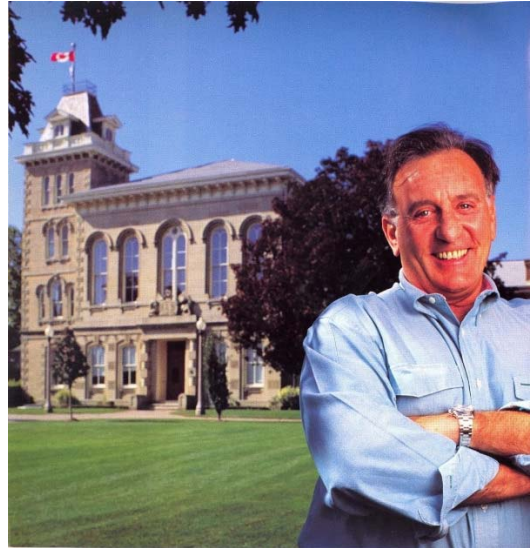


Governors' Award

Carlos Ventin

Carlos Ventin was trained as an architect in his homeland of Argentina at the University Resistencia and completed graduate studies in Climate and Architecture in Porto Alegre, Brazil, and at the Indian Institute of Technology in Kharagpur. After emigrating to Canada in 1965, and settling in London, Ontario, he joined the Board of Education as a Project Architect. He soon relocated to Simcoe to work for W.M. Smale. Smale passed away prematurely in 1970 and Carlos acquired and re-established the practice as C.A. Ventin Architects Ltd.

One of the firm's earliest commissions was the restoration and refitting of "Lynnwood," a Simcoe mansion that also won a Heritage Canada Foundation Award of Excellence, as the Norfolk Arts Centre. The local community was very impressed by Carlos' work. It was his second job, repurposing the former Norfolk County buildings in downtown Simcoe as municipal offices that made him known across the province. This project was symbolic of all of his strengths and skills he had acquired over the past 4 decades.



Carlos Ventin and County of Norfolk Courthouse, Simcoe



Old London Normal School

Carlos exhibited excellent foresight in many projects which landed him long-term relationships with Government clients in Milton, Guelph, Waterloo, Toronto and Queen's Park. He had a broader vision for the projects and could commit himself to multi-year plans even where no formal commitment existed. Carlos' forethought came in handy when in Simcoe, a pair of outbuildings at the courthouse square that were given a superficial cleaning, which caused a revelation of their value. Money had been saved elsewhere in the project, and the buildings were eventually turned into adjunct offices.

Some of his more recent projects include the adaptive reuse of an historic Canada Post Office into the Wellington County Social Services building in Guelph, Ontario, the roof and clock tower restoration of Old City Hall in Toronto and the Old London Normal School which was renovated and restored for the Ontario Realty Corp.



Old Toronto City Hall

It was his ability to connect and enlist the support of public officials that really served him well over the course of his career, as more than 40 public authorities became his clients. He treated them with respect and he delivered worthy buildings that usually came in on budget.

Carlos has brilliantly repurposed, renovated and reinstated over 40 buildings in his lifetime. His familiarity with materials, technical standards and skill at projecting costs has served him well since the beginning of his career. He has been recognized with various prestigious awards from the Ontario Association of Architects, the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals, and Heritage Toronto for his fervent dedication to heritage conservation. His endless passion is seen in every project and these buildings will serve as a lasting memory of Carlos.

Sadly, Carlos Ventin passed away quietly on September 25, 2013. His contribution to heritage conservation will be recognized during HCF's National Awards Ceremony, November 1, 2013, in Ottawa.