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INARA KUNDZINS

Upon graduation, **Inara Kundzins (B Arch'78)** returned to Arthur Erickson Architects in Vancouver where she had spent her final coop work term. When the firm reorganized in 1991, she joined the newly established Nick Milkovich Architects Inc. (NMA). **Nick Milkovich** had been associate-in-charge of custom residential projects for the former Erickson entity and continued his association with **Arthur Erickson (Hon.D.Eng.71)** with an experienced team of 5. In addition to her role as senior project architect, Inara took on responsibilities relating to the management and daily operation of the new firm.

NMA undertakes projects which lend themselves to creative and precedent setting solutions and offers professional services in architecture, interior design, sustainable design, urban design, planning and programming to all levels of government, institutions, corporations, developers and private clients. The firm is dedicated to continuing the studio approach to design which has gained them a worldwide reputation for excellence. Today, the firm employs 12 architects and technicians and continues to collaborate with Arthur Erickson. NMA also associates with another entity, Atelier, on large scale urban and master planning projects.

Inara has been responsible for custom residences in British Columbia, Washington, California, Hawaii, Arizona, Colorado and Malaysia. Among these are the Wright Residence (*GA Houses 19*), the Russell Residence (*GA Houses 22*) and the Eppich II Residence (*GA Houses 33*). Other projects include interior renovations in Vancouver (*Interiors May 01*), an affordable housing project in Colorado, master planning of an Ashram in California and master planning and design of the first phase of a new town centre currently under construction at The Village at Avon near Vail, Colorado.

Recent completed projects of particular interest include the Maui Residence in Hawaii (*Architectural Digest*, Dec. 00) which features 11 foot high unframed, retractable glass walls hung from angular cantilevered, post tensioned concrete slabs; and the Portland Hotel (*Azure* Nov/Dec 00 and *Wallpaper* Oct 00), a 10 storey social housing project in Vancouver's poorest, downtown, eastside neighbourhood. The award-winning Waterfall Building, a Vancouver artist live/work studio and commercial project, is comprised of 5 building blocks organized around a publicly accessible courtyard which is entered under a curved bridge from which a curtain of water descends into a reflecting pool. An interlocking unit arrangement provides double height spaces, outlooks in two directions, through ventilation and efficient circulation. The Museum of Glass in Tacoma, Washington (*Canadian Architect*, *Azure* and *Architecture 02*) is dedicated to the exhibition and interpretation of modern art, educating visitors through interactive exhibits, multi-media presentations and innovative demonstrations. A key attraction and one of the Museum's most striking features is the 'hot shop' amphitheatre, a giant 90 foot high stainless steel clad cone wrapped by a monumental curved stair leading to rooftop terraces. These terraces create a series of cascading outdoor exhibition spaces featuring large reflecting pools which tumble toward the Foss Channel, one of Tacoma's principal harbours.

Inara is a third generation architect. Her father, **Andris Kundzins**, is retired from the Halifax firm of Duffus Romans Kundzins Rounsfell. To perpetuate her cultural heritage she maintains a membership in the international Latvian architects association (LAB) in addition to the AIBC and RAIC. Nick Milkovich Architects Inc. can be contacted at: <nma@nmainc.ca>.



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