

Awards honour Canadian architects

BY ADELE FREEDMAN
Special to The Globe and Mail

TORONTO — The 1994 Governor-General's Awards for Architecture were presented Thursday night on the Trading Floor of the Design Exchange, with Justice Gérard Laforest doing the honours.

Six medals and 14 awards of merit were handed out during an evening dramatized by an impassioned and unabashedly personal plea for architectural education by writer Roch Carrier, head of the Canada Council, which oversaw the jury.

The current round of awards, given every two years under the aegis of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, favoured Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia.

The Toronto firm of Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg took two prizes, a medal for Kitchener City Hall and Civic Square and an award of merit for the Reisman-Jenkinson Residence. Brigitte Shim Architect and Howard Sutcliffe of Toronto likewise copped a pair, a medal for Laneway House, their own back-lane residence, and an award of merit for House on Horse Lake. Jack Diamond, Donald Schmitt and Co. were two-time winners of merit awards, one for Richmond Hill Central Library, the other for the Earth Sciences Centre, University of Toronto (in joint venture with Bregman and Hamann).

Public buildings figured large; office towers not at all. Oleson Worland Architects gained a medal for North Toronto Memorial Community Centre. A medal went to Dan Hanganu (in association with Provencher Roy) for Point-à-Callière, musée d'archéologie et d'histoire de Montreal. The renovation and expansion of the McCord Museum occasioned a merit award for Jodoin Lamarre Pratte et associés and LeMoyne Lapointe Magne architectes, both Montreal firms.

Richard Henriquez of Vancouver (in joint venture with Laszlo Nemeth) earned a medal for the Envi-

ronmental Sciences Building at Trent University, while Stephen Teeple Architect scored a merit award for the Trent University Childcare Centre. Patkau Architects of Vancouver, who will be representing Canada at the forthcoming Venice Biennale, received medals for their Newton Library in Surrey, B.C.

Awards of merit were distributed among Baird/Sampson Architects (with Webb Zerafa Menkes Housden), designers of Bay Adelaide Park in Toronto; Cardinal Hardy et associés, for their Plan d'aménagement du Vieux-Port de Montreal; Cormier, Cohen, Davies, architectes — known also as Atelier Big City — for their Centre d'interprétation du Bourg de Pabos; Richard de la Riva architecte, designer of Les Habitations Georges-Vanier in Montreal; Julian Jacobs Architects for Emery Yard — workshops, garages, offices — in North York; Louis-Paul Lemieux, architecte (Atelier KAOS by another name) and Gilles Chagnon, architecte, co-designers of Immeuble Boulevard, a bank in Drummondville; and Larry McFarland Architects of Vancouver for First Nations Longhouse, University of British Columbia.

The sole pick from the rest of the country was Brian MacKay-Lyons of Halifax, who received an award of merit for Leahey House, a private residence.

"The esteem of their peers — there's nothing like it," opined Laforest in description of a jury consisting of Nigel Baldwin, Essy Baniassad, Odile Henault, Raymond Moriyama, Jeremy Sturgess and Billie Tsien, architects all. Master of ceremonies Ken Greenberg comported himself bilingually and with just the right amount of *gravitas*. A handsome documentary monograph of the winning projects is but a published reminder of a ceremony animated by a sense of community and pride in a job well done.