Magazine* awards over many years, and Governor General's Awards for Cloud Gardens Park in 1994 and Erindale Hall on the campus of the University of Toronto at Mississauga in 2006. He is a member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts and a recipient of the Toronto Arts Foundation's Architecture and Design Award (1992) and the da Vinci Medal of the Ontario Association of Architects (2000).

Details and downloadable images are available at: [2010 RAIC Gold Medal](#)

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, Mr. Baird will be speak at the President's Dinner Friday June 25 during RAIC – SAA Festival of Architecture to be held from **June 23 - 26, 2010** in Saskatoon.

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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