

# Annual Report

2024



## Mission

Advance the awareness and appreciation of Winnipeg's built environment through public education.

## Mandate

- Conduct research relating to Winnipeg's built environment and disseminate the results of this research to the public.
- Develop and provide educational programmes promoting the understanding of architecture and design and its impact on everyday life.
- Foster the development and exchange of ideas about architecture and design through public programming and community events.
- Collect and preserve historical and contemporary records related to Manitoba's built environment.

## Values

- Design Matters: WAF recognizes the importance of architecture and design in everyday life.
- Research Integrity: WAF is committed to wide-ranging inquiry, evidence-based argumentation, and research excellence.
- Meaningful Public Engagement: WAF endeavours to create opportunities for people to be inspired by architecture and design and is committed to facilitating occasions for knowledge exchange.
- Accessibility: WAF strives to make its research outputs and programmes accessible.
- Commitment to Diversity: WAF works on a continuous basis to be welcoming and inclusive in order to ensure diversity in its research initiatives, public programming, and organisational operations.

# Public Programming

## Public Tours

This year, the Winnipeg Architecture Foundation offered 13 free public tours that reached over 600 attendees. The Foundation collaborated with other organisations to offer tours, including **Trees Winnipeg** and the **Rainbow Resource Centre**. Multiple tours were offered bilingually (English and French), as guide availability permitted. Three new digital tours were launched, including an illustrated children's guide to St. Boniface; we are proud to now offer 24 free digital public tours on our website.

The Foundation's 2024 tour schedule included:

- Manitoba Hydro Place Tour – 18 January
- Crescentwood-Enderton Park Historic District Tour – 26 June
- Winnipeg Queer History Tour (Digital) – Launched 4 June
- Multiple Stories: A History of Winnipeg Parkades – 10 July
- The Highs and Lows of Portage and Main Tour – 17 July
- Tour of pico ARCHITECTURE inc. – 24 July
- Jacob Penner Park Walk – 6 August in partnership with Trees Winnipeg
- Kildonan Park History Tour – 7 August in partnership with Trees Winnipeg
- Making the Postwar Suburb: the History and Development of the Silver Heights Subdivision (Digital) – Launched 12 August
- Central Park Walk – 13 August in partnership with Trees Winnipeg
- Lions and Their Prey: A Downtown Walking Tour – 14 August
- St. John's Park walk in partnership with Trees Winnipeg
- Apartment Living Walking Tour (Osborne Village) – 28 August
- Ghost Signs Walking Tour (Exchange District) – 11 September
- Vimy Ridge Memorial Park Tour – 26 September in partnership with Trees Winnipeg
- St. Boniface Children's Architecture Tour (Digital) – Launched 19 November

The tour programme was produced with support from the Province of Manitoba, The Winnipeg Foundation, and the City of Winnipeg.



Apartment Living Walking Tour (Osborne Village), 28 August 2024

# Special Programming

The Winnipeg Architecture Foundation (WAF) was proud to be a co-host of the 2024 annual conference of the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada (SSAC) from 22-25 May, marking the 49th meeting and the 50th year of the SSAC.

WAF supported the conference's organising committee (Jeffrey Thorsteinson, Abigail Auld, and Marieke Gruwel) to offer attendees an engaging series of events, tours, and programming centred on themes of 'Forms of Repair: Care, Restoration, and Redress in the Built Environment'. WAF staff, volunteers, and other resources assisted with the successful planning, coordination, and delivery of the conference.

This was a unique opportunity to provide accessible methods of engagement with Winnipeg's built-environment and its histories, showcasing the work of WAF to local, national, and international attendees.

In addition to formal conference sessions and presentations, organised tours/programming assisted or led by WAF include:

- Conference Keynote & Tour of WAG-Qaumajuj – 22 May
- Tour of the Forks National Historic site – 23 May
- Terra Cotta Architecture Tour of Downtown Winnipeg – 24 May
- Tour of the Exchange District National Historic Site – 24 May
- Concrete Truth: The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre National Historic Site Tour – 24 May
- *Manitou a bi Bii daziigae* and the RRC Polytechnic Exchange District Campus – 24 May
- 232 Main Street: The Fortune Block – 25 May
- Exploring St. Boniface & the Architecture of Étienne Gaboury – 25 May
- A Tour of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights – 25 May



## Public Talks, Workshops & Events

- Research the History of Your House Workshop, by historian Christian Cassidy.
- Manitoba Women in Design Book Launch, by Marieke Gruwel.
- Why Arthur Erickson Matters, by Trevor Boddy.
- Henry Kalen Photographer Book Launch, by Susan Algie and Alison Gillmor.
- Winnipeg Queer History, by Devin Slippert (multiple locations and formats).
- Megastructures and Centennial Hall, by James Ashby and Dr. Serena Keshavjee.
- Henry Kalen Photographer Talk, by Dr. Serena Keshavjee.
- Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre History Talk and tour, by Susan Algie and James Wagner.
- The Winnipeg Architecture Foundation's activities as co-host of the 2024 Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada (SSAC) annual conference held in Winnipeg; assisted with organising public talks, tours, and workshops.

**Presented with support from the Province of Manitoba, The Winnipeg Foundation, the City of Winnipeg, the University of Manitoba Faculty of Architecture, and the SSAC.**

# Film Screenings

The *Architecture+Film* series features films screened at local and accessible locations, including the Millennium Library, Cinematheque, Manitoba Association of Architects, and WAF:

- Barry Farm: Community, Land and Justice in Washington DC – 22 February
- Film Screening – A Legacy of Mies and King – 29 February
- Diaspora – 19 March
- The Making of Icons – The Untold Story of Canada's Largest Theatre & Mural – 20 March
- Where We Grow Older – 20 March
- The Red Corridor – 21 March
- Jane Davis Doggett: Wayfinder in the Jet Age – 22 March
- Radical Attitudes: the Architecture of Douglas Cardinal – 22 March
- Eno – 10 October

**Film Screenings were offered with support from the Province of Manitoba,  
The Winnipeg Foundation, and the City of Winnipeg.**

## Exhibits

### Manitoba Women in Design

Curated by the Winnipeg Architecture Foundation

This exhibit at Winnipeg's Millennium Library, 251 Donald Street, offers public engagement with the research and material from the new corresponding WAF publication (Manitoba Women in Design). Authored by Marieke Gruwel and designed by Burdocks Design, the exhibit tells the story of women's contributions to Manitoba's built environment during the twentieth century. The exhibit encompasses contributions by architects, interior designers, landscape architects, planners, and engineers, while addressing their exclusion from architecture and design histories.

**Presented in partnership with the Winnipeg Public Library, with support from the City of Winnipeg Gail Hammerquist Fund.**



Manitoba Women in Design Exhibit Opening, Millennium Library

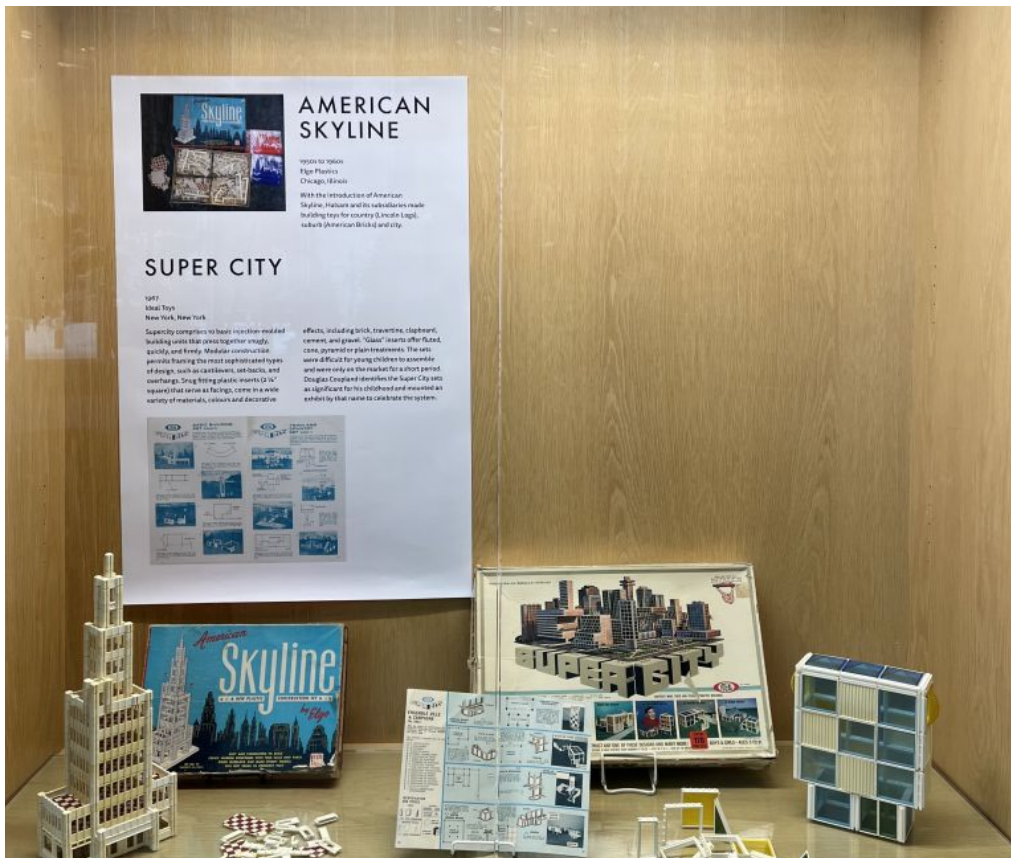


# Building Toys Exhibit

Curated by James Wagner and Daniel Guenther

Building toys are not just for fun, although they undoubtedly are. Building toys are also formative for those who play with them. Architecture is the most encompassing of all the visual arts. We live, work and play in buildings, most of which are designed by architects. Many of our notable architects and designers have been influenced by educational building toys they played with as children, whether they were Lincoln Logs, LEGO, skyscraper kits, Meccano or wooden blocks. How have these toys influenced your view of architecture and cities?

Produced in partnership with the Winnipeg Public Library.



Building Toys Exhibit Detail, Millennium Library

# The Architecture of Max Blankstein

Curated by Robyn Shesterniak for the Winnipeg Architecture Foundation

Max Blankstein was one of the first Jewish architects in Canada, with a prolific history shaping Winnipeg's built environment. He designed over two hundred buildings in a variety of styles, including many Winnipeg theatres, apartments, and commercial buildings. An exhibit highlighting his work was produced to visualise the research and stories documented in the recent WAF publication "Max Blankstein Architect" written by Murray Peterson.

**Produced in partnership with the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada.**



Max Blankstein Exhibit at the Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada

## Winnipeg Queer History Tour

Curated by Devin Slippert for the Winnipeg Architecture Foundation

This digital exhibit explores queer spaces and histories throughout Winnipeg. The research is presented as a non-comprehensive tour, with an architectural focus, of places and spaces with connections to local 2SLGBTQIA+ identities and histories. The exhibit showcases a diversity of sites ranging in age and design, from heritage buildings to modern developments. The tour highlights that many of these locations were not designed with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in mind, demonstrating how queer communities adapted them to meet evolving needs.

**Produced with support from the Province of Manitoba, City of Winnipeg and Young Canada Works.**



Winnipeg Queer History Tour Illustration by Burdocks Design

# Making the Postwar Suburb: the History and Development of the Silver Heights Subdivision

Curated by the Winnipeg Architecture Foundation

This digital exhibit explores Winnipeg's Silver Heights area as an exemplary model of modernist suburb design. The division is a lively and desirable neighbourhood that effectively showcases the developer's strategic approach to suburban planning and design. The accompanying digitally-presented walking tour begins along Portage Avenue at Mount Royal Road and ends near Ness Avenue. It showcases the Silver Heights subdivision, including several representative homes, apartment structures, and community services.

**Produced with support from the Province of Manitoba, City of Winnipeg and Young Canada Works**



Silver Heights Tour Illustration by Burdocks Design

## Bienvenue à St. Boniface! | Welcome to St. Boniface!

Curated by the Winnipeg Architecture Foundation

*Bonjour!* Hello! The newest WAF children's tour of St. Boniface, available in both digital and paper formats, explores Winnipeg's historic French quarter. Presented with cartoon animations to foster youth engagement, the tour is an educational tool highlighting the area's history as the heart of Manitoba's Francophone communities. It covers over 200 years of local history, including religious, architectural, and political places, spaces, and events that have shaped this unique collection of neighbourhoods.

**Produced with support from the City of Winnipeg.**



BIENVENUE À  
ST. BONIFACE

*Bienvenue à St. Boniface! Tour Illustration by Kaj Hasselriis*

# Architecture+Design Film Festival

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Architecture+Design Film Festival ([adff.ca](http://adff.ca)) was held March 19-24, 2024, presented by the Winnipeg Architecture Foundation, Dave Barber Cinematheque, and Urban Idea. Twenty-three events were held attracting 1378 attendees

The annual Architecture+Design Film Festival ([adff.ca](http://adff.ca)) presents critically acclaimed films focusing on the importance of architecture and design in everyday life. The films cover a range of design-oriented topics from architecture and urban design to graphics and product design. A+DFF is the only festival in Canada devoted solely to architecture and design.

The 2024 Architecture+Design Film Festival was generously supported by The Winnipeg Foundation, The Manitoba Association of Architects, and the Faculty of Architecture Endowment Fund (University of Manitoba), the Manitoba Arts Council, the Consulate General of Switzerland in Montreal, the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA), the Winnipeg Public Library, and the West End Cultural Centre.

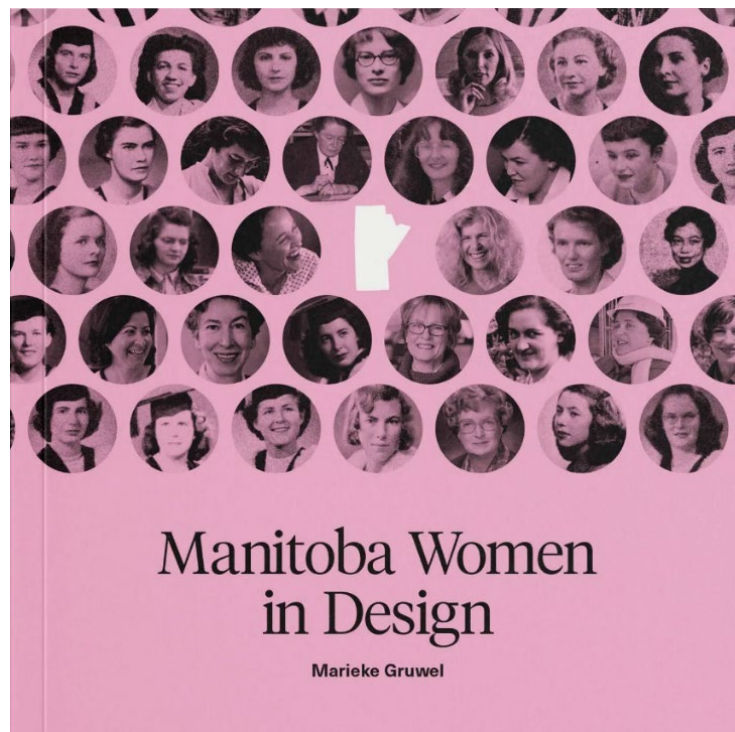
## Individual film screenings were sponsored by:

- 1x1 architecture • 5468796 architecture • May Chow & Alvin Yee • Bockstael Construction
- BridgmanCollaborative Architecture • Crosier Kilgour & Partners • The Exchange District BIZ
  - Glenn Merritt • HTFC Planning & Design • JRWagner Architect • Ken King, Ottawa
- Number Ten Architectural Group • Professional Interior Designers Institute of Manitoba (PIDIM)
  - Scatliff+Miller+Murray • Winnipeg Public Library • Wolfrom Engineering

# Publications

## Manitoba Women in Design

Published March 2024



Manitoba Women in Design cover by Burdocks Design

Manitoba Women in Design by author Marieke Gruwel tells the story of women's contributions to Manitoba's built environment during the twentieth century. These women worked as architects, interior designers, landscape architects, planners, and engineers. Their legacies can be traced across the province.

# Manitoba Women in Design (continued)

Despite this, many of these women and their contributions have been erased from architecture and design histories. This highly illustrative book begins the process of addressing these exclusions by showcasing the lives and careers of some of these notable women.



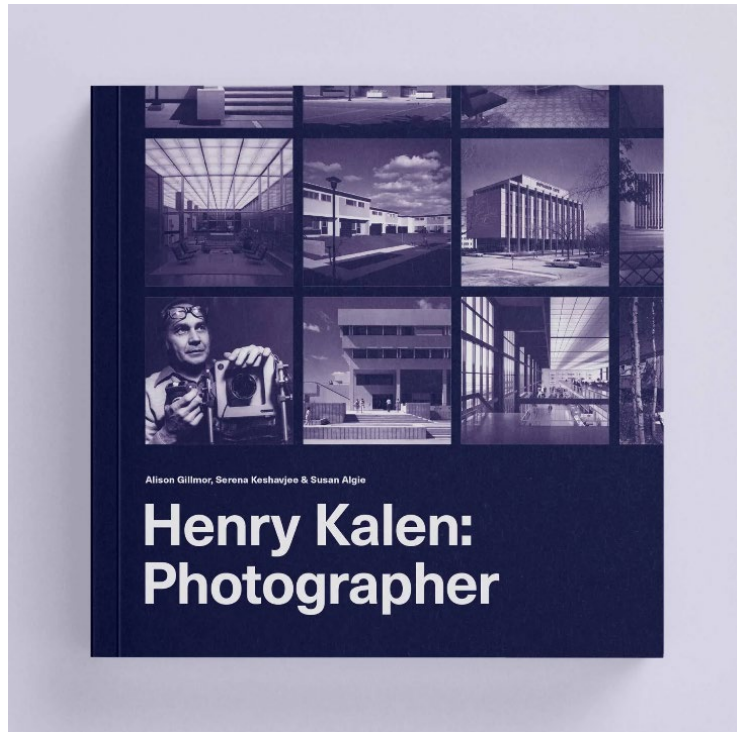
Manitoba Women in Design interior by Burdocks Design

Manitoba Women in Design was produced with support from the City of Winnipeg, the Faculty of Architecture Endowment Fund (University of Manitoba), the Landscape Architecture Canada Foundation, the Manitoba Association of Architects, the Province of Manitoba, and the Winnipeg Arts Council.



# Henry Kalen: Photographer

Published May 2024



Henry Kalen: Photographer cover by Burdocks Design

Henry Kalen was one of Canada's most distinguished architectural photographers. His work for prominent Winnipeg architectural firms in the 1960s and 1970s portrayed a stylish, modern, and changing city. This book provides a glimpse of Kalen's vast body of work photographing Winnipeg's built environment during the optimistic mid-twentieth century. His photographs have given us the definitive images of many of the city's most iconic buildings.

Authors: Serena Keshavjee, Alison Gillmor, Catherine Acebo, and Susan Algie  
Research Contributions: Maya de Forest  
Editor: Susan McLennan

# Winnipeg Places + Spaces

Published December 2024



Winnipeg Places + Spaces cover by Burdocks Design

Winnipeg Places + Spaces is the first comprehensive guidebook to the buildings and landscapes of Winnipeg. This wide-ranging publication explores the rich variety of buildings and neighbourhoods within the city, from the modest to the monumental.

## Contributing Authors:

Susan Algie, Kaj Hasselriis and James Wagner with Catherine Acebo, Bree Bergen, Christian Cassidy, Alex Gowriluk, Sheila Grover, Marieke Gruwel, Nicole Jowett, Zelda Kynman, Reanna Merasty, Gail Perry, Murray Peterson, Alena Rieger, Greg Thomas and Jeffrey Thorsteinson

# Research Initiatives

## Winnipeg Architecture Foundation Archives

In 2024, WAF has arranged, described, and digitised the following fonds:

- Debby Lexier
- Harlyn Thompson
- Robert Allsopp

Finding aids to these fonds, among others, are available on the [Manitoba Archival Information Network](#).

**This archival project is made possible by support from the Faculty of Architecture Endowment Fund.**

## WAF / PIDIM Oral History Project

Ongoing work for an oral history project was advanced by Marieke Gruwel and Elizabeth Sellors (PIDIM). The project serves to document the important members of PIDIM, as well as the legacy and history of Interior Design in Manitoba.

Interviews have been conducted with:

- Lee Finch
- George Fuller
- Michael Cox
- Alacoe MacTavish, on behalf of her mother Hope Mackenzie
- Micah, Jill, and Chip Lexier on behalf of their mother Debby Lexier
- Bruce and Laurie Wardrope
- Margaret Stinson

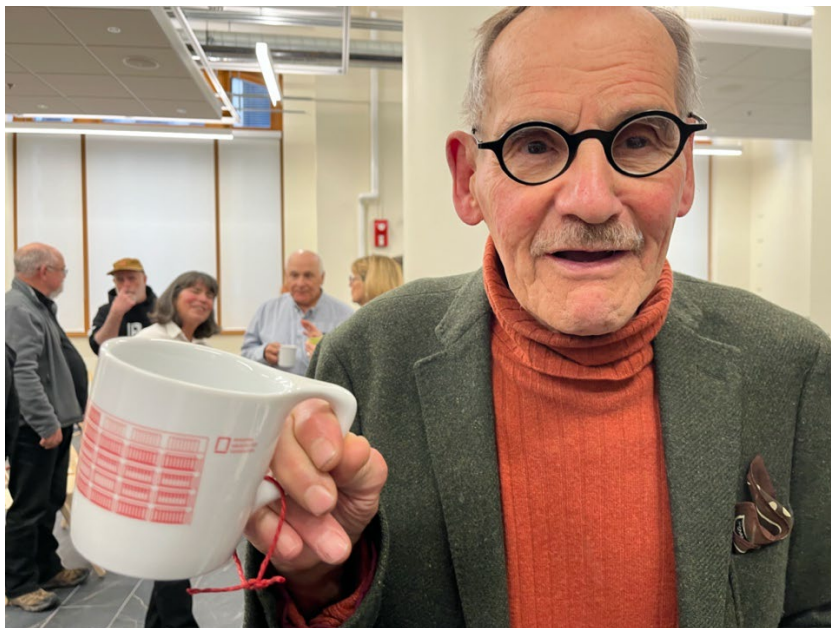
## WAF / PIDIM Oral History Project (continued)

- Ted Maciurzynski
- Jennifer Veitch, on behalf of her father Ronald Veitch
- Maureen Doyle
- Elizabeth Sellors
- Brian Everton
- Jennifer Yeo on behalf of Donna Mae and Frederick Cecil Yeo

**This project is made possible with support from PIDIM and the Faculty of Architecture Endowment Fund (University of Manitoba).**

# Legacy Award

The inaugural Winnipeg Architecture Foundation Legacy Award was given to architect Leslie Stechesen, to honour almost 60 years of architectural practice and volunteerism. Les has designed new buildings, rehabilitated heritage buildings, and has been a strong advocate for a sustainable approach to heritage buildings.



# Sponsors and Donors:

A very large thank you goes to all our private donors, as well as corporate sponsors and institutional funders. We rely on these contributions to make our research and programming possible.

## Donors

Alvin Yee and May Chow

Blair Philpott and Tom Kynman

Susan Algje and James Wagner

Elizabeth and Norman Fleming

Ken King

Glenn Merrit

Elizabeth Margeson

5468796 architecture

## Sponsors

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Alpha Masonry

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BridgmanCollaborative Architecture

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The Exchange District BIZ

HTFC Planning & Design

JRWagner Architect

Number Ten Architectural Group

Professional Interior Designers Institute of Manitoba (PIDIM)

Scatliff+Miller+Murray

Wolfrom Engineering

## Institutional Support

Canada Council

City of Winnipeg

Faculty of Architecture Endowment Fund

Manitoba Arts Council

Manitoba Association of Architects

Province of Manitoba

Swiss Consulate for Canada

Winnipeg Arts Council

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