



The Paul Oberman Award for Adaptive Reuse

The award recognizes projects that incorporate and reuse significant heritage structures in fitting and imaginative ways, thereby conserving them for future use and enjoyment. It honours the late Paul Oberman, a master of adaptive reuse, whose company, Woodcliffe Landmark Properties, was responsible for some of the most important examples in Ontario. From his biography:

“Paul believed that neighbourhoods thrive when architectural heritage is preserved and repurposed as a backdrop for healthy community interaction. Heritage properties, he advocated, could be developed in harmony with cutting edge modern design to yield financial viability while contributing to the vibrancy of the city. This led him to focus on the adaptive reuse of many historically significant buildings, repurposing these structures and incorporating them into the fabric of 21st-century Toronto. He wanted to respect the past, make contemporary architecture in the present, and build a legacy for the future.”

Paul's projects received many honours, including the Governor General's Award for Architecture in 1992 for King James Place in Toronto. He was the recipient of the ACO Special Achievement Award in 2010.

This award is given in two categories:

Large-Scale/Team/Corporate: This award is given to an architectural firm, large project team, or corporate owner of a large-scale restoration project.

Small-Scale/ Individual/Small Business: This award is given to an individual, small project team or small business owner of a small-scale restoration project.