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## STEVEN MANNELL

**Steven Mannell** began his 3-year term as Director of the School of Architecture in August 2002. He joined the School in April 1997, having driven from Toronto with family and cats loaded into a '63 VW Beetle, and chased much of the way by a late winter blizzard. Before coming to Halifax he taught at the University of Waterloo, where he had graduated in 1986, and ran a Toronto-based architectural practice.

He is a registered architect in Nova Scotia and Ontario. Steven Mannell Architect was founded in Toronto in 1995, and is now based in Halifax. Projects include custom furniture and interiors, housing and urban design, and heritage policy consulting work. His professional experience includes work with Barton Myers Associates, Stephen Teeple Architect, and Kearns Mancini Architects, where he was Senior Associate until 1993.

Steve's teaching practice is driven by an effort to integrate building technology with design conception, both in coursework and design studios. This effort to combine knowing and doing in teaching and research extends to a series of summer term free labs, which allow students to relate conception, history and practice through "built scholarship." These design-build projects provide a taste of the building site within the context of in-depth study of the design work and construction practices of a number of exemplary modern designers, including Richard Schindler, Jean Prouvé and Eladio Dieste. He has been invited to speak to several gatherings of architecture teachers on the substantial hands-on component in his construction classes.

As editorial advisor to *Canadian Architect* from 1995 to 1997 and currently as regional correspondent, he has helped to set the magazine's editorial direction and published numerous critical reviews of contemporary Canadian architecture.

Documentation of the regional history of modern Canadian architecture is a major area of his research activity. In 1996 he co-curated the exhibition "Images of Progress: Modern Architecture in Waterloo Region 1945-1995," and edited the exhibition catalogue. More recently he curated "Atlantic Modern: The Architecture of the Atlantic Provinces 1950-2000" which opened at the School's Exhibition Room in 2001. This show was displayed at the Art Gallery of Newfoundland and Labrador until 05 January 2003; the catalogue will be published in 2003. Both these projects are primary documents of the buildings, architects and practice of modern architecture in Canada after the Second World War.

"Architecture, Public Works and Civic Vision" is another ongoing research project, principally focused on the architecture of the Toronto Water Works Extension Project of 1912 to 1955. The heroic confidence of the form and expression of the water works speaks of that moment in the early 20th century when civil engineering and public works were taken to be great civic deeds, demanding a great civic architecture. The study analyses the public policy, design and construction history of the water works facilities, exploring the characteristic and complex intertwining of architectural form and engineering process. Tools of research include archival searches and computer model reconstructions. This work has been funded by a three-year grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. In parallel to the academic research, Steve has also been retained as a consultant to the Water Supply Division of Toronto Works on heritage matters.

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1. Toronto Water Works
2. Lamella Frame, Free lab project
3. Prouvé Prop, Free lab project
4. Detail of Smallwood House, from Atlantic Modern