



JULIA GERSOVITZ, Sr. Architect - Partner
OAQ, OAA, FRAIC, FAPT, CAHP

Professional Affiliations

OAA - Ontario Association of Architects (1995)
OAQ - Quebec Order of Architects (1978)
FRAIC - Fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (1995)
FAPT - Fellow of the Association for Preservation Technology International (2008)
CAHP - Member of the Canadian Association of Heritage Professionals

Master of Science - Historic Preservation, Columbia University, New York City, 1980
Bachelor of Architecture with distinction, McGill University, Montreal, 1975
Bachelor of Science in Architecture with distinction, McGill University, Montreal 1974

With 39 years of professional experience with heritage buildings, 31 of them in private practice, Julia Gersovitz's commitment to excellence in conservation expresses itself in three interrelated sectors - private practice, teaching and design review commissions.

As a senior partner, Julia is responsible for many of the management tasks associated with a project: she is the primary contact with the client, responsible for presentations and for the assessment of client's needs in order to set the project on course. She determines the conceptual design, the conservation strategies and oversees all aspects of the project, through the end of construction. The project architect reports to her, usually on a daily basis, in order to ensure that the milestones are met, the budget respected and the schedule is on target.

Julia has a mastery of the philosophical, functional, regulatory and technical issues related to intervening in heritage contexts. Her ability to reconcile protection needs with contemporary expectations has been recognized in numerous award-winning projects and accounts for her reputation as a national leader in the field of conservation and rehabilitation of historic buildings.

In 2014, she was awarded the Harley J. McKee Award, the highest honour bestowed by the Association for Preservation Technology International (APT), in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the field of preservation technology. "The Association for Preservation Technology International is an interdisciplinary membership organization dedicated to the practical application of the principles and techniques necessary for the care and wise use of the built environment." It has forged links with Historic Scotland.

In 2013, she was also honored with the title of 'Cornerstone' and Life Member of Heritage Montreal. The same year, on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the *Société d'archéologie et de numismatique de Montréal*, Julia was one of ten Montrealers honoured for their exceptional contribution to the conservation of the city's heritage.

In 2009, the City of Montreal awarded the *SITQ Award of Excellence* jointly to Julia Gersovitz and FGMDA in recognition of their exceptional contribution to heritage conservation in Montreal. The citation text reads in part (in translation):

"Julia Gersovitz [...] has contributed enormously to the preservation and rehabilitation of the Montreal architectural heritage. [She] has helped define the new specialization which has become heritage conservation [...]. FGMDA has acquired a national and international reputation for its expertise and the exceptional quality of its interventions on heritage buildings. The list of its completed projects is more than impressive. [...] The Award of Excellence underscores the work of this office, specialized in conservation, which pools its knowledge and expertise to realize projects of enormous quality."

In the following projects, Ms. Gersovitz has been the partner-in-charge and lead conservation specialist:

- 2013-present **Customs Building** (1916, 1936), Montreal, QC (with St-Gelais Montminy)
Rehabilitation of a recognized federal heritage building
- Extensive survey of building envelope condition
 - Heritage Conservation Architect for exterior envelope rehabilitation
 - Full architectural and conservation services
 - Client: Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC)



- 2012-present **Centre Block, East and West Pavilions, Parliament Hill** (1876, 1916-1927), Ottawa, ON
Rehabilitation, restoration and stabilization of the classified building on a National Historic Site
- Full architectural and conservation services
 - Client: Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC)



- 2009-present **Union Station** (1914-1929) - Revitalization Project (with NORR), Toronto, ON
Rehabilitation and restoration of a National Historic Site
- Heritage Conservation Architect for Exterior Envelope and all Heritage Interiors
 - Client: City of Toronto



- 2009-present **Wellington Building** (1924-1927), Ottawa, ON (with NORR)
Rehabilitation and restoration of a recognized federal building
- Heritage Conservation Architect, Exterior envelope and heritage interiors
 - Development of overall conservation strategy for prime consultant
 - Full architectural services, interior design and conservation services for exterior envelope and all heritage interiors
 - Client: Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC)



- 2011-2014 **St. Thomas Consolidated Courthouse** (1853, 1898), St. Thomas, ON (PPP with NORR)
Rehabilitation and restoration of a historic courthouse within a larger judicial complex
- Heritage Conservation Architect for the St. Thomas Courthouse
 - Client : Infrastructure Ontario
 - 2014 CAHP Award



- 2009-2012 **VIA Panorama Lounge Union Station** (1914, 1927), Toronto, ON
Restoration and interior design of a new VIA passenger lounge
- Full architectural and interior design services (with NORR)
 - Client: VIA Rail
 - 2012 CAHP Award



2008-2011 **Redpath Museum Roof and Masonry (1882)** Montreal, QC
Restoration of the exterior envelope of first Canadian natural history museum

- Full architectural and conservation Services
- Client: McGill University
- 2011 CAHP Award



2009-2012 **Arts Building (1839)**, McGill University, Montreal, QC
Restoration of the exterior envelope of the emblematic heart of the main campus

- Full architectural and conservation services
- Client: McGill University



2006-2007 **Mappin Wing Façade, Rideau Hall (1913)**, Ottawa, ON
Restoration of the exterior envelope of the Governor-General's residence

- Full architectural and conservation services
- Client: National Capital Commission
- 2008 City of Ottawa Award



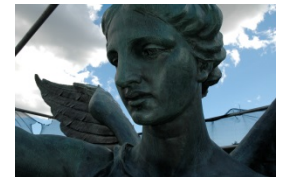
1995-2002
2005-2017 **West Block, Parliament Hill (1859-1909)**, Ottawa, ON
Restoration and rehabilitation (FGMDA in joint venture with Arcop)

- Full architectural, interior design and conservation services
- Client: Public Works and Government Services Canada



1999-2007 **Sir George-Étienne Cartier Monument (1920)**, Montreal, QC
Restoration of the masonry platforms and statue in Mount Royal Park

- Full architectural and conservation services
- Client: City of Montreal



1997-present **McGill University Campus**, Montreal, QC
Rehabilitation of slate and copper roofs and masonry of historic campus buildings

- Client: McGill University



1999-2001 **Hotel Gault (1870)**, Old Montreal, QC
Restoration and Rehabilitation into a boutique hotel

- Full Architectural and Conservation Services for base building
- Client: Terra Incognita
- 2005 - Finalist, Architecture Excellence Award - Quebec Order of Architects
- 2003 – Commercial Heritage Preservation Award – City of Montreal
- 2003 - Grand Prix du jury - Commerce Design Montréal Contest
- 2003 - Finalist, Institut de Design de Montréal



- 1999-2002 **Harbour Commissioners' Building** (1875) – Le 357C, Old Montreal, QC
Restoration and rehabilitation and addition to a historic building within the Historic district of Old Montreal to convert it into a private club
- Full architectural, interior design and conservation services
 - Client: Daniel Langlois Foundation
 - 2002 Heritage Enhancement Award - Heritage Montreal and City of Montreal
 - 2013 Cornerstone Award for Building Heritage by Heritage Canada Foundation



- 1999 **Jean-Talon Train Station** (1932), Montréal, QC
Restoration and rehabilitation of an art-deco train station into a store
- Full architectural, interior design and conservation services
 - Client: Loblaw Quebec
 - 2013 Cornerstone Award for Building Heritage by Heritage Canada Foundation



- 1994-1999 **Victoria Hall** (1924), Westmount, QC
Interior and exterior rehabilitation and addition to a community center
- Full architectural, interior design and conservation services
 - Client: City of Westmount
 - 1999 Orange Prize - awarded by Save Montreal



Academic Responsibilities and Speaking Engagements

Since 1980, Julia is an Adjunct Professor of Design at the School of Architecture, McGill University, where she teaches elective courses in Heritage Conservation, the History of Architecture in Canada and design studios. From 1987-2001, she was an Adjunct Professor in the Masters programme in Conservation at the Université de Montréal. In 2011 and 2013, she was an invited lecturer at the Masters Programme in Conservation at the University of Edinburgh (Heriot-Watts), delivering a lecture entitled *Values and Vision, a Canadian Architectural Practice*, focusing on the work of FGMDA.

She has been an invited speaker and participant to the on-going UNESCO Round Tables at the Université de Montréal, and has given conferences on various architectural topics at the Canadian Centre for Architecture in 1996, 1998, 1999, 2002 and 2013.

Review Committees

Since 2010, Julia has been a member of the *Conseil de patrimoine de Montréal*. In 2014, she was re-appointed as Chairman of the Planning Advisory Committee for the City of Westmount, a position which she first held from 2001-2008. From 2001 to 2012, she was the vice-chair of the *Comité d'architecture et d'urbanisme* for the City of Montreal. From 1996 to 2001, she was a member of the Commission Jacques-Viger, which advises the City of Montreal on architectural and urban design issues. From 1987 to 1990, she was a member of the *Comité consultatif de Montréal sur la protection des biens culturels*, which advises the Executive Committee of the City of Montreal on preservation issues, and was responsible for the creation of Mont-Royal as a historic district in 1989. From 1985 to 1987, she was a member of the *Commission des biens culturels*, the consultative body that advises the Minister of Cultural Affairs on classified buildings for the Province of Quebec.

Advisory Roles

Julia was a special advisor to the National Capital Commission in Ottawa for the Governor-General's residence and has been a member of several design juries, including the one for the Place d'Youville redevelopment project competition in Old Montreal, and for the extension to the Palais des Congrès de Montréal. She served as the Heritage Conservation Advisor for the Nathan

Phillips Square Design Competition (2007). She was an invited participant for the Minister's Round Table on Parks Canada (2001, 2003 and 2005) and for the Historic Places Initiative in 2001 and 2002. Ms. Gersovitz served as Chair of the Steering Committee, Westmount Recreation Centre, Westmount Quebec, from 2010 to 2014.

Ms. Gersovitz has also served on the Heritage Advisory Committee of McGill University, the National Round Tables on Heritage Education Steering Committee, and was a member of the Board of Directors of Heritage Montreal from 1987-2007.

Personal Interest in the Glasgow School of Art

Julia's abiding passion for the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh led her to first visit the school in 1973. This was at a time when a visit to the Sauchiehall Tea Rooms involved special permission from the shop clerks to go up the stairs, push aside the coats and other stored items, to gain access to the abandoned spaces. An early member of the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society, she was an attendee at the conference held by the organization in 1983. Her interest in his masterwork has continued throughout the ensuing decades and has resulted in visits to all his extant buildings, including the ongoing House for an Art Lover.