

**LOCAL** News Desk, 905-526-3420

# Library/market wins major honour

Provincial architects' association gives Hamilton project award of excellence

**BY JON WELLS**

The Ontario Association of Architects has made official what many folks in Hamilton already knew: the refurbished library and market is an eye-catching design.

The Hamilton Farmers' Market and Central Public Library will receive an OAA Design Excellence award at a ceremony in Toronto on May 20.

Among the other buildings receiving design awards this year are the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa, Telus Tower in Toronto, Waterloo Region Museum, and Ontario House Olympic Pavilion in Vancouver.

The award is a big feather in the cap of local architect David Premi, whose eponymous Hamilton firm shares the award with RDH Architects Inc. of Toronto.

The two firms teamed up on the library and market project on York Boulevard, which had a total construction budget of \$13 million.

"I'm delighted," said Premi. "The team we put together with RDH was the right combination, and we had the right client.

"All the stars aligned on this one."

The redesign for the 31-year old



JOHN RENNISON, THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

**With old Hamilton reflected in the glass, architect David Premi stands at the entrance to the new Hamilton Public Library designed by his firm and Toronto's RDH Architects Inc.**

library featured a state of the art glass façade with programmable coloured LED lights built into it. Inside, space was opened up, and dozens of new computer terminals

and free Wi-Fi service added.

New or redesigned buildings in Hamilton have rarely been recognized by the provincial architects' association. A mathematics build-

ing at McMaster was honoured seven years ago.

Premi suggested the award is exciting news not only for his young firm, but also for the community.

He predicts that this kind of exposure for the library and market will help in the renewal of Hamilton's core, and encourage people to visit the city.

The OAA has posted a forum where members of the public can register their vote for a People's Choice Award for the best new building among the award winners. To vote for the library and market or one of the other honourees go to [awards.oaa.on.ca](http://awards.oaa.on.ca) and click on your favourite.

Premi, who grew up in Hamilton, earned his architect's degree at Dalhousie University in Halifax and worked in Toronto for more than 20 years, before returning home in 2006 to open David Premi Architects Inc. The office is on King Street East across from Gore Park.

It's turning into an exciting spring for him. Construction of a modernist-style house he designed for his family on Stanley Avenue, is nearly finished. He plans to move his wife and two children in on April 20, a year to the day that fire destroyed their old home on the same site.

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