



NLAA Semi Annual Meeting

AGENDA

Friday, May 28th 2010

12:00pm to 5:00pm

C.A. Pippy Park
Admiral's Green Clubhouse

REGISTRATION

To confirm your attendance, please
reply on or before May 24
by email or fax.

Meet & Greet: Yes /No
Luncheon: Yes /No
Presentation: Yes/No
Meeting: Yes/No

Member's Name: (Please Print)

Attachments:
Presentation Introduction
Robert Mellin Bio

- 12:00pm – Meet and Greet
- 12:30pm - Luncheon
- 1:00pm – Presentation by

Robert Mellin, Ph.D., MNLAA, FRAIC, RCA

Presentation Title

***Newfoundland Modern:
Architecture in the Smallwood Years***

(2 NLAA Con-Ed Learning Credits Approved)

- 2:30pm – Meeting Call to Order
- 5:00pm – Adjournment

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Newfoundland Modern: Architecture in the Smallwood Years

Presentation by Robert Mellin, Ph.D., MNLAA, FRAIC, RCA
Associate Professor, School of Architecture, McGill University

Robert Mellin will make a presentation on his new book on the modern architecture of Newfoundland, titled *Newfoundland Modern: Architecture in the Smallwood Years*. He has been doing research on this topic for the past ten years, research that partly overlapped with the preparation of his book on Tilting, Fogo Island (*Tilting: House Launching, Slide Hauling, Potato Trenching, and Other Tales from a Newfoundland Fishing Village*: Princeton Architectural Press, 2003). Newfoundland Modern is presently under academic review by McGill-Queen's University Press and they have expressed interest in publishing his book in 2011.

This book is about the modern architecture of Newfoundland from 1949 to 1972, a period that coincided with the influence of Premier Joseph R. Smallwood on the province's architecture and cultural landscape. For over twenty years, Premier Smallwood used modern architecture as a means to tangibly demonstrate the vision and achievements of his administration, and this story has not been told in substantial detail before. Robert begins by presenting background on Newfoundland's architecture in the decades leading up to Confederation in 1949. This is followed by a chapter on the early history of the Newfoundland Association of Architects, founded just after Confederation, showing how these architects established themselves in a province where there was no formal education in architecture, and where they were frequently in competition with engineers and architects from outside the province (even Walter Gropius, the internationally celebrated architect from The Architects' Collaborative, once inquired about consulting work for Memorial University of Newfoundland!). He then presents the work of several Newfoundland architects in the 1950s and 1960s for health-care facilities, educational, commercial, residential, recreational, and transportation projects, supplemented by the local work done in this era by a few architects from outside the province such as Keith Graham (Queen's College, and the church of St. Mary the Virgin). This is followed by chapters on the creative and courageous modern architecture of two self-educated Newfoundland architects, Frederick Colbourne and Angus Campbell, explaining how their projects were influenced by the iconic projects of internationally known architects, as well as providing an understanding of how their work was received by the Newfoundland public over time.

Robert's book addresses the influence of Premier Smallwood's government on Newfoundland's architecture, arguing that Newfoundland was ripe for the advent of modernism in architecture and that it produced important architects who were able to seize their opportunities. Premier Smallwood figures prominently in almost every chapter, and in addition to writing about architecture part of his goal is to contribute to scholarship on this nationally known, charismatic figure. Also, Robert hopes his book may help to counter the stereotype that Newfoundland's architecture is just about quaint clapboarded houses and outbuildings.

Robert Mellin is an Associate Professor at the School of Architecture at McGill University in Montreal. He studied at the Pennsylvania State University (B.Arch., M.Sci), McGill University (M.Arch), and the University of Pennsylvania (M.Sci., Ph.D.). In 2002, in recognition of his architectural design and heritage conservation work he was elected to membership in the R.C.A. (Royal Canadian Academy). He was elected to Fellowship in the RAIC (Royal Architectural Institute of Canada) in 2009, and he has been a registered architect in the province of Newfoundland since 1978. He has won eight Southcott Awards for his heritage conservation projects in Newfoundland, and in 2005 he received a Manning Award from the Historic Sites Association of Newfoundland and Labrador. In 2006 he received the Paul E. Buchanan Award for excellence in fieldwork and interpretation from the Vernacular Architecture Forum. He is past-Chair of the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, and he implemented a new Registered Heritage Districts program to partially shift the Heritage Foundation's focus towards cultural landscapes. Princeton Architectural Press published his book on the architecture and cultural landscape of Tilting, Fogo Island, Newfoundland in 2003, and it won the Winterset Literary Award in 2004, the first work of non-fiction to win this prestigious award. His book was reprinted in paperback in 2008.