

Credit Foncier Award ~ 1982

Two years ago, the Credit Foncier Award for building preservation in Canada was created to mark the Company's 100th Anniversary. We felt that a substantial annual cash award would, in time, help to encourage Canadians to preserve our rich historical and architectural heritage and to encourage its continuing use.

Its purpose is to recognize the best significant rehabilitation of a building or group of buildings in Canada undertaken by the private sector and funded privately. It is a \$20,000 award given every year, to be divided equally between the architect and the developer.

Heritage Canada has been involved in the Credit Foncier Award since its inception along with the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) and the Urban Development Institute — Canada (UDI). Earlier this year, Credit Foncier was invited by the Heritage Canada Foundation to incorporate the Credit Foncier Award into the Foundation's awards program. We were delighted to accept and, this year, the Award was administered by Heritage Canada, but the jury comprised representatives of Heritage Canada, the RAIC, the UDI and Credit Foncier. Credit Foncier is deeply indebted to the members of the jury who gave so selflessly of their time and energies to the task.

The Co-Winners

This year, the decision of the jury produced a tie between a project in London, Ontario known as The Selby, and the Popliger Building in Montreal. Because of their value as examples of commercial and residential building renovation projects, and most particularly as typical examples of classes of building potentially ready for re-use across Canada, these two projects were selected by the jury to share the Award. While The Selby is the recycling of a shoe factory built in 1908, the Popliger Building was built as an apartment house one year later.

The Selby

The Selby is a sizeable commercial project incorporating retail space, restaurants and offices and featuring a landscaped atrium as an interior focal point. It is an example of how an obsolete

but solid multi-storey industrial plant can be recycled into viable modern use.

The Popliger

The Popliger is located in the heart of the old Jewish neighbourhood in downtown Montreal and was originally part of the old YMHA property. Its restoration and renovation into handsome individualized apartments were accomplished by the eleven new owner-inhabitants themselves as a privately-financed project in an area which is being saved and restored largely through public financing as low income housing.

Honourable Mentions

The jury further selected the Confederation Square Project in Toronto for an honourable mention for "the high standard of excellence which was devoted to the restoration of the facade of this superb example of masonry building of the 1890's."



Left to right: Barry Padolsky, MRAIC, Pierre Girardin, Credit Foncier, Professor Abraham Rogatnik, FRAIC, Joe Lebovic, U.D.I., Martin Weaver, Heritage Canada, Jury Chairman.

The jury also selected for an honourable mention the "Quartier Petit Champlain Project." It is a group of 16 buildings located in the lower town of Quebec City on la Petite Rue Champlain, said to be the oldest street in North America.