



Haven project captures prestigious design award

Hobin Architecture presents Greater Ottawa Home Builders' Association trophy to MHI

DEC. 5, 2018 – OTTAWA | The Greater Ottawa Home Builders' Association (GOHBA) has recognized the Haven with a 2018 Housing Design Award.

Ottawa firm Hobin Architects took home the "New Community (Built)" trophy from GOHBA's annual gala on Oct. 20. The award recognized Hobin's work on the Haven, Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI)'s innovative 98-unit affordable housing development in Barrhaven.

"To our joy, the Haven beat out the private sector to win this category," said Gord Lorimer, architect and partner at Hobin.

Following the Oct. 20 ceremony, the team at Hobin Architecture decided that the 2018 Housing Design Award should remain in Multifaith Housing's possession. During a presentation at Hobin's Pamela Street offices in November, the staff who worked on the Haven re-presented MHI Executive Director Suzanne Le with the glass GOHBA trophy.

"The success of the Haven is only partly about design," explained Lorimer. "It is due in a large part to the vision of your organization and the faith groups that stand behind [MHI]. Consequently, we would like to pass this award onto you as the real winners."

Construction for the Haven began in 2015 and wrapped up in summer 2017. Ten homes of the 98 are fully accessible. The Haven features a mix of town homes and two low-rise apartment buildings, multi-use community space, and a community garden that promotes healthy living environment and community engagement. Located in the heart of Barrhaven and with recreational amenities, transit services, schools and shopping nearby, this project introduces 50 apartments and 48 townhouses to the popular suburban community. While Barrhaven is usually seen as a car-centric community, a strong central pedestrian axis was identified early in the process.

This Christmas season, MHI will be running a fundraising drive to complete the final stage of the project: a children's playground nestled in the heart of the complex.

"MHI was absolutely thrilled that the Greater Ottawa Homebuilders Association recognized the Haven in this very prestigious way," said MHI Executive Director Suzanne Le. "We beat out all the for-profit developers – that, in and of itself, is a very formidable accomplishment."

About the awards

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Founded in 1951, the Greater Ottawa Home Builders' Association is dedicated to providing a voice for the building, land development, and professional renovation industry. According to GOHBA, the organization's 350 members have built more than 65,000 homes in the National Capital Region throughout the last decade. The GOHBA Housing Design Awards recognize excellence in design and quality of construction in the new home and renovation industry.

About MHI

MHI is a not-for-profit charitable organization in Ottawa, Canada established in 2002. A registered charity, MHI brings together a coalition of faith groups, local businesses, civil society, the City of Ottawa, and federal/provincial governments to establish innovative, collaborative solutions to create affordable housing. Safe, secure, affordable housing empowers and transforms people's lives by improving health outcomes, educational achievement, social inclusion and economic opportunities. For more information, visit www.multifaithhousing.ca/.

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