

NOUVELLES/NEWS

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF ARCHITECTURE IN CANADA
SOCIÉTÉ POUR L'ÉTUDE DE L'ARCHITECTURE AU CANADA

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LES ARCHIVES: QUI EST-CE QUE CA INTERESSENT?

Les archives, c'est une institution qui acquiert, préserve et met à la disposition du public des documents de recherche qui ont trait aux activités de notre société. En général, les archives collectionnent des études non publiées et pour cette raison diffèrent des bibliothèques. Au Canada, les archives publiques sont sous la juridiction du gouvernement fédéral, provincial ou municipal. Certaines archives privées sont conservées par des compagnies, des sectes religieuses ou des universités.

Qu'est-ce qu'un inventaire architectural?

Un inventaire architectural est constitué de documents qui sont créés au départ comme outils pour la planification et la construction d'édifices. Dans cet inventaire nous retrouvons: des croquis, normes, estimations, plans, dessins de présentation, etc.

Pourquoi ces documents devraient-ils être déposés aux archives?

Un inventaire architectural est aussi important à la compréhension et à l'appréciation de notre milieu environnant que les constructions mêmes. De nos jours, tout est éphémère. Alors voilà pourquoi ces documents prennent une telle importance: ils sont la seule preuve de ce qui existait auparavant. Quand les édifices, monuments ou villes sont recyclés, restaurés ou reconstruits ils deviennent indispensables. D'ailleurs, bien souvent les dessins sont autant une expression esthétique que les édifices qu'ils ont engendrés. Enfin, les archives se doivent d'avoir une bonne collection de documents architecturaux car, de plus en plus, les profanes tout comme les érudits s'intéressent à l'architecture canadienne du passé et du présent.

ARCHITECTS AND ARCHIVES: WHO CARES?

What is an Archival Institution?

Simply stated, an archival institution attempts to acquire, preserve, and make available for research records which illuminate the activities of society. Generally, archives collect unpublished materials and in this respect are distinct from libraries. In Canada, public archives are maintained by federal, provincial, and some municipal governments. Private archives are maintained by such institutions as businesses, churches, and universities.

What are Architectural Records?

Architectural records are documents created originally as tools for the planning and erection of buildings; sketch plans, cost estimates, working drawings, specifications, presentation drawings and many other categories of documents can be identified.

Why Should Architectural Records Be Deposited in Archives?

Architectural records are as important to our understanding and appreciation of the built environment as are the structures themselves. In an age when yesterday's creations are discarded with thoughtless enthusiasm, these records become doubly important -- they may be the only evidence of what once was. They can be indispensable when buildings, monuments, or cities are recycled, restored, or rebuilt. Moreover, drawings are often as much of an aesthetic expression as are the buildings to which they gave birth. Finally, archives ought to have good collections of architectural records because scholars and laymen alike are becoming increasingly interested in Canada's architecture, past and present.

Est-ce que les documents doivent être vieux ou importants pour que les archives s'y intéressent?

L'histoire est continuellement en évolution et non seulement l'histoire des pays et des grands hommes mais aussi la façon de vivre la vie de tous les jours. Important et vieux ne peuvent être définis. Ce que les archives recherchent surtout ce sont des collections représentatives de documents architecturaux, des collections qui nous donnent une bonne idée de la créativité, de la technique et du savoir-faire d'une période en particulier, que cette période soit récente ou ancienne.

Ce que les archives possèdent et ce dont on a besoin

Les archives gardent précieusement les quelques collections architecturales qu'elles ont pu acquérir. Les collections datant d'avant 1900 sont très rares, ce qui signifie qu'une grande partie de notre passé en architecture a été perdue. Si on ne prend pas les mesures nécessaires pour collectionner ce qui a été fait durant le vingtième siècle, nous aurons à faire face à des pertes considérables. Les archives ont donc besoin de tout document provenant des siècles précédents et aussi de collections représentatives de ce qui a été fait durant le vingtième siècle.

Qu'est-ce que les architectes peuvent faire?

Premièrement, prenez connaissance des documents que vous possédez. Souvent les documents sont prêtés d'une firme à l'autre et finalement sont oubliés. Votre firme entrepose-t-elle des documents qui devraient être en la possession des archives du Canada?

Deuxièmement, l'entreposage doit se faire dans des conditions favorables à la préservation du papier. C'est-à-dire dans un endroit sec, frais et propre, où il n'y a aucun danger d'inondation. Le coût pour restaurer des documents endommagés est énorme. Il ne faut pas oublier que la valeur de documents en mauvais état est amoindrie de beaucoup.

Troisièmement, avant de détruire des documents qui pourraient avoir une valeur historique, consultez les archives locales. Ces institutions relèvent du gouvernement fédéral, provincial et municipal de même que de plusieurs universités. Si vous avez de la difficulté à localiser ces institutions adressez-vous à: Association pour l'étude de l'architecture au Canada, Casier postal 2935, Station D, Ottawa, Ontario.

How Important and How Old Must Records be Before Archives are Interested?

History is made continuously, not only of the actions of countries and great men, but also of the patterns of daily life. Archives have an interest in what happened yesterday as much as they have in the events of the last century. "Important" and "Old" cannot be defined. What archives seek are representative collections of architectural records, collections which measure the creativity, technique, and sophistication of a period, whether that period is recent or distant.

What Do Archives Have Now and What Do They Need?

Archives have precious few architectural collections. Collections of material pre-dating 1900 are extremely rare, and as a result much of Canada's architectural past has been lost. If action is not soon taken to collect material from the twentieth century, this also will be lost. Archives need all that can be found of documents of earlier centuries and good, representative collections of twentieth-century material.

What Can Architects Do?

First, be aware of what records you have. Frequently, records are passed on from one firm to another; ultimately, they may be forgotten. Is your firm paying storage costs for obsolete records which properly belong in Canada's archival institutions?

Second, store all records in conditions favourable to paper preservation: in cool, dry, clean rooms not subject to flood. The cost of repairing damaged documents is enormous. The value of records in poor condition is much lower than those in good condition.

Third, BEFORE DESTROYING ANYTHING OF POTENTIAL HISTORIC VALUE CONSULT YOUR LOCAL ARCHIVES. Archival institutions can be found in the federal, provincial and territorial capitals, and in several universities. If there is any difficulty locating an institution, write to the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada, P.O. Box 2935, Station D, Ottawa, Canada.

Quels droits ont les architectes?

Habituellement, quand des documents sont donnés aux archives, les droits de propriété sont cédés. Mais si celui qui fait don de ces documents le veut, il peut restreindre pour un certain temps, l'utilisation de la collection ou encore exiger que tous ceux qui veulent utiliser ces documents en demandent sa permission. Si l'architecte qui fait don de sa collection aux archives prévoit avoir besoin d'une partie de cette collection, des arrangements devraient alors être pris au temps du transfert.

Pourquoi les architectes doivent-ils porter intérêt aux archives?

C'est de la responsabilité civique et sociale de l'architecte de s'assurer à ce que sa profession soit représentée aux archives. L'évolution et les réalisations de l'architecture canadienne ne doivent pas tomber dans l'oubli. La civilisation a besoin du passé pour continuer à se développer. On doit tenir compte de ce qu'on a fait.

Quoi d'autre?

Les dons faits aux archives sont souvent déductibles d'impôt et équivalent à leur valeur marchande. Pour ce qui est des documents rares, l'estimation de leur valeur monétaire peut être substantielle. Vos archives locales pourront vous donner de plus amples renseignements.

Jim Knight, Responsable des archives.

What Rights Does the Architect Have?

Usually when material is donated to an archives, ownership is surrendered. However, if the donor wishes, he can restrict the use of the collection for a number of years or stipulate that all those using the material must seek permission from the donor to do so. If parts of the collection are needed by the architect after donation, arrangements can easily be made at the time of the transfer.

Why Should the Architect Care About Archives?

It is the architect's civic and social responsibility to ensure that his profession is well represented in archives. The evolution and achievements of Canadian architecture ought not to be lost. Civilization builds upon itself: we must know what we have done, where we have been.

Anything Else?

Donations to Archives frequently qualify for a deduction from taxable income equivalent to the appraised market value of the donated material. For early or rare material, the appraised monetary value can be substantial. Your local Archives can provide full details.

Jim Knight, Chairperson, Archives Committee.

POSITION SOUGHT

Architectural Historian. Education: Carleton University, Bachelor of Art History, 1975; Museum Correspondence Course, 1975. Work Experience: Slide and Photo Department, National Art Gallery, Ottawa, filing photos; Action Sandy Hill, Ottawa, researching historic structures; Canadian Inventory of Historic Building, cataloguing photographs of historic structures. Available September 1976. Halina Jeletzky, 500 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Ottawa, K1S 3N4 416-236-5281.

1977 SSAC Annual Meeting

The 1977 Annual Meeting will be held in late May or early June at the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, New Brunswick. The topic of the sessions will be Transportation Architecture in Canada. Members who wish to present a paper may send a proposal to the chairperson of the meeting, SSAC, Vice-President, Mrs. Lynne D. DeStefano, Brescia College, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario.

WORK IN PROGRESS/TRAVAIL EN COURS

General Studies

Douglas S. Richardson, University of Toronto, A Concise History of Canadian Architecture

Regional Studies

Newfoundland:

George Kapelos, Shane O'Dea, Douglas Richardson, Newfoundland Architecture Before the Second World War.

British Columbia:

Martin Segger, Victoria: A Survey of Historic Buildings in Five Walking/Driving Tours.

Individual Architects

Shirley Moniss, "The Church Architecture of F. W. Cumberland" (MA Thesis).
John Pratt, "The Work of Ralph Adams Cram and Albert Kahn in Walkerville, Ontario, 1902-1906" (MA Thesis).
Martin Segger, "The Vancouver Work of Samuel Maclure"
Christopher Thomas, "Thomas Fuller" (MA Thesis), University of Toronto.

Building Types

Diana Bodnar, "The Provincial Legislative Buildings of Western Canada: A Discussion of Style and Image" (MA Thesis).
Martin Segger, Institutional Architecture in British Columbia.
Anne Gillispie, Carleton University, "Rural Domestic Architecture in Quebec", (Honours research)

Shane O'Dea, Department of English, Memorial University, St. John's Newfoundland

LIVRES/BOOKS

"New Life for an Old Building" and "New Headquarters for Government Ministry". Articles on the restoration of the Langevin Block and the La Salle Academy in Ottawa. The Dispatch, Winter 1975, published by the Department of Public Works, Ottawa.

"Vie nouvelle pour un vieil édifice" à Ottawa, on est à restaurer l'édifice Langevin, destiné à devenir à la fois monument historique et immeuble à bureaux modernes. La Dépêche, Hiver 1975, Ministère fédéral des Travaux publics, Ottawa.

Photogrammetric Surveys of Monuments and Sites: Proceedings of the First International Symposium, Athen, 1974, edited by John Badekas, North-Holland Publishing Company, Amsterdam and New York, 1975, \$17.95.

Visible Landscapes of the Past

Abstracts of the Special Session of the Canadian Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, Laval University, Quebec, May 26, 1976. The session dealt with historical architecture, town planning and landscape architecture, 20 pages, illustrations. Copies are available from Darrell Norres and Victor Konrad, Department of Geography, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

A Feast of Gingerbread from our Victorian Past - Pâtisserie maison, Montréal 1870-1900, Warwick and Beth Hatton, Traduction de René Chicoine, Tundra Books/Les livres Tundra, Montréal, 1976, 95 pp., \$9.95.

Winnipeg's Historic Warehouse Area. A Report prepared for Heritage Canada and the Manitoba Historical Society, Marc Denheq, Dr. George R. Fuller, Jonas Lehrman, Randolph Rosticki, William Paul Thompson, Winnipeg, 1976, 120 pages. Manitoba Historical Society, 190 Rupert Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Cyclical Maintenance for Historic Buildings, Interagency Historic Architectural Services Program, Washington, 1976, 125 pages, \$2.00, Stock number 024-005-00637-1. Available from Superintendent of Documents, N.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C., 20402.

Preservation and Conservation: Principles and Practices

Proceedings of the North American International Regional Conference held in Williamsburg, Virginia and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September, 1972 sponsored by the International Centre Committee and International Centre. The proceedings are available for \$15.00 from the Preservation Book Store, The National Trust for Historic Preservation, 740-748 Jackson Place N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

MEETINGS/REUNION

New Life for Old Buildings. Sponsored by the Frontenac Historic Foundation, Heritage Canada, and the Ontario Heritage Foundation, September 9-11, 1976 in Kingston, Ontario. The symposium will deal with identification and documentation of heritage structures, protection of heritage property, options in treating heritage structures, developing a program, funding preservation and area conservation. Registration fee is \$20.00 Limited to 100 people. Contact New Life for Old Buildings P.O. Box 27, Kingston Ontario K7L 4V6

Association for Preservation Technology
September 29 - October 2, 1976, Hamilton and Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.
For further information contact APT. Executive Secretary, Box 2487, Station D, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5W6

Réunion annuelle de Héritage Canada
18 septembre 1976, Auditorium du Couvent Soeurs Grises, Montréal, Québec;
Pour plus de renseignements: Héritage Canada, Case postale 1358, Station B, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5R4

Heritage Canada Annual Meeting, September 18, 1976, Auditorium of the Grey Nuns' Convent, Montreal, Quebec. Contact Heritage Canada, P.O. Box 1358, Station B, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5R4

Icomos - Colloque sur les restaurations françaises et la charte de Venise, 13 - 16 octobre 1976, Paris; organisé par la section française de Icomos, 62 rue St. Antoine, 75004, Paris

ICOMOS Symposium, French Restorations and the Venice Charter, October 13-16, 1976, Paris. Organized by the French Section of ICOMOS, 62, rue Saint Antoine, 75004, Paris.

Icomos - Colloque international
l'Héritage industriel et notre société moderne, 22 - 26 septembre 1976. Ecomusée de la Communauté Urbaine le Creusot, Monceau les Mines, chemin de la Verrerie, Le Creusot, France

ICOMOS/ICOM International Seminars, Industrial Heritage and Modern Society, September 22-26, 1976, Ecomusée de la communauté urbaine le Creusot Montceau les Mines, chemin de la Verrerie, Le Creusot, France.

Symposium international Icomos
Vie nouvelle dans les villes historiques,
30 septembre - 5 octobre 1976; Prague et Bratislava, Tchécoslovaquie

ICOMOS International Symposium New Life in Historic Towns, September 30-October 5, 1976, Prague and Bratislava Czechoslovakia.

COURSES/COURS

Deterioration of Wood: Causes, Prevention, and Care. Association for Preservation Technology September 27-29, 1976, Hamilton, Ontario. The tuition for the course is \$300. This covers the course, hotel accommodations and two meals per day. Topics include field identification of wood, fungi and insect pests, fungicides and pesticides, preventative measures and rehabilitation of deteriorated wood. Contact APT Course Administrator, Box 2487, Station D, Ottawa K1P 5W6

Architectural Photography of Historic Structures, September 10 - 15 1976, Winona School of Professional Photography, Winona Lake, Indiana. The course is sponsored by the Professional Photographers of America and the United States Park Service. Tuition is \$200.00. For further information contact Winona School of Professional Photography, College Avenue and 13th Street, Winona Lake, Indiana 45690, 219-267-7197.

Technical Preservation of Historic Structures Seminar, September 7 - 12, 1976 and Management of Historic Restorations Seminar, September 13-18, 1976. Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta. Contact George Moore, Cultural Resource Management Program, Banff Centre, Banff, Alberta, T0C 0C0

Readings on Canadian Architecture:
The Age of Confederation: 1867-1918

The following readings are ones I have found useful in teaching a course in the history of Canadian architecture to first year graduate students. Thanks are due to Douglas Richardson for his helpful suggestions.

The profession and architecture education

Capper, S.E., (Prof. at McGill), "University training in architecture," Canadian Architect and Builder, v. XV, 1902, pp. 9-11. architectural education as a liberal academic discipline.

Gambier-Bousfielf, R.W., "Responsibilities of Students," Canadian Architect and Builder, v. II, Feb. 1889, p. 17-18. on the role and import of history of architecture.

"Competitions," Canadian Architect and Builder, v. II, Jan. on the unfair nature of many competitions which cost architects dearly.

Baillarge, C., "A School of Art," Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, v. 1, 1887, pp. 68-76. a statement of a program for a school of art.

"Proposed Canadian Architectural Association," and draft of Ontario Association constitution, Canadian Architect and Builder, v. II, Feb. 1889 pp. 19-20; and March 1889, pp. 29-30.

The technologies of architecture

"Structural work in America," Canadian Architect and Builder, v. XV, 1902, pp. 144. on tall building structure of metal frame

"Warehouse construction," Canadian Architect and Builder, v. XVIII, 1904, p. 103-104. suggests the best method of "fire-proof" construction.

Frood, Thos., "The Power of the Future," Canadian Engineer, v. IV, 1896, p. 132f. on the need and advantage of flexible power transmission.

Armstrong, F.C., "The Hamilton Radial Electric Railway," Canadian Engineer, v. IV, 1896.

Stuart, Howard M., "Construction of the Canadian Pacific Grain Elevators," Canadian Society of Engineers, v. I, 1887, pp. 24-35. an account of the physical construction.

Buildings for a variety of institutions

Richardson, Douglas, "A Blessed Sense of Civic Excess," in Bebout, Richard, The Open Gate: Toronto Union Station, Toronto, 1972, pp. 67-95 and 119-121. describes the design and precedents for such station buildings.

Dalman, Harold, The Railway Hotels and the Development of the Chateau Style in Canada, Victoria, 1968. on this "national" style and its spread by railway architects.

"Grand Trunk Railway Improvements," Canadian Engineer, v. IV, 1896, pp. 286-288. a brief account of station and shop architecture.

Hubbard, R. H., "Canadian Gothic," Architectural Review, n. 116, Aug. 1954, pp. 102-108. a description of the first major monuments of the Gothic Revival including University College, Toronto and Parliament Buildings, Ottawa.

"The School House and its Architecture," Journal of Education, Ontario v. XXIII, n. 2, Feb. 1870, pp. 17-24. describes several designs for school houses.

Urban design and settlement patterns

Langton, W. A., "High Building," Canadian Architect and Builder, v. XVI, 1903, pp. 63-64. on how building density must be limited by municipal legislation.

"Architects and Landscape Architects," Canadian Architect and Builder, v. XV, 1902, p. 82. an argument for the primacy of the architect.

Simpson, John W., "The Planning of Cities and Public Spaces," Canadian Architect and Builder, v. XVIII, 1905, p. 76. on city planning as an art.

Warkentin, John, "Time and Place in the Western Interior," Arts Canada, nos. 169-171 (special issue), 1972, pp. 20-37. on residential and farm construction and settlement for 1800-1900 in the prairies.

If you have readings on Canadian architecture that you have found especially helpful please communicate your suggestions to Professor William P. Thompson, Faculty of Architecture, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg R3T 2N2, Canada.

Readings on Canadian architecture:
the Modern Age 1918-1975

The following readings are ones I have found useful in teaching a course in the history of Canadian architecture to first year graduate students. Thanks are due to Douglas Richardson for his helpful suggestions. For major works on Canadian architecture see Harold Kalman, "Recent Literature on the History of Canadian Architecture," Journal of Society of Architectural Historians, v. 31 n. 4 Dec. 1972, pp. 315-323. The citations under each section appear in chronological order from the present to Great War.

A. The profession and architectural education

Drickson, Arthur, Habitation, Space, Design and Dilemma, Ottawa, CHUC, 1965.

Thrift, Eric W., "Community Aesthetics", RAIC Journal, Feb. 1951, pp. 23-25 and p. 46
on control by public agencies of the quality of physical environment.

Mathers, A. S., "Thirty-five years of Practice", RAIC Journal, v. 32 n. 12, pp. 462-464.
describes the changes in the profession and conditions of practice in Ontario 1919-54

Russell, John, "Canadian Architecture," Queen's Quarterly, v. 62 n. 2, 1955/6, p. 233-242.
a broad consideration of the state of the state of Canadian architecture in light of the Massey Commission.

Nobbs, Percy, "University Education in Architecture," RAIC Journal, v. 2, Mar./Apr. 1925, pp. 68-71 and 106-109.

B. The technologies of architecture

Lehrman, Jonas, "Centennial Hall, University of Winnipeg," Canadian Architect, March 1973, pp. 32-36.
describes the design program and the unique solution for an urban university in a centre city location.

Wright, Bruce H., "Prefabrication," RAIC Journal, Sept. 1943, pp. 159-160
a thoughtful appraisal of the possibilities of prefab housing taking a share of the building market.

Legget, R. F., "review of Climate and Architecture by Jeffr y Aronin," RAIC Journal, June 1955, pp. 233-236.
a critical review of the book from a Canadian viewpoint.

Armstrong, W.J., "Service Engineering in Relation to Architectural Economics," RAIC Journal, v. 11, 1934, p. 179-181.

an argument for servicing as a major part of architecture.

Lassere, F., "Modern Architecture, the New Aesthetics and Concrete," RAIC Journal, v. 15, 1938, p. 145-147.
an argument by a progressive of the potential of "the new aesthetic" illustrated by the work of Lubetkin and Tecton.

C. Domestic architecture and housing

Fraser, John, "Edmonton could have had another high-rise," Toronto Globe and Mail, 20 Nov. 1972, p. 7.
on the Barton and Myers design for HUB, University of Alberta student housing complex.

Prince, Samuel H., "Co-operative Housing", RAIC Journal, Sept. 1943, pp. 156-158.
a capsule history of co-op housing in Canada and elsewhere and a suggested approach to housing in Canada.

Izumi, K., "The Architect and Residential Zoning," RAIC Journal, May 1952, pp. 151-153.
a criticism of zoning and a call for performance standards for zoning.

"Proposed Low-Cost Housing Development of the City of Winnipeg," RAIC Journal, v. 11, 1934 pp. 109-112.

D. Urban design

Nader, George A., "The City Centre," in Cities of Canada, Toronto, 1975, pp. 89-126.

J.M., "To save a fabric," Progressive Architecture, May 1973, pp. 80-85.
on residential block development:
Hydro Block, Dundas Sherbourne in-fill projects.

Woodsworth, Charles J., "Is the National Capital Plan Succeeding?", RAIC Journal, Nov. 1955, pp. 431-432.

Cauchon, Noulan, "Town Planning," RAIC Journal, v.3, July/Aug. 1926, pp. 165-170.
the first major article on the subject in this journal and an outline of the principles of town planning.

Moorhouse, Walter, "Building Height Limitations in Downtown Districts," RAIC Journal, v. 1, Apr./June 1924, pp. 57-59 and Oct./Dec. 1924, pp. 133-135.

William Thompson, Faculty of Architecture, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba

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