

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Ottawa Train Station Receives The Ontario Association Of Architects (OAA) 2007 Landmark Award**

**TORONTO, May 3, 2007** - NORR Limited, Architects and Engineers (the successor firm to John B. Parkin) is pleased to announce that the historical Ottawa Train Station has received the prestigious Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) 2007 Landmark Award.

The Ottawa Train Station will be honoured at the OAA's *Celebration of Excellence* awards presentations, Friday, May 11, 2007 at the Sheraton Centre Toronto hotel.

The OAA Awards program promotes the Ontario architectural profession with an annual opportunity to present its best work to a public and professional audience. The program advertises the excellence of individual award winners and the profession as a whole and fosters a greater appreciation of architecture and architects among all levels of society, professional and non-professional.

The OAA Landmark Award recognizes Ontario buildings that demonstrate the very best qualities that architecture can deliver to the community and can contribute to society. Criteria include a building built before 1982 that:

- Establishes a design excellence standard for future generations
- Enhances the public realm
- Is compatible and consistent with its surroundings; and,
- Helps to identify part of the community by its unique relationship with its neighbourhood or the city.

The Ottawa Train Station admirably demonstrates all the OAA criteria. For more than 40 years, the Ottawa train station has remained a landmark building in Canada's capital city and represents an important period of Canadian architectural history.

Designed by NORR's predecessor firm, John B. Parkin & Associates, the station was built in 1966 and won a Massey Medal for architecture the following year.

David Clusiau, NORR's Principal of Architectural Design, states, "The simple, modern and clean lines, combined with the strong dramatic form of the building, echo back to the grand public halls of an earlier era of train travel. The heroic scaled steel spans of the train stations of the industrial revolution are matched by the equally heroic exposed steel trusses of the Ottawa station. These trusses are part of clearly contemporary composition that is precise, orthogonal and Miesian in architectural inspiration."

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Primary cruciform in plan, the main passenger station is composed of three fundamentally independent structural units that function en masse. The large roof (150' wide, 330' long, and hovering 33' above the concourse floor) is pin-connected to the 8 massive tapering concrete columns supporting it. The exposed two-way steel truss is formed in three main sections cantilevered 30' on all four sides. The sub trusses, 7'-6" deep, are spaced at 15' intervals and supported between the major trusses, themselves 15' deep.

At the heart of this symmetrical and orthogonal composition are the circular ticketing booth and the reinforced concrete helical ramp that leads down to the passenger platforms below.

The functional and gracious public areas are flooded with natural light and the services facilities are housed in symmetrical concrete clad wings. The purity of the building composition is emphasised by its solitary placement in a minimal but extensive manicured grass landscape that slopes up to the station and conceals the rail lines behind and below.

The Ottawa station has been described as "A temple for arriving and departing passengers".

### **Ottawa Train Station Quick Facts**

**Architect of Record:** NORR Limited's predecessor firm, John B. Parkin Associates

**Client:** National Capital Commission

**Owners:** Canadian National Railways, Canadian Pacific Railway Company

**General Contractor:** Thomas Fuller Construction Company Limited

**Completed:** 1966

**Area of Site:** 2,175,000 sf

**Area of Building:** 96,000 sf

**Facilities:** Public concourse; dining room; cafeteria; general offices; bedrooms; employee lounge; underground tunnel to tracks; power plant; telecommunications

**Objective:** Located just east of Ottawa, the station was designed to eliminate all CNR-CPR duplicate trackage in the National Capital and accommodate their joint terminal operations.

**Awards:** Massey Medals for Architecture: Silver Medal, 1967 and now, the Ontario Association of Architects (OAA) 2007 Landmark Award

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### **NORR Limited, Architects and Engineers**

Part of the Ingenium Group of companies, NORR Limited, Architects & Engineers is a fully-integrated architectural and engineering firm headquartered in Toronto, with offices in Ottawa and Kingston. NORR's expertise is focused on the aviation, institutional, justice, correctional, educational, sports and recreation and biotechnology market sectors.

Current NORR Limited projects include the Canadian Chancery, Ankara, Turkey; the Pierre Elliot Trudeau Judicial Building, Ottawa; Calgary Courts Centre; Pembroke Courthouse; Perth Courthouse; Collins Bay Penitentiary Redevelopment, Kingston; Peace Bridge, The Canadian Plaza, Fort Erie; and the Blue Water Bridge Canadian Plaza at Point Edward.

### **Ingenium Group Inc.**

Operating under NORR, Giffels, CION and PMA brands, the Ingenium Group of companies offers an extensive range of engineering, architectural, interior design, construction and asset management services focussed on quality performance, superior client service and on-budget, on-time delivery of innovative solutions.

The companies employ more than 1100 professional staff in offices in Canada, the United States, Latin America, the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and Asia.

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