

In This Issue / Le numéro de ce mois-ci

The year 1996 marks the centennial of McGill University's School of Architecture. McGill is also celebrating its 175th birthday this year, and several celebrations are planned to reflect on this venerable institution's history and its future role in Canada.

The four articles in this issue of the Bulletin address the impact McGill has had on Canadian architecture by considering some of the School of Architecture's key educators, students, and courses during its early years. Prof. Isabelle Gournay's article discusses the significant contributions made by the first three holders of the school's Macdonald Chair of Architecture, particularly on urban and housing reform and on aesthetic and cultural issues relating to architecture in this country. Through various lectures and publications, Stewart Henbest Capper, Percy Erskine Nobbs, and Ramsay Traquair each expressed his views on urbanism and regional identity while simultaneously occupying the positions of architect and educator.

Norbert Schoenauer, the William C. Macdonald Emeritus Professor of Architecture at McGill University, describes the approach taken by his predecessor S. Henbest Capper in teaching the history of architecture at McGill between 1896 and 1903. From his position as a former educator of student architects, Prof. Schoenauer laments the diminishing importance placed on the teaching of architectural history in the training of Canada's next generation of architects: displaced by essential new subjects such as computer-aided design, the teaching of architectural history today has taken a secondary role in the training of architects, to Schoenauer's regret.

Annmarie Adams' article focuses on the acceptance of women to McGill's School of Architecture, and on the substantial contributions to the field of architecture eventually realized by some of the school's early female graduates. Drawing upon her extensive research on this subject, Prof. Adams notes that many illustrious architects and educators can be counted among the 39 women who graduated from the school between 1943 and 1970, despite the obstacles placed in their way.

In the final article, I investigate the career of one of McGill's early graduates, George Heath MacDonald (class of 1911). Already a highly qualified draftsman in Edmonton, MacDonald chose McGill over Cornell University when selecting a school at which to study architecture. While it is impossible to determine the exact influence of educators such as Percy Nobbs, MacDonald's decision to enroll at McGill, and his experiences as a student in Montréal, are evident in the work subsequently produced by one of western Canada's most prolific early-20th century architects.

The architects and educators discussed in these four articles—and the educators who contributed the articles—continue to influence the manner in which architecture in Canada is viewed and discussed. It is perhaps fitting, therefore, that publications such as this allow for a moment of reflection, both to see the path that was chosen and to mark the trail before us in light of the contributions and influences of one of Canada's proudest institutions, McGill University.

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