



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NEWS RELEASE

LOVE IT, LIKE IT OR HATE IT - TORONTONIANS MAKE THEIR VOTE COUNT

WINNERS OF THE 5TH ANNUAL PUG AWARDS ANNOUNCED TORONTO VOTERS RANK THE BEST, MEDIOCRE AND WORST OF CITY'S NEWEST ARCHITECTURE

Toronto, June 4, 2009 – The winners of the fifth annual Pug Awards, the people's choice awards for architecture, were announced last night at the McKinsey Building.

The fifth annual Pug Awards invited Torontonians to vote online from May 1st to May 31st this year at www.pugawards.com for 24 new residential developments and 8 commercial/institutional developments. The eligible buildings must have been completed in 2008, be located in the city of Toronto, have an area greater than 50,000 sq. ft., or be considered noteworthy by the Pug Awards Advisory Board.

The big winners were One St. Thomas as the best new building in the residential category and Transformation AGO/Art Gallery of Ontario as the best new building in the commercial/institutional category. Honourable mentions went to Quantum 2 at MintoMidtown followed by Kilgour Estates in the residential category and Max Gluskin House, Department of Economics, UofT followed by the Four Seasons Corporate Headquarters in the commercial/institutional category.

One St. Thomas was designed by New York's Robert A.M. Stern Architects in conjunction with Young + Wright Architects and was developed by St. Thomas Developments in association with the Lee Development Group. The development at 1 St. Thomas Street is a 29 storey stepped, point tower in downtown Toronto.

The Art Gallery of Ontario, designed by Canada's Frank Gehry of Gehry International, Architects Inc., was developed by the Art Gallery of Ontario. Highlights of the transformed AGO include: a new Dundas street entrance aligned with Walker Court; a sculpture gallery that extends 450 feet along the north side of the building, enabling visitors to see out onto Dundas Street and passersby to see into the Gallery; a sculptural staircase that soars from the second floor, linking Walker Court to the new tower for contemporary art; and the integration of glass windows throughout the building that allow visitors to experience the surrounding cityscape from inside the Gallery.

“Notwithstanding their limited budgets (on a relative basis), the winners of the 2009 Pug Awards in both the commercial and residential categories are on par with the highest quality new buildings in any major city and will hopefully encourage other





developers to retain the best designers, whether they be local or international, and to strive for excellence in architecture”, says Gary Berman, co-founder of the Pug Awards and managing director at Tricon Capital Group.

“For the fifth consecutive year, the people of Toronto have embraced the Pug Awards as a platform from which to voice their opinions, thereby heightening the awareness of urban planning and architecture in our city” says Anna Simone co-founder of the Pug Awards and a principal at interior design firm Cecconi Simone. “As developers, architects and designers, we can only benefit from this feedback as a guide to improve future developments.”

The complete voting results for all the buildings nominated are as follows:

Residential

Rank	Project Name
1	One St. Thomas
2	Quantum 2 - North Tower
3	Kilgour Estates
4	Dia
5	West One
6	The Gallery
7	College Park 2
8	Garment Factory Lofts
9	Regency Yorkville
10	The Clairmont
11	High Park Lofts
12	Loggia 1 & 2
13	Verve
14	Meridian Residences
15	Mosaic
16	One Sherway - Phase 1
17	9T6 Condominiums
18	Panache Condominiums
19	Kingswood on Bloor
20	C-Condominiums
21	Nuvo 2 at Essex
22	Mansions of Humberwood 2
23	Skyscape
24	Hampton Plaza





Commercial/Institutional

Rank	Project Name
1	Art Gallery of Ontario
2	Max Gluskin House (U of T Economics)
3	Four Seasons Corporate Headquarters
4	Children's Aid Society
5	Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
6	85 Hanna
7	T.O. Life Square
8	Mount Sinai Joseph & Wolf Lebovic Centre

The winners were presented with certificates and engraved building plaques. As well, the names of the winning developers and architects are inscribed on the Pug Cup. The Pug Cup will be displayed at City Hall as a reminder to developers, architects and building officials that the people of Toronto care about the architectural landscape of their city.

The winners of the third annual Pug Ed student competition were also announced at the awards ceremony. Kaiyue Pan of Jesse Ketchum Public School took first place and Nousin Hussain of Queen Alexandra Senior Public School was the runner up. Honourable mentions were given to Mona Wang of Jesse Ketchum Public School and Fariyah Chowdhury of Nelson Mandela Park Public School. The winner received a \$4,000 educational bursary, while the runner up received a \$2,000 bursary.

The Pug Ed program is designed to teach students about the built environment that surrounds them, to uncover the fundamentals of good architecture and planning, and to foster an appreciation for the importance of well-conceived, responsible design practices in urban society. Following a series of after school sessions in which students were engaged by design professionals from various disciplines - architecture, interior design, landscape architecture, development, city council and the carpentry union - the students' knowledge was put to the test with a design competition that involved the hypothetical redesign of Maple Leaf Gardens. This year 30, grade 8 students participated from Jesse Ketchum Public, Queen Alexandra Senior Public School and Nelson Mandela Park Public School.

Aside from the award presentations, the evening included a lively roundtable discussion on master planning in Toronto. The esteemed panel featured:

- George Baird, Dean of the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design at the University of Toronto and partner in the Toronto-based architecture and urban design firm Baird Sampson Neuert Architects
- Joe Berridge, Partner at Urban Strategies Inc.





- Adam Vaughan, Councilor for Ward 20 (Trinity- Spadina)
- Alan Vihant, Vice-President Development, Concord Adex

ABOUT THE PUG AWARDS

The annual Pug Awards (formerly known as the Pugly Awards) were launched in 2004 and celebrate the best in Toronto architecture and planning. Founded by Anna Simone, principal of design firm Cecconi Simone, and Gary Berman, managing director of real estate financier Tricon Capital Group, the awards invite the public to vote on the best, the mediocre and worst of Toronto's newest real estate developments. The goal is to inform the public about design excellence and ultimately contribute to the growth and prosperity of Toronto. The Awards are made possible by the generous support of numerous sponsors and the Pug Awards advisory board.

For information on the Pug Awards or Pug Ed, please visit: www.pugawards.com.

To download high resolution images of the winners, please visit the Pug Awards Press website at www.pugawards.com/press

- 30 -

For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact:

Darlene Hesas
Marketing & Public Relations
Cecconi Simone
416.588.5900, #259
dhesas@cecconisimone.com

