

## JOSEPH PASSA OAA, MRAIC.

President, PASSA ASSOCIATES INC. ARCHITECT  
Windsor

*Size of firm: staff of 6 (including 3 architects)  
Established: 1997, Passa Associates Inc., Architect  
1994, Aleo / Passa Associates, Windsor, Ontario  
1990, Founding Architectural Partner, R. Meo  
& Associates, Windsor, Ontario  
Other offices: none*

Joe Passa was born in Windsor; received an Architectural Technology Diploma from Windsor's St. Clair College in 1976 and has practised as an architect in Windsor since 1987. But, as the ten missing years might indicate, that certainly isn't the whole story.

At the age of twenty, Joe left home to do a little travelling. First stop was Calgary, where work was plentiful at the time, followed by a brief stint in Ottawa, at Carleton University. In 1982, at the suggestion of colleagues from Calgary, he and his wife Pat departed for New Zealand where, in 1984, he received a

Bachelor of Architecture from Auckland University. He worked for two years in New Zealand and Australia, explored Southeast Asia for a half-year, then headed home. With the experience that his travels have afforded him, Joe is able to appreciate his home town with a greater degree of perspective.

Coming home made sense from a professional and a family standpoint. The professional allure was provided by the Windsor waterfront competition and the work that promised to be generated from the growth potential. And in the past fourteen years, that's exactly what has happened. The waterfront competition faltered, but other things took off, starting with the Casino that gave a base to grow and Windsor's renaissance began. A dynamic Mayor and many community leaders have all played important roles in Windsor's rejuvenation.

Joe's community involvement includes years of contribution to the City Centre Revitalization Task Force, the Urban Design Task Force for changes to the Official Plan, housing work with Habitat and as a director of the Windsor Rotary Club. In addition, he has served on a number of OAA committees and has been, since 1997, Chair of the St. Clair Society of Architects (SCSA).

"Socially and culturally we are probably the most American of Canadians. We love the Tigers and the Wings and enjoy the rivalry with the Jays and the Leafs. Living across from Detroit, we have both a quiet city environment of 300,000 and yet millions just a mile a way over the river with sport teams and big city life (always in competition with Toronto). So, in a way we are very much in a "Big Smoke" environment here. Windsor is a relatively small city that manages to have a big city outlook.



Above: The Greenwood Business Centre, Windsor  
Right: Claremont Financial Building, Tecumseh

