

**"The real environment,** the one in which the architect has no voice." That's what Ian Davidson calls this world of drive-in, instant commerce. See Opinion, page 2.

# Architecture Canada

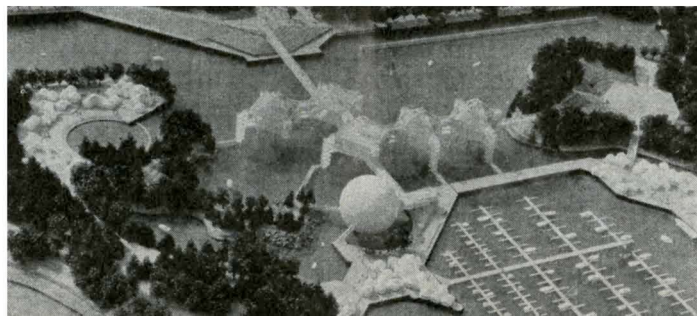
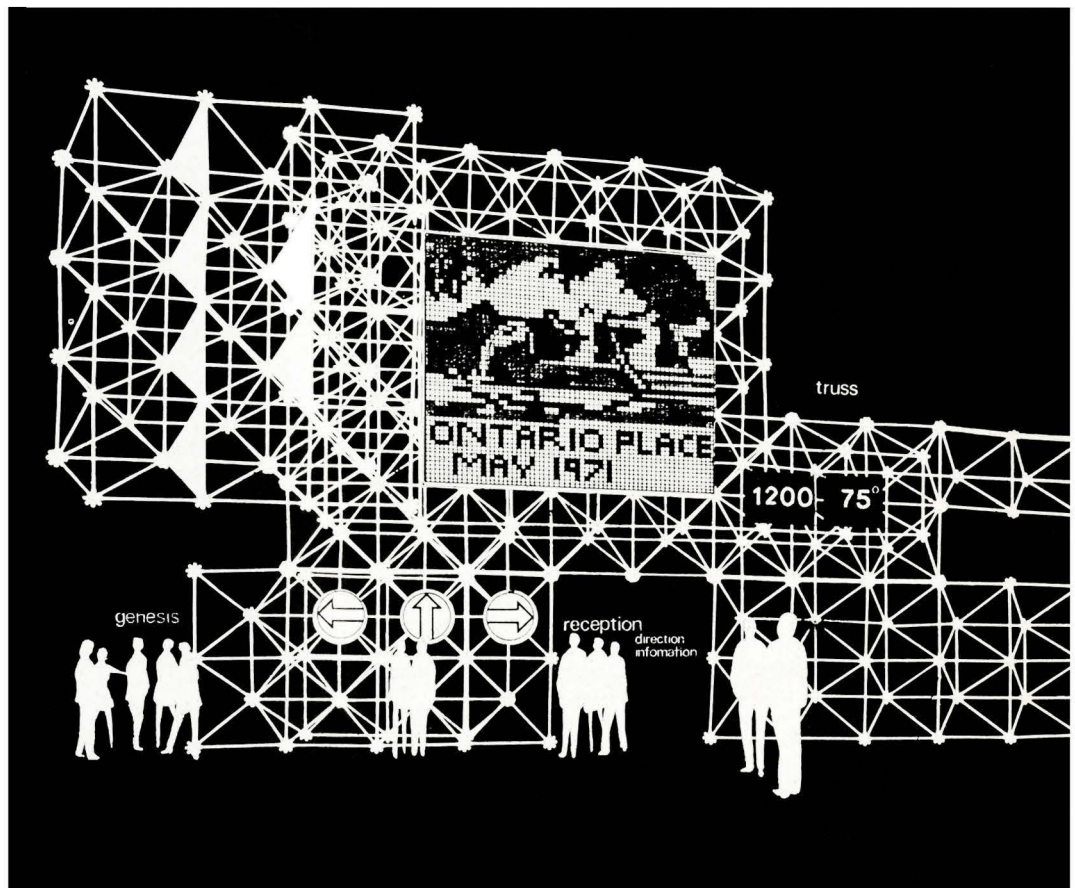
**NEWSMAGAZINE**

Published every two weeks by RAIC/IRAC August 10, 1970

## Ontario Place – its standing and growing

A giant, exposed "information brain" will be the first sight to confront visitors as they step into the exhibit area of Ontario Place. It's part of the total concept for the interior of the Ontario Government's 80-acre complex for the Canadian National Exhibition on Toronto's waterfront. Exhibit design by Stewart and Morrison is now well underway.

The project, unveiled a little over a year ago by architects Craig, Zeidler and Strong, consists of five multi-level 'pods' linked to each other and to four artificial islands. A sixth element will be a dome, housing a total film environment. The first of the five pods contains the 100' x 30' welcome wall (right), a 4-ft. modular grid which accommodates a variety of plug-in communications devices beaming information about weather, temperature, activities within the complex etc. Behind the wall is Pod One's second exhibit area, 'Genesis' (visitors will walk up a ramp through the back of the wall to get there). Pod Two will be a restaurant (to be open all year); pods three, four and five take visitors through stages of Ontario development to present times, plus giving some glimpses of the future. A brief pod-by-pod tour appears on pages 4 and 5.





## OPINION

### The Architect and the Environment

*"A clock, looked at from the side, does not tell the time"*

Marcel Duchamp.

The environment, looked at from almost any side, does not tell much about the architect. If we want to change this situation, the architect will have to move from the retinal, renaissance, aesthetic world he now occupies into one which fuses perception with thought, instead of keeping them separate.

We still are largely concerned with the creation and manipulation of forms and symbols without much concern for their content or appropriateness or even their social consequences (urban renewal projects, monumental buildings, for example). It is as though we have an alphabet but little understanding of language or word-formation. This situation is quite reversed in the non-architect designed environment. The alphabet (form and symbols) is clear and the language (built-form) readily understandable, though to us often crass, vulgar but usually vital.

This environment of shops, drive-in-everythings, car dealers – suppliers – parkers, theatres, commercial facilities is the real environment and one in which the architect has practically no voice. Perhaps this is because we look, as McLuhan says, through the rear-view mirror for our solutions, whereas the environment-without-architects accepts the present and presages the future, however clumsy or un-aesthetic it may appear to us. It seems that we need a building language based on rational thinking, on a knowledge of behavioral patterns, on a real understanding of political and social processes and which will be, above all, of meaning to the people who use the environment.

In this respect, the work of Christopher Alexander, Robert Sommer, Edward Hall and Rudolph Arnheim, to name but a few, is most instructive. Alexander's development of a system of patterns based directly on observed conditions, and his attempts to architecturally relate these patterns, has produced a whole new way of thinking. His proposal for low-cost high-density housing in Peru is a brilliant example of this. Robert Sommer, a psychologist at the University of California at Berkeley, in his book "Personal Space" demonstrates this need to base design on behavior. Edward Hall, in many publications, over and over shows us the results of disconnecting man from his senses. Many architects still don't understand this and are consequently puzzled when their much-praised (usually by architects or art critics only) projects generate or amplify ugly social or political problems.

Alexander, Hall and Sommer have shown us the way to creating for the architect, a much larger and more meaningful role in environmental matters if he wants to see the light. If he does not, then incestuous award programs like the Massey Medals will go on praising the purely retinal, the currently fashionable in architectural good taste (the surest way to oblivion for the non-creative) while the architectural ship sinks unnoticed in the neon-studded, drive-in-raped, car-polluted but terribly real environment of today.

Ian Davidson, Vancouver

### Massey Medals — isolated monsters make good photographs

After much soul searching I decided to return my Massey Medal Competition Portfolio uncompleted. I did not enter the Massey Medal photography competition in 1970, probably I shall never enter again. It seems so irrelevant; all these photographs, medals, pomp and ceremony. What has it done for architecture? In what way has it made building more useable?

Very few people on the street even know what Massey Medals are. The papers give them very little coverage. Architects collect them like Zulus collect sharks teeth. I once tried to pawn mine; it wasn't worth the trouble.

Buildings haven't changed because building programs haven't changed. Programs haven't changed because the social conditions that form their contents are still straining under the habits of twenty years ago.

*Opinions on this and other topics are welcomed. Contributions to this column should not exceed 450 words (two double-spaced type-written pages) and should be sent to A/C's editorial offices at 56 Esplanade East, Toronto 1.*

The Hawthorne experiment proved that the well-being of people is not as dependent upon the physical environment as it is dependent upon peoples' involvement in the decision making process of the forces that affect them. In this context, what meaning do Massey Medals have?

There are many virtuosos in the art of building form. Concrete walls slope in all directions, amounting to the same thing. Pristine, isolated monsters, unuseable before they are finished. Isolated by their lot lines, they make good photos. They turn their backs on the city. We hurt when they bump into us. When the exhibition is on and the medals have been won, we'll see them lined up there – just the same as nearly twenty years ago. Isn't it boring.

Roger Kemble, Vancouver

## SEMINARS

An English-language seminar on

Finnish architecture and urban planning will be held in Helsinki August 24–September 4. The theme: "Is Planning Organized Destruction?"

The seminar, lead by architect Egil Nordin, will be held in conjunction with a meeting of the Association of Designers. Contact Mrs. Riitta Skogstrom, Assoc. of Finnish Architects, Unioninkatu 30, Helsinki.

A building science seminar, presented by the Division of Building Research of the National Research Council will deal with recently developed concepts of fire safety in high-rise buildings. Two identical seminars will be held in Ottawa, September 21/23, and 24/25. The same seminar will be offered in Calgary, October 14/15. Contact L. P. Ruddy, administrative officer, Division of Building Research, National Research Council, Ottawa 7.

The 1970 Canadian Education Showplace, to be held October 22/24 in Toronto's Exhibition Park will feature a three-day conference on school construction, and an exhibition of school architecture. Contact program chairman Frank Nicol, MRAIC, c/o Industrial and Trade Shows of Canada, 481 University Ave., Toronto 2.

## EDUCATION

### Environmental studies – a new Faculty for York

A new approach to the study of man in relation to his environment will be tried at Toronto's York University this fall. Fifty or sixty graduate students with varied backgrounds of education will have the opportunity not only to explore how to improve the environment but, in an objective scientific way, to investigate how the environment operates.

Special attention will be given to analyzing and synthesizing the links between various fields of study. Prof. Alex Murray, chairman of the council of the new Faculty, calls this approach an "offshoot of the ecological way of looking at the world". There has been a tendency, he says, "to study and classify, but this concentration on connections could almost be seen as a study in itself".

York University has always attempted to encourage interdisciplinary studies, and this, according to Murray, is one reason the faculty's free-wheeling approach has a good chance of success. (A similar program tried at the University of California at Berkeley didn't really get off the ground). The other advantage for the York program is that there is no "encrusted tradition". The new Faculty will be able to administer itself with no inherited arrangements.

Eligible for entry are students from any university with the equivalent of a B-standing in any field. The way enrollment is going, Murray feels the group will consist of students with extremely varied backgrounds – there are already graduates in

geography, law, architecture, history, biology and sociology. These students will be able to work within the Faculty plus take courses in other Faculties. The program should take three years to complete, but that again depends on the student.

As a liaison with the environmental professions, a special division has been set up within the Faculty. Its purpose is to assist professions in determining what they want in graduates and to develop programs of study for professionals after graduation.

Dr. Gerald Carrothers, a former member of Central Mortgage and Housing's advisory group was appointed dean in 1968. He was born in Saskatoon and prior to his term at CMHC he was the first director of the University of Pennsylvania's Institute for Environmental Studies.

### Continuing education in city planning

A correspondence course in planning is being offered by the University of California in Berkeley.

The program has been designed for those unable to take an advanced degree but who still wish to further their professional education. Participants may take either one or all of four core courses in planning theory and practice; by adding electives, they may work towards a city planning certificate.

Instruction will be by directed reading and writing assignments, with regular correspondence between student and instructor. Each core course takes from six to eight months. Cost for each is \$250.

Deadline for enrolment is September 30. For more information write Mr. Jones, c/o Independent Study, University Extension, University of California, Berkeley, Calif. 94720.



Architecture Canada is published every two weeks by the 5th Company (Greey de Pencier Publications Ltd.) for the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada / l'Institut Royal d'Architecture du Canada. The Company also publishes Architecture Canada Directory.

RAIC/IRAC office 151 Slater Street, Ottawa 4. William N. Greer, MRAIC, chairman RAIC publications board.

Subscriptions are \$10 a year.

Architecture Canada editorial, circulation and advertising offices are at 56 Esplanade St. E., Toronto 1 416-364-3333.

5th Company editorial committee: Annabel Sleight, Patrick Hailstone, Ron Butler, Janeva Van Buren, Michael de Pencier.

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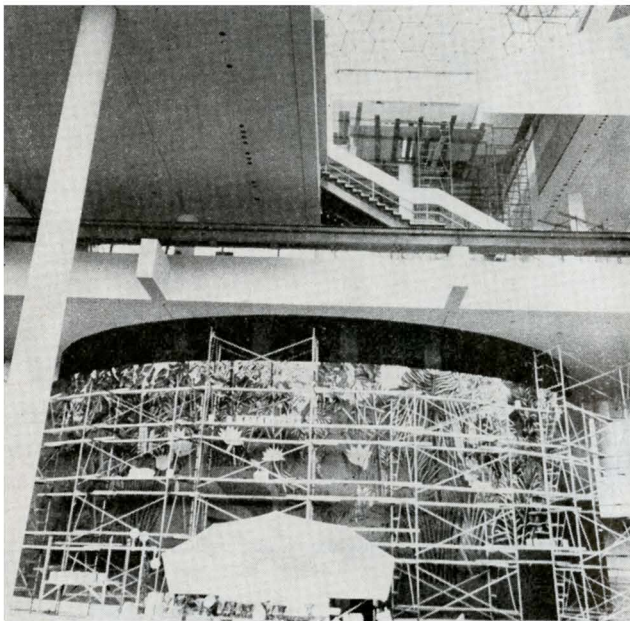
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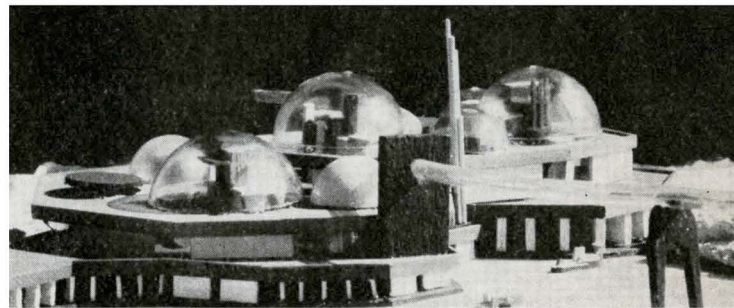




**Habisphere**, is University of British Columbia architectural students' solution to cutting housing costs. The 32-ft. geodesic dome encloses the same amount of floor space as a conventional three-bedroom house and uses only one quarter the amount of lumber. The lumber itself is also experimental – a peeled laminated type being developed by the Forest Products Lab of the Canadian Forestry Service. The dome is – hopefully – the first stage of a project being directed by Prof. B. Paul Wisnicki (right, with Forest Lab rep.) If sufficient grants are forthcoming, the next problem to tackle is "skin" and floors.



**Speaking of domes, artist Anthony Miles camped in one** for ten days while he painted this 70-foot composite mural of three Henri Rousseau paintings (*Snake Charmer*, *The Dream*, and *The Jungle*). It was an assignment by designer Norman Hay of Robin Bush and Associates who are redesigning part of the interior of Man and His World's Biosphere (formerly Bucky's dome at Expo '67). Of his experience in a controlled environment, Miles says, "the rain came down in sheets".



**An enclosed total-energy community** for the north has been developed by Montreal Engineering to show the possibilities for building controlled environments under harsh climatic conditions. It would be supported on piles to avoid disturbing the permafrost, and the raised platform would be heated to prevent the accumulation of snow. The company calls the city's domes "reminiscent of an Eskimo village".

## COMPETITIONS

### Italian redevelopment

The first prize-winner in a new international competition for the design of a block plan for a commercial/residential area in the Italian city of Perugia will receive \$19,500, plus the job as consultant for part of the scheme.

Participants are being invited to submit designs for a system of private and public offices plus business, recreational and hotel premises for an area in the town's Fontivegge-Bellocchio district. The winner could also be appointed consultant to the firm Industrie Buitoni for the design

of its offices in the district.

Architects and engineers, either singly or in groups are eligible for entry. The jury will be composed of: architects W. Ostrowski, Poland; Sir Robert Matthew, UK; R. Von Steinbuchel-Rheinwall, Germany, G. De Carlo and L. Barbiano du Belgiojoso, Italy; and engineers T. Inouye, Japan; and P. Torta, Italy.

Applications for conditions are now available from Concorso Internazionale Fontivegge-Bellocchio, Comune di Perugia, 06100. Last date for receipt of applications is September 19; for payment of the \$40 registration fee, October 5; for questions, November 19; answers,

December 19; and despatch of entries, May 19, 1971.

Second prize will be \$16,250; third prize, \$13,000; fourth, \$8,125. Another \$16,000 has been set aside for a minimum of four "mentions".

## AWARDS

### CMHC Scholarships

Seven students from across Canada are visiting major North American cities this summer as winners of the 1970 Central Mortgage and Housing travelling scholarships.

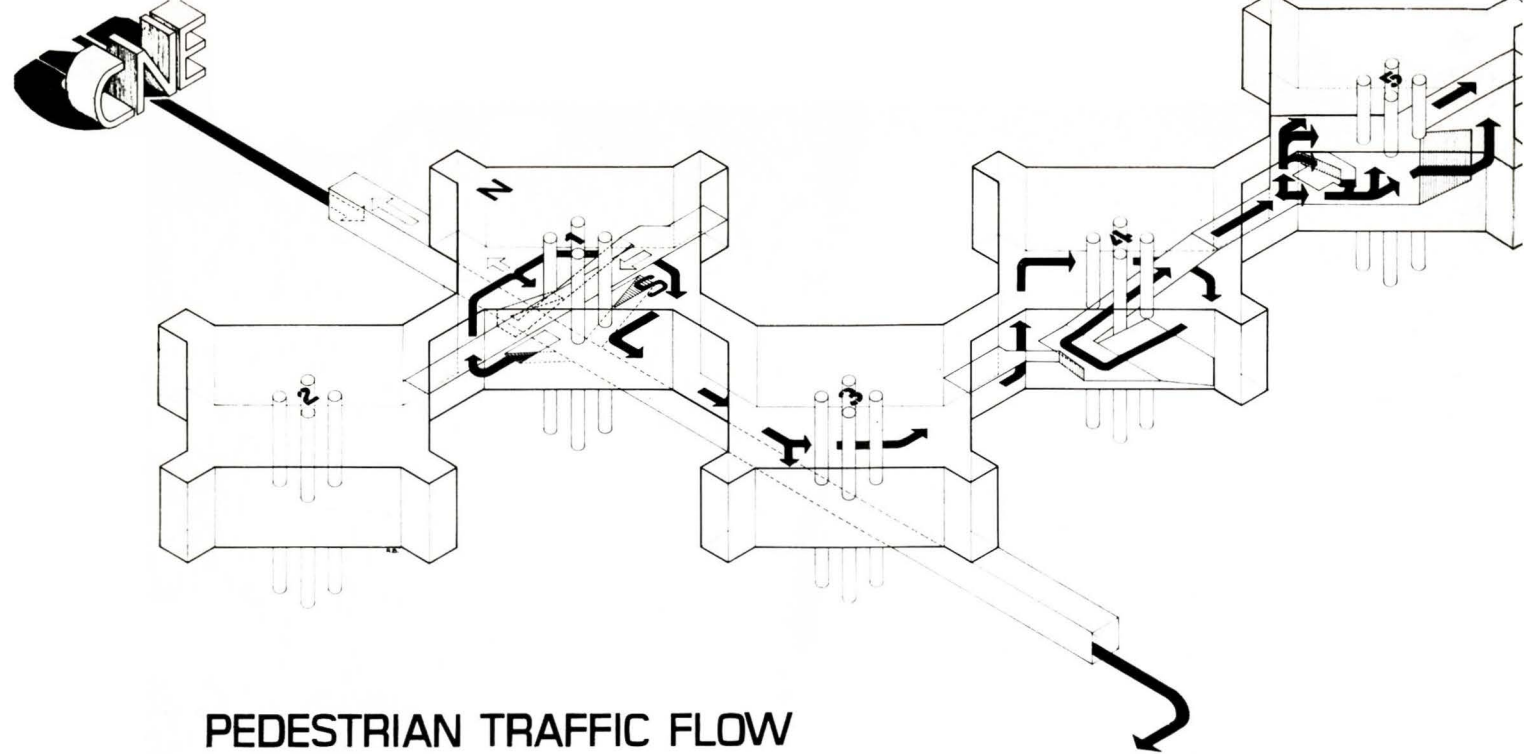
The tour winds up in Ottawa where the students will work in CMHC's head office for eight weeks.

Each will be required to write a report on the tour and the work experience.

These awards are made annually to architectural students interested in housing who have high scholastic standings and who are entering their final year.

This year's winners are: Philip M. Pratt, St. John's, Nfld. (University of British Columbia); Malcolm A. Candler, Winnipeg (University of Manitoba); Michael Geller, Downsview, Ont. (University of Toronto); Laurent Goulard, Hull, Qué. (McGill University); Miss Marie Josée Dufresne, Montréal (University of Montréal); Jean-Claude Gauthier,





## PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC FLOW

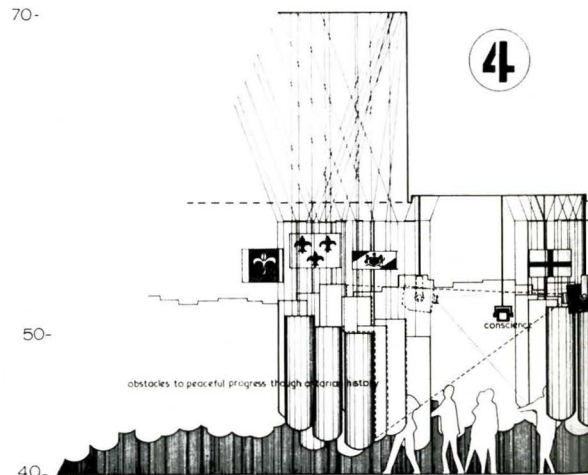
### Ontario Place – a preview tour

Pod One South: After the welcome wall (Pod One North – p. 1) is Genesis, an area crammed with huge, partially inflated forms. Projected images tell the story of the earth's birth (complete with flames) through its phases of evolution to the formation of the Ontario landscape. One exits, through the forest, to Pod Three, a magic box entitled Explosions. The visitor is now in a controlled area where he will remain for ten minutes. The structure (8-foot modular boxes) fades into the background, and movies slides and artifacts give a feeling of the explosiveness of Ontario's economic development. Pod 4, Ontario Style, traces Ontario's development from the spiritual point of view. The visitor wanders between images projected on canvas bags suspended from the ceiling. He can, for example, push his way through troops to the front lines of wars (complete with sound effects) or stroll at will through forest areas. In Pod Five, Challenges, the visitor is encouraged to see and touch artifacts as well as view movies re-emphasizing his earlier experiences.

Stewart and Morrison have purposely played down advanced technology, and used standard equipment in inventive ways, in the hope that content, more than exhibition techniques, will be memorable.

Total cost of the exhibit areas is \$2.5 million. The pavilion itself will cost \$5 million. Don't get too impatient to get there: it doesn't open until May next year.

70-



## SOCIO-POLITICAL

Shawinigan, Qué. (Laval University); Donald A. Cormier, Toronto (Nova Scotia Technical College).

Tour leader is Prof. Warren Chalk of the School of Architecture, McGill University.

### New design award

The role of management in advancing good design is to be recognized by a new National Design Council Award.

The Council hopes by this to make management in industry more de-

sign conscious. (Existing programs already honor designers and manufacturers of well-designed products).

One award only will be made this year.

### RESEARCH

CMHC study supports low-profile housing trend

Add "low-profile" to the architectural vocabulary. It's a type of housing that has been showing up in an

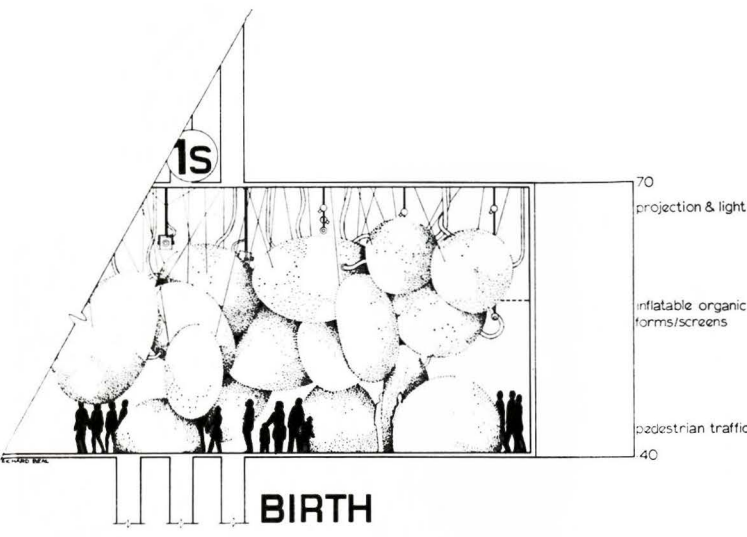
increasing number of thoughtful suggestions on how to achieve high density without going high-rise (eg: Habitat, Harbor City).

A two-year \$100,000 Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation study by a team of architects and sociologists adds support to the idea.

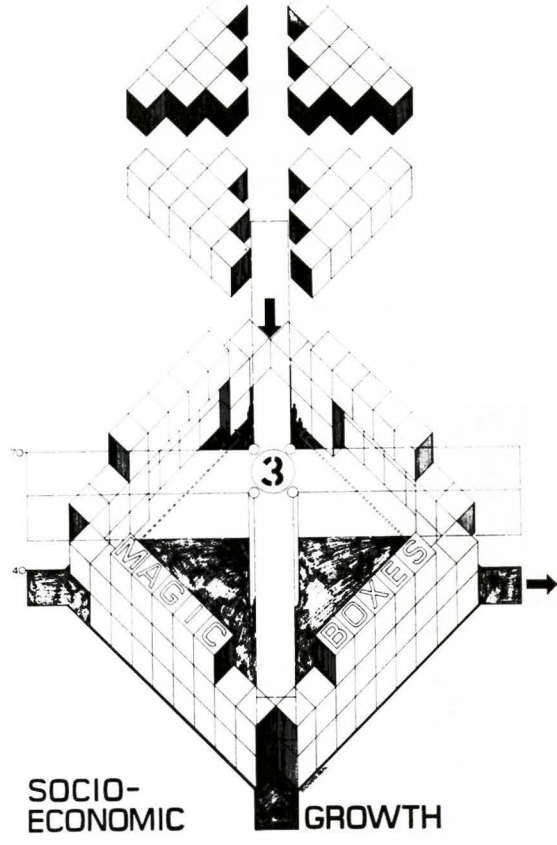
Contrary to the popular opinion that high-rise apartments are the answer to housing problems, the study finds, the amenities of the preferred single-family home can be maintained and costs kept down through low-rise densities up to 40

units per acre (ten times the detached home standard).

"This demolishes the main argument against low-rise in urban areas: its allegedly greater land area requirement," says architect A. J. Diamond, who headed the study group. Many present high-rise apartments have densities of only 60 units per acre, he points out. By discarding "conventional thinking" about housing, densities can be increased without affecting liveability. "But land use planning must not be separated from architectural



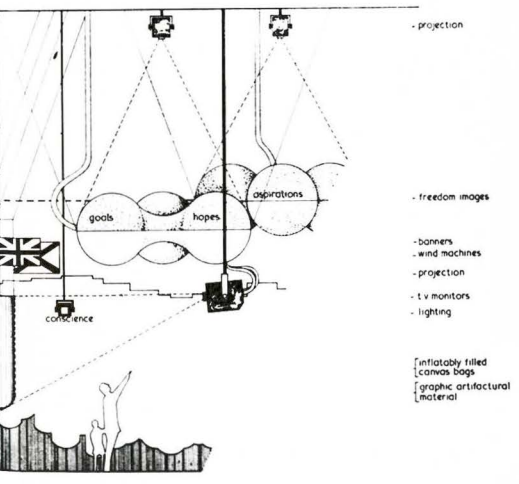
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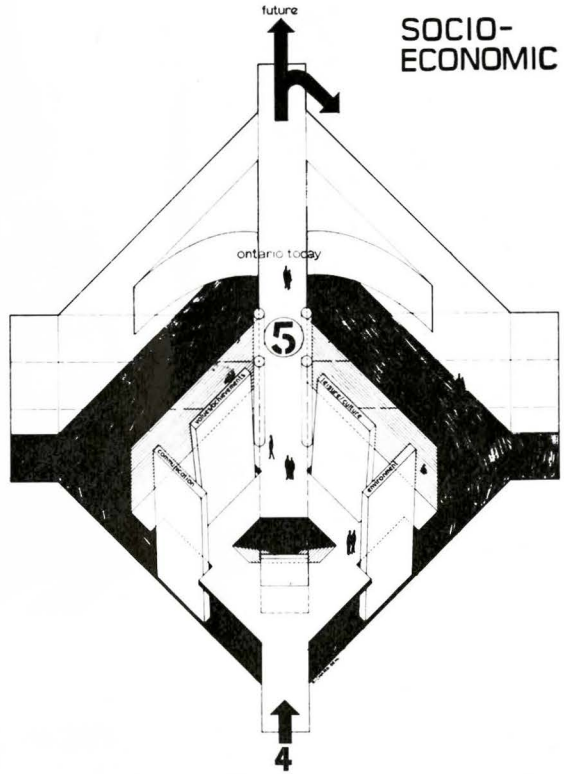
SOCIO-ECONOMIC

GROWTH

**CHALLENGE**



**CONFLICT**



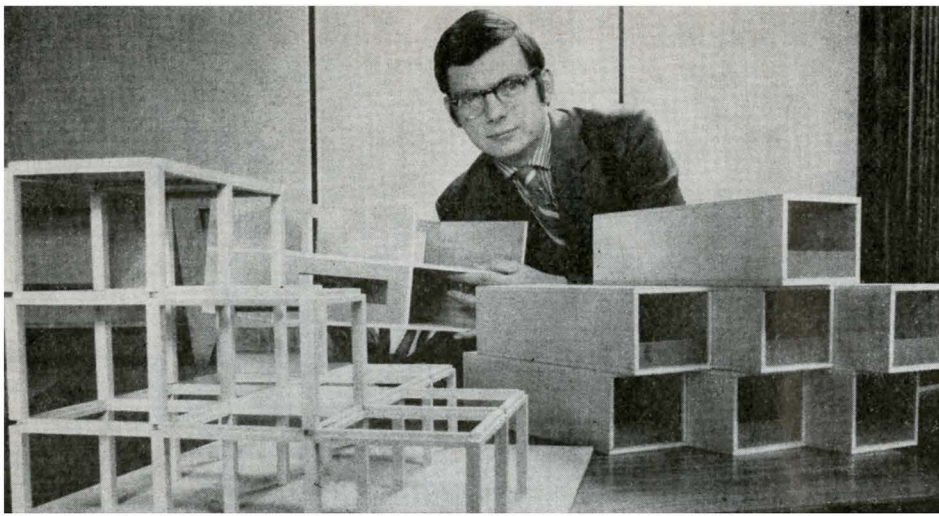
implications," he cautions.  
 A prototype designed by the group meets all the requirements needed to make multi-family dwelling liveable, which were suggested by housewives to sociologists working on the study: 1) As much personal space outdoors as in; 2) A separate unshared entrance; 3) A high level of natural light. Although the building has six storeys, each attached unit is no further than one floor from parking and communal space; each has its own outdoor space and an easy view of

shared space for children's play.  
 Costs should be comparable to high-rise buildings, Diamond says. He is now teaching in the new environmental studies program at York University (p.2) in addition to carrying on his practice with Barton Myers.  
 Architectural students to catalogue historic buildings  
 Forty university students are engaged in the most ambitious study of old buildings ever undertaken in

Canada. "They will seek out those which give the country its special flavor", says University of Toronto, Professor of Architecture, James Acland, who is directing the project.  
 The purpose of the three-phase, ten-year task, sponsored by the Dept. of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, is to find out what truly historical buildings there are in Canada, where they are and how best to use them.  
 A total of some 12,000 buildings are now being searched out and catalogued using forms and tech-

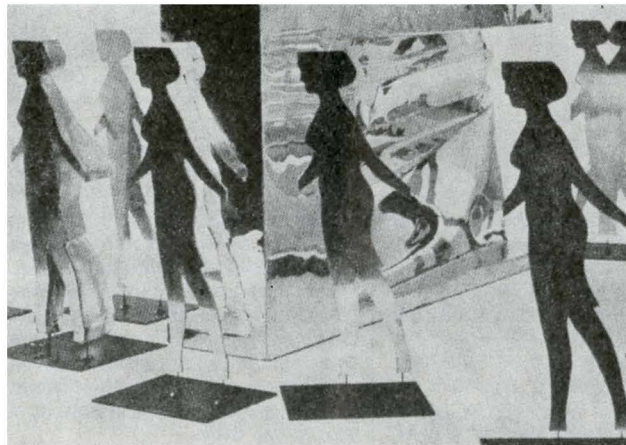
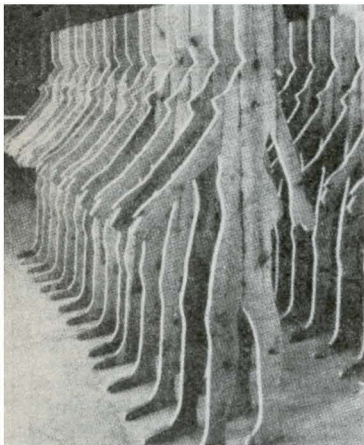
niques developed by Professor Acland. He feels that older neighborhoods have certain desirable characteristics not found in new high-rise developments. He hopes that by studying old areas, ways may be found to improve life in new developments.  
 "What we are fighting for is a mixture of all kinds of downtown buildings—old and new—to give a varied fabric to the city. We are not out to stop progress," he says.  
 Phase two will study the interiors and architectural details of 10,000





**Three basic forms of standardized structure** predominate in modern building systems; frame (foreground), panel (rear) and box (right). Peter Barnard, president of a consulting engineering firm which undertook a major study of system building for Ontario Housing Corporation, is due to hand in his report this month.

**A new transportation concept** for high density urban areas, called Synchroveyor, has been designed by the latest recipient of a \$2,000 commission in Alcoa's Ventures in Design program. The system, by American designer Larry Bell, consists of an endless train of short, rigid aluminum platform modules flexibly coupled end-to-end to form a closed loop. Passengers board and depart on lazy-Susan platforms. Local loops would operate at speeds from zero to 30 mph and encompass several city blocks. Express loops operating at a constant speed would service larger areas up to half a city.



**Walking women are walking** on both sides of the Atlantic. Left, a piece by Italian artist Mario Ceroli, right Michael Snow's famous girls. The intriguing question: who started walking first?

buildings selected from phase one. Phase three will research and document a "few thousand" buildings – the "cream" of phase two.

#### A process for site planning

Nova Scotia Technical College instructor Peter Jacobs is exploring the management of space and resources for human habitat.

He has completed the initial phase of his studies being funded by the Canada Council and has published his findings to date in a 144-page report.

Jacobs feels it is becoming increasingly important to construct models that allow predictive planning decisions to be made within the same time scale as physical change is produced. His objective is to develop tools, techniques and initiate appropriate linkages to activate a comprehensive site planning and design process.

Utilizing a prototype study area consisting of a system of watersheds at the urban fringe of Halifax, Jacobs outlines, in this first phase of study, the operational techniques he has used. By synthesizing the resource potential of the area and the existing and proposed regional demands for development, he has established a basis for alternate design proposals allocating land-use activities. He records his findings on a series of maps.

In subsequent reports, he will deal with aspects of design development, alternative strategies of implementation, and the evaluation of metropolitan user needs through mechanisms designed to utilize community participation and expertise.

#### PROJECTS

The "project team" approach will be used for the design and construction of a new \$6½-million facility for the Transportation and Industrial Power Technology Division of Centennial College in Scarborough, Ont.

The architectural firm appointed to the team is A.M. Ingleson, Architects, Toronto (formerly Abram and Ingleson). The firm has been involved in preparation of the college's master plan and is now coordinating its implementation.

The new administration and general purpose building, also to house shops and labs, will be completed in two stages – 120,000 sq. ft. by next September, the remaining 60,000 sq. ft. a year later.

A new chemistry building to be linked to the existing chemistry building by a five-storey skylighted concourse has been given the go-ahead for the University of Alberta, Edmonton. The concourse, part of the enclosed pedestrian network outlined in the university's long-range development plan (A/C4/13), will run the entire length of both buildings. There will be connections on all floors and offices and labs on the top four floors will have win-



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dows looking into the concourse. The main floor, open to the enclosed area, will house a lecture theatre and undergraduate labs. Architect is A. Steinbrecher of Eugene Oleskshy and Partners, Edmonton. Coordinating architects are Rhone and Iredale, Vancouver.

A 27-storey office building going up on the south side of King St. between York and University in Toronto will feature underground shopping and direct access to the subway system. Architects are Webb, Zerafa, Menkes. It will be the city's third largest office building (after the Toronto-Dominion Centre and Commerce Court).

## MAGAZINES

A new publication

*Architectural Research and Teaching, Volume 1, Number 1, May 1970, Published by RIBA Publications Ltd., 66 Portland Place, London W-1N 4AD. Subscription rate, overseas, 3 issues \$12.00.*

Architectural education in Britain has undergone a remarkable reformation over the past decade. It is therefore timely and interesting to review a new journal published in May for the Research Committee of the Royal Institute of British Architects which reflects some of these developments. The journal is aptly

titled *Architectural Research and Teaching*. It is certain to be enthusiastically received by all those on the academic side of architecture. As an indicator of current research activities and of educational problems and trends it ought to be of considerable interest and value to practicing architects and to research workers concerned with the built environment.

The aims of the journal are simply stated as providing an outlet for current research results and their application in design, practice and teaching; and to provide "a forum for research workers, practitioners, and teachers to discuss results and

techniques". The emphasis is on improving communication between teaching, research, and practice in their mutual commitment to the problems of the environment.

This first issue is an excellent demonstration of the purpose of and need for this type of publication. Appropriately the opening paper discusses problems of bringing research and practice closer together and offers some suggestions for accomplishing this. Of the remaining five papers two have a mainly pedagogical focus and three describe research studies on such varied topics as "Heat Islands in Cities", "Models: A Discussion", and "Room Classification". As the publicity announcement claims, the word "architecture" is not interpreted narrowly. The two papers discussing educational problems are especially noteworthy. When one considers the changes occurring in most schools of architecture today it is enlightening to read of some experimentation in education which is carefully planned, implemented, and evaluated; where educational innovation is itself the object of research. Hopefully *Architectural Research and Teaching* will maintain the balanced content shown in its first issue and implicit in its title by including reports of research on (as well as in) architectural education.

This new addition to the architectural literature has a lot in its favor: a rapidly growing supply of quality material deserving publication; a potentially large body of readers; and an able, vigorous and diversely talented management in its Editorial Board. The next issue will appear in November 1970; thereafter it is intended to publish three or four times each year. A useful review section is included which gives summaries of working papers available from research centres.

C. A. Tiers  
Assistant Professor  
School of Architecture  
University of British Columbia

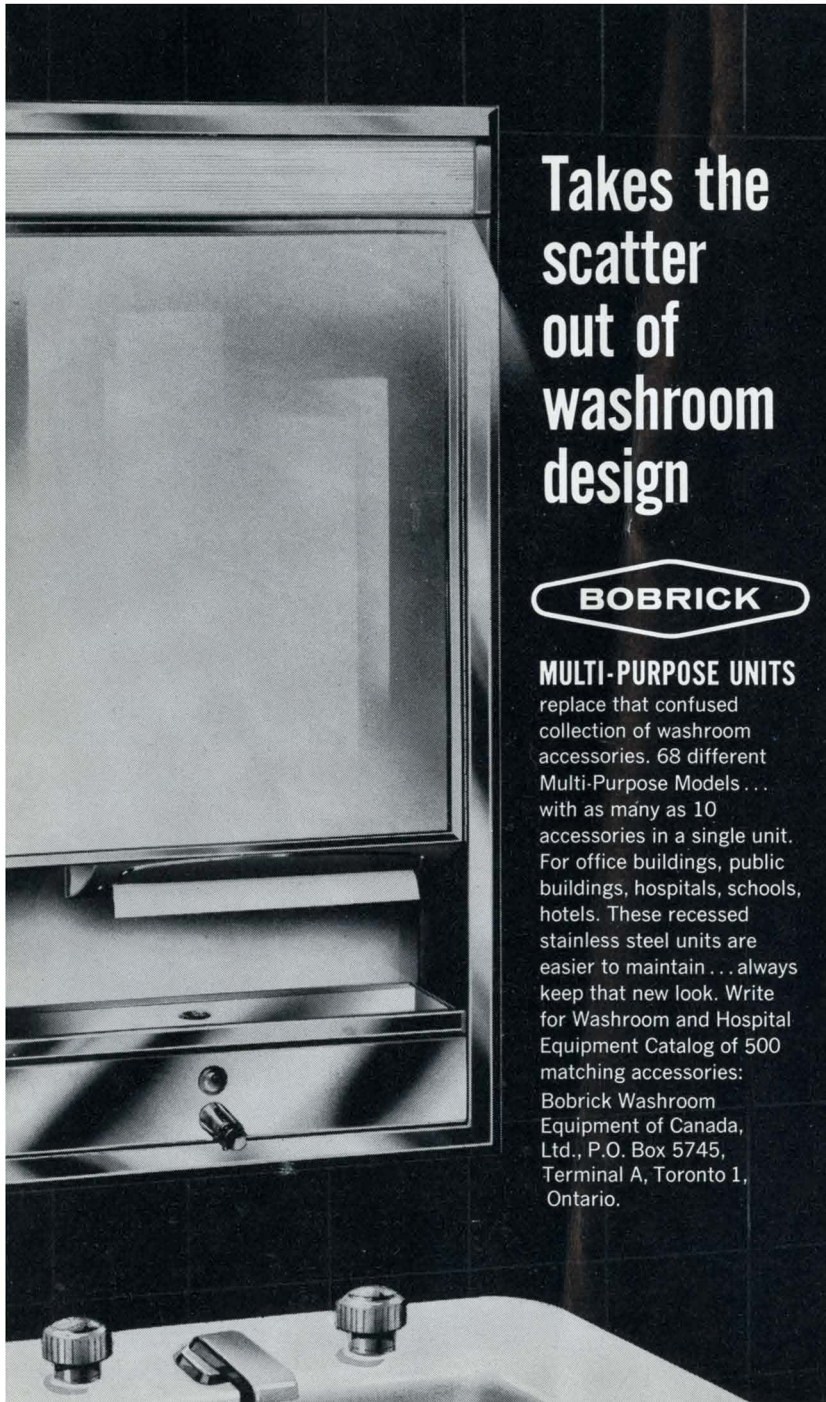
Vocational film on architecture

A \$20,000 film designed to explain the role of the architect to senior high school students has recently been completed by Toronto's Halewyn Films.

As part of a much needed series of vocational guidance films, "Architectural Careers" by question and answer interviews tackles a number of controversial issues of the day: the role and function of the architect, keeping up with technology and the architect as a member of the building team.

Three Toronto firms with contrasting philosophies were visited. Explanations by representatives of R. J. Thom, Architects, The Intendes Group, and Parkin Architects give a good indication of how varied practices can be.

Soon to come, on Halewyn's agenda, is a film on urban and regional planning. The total series

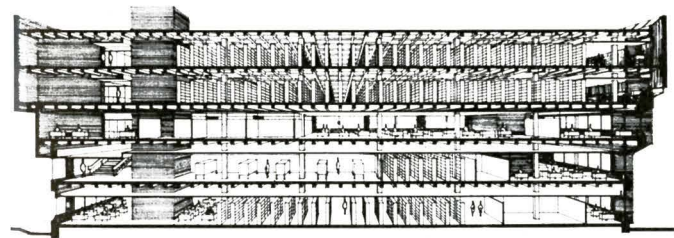
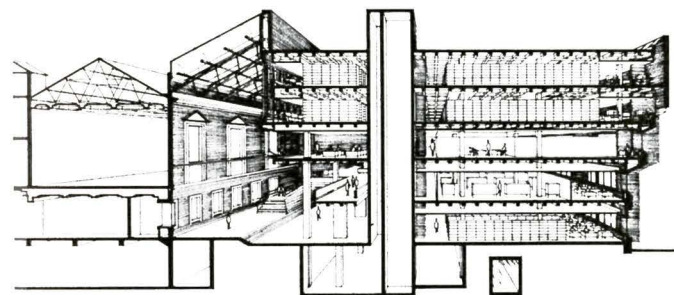
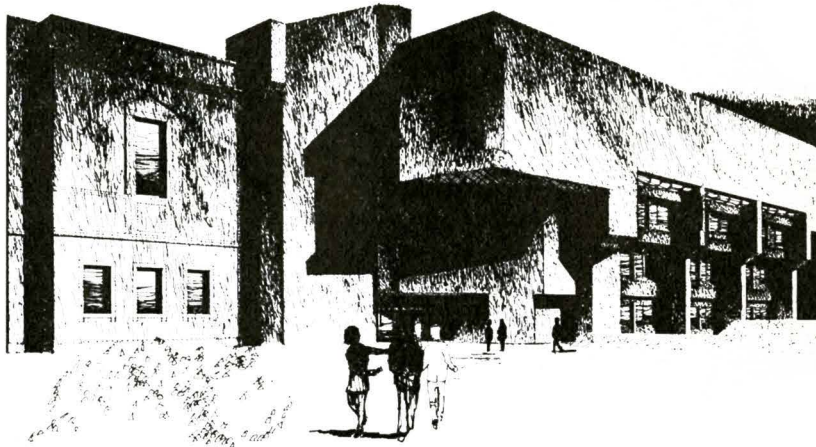
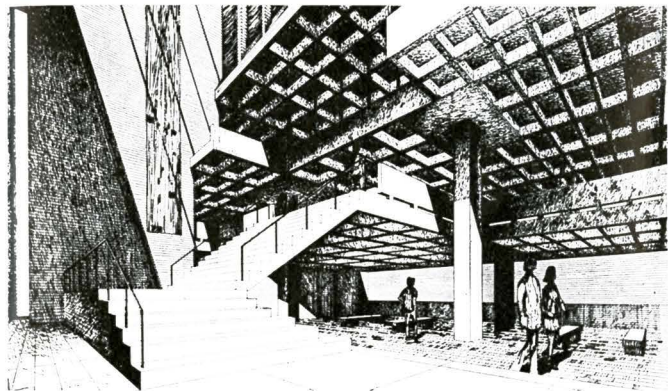
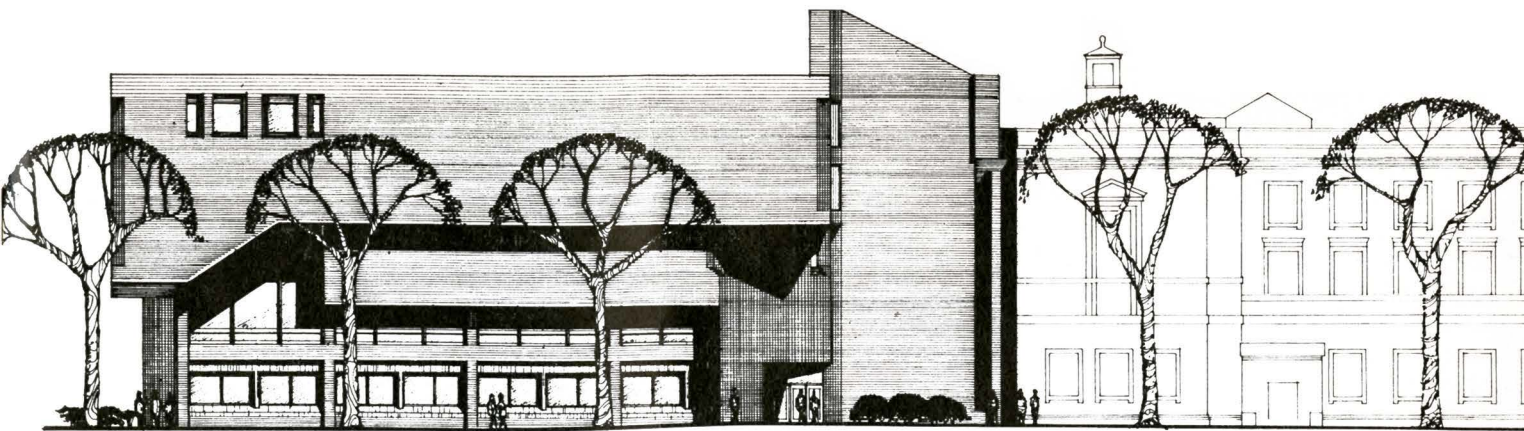


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### Modular library for University of Alberta

Book stack requirements determined a basic module of 4' 6" for a social sciences/humanities open stack library now in the design stage for the University of Alberta, Edmonton. The 27-foot square bay system will allow five double-faced stack rows per bay. The new building, Rutherford Library Two, is the first in a three stage program to provide the campus with a network of library facilities. An elevated walkway running through a climate-controlled gallery links the new building with the existing Rutherford Library and will connect both buildings with other parts of the campus. The enclosed high-density pedestrian area will have lounging areas, displays, kiosks etc. Brick and precast concrete for the building's exterior will be selected according to color and texture to harmonize with the neoclassical surrounding buildings and the new Student Union housing to be across the road. Precast brick panels will be used on the west facade and at future connections of the walkway for easy removal and reuse for expansion. Cost should be \$23.60 a sq. ft. Architects are Minsos, Vaitkunas, Jamieson.

will comprise 118 films on such divers careers as atomic research and firefighting.

Films can be purchased at \$140 (in Canada) or rented at 70¢ a minute (the 14-minute architectural film would therefore be \$9.50). For further information contact Halewyn Films at 106 John St., Toronto.

### MISCELLANY

... BC Telephone is considering system building for its telephone exchanges. A prototype is now being prefabricated in Burnaby, and will be transported to the town of Sparwood in the East Kootenays for erection on a concrete slab. The

shell of the test structure is to be bolted together to simplify expansion. After one year the experiment will be evaluated in terms of cost and flexibility before deciding whether to switch to system building for all new exchanges.

... Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs, D'Arcy McKeough, expects to have firm news about the province's proposed adoption of the National Building Code this month. He will speak at the convention of the Ontario Municipal Association in Ottawa August 16, when he is likely to announce a cabinet decision to go ahead on a recommendation for mandatory adoption

of the code throughout the province. (A/C, 2/16).

... The budget director for the US government estimates that it would cost \$110 billion during the next five years to clean up air and water pollution and dispose of the growing backlog of garbage. And, he adds, this figure would grow as the country grows.

... A curious quote from a recent Vancouver *Journal of Commerce* (in an article on a proposed BC Government skyscraper for the city): "There has been no comment from the architectural team on the minister's expressed preference that

the finished building be painted in three shades of green . . . to indicate . . . birth, growth and renewal."

The building, to cost approx. \$70,000, will be over twice the height of the Hotel Vancouver and will be topped off by a revolving restaurant. Consulting architects are McCarter Nairne and Partners and Thompson, Berwick, Pratt and Partners.

... Plastic is now making its appearance in elevator cabs. The first two commercially sized modular fiberglass reinforced cabs in North America have just been installed in the trendy new retail store for Georg Jensen on New York's Madison Ave.



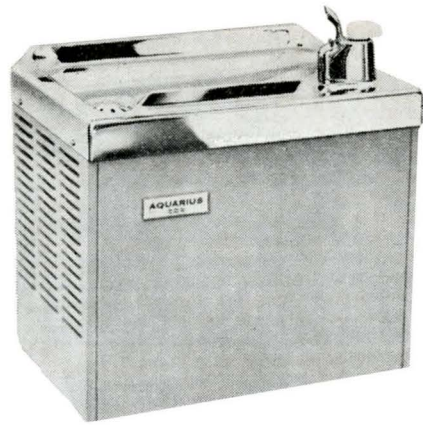
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