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March 12, 2024 – ST. JOHN’S, NL – The Honourable Joan Marie Aylward, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador, presents the 2023 Lieutenant Governor’s Awards in Architecture.

Two local architects are the recipients of the 2023 Lieutenant Governor’s Awards in Architecture: Jeremy Bryant of LAT49 Architecture and Chris Woodford of Woodford Architecture. Both Bryant’s and Woodford’s projects exemplify the social, cultural, and economic impact architecture has in the province.

The Lieutenant Governor’s Awards are a triennial event, celebrating the accomplishments of members of the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Architects, and recognizing excellence in architectural design in the province.

This year, two Awards of Merit were bestowed: one to Jeremy Bryant for Theatre Newfoundland and Labrador’s “Nurse Myra Bennett Centre for the Performing Arts” in Cow Head, and to Chris Woodford for the “O’Brien Farm Learning Centre” in St. John’s. One Award of Excellence was awarded to Chris Woodford for “Halfway Hill House”, located in Port Rexton. From east to west, these projects celebrate the true talent of our architects and the value they bring to the lives of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians.

“The caliber of the submissions received this year is a true testament to the impressive work happening right here in our own back yard,” said Bryant, who is also the President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Architects. “We hope these awards will spark the public’s interest in architecture and help them look at the buildings in their communities in a different way.”

The awards were handed out in a ceremony held at Government House on the afternoon of Tuesday, March 12th.



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Media Backgrounder

About the Awards

The purpose of the Lieutenant Governor's Awards of Excellence in Architecture is to recognize and celebrate outstanding architectural design in recently completed projects by Newfoundland and Labrador Licensed Architects.

The award provides:

- Recognition of excellence in architectural design by Newfoundland and Labrador Architects.
- An opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the NLAA Members.
- An opportunity to increase public understanding of the context and fabric of Newfoundland and Labrador architecture and to increase public understanding of how architecture reflects the society that builds it.
- An opportunity to highlight the social, cultural, historical, and economic forces expressed in Newfoundland and Labrador's built environment.
- An opportunity to foster the value of architecture in our daily lives.

Award Selection

The award-winning projects were selected by a jury of four individuals containing representation from the perspective of Architects and allied Professionals and/or members of the Community and is based on several principles the panel agreed to be important in design excellence.

- Sustainability – good design must address the energy and environmental challenges facing the design/construction industry.
- Replicability – Can it serve as a good example for other projects regionally, or nationally?
- Efficacy – The project should demonstrate efficiency in program, design, materials, and operations.
- Appreciation for the profession – The value of an Architect in the design process must be evident.
- Elevate design – The project should reinforce the importance of design to the public.

The Jurors include

Silva Stojak: Hailing from the social/cultural center and capital city of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Silva received her architecture degree from the University of Sarajevo in 1987. She moved to Waterloo, Ontario in 1990 and worked with Rieder, Hymmen & Lobban Architects until 1997. Silva relocated to Prince Edward Island and in 2017 co-created Nine Yards Studio with partner Shallyn Murray. Rarely without a pencil in hand, Silva's experience and expertise stretch the cultural gamut of politics, art, geography, architectural theory, and aesthetics. She values the architectural qualities of light and transparency above all others and has gained a reputation in the Maritimes for innovative and forward-thinking design ideas, a commitment to urban development/community work and a love for all things design. Silva was honored by RAIC with fellowship in 2023. Under her guidance Nine Yard Studio has won and Emerging Practice Award, Designing Canada Award and RAIC National Urban Design Award.



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Tura Cousins Wilson: Tura Cousins Wilson is an architect, educator, and cofounder of the Studio of Contemporary Architecture (SOCA), based in Toronto, Ontario. He is inspired by creating uplifting spaces of beauty and contends that architecture's power lies in its ability to transform collective imaginations and narratives into reality. Tura holds an undergraduate degree in architecture from Toronto Metropolitan University, a master's degree in architecture, urbanism, and building sciences from Delft University of Technology.

James Forren: James Forren is Director at the School of Architecture at Dalhousie University, Associate Professor of Architecture in Design and Technology, and Director of the Material, Body, and Environment Laboratory (MBEL). His research focuses on the production of architectural components and assemblies, concrete and composite technologies, and people's experiences with materials in industrial, design, and public contexts. In this work he partners with researchers in oceanography, cultural and social anthropology, computer science, civil engineering, chemical engineering, and agriculture; non-profits including Business Is Jammin, Africville Museum, the Deanery Project, and Canadian Precast Concrete Institute; and private corporations including Strescon Limited precast concrete producer, Novagraphene graphene producer, and RDA Atlantic biochar producer. Links to his work and writing can be found at <https://www.jamesforren.com/>. James is a licensed architect and prior to coming to Dalhousie he practiced with Safdie Associates, Perkins+Will, Howeler+Yoon, Preston Scott Cohen Limited, and Gray Organschi Architecture on projects including large scale institutional works resolving complex geometry, high performance building systems.

Matthew Mazzotta: Matthew Mazzotta works at the intersection of art, activism, and urbanism, focusing on the power of the built environment to shape our relationships and experiences. His public projects have received international art and architecture awards such as the CODA Awards, Architizer A+ Award, Azure's AZ Award, as well as "Architecture Project of the Year" by the Dezeen at the Tate Modern in London. Matthew's work has been featured on CNN, BBC, NPR, New York Times, Huffington Post, Discovery Channel, and Science Magazine to name a few, and presented at the Cooper Hewitt-Smithsonian Design Museum in NYC. He received his BFA degree from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and his Master of Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Program in Art, Culture, and Technology. He is a TED Fellow, a Guggenheim Fellow, a Fulbright Grantee, a Smithsonian Artist in Research, and a Loeb Fellow at Harvard University.