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TOM ARBAN

The five-storey, 194,000-square-foot Algonquin Centre for Construction Excellence consolidates under one green roof the college's building design and construction technology programs. Designed by Diamond Schmitt Architects in collaboration with Edward J. Cuhaci and Associates Architects, the building also acts as a new gateway for the campus. The LEED Platinum project netted EllisDon this year's Don Chutter Meritorious Achievement Award from the General Contractors Association of Ottawa. The award recognizes contributions to an enhanced quality of life in the community.

Exemplary Ottawa projects recognized by GCAO

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The [General Contractors Association of Ottawa](#) (GCAO) has recognized four projects that exemplify the association's motto of "building a greater Ottawa" in its biennial awards program.

Awards, honouring projects completed in 2011 and 2012, were presented in two building categories. In addition, the Don Chutter Meritorious Achievement Award was also handed out. Plaques were presented to the winning firms at the association's recent annual general meeting.

"All of them (the winning projects) were completed to the owners' satisfaction and all were on time and on budget," said former president Hubie Splinter. "Noteworthy, too, is that all qualified for, or are on track for a LEED Silver designation. One qualified for LEED Platinum."

In the category of architectural, commercial and institutional buildings valued at under \$15 million, the award of excellence went to [Tofcon Construction Inc.](#) for its CentrepoinTE Theatre expansion project.

The theatre is part of a building complex that also houses municipal offices and the Nepean library.

The project is located on a busy site adjacent to a main Hydro Ottawa transformer station. Challenges included meeting a firm deadline established by a federal incentives program, the presence of an occupied operating facility, and ensuring public safety during construction.

An award of merit in this category went to [M.P. Lundy Construction\(Ontario\) Limited.](#) for the renovation and addition at the Canadian Aviation and Space Museum.

The project required complex phased scheduling in order to meet the required milestone dates. In addition to

constructing essential additional space for educational programs and expanding the retail area, the project required the suspension of a Snowbird Tudor Jet from the ceiling of the building's new atrium.

In the category of buildings valued at more than \$15 million, the award of excellence went to [PCL Constructors Canada Inc.](#) for the Ottawa Convention Centre redevelopment program, which involved demolition of the old Ottawa Congress Centre and design and construction of a new convention centre.

The project's "bold, modern design" included many innovations and provided "an iconic and functional" convention space in the heart of Ottawa. Congress Centre steel trusses were recycled and installed in the new facility, part of the process of obtaining LEED certification.

The Don Chutter Meritorious Achievement Award was presented to [EllisDon](#) for the Algonquin Centre for Construction Excellence.

The facility, the largest of its kind in Ontario, is a showcase and teaching laboratory for best practices in sustainable construction. The centre provides a hub "to train and inspire" 2,500 full-time and 5,000 part-time construction, architecture and design students and others. Entries in this category are judged on their contributions to the enhanced quality of life in the community.

The program was launched in 2010 by the association, which represents 66 firms, to showcase contributions made by general contractors "in realizing the dreams of owners and their design consultants" in the creation or improvement of construction works in the community.

This year, six entries were received, three of each in two building categories.



M.P. LUNDY (ONTARIO) LTD.

An 18,000-square-foot addition to the Canadian Aviation and Space Museum included a 250-seat multipurpose theatre, a complex steel-frame glass atrium and state-of-the-art classrooms.

In addition, one industrial project was submitted, but the entry was withdrawn because of lack of competition.

Splinter said the project awards committee hopes more entries will be forthcoming next time around in the two industrial, infrastructure and civil projects categories.

Submissions were judged in accordance with a number of criteria, including project management, safety, scheduling, complexity, innovations, customer satisfaction and contributions to the area's economic, social and environmental quality of life.

The panel of adjudicators consisted of Darryl Boyce, assistant vice-president, facility management and planning at Carleton University, Randy Romanin, chief architect at [J.L. Richards and Associates](#) and association life member Don Chutter.

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