

This award honours and recognizes a member of The Alberta Association of Architects (AAA) who exemplifies exceptional leadership qualities, excellence in design and/or extraordinary service to the community. These are the qualities personified by the late Tom Sutherland. A short biography noting Tom's accomplishments follows.

ELIGIBILITY

Any AAA member, in good standing, who is nominated by a minimum of two (2) members and should have been an AAA member for at least 10 years at the time of being nominated.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

1. A nomination form signed by the two nominators and accompanied by letters of reference.
2. A two-page report (CV), summarizing the activities of the individual, who demonstrates ongoing commitment to and support for architects and interior designers and their related professional communities.
3. Supporting material which can include background information such as project profiles, awards, media clippings, publications, images, etc., cannot exceed ten single-sided pages in a PDF format.
4. All winning entries will be kept by AAA for publication, exhibition and archival purposes.

ENTRY DEADLINE

Call for nominations will go out at the end of January each year and all nominations must be received by the AAA office before 12:00 pm on the Friday eight (8) weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting (AGM). This date is firm without exception.

JUDGING CRITERIA

1. Architectural or interior design excellence and recognition of achievements within the profession, business or industry, or the education sector that has set a benchmark for architects or interior designers to strive for.
2. Public education and understanding of the role of architecture and interior design in Canadian society.
3. Active participation in architectural and interior design associations, societies, institutes, etc.
4. Active participation in commissions, voluntary organizations and community organizations.
5. Leadership in the profession and in the community.
6. Making notable contributions to further architecture and/or interior design in the province of Alberta.

SELECTION PROCESS

Recipients will be selected by the Nominating Committee of the AAA and notified in writing. A maximum of one recipient will be selected each year, based on nominations received by the Nominating Committee. If there are no nominations in a given year or if the committee does not feel that those nominated meet the criteria, there may not be an award given that year.

ANNOUNCEMENT

On an annual basis, the Tom Sutherland Award will be presented during the AGM. Award recipients agree to standard publicity notification arranged by AAA.

ABOUT TOM SUTHERLAND

Tom Sutherland was born July 17, 1961 in Edmonton, Alberta. He received a Bachelor's degree from the University of Manitoba and went on to receive a Master's degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Design. After graduation, he practiced for 10 years in Boston and Toronto before returning home to Edmonton.

In 1997, he joined DIALOG becoming the Firm's Managing Principal in 2008 with his leadership at the core of the firm's culture and values. Tom's accomplishments include the Royal Alexandra Hospital's Robbins Pavilion, the Kaye Edmonton Clinic, the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital, the Edson Healthcare Centre, the NAIT's HP, Spartan and Petro-Canada Centres, and NorQuest College's Singhmar Centre for Learning. Tom's passion for his community and profession culminated with his leadership in the development of Edmonton's Capital City Downtown Plan where he relished the opportunity to help Edmonton become a greater city.

Tom received numerous honors during his career for making a positive impact on Edmonton, and in the support of the profession of Architecture in Alberta. He was an RAIC Fellow, led the creation of the Prairie Design Awards and led the AAA's Practice Entity Task Force. Tom supported many community organizations including as a Board Member and Chair of Capital City Savings and the Global Design Alliance.

On April 2, 2015, Tom died tragically in a skiing accident. Throughout his life, Tom was committed to improving community and the profession of architecture, his life and efforts an inspiration for others. His legacy lives on through his family, and the joy his designs bring.

In 2017, the AAA decided to honour Tom's legacy by naming an award after him that recognizes exceptional leadership qualities within the architectural or interior design professions in Alberta and demonstrates extraordinary service to the community.