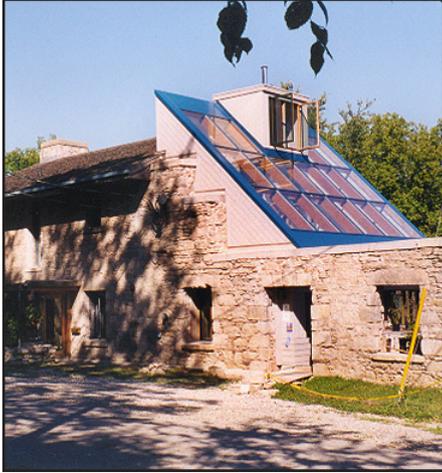


ARCHITECTURE INTRODUCTION



What characterises Charles Simon Architect + Planner's work above all is a concern for our **future heritage**. The surviving heritage which our forebears have handed down to us continues to enrich our lives and communities. The firm's hope is to fashion buildings which our grand-children similarly may look back on with fondness and pride - buildings which are contemporary yet timeless and which point to a more sustainable future.

The practice includes a broad spectrum of buildings, clients and scales. It has always maintained the philosophy that the smallest projects inform the largest, help to maintain a sense of individual needs within a larger setting and to retain a feeling for detail and fine grain. Conversely, the largest schemes impart a sensitivity to context and broader issues when focusing on small buildings. Individual designs seek to provide a good fit with their urban, suburban or rural settings.

Similarly, providing a good fit with the client's needs is central to every project. Often our most valuable contribution is to help our clients clarify the "problem" to be solved (whether small or large and complex building programs) before we initiate the design process. The firm has developed real expertise in developing and refining building programs - an essential precursor to good design. Quite often this has resulted in reduced space requirements with no reduction in performance: the most effective dollar saved is that which is never spent.

The firm is proud to have received numerous design awards and international recognition for its pioneering work in the environmental field. Charles Simon has been called "the grandfather of passive solar in Canada"*. Good design and environmental responsibility are not regarded as luxuries. Cost control receives the highest priority during all stages of design and construction. The client's investment in terms of both capital and operating costs is carefully protected from initial concept through the details of structural, mechanical and building material selection. The life-cycle assessment of a building is just as critical as the initial cost. In some projects we have been able to demonstrate that an increase in the construction budget would lead to no increase in annual maintenance and borrowing costs of the building.

* Wayne Grady, [The Waterloo Greenhome](#)

THE MILL, EDEN MILLS

Home/office of Charles Simon.

Built in 1842, the burnt-out shell has been recycled as a 'green' mixed use building.

