

Regional News — Nouvelles de la Société

Toronto Historical Board

Plan a special family outing to Toronto's historic homes . . . Mackenzie House, 82 Bond Street, or Colborne Lodge, on Colborne Lodge Drive and The Queensway in High Park, to create a Valentine for your loved one on the weekend of February 12th and 13th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

At Mackenzie House, the gas-lit Victorian home and printshop of William Lyon Mackenzie, printer, publisher, politician and Toronto's first Mayor in 1834, there are cooking demonstrations with 'Our Favorite' wood-burning stove and the special exhibition, "In Miniature", a display of tiny things to delight the young and not-so-young. Afternoon tea is served daily in the Gallery from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. — a mini tea with cookies costs \$1.50 and a full tea with home-baked bread, jam, cookies and fruit loaf costs \$2.50.

After skating or tobogganing in High Park, visit Colborne Lodge, the picturesque Regency-style residence of John G. Howard, architect, city surveyor, teacher and artist, and enjoy a cup of mulled cider and muffins beside the old wood stove in the kitchen.

All items for creating your Valentine are included with admission . . . \$1.50 for adults and \$1.00 for children and senior citizens. Both historic homes open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sundays and holidays from 12 noon to 5:00 p.m.

For further information, contact:
J. Moyra Haney
Public Information Officer
595-1567

Montréal

The RAIC will hold its annual convention at the Ritz Carlton Hotel, Montreal from 25-28 May, 1983. Feature

events include Governor General's Medals for design, Future's Trace, a symposium on computers and micro-computers in architectural practice and the annual meeting.

Manitoba

The Faculty of Architecture announces the following calendar of events for spring term 1983, location Centre Space, Russell Building, University of Manitoba. Further details phone 204-474-9458.

15 Feb. — 5 Mar.

Kazuo Shinohara — Japanese Architecture Exhibition in Jury Room and Centre Space

24 Feb.

Film night — *Palladio and his influence on American Architecture

*#2 in Manitoba Film Makers series

28 Feb.

Jerzy Soltan — Professor of Architecture, Harvard University

1 Mar.

Henwood Memorial Lecture, Winnipeg Convention Centre

8 Mar.

Rae Affleck, Architect Lecture

10 Mar.

ZVI Miller president International Association of Landscape Architects — illustrated lecture

17 Mar.

Professor Lu, City Planning, lecture

BOOK REVIEWS — LIVRES

Roy, Patricia E., *Vancouver: An Illustrated History*, Toronto, James Lorimer & Co. and National Museum of Man, National Museums of Canada, 1980, 190 pp. \$25.00

This book is one of *The Canadian Cities Series* being sponsored by the History Division of the National Museums of Man. While the project is described, in the Foreword, as being intended to satisfy a demand for popular, as distinct from scholarly publications, Professor Roy's book on Vancouver shows that there is room between these extremes for a third category of publication. It is true that if her work were a doctoral thesis it would have more maps, and it is possible that its 283 footnotes would contain more page citations than they do, and it is just possible that there might be even more notes (there are, after all, fewer than four per full page of text). All the same, to suggest that this work falls in any way short of scholarly standards, either in its respect for the sources on which it draws, or in the even-handed

fashion in which it deals with the controversies that have marked Vancouver's history, would be a gross insult to its author. If the other books in the series reach the high standard set by Roy, then any public library in Canada worthy of the name should collect the entire series.

No history can be perfect. To be so, it would have to say all about everything in a finite number of words. But even measured against these high standards, *Vancouver: An Illustrated History* scores highly. As a framework for the facts that she presents, Roy has divided the story of the city into four periods, each with its own overall theme: 1886-1897, "Laying the foundations"; 1897-1912, "The city booms"; 1913-1939, "Depression and consolidation"; and 1939-1979, "The maturing city". Within each of these periods she surveys developments within five fields: economic growth and metropolitan relationships, population growth and ethnic relationships, the urban landscape, civic politics, social and cultural life. Though these labels provide a reasonably good

guide to the contents of the sections, some readers may be surprised to find issues concerned with public health and the provision of utilities being included under the third.

Specialists in any field will wish that more had been said about their favourite interest, but even specialists will be hard pressed to find books that provide better coverage of their hobby-horses for the full ninety-odd years that Roy surveys.

Because history never ends, the book raises two questions to which it is unable to provide answers. 1) Was the attempt to revive Gastown through a refurbishing of its old buildings and the preservation of its streetscape a success? 2) How was it that in the 1960s and 1970s "Vancouver residents spurned the North American passion for freeways"? Perhaps some of Roy's readers will be inspired to take up these questions and provide us with answers.

For those who want to know more about Vancouver there is an excellent "Note on sources and suggestions for further readings". To this section, members of the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada will want to turn, for though Professor Roy has provided them with approximately fifty photographs of panoramas, streetscapes, and views of individual buildings (not to mention a number of interior views), these provide interesting supplements to the text rather than an extensive body of evidence documenting the changing nature of the physical structure of Vancouver.

But to end on the note of praise that the book deserves, if you want the best available survey of what Vancouver has been, a survey that is as honest about the ethnic discrimination and political extremism that many Vancouverites have preferred not to recognize, as it is about the energy and enterprise that have justified the City's motto: "By sea and land we prosper", this is the book to get.

Reviewed by O.F.G. Sitwell, University of Alberta

Marsan, Jean-Claude, *Montreal in Evolution*, McGill-Queen's University Press, 1981.

Montreal in Evolution was first published in 1974 as *Montréal en évolution*. Seven years later it has been translated exactly from the French version, with the addition of an Epilogue to touch on events which have occurred during the intervening years. The author's subtitle for the book is an "Historical Analysis of the Development of Montreal's Architecture and Urban Environment". In this it is most complete, beginning with the first voyage of Jacques Cartier to Canada in 1534, and ending with the impact of another French national, architect Roger Taillibert and his 1976 Olympic Stadium.

The nearly four-hundred-and-fifty years between these two events are dutifully covered in an equivalent number of pages which provide not only an architectural and urban design history of the city, but a social and economic history as well. In this way the book should

have broad appeal by illustrating and explaining the physical expression of Montreal's cultural history. This physical expression has two bases: the physical environment—primarily geography—and human activity. Once the geography of northeastern North America had determined a point of settlement, the topography of Montreal—bounded by the St. Lawrence on the south and east, and by Mount Royal on the north—together with its geology and climate, determined the physical pattern of the settlement's development and its building forms during its first hundred years.

Thereafter (Parts II, III and IV of the book) human activity as evidenced in the evolution of technical and economic forces governed the development of Montreal's architecture and urban environment. Part II covers the second and third hundred years (to about 1840) emphasizing the "frontier" town and pre-industrialization. Part III marks the impact of the industrial revolution and Marsan's growing involvement with the architecture of Montreal. Although this Part covers but sixty years of the city's development, it requires over one-third of the text to do it. Part IV, the twentieth-century, illustrates the change in the emphasis of the built environment from architecture to urbanism and all the aspects of social, economic and political awareness that that term implies.

For those with an interest in the history of architecture and urban design, Parts II and III with their accompanying social and economic history provide enjoyable and enlightening reading, made all the more interesting by the architectural and social comment provided by the author. Part IV, *Montreal in the Twentieth-Century*, is particularly relevant since many readers of this book will be deeply involved with urban development issues in their own communities both professionally and on a volunteer basis. As a twentieth-century Montrealese, this is also Marsan's forte, and he writes with a background in architecture and urban design.

The book has few shortcomings. Although well-illustrated and laid-out, there are portions where additional illustrations would be helpful, despite the effect on the book's thickness. More disappointing, through no fault of the author, is the inferior cover. Although hard-bound, the front and back are covered with an illustration paper which belies the quality of the text. The binding of the pages, though adequate, is covered by a flat, rather than curved piece of board which is itself covered with inferior cloth, with the title then appearing to be stamped on rather than impressed into the cover stock. The more traditional form of book-plus-dust jacket would be preferable for such a quality book.

The author considers the book to be the first study of its kind for a Canadian city. One would hope that it is the first of many which would do the same for every major Canadian city. Although *Montreal in Evolution* encompasses a much greater period of time, it has many of the same qualities as A. J. Youngson's *The Making of Classical Edinburgh* (1966) which is a history, analysis and critique of that city's development from the late eighteenth-century to the early nineteenth-century—a

city where Marsan lived for several years while undertaking the post-graduate studies which led to *Montreal in Evolution*. The author is still involved with concerned Montrealers who seek to protect and improve their urban environment, and one hopes that *Montreal in Evolution* will inspire other Canadians to do the same in their own towns and cities.

Reviewed by Richard G. Kilstrom, Edmonton, Alberta

The following distributors offer listings of architectural books:

The Architecture Book Store
116 Third Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario
K1S 2K1 Ph. 613-233-7654

Ballenford Architectural Books
98 Scollard Street, Toronto, Ontario
M5R 1G2

Urban Centre Books
The Villard Houses
457 Madison Avenue,
New York, New York
10022 USA Ph. 212-935-3595

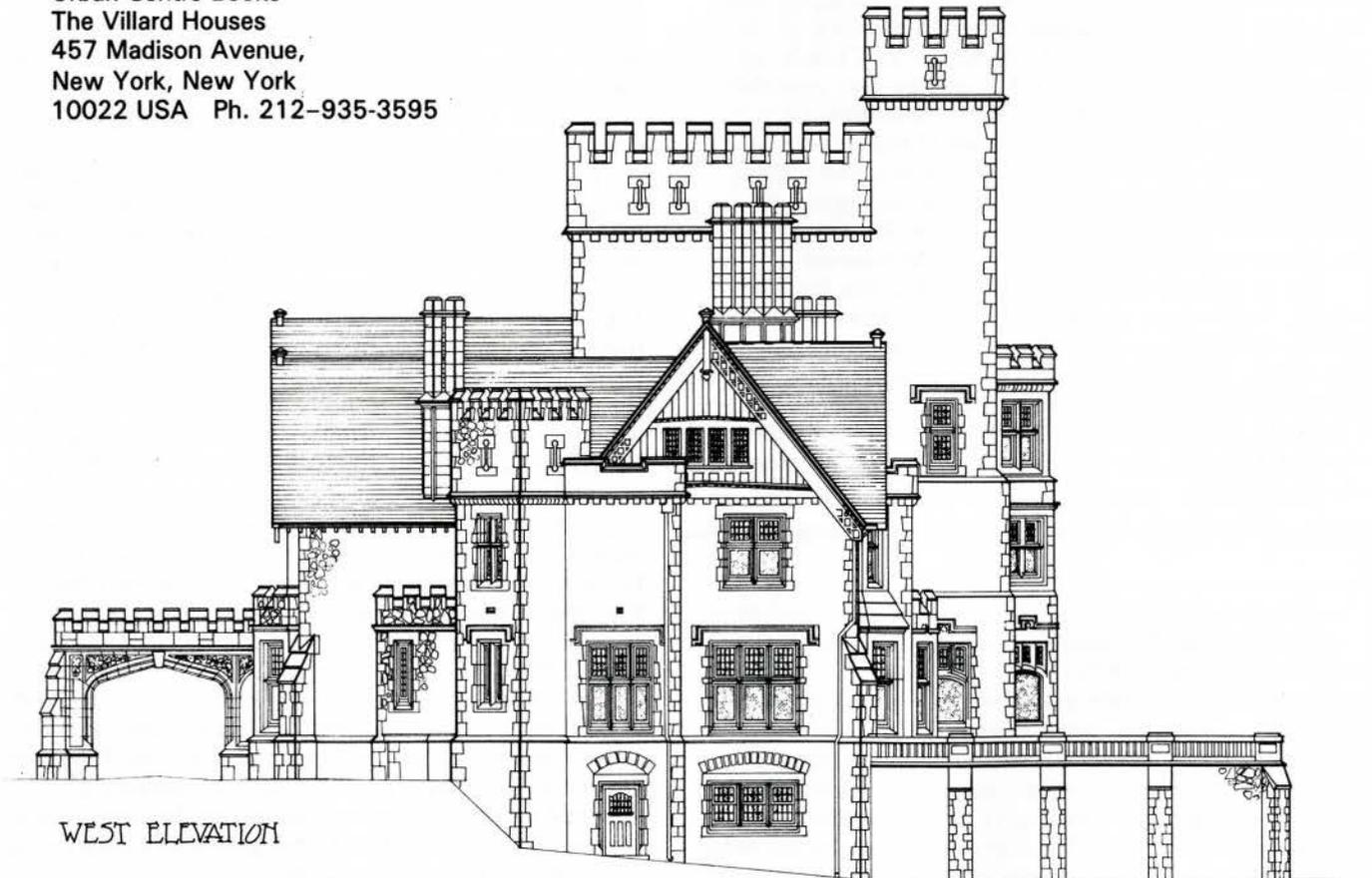
New Books

Architecture civile I: Les édifices publics, Communauté urbaine de Montréal, Secrétariat général, 2 Complexe Desjardins, 21e étage, Montréal, Québec, H5B 1E6

This is the fourth volume in an excellent series documenting the architecture of Montreal. \$5.00 per volume.

GUBBANY, Aline, *Le fleuve et la montagne / The Mountain and the River*. Les Livres Trillium Books, P.O./C.P. 312 (Victoria Station) Montreal, Quebec, H3Z 2V8

The story of the development of the city from its foundation to the present, seen through existing buildings and monuments. \$15.00 per copy.



Samuel Maclure's Hatley Park "Castle" 1908, for James Dunsmuir now serves as the administration building for Royal Roads Military College, Victoria.

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