



*Patron: His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston
C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D., Governor General of Canada*

*Président d'honneur : Son Excellence le très honorable David Johnston
C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D., Gouverneur général du Canada*

January 30, 2014

Mr. Dale Fleck
Head Office Renewal Program Adviser
Bank of Canada
234 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G9

Dear Mr. Fleck:

On behalf of Heritage Canada The National Trust, the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada and Heritage Ottawa, please accept our thanks for yesterday's meeting with key Bank of Canada project team members. It was very clear from our meeting that the building is blessed with committed stewards and a talented design team. We appreciate that the Bank has a demanding functional program and we understand the need for the spaces to evolve over time to meet new needs. As we indicated, our goal is to facilitate a process that ensures a successful project and positive support from the architectural, landscape and heritage communities.

As we discussed, there is a need for a holistic study to understand design intent, assess and articulate architectural and heritage values, review changes since construction, and lay out the principles for any new work affecting the ensemble of the Bank of Canada. These aspects are customarily addressed within a Statement of Significance or Statement of Cultural Heritage Value. This work is commonly done for heritage buildings and landscapes as a basis for continued good stewardship and managing change over time.

We urge the Bank of Canada to add such a study to the scope of pre-design work for the project, using a recognized heritage conservation specialist knowledgeable about this building and era of architecture. Key concerns to be addressed in the study: the atrium and garden; the plaza; the relationship of interior and exterior spaces and materials; the significance of public access/public space; and the integrated interior design and furniture. Given that the functional program has already been developed and will have an impact on these features, the study must also explore approaches to conserving and enhancing heritage values and mitigating impact.

Before it is finalized, this study should be submitted to a multidisciplinary group for review and comment. We (representing RAIC, HCNT and HO) would gladly offer to do this.

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Ultimately the study should be made available to inform the design charette, which we understand will be led by Cornelia Oberlander with Perkins + Will. The revised design should also be submitted to a multidisciplinary group for review and comment. Again, we would be pleased to play that role within timeframes acceptable to you.

An additional note: We have been made aware that the Archives of Ontario, Toronto, hold approximately 120 historic photographs of the work of the office of Hough Stansbury Landscape Architects which was carried out in the atrium at the time of that firm's collaboration on the project (i.e. 1970's Reference: Archive Ontario F4521-200 Bank of Canada). We have not seen these photographs. We strongly recommend that your consultant review these images and incorporate those that are deemed important into the study. We recommend that the most representative and revealing images, together with historic and recent plans of the atrium and plaza be shared with Cornelia Oberlander as soon as possible.

Thank you again for your time yesterday. We look forward to assurances that the project schedule will accommodate the necessary study, and allow for its influence on the design.

Best regards,



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