

RAISING DESIGN AWARENESS

By Jim Toy

SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 2001, the Architecture Foundation of BC (AFBC) has celebrated excellence in British Columbia architecture and design through outreach, education and initiatives, all with a goal to build design awareness for British Columbians. Conceived by a group of past presidents of the Architectural Institute of British Columbia (AIBC), the foundation has since evolved into being a major champion of the B.C. built environment. Our goal is to become a leading public resource for all things design in British Columbia and beyond.

How do we continue to help people understand how and why design matters? To date, the AFBC has funded publications, created awards, programs, and initiatives to engage all stakeholders in helping our communities gain an informed and better appreciation of buildings and the people who design them. AFBC recent events, awards and programs include the following accomplishments:

- **The 100 Mile House Competition** — an international design competition based on designing a house prototype using materials and technology sourced within a 100-mile radius of the City of Vancouver.
- **B.C.'s 100 best buildings** — an online public contest to vote for your favourite building in British Columbia.
- **Architecture at Play** — a timber play structure purpose designed, built and donated to a First Nations community centre in Northern B.C.
- **The Rolf Paterson Education Award** — this award recognizes a top graduating student of an accredited baccalaureate degree program in architecture or interior design.



In addition to the creation of scholastic awards and scholarships, our latest education initiative will focus on bringing architecture to B.C. elementary schools by linking educators with design professionals to produce a comprehensive design curriculum to teach kids about recognizing and appreciating design spaces, places, and the built environment. This will be a revamping of the Architecture in Schools program originally launched in 2005.

The AFBC has a history of outreach and support for architecture and design. The foundation sees a future built on the past, but with vision stemming from the contributions of an interdisciplinary, diverse board of directors and public stakeholder involvement.

In order for the foundation to fulfil its mission of building an architectural and design legacy for British Columbia, the AFBC is focused on enhancing the A + D community's profile through communications, collaboration with complementary organization and event programming, increasing the current foundation board and growing our fund-raising activities.

An important funding event is the 18th annual AFBC golf tournament set for August 13th. This is a soon to be sold-out event that helps provide funding for the AFBC, enabling the organization to continue providing ongoing programming, initiatives and scholastic awards.

Communities and the public benefit from the outreach work of architecture

and design organizations through education, walking tours, exhibitions, competitions, events and more. The AFBC plans to learn from the best by seeking input from individuals and like-minded professional associations to meet our vision — to recognize and celebrate excellence in British Columbia architecture and design.

There is a story behind buildings and the people who design them, and the AFBC's public mandate is to do just that — to honour the past, to celebrate the present and to anticipate an ever brighter future for B.C. architecture and design. □

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