



2018 CAF SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT GALA

On April 19, 2018, celebrated Canadian architects John Patkau, Hon. FAIA, and Patricia Patkau, Hon. FAIA, received the 2018 Distinguished Leadership Award from the Connecticut Architecture Foundation (CAF). The presentation of the award, given by the CAF for outstanding accomplishment in the realm of architecture, was made at an evening gala on the campus of the University of Hartford, where the Patkaus presented a lecture on their current work as part of the university's architecture lecture series (which is supported by the J.C. Architecture Endowment of Hartford's Department of Architecture). Following the lecture, the CAF and the university feted the visiting architects at an awards dinner, which helped raise scholarship funds for the CAF and Hartford's Department of Architecture. The lecture and gala dinner drew more than 100 architects and allied professionals from across the state, and marks the seventh such event co-sponsored by the CAF in collaboration with the University of Hartford.

The Distinguished Leadership Award (in the form of a framed reproduction of a drawing of Connecticut's Old State House) was presented to the Patkaus at the gala by CAF President Jay M. Brotman, AIA. In making the presentation, Brotman noted several of the accomplishments of the Patkaus, whose 40-year-old practice is based in Vancouver, British Columbia. The Patkaus have completed a wide range of work for public and private clients, and have also been involved in architectural education (Patricia is Professor Emerita of the University of British Columbia; John has served as a visiting critic at several universities, including Yale). John holds a master's degree from the University of Manitoba; Patricia received her master's from Yale.



Left to right: Jay Brotman, AIA, Michael Crosbie, FAIA, Patricia Patkau, Hon. FAIA, and John Patkau, Hon. FAIA

The Patkaus have oriented their practice to focus on research; their current interest is in the performance of certain materials, which is the subject of a recent book, *Material Operations*, published by Princeton Architecture Press. The architecture lecture at Hartford detailed the Patkaus' investigations in sheet wood and metal and their form-making through the careful application of force, which causes these materials to bend. The Patkaus started materials research in creating ice-skating shelters in Manitoba. Recently they completed the Temple of Light sanctuary in British Columbia, which is the first large-scale building to be realized based on their materials research.

The CAF Distinguished Leadership Award was instituted in 2003, the year it was bestowed upon Richard Levin, then Yale University president. In 2012 the CAF and the University of Hartford collaborated for the first time in making the award presentation part of its fund-raising event. Awardees since that year have been practicing-architect couples, and have included Andres Duany, FAIA, and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, FAIA; Frances Halsband, FAIA, and Robert Kliment, FAIA; Elaine Molinar, AIA, and Craig Dykers, AIA; Williams J. Stanley, FAIA, and Ivenue Love-Stanley, FAIA; Brigitte Shim and Howard Sutcliffe; Mack Scogin, AIA, and Merrill Elam, AIA; and the Patkaus.

Written by Michael Crosbie, FAIA

