

NOVA  
SCOTIA

ASSOCIATION OF  
ARCHITECTS

# ANNUAL AWARDS

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# 2021 PROJECTS



# FOREWORD

It is my pleasure to introduce our first online NSAA awards publication and to share with you projects that both capture public attention and integrate seamlessly into their surroundings.

The practice of our profession inspires and instills public pride in our communities and creates buildings that enhance the public's enjoyment of an engagement with their built environment and their community. The work of our members knows no geographic bounds. The projects being recognized by the Lieutenant Governor's Awards for Excellence in Architecture are located from one end of the province to the other. They are varied and range from residential homes to various multi-purpose buildings that are much more than community gathering places. These projects all have one thing in common: they demonstrate how architects working with clients and skilled partners in the design and construction sector create buildings that are creative, innovative, and inclusive. These projects now join a prestigious list of notable buildings in our province that have been created by NSAA architects.

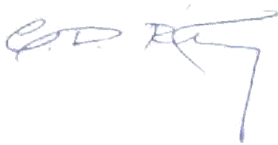
While relatively new, the Mayor's Prizes for Architecture focuses on both newly built projects as well as a body of work or projects that have stood the test of time. All the projects recognized over the years have helped define the visual and cultural tapestry of our largest city and contributes to the unique identity of the Halifax Regional Municipality.

I wish to extend my thanks to the 2022 awards jury: Jury Chair Giovanni (John) Diodati, Brad McTavish, and Hans Joachim Neis.

I would also like to recognize the Awards and Recognition Co-Chairs Sharon Fogo and Ramzi Kawar. I wish to thank them for their efforts.

As you peruse this publication, it is my hope that you will become inspired by the work of our members and the valuable contribution they make to the creative economy of our province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. D. Ritcey', with a stylized flourish extending downwards.

Charles D. Ritcey, NSAA  
President  
Nova Scotia Association of Architects

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## THE JURY



**GIOVANNI (JOHN) DIODATI** OAQ OAA AANB AAA FRAIC FAPT CAHP

Specializing in heritage conservation and applying expertise in materials conservation and traditional building techniques, Giovanni (John) Diodati has amassed an award-winning portfolio that includes some of Canada's most significant historical buildings, including the West Block of the Canadian Parliament and Rideau Hall. A graduate of McGill University's School of Architecture, John has also chaired numerous professional committees and served as Vice President of the Association for Preservation Technology International from 2013 to 2017.



**HANS JOACHIM (HAJO) NEIS** PH.D. M.ARCH M.C.P. DIPL. ING. AKH

Professor Hajo Neis has previously taught at the University of California, Frankfurt University, the Prince of Wales Urban Design Task Force, and the Technical University of Dresden. His main interests in research include the question of quality and value in architecture and urban structure and the question of process and processes which create quality in buildings and the urban fabric. As a practicing and licensed architect and planner for over 25 years, he heads his own architecture office, Hajo Neis and Associates (HNA), in Berkeley, with projects in the US, Japan, and Germany. He is also a member of the renowned Center for Environmental Structure (CES) in Berkeley.



**BRAD MCTAVISH** AIBC MRAIC

Brad McTavish has practiced architecture for over 25 years. In his current leadership role within Grout McTavish Architects, he provides design direction and management of the studio's projects. From envelope restorations of signature modernist buildings to creating lively public spaces, all of Brad's work adheres to his philosophy of making places for the public while delivering innovative solutions based on the client's needs. Brad received his Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of British Columbia prior to receiving his Master of Architecture from Dalhousie University. He is a past member of the North Vancouver Heritage Advisory Design committee.

# THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN ARCHITECTURE

Exceptional architectural projects are inspirational. They strengthen our community through the improvement of daily life and society at large. These projects can:

- Promote technical research and advances that benefit the public built environment
- Provide substantial economic benefits and growth to communities
- Provide communities with buildings that will serve the interest of the public in a positive and meaningful way.

Since 1982, the Nova Scotia Association of Architects, in association with the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, has been recognizing excellence in architectural design through the Lieutenant Governor's Awards for Excellent in Architecture.

Administered by the Nova Scotia Association of Architects, the Awards Program recognizes outstanding architectural projects that represent architecture in the public interest. Such projects encourage our communities to participate and demand more excellence from our built environment.

The categories are:

- **Small Building:** Any building equal to or under 600m<sup>2</sup>
- **Large Building:** Any building over 600m<sup>2</sup>

The jury may assign an **Award of Merit** to any submission that merits an award. The jury may also assign a maximum of one **Medal of Excellence** in each category.

The jury will also have the option of awarding the **Lieutenant Governor's Award for Innovation** to any submissions which represent new ideas, devices or methods for activities such as research and development; literature; products; new methodologies; and new technologies.

# CATEGORY: LARGE BUILDING

## MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE

### QUEEN'S MARQUE

*Design Architects/Urban Design:* Mackay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects

*Prime Consultant:* Fowler Bauld & Mitchell Ltd.

Conceived as a district rather than an individual building, Queen's Marq̄ue is a well-designed complex that carefully but clearly anchors itself in the existing urban fabric and artfully transitions to the waterfront resulting in a unique sense of place. Its innovative and organic urban approach is brought to life through well composed massing, well detailed façade textures, welcoming exterior spaces, and thoughtful and deliberate use of materials in continuity with the existing. The project appears as though it has always been there and has the potential to grow into a well visited and loved landmark.



## Queen's Marque

Halifax, Nova Scotia



1 Early site plan sketch - red lines indicate porosity and movement through and around

Queen's Marque, a 41,800 square meters mixed-use complex on Halifax's Waterfront, was born from the developer's desire to build a significant Canadian landmark that would be created by Nova Scotians, for Nova Scotians. The team sought a legacy project that would epitomize a new confidence and social trend that is emerging in Eastern Canada. Through deliberate planning and functional design, Queen's Marque instills pride in local history and culture, while making a difference in public life and its users for generations to come.

The lead architect states, "Our goal was to create a 'people place'. To us, this is a home on a larger scale, where the new central square is the public living room of the city. The idea of home is charged with meaning: it tells something about who you are, where you come from, and where you are going. That is the story for Queen's Marque, but in relation to this region, rather than an individual."

Queen's Marque is conceived as a district rather than an individual building. It is about contributing to the urban fabric more than making singular architectural objects. The innovative development was designed to enhance the skyline, without overpowering it, to frame views, while creating sheltering courtyards and welcoming public spaces - all in harmony with the local community. The design team began by moving the parking lot that once occupied the space underground, and developing a mixed-use program, which includes offices, shops, restaurants, and a luxury hotel (commercial), as well as rental apartments (residential). A "U" shaped, tripartite composition abstractly reflects the local marine forms, inspired by the historic ships that once sailed the Atlantic. Further details include a sunken 'hull' serving as a metaphor for how



2 Development comprises three abstracted ships set perpendicular to and supporting a 330 ft. sandstone "bar" building.



3 Historical city grid meets the three new public piers.

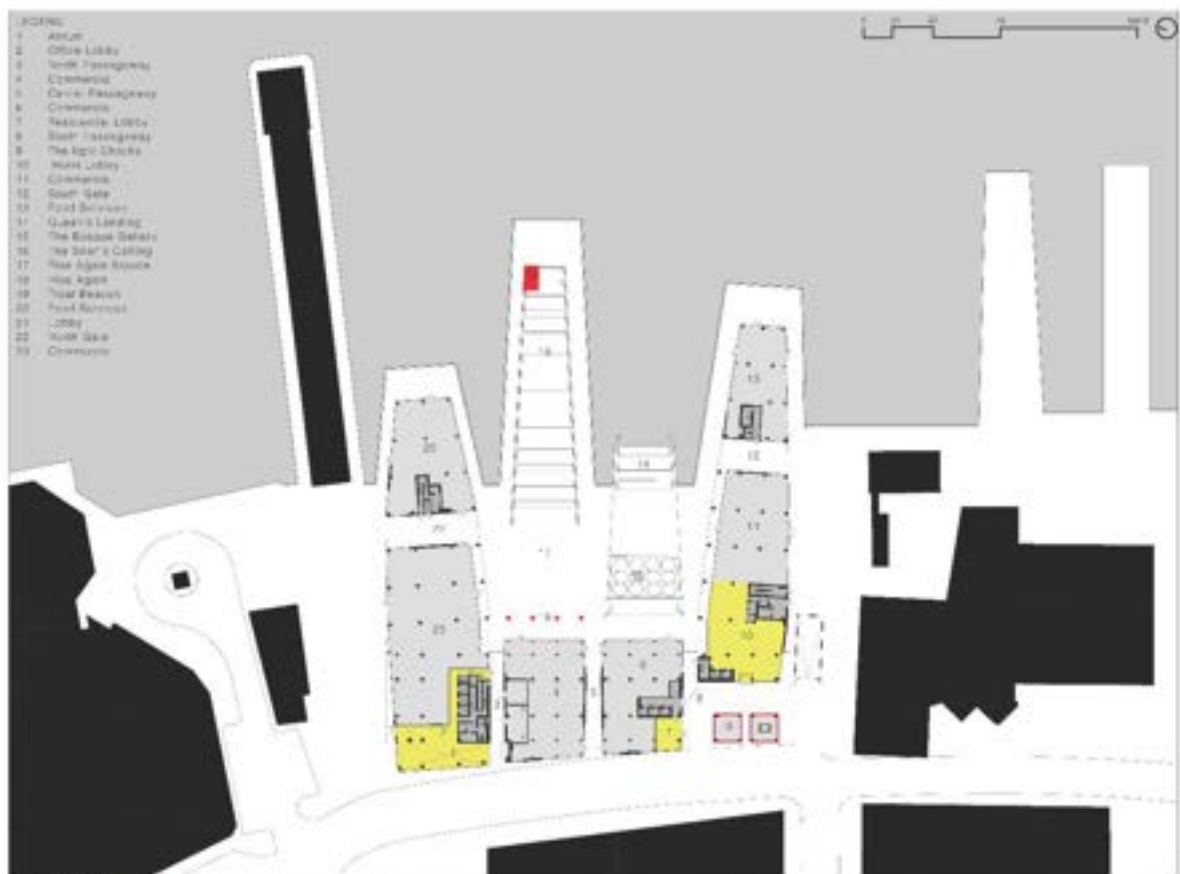


4 Orthogonal city grid meets the curvature of the original waterfront.

the culture can reinvent itself. The configuration of the complex fulfills its intended use by integrating with the downtown, by preserving views of the historic citadel, extending the civic grid to the water, and completing the pedestrian boardwalk along the shoreline. This project addressed a changing community and gave Halifax its first public gathering place along the harbour, reflecting social trends towards a more vibrant and spirited downtown.

Pressing Queen's Marquee's 107-metre-long sandstone building towards Lower Water Street, flanked by the two perpendicular buildings, the design opens up 2/3 of the site to the public. This includes The Lost Ship Bosque - a gallery of Maple trees and the "Rise Again" staircase leading up to the "Tidal Beacon", the most prominent of the complex's many public art installations. Multiple passages through the buildings make the development highly porous to users, even lending direct access into the water via the Queen's Landing staircase reminiscent of riverside staircases found in prominent cities, such as Rome to Fiume Tevere and London to the Thames River.

Materials speak to the local vernacular: sandstone coalesces with neighbouring institutional buildings; Muntz metal recalls 19th Century hull sheathing; and reclaimed cobblestone paving, hemlock boardwalks, as well as landscaping that reinstates the original shoreline drift - all articulated in a manner that sparks both aesthetic pride and instills curiosity. Art is integrated into the development through installations made by local Nova Scotian artists, exploring the harbour's history and environmental phenomena.



5 Site plan



6 Queen's Landing

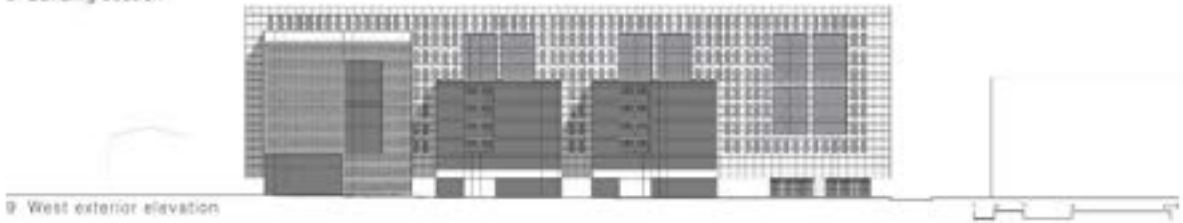


7 Urbanity





8 Building section



9 West exterior elevation



10 Muir Hotel



11 Pinwheeling composition



12 Waterfront, boardwalk, gazes



13 Corporate lobby interior

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## AWARD OF MERIT

### EAST HANTS AQUATIC CENTRE

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*Architects:* TEAL Architects+Planners and MJMA Architecture & Design

Conceived to replace an existing facility, East Hants Aquatic Centre is an elegant response to the need for a new centre to serve a growing population. Sited atop a gentle slope, it acts as a transition from the highway below to the adjacent forest and wetland above and hosts a wide variety of recreational activities. The plan is clear, simple, and efficient; it successfully engages and mediates its surroundings (views, parking, forest/wetlands). The material selection was well researched and emphasizes locally sourced materials and partnerships with local suppliers and specialists. The aquatics hall's *source capture* ventilation strategy to remove harmful chloramines is well integrated into the architecture. The lovely splash park brings joy to the site plan.



# EAST HANTS AQUATIC CENTRE



**EAST HANTS**  
AQUATIC CENTRE



## BUILT FORM

The structure itself is simple and economic to minimize the complexity of construction: a rectangular footprint topped by a highly visible standing seam roof that rises gently from the entry on the west to the slanted ceiling atop the aquatic hall to the east. Continuous glazing is vertically wrapped around three sides of the aquatic hall to provide plenty of passive daylighting while minimizing glare into the space.

The project works to integrate into its surrounding context. The siting of the building, sculpting of siteplan area and location of access road function to minimize their impact on the adjacent forest and wetland. The landscape design celebrates its connection to its surrounding natural context by incorporating elements such as a perimeter walking path around the wetland, local builders and selection of native vegetation.



## MUNICIPALITY OF EAST HANTS

The East Hants Aquatic Centre (EHAC) is located in the portion of central municipal West Hants known as "The Corridor" - an area which has experienced significant residential growth over the past two decades. Compounding the need for a new aquatic centre, the existing pool at East Hants had reached the end of its functional life. The Municipality was seeking a facility that would be fun for all ages and attractive, making it meet the current and future programming needs of the community and reflect its leader's vision.

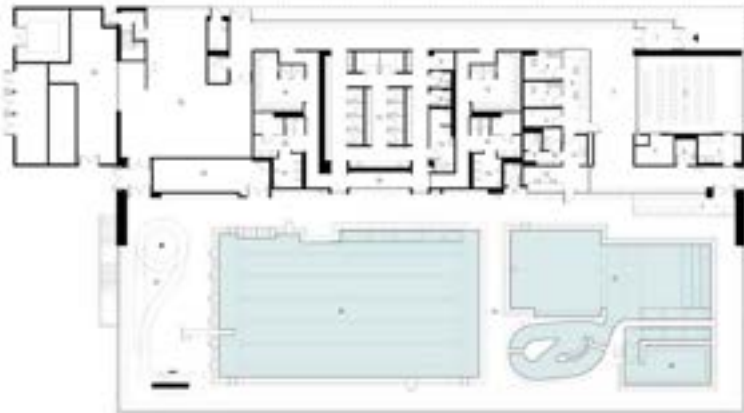




AGRESTI HALL - FITNESS CENTER

FLOOR PLAN

- LEVEL 1
- 1. LOBBY
  - 2. LOCKER ROOMS
  - 3. MEN'S RESTROOM
  - 4. WOMEN'S RESTROOM
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The DMC features a six-lane 25-meter lap pool, leisure pool, view-maze along boardwalkside, wave river, climbing wall, and a hot pool for up to 20 people, all supported by women's, men's, and universal changing rooms. The facility provides physical fitness facilities, aquatics programming and services as a model hub for the community of East Haven. With flexibility in mind, each pool is dimensioned to allow for the widest possible variety of activities and serve people of all ages and abilities. Programs and services include leisure and team swimming, swim-to-swim classes, Partner & Tot sessions, staff, competitive swim training, watersports, and private rentals.

Continuous seating along the edges of the pool, full shower parents to watch children, swim coaches to talk comfortably with teams, and swim teachers to gather their classes for instruction. Each lane provides universal access via ramped entries. Along the western shoreline-facing a stand of trees, pedestrian walk, and a splash pad—near the staff and building support spaces, a multipurpose room for up to 20 people with storage and a library, a public table and viewing area.

PROGRAMMING



EXTERIOR DECK AND SPLASH PAD



Along with gendered change rooms, the DMC features a universal changing room which was among the first of its kind in the region. The design establishes equity, addressing cultural and gender identity issues, while also enhancing the experience safety and visibility through the entire complex.



MLT PANEL INSTALLATION



MLT PANEL

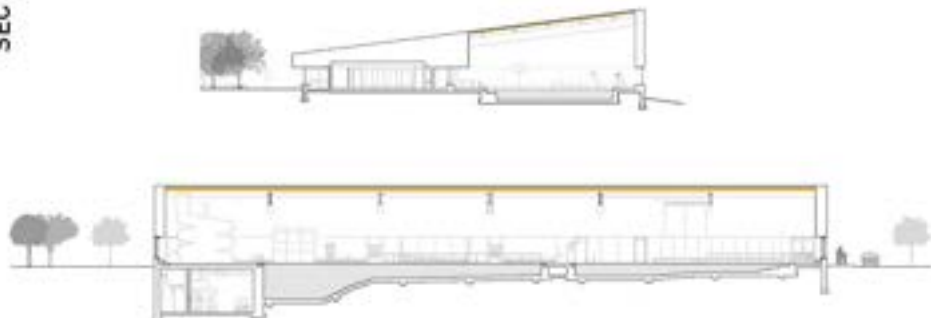


SECTIONS

The Client and the project team were committed to the use of locally sourced materials, products and labour for as many as possible building elements. Research compared nail laminated timber (NLT) panels with glue laminated (GLT), laminated veneer (LVL) and cross laminated (CLT) panels. After the team considered the pros/cons of a metal roof decking system as the exposed bottom layer. The research concluded that the best option is to use NLT panels for the large area of exposed roof over the aquatic hall. Further research showed that natural untreated wood performs well in high humidity environments.

The General Contractor partnered with a local saw-mill and assembled a team of experienced carpenters, led by an expert craftsman to manufacture 105 panels at 12m x 6m, and 50 panels at 10m x 6m. All lumber was locally grown and milled. The structural MLT deck saved building costs as it reduced by half the number of the joists that would have been needed for a non-structural steel deck and reduced roof construction time to three weeks.

The architectural team took extra care to appreciate the beauty of the nail laminated timber roof panels used in the aquatic hall. All clutter in the pool hall ceiling was eliminated. Lights, ducts, sprinkler systems and other essential elements were carefully concealed. The historic value of the wood panelled ceiling was honored by the simple steel beam and joist system. The roof concept makes the sun-filled pool hall feel as non-institutional as possible, lending a warm, handmade effect to the interior.



MASS TImER CONSTRUCTION



INDOOR POOL - NORTH SECTION

# CATEGORY: LARGE BUILDING

## AWARD FOR INNOVATION

### HORIZON ACHIEVEMENT CENTRE

*Architects:* Trifos Design Consultants

This project is a significant and noble social enterprise. The adoption of a familiar strip mall concept to provide distinct and inviting entry points combined with a strong central plan to facilitate movement and encourage social interaction among clients and staff in safe and inclusive environments is clever and commendable.





Architecture with a Social Mission



### PROJECT SITE

Social architecture builds more than housing and facilities; it builds community, bringing visitors, clients, and users closer together and nurturing stronger connections between them. By engaging business, social work, and innovative design in collaboration, with sensitivity to its regional context, architecture can help empower marginalized communities.

The new 20,800-square-foot (1,932.3 m<sup>2</sup>), single-storey, fully barrier-free Horizon Achievement Centre (HAC) is situated on a brownfield conversion site at the corner of Ferry Street and Stable Drive in Sydney, Nova Scotia, located within the boundaries of the former 1900s Sydney Steel Corporation (SYSCO) Plant site, in what is now referred to as Harbourside Commercial Park. The building resides within the footprint of the former wire finishing/bar mill, re-heat rail finishing mill, and rail finishing storage/ble plate site. In addition to the buried physical infrastructure, the former steel-plant operations involved the handling and storage of raw materials, including coal/coke to fuel the furnaces and petroleum hydrocarbons for use in operations.

Process waste included residuals from operations and slag from processing. The use and storage of raw and waste materials resulted in significant negative environmental impacts throughout the former plant site, which has since undergone a massive site cleanup and remediation by Nova Scotia Lands Incorporated and Harbourside Commercial Park Inc. The remediation took a decade to execute, and was completed in 2013.

Today, the remediated site of the former steel plant, associated tar ponds, and coke ovens is a 39-hectare green area, now referred to as Open Hearth Park. The park



LEFT ABOVE: Former Site Plan of the Sydney Tar Ponds Clean up & Open Hearth Park  
LEFT BELOW: Former SYSCO Steel Plant Site (Archives)  
LEFT BOTTOM: Horizon Achievement Centre location

ABOVE: HAC Banquet Hall Entrance  
BELOW: HAC Aerial views from the southeast & northwest  
BOTTOM: Former Steel Plant in background, Sydney Tar Ponds in foreground





*"Architecture truly thrives when businesses, social work and innovative design are utilized to empower marginalized communities."*

Social Enterprise Council of Canada



INTERIOR PHOTOS (Clockwise from top right): Clients at work in Life Enhancement and Food Services, Cafe Seating, Banquet Hall, Public Cafe, and Alumni Lunch Room

## SOCIAL PROGRAM

One of the largest and most progressive Adult Service Centres in the province of Nova Scotia, the HAC is a non-profit organization, located in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM), that provides vocational training and employment services to adults with intellectual disabilities or those facing multiple barriers to employment. Increasing demand for the Centre's services required the development of a new facility.

The HAC provides a broad range of programs and services that reflect the diverse needs of its many clients, including individualized training, integration through leisure and community-based services, career development, job coaching, and on-the-job training.

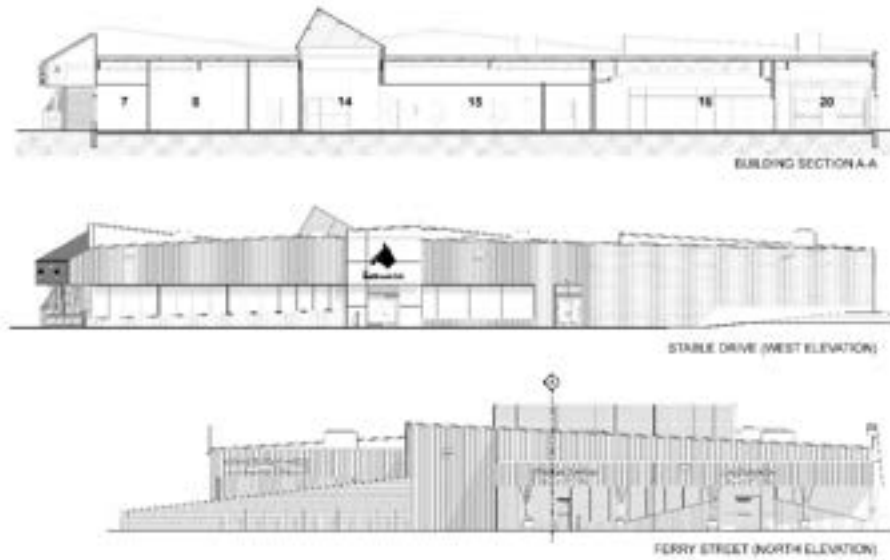
The new HAC building is organized into the following four (4) distinct departments: Food Services, General Contracts, Life Enhancement, and Administration. Each social enterprise within the HAC is custom designed to meet its unique program needs, while recognizing its collaborative role within the Centre as a whole. The building design reinterprets the concept of the traditional strip mall, with a centralized plan that affords the opportunity for each social enterprise to establish a distinct brand presence with their own unique perimeter storefront. These individual storefronts are situated within an environment that is carefully designed to be inclusive and safe, incorporating internal circulation and gathering spaces to facilitate ease of movement between departments, and encourage social interaction among clients and staff. Each department has its own public entry and separate staff/client access. The internal staff/client circulation system is organized around a central skylit atrium space, directly accessed by way of a separate exterior entrance for staff and clients.







*The architectural design is inspired by the industrial vernacular, legacy and history of the former steel-plant site, as well as the recent sculpted landscaping and topographical features of the new Open Hearth Park, Sydney.*



## STRUCTURE & FORM

BELOW Typical Entrance Street Tree Canopy with Tree Columns



BELOW Silhouettes of building under construction, and entrances to the Banquet Hall and Life Enhancement Services



ABOVE: Business Services Entrance BELOW: Public Cafe Entrance



## CATEGORY: SMALL BUILDING

### MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE

#### CHESTER HOUSE

*Architects:* Mackay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects

The Chester House is a delightful little marvel. It is a simple well-proportioned three-dimensional composition supported by carefully selected materials and fine detailing; it appears as though nothing more can be added or removed. The little attic spaces are wonderfully mischievous in their intent. Somewhat of a modern Japanese Kura house, where the main interior areas are all clean and with no superfluous elements, possibly only because they are all stored in the basement.



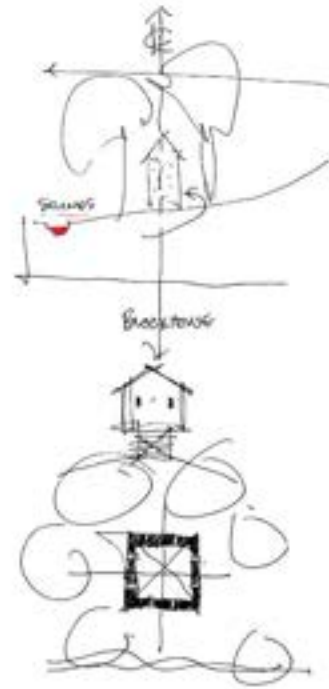
## CHESTER HOUSE

Nova Scotia

In Chester, an oceanside village on Nova Scotia's South Shore, this 1,350 square-foot house was realized for a single woman living in Seattle, seeking to relocate to Canada. Her instructions were to create a modest and functional house: "a straightforward home that feels good."

The architects regarded the project as part of a creative trajectory of experimentation into creating buildings of maximal experience with minimal form, material, and cost. Reflecting a change in our community's social trends in learning how to consume less. However, achieving a minimal and modest design, the architecture becomes full of innovative inversions: design that is both simple and sophisticated; an atmosphere that is both timeless and of its time; materials that dissolve; structures that seem weightless; light that is revealed from shadows; and solids that turn out to be voids.

Tucked away behind the trees, the house features a cedar platform that serves as a porch and/or an outdoor room with no walls – an unusual, yet seemingly conventional element that establishes a domestic space within the landscape, realizing one of the client's intents for the home. The archetypal gable-roofed building is clad at the base with two-inch matchbook cedar shiplap – a construction technique that has been used for centuries to build Nova Scotian boats. In this case, it is applied to vernacular housing and helps emulate the surrounding East Coast aesthetic. The form additionally includes a glass entry bite forming a porch reversed. The upper story is a weathered steel sleeve that appears to slide over its wooden base. Minimally detailed eaves, corners, and openings both underscore and undermine the architectural simplicity.



1. Concept Sketch



2. A one-room house within a house



3. Cozy cedar refuge



4. Upside-down house

The ground floor features two bedrooms and a perforated steel stair constructed of an origami-like folded steel plate. The staircase leads to the main living spaces on the second level, offering elevated views among the treetops. The living and dining area form a central open space, with the secondary spaces pinwheeling all around – a kitchen, a washroom, and a covered balcony. A fireplace forms a central gathering place. Lofts, built into the gables, offer storage or an additional bedroom. The space portrays its single user, not having any more rooms than necessary.

- LEGEND  
 1 Kitchen/Dining  
 2 Living  
 3 Bathroom  
 4 Balcony  
 5 Study  
 6 Bedroom 1  
 7 Bedroom 2  
 8 Bedroom 3



5 Floor Plans



6 Folded origami staircase



7 Best bedroom below



8 Between the porch and the living area



9 Interstitial spaces surround great room (kitchen, porch, stair, sleeping lofts, hearth)



10 Recessed south balcony



11 Stairwell as lantern



12 West and south elevations



13 Section

# CATEGORY: SMALL BUILDING

## AWARD OF MERIT

### FIVE COVE ISLAND

*Architects:* RHAD Architects

Five Cove Island House presents a strong response to the site supported by a very clear form and vision for the site. It clearly shows a respectful response to its waterfront site and the displacement of the program creates a very nice parti that is focused on creating privacy wings as support players to the communal living and dining spaces. It is a very honest and unpretentious piece of architecture with a consistent level of articulation and treatment throughout the site, exteriors, and interiors. The forms, textures, materials, and execution are extremely well done.



# FIVE COVE ISLAND

This house finds itself at the edge of a weather-beaten island on the south shore of Nova Scotia, surrounded by five coves. A small causeway connects the island to the mainland.

The main living space is 1560 sq ft, with an additional 290 sq ft dedicated to the garage/storage space, giving the house a small footprint. The one-storey house was conceived as an understated shed form that has been cut, pulled, flipped and extended. These moves make areas to enter, to walk through, and to create moments for sunny retreat. The tight form speaks to the local vernacular of shed buildings commonly found in the south shore. The extended shed creates a sheltered courtyard space, a place for a garage, and forms a courtyard viewed as you approach the tip of the island by road.

The design creates three courtyards, which can be used depending on the sun exposure and wind conditions on any given day. Oversized patio doors open up from the living/dining/kitchen area to the "East Deck" framing the big view to the east of the mainland and many islands. When chilly winds blow over the water from the east, you can retreat to the sunny south-facing deck protected from east and west winds by the house. The garden and clothesline also benefit from the microclimate on the private/hidden side of the house. The large south-west facing courtyard provides a sunny and protected area for arrival to the house and its large garden.





VIEW THROUGH TO GUEST SHED



MASTER BEDROOM STORAGE WALL



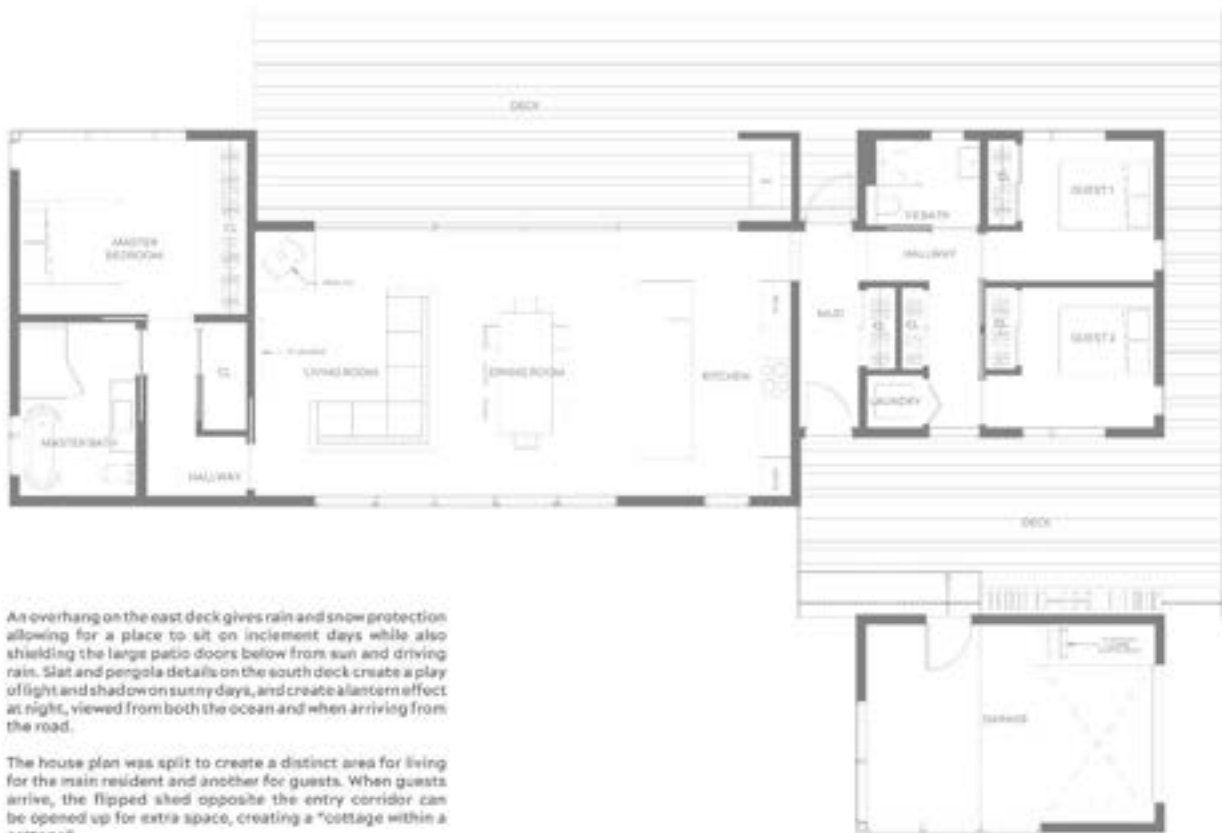
FRONT ENTRY BETWEEN TWO SHED FORMS



COURTYARD ELEVATION







An overhang on the east deck gives rain and snow protection allowing for a place to sit on inclement days while also shielding the large patio doors below from sun and driving rain. Slat and pergola details on the south deck create a play of light and shadow on sunny days, and create a lantern effect at night, viewed from both the ocean and when arriving from the road.

The house plan was split to create a distinct area for living for the main resident and another for guests. When guests arrive, the flipped shed opposite the entry corridor can be opened up for extra space, creating a "cottage within a cottage".



## CATEGORY: SMALL BUILDING

### AWARD OF MERIT

#### LIMINAL HOUSE

*Architects:* Abbott Brown Architects

The Liminal House presents a powerful form that uses its site well. The use of black stained boards below the cedar clad upper portion is very effective in defining the form and creating a sense of lightness and movement. The well-crafted library is a cultural element that becomes the center of the house. The modulation of space through the exploration of liminal spaces and motifs creates unique and inviting opportunities to experience both interior and exterior spaces in new ways.



# LIMINAL HOUSE

HALIFAX, NS

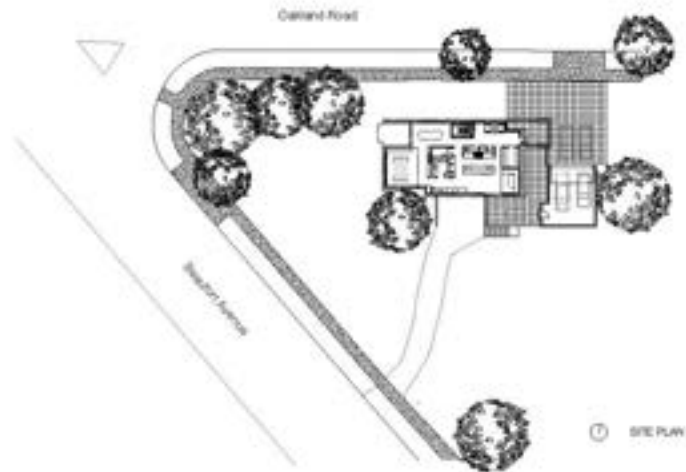


This project is designed for a family of six with a large extended family, and sits on an oddly shaped, sloping city lot in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The name Liminal refers to the design of spaces between rooms, and how these spaces can create dynamic connections between otherwise typical domestic spaces. In this way the design plays with the boundaries that define domestic spaces, creating flexible spaces between the orthodox functional zones. Boundaries are defined by void spaces, double height spaces, fireplaces, and service (washrooms, closets) blocks. Corridors become spaces for homework and office, the dining area inhabits part of the main hall. Interior double- and triple-height spaces cut through the house vertically and interconnect the floors' functions.

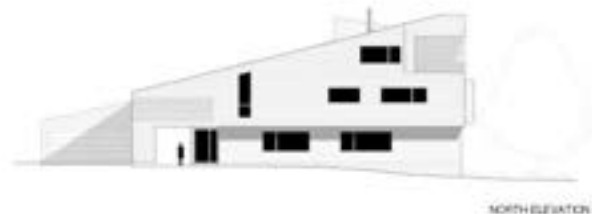
The exterior is arranged in three wedge shaped volumes - the main house, a woodshed and a garage - which themselves form intermediate spaces with different views, dimensions and spatial qualities. This interplay of liminal space, place and boundary is echoed in the treatment of the building envelope, where void spaces at the main entry and over the third floor balcony are wrapped in a cedar screen which is alternately solid, diaphanous, or open, offering varying impressions of the solidity and luminance of the structure from the street over the course of the day and night. Two types of wood cladding are employed: wide stained black boards at the lower portion of the house and narrow western cedar shiplapped cladding at the upper portion. This gives the perception of the lighter cladding floating above the heavier base. The entire wall assembly is carefully detailed at junction and corners giving an elevated sense of overall craft.

The house makes the most of the wedge form on an equally wedge shaped and sloped site. This form allows optimal privacy through vertical organization, the parents' bedroom is on the third floor, making the most of views to the North West Arm, the children's bedrooms are on the second floor where the corridor also functions as both circulation and their study spaces. A bedroom suite for an older family member is positioned on the lowest floor allowing for a walkout to grade and minimizes the need for them to use stairs.

On an urban level the house entry is aligned to the public street, making for a new clear path to the front door. Along this path one passes under the screen overhang that creates the outdoor wood storage area. Once inside, the main corridor is both circulation and - at the end - creates the space for a large dining table for an extended family. Light wood clad volumes for closets, kitchen milkwork, and washroom/pantry start to organize paths to and from the living and kitchen spaces. On the second and third floors, the halls once again double as work spaces, and a third floor library. As a gesture to the client and mother-in-law, the laundry room - usually hidden in a dark space - is given optimal placement in a cantilevered box that hangs into the forest backyard.



MAIN ENTRY, OUTDOOR WOOD STORAGE AND SCREEN



NORTH ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION





NORTH ELEVATION WITH LIMITED-SCREENED ZONES



WOOD FINISH BLOCK DEFINING SPACE BETWEEN KITCHEN AND LIVING SPACES



HALL WITH SECOND AND THIRD FLOOR WORK AND LEISURE SPACES



- 1 Main Bedroom
- 2 Washroom
- 3 Closet
- 4 Work Space
- 5 Deck

THIRD FLOOR



- 1 Work Space
- 2 Children's Bedroom
- 3 Children's Washroom
- 4 Laundry

SECOND FLOOR



- 1 Entry
- 2 Closet
- 3 Kitchen
- 4 Eating Nook
- 5 Family
- 6 Living Room
- 7 Library
- 8 Dining Room
- 9 Breakfast Room
- 10 Garage
- 11 Patio
- 12 Front Garden

FIRST FLOOR



- 1 Office
- 2 Master Bedroom
- 3 Bedroom
- 4 Washroom
- 5 Recreation Room
- 6 Wine Cellar
- 7 Walk Out

LOWER LEVEL



## SUBMISSIONS: LARGE BUILDING

### PARK & ARM ESTATE

*Architects:* RHAD Architects



## SUBMISSIONS: SMALL BUILDING

### (S)EFFICIENT HOUSE

*Architects:* RHAD Architects



# SUBMISSIONS: SMALL BUILDING

## EAST DOVER

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*Architects:* Mackay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects



## HOUSE AT 9,000 FT

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*Architects:* Mackay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects



# SUBMISSIONS: SMALL BUILDING

## HOUSE HYDROSTONE

*Architects:* REIGN Architects



## KEJIMKUJIK GENDER NEUTRAL WASHROOMS

*Architects:* Fathoms Studio





# SUBMISSIONS: SMALL BUILDING

## PROSPECT HOUSE

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*Architects:* Fowler Bauld & Mitchell Ltd.



# MAYOR'S PRIZE IN ARCHITECTURE

Architecture is an important component of the Halifax Regional Municipality's creative economy.

The history of the Municipality can be experienced through its built environment. As our skyline and streetscapes undergo transformation, we can see how progressive architectural design can contribute to these changes in a meaningful way.

Established in 2017, the Mayor's Prize in Architecture has been created to recognize exceptional projects that:

- Enhance and contribute to the quality and well-being of the public
- Demonstrate creative and innovative design solutions
- Provide important social and economic benefits to our community
- Recognize the importance of environments that are designed to support the diversity and inclusiveness of communities

The categories are:

- **Residential Building:** Any size
- **Mixed-Use, Institutional, Commercial, or Industrial Building:** Any size
- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** At the Mayor's discretion

The Mayor's Lifetime Achievement in Architecture recognizes an architect or firm's outstanding architectural contributions to the built environment within the Halifax Regional Municipality. This is work that has stood the test of time, having contributed to the Municipality's sense of community and visual identity. The outcome is an acknowledgement of the importance of design as a valuable contributor to the creation of meaningful public environments.

Some examples of architectural services to be recognized include but are not limited to: individual projects; a body of work; whole neighbourhood or community design; and exceptional public service to the citizens of the Halifax Regional Municipality. It is an individual work or a body of work that gives meaning to or preserves the spirit of the place and the unique identity of the Halifax Regional Municipality.

# CATEGORY: RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

## MAYOR'S PRIZE

### HOUSE HYDROSTONE

*Architects:* REIGN Architects

This is a skillfully designed, well constructed, and energy efficient house located in a neighbourhood that is a designated historic place. The product of a commendable project approach making use of selective demolition to create within an existing framework, the resulting spaces are well lit and carefully crafted to flow into each other, engage views, and produce an exterior skin that recalls the past while adding new elements that enter into dialog with the existing ones.





Figure 1. Interior view of the exterior.

### HOUSE HYDROSTONE

We were approached by a young couple who recently acquired a 1.5 detached Hydrostone cottage in the Fourth District of Dallas with the primary intent of upgrading the structure to current energy efficiency standards, restoring the historic facade, and reconfiguring the interior to suit their growing family needs. They anticipated the general use of the application for historic preservation and wanted to explore the potential of the upper two floors.

Before beginning the design process with this client, we understood in other cases, an entire process of long-term identification for preservation of the original structure and systems would ultimately determine the available options and generally be the primary programming. In our case, the client's intent was to restore the historic facade and styling. With a total gross floor area of 2,000 square feet, it was necessary that every inch was accounted for. Thus, the interior was ground, and the active facade system and life to structure was restored.

Given nature of the existing space conditions, it was critical that new building technologies would have to be implemented to bring the structure to current energy efficiency standards. First, covered roof spray foam insulation was used to establish an air tight and against the walls hydrostone blocks and provide optimum R value per inch in the limited space available. Secondly, new double glazed energy efficient windows were installed throughout. Only since we were working with existing floor framing that would not structurally support an increase in floor joist height, we collectively agreed on an alternative solution of custom pre-fabricated aluminum framed subfloors that would accept modern floor joists as the primary heat source for the dwelling.

From the onset, we acknowledged that the existing floor to ceiling height was not correct, and without compromising the character defining profile, we would be limited to the spatial configuration of the floor rooms under the existing low roof space. As such, it was necessary for us to design a set of innovative solutions to expand the volume of available height over the front and engage an existing methodology of connecting rooms to natural light.

A primary strategy to optimize access to natural light on the main level, had to be established in order to provide a consistent exterior with the existing facade. To address this, a central brick core was installed to provide the backbone, provides consistent storage solutions per room, and provides circulation into private spaces such as the front porch that allows 360 degrees of free flowing light from room to room. The function of the central brick core was to provide the hydrostone walls to be joined by three dimensional perforated joints that allowed natural light to be admitted into the structure that can be viewed from any vantage point. The core also functionally provides the flexibility to expand each room and blend existing concrete foundation by leaving corners open.

The primary north porch access the entrance zone. Upon entry into the house, one is first confronted by the elevated vertical planes of the original brickwork core, and then lead diagonally into the upper living room, kitchen, and living rooms respectively. Accessed and defined by concrete screens, the door is framed off the living room and complete the structure from the main level by connecting back to the floor.

Since part of the historic significance of the Hydrostone district seems to be a sense of a garden city planning, it was imperative for us to create a landscape design philosophy with central water and physical connections to nature and the surrounding environment. To achieve this, we designed a long linear window above the entrance, giving exposure to views to the green belt on Market Street. The long view is easily accessible to the main level from existing windows that had been installed. Existing concrete foundation for the house was able to handle the weight of the existing brickwork and existing structural elements such as the core. The central brick core was a key element.

The placement and extent of window coverage was intentionally varied when the existing structure in order to preserve the character defining structure and Hydrostone identity. To optimize the existing amount of existing window light, we considered every inch of light opening in an alternative solution to create light flow above. Our primary light opening was designed in conjunction to the historic structure which creates a double height space of the water course of the house, expanding the sense of verticality while allowing a head of existing light to penetrate down to the living room and kitchen areas on the main level. Additionally, by stacking and angling the stair slope with the roof slope, we were able to maximize head clearance and maximize floor area on the third floor. We also employed existing network, handrails and balustrade at low level angle conditions where our function did not require full standing height clearance.

As we are fortunate that historic preservation can be achieved by introducing existing water lines, existing allowed the primary design intent defined above, we took the opportunity to reconfigure the two existing gabled roof additions into a single continuous roof and exterior finish to create a highly unified and finished exterior appearance. It is a subtle but the dark and neutral color was also designed to read as a consistent exterior color palette for the house. The combined assembly of form and materials create a sense of the water course of the house. A gray tone stone Hydrostone exterior, white charcoal stone alloy balustrade, and natural wood blocks, stone and metal, the existing water line creates a natural balance of exposure. All form and function, interaction and material detailing to public eye.



Figure 2. Interior view of the exterior.



Figure 3. Newly constructed Hydrostone core brick TPO covered roof with window.



Figure 4. Corner map Hydrostone collected.



Figure 5. Existing structure restored to original and exterior stone stone house light.



Figure 6. Site plan.





Fig. 16. Side view of exterior of modern and historic



Fig. 18. Close-up view of modern staircase opening within existing



Fig. 17. Inside view of modern bathroom with skylight



Fig. 19. View of kitchen with large window with view to neighborhood, which not seen in



Fig. 20. View of primary bedroom

# SUBMISSIONS: RESIDENTIAL BUILDING

## (S)EFFICIENT HOUSE

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*Architects:* RHAD Architects



## PARK & ARM ESTATE

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*Architects:* RHAD Architects



# SUBMISSIONS: MIXED-USE, INSTITUTIONAL, COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL BUILDING

## THE GEORGE

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*Architects:* Fathom Studio





## CATEGORY: LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

### GRAEME DUFFUS



Over a 40-year long professional career, Graeme Duffus has had the opportunity to undertake an extensive body of work that gives meaning to and preserves both the spirit of the place and the unique identity of the Halifax Regional Municipality. This body of work includes many of the most important historic buildings and landmarks remaining in the HRM, restoring their original appearance and extending their life expectancy. This provides our citizens with a proud legacy of architecturally significant infrastructure and

helps make Halifax a destination for the tourism industry.

### WORKS

Projects in **bold** are award-winning projects.

#### HRM

**Halifax City Hall; the Powers Cottage**; Horticulture Hall; Scott Manor House; Bedford Tourist Bureau (Moirs Mill Power Generating Plant); Grand Parade study; Carleton House as-found drawings and co-authored book. Served 4 years on the Heritage Advisory Committee.

#### Province of Nova Scotia

Province House; Art Gallery of Nova Scotia; **Government House**; Provincial Courthouse; Maritime Museum.

#### Government of Canada

Royal Artillery Park Commandant's Residence assessment; Wellington Barracks assessment; Ralston Building assessment and repair strategy.

#### Universities

Dalhousie University: 36 buildings in Halifax, including the Forest Building; all residences (12); many Andrew Cobb buildings; Dunn, Old Science Building; Weldon Law; Medjuck Building, Chemistry Building and old President's residence on Sexton Campus.

St. Mary's University: 7 buildings including McNally Building; Library; full campus building assessments.

University of King's College: full campus building assessments.

NSCAD University: **two facades on Granville mall**; 22 building full assessments.

#### Private Sector Projects

Halifax Club, **Keith Hall**; north façade hotel, Duke at Granville; **Kerr Properties (3)**; **Stoddard House**.

## WORKS

### POWERS COTTAGE



**AS FOUND** (*Original Architect: SP Dumaresq, 1910*) **POST-CONSERVATION PROGRAM** (2013 – 2015)

### HORTICULTURE HALL



**EAST ELEVATION** (*circa 1848*)



**POST-CONSERVATION PROGRAM** (2005 - 2007)