

The architect and community rehab in Calgary, see page 4

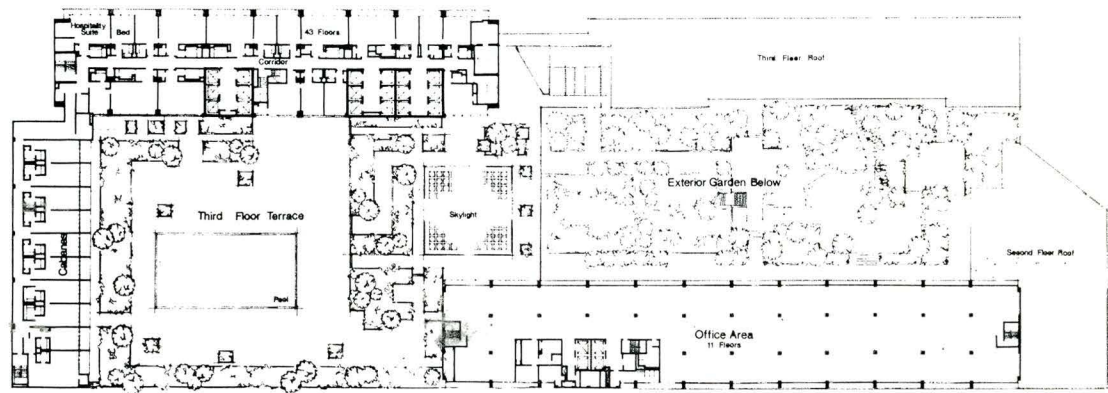
Architecture Canada

NEWSMAGAZINE

Published by RAIC/IRAC January 1973

OAA meets in a mini-city hotel

For years architects have debated about where their conventions should be located. There are those who insist they be held in the streets with the people, others argue for cloistered campus settings, and still others opt for places like hotels designed to accommodate conventions. The Ontario Association has once again chosen the latter route but moves this year (Feb. 21-23) from the Royal York to the nearly completed Four Seasons-Sheraton in Toronto designed by Searle Wilbee Rowland. The hotel is heralded by its owners as an "exciting departure in hotel planning and construction." Features architects will see include: an, as yet inoperative, escalator network which links all public floors keeping circulation distinct from guest rooms; a huge column-free banquet hall spanned by five 115-foot post-tensioned prestressed concrete girders (which support three floors above including a terrace and swimming pool); two acres of landscaped gardens (right) designed for public use; and a mammoth shopping area.



In keeping with city hall designer Viljo Revell's specifications the second floor of the new hotel is linked to City Hall Square by a pedestrian bridge.



OUTLOOK

The architect and the energy shortage

Perhaps even those who have been expressing concern about the predicted shortage of world energy were surprised to find what was expected to happen in 1980 became a reality in January 1973. Suddenly, the North American news media began to describe the rationing of

jet aircraft fuel, the closing of schools, the shortage of gasoline, and the Premier of Ontario warned that his province would also be affected. Canadians who were accustomed to the idea that we

were blessed with cheap, unlimited energy were told that in the immediate future such would not be the case.

Frequently, in the past few weeks I have been asked "what has all this to do with architects?" Because of these questions, I feel the profession should have some clear ideas of a few of the implications:

No quick or complete solution is at hand. America has lost too much lead time. We can expect matters to become worse before major pipe lines, etc., are built.

Canadian statutes prohibited the export of energy in the absence of 25 years of known national reserves. Our own reserves are slightly below this figure. A revised National energy conservation policy appears mandatory.

Already the RAIC has been asked by the Science Council of Canada to contribute a brief by the end of February dealing with "Conservation of Energy Usage", with special emphasis on the following:

i "A statement of projects important to the Institute which you feel should be given priority in a national programme of research and development in energy.

ii Views on fundamental issues that could be resolved by an effective energy policy in Canada.

iii Titles and abstracts of any R & D projects or other investigations now proceeding in the Institute which lie within our terms of reference.

iv Comments on environmental effects of energy systems as they relate to the interests of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

v A prediction of the effect of a possible substantial increase in the cost of energy in the near future, including suggestions for research and development that might lead to the limitation or avoidance of cost increases."

On behalf of the Profession in Canada, I have indicated to the Science Council and the Department of Industry Trade & Commerce that they can expect the assistance and co-operation of all our members.

We might as well start immediately to educate ourselves and our clients. Such action should include:

i Advising our clients that low initial capital costs in the face of high energy prices should be carefully weighed against increased initial quality and lower maintenance.

ii Enjoin those who teach in our schools to ensure that the students are properly instructed on this subject.

iii When designing, the factors contributing to the waste of energy should be considered - orientation, insulation, glass areas, needless lighting intensities (which also add to air conditioning loads), efficient mechanical systems, tighter wall and glazing systems to reduce infiltration, etc., etc.

iv The discouragement of inefficient and extravagant building systems and designs. You may, in the not too distant future, have to file your energy demand calculations to get a building permit. How important are exterior flood lighting and excessive electric signs and 100 foot candles in corridors, in the face of national interest?

v Giving thought to new forms and techniques which will assist in depressing the rate of rise of our national energy demand curve.

vi Co-operating with sister professions in the design process.

vii Suggesting ways and means to our past clients as to how they can modify their present buildings and systems to render them more efficient in energy use.

I believe the time has arrived for all to make it their business to become informed about the issues, causes and effects. Over the past decade, the profession resorted to describing itself as "the Master Builders" and later, "the Leaders of the Design team." Both statements suggested we had some special ability to offer to the general public. In the presence of the challenge raised by the scarcity of energy, the profession is on the threshold of a new era of design criteria. What a metamorphosis we may expect when each of us realizes he is in this world and of this world.

C. F. T. Rounthwaite
President, RAIC

L'architecte et la pénurie d'énergie

L'Institut royal d'architecture du Canada a été invité par le Conseil scientifique du Canada à présenter un rapport, vers la fin de février, portant sur la conservation de l'énergie utilisée. Une attention spéciale sera portée sur les cinq points suivants du rapport:

1) Le type de projets qui, selon l'IRAC, devrait avoir priorité dans un programme national de recherche et développement sur l'énergie.

2) Opinions sur les problèmes fondamentaux qui pourraient être résolus par une adéquate politique canadienne sur l'énergie.

3) Les titres et résumés des projets de recherche et autres

études en cours à l'IRAC.

4) Commentaires de l'Institut sur les effets qu'ont les divers systèmes d'énergie sur l'environnement.

5) Prédications sur les effets d'une possible augmentation substantielle du coût de l'énergie dans un futur proche.

Au nom de la profession au Canada, j'ai donné l'assurance, au Conseil scientifique aussi bien qu'au ministère de l'Industrie et du Commerce, de l'assistance et de la collaboration de tous nos membres. Aussi bien commencer dès à présent à faire notre éducation ainsi que celle de nos clients.

Une telle action devrait inclure les points suivants:

A) Aviser nos clients qu'un coût initial bas, en vue du haut tarif de l'énergie, devrait être sérieusement étudié comparativement à un coût initial plus élevé mais un coût d'entretien réduit.

B) Convaincre les enseignants afin qu'ils s'assurent que les étudiants soient instruits sur ce sujet.

C) Considérer les facteurs contribuant à la perte d'énergie lors de design.

D) Décourager les tendances vers les designs ainsi que les systèmes de construction inefficaces et extravagants.

E) Penser à de nouvelles formes et techniques qui aideront à réduire le taux d'augmentation de la courbe de demande nationale d'énergie.

F) Collaborer avec les autres professions impliquées dans le processus de design.

G) Suggérer à nos clients passés des méthodes et moyens par lesquels ils pourraient modifier leurs constructions actuelles afin de les rendre plus efficaces dans leur utilisation d'énergie.

Je crois que le temps est arrivé pour tous de s'instruire sur ces problèmes, leurs causes et effets. Il y a quelques décades, la profession se décrivait comme "les Maîtres Constructeurs", par la suite, comme dirigeants des équipes de design. Ces deux affirmations suggéraient que nous avions quelque don ou aptitude spéciale à offrir au grand public. Aujourd'hui, en présence du défi soulevé par la pénurie d'énergie, la profession est au seuil d'une nouvelle époque de critères de design.

Quelle métamorphose pourrions-nous espérer lorsque chacun de nous réalisera qu'il est dans ce monde et de ce monde!

C. F. T. Rounthwaite,
Président de l'IRAC

PEOPLE

B.C. architect and assistant architecture professor at the University of Michigan Gerald Rolfsen has become the first Canadian to win a professional doctor of architecture degree (D.Arch.). The degree is distinct from a Ph.D. in the history of architecture and recipients are equipped for a career in teaching as

well as careers in practice. The University of Michigan became the first American university to offer this degree in 1969.

Ian Watson, 38, Liberal M.P. for the Montreal south shore suburb of Laprairie, succeeds David Weatherhead of Toronto as parliamentary secretary to federal Urban Affairs Minister Hon. Ron Basford.

Henry de Puyjalon, of Ottawa, next month becomes the first full-time president of the Canadian Construction Association. Current pres. Eric Hartley says his successor as chief elected officer will hold the title of chairman of the board. De Puyjalon has been v-p of Telesat Canada responsible for planning, marketing and administration.

TV

L'ARCHITECTURE CANADIENNE

A compter du 8 février à 22h00, la télévision de Radio-Canada mettra à l'affiche dans le cadre de l'émission DOSSIERS une nouvelle série de quatre émissions consacrées à l'architecture contemporaine au Canada.

Ces quatre demi-heures grouperont tour à tour cinq oeuvres se rapportant à un thème majeur - l'habitation, l'éducation, les services, les loisirs - et permettront à vingt architectes de commenter une de leurs oeuvres les plus marquantes depuis dix ans.

Toutes les oeuvres présentées ont été choisies en fonction des critères propres à l'architecture: ses qualités fonctionnelles (plan efficace), ses qualités techniques (matériaux utilisés), ses qualités formelles (aspect visuel).



Architecture Canada is published 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.

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

5th Company editorial committee: Annabel Slaight, Patrick Hallstone, Ron Butler, Michael de Pencier.

Subscriptions are \$10 a year.

RAIC/IRAC office 151 Slater Street, Ottawa 4.

Opinions published in Architecture Canada do not necessarily represent the views of the RAIC, nor of the publishers.

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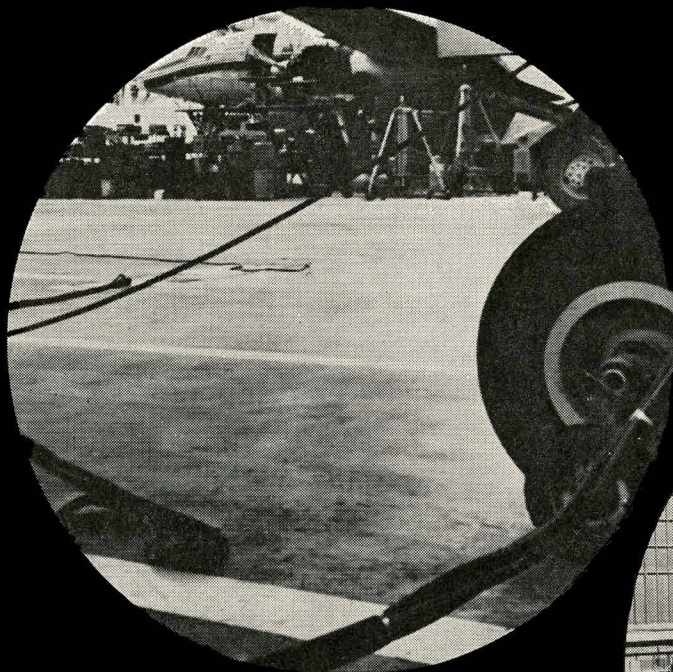
CCAB audited circulation 5,635

Postage paid at Toronto at third (or fourth) class rate - Permit No. C52.

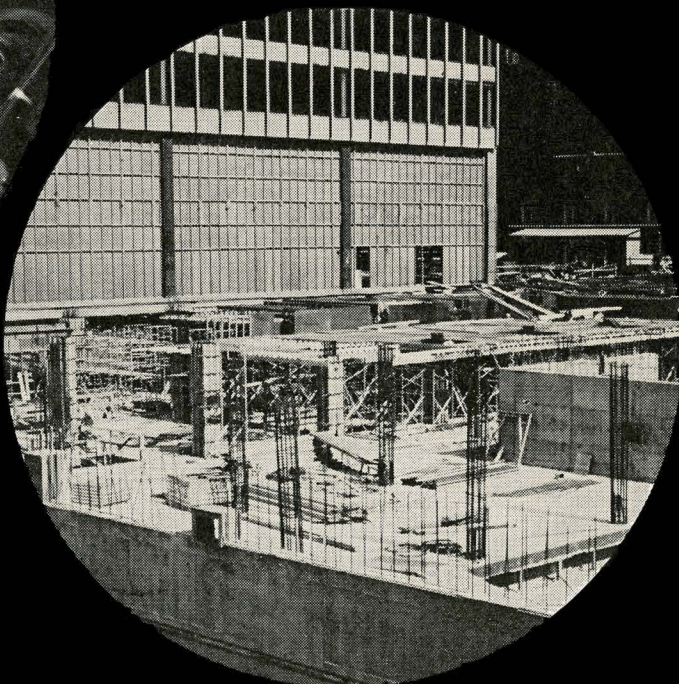
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LETTERS

Derailing cities

Re the article on federal assistance to "move railroads out of cities and let people in" (A/C, 11/12/72):

Dear Sirs:
When both Saskatoon and Ottawa were talking about shifting their railyards, protests were made to the Canadian National Railways suggesting that the simplistic elimination of the railway was myopic at the very least. But the municipalities and the railway redeveloped the railyards anyway. Saskatoon's station is now out in a wheat field, about as accessible as the airport. In Ottawa, a concerted effort removed a rail-line which not only serviced the very center of the capital, but also connected Hull to Ottawa. And again the new station is fashionably located out of the way. Service to what people?

In both communities, the potential of a commuter line, serving the centre of each city has been lost forever. No concern was shown for the possibilities of rapid transit; only as I recall, a prehistoric notion from the CNR that things would be better for them. In Ottawa, as your article points out, where the tracks once were (and where commuter lines could be) 'scenic' drives have been constructed. Who could ever assume that Ottawa's drive-ways, full of automobiles, travelling at high speeds, spewing exhaust fumes and noise, are even remotely better than a silent modern commuter train in a rail right-of-way. The politicians who claim to serve the people perhaps? But then who would expect the idea of rapid transit to be considered by those who can only respond to their own limited experience and not to ideas.

I have special concern for Fredericton, where the same vision that guided Saskatoon and Ottawa has sought recently a portion of the federal largesse. God help us!

Jan V. Oliver, Fredericton

Ed. (James Acland thinks likewise. See his review of *The Open Gate*, p. 7.)

HOUSING

Starts up

Canadian housing starts in 1972 totalled a record 250,000 — up 7 per cent from the previous high of 233,653 starts in 1971, according to preliminary figures from Central Mortgage and Housing Corp.

GNC to double production of factory-built homes

GNC (Great Northern Capital) Homes has announced plans to double production of factory-built homes at its Woodstock, Ont. plant early this year.

Through increasing sales last year, GNC Homes moved into a profit position during the quarter ending September 30, 1972 in a field where larger firms in North America, such as the giant I.T. & T., have failed.

Company officials say indications are the firm will continue to move ahead at a rapid pace, with forecasts that precision factory-built homes will take over more than 40 per cent of the housing market in new construction in Canada to meet the consumer demand for new housing units.

Previous operations failed, says R. H. McIsaac, president, Great Northern Capital Corporation Limited, GNC Homes' Toronto-based parent company, from a lack of complete integration of the manufacturing, land banking and marketing functions projected on a long-term basis.

The first two complete factory-built homes came off the assembly line early in 1972 at the GNC Homes plant, formerly owned and operated by Alcan Universal Homes.

More 'instant' homes

Polymer Corporation is now geared up at its new Building Systems Division plant in Milton, Ont. for year-round production of housing modules on an assembly line basis.

Light-weight, three-dimensional, precast concrete modules will be able to be shipped right to a building site — equipped with everything including the kitchen sink.

The Polymer system produces a much lighter module than conventional precast systems, by making use of light-weight aggregate, and instead of the usual heavy steel reinforcing rods in the walls, steel mesh reinforcement.

The new plant is expected to hit full production in the first quarter of 1973, at which time it will employ some 300 people and have an estimated capacity in excess of 5,000 modules per year.

The Toronto area will be a testing ground for Polymer. Success in that rapidly growing and highly competitive area will pave the way for future plans. Market studies are already underway aimed at constructing other plants in the Montreal and Vancouver areas.

Polymer has secured several small contracts in Ontario — a senior citizens' complex for Ontario Housing Corporation in Preston; townhouses in Scarborough, and two apartment blocks in Waterloo.

OBITUARY

William Goulding

The death last December of William Goulding in Toronto leaves a very real gap in the forces of historic conservation in the province. He brought an attractively astringent wit to a complex field of study. His inventory of Ontario buildings of historic and architectural merit was being used as the basic resource for provincial legislation, and it is tragic that he did not have the time to complete his book on Ontario architecture. For years he quietly worked to improve the conditions of life for old people in homes and residences. We are all much diminished by his loss.

James Acland

NEW PRODUCTS

For more information on products described here write Architecture Canada, 56 Esplanade Street East, Suite 401, Toronto 1.

The instant gallery-in-a-box project sponsored by the Ontario Arts Council to make Canadian art accessible to the general public at low cost, is still going strong. Since its official opening in October, nearly 700 mail orders have been received for the individual works that make up the exhibition. Buyers at the moment are showing a preference for Dik Zander's coloured modules and Ray Spiers' aluminum structures.

The world's first fully approved automatic on-off sprinkler head has just been announced by Grinnell Fire Protection Systems. The new product, *Aquamatic*, shuts itself off after extinguishing a fire automatically by means of a heat-sensitive disc located in the sprinkler head. Each head operates independently so that water is directed only at the point of the fire and only until the fire is put out. The sprinkler head automatically resets itself after shutting off and will turn itself back on should the fire restart.

Grinnell sees a wide variety of applications for *Aquamatic*, including use in high rise offices and apartments, warehouses, hospitals and nursing homes. It can be integrated into any existing sprinkler system or designed into new construction.

ABC Structural Concrete Limited has added Span-Deck floor and roof planks to its line of architectural concrete panels, prestressed beams and girders.

Span-Deck is a precast, prestressed hollow core concrete plank manufactured by a precision casting process which provides dimensional control and uniformity unattainable in other similar materials, says the company. Lengths are sawed rather than formed to assure dimensional accuracy and a smooth-end finish. And because of larger core areas and thinner surface thickness required, Span-Deck weighs less per sq. ft. than similar decking units and has a lower section depth-to-span ratio.

Each Span-Deck plank, which measures four ft. wide and either eight- or 12-in. thick, is prestressed with high-strength steel cables instead of with conventional steel mesh reinforcing. It has a UL listing for a two-hour fire rating, unrestrained and without topping. With topping, fire ratings can be increased to three to four hours, says ABC.

A new centrally-installed, evaporative humidifier, designed to add up to 24 gallons of moisture per day to winter-dry indoor air, has been introduced for homes and small commercial establishments by Carrier Corporation.

The new humidifier is adaptable to upflow, downflow or horizontal furnaces and, when used with an accessory humidistat, allows automatic and precise humidity control. In addition, a built-in control lever provides a manual damper adjustment for regulating moisture output.

The unit, measuring 16½-in. high, 16-in. wide and 8¾-in. deep, is installed on the furnace plenum, where hot air passes through it, picking up moisture from a wet evaporative pad. The moisture-laden air then passes through a by-pass duct and re-enters the returning air stream.

A new low-cost, simple-to-use system for layout planning is now available in Canada from VISIrecord.

The new Modulex system is based on the Lego concept of interlocking, knobbed components. Scale models of any size factory or office building can be easily assembled.

Knobbed base plates form the floors. Interlocking components form the walls, columns and scale models. Perforated foil in 12 colors is available for marking production areas, walkways, storage areas.

Modulex comes in four assortments intended for planning work in scale ¼ in. = 1 in. Price starts at \$158.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

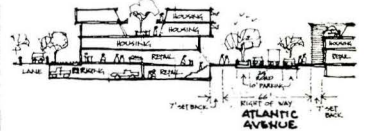
Computers and architecture

A special summer program at M.I.T., June 11 through June 22, 1973, will introduce the practicing and/or teaching architect to sophisticated computer techniques and applications, hardware and software. The program will be organized around an equal measure of lectures and hands-on programming. Participants will have access to sophisticated graphics facilities, including color dynamic and static displays although no previous programming experience is necessary. For further information write to: Director of the Summer Session, Room E19-356, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139.

CITIES

People-plan wins in Calgary

If things proceed as anticipated in the next few weeks, Calgary will become the first city in Canada to adopt as official a community-produced sector plan. The plan, now in the final draft stage, was drawn up over the past three years by residents of the largely blue collar Inglewood area of Calgary and J. W. Long and Associates architects and planners.



The Inglewood "people planning" process like many others had its beginnings as a reaction to proposed freeways and encroaching industrial development. Largely due to Long's leadership (he located his office in the area and hence became involved) Inglewood residents became a positive planning force. Their accomplishments show how well a community of people, resource professionals and planning officials can function as a team.

"Inglewood," says Rob Wood of the Long firm, who has been deeply involved in the project, "has paved the way for other Calgary communities to play similar roles in the shaping of their futures." It may well have an impact right across the country.

If Inglewood sounds like a case study from a planning textbook, it may be because it got rolling as part of a community planning course initiated by Jack Long at Mount Royal College. Residents agreed to assist students (many working in a "store front" location) as long as any learning experience gained was turned around as service to the community.

One of the students' first tasks was to investigate the potentials of the declining area and to produce, with the help of professionals and residents, evidence that it should be revitalized rather than allowed to drift into a mish-mash of heavy and secondary industry.

After 18 months' work, meetings between the community and City Hall, and the putting together of several community-prepared documents, Inglewood's suggestions for improvements of the area, such as realignment of the proposed freeway, were approved. The community was well on its way to becoming a pleasant place to live and work and a positive working arrangement with City Hall was established.

Much of the financing of the project has been through government. For example, an LIP grant of \$41,000 allowed such undertakings as a housing study and the preparation of a community map so residents could see how various parts fit together to create a community.

Most of the efforts to date have culminated in a draft design brief now being circulated to City Hall, residents and business in the area. Feedback from this document will be incorporated into a final brief soon to be submitted to City Hall for approval.

A school for activists

"Constructive Citizen Participation" is the subject of a new two-day workshop developed by consulting sociologist Desmond Connor of Ottawa. The first session will be held at the Bruce MacDonald motel, Ottawa, February 28-March 1, 1973.

Subjects to be covered include:

- What is citizen participation?
- How do you handle protest groups?
- Why are people demonstrating so much?
- What steps are there to foster positive partnership among people?
- What about staffing, budgeting and managing citizen participation programs?

The workshop is intended for "persons involved in the planning, decision-making and operation of programs which directly affect people, e.g. policy makers, planners, project managers, elected representatives, technical specialists, administrators, etc.," says Connor.

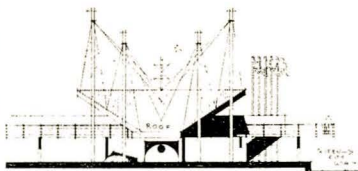
During the last five years, Connor has specialized in the design and management of citizen participation programs, including highway relocation studies, comprehensive river basin planning, and regional planning. Currently he is conducting a graduate seminar in this subject in the School of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Waterloo.

For further information, contact D. M. Connor Development Services Ltd., 48 Aleutian Road, Ottawa. Phone: 613-829-2238.

Vox pop - but whose vox?

"Rejoice," trumpeted the bulletin board of the Toronto Island Residents' Association. "The proposed shelter at the dock will not be built. The contract has been cancelled."

The association, one of more than 30 such citizens' groups now flourish-



Proposed shelter

ishing in the Toronto area alone, was advising its members of its success in preventing the erection of a steel and concrete structure which, said TIRA in a letter to architect Jerome Markson, would not be "compatible with the existing rural, even rustic, atmosphere of the island."



Preferred old shelter

It may not have been as significant a decision as Ontario Premier William Davis's calling off of the Spadina Expressway, but it's a good example of what is happening all across Canada as "people power" turns on the heat.

The syndrome, busting out all over for several years, appears to have picked up even more momentum in recent weeks. One reason: the new "leftish" municipal governments which have just taken office in two of Canada's most development-oriented cities, Toronto and Vancouver.

The new mayors of both cities showed their hands in their inaugural speeches early this month. Said Toronto's David Crombie:

"I think if you look at the rhythm of development for the past eight years to eleven you'll see the development industry is organizing itself for a slowdown."

Added Vancouver's Art Phillips: "The citizens of Vancouver and other major cities across Canada now realize that progress can't be measured in the heights of buildings or in the amount of pavement."

As always there are the skeptics. And in this case, agree with what they say or not, if they continue to be as outspoken as Vancouver architect/planner Warnett Kennedy they can help provide the necessary balance to keep the new breed of power brokers in check, or at least working efficiently. Kennedy recently urged a convention of realtors to "challenge the spreading idea that citizen groups can design cities." Such groups, he pointed out, were instrumental in starting the renewal of downtown Philadelphia, "but now little gets done [there] because everything has to go through so many citizens' groups. Such a system is tiresome and stupid."

There is now the danger that 'citizen' activists become really more interested in political power than

they are in planning - even though few of them would admit that this can happen. And power, as the most casual student of politics knows, tends to produce bigheadedness.

RESEARCH

Report warns of flammability in plastic building materials

A study prepared by the Swiss Reinsurance Co., Zurich, warns carriers to exercise extreme caution when insuring buildings whose construction used large quantities of plastic products.

The 22-page report, entitled Fire Insurance of Plastics, says that nearly all modern plastic materials used in building construction will burn when subjected to sufficient heat.

It calls foamed plastics, particularly polyurethane, polystyrene and polyethylene, especially hazardous and says that fire retardant additives are effective only to a "slight degree."

"While plastics manufacturers and converters keep emphasizing the harmlessness of their products, fire insurers find themselves handling more and more cases involving plastics, either directly or indirectly."

In its study it expressed concern over vacation houses made entirely of plastic products. The report states flatly: "Such bungalows should not be insured against fire at all, or then only at very high premium rates."

OPINION

What is an architect?

- Chapter two

By including in the November issue Gerhard Sixta's "reply" to students, I trust you were not only seeking to fill a column or two with publication material but were also interested in raising the level of discourse concerning architecture and the meaning of "architect". If I am correct in this assumption, perhaps you will allow me space to reply to Sixta's reply.

While I have to admire his courage in attempting to define "architect" (would that more academic and practitioner architects address the question!), I find some particularly disconcerting features in Sixta's essay. One has to do with language. The appeal of jargon and a penchant for verbal innovations that bear no new ideas whatsoever are obviously slopping over from the social sciences into the design professions. It seems that to the degree that architects become frustrated over their role in society, escape into obscure language, meaningless neologisms and pseudo-systemic reasoning reaches endemic proportions. Why functions should now be called "activity clusters" and details have to become "phenomena clusters" remains totally unclear to me. Sixta may feel confident that students can do better with these terminological realignments with their pretension to scientism,

but I strongly doubt they will.

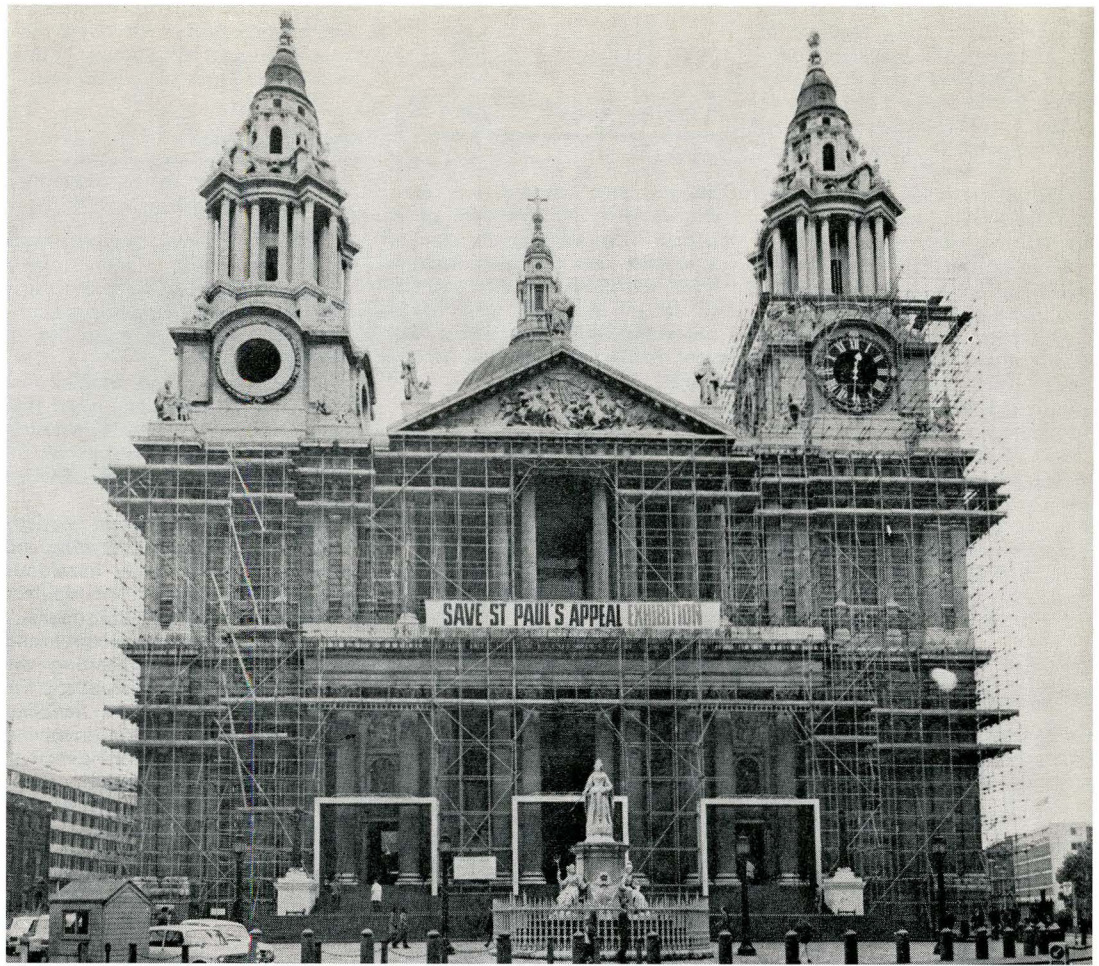
What used to be known in education as knowledge acquisition has, in Sixta's framework, become - for architects at least - "exposure". Training of skills and training in the application of knowledge have been transformed into "imposure". Quite apart from the inducement to perverse behaviour implicit in these two words, neither the words or the meanings Sixta attempts to give to them have much to do with learning. Nor can these words help the student seeking initiation into a once glamorous profession begin to discover for himself the meaning of architect in today's society.

This question, posed by students of architecture in virtually every university, is a desperately important one. My concern is that when we respond to it in language which serves only to better disguise our own ambiguity and uncertainty concerning the appellation, architect, we academics do a great deal of harm. We do it by pandering to student naivete and, perhaps more significantly, by demonstrating the proclivity we all have (professional practitioners as well as academics) for thinking less and talking more. The meaning (today) of architect is not something to be casually pulled out of a hat, more especially, not with sleights of hand that flick over misconceptions and misconceptions of misconceptions. As anyone who has examined it conscientiously will know, the meaning students are searching for cannot be divorced from the recent history of architectural practice, contemporary notions of professionalism and our individual perceptions of societal needs, not to mention the technologies and Realpolitik of building enterprises.

No amount of jargon will conceal the fact that what Sixta has formulated is a return to the classicist definition of design. He may have been talking about architecture in the abstract or his personal vision of a normative architecture. However, he hardly addressed the question posed by the students (a common enough failing among us academics). For example, to say that an architect is a "conceptualizer", that he "conceptualizes" ("upwards" as well as "downwards"!), is to say only that he thinks, that he formulates constructions of thought or images. That places him in league with any good philosopher, but does it tell us anything about what distinguishes the performance of a professional architect from the performance of a professional philosopher? I think not. And I begin to tremble when I think of the educational domain implicit in Sixta's specification: "To be an architect requires the ability to conceptualize at all levels and in a continuous series of sub-systems, ranging from the level of the door-knob to the metropolis, and beyond." The confusion and aspiration to omniscience revealed in this statement are hardly tempered by

Help wanted

The committee devoted to saving the great St. Paul's Cathedral in London, built by Sir Christopher Wren in 1666, is appealing to Canadians to help funding. Over \$7½ million are needed and the British people have contributed over two thirds this sum. Money will be used: to tie together the towers which traffic vibrations have moved apart; restore the great dome in danger of collapse, to repair cracked stonework, and roofs and strengthen tower foundations. Royal Trust at 630 Dorchester Boulevard W., Montreal, is receiving donations in Canada.



conflicting assertions about the architect not being a social philosopher or master builder that turn up in subsequent paragraphs of Sixta's essay.

If architects are going to be "conceptualizers", who will specify the design and guide the construction of buildings? Yes, plain and simply: buildings – not the metropolis, nor the universe beyond. Social philosophers? Who will ensure that buildings serve well human behaviour and occupant aspirations? Economists and entrepreneurs? Who will give us assurance that the buildings will perform adequately in all of the technical dimensions ascribed to them? Architectural draughtsmen? Who will take on responsibility for the organization of a building venture? Plumbers and planners? These are some of the relevant questions (but not necessarily the answers!) I see being generated by the larger question, "What is meant by architect?" In "conceptualizer", I find no guidance towards them. Perhaps architecture is something new – or about to become so.

Sixta's reply is profoundly paradoxical. Renouncing the notion of Master Builder (quite properly, I believe), he goes on to define for us a new kind of master, namely the conceptualizer with an unbounded purview over the conception (design?) of environments and

their hardware components. A fascination with systems seems to have propelled him straight back to a classicist formulation of the role of architects – about where we were when Sant 'Elia and, later, Corbusier manifested so eloquently and elegantly.

Those who try sincerely to practice architecture in this day of dissolving professional boundaries know differently. You might say, "they know the score." They know that to be an architect can demand of them many things – many roles, many skills and widely differing sets of knowledge, and occasionally the ability to conceive. Unfortunately, most students don't know it. But they should have a chance to learn about it, lest we go on propping up their illusions of architecture as an arts and craft profession bolstered by intellectual fantasizing. What we all need (students, practitioners and academics alike) is a "meaning of architect" that is comprehensible in all levels of the society for which we profess. Moreover, it should be a meaning which relates not only incidentally, but directly to the building industry and buildings. Maybe then architects can find the way to go on calling themselves architects.

W. T. Perks, Dean, Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Uniform index ok'd

The Uniform Construction Index, a system of Formats for Specifications, Data Filing, Cost Analysis and Project Filing (see *A/C Directory, August 1972*) has now officially replaced the Building Construction Index. The new document also replaces the Uniform System in the United States and results from joint efforts of Associations in both countries. It is intended that the Canadian joint committee that supported the original B.C.I. will be re-constituted with similar responsibilities.

Straightening the Lien Act

The new Design and Construction Institute in Nova Scotia is now nearly a year old and fast becoming a strong voice for the building industry in that province. It held its first annual meeting last month.

Many of the efforts of the group, comprising architect, engineer, and construction association representatives, are towards trouble shooting in areas of mutual concern. Typical of its activities are efforts to bring about changes in what it considers "a weak and outdated" Mechanics Lien Act in the province. The Institute is working with Dalhousie Professor Peter Darby, appointed by the Law Reforms Commission to undertake a comprehensive study of

mechanics lien legislation. Representatives cite restrictions of cash flow imposed on the industry by the Act as being the single-most drawback to the legislation.

BOOKS

Noise pollution

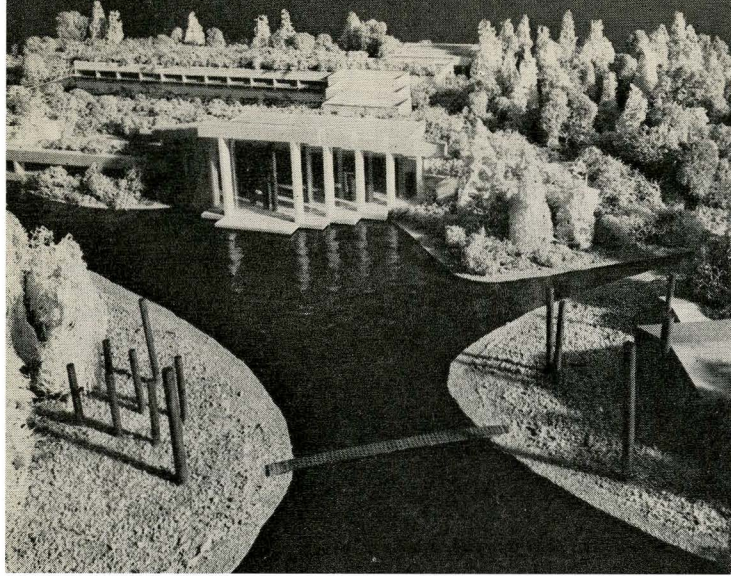
Noise Pollution, the Unquiet Crisis, Clifford R. Bragdon, 310 p., \$15.00, University of Pennsylvania Press.

This book is a result of intensive research in the role of noise as an urban environmental health problem, and discusses methods for reducing it. The text contains a large number of tables and figures, an extensive bibliography invaluable to researchers in this field. There is also an appraisal of sociological and physical findings, which is a rare addition to research texts. The research techniques and presentation are thorough.

Roofing impressive temples

Medieval Structure; The Gothic Vault, James Acland, University of Toronto Press. \$25.00, 254 pp.

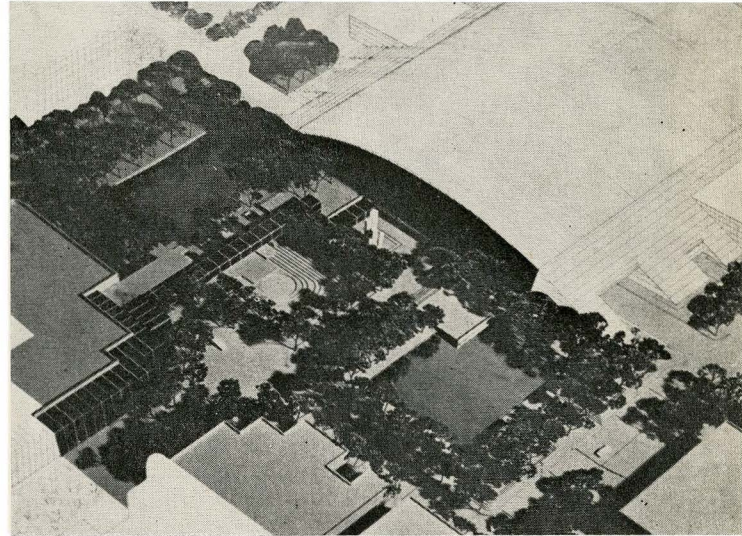
The publication of a sumptuous architectural monograph, written by a Canadian scholar, published by a Canadian university press, yet devoid of even a scintilla of "Canadian Content," presents obvious embarrassments to a reviewer in the light of the present government's official policy in such cultural matters. But



Totemic building for UBC

One of the latest projects by Arthur Erickson, whose architecture will be a feature attraction at the OAA convention in February, was unveiled earlier this month at the University of British Columbia – the Museum of Man. The building will house one of the world's most important private collections of Indian Art being donated to the University by Dr. and Mrs. Walter Koerner and the University's own \$10 million accumulation of artifacts.

The museum will be located on erosion controlled cliff overlooking the mouth of the Fraser River. It will be low key to blend with the environment and huge glass windows up to 40 ft. high will allow both an unobstructed view outside and allow artifacts inside to be bathed in natural light. Many of the totem poles, to be brought from around the province for preservation, will be enclosed in a controlled atmosphere and virtually 100 per cent of the collections will be able to be seen at all times.



Canadians place in Niagara Falls competition

Another team of Canadians has recently helped put this country on the competition map. Landscape architect John Lantzius, of Man, Taylor, Muret/Lantzius, in Vancouver, Calgary and Winnipeg, Alan Rodger of the Lantzius firm and U.S. student Thomas Walgamuth won one of four top awards in a competition for a five-acre plaza for a Niagara Falls convention centre. The team's proposal included a glass enclosed walkway passing over a waterfall, an indoor and outdoor restaurant and a flexible area that could be a pool, skating rink and outdoor theatre or a sports area.

The competition sparked 294 entries. Rodgers was also part of the team which placed third in planning Tangiers Bay (A/C 10/72).

the fear that this book is somehow subversive will not trouble the consciences of the many students of architecture living elsewhere in North America, or in Europe; and from them it will undoubtedly elicit spontaneous admiration and respect. Perhaps it was the current chauvinistic dilemma which prompted Professor Acland to begin with a thorough but superfluous study of primitive housing in neolithic cultures, and to assert that "we must do more than examine great monuments and impressive temples." *The Gothic Vault* is of course inevitably concerned mainly with great monuments and impressive temples; and the great merit of the book is the splendid clarity and thoroughness with which the author expounds the theory and practice of roofing large ceremonial spaces, as developed in Europe during the Middle Ages. The book is particularly valuable in its coverage of districts which, hitherto, have received far less attention than they deserved, such as Bavaria, Bohemia and Spain.

Inevitably, it is the magnificent photography which first attracts the reader's attention; but *The Gothic Vault* is in no sense a picture-book of the "coffee-table" kind. The illustrations are all carefully integrated with the meticulously prepared text, and numerous diagrams are included wherever these are considered desirable in the interests of clarity.

The author has refrained from the temptation to indulge in startlingly novel re-evaluations, wisely assuming that enough research has already been conducted during the past hundred years to provide a sound basis for the general theory of gothic vaulting. Nevertheless, the book is novel in the sense that it contains the most up-to-date information available (whether published or not), notably the results of Robert Mark's photo-elastic analyses of epoxy plastic models. Moreover, by acknowledging the assistance given him by John Harvey and John Fitchen when organizing his twelve years of research, the author assures the reader (were such an assurance necessary) that the topic will be covered as effectively as possible.

Professor Acland is clearly intoxicated by his topic. Indeed, one wonders at times whether "Martinkirche" (p. 180) really is a typographical error. His enthusiasm inevitably communicates itself to the reader; and although he sometimes seems to accept with too much alacrity the opinions of other scholars (it is really plausible, for example, that the twisted or "rotated" vaulting ribs constructed in 1505 by Benedikt Ried were an anticipation of the 19th century practice of "rifling" artillery?), he at least gives footnote references for all such assertions, even though the publisher has perversely insisted on placing the foot-

notes on different pages from those to which they refer.

Peter Collins, Montreal

Station saver

The Open Gate: Toronto Union Station, edited by Richard Bébout, Peter Martin Associates, Toronto 1972. \$12.95. 125 pp.

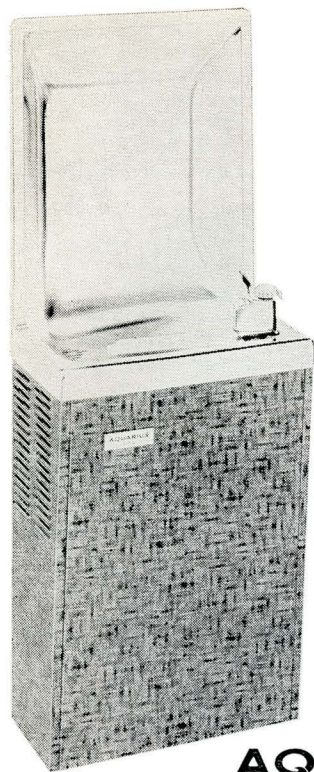
This collection of essays and photographs relating to Toronto's Union Station, mounted and composed immediately after the 1972 row over Metro Centre and Union Station, is a sympathetic study of a grand building. Robert McMann, a railroad buff, is especially knowledgeable in recounting the tangled early history of rail on the waterfront; Professor Douglas Richardson's essay 'A Blessed Sense of Civic Excess' uncovers the sources of 'McKim, Mead and White classicism'. Certainly, the book as a whole succeeds in handsomely illustrating and describing the factual history of the building and is well worth the price.

And yet – it quite fails to uncover the roots of the deep, sullen and abiding anger which forced middle-class citizens in Toronto to the polls to vote out a council which had traded away the waterfront for a few commercial towers. No attempt is made to analyze the physical relationships between the Gardiner Expressway and the elevated rail net and their crucial lock to GO transit and the TTC subway loop. No

recognition is given to the need for a monumental open access to the lakefront worthy of a great city. Only cursory mention is made of the superbly reasoned brief which was presented to the Ontario Municipal Board by the Confederation of Residents and Ratepayers which questioned the basic assumptions of the whole scheme.

The sad truth of the matter is that the railroads decided to erect rental towers on the station site regardless of the inconvenience and expense to Toronto citizens. The architects were hired to devise a 1960's *Big, Brash, Beton Brut* concept which would conceal this land grab. Unfortunately the greediness of the railroads is no longer a sufficient reason in itself to justify poor planning and the demolition of a great monument. That this is not Toronto's problem only is evident in the continuing battle for Windsor Station in Montreal and the recent ludicrous proposal by the Urban Affairs Minister Ron Basford, that downtown rail lines be wiped out across Canada to make way for other developments (A/C, 11/72) . . . and this just at a time when cities from San Diego to Halifax are casting about for more effective transit and rail nets to solve the traffic tangle. Union Station works splendidly as a station – let's keep it intact as an open gate.

James Acland, Toronto



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SCHOOLS

Busing students downtown

Calgary board of education has suggested busing children from the suburbs into the rapidly emptying classrooms of the inner city.

The proposal is a response to the provincial government's virtual ban on new suburban school construction. The Calgary board has already told housing developers that they can no longer expect to have neighborhood schools built to serve new subdivisions.

Already, some 3,000 children are being bused to make use of empty classrooms. By 1977, if the new plan is accepted, this number will rise to 10,000, the board estimates. To provide local schools within subdivisions, on the other hand, would cost some \$43 million.

Director of Education Ray Kalbfleisch anticipates strong opposition from parents to the large-scale busing program. "We have to convince them that this is the right answer," he says. "Parents have a psychological block about this sort of thing. But busing is inevitable."

No more separate schools?

"We must find a new solution which satisfies our desire for and our right to a distinctive and autonomous school system," says chairman J. A. Marese of the Metro Toronto separate [Catholic] school board.

Marese has been acting as co-chairman of a study team for the provincial government to look into the feasibility of the two school systems sharing physical facilities. Last fall, provincial education minister Tom Wells said the province would no longer approve plans for new schools by either system if the other has unused existing space in the same area.

The right combination

Development of commercial or light industrial facilities over new secondary schools is the most suitable type of joint occupancy for schools educationally and socially while residential development over elementary schools is the least suitable. Both are financially favorable.

These are among findings in a new brief on joint occupancy development for schools released last month by the Ontario Ministry of Education. The 83-page report by the Architectural Services, School Business and Finance Branch is available from the Ministry, 21st Floor, Mowat Block, Queen's Park, Toronto.

EVENTS

Architects meetings

Saskatchewan Association, Hotel Bessborough, Saskatoon, Feb. 3-5

Nova Scotia, Waegwoltic Club, Halifax, Feb. 9

Ontario Association, Four Seasons-Sheraton, Toronto, Feb. 21-23

Alberta Association, Chateau La-combe, Edmonton, Mar. 29-31

PROJECTS

• Sheridan College School of Design will boast a 50-ft. triodetic sphere similar to Ontario Place's cinesphere as part of its \$586,000 expansion program now getting under way in Oakville, Ontario. Architects are Roscoe, Stienstra and Haverty, Hamilton.

"The unusual dome structure was chosen because it is 'off-the-shelf-architecture' and provides maximum useable space for a minimum of material and cost," says school director Robin Bush.

The sphere, consisting of aluminum framework supporting a skin of interlocking, copper-toned steel triangles, will contain a 200-seat theatre for audio-visual presentations, guest speakers, etc.

The project also includes additions and renovations to existing buildings which will more than double studio, workshop and classroom space.

• Another superlative - This time the world's tallest hotel (700-ft.), to be valued at more than \$50 million - is soon to get under way in Atlanta, Georgia, with completion expected by fall 1975.

The new hotel, called the Peachtree Centre Plaza, will have 1,200 rooms with space for expansion to 2,000. The tallest hotel to date is the Ukraine Hotel in Moscow (650-ft.) followed closely by the Waldorf-Astoria in New York (625-ft.). The Peachtree will be managed by Western International Hotels, a subsidiary of UAL Inc., United Air Lines owner. Designer is John Portman and Associates; developer, Portman Properties.

• The latest in a recent Toronto hotel building boom is the Toronto Plaza Hotel, part of a \$65-million hotel/office complex under way downtown by Western International Hotels, Seattle, and Oxlea Investments, Edmonton. The three towers in the development, which will occupy the block bounded by University, Richmond, Adelaide and York Sts., will be tied together by a two-level base consisting of shops on the ground floor and outdoor eating facilities and a swimming pool on the second floor. The first office building, called the Guardian Royal Exchange Tower, is scheduled for completion October 1974. The hotel, to be operated by Western International, will open January 1975. Co-ordinating architects are Searle Wilbee Rowland, Toronto. Architects for the hotel are Reno C. Negrin & Associates, Vancouver and Searle Wilbee Rowland (architects for the new Toronto Four-Seasons-Sheraton on Queen Street).

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Remember the Allied Arts Catalogue Volumes 1 and 2 edited by Anita Aarons in 1966 and 1968 for the RAIC?

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