

AWARDS AND ACCESSIBILITY

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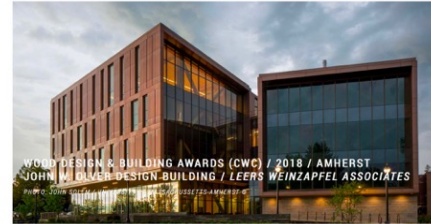


When we define quality, we often consider it from personal, disciplinary or professional viewpoints...

e.g. quality for a builder differs from quality for a representative of public procurement, which differs from quality for a designer, while all of these differ from quality from the point of view of a user or citizen.

These points of view seldom meet...

**This Contradiction is noticeable in awards systems:
From a professional point of view, we award excellence without
being able to properly define quality in the built environment...**



Some potential indicators of a way to recognizing quality...

+100	Periodical Award Ensembles inventoried (ex. OAA Awards = 1)
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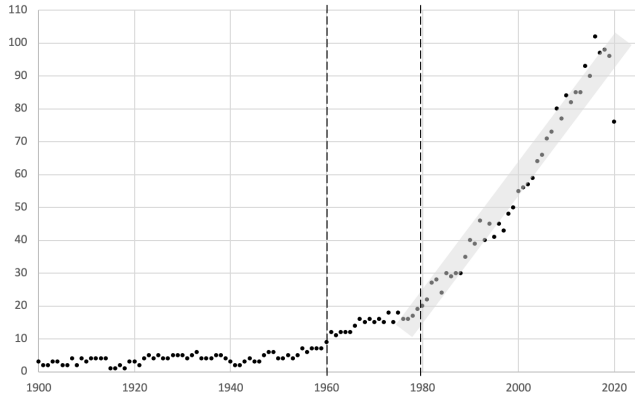
+1500 Award ceremonies in Canada since 1930

+6000	Awards given to projects or buildings in Canada since 1953
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+1200 Awards given to individuals or offices since 1930

Fig 1: Exponential Rise in the Number of National and International Architecture Award

Organizations per Year since 1900 (See Appendices 2 and 3 for list and data)



THE RISE OF AWARDS IN ARCHITECTURE

Edited by
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Vernon Press
Series in Built Environment

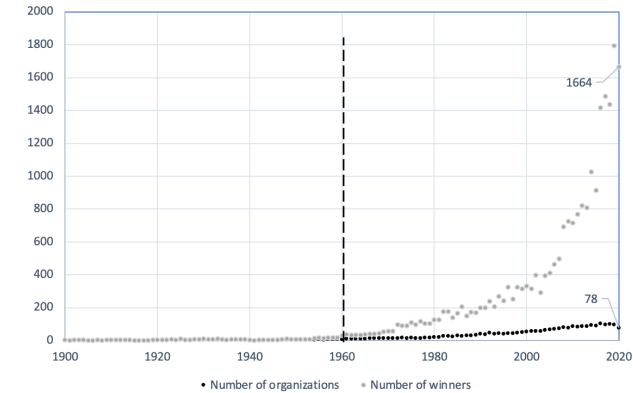


Vernon Press, 2022

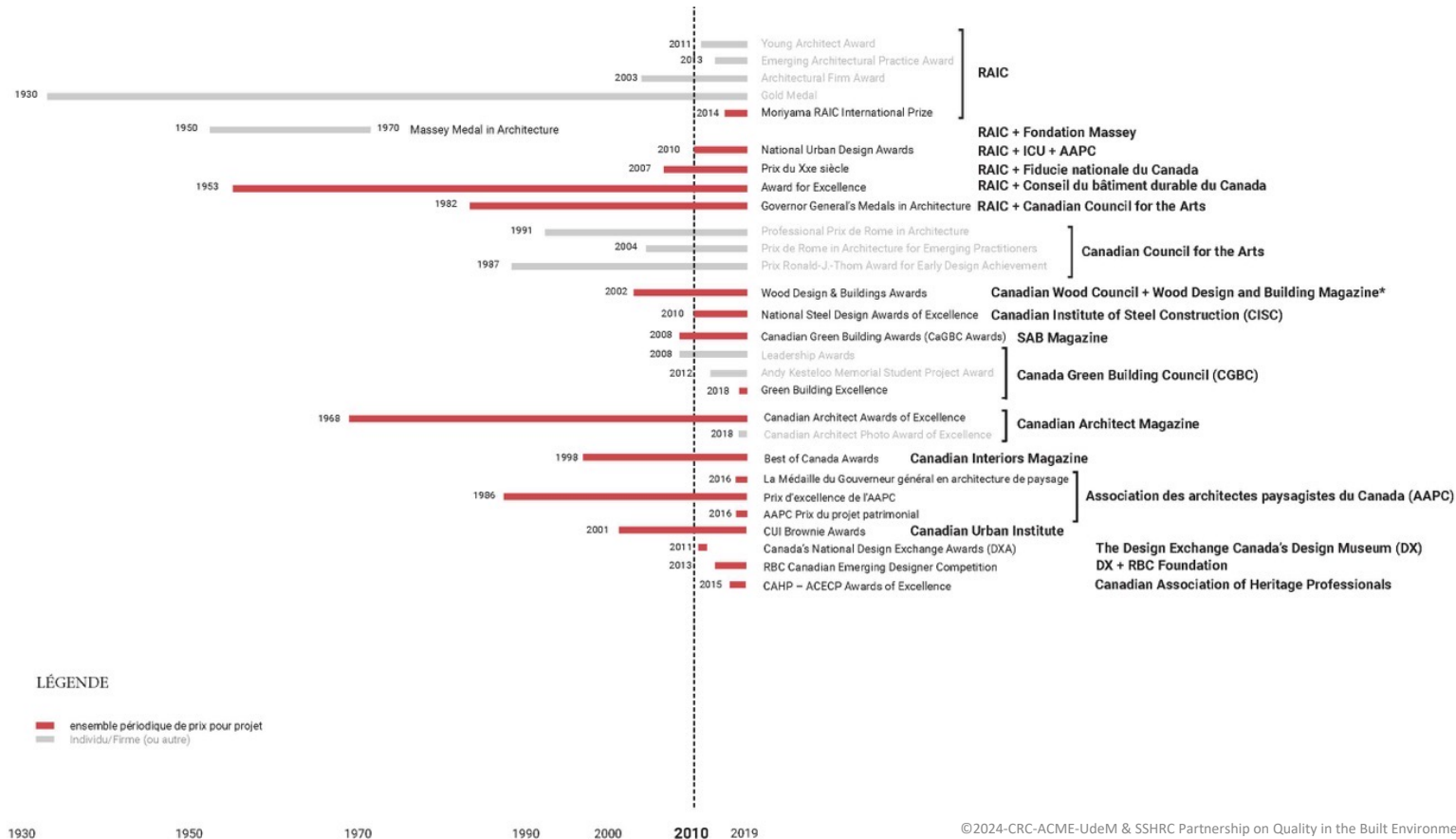
Fig 2: Comparison Between Two Exponential Curves: the Rise in the Number of Award

Organizations and the Explosion in the Number of Winners

(see Appendices 2 and 3 for data)



50% of all awarded buildings and projects since 1930 given between 2010 and 2019



+70 Public and private institutions award prizes in Canada



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INTERNATIONAL (INT)

IRAC - Le Prix International de l'IRAC
CWC/WDBM - Wood Design & Building Awards

NATIONAL (NAT)

RAIC/CCA - The Governor General's Medals in Architecture
RAIC - Awards of Excellence
RAIC/FNC - Prix du XXe siècle
RAIC/ICU/AAPC - National Urban Design Awards
SAB MAG - The Canadian Green Building Awards
CANADIAN ARCHITECT MAGAZINE - The Canadian Architect Awards of Excellence
CANADIAN INTERIORS MAGAZINE - Best of Canada Awards
CSLA Awards of Excellence
CSLA Legacy Project Award
CIBC - Green Building Excellence
CISC - National Steel Design Awards of Excellence
DX - Canada's National Design Exchange Awards
CUI Brownie Awards
CAHP - ACECP / Awards of Excellence

PRAIRIES

AAA/SAA/MAA - Prairie Design Awards
Wood WORKS! Alberta - Prairie Wood Design Awards

MARITIMES

AAPEI/AANB/NSAA - Maritime Architectural Design Excellence Awards
CISC - Atlantic Region Steel Design Awards of Excellence
Wood WORKS! Atlantic - The Atlantic Wood Design Awards

COLOMBIE-BRITANNIQUE (BC)

AIBC - Architectural Awards Program
CISC - BC Steel design Awards of Excellence
Wood WORKS! BC - Wood Design Awards in BC
MIBC - The Masonry Design Awards

ALBERTA (AB)

CITY OF EDMONTON/RAIC - Edmonton Urban Design Awards
CITY OF CALGARY - Mayor's Urban Design Awards (MUDA)
CISC AB - Alberta Steel Design Awards of Excellence
AMC - Alberta Masonry Design Awards

SASKATCHEWAN (SK)

SMI - Saskatchewan Masonry Design Awards
CITY OF REGINA - Municipal Heritage Awards
DESIGN COUNCIL OF SASKATCHEWAN - Premier Design Awards of Excellence
HERITAGE SASKATCHEWAN - Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan Heritage Awards

MANITOBA (MB)

CISC MB - Manitoba / North-West Ontario region Steel Design Awards
MMI - Manitoba Masonry Design Awards
WAAC - Access Awards / Excellence in Universal Design and Accessibility
Heritage Winnipeg - Annual Preservation Awards
STOREFRONT/MB/DOWNTOWN WINNIPEG BIZ - Commerce

ONTARIO (ON)

OAA AWARDS - Design Excellence
OAA AWARDS - Michael V. and Wanda Plachta Award
OAA AWARDS - Lieutenant Governor's Award for Design Excellence
CISC ON - Ontario Regional Steel Design Awards
MCAT/OMCA - Ontario Masonry Design Awards
OLA - Library Building Award
CITY OF TORONTO - Toronto Urban Design Awards
HERITAGE TORONTO - Heritage Toronto Awards
CITY OF HAMILTON - Urban Design and Architecture Awards
CITY OF OTTAWA - Urban Design Awards
CITY OF MISSISSAUGA - Urban Design Awards
CO - Ontario Concrete Awards

QUÉBEC (QC)

DAQ - Prix d'Excellence en Architecture
CISC QC - les Prix d'excellence de la construction de l'acier
AGENCE PID - Les Grands Prix du design
Cecobois - Prix d'excellence CECOBOIS
IDU - Prix INOVA
FMDQ - Prix d'architecture de bibliothèques et de centres d'archives

NOUVELLE-ÉCOSSE (NS)

HERITAGE TRUST OF NOVA SCOTIA - Built Heritage Awards
NSAA - Lieutenant Governor Awards for Excellence in Architecture

NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK (NB)

AANB - Lieutenant Governor's Award of Excellence in Architecture

ÎLE-DU-PRINCE-ÉDOUARD (PE)

AAPEI - Lieutenant Governor's Award of Excellence in Architecture

TERRE-NEUVE ET LABRADOR (NL)

NLAA - Lieutenant Governor's Award of Excellence in Architecture
Newfoundland Historic Trust - The Southcott Awards

TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST (NT)

NWTAA Architectural Awards

Do these organisations really agree on how to define quality?

How many Canadian awards actually consider accessibility as an indicator of architectural quality?

0,5

In the terms of reference: we can notice a few mentions of vague notions of inclusivity and limited considerations on accessibility...

The study of awards of excellence reveals some of the blind spots of current definitions of quality.

Our literature review identifies three current sets of theories on quality:

- **(1) Theories centered on disciplinary definitions relying on global captures of quality**
- **(2) Theories centered on managerial approaches relying on quantification**
- **(3) Recent theories that re-examines quality from critical perspectives attentive to inclusive practices**

Current definitions of quality are threefold

1- Disciplinary traditions of quality in architecture (global)

Vitruvian triad defining quality through a balance of Beauty, Practicality and Solidity = understood as non measurable

2 - Managerial definitions of quality (quantitative)

From ISO to Design Quality Indicators (UK) = the managerial need for measuring quality

3 - Critical definitions of quality (ethical)

Growing critiques of the grey zones of the disciplinary and managerial definitions toward equity, diversity, inclusion and social-value

These three sets of definitions of quality are reflected in the evolution of awards of excellence internationally

(1) Awards as Disciplinary Views on Quality

(2) Awards as Managerial Quantitative Views on Quality

(3) Awards as Critical Views on Quality

(1) Awards as Disciplinary Global Views on Quality

- **the American AIA Gold Medal (USA)**
 - **the RAIC Gold Medal (CA)**
 - **the Governor General's Medal (CA)**
 - **the Pritzker Prize**
 - **the Mies Van der Rohe Award**
 - **the Stirling Prize.**
-
- All these awards share a common denominator: excellence, as the epitome of quality, is the product of a global vantage point.
 - More synthetic, therefore less analytical.
 - Professional authority (expertise) supposed to guarantee the value of a qualitative judgement.

(2) Awards as Managerial Quantitative Views on Quality

The Prix de Rome, in its original form, was analogous to an architectural competition. (The principle of competing within a controlled time frame was a form of management).

The **Green Awards** series really took over in the 2000s.

- based on technical performance many recent distinctions awarded to buildings that perform best environmentally (The LEED syndrome).
- In the Canadian context, more than a quarter of the awards created since 2000 are focused on sustainable development.

Technical awards controlled by industrial lobbies (steel, wood, etc.)

(3) Awards as Critical (Ethical) Views on Quality

- **The Aga Khan Awards for Architecture (1977) open up the discipline to non-Western cultures.**
Inclusive objectives + evaluative process based on nominations and on-site examination.
- **The ARVHA Awards for Women Architects (France since 2013),**
Explicit feminist mandate.
- **A series of awards managed by the Union Internationale des Architectes specifically framing ethical issues through an “Architecture for All” program.**
UIA Caring and Inclusive Spaces Award which, for its third edition in 2021, attracted 91 applications from 35 countries.

Award systems are currently better organized to promote a disciplinary and global view of quality instead of being structured to establish references that are comparable, measurable, and interdisciplinary, let alone socially meaningful and equitable.

Some explanation hint at:

- **Predominant role of images in judgment**
- **Ambiguity or absence of criteria**
- **Lack of post-occupancy or time-based evaluations**
- **Superficiality of jury reports** (filtered by communication purposes)

These gray areas indicate what is needed to meet legitimate demands for quality markers and shareable exemplary cases, both necessary to ensure quality thresholds for public buildings and places.

(1) Disciplinary Views

- **Disciplinary retrenchment (Elitism of expertise)**
- **Often disconnected from users' needs**
- **Not refutable**

(2) Managerial Quantitative Views

- **Tend towards standardization and uniformity**
- **Increase the number of criteria and measures**
- **Never fully measurable**



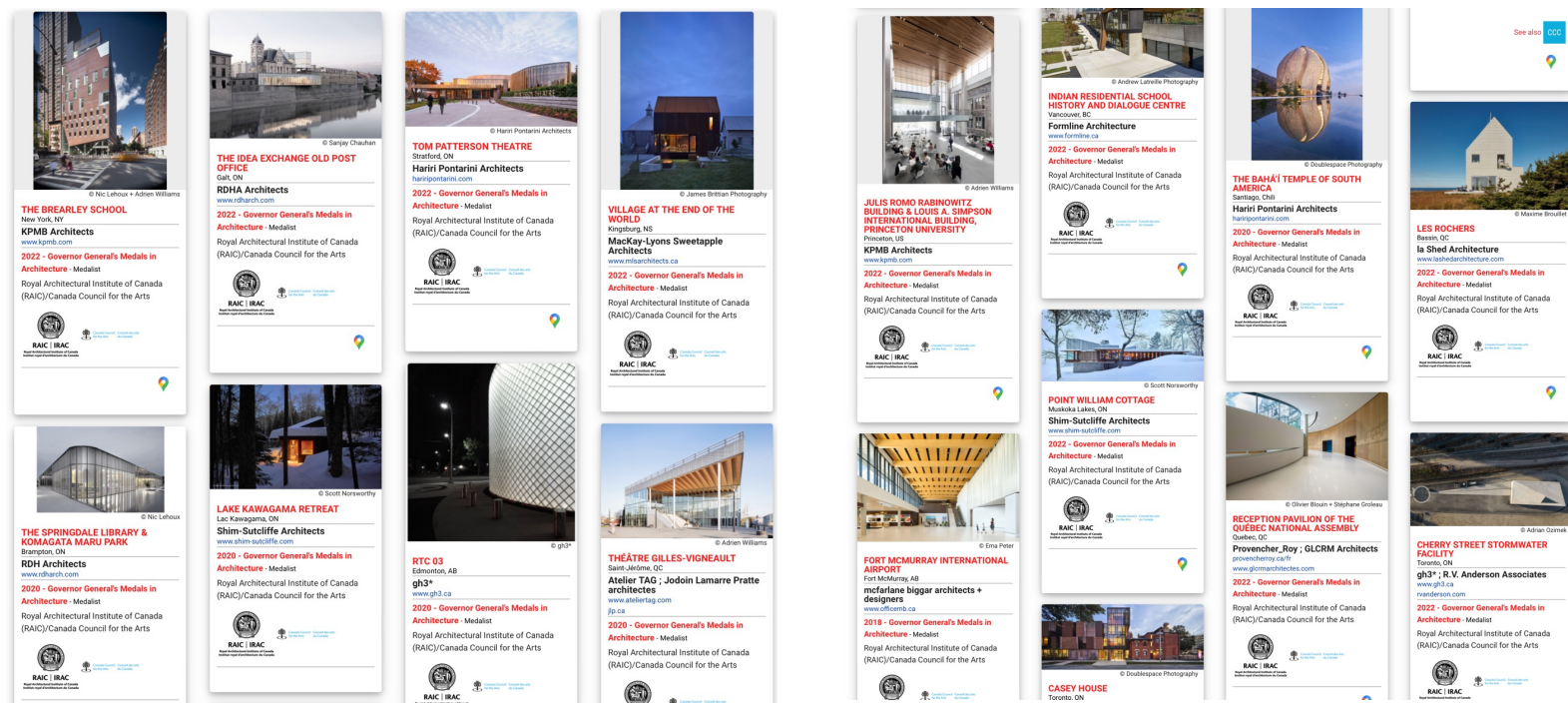
How is quality defined today?

The diagram features a central box with the question 'How is quality defined today?'. Three red arrows point towards this box: one from the top-left (disciplinary views), one from the top-right (managerial quantitative views), and one from the bottom (critical views).

(3) Critical Views (Ethical)

- **Tend towards stigmatization**
- **Can generate contradictions within specific needs**
- **Restrict the scope of excellence to these ethical, social, or anthropological concerns**

- We must continue to promote exemplary architecture.
- We update directories of exemplary projects www.architecture-excellence.org
- Should we continue to rely on the power of images to judge the value of architecture? What about the social value?



For our cases studies we benefit from two public resources accessible via the www.livingatlasofquality.ca

Open Access databases of competitions projects and awarded buildings and places

ccc.umontreal.ca

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CANADIAN COMPETITIONS CATALOGUE

search... 206 competitions documented 5 508 projects 452 competitions listed 51 663 documents

COMPETITIONS IN THE WORLD (+100 BOOKMARKS) ▶

NEWLY COMMENTED COMPETITION

* **A Grand Laboratory for Urban Resilience** *

Sudbury 2050 - Urban Design Ideas Competition
by Jean-Pierre Chapin, published 2020-12-08

One hundred proposals, presented in a particularly didactic manner, have already made this urban design idea competition a milestone in Canadian thinking on the future of cities in the "Rust Belt". A two-part competition conducted in parallel, since it is both young professionals and students who have sent in their vision of the next thirty years: three decades that no longer need to be presented as crucial for the future of the planet. The mass of documents here is coupled with video material, with each proposal delivering a summary in the form of a short montage. Our editorial offers some personal comments on the didactic value of the selected projects and makes only superficial probes into the 99 proposals. We will publish a supplement as soon as the jury's report has been made public. Given the overall quality and the large number of detailed projects, it is no exaggeration to say that Sudbury is becoming a great laboratory for urban resilience through this competition. [...] [more](#)

VIEW COMPETITION LOCATIONS ON THE MAP

MAKE YOUR OWN MAPS ON ARCHIMAP.CA

DISCOVER

Concours de design pour le secteur Montmorency
Quebec, Laval, 2019

Winnipeg City Hall competition
Manitoba, Winnipeg, 1959

Pavillon du gouvernement canadien pour l'Exposition ...
Ottawa, 1966

EDITORIAL ▶

WINNER Open Category

WINNER Student Category

VIEW all projects ▶

LATEST ARCHIVED COMPETITIONS

- SUDBURY 2050 - URBAN DESIGN IDEAS COMPETITION (2020)
- REES STREET WATERFRONT PARK (2018)
- LAB-ÉCOLE | CONSTRUCTION D'UNE NOUVELLE ÉCOLE PRIMAIRE À SAGUINAY, SUR LE TERRAIN DE L'ACTUELLE ÉCOLE MARGUERITE-D'YOUVILLE (2019)
- LAB-ÉCOLE | CONSTRUCTION D'UNE NOUVELLE ÉCOLE PRIMAIRE À RIMOUSKI (2019)
- LAB-ÉCOLE | CONSTRUCTION D'UNE NOUVELLE ÉCOLE PRIMAIRE À SHEFFORD (2019)
- LAB-ÉCOLE | RENOVATION ET AGRANDISSEMENT DE L'ÉCOLE PRIMAIRE PIERRE ELLIOTT TRUSDAU À GATINEAU (2019)
- LAB-ÉCOLE | AGRANDISSEMENT ET RENOVATION DE L'ÉCOLE SAINT-JOSEPH À MARIPOSA (2019)

SEARCH

PRESENTATION AREA-CANADA NETWORK CONTACT FRANÇAIS

ARCHIVES OF EXEMPLARITY IN ARCHITECTURE and the built environment

REFERENCE MAPS (from 1968) HISTORICAL REPERTORIES VISUAL GALLERIES JOINT CALENDAR OF CANADIAN AWARDS ADVANCED SEARCH

CANADA REFERENCE MAPS

HISTORICAL REPERTORY

VISUAL GALLERIES

(with links to firms and organizations)

AGENDA OF UPCOMING AWARDS IN CANADA (by regions, by organizations, by awards)

18

architecture-excellence.org

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