



# EDITORIAL

THESE NOTES ARE WRITTEN SO VERY SOON AFTER THE JURY SUBMITTED ITS REPORT ON THE COMPETITION FOR A CITY HALL AND SQUARE IN TORONTO, THAT THEY DO NOT PRETEND TO BE CRITICAL OR ANALYTICAL. WE SUPPOSE THAT, FOR NEARLY TWO YEARS, THERE HAS NOT BEEN A DAY WHEN WE DID NOT THINK OF THE COMPETITION IN ONE ASPECT OF IT OR ANOTHER. IT IS THEREFORE RATHER DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT IT IS NOW ALL OVER. A GREAT DESIGN HAS EMERGED AND A FINE ARCHITECT WILL JOIN OUR RANKS FOR SOME YEARS IN CANADA.

IT IS NO SECRET THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE O.A.A. WAS NOT IN FAVOUR OF AN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION. THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HIS VIEWS IN A LETTER TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION, AND WE WROTE AN EDITORIAL IN THE *JOURNAL*. THE POINTS THAT CAME OUT AT THAT TIME CANNOT BE CONTRADICTED NOW. WE DO REPRESENT A SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS WITH PROFESSIONAL ROOTS DEEP IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY — WE ARE HIGHLY REGARDED AT HOME, AND WE ARE NOT UNKNOWN ABROAD. IN RETROSPECT, WE SHOULD PROBABLY REGRET THE SUGGESTION THAT TO OPEN THE COMPETITION TO THE WORLD CARRIED WITH IT THE IMPLICATION THAT WE LACKED TALENT TO DO SO IMPORTANT A PUBLIC BUILDING IN CANADA.

WHEN IT SEEMED THAT MAYOR PHILLIPS WAS ADAMANT AND THAT HE CARRIED WITH HIM A MAJORITY OF COUNCIL, THE O.A.A. RETIRED FROM THE FIELD WITH GRACE AND GREAT GOOD WILL, AND WE WERE NOMINATED AS PROFESSIONAL ADVISER. WE ARE PERHAPS THE BEST PERSON TO RECORD THAT, FROM THE TIME THE O.A.A. AGREED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION, IT HAS BEEN A TOWER OF STRENGTH TO US IN INNUMERABLE WAYS.

NOW THAT THE COMPETITION IS OVER, WE WONDER WHETHER THE COUNCIL OF 1956, UNDER COL GEORGE MASSON, HAS CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL ASPECT OF THE COMPETITION. ON THE SIDE OF PRESTIGE FOR TORONTO, THE NEWSPAPERS OF FORTY-TWO COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THE COMPETITION WITH THE LIVELIEST INTEREST. AT LEAST TWO OF OUR EMBASSIES PUBLISHED THE ORIGINAL NOTICE IN TWENTY-TWO NEWSPAPERS, AND SEVERAL EMBASSIES HAVE ACTED AS MEETING PLACES FOR FOREIGN ARCHITECTS WAITING FOR NEWS, OR THE INTERPRETATION OF CLAUSES IN THE CONDITIONS OR IN ANSWERS. WE HAVE YET TO WRITE TO AMBASSADORS AND HIGH COMMISSIONERS TO THANK THEM FOR THE VERY GREAT ASSISTANCE THAT THEY GAVE THE COMPETITORS. WE DO NOT KNOW THAT CANADIAN EMBASSIES HAVE CULTURAL ATTACHÉS (WHEN WE WROTE, WE ALWAYS ASSUMED THAT THEY DID) BUT, CERTAINLY, THERE MUST HAVE BEEN TIMES WHEN SEVERAL MEMBERS OF STAFF ACTED IN SUCH A CAPACITY IN JAPAN, ITALY AND ELSEWHERE. ON THE SIDE OF PRESTIGE, IT IS BECOMING GENERALLY KNOWN THAT THE SQUARE WHICH WAS PART OF THE PROGRAM, IS THE FIRST MAJOR SQUARE TO BE BUILT IN AN URBAN CENTRE IN TWO OR THREE GENERATIONS. NOR LIKE SO MANY PLANNING PROPOSALS IS THIS A VISION FOR THE FUTURE. THE SITE IS CLEARED, AND AWAITS ONLY THE WORD OF COUNCIL TO BECOME A REALITY.

BUT WHAT OF THE BUILDING? HAS IT CHANGED THE ATTITUDE OF THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE THE COMPETITION TO BE PROVINCIAL OR NATIONAL? IT HAS FOR US. GREAT AND DESERVED AS HAS BEEN THE PUBLICITY FOR MR REWELL, THE WINNER, THAT HAS BEEN NOTHING, IN OUR OPINION, TO EQUAL THE RECENT PUBLICITY FOR ARCHITECTURE AND ARCHITECTS. NEWSPAPERS, IN TORONTO, HAVE GIVEN SPACE TO THE COMPETITION THAT THEY NORMALLY RESERVE FOR DECLARATIONS OF WAR OR PEACE. FROM WHAT WE HAVE SEEN, WE CANNOT POSSIBLY EXAGGERATE WHEN WE SAY THAT, AT NO TIME, AND IN NO PLACE, IN THE WORLD HAS THE ATTENTION OF TWO MILLION PEOPLE BEEN DRAWN SO VIVIDLY TO THE PLACE OF THE ARCHITECT AND THE IMPORTANCE OF HIS SERVICES TO SOCIETY. WE SHOULD NOT BE AT ALL SURPRISED IF TORONTO PEOPLE RAISED THEIR HATS TO MR REWELL AS HE WALKED OUR STREETS. THE PEOPLE OF HELSINKI MAY HAVE SHOWN HIM THAT RESPECT BEFORE AS THE CITIZENS OF OTHER SCANDINAVIAN CITIES DO THEIR DISTINGUISHED ARCHITECTS, BUT WE BELIEVE SO NICE A CUSTOM HAS SO FAR BEEN INFREQUENT IN TORONTO.

MR REWELL RETURNS TO HELSINKI FOR A WELL EARNED REST, AND HE CARRIES WITH HIM THE VERY BEST WISHES OF CANADIAN ARCHITECTS. HE IS A MODEST MAN, QUITE UNACCUSTOMED TO THE HANDSHAKING AND BALLYHOO THAT HE HAS EXPERIENCED DURING THE LAST TWO WEEKS. IN HIS PHOTOGRAPH, SOMEWHERE IN THESE PAGES, IT WILL BE NOTICED THAT HE IS ON THE FRINGE OF HIS YOUNG TEAM AND NOT IN THE CENTRE. FROM WHAT WE HAVE SEEN OF HIM LATELY THAT IS A REVEALING ASPECT OF HIS CHARACTER THAT WILL ENDEAR HIM TO MANY CANADIANS BEFORE HE LEAVES THESE SHORES.

CES NOTES SONT ÉCRITES SI TÔT APRÈS LE VERDICT DU JURY DANS LE CONCOURS RELATIF À UN HÔTEL DE VILLE ET UNE PLACE PUBLIQUE À TORONTO, QU'ELLES N'ONT PAS LA PRÉTENTION D'ÊTRE UNE CRITIQUE NI UNE ANALYSE. DEPUIS PRÈS DE DEUX ANS, IL NE S'EST PAS PASSÉ DE JOUR OÙ NOUS N'AYONS SONGÉ AU CONCOURS SOUS L'UN OU L'AUTRE DE SES MULTIPLES ASPECTS. IL EST DONC ASSEZ DIFFICILE DE SE FAIRE À L'IDÉE QUE MAINTENANT TOUT EST TERMINÉ. UN PROJET MAGNIFIQUE A VU LE JOUR ET UN ARCHITECTE DE GRANDE VALEUR VA SE JOINDRE À NOUS POUR QUELQUES ANNÉES, AU CANADA.

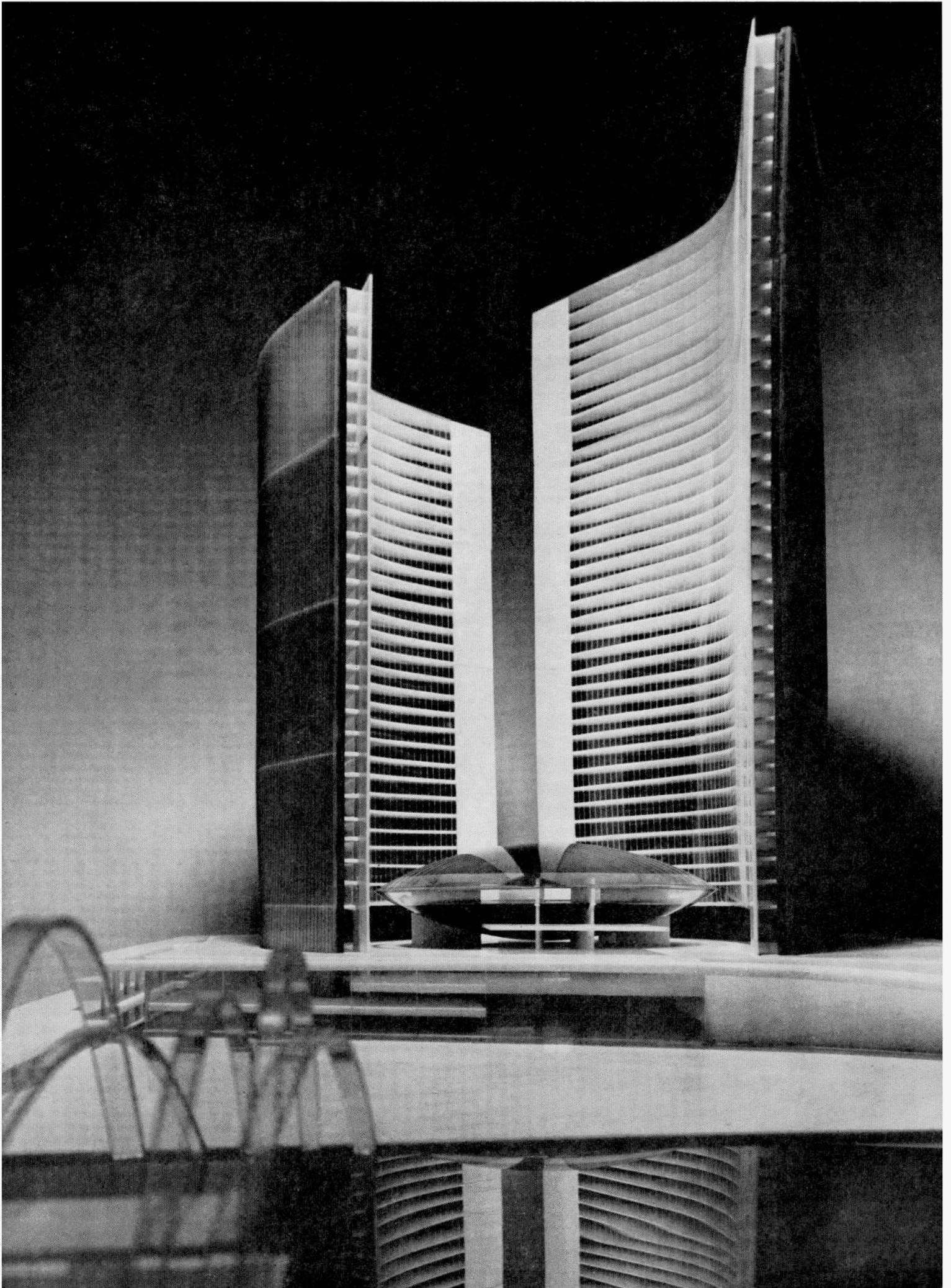
TOUT LE MONDE SAIT QUE L'A.A.O. N'ÉTAIT PAS EN FAVEUR D'UN CONCOURS DE PORTÉE INTERNATIONALE. LE PRÉSIDENT A EXPOSÉ SON OPINION DANS UNE LETTRE AU MAIRE ET AU CONSEIL DE LA CORPORATION, ET NOUS AVONS ÉCRIT UN ÉDITORIAL DANS LE *JOURNAL*. LES ARGUMENTS QUE L'ON A FAIT VALOIR À CETTE ÉPOQUE SONT ENCORE VALIDES AUJOURD'HUI. IL EST VRAI QUE NOUS REPRÉSENTONS UNE SOCIÉTÉ D'ARCHITECTES DONT LES RACINES PROFESSIONNELLES PLONGENT PROFONDEMENT DANS LE XIXE SIÈCLE — ON NOUS TIENT EN HAUTE ESTIME AU CANADA ET NOUS NE SOMMES PAS INCONNUS À L'ÉTRANGER. NOUS DEVRIONS PEUT-ÊTRE REGRETTER — RÉTROSPECTIVEMENT — D'AVOIR DIT QUE PERMETTRE À TOUTS LES PAYS DE PARTICIPER AU CONCOURS C'ÉTAIT RECONNAÎTRE QUE NOUS N'AVIONS PAS AU CANADA LES HOMMES DE TALENT NÉCESSAIRES POUR RÉALISER UN ÉDIFICE PUBLIC DE CETTE IMPORTANCE.

LORSQUE L'A.A.O. S'EST RENDU COMPTE QUE LE MAIRE PHILLIPS NE CÉDERAIT PAS ET QU'IL AVAIT L'APPUI DE LA MAJORITÉ DU CONSEIL, ELLE S'EST RETIRÉE DE BONNE GRÂCE ET NOUS AVONS ÉTÉ NOMMÉ CONSEILLER PROFESSIONNEL. NOUS SOMMES PEUT-ÊTRE LA PERSONNE LA MIEUX PLACÉE POUR DIRE QU'À COMPTER DU MOMENT OÙ L'A.A.O. A ACCEPTÉ LE PRINCIPE D'UN CONCOURS INTERNATIONAL, ELLE NOUS A FOURNI UNE AIDE INDÉTECTIBLE DANS DE MULTIPLES CIRCONSTANCES.

MAINTENANT QUE LE CONCOURS EST TERMINÉ, NOUS NOUS DEMANDONS SI LE CONSEIL DE 1956, À LA TÊTE DUQUEL SE TROUVAIT LE COLONEL GEORGE MASSON, A CHANGÉ D'IDÉE AU SUJET DE L'ASPECT INTERNATIONAL DU CONCOURS. À L'ACTIF DU PRESTIGE DE TORONTO, ON PEUT DIRE QUE LES JOURNAUX DE QUARANTE-DEUX PAYS ONT SUIVI LE CONCOURS AVEC L'INTÉRÊT LE PLUS VIF. AU MOINS DEUX DE NOS AMBASSADES ONT PUBLIÉ L'AVIS ORIGINAL DANS VINGT-DEUX JOURNAUX, ET PLUSIEURS AMBASSADES ONT SERVI DE LIEU DE RENCONTRE AUX ARCHITECTES ÉTRANGERS QUI Y ATTENDAIENT DES NOUVELLES OU L'INTERPRÉTATION DES DISPOSITIONS QUI PORTAIENT LES CONDITIONS DU CONCOURS OU LES RÉPONSES. NOUS N'AVONS PAS ENCORE ÉCRIT AUX AMBASSADEURS ET HAUTS COMMISSAIRES POUR LES REMERCIER DE L'AIDE CONSIDÉRABLE QU'ILS ONT FOURNIE AUX CONCURRENTS. NOUS IGNORONS SI LES AMBASSADES DU CANADA ONT DES ATTACHÉS CULTURELS (LORSQUE NOUS AVONS ÉCRIT, NOUS AVONS TOUJOURS SUPPOSÉ QU'ELLES EN AVAIENT) MAIS NOUS SOMMES CERTAIN QU'IL A DÛ Y AVOIR DES MOMENTS OÙ PLUSIEURS MEMBRES DU PERSONNEL ONT AGI À CE TITRE AU JAPON, EN ITALIE ET AILLEURS. QUANT AU PRESTIGE, IL EST DE PLUS EN PLUS GÉNÉRALEMENT CONNU QUE LA PLACE QUI FAIT PARTIE DU PROJET EST LA PREMIÈRE PLACE IMPORTANTE À ÊTRE AMÉNAGÉE DANS UNE VILLE DEPUIS DEUX OU TROIS GÉNÉRATIONS. IL NE S'AGIT PAS NON PLUS, COMME DANS TANT DE PROJETS D'AMÉNAGEMENT, D'UN SIMPLE RÊVE D'AVENIR. L'EMPLACEMENT A ÉTÉ DÉGAGÉ ET IL SUFFIT D'UN MOT DU CONSEIL POUR QUE LE PROJET DEVIENNE RÉALITÉ.

MAIS QUE PENSER DE L'IMMEUBLE LUI-MÊME? A-T-IL FAIT CHANGER D'AVIS CEUX QUI AURAIENT VU RESTREINDRE LE CONCOURS AU NIVEAU PROVINCIAL OU NATIONAL? C'EST L'EFFET QU'IL A EU SUR NOUS. QUELQUE CONSIDÉRABLE ET MÉRITÉE QU'AIT ÉTÉ LA PUBLICITÉ FAITE À M. REWELL, LE GAGNANT, CELA N'EST RIEN, SELON NOUS, À CÔTÉ DE LA PUBLICITÉ DONT ONT BÉNÉFICIÉ RÉCEMMENT L'ARCHITECTURE ET LES ARCHITECTES. LES JOURNAUX, À TORONTO, ONT CONSACRÉ AU CONCOURS L'ESPACE QU'ILS RÉSERVENT D'ORDINAIRE AUX DÉCLARATIONS DE GUERRE OU DE PAIX. D'APRÈS CE QUE NOUS AVONS VU, ON NE PEUT EXAGÉRER EN DISANT QUE JAMAIS ET NULLE PART AU MONDE L'ATTENTION DE DEUX MILLIONS DE PERSONNES N'A ÉTÉ ATTIRÉE AUSSI FORTEMENT SUR LA PLACE QU'OCCUPE L'ARCHITECTE DANS LA SOCIÉTÉ ET L'IMPORTANCE DES SERVICES QU'IL Y REND. NOUS NE SERIONS PAS SURPRIS DU TOUT SI LES TORONTOIS SALUAIENT M. REWELL LORSQU'ILS LE CROISENT DANS LA RUE. LES HABITANTS DE HELSINKI LUI ONT PEUT-ÊTRE DÉJÀ RENDU CET HOMMAGE, COMME LE FONT LES CITOYENS D'AUTRES VILLES SCANDINAVES À LEURS ARCHITECTES ÉMINENTS; MAIS NOUS CRAIGNONS QU'UNE COUTUME AUSSI DÉLICATE SOIT PEU RÉPANDUE DE NOS JOURS À TORONTO.

M. REWELL RENTRE À HELSINKI POUR Y GOÛTER UN REPOS BIEN MÉRITÉ. IL EMPORTE LES MEILLEURS VOEUX DES ARCHITECTES DU CANADA. IL EST UN HOMME MODESTE, PEU HABITUÉ AUX MULTIPLES POIGNÉES DE MAINS ET À TOUT LE TRALALA QU'IL A CONNU AU COURS DES DEUX DERNIÈRES SEMAINES. SUR LA PHOTOGRAPHIE REPRODUITE AILLEURS DANS LE PRÉSENT NUMÉRO, ON REMARQUERA QU'IL SE TIENT À UNE EXTRÉMITÉ DE SA JEUNE ÉQUIPÉE, ET NON AU CENTRE. D'APRÈS CE QUE NOUS AVONS APPRIS DE LUI RÉCEMMENT, C'EST LÀ UN ASPECT RÉVÉLATEUR DE SA PERSONNALITÉ QUI LE RENDRA CHER À DE NOMBREUX CANADIENS, AVANT SON DÉPART DE NOTRE PAYS.



# TORONTO CITY HALL AND SQUARE COMPETITION

## THE JURY

**Charles E. Pratt** was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1911. He attended Brentwood College, Victoria, B.C. and later studied architecture at the University of Toronto. He has been awarded two RAIC gold medals, one in 1939. (He is unable to recall the date of the other.)

Mr Pratt was an associate of the office of Sharp and Thompson until he joined the RCAF in 1942. In 1946, he became a partner in the firm of Sharp, Thompson, Berwick & Pratt.

Mr Pratt is at present in charge of design with the firm of Thompson, Berwick & Pratt and was responsible for the design of the firm's most recent important building, the B.C. Electric Building, Vancouver.

**Eero Saarinen** was born in Finland in 1910. In 1934, he received his degree of Bachelor of Fine Arts at the School of Architecture, Yale University, and in 1934-36, he was awarded the Charles O. Matcham Fellowship for European Travel.

He is a partner in the firm of Eero Saarinen and Associates, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

All architects in Canada are aware of Mr Saarinen's principal buildings, the General Motors Technical Centre in Warren, Michigan, and the Auditorium and Chapel at MIT.

He is at present engaged on the terminal building for T.W.A., the international airport in Washington, D.C., and the American Embassies in London and Oslo.

Mr Saarinen has won or been placed in a number of important competitions in the United States.

In some circles, he is equally well known for the excellence of the furniture, which he has designed.

**Dr Ernesto Rogers** was born in Trieste in 1909. He obtained his degree at the Faculty of Architecture at the Polytechnic of Milan, where he has been professor of Theory of Architecture since 1952.

Dr Rogers would appear to be one of the most popular lecturers in the world. He has lectured in French, English, Spanish and Italian, at universities in such widely scattered places as Geneva, Lima, Massachusetts, California, Oregon, Illinois, Peking and Shanghai, New York and Sao Paulo.

He is the editor of one of the most beautiful architectural magazines in the world, Casa Bella.

Dr Rogers is a member of the firm of Ludovico B. Belgiojoso, Enrico Peressutti, Ernesto N. Rogers in town planning, architecture, interior decoration and industrial design with a

practice extending from Milan to New York.

It is perhaps of interest to architects in Canada to know that Dr Rogers' firm is engaged on the Canadian Pavilion for the "Biennale d'Arte", Venice, 1958.

**Sir William Holford** was born in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1907. In 1930 he obtained his degree of Bachelor of Architecture with first-class honours, at the University of Liverpool. In 1933 he was lecturer in History and Theory of Architecture at Liverpool School of Architecture.

In 1935, Sir William succeeded Professor Patrick Abercrombie as Lever Professor of Civic Design in the University of Liverpool.

In 1942-46, he was chief technical officer at the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, and, in 1946, was appointed, with Dr C. H. Holden, to prepare a reconstruction plan for the war damaged City of London. A report on that work was finally published by the Architectural Press, *The City of London: a Record of Destruction and Survival*, 1951.

Sir William's later appointments of distinction are most extensive. It is perhaps enough to say here that he is at present engaged on the planning of three capitals — Salisbury in Rhodesia, Pretoria in South Africa and Canberra in Australia.

**Professor Gordon Stephenson** received his degree of Bachelor of Architecture at the University of Liverpool in 1930. From 1930-32 he was Chadwick Scholar at the British Institute in Paris and the University of Paris, and from 1936-38 Commonwealth Fellow at MIT, where he obtained his Master's Degree.

Professor Stephenson was formerly Lever Professor of Civic Design at the University of Liverpool.

Before coming to Canada, he was senior research officer with Lord Reith's reconstruction group, and, later Chief Planning Officer with the Ministry of Town and Country Planning. In 1943-44, he was seconded to assist Sir Patrick Abercrombie on the Greater London Plan, and, in 1946, was responsible for the design of the first New Town under the New Towns Act.

Since 1955, Professor Stephenson has been head of the division of Town and Regional Planning, School of Architecture, University of Toronto, and is at present consultant to the Planning Boards of the Cities of Toronto and Hamilton and to the Council of the City of Halifax, Nova Scotia. In 1957, he was adviser to the President's Planning Committee in the University of British Columbia.



Left to right — Professor Eric Arthur, Mr. Charles E. Pratt, Mr. Eero Saarinen, Dr. Ernesto Rogers, Sir William Holford, Professor Gordon Stephenson

*Professor E. R. Arthur,  
Professional Adviser and Chairman of the Jury.*

Dear Sir:

Before proceeding to report on its findings the Jury wishes to commend the City of Toronto and the Professional Adviser on an extremely well run professional international competition. It also wishes to extend its highest compliments to the 520 competitors from 42 different countries on the excellence of their submissions. The standard was unusually high and it was a most exacting task to select the eight finalists.

In this last stage of the competition these competitors have again developed and presented their proposals excellently. The drawings and models were of an exceptionally high standard. Altogether the Jury is convinced of the great merit of an international competition as a means of arriving at a design for such an important project as the City Hall and Square of Toronto.

*The Decision*

All members of the Jury unanimously accept the majority decision that Viljo Rewell is the winner of the competition. The Jury is unanimous in regarding his entry as the most original in conception of any of those submitted. Its monumental qualities are of a high order and it is a composition of great strength. Its shape is distinctive and dramatic, setting it apart from other structures in Toronto and from administrative and office buildings everywhere.

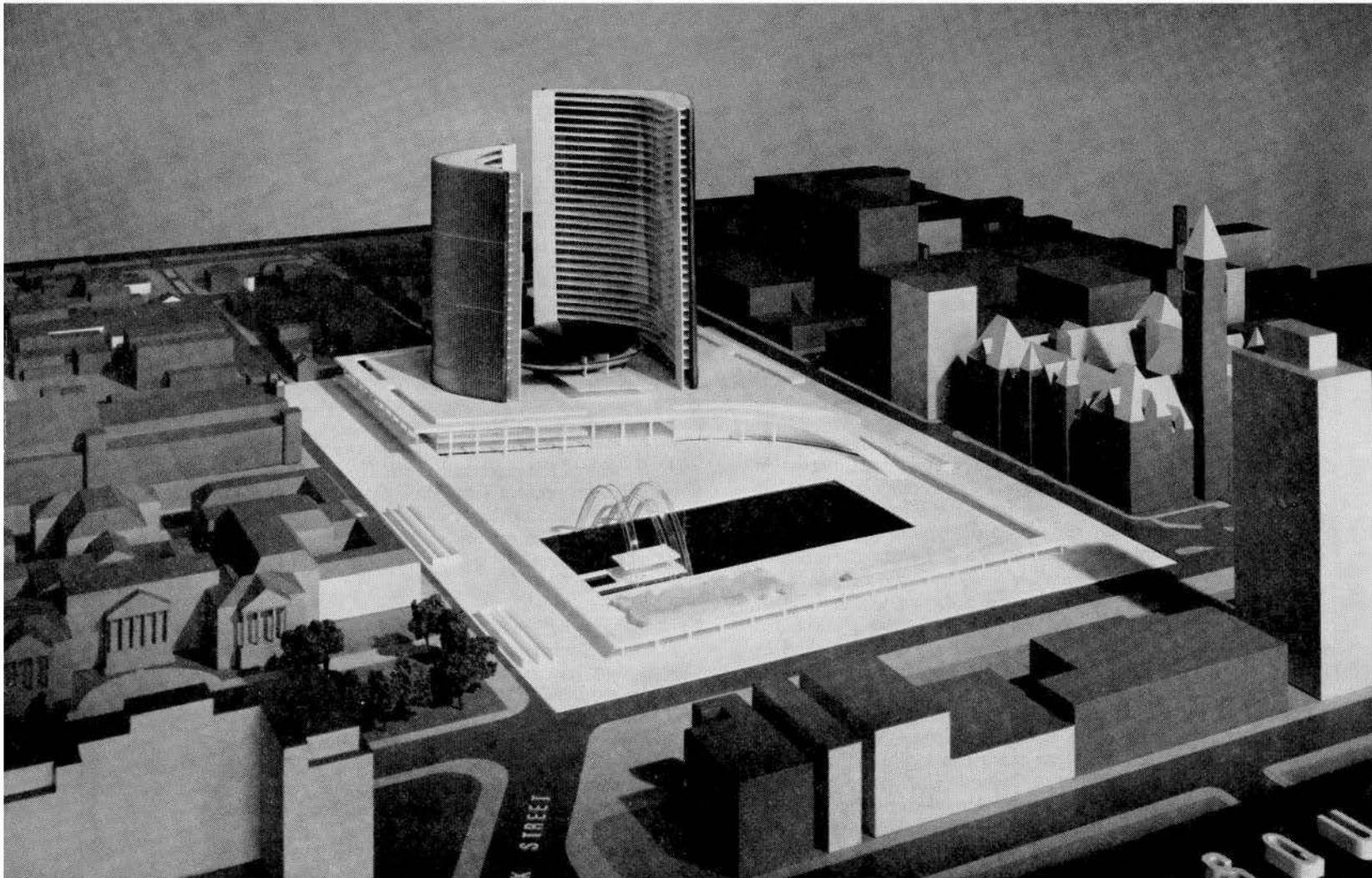
The Jury is unanimous in the view that the best interests of the City will be served by the implementation of the winning design, and that a concerted effort should be made to give it the finest possible expression. To achieve this the architect should be given full co-operation and the maximum support of all concerned.

The Jury agrees that, accepting the basic design submitted by Mr Rewell, there are possibilities for modification which would improve it.

(Sgd)

*William Holford  
C. E. Pratt  
Ernesto N. Rogers  
Eero Saarinen  
Gordon Stephenson*

PANDA



# REPORT OF THE JURY

## MAJORITY REPORT

### *Basic Considerations*

In the competition conditions the following statement is made.

"In the eighteenth century, the cathedral and the town hall frequently dominated the urban scene both physically and spiritually. The City Hall in Toronto is largely overshadowed physically, but it still dominates by its presence. The City Hall in Toronto differs, in that respect, from those centres of civic administration in North America where the "Hall" is just another office building hardly differentiated from the commercial structures which surround it.

One of the reasons for this competition is to find a building that will proudly express its function as the centre of civic government. How to achieve an atmosphere about a building that suggests government, continuity of certain democratic traditions and service to the community are problems for the designer of the modern city hall. These were qualities that the architects of other ages endeavoured to embody in the town halls of their times."

The Jury regarded this as the most important consideration in the competition and considered it very carefully. In a project of this sort the City Hall must bear a significant conscious relationship to its surroundings. Toronto being a dynamic city, many buildings of various heights and shapes will be erected near the Square, each adding to the varied silhouette against which the City Hall must be seen. In this situation a choice must be made between several approaches.

1. The City Hall could be made similar to surrounding buildings and be absorbed into the downtown landscape. Any distinctiveness it would have would derive from its setting in the Square but the building itself would be basically similar to many office buildings. In the opinion of the Jury such an approach was inadequate and did not meet the requirements.
2. The City Hall might be made so tall that it soared above all others in the downtown area, to become the dominant feature of the Toronto skyline. Certain competitors attempted to achieve this. However, to the Jury this did not seem practical as it resulted in a very expensive and, in certain regards, inefficient building, and there was no way of ensuring that the effect would be maintained.
3. A relatively low, horizontal building placed within the Square could stand detached from the buildings around it, achieving an effect of dignity by its simple contrast with its background. The Jury regarded this concept as very promising and, indeed, five of the final proposals are in this category.
4. The City Hall could be a distinctive building, different in form and materials from standard commercial buildings. It would be impressive when seen from the Square and its immediate neighbourhood, and also a distinctive feature of the silhouette of Toronto as seen from the distance.

In appraising the eight finalists the majority concluded that the winning architect had achieved a design which fulfilled this last approach excellently.

Many other considerations were also carefully weighed in arriving at a decision. The design of the Square is very important. The winner not only achieves a handsome space but successfully emphasizes the present City Hall, a building which the whole Jury regards as a most handsome example of its period. He takes full advantage of the continuity of the Square with the open space in front of Osgoode Hall and encourages the extensions to lead to University Avenue, creating a larger space within which Osgoode Hall is placed. The mall to the north of Osgoode Hall could be readily achieved when the Armouries is replaced by the proposed Court House.

The interior design and arrangement of the building is of great importance. Referring to the Public Access Areas, those parts of the building which will be most frequented by the public, the competition conditions state, "This is the citizen's first impression of the City Hall. Without extravagance it should be impressive." The placing of the Council Chamber is also of great significance. For this the majority favoured the idea of emphasizing its location as a symbol of democratic government. In this way one aspect of the special nature of the City Hall might be brought out.

The functional organization of the City Hall and its structural economy were given most careful consideration. On this score, however, there were many entries that were entirely adequate. Differences between schemes were much greater in other aspects of the design and the majority made its selection of the winner from a careful weighing of all the factors involved.

### *General Description of the Winning Design*

The winning design is a most imaginative and original concept. The southern part of the site is devoted to the Square and north of this is the building group composed of three main elements: a broad, low horizontal building above which rises a pair of tall curved towers and, nestled between the towers and immediately above the horizontal building, a structure whose upper surface is a low, broad dome and whose under surface is an inverted reflection of the upper side.

The total composition clearly and dramatically expresses the major functions of civic government. Opening directly from the Square, the low building contains all those activities in which members of the public are likely to be interested. The tall towers contain office space, repeated floor by floor. They are carefully placed and curved so that they focus inwards upon the domed structure. This structure rests at the evident centre of the composition and contains the centre of government, the Council Chamber and executive suites.

Viewed from close at hand the building stands out as a symbol in the urban landscape, clear in all its parts. From the distance the curving forms of the towers would constitute a feature of the Toronto skyline, clearly different from all other buildings.

The roof of the horizontal building constitutes an upper plaza, the inner part contained within the curved towers, the outer part overlooking the Square. The diagonally curved southern wall of this building forcefully defines the Square at ground level. At the western end the sweep of the wall carries on to the site of the proposed Court House. At the eastern end it leads to the present City Hall, throwing this fine building into relief. Reflecting the curve there is an emphasis on the continuity of space on the south side of the Square and in front of Osgoode Hall, calling for a fine facade on the south side of Queen Street.

### *Comment on the Winning Scheme*

The majority is convinced that the basic concept of the winning design has great strength. Certain features, it is felt, could be modified with advantage and comments on these, as well as many fine features, are made in this section in the hope that they may be of value to the winner, and the City, in developing the final design. The majority feels certain that because of the strength and soundness of the proposal such modifications could be readily accommodated without detracting from its excellence. A great deal of detail remains to be worked out after consultations in Toronto and this should afford the opportunity to consider the various points raised.

The Civic Square has been carefully shaped in its broad lines and is enhanced by the enclosing arcade which both helps give it definition and provides shelter to the pedestrian. The pool has been well placed on the axis of the present City Hall. However, a great deal of the landscaping, trees and surface features detail must be worked out to provide the necessary human interest, and it is rather unfortunate that the winner has developed this aspect so little at this stage.

The main public hall which the citizen enters whenever he goes to City Hall is a magnificent round room with a great circular rotunda cutting upwards through three floors to a skylight above. Around this room stretches a long counter where all business can be transacted, a very efficient arrangement within a handsome room.

Above this main floor is a mezzanine devoted to traffic circulation and above this again is a second mezzanine with government areas which have to be close to the Council Chamber. This achieves a very satisfactory relationship between the different areas. Generally this space is efficiently used, a most important consideration in view of there being almost half the total floor area in this horizontal part of the building. However, there appears to be a surplus of vertical circulation facilities and this should be reconsidered.

The Council Chamber and Related executive offices are well located in the centre of the building, but the arrangement of the offices could well be restudied after consultation with those familiar with their operation. They have the potential of a very interesting series of rooms.

The two office towers are superb aesthetically, their carefully shaped and related curves achieving a balance and total effect of strength and dignity. They also offer many fine views from the inner walls. Undoubtedly these advantages have been achieved at some expense and it is hoped that the architect will do whatever he can to reduce costs. It is suggested that both space and structural economies be sought. The architect is to be commended for the substantial saving in space already made between the preliminary and final competitions. Further analysis of plans might produce additional savings. Structurally the greatest economy which, it appears, could readily be pursued would be in devising ways of reducing the size of the cantilever at present shown. In reviewing plans for the towers the placing of departments to ensure their most efficient relationship might also be reviewed.

The architect has switched the positions of the two office towers between the preliminary and final competitions, possibly influenced by certain remarks of the Jury following the preliminary competition. There are, however, other factors to be considered and the majority has some reservations about this change. Not only did the earlier arrangement offer a simpler and more economical air conditioning problem but a wider knowledge of development of the district around the Square also indicates some advantage in the earlier proposal.

Any adjustments in these regards should leave the basic concept strong and clear and it is the majority's view that this would be possible. The City Hall and Square should retain all the visual significance of this important public space and building.

The minority, Sir William Holford and Professor Gordon Stephenson, have reservations on several important aspects of the winning design.

## MINORITY REPORT

The Jury were unanimous in regarding the winning design as the most original in conception of any of those submitted.

They were less unanimous about the suitability of this monumental design to the site prepared for it, and as an answer to the requirements of the administrative programme. On this there were strong differences of opinion – as there are likely to be in any democratic assembly.

As a minority we were highly critical of some aspects of this design. We were also conscious of the carefully drawn conditions, the cost of the project in the minds of the Council and the public, and the need for a building which is efficient and workable, and flexible enough to meet the requirements of growth and change.

In this dilemma the easiest but less constructive course for the minority would have been withdrawal from the Jury, with whom however we have been in agreement over all decisions in the preliminary stage and over many in the final. Instead we have written this minority report containing our reservations. This will of necessity expose the degree of disagreement or doubt held by the minority, and the reason why these disagreements could not be resolved, as is usual, within the Jury itself. But since no worthwhile judgement is entirely uncritical, the reservations may also be useful to strengthen or modify the design of the City Hall and the City Square as it is finally executed.

### *Reservations Concerning the Winning Design Relation to the City*

1. On the east and north sides, and to some degree to the west as seen from University Avenue, the winning design shuts out the city around it, presenting blank concrete walls (356 ft. and 290 ft. in height) to surrounding streets and buildings. This might have an adverse effect on the future redevelopment of these sectors; whereas the new City Hall could otherwise be expected to spark off a number of surrounding projects, eventually leading to a really significant renewal of this part of the City. Much could be done to reduce this adverse effect.

2. The City Square, which in our opinion should hope to attract citizens of all ages in a rich and varied way, still appears in the final stage of the competition as a somewhat stark design. It could be given greater landscape interest and amenity, and a more human scale.

### *The Building as a Working Proposition*

3. The four main elements in the scheme – the Civic Square, the four-level base or podium (which covers nearly half the site), the two office towers, and the Council and Executive suite – are connected to each other by an external ramp, by escalators, by a large number of elevators in ten different places, as well as by emergency stairs. Internal circulation within the building is complicated, as it involves movement from one office tower to another or to the Council suite; and the one-sided office towers have longer horizontal lines of communication than are found in two-sided arrangements of offices.

4. The Council Chamber and suite, although placed in the very focus of the design, have defects as working accommodation, and a poor outlook.

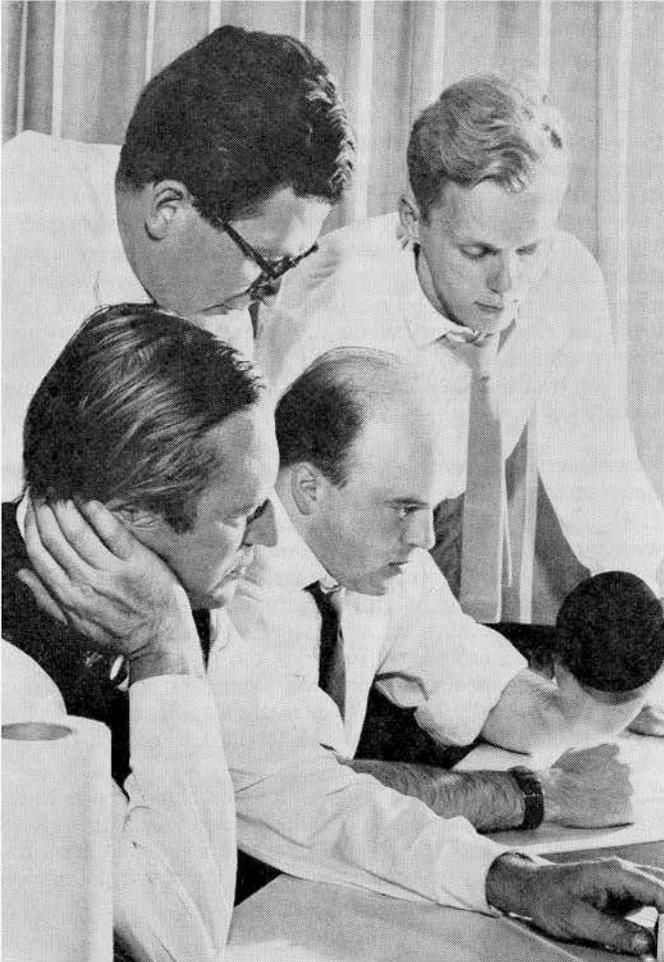
### *Structure and Cost*

5. The form of construction proposed for the office towers is probably the most expensive which could be devised for vertical slabs. The huge cross-buttressed reinforced-concrete walls support floors which are, in effect, trays cantilevered in one direction. The open ends of the trays are covered by a glazed curtain wall. It is doubtful whether the cantilevers would register in the mind of an external observer, and it seems reasonable to suggest that the form of construction could be modified and reduced in cost.

6. Because of the variety of unusual structural forms, and the considerable space demanded for circulation, the design as presented would, in our estimate, cost much more than the figure which the Council had in mind. By considerable revision, economies in space and structure could be made without changing the main effect of the composition.

Both in the Conditions of Competition (para. 15), and in the report of the Jury on the preliminary stage, the need for reasonable economy was stressed. In order to realise the design and preserve its integrity, even with the revision suggested, the Council should be prepared to increase the sum voted.

## THE SUCCESSFUL COMPETITOR AND HIS TEAM



Bengt Lundsten  
Viljo Rewell

Heikki Castren  
Seppo Valjus

VILJO REWELL was born in Vaasa, Finland, in 1910. He was educated in Vaasa and at the Institute of Technology, Helsinki, where he received his diploma. He worked as an assistant to Mr Alvar Aalto and, since 1930, has been in private practice under his own name. His practice has covered all types of buildings, one of which was illustrated in the *Journal* in June.

Mr Rewell has devoted a good deal of time to architectural committees, and has been the director of the Standardization Work sent up by the Institute of Finnish Architects. He is currently the Superintendent of the Museum of Finnish Architecture.

Mr Rewell says in his biographical notes that, architectural competitions hold an important position in the traditions of his country. He believes that they play an equally important part in the development of the architecture of Finland.

In 1954-55, he was offered a research scholarship in North America, and toured the United States and Mexico, having his principal bases at IIT in Chicago and at the University of California, Berkeley. He was a jury member at the competition of the exhibition "Scandinavian Design" in 1954.

Yachting has always been one of Mr Rewell's favourite hobbies and, in 1932-33, during his period of military service, he participated in a year long voyage to South and Central America on a Finnish training frigate. He served during the war in the Finnish Navy and belongs to the reserve of officers in that service.

### REPORT OF THE WINNER

*Functional clarity and the visual significance of a public building (a memorable impression of "TORONTO CITY HALL") were the chief aims of the preliminary draught. In the final project, the planner has concentrated most closely upon the further development of these characteristics and the clear indication of them in order to create a closely integrated entity as a symbol for Toronto.*

*As a result of the memorandum of the jury, the plan has been developed in accordance with the surroundings, particularly University Avenue, the Square, and the old City Hall.*

*The before-mentioned attempt at clarity is apparent, among other things, in the division of the traffic into separated areas and functions.*

#### CONSTRUCTION

*The building structure will be of poured reinforced concrete throughout. The supporting body, columns, beams, joists and slabs will employ 3,000# concrete. The cantilevered beams of the intermediate floors of the towers will require 5,000# concrete.*

#### MATERIALS

*The endeavour to achieve clarity and authenticity has been the directing principle in the choice of material. Reinforced concrete (often air entrained) is the basic material. It is used in precast sections on the facade, some of the walls, and horizontal plane slabs. It is also poured in place and surface treated or left in a raw state depending upon the desired architectural effect.*

#### Exterior:

1. Towers — unfinished concrete, glass (thermo-pane), aluminum trim.
2. Base — precast concrete, glass, aluminum trim.
3. "Mushroom" — concrete, plastic, glass.

#### Interior:

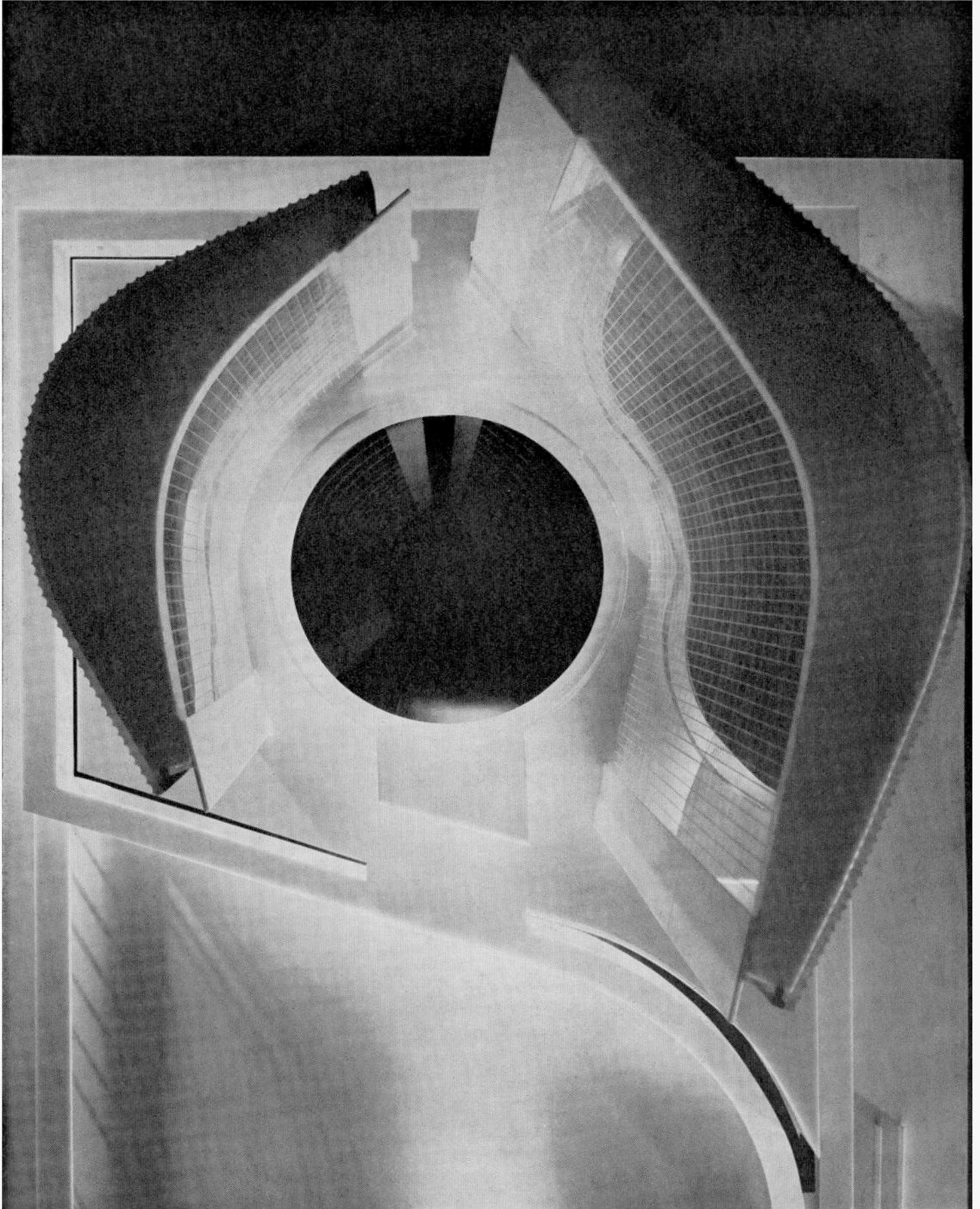
1. Towers — plastic tile floors, acoustic tile ceiling, movable metal partitions, aluminum and wood trim.
2. Base — marble floor, acoustically treated ceiling, metal and glass partitions (and wood), marble, aluminum and wood trim.
3. "Mushroom" — terrazzo and fitted carpets, acoustically treated ceiling, plaster and wood partitions, marble, aluminum and wood trim.

#### EXTENSION

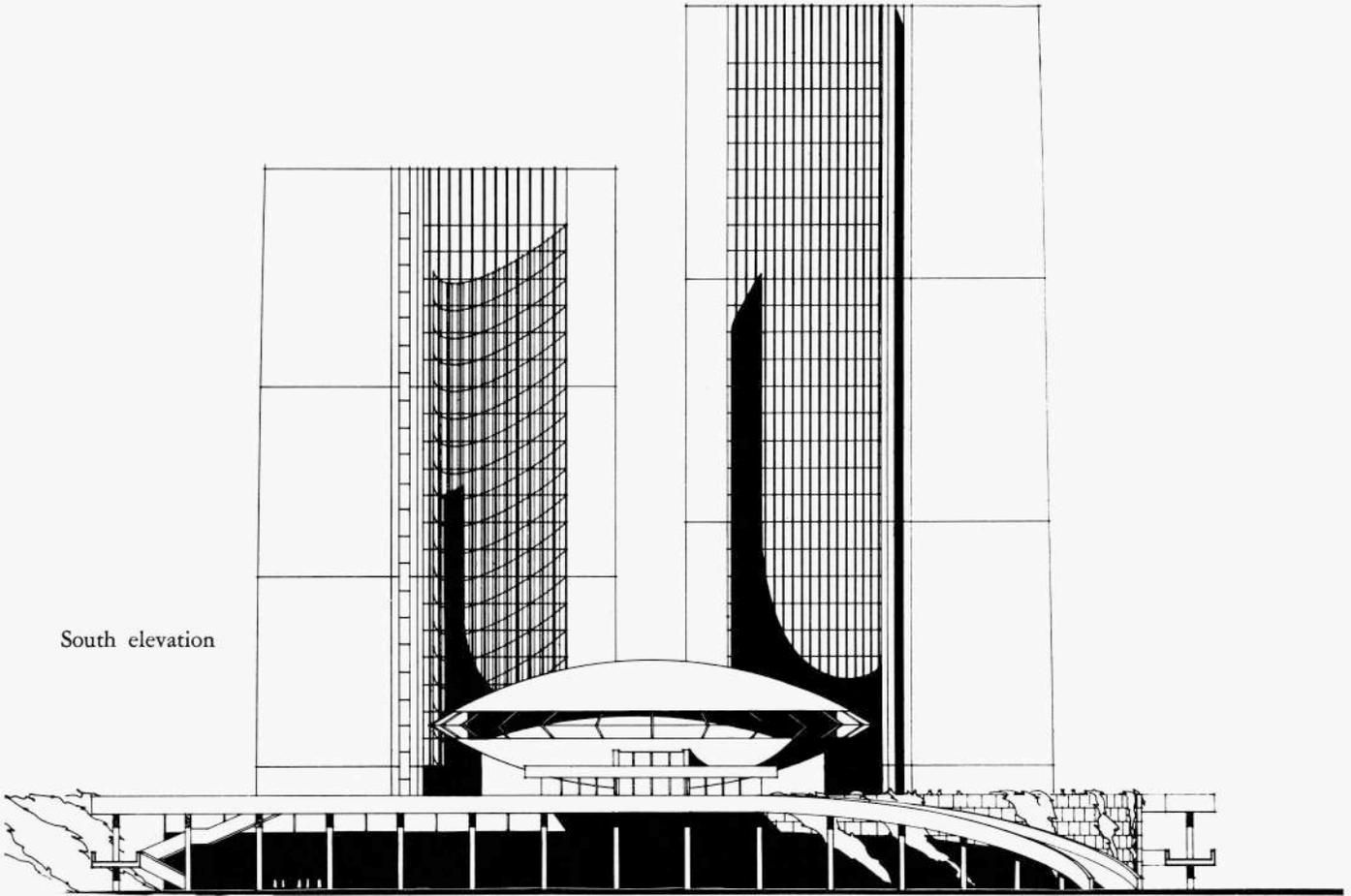
*According to the plan and the comprehension of the designer, the special characteristic of the building is that it can be extended by means of increasing the height without any technical or architectural difficulties, or (if made at the back of the towers) without causing too much disturbance during the time of construction.*

*The strengthening of the fabric, which would be required as a consequence of increasing the height, is achieved by filling certain cavities in the "spine" of the building structure (behind the lift shafts).*

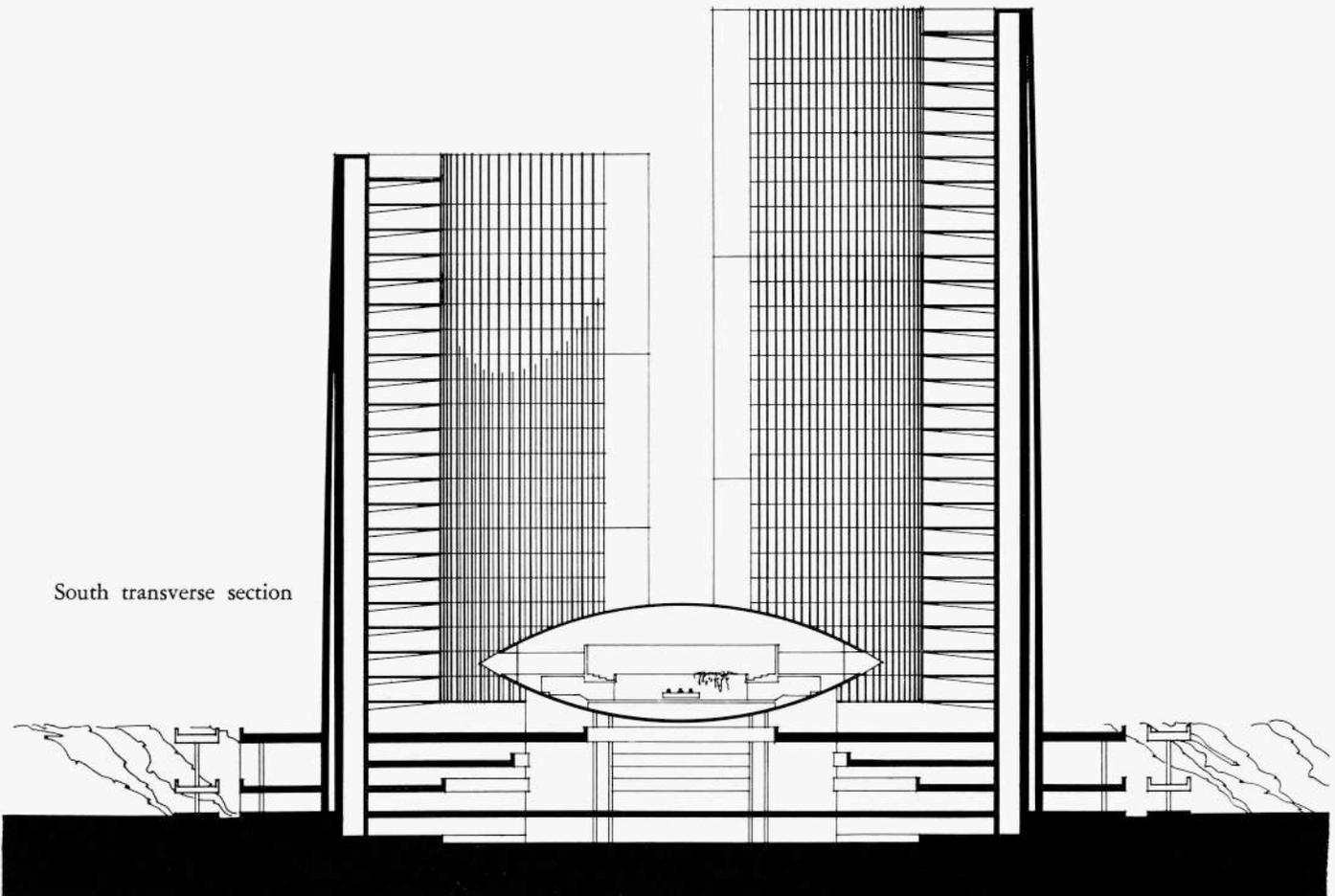
*An additional extension can be made to the north, where, on the present siting of the building, there is 68' wide space for extra building which immediately adjoins the proposed lower part.*

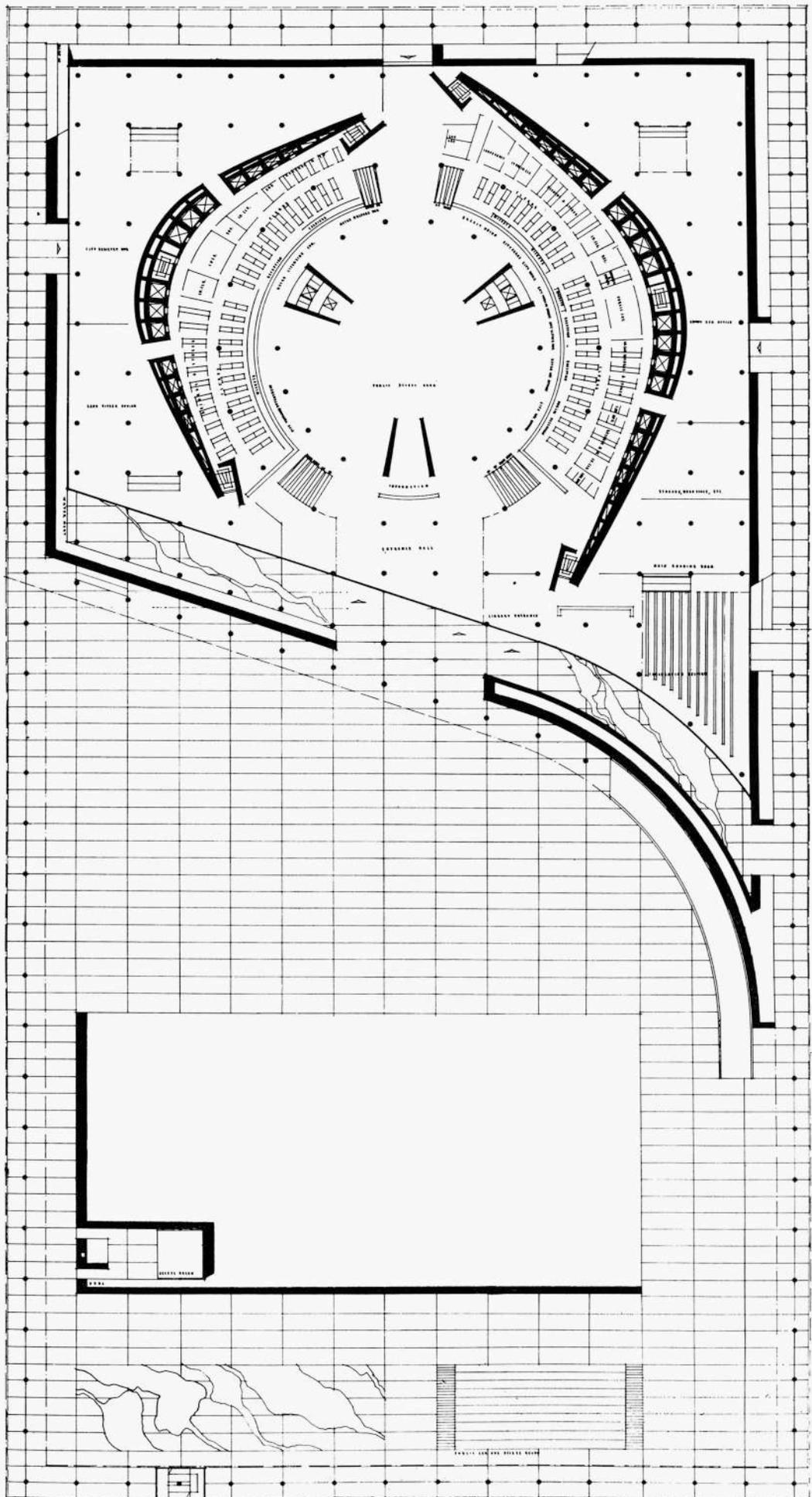


South elevation



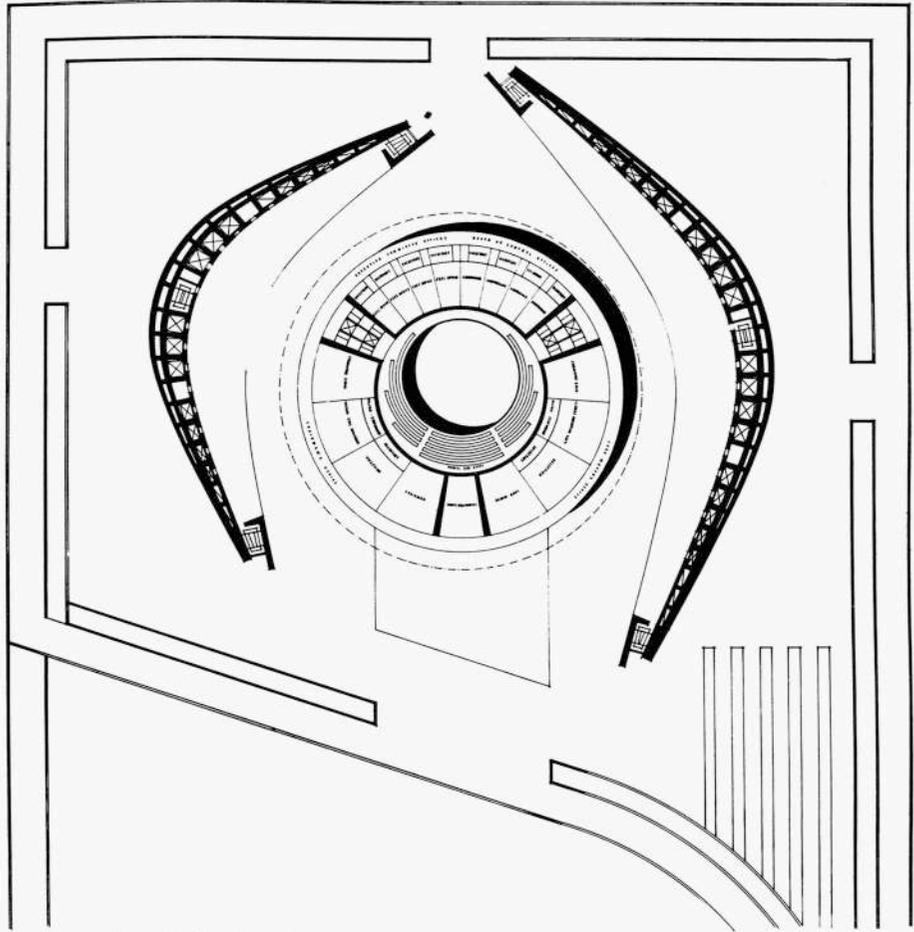
South transverse section



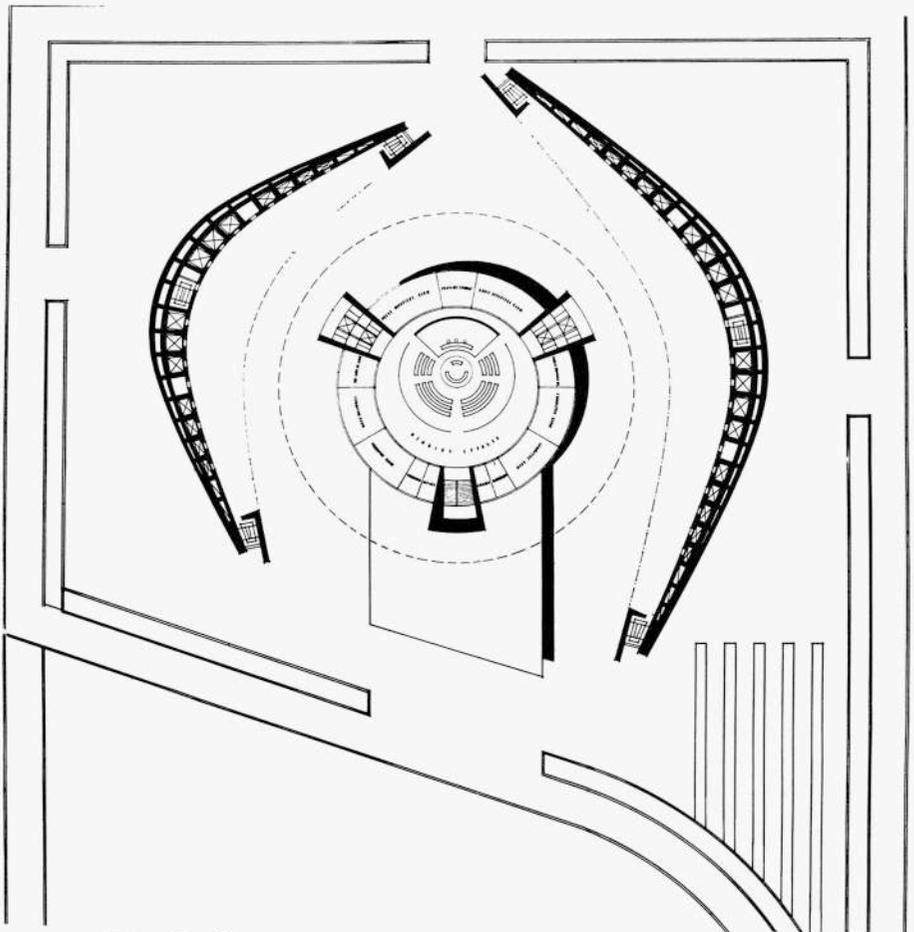


First floor

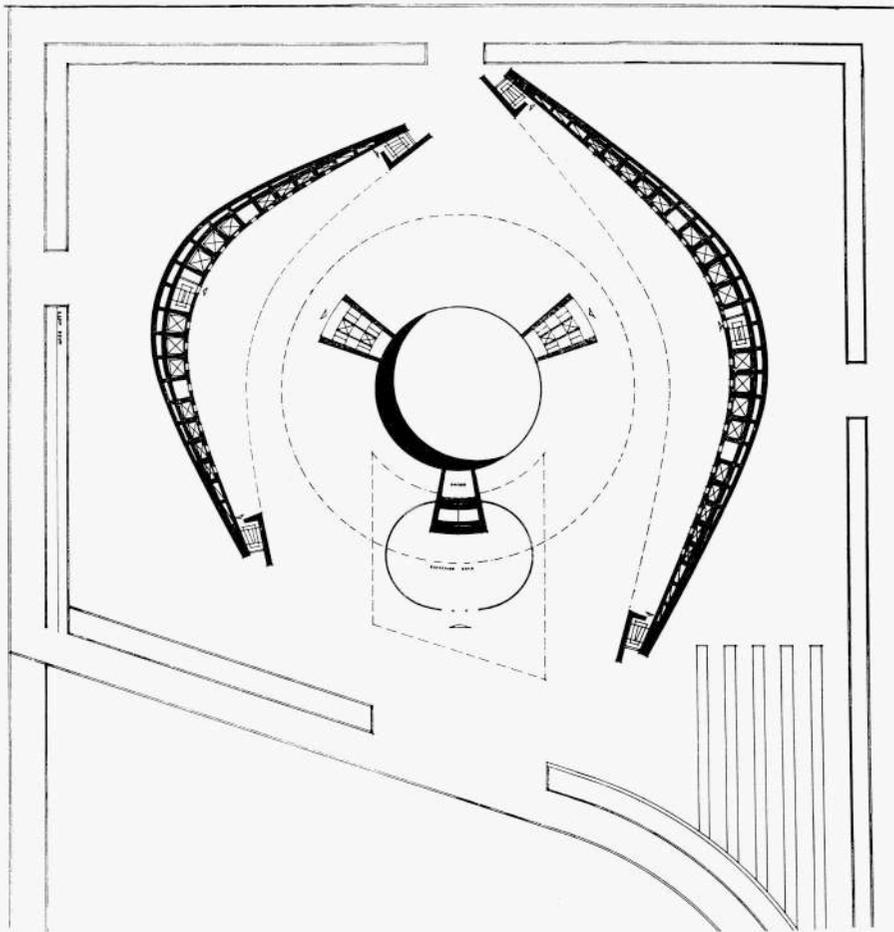




Council chamber level



Gallery level

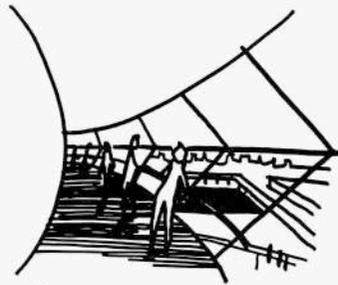


The ramp leading up from Queen Street here reaches the top of the main podium from which the towers rise. Entrance level for distinguished guests.



1

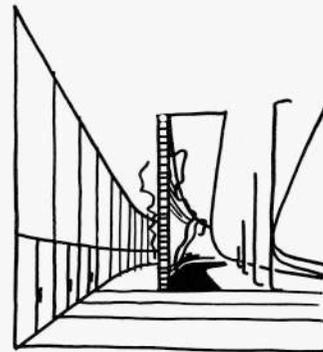
1. The council chamber
2. View from gallery level
3. Public access area
4. Main entrance



2



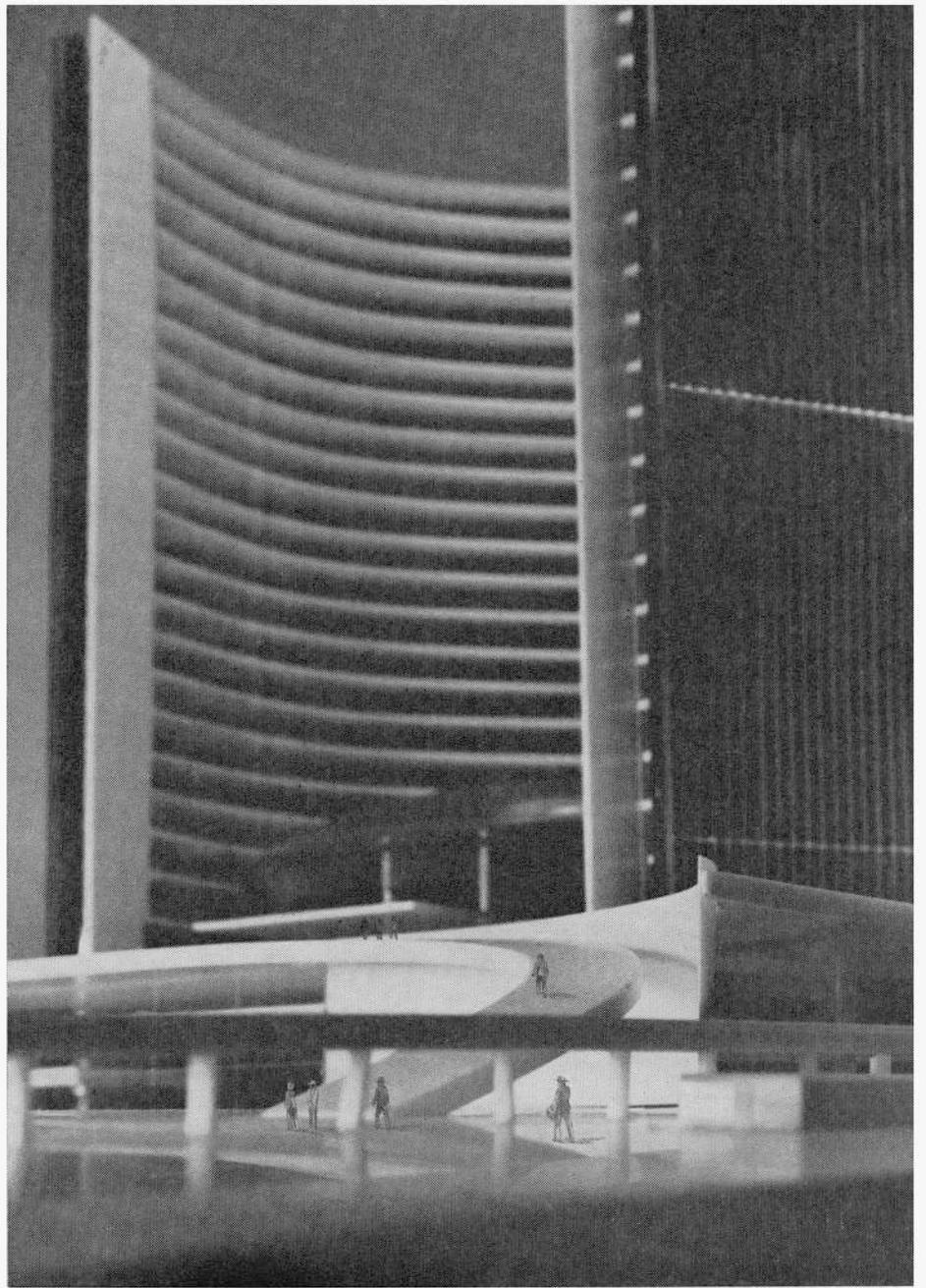
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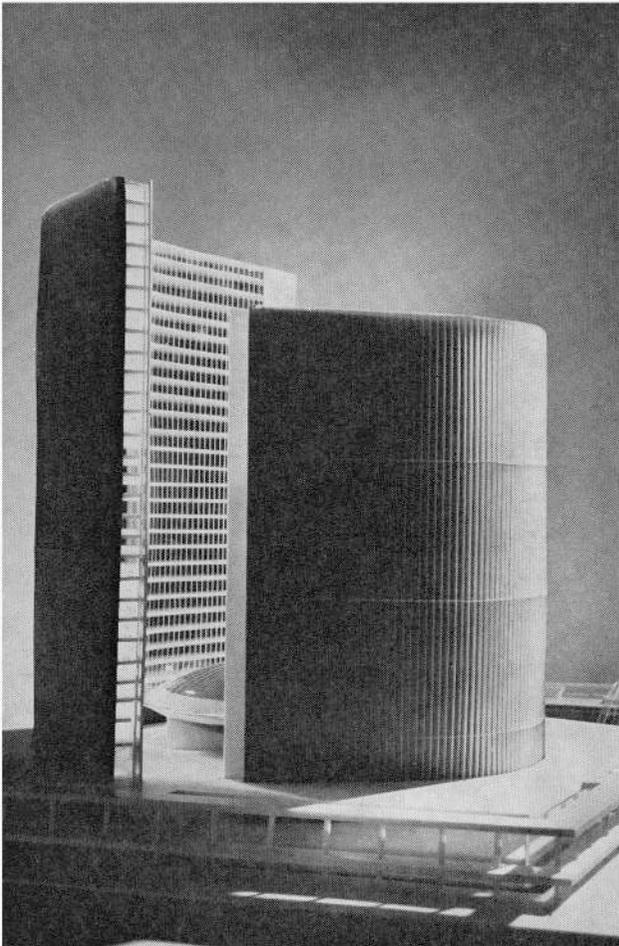
4

HAYAS

Main ramp and entrance viewed from the east or Bay Street side



PANDA



View of podium with two towers enclosing the council chamber seen from the north-west

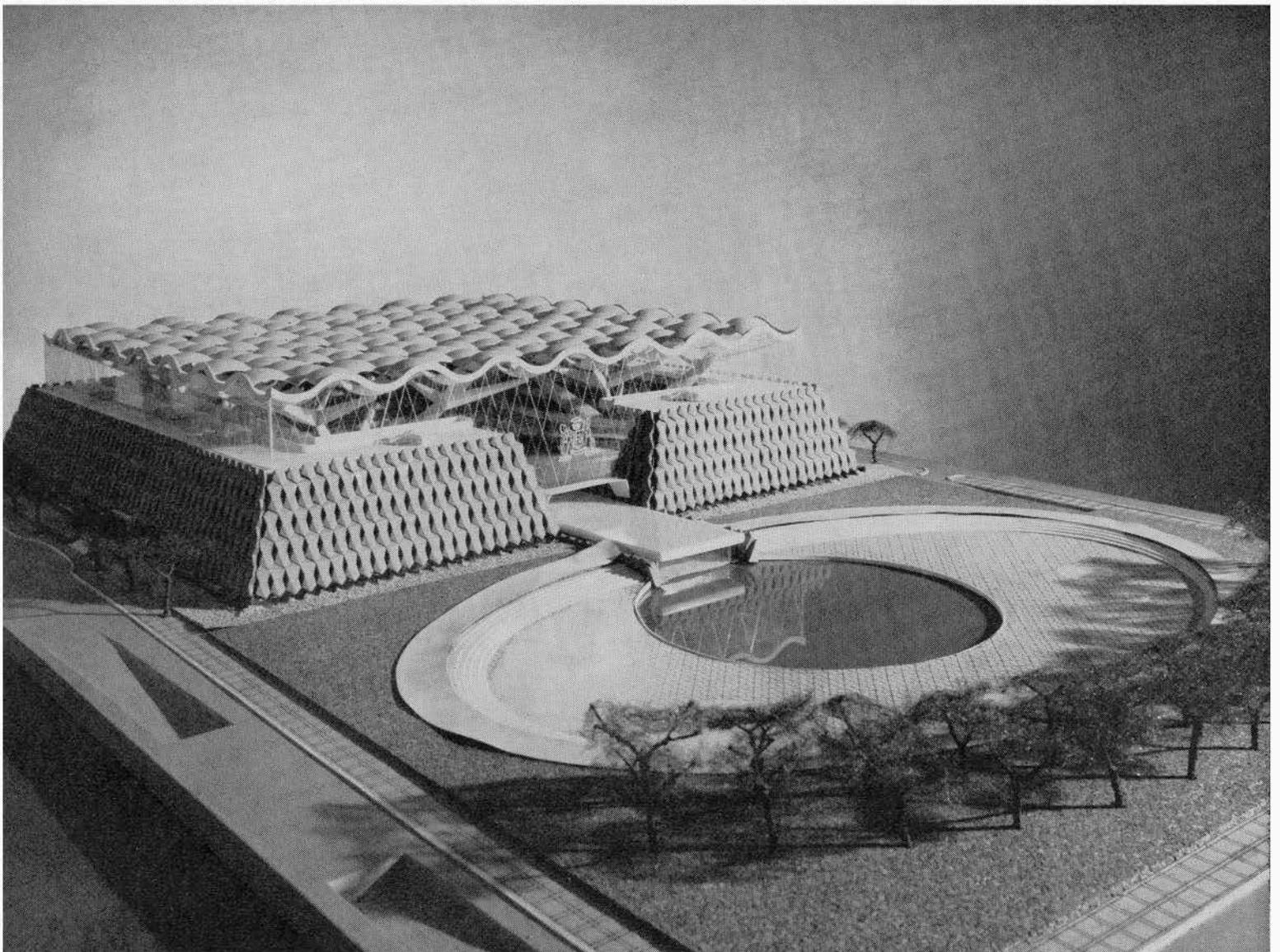


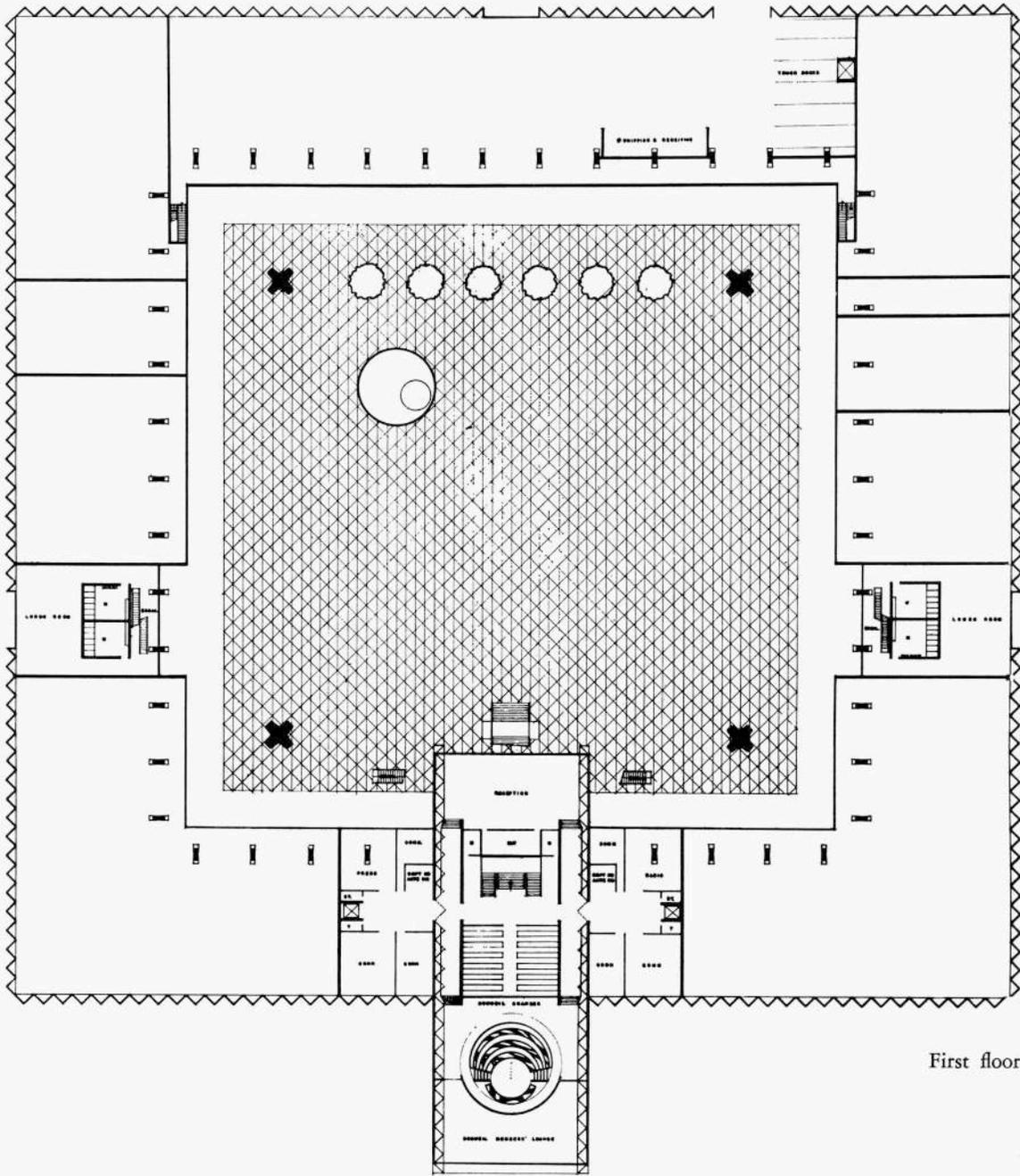
**John H. Andrews** was born in Australia. He studied at Sydney University, where he obtained the Bachelor of Architecture degree with honours in 1956. He was awarded the Ormonoid prize for design, and the Baillieu Research Fellowship. He received an Harvard scholarship to the Graduate School of Design and graduated with a Master of Architecture degree in 1958.

Mr Andrews has practised by himself and for Edwards, Madigan and Torzillo in Sydney.

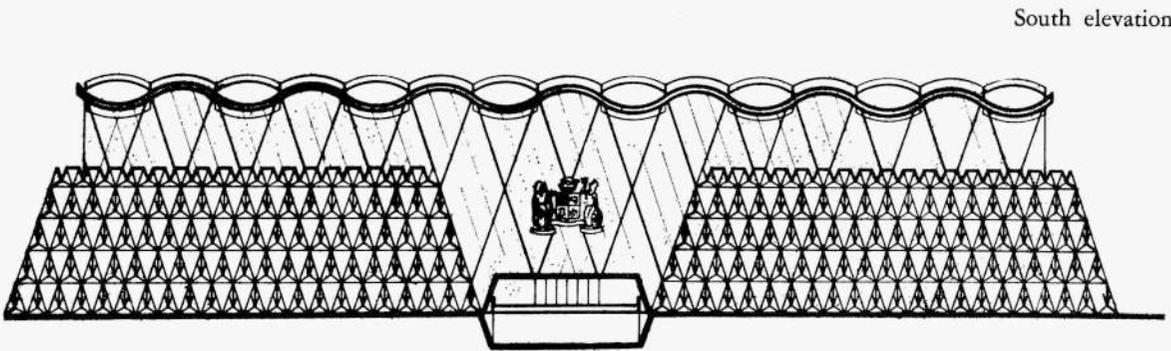
**Collaborators:** G. Macy Dubois, W. Byron Ireland and William N. Morgan.

PANDA





First floor

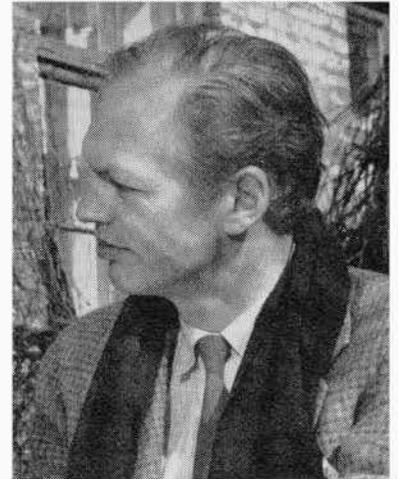


South elevation



**Jorn Nielsen** was born in Aarhus, Denmark. In 1944, he received a diploma from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen and, in 1954, the Royal Academy's gold medal.

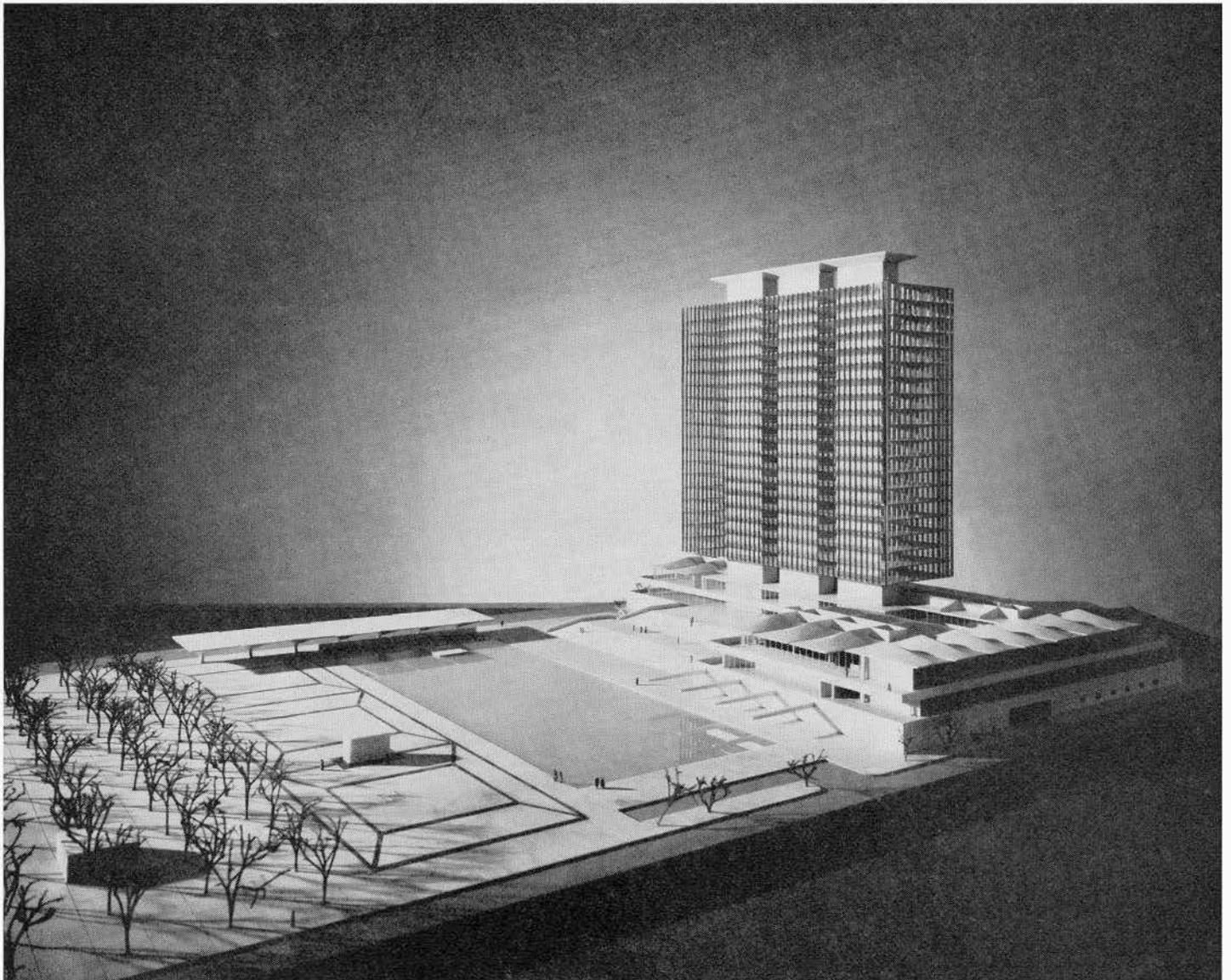
Since 1948, Mr Nielsen has been in private practice with Halldor Gunnlogsson.



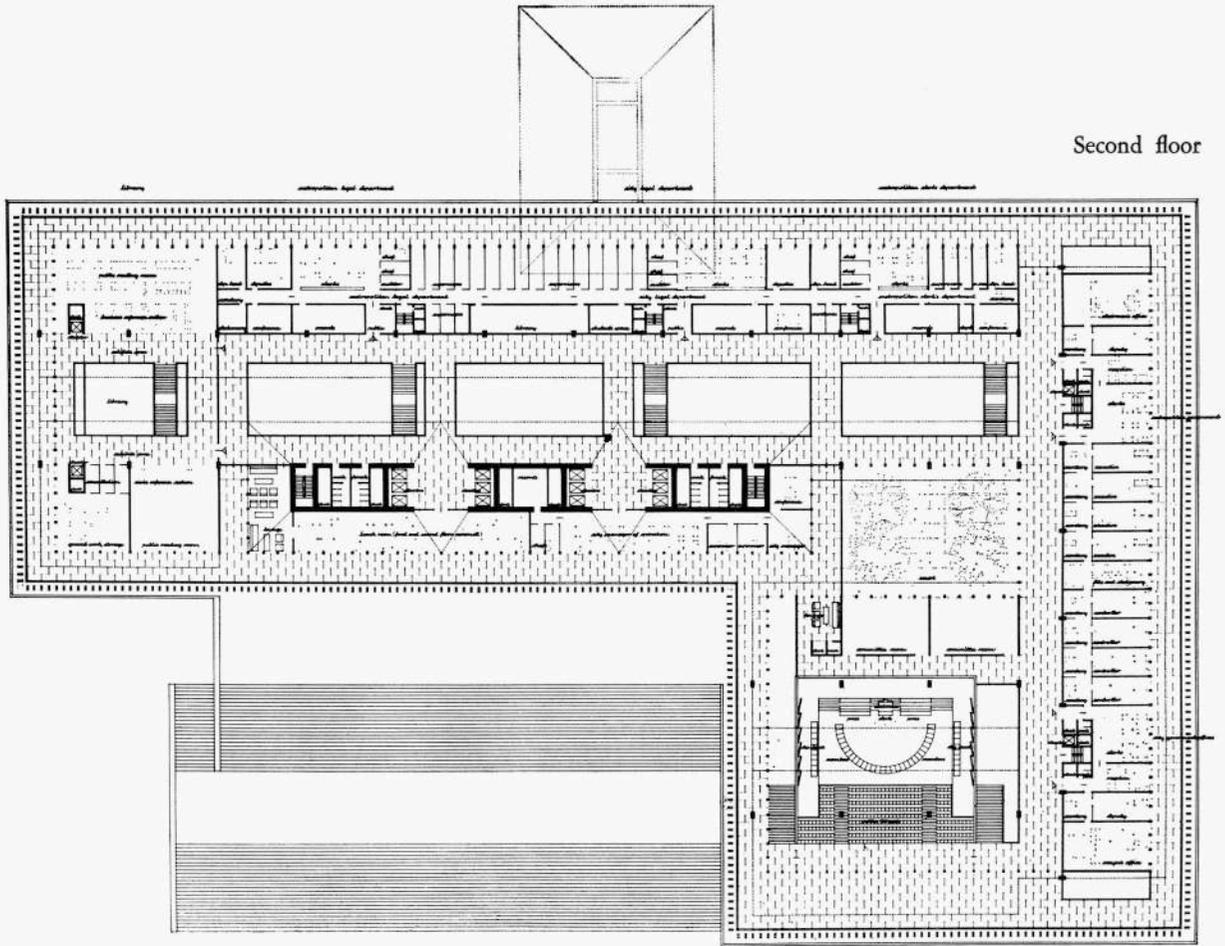
**Halldor Gunnlogsson** was born in Copenhagen. In 1942, he received a diploma from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen and, in 1953, the Royal Academy's "Eckersbergs-medal", given for the architect's own house at Vedbaek.

Since 1948, Mr Gunnlogsson has been assistant professor at the Royal Academy's School of Architecture and in private practice with Jorn Nielsen.

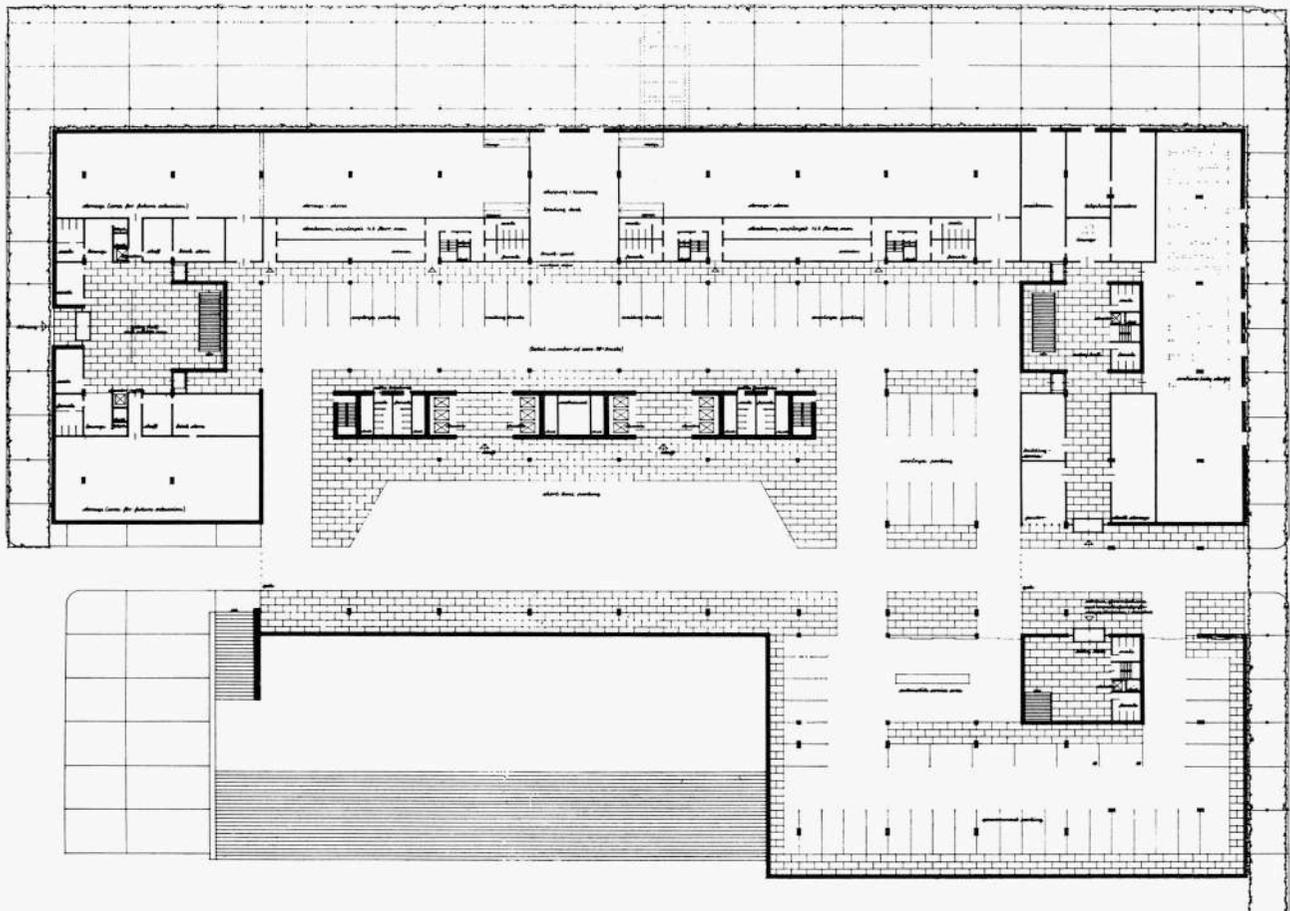
PANDA



Second floor



First floor





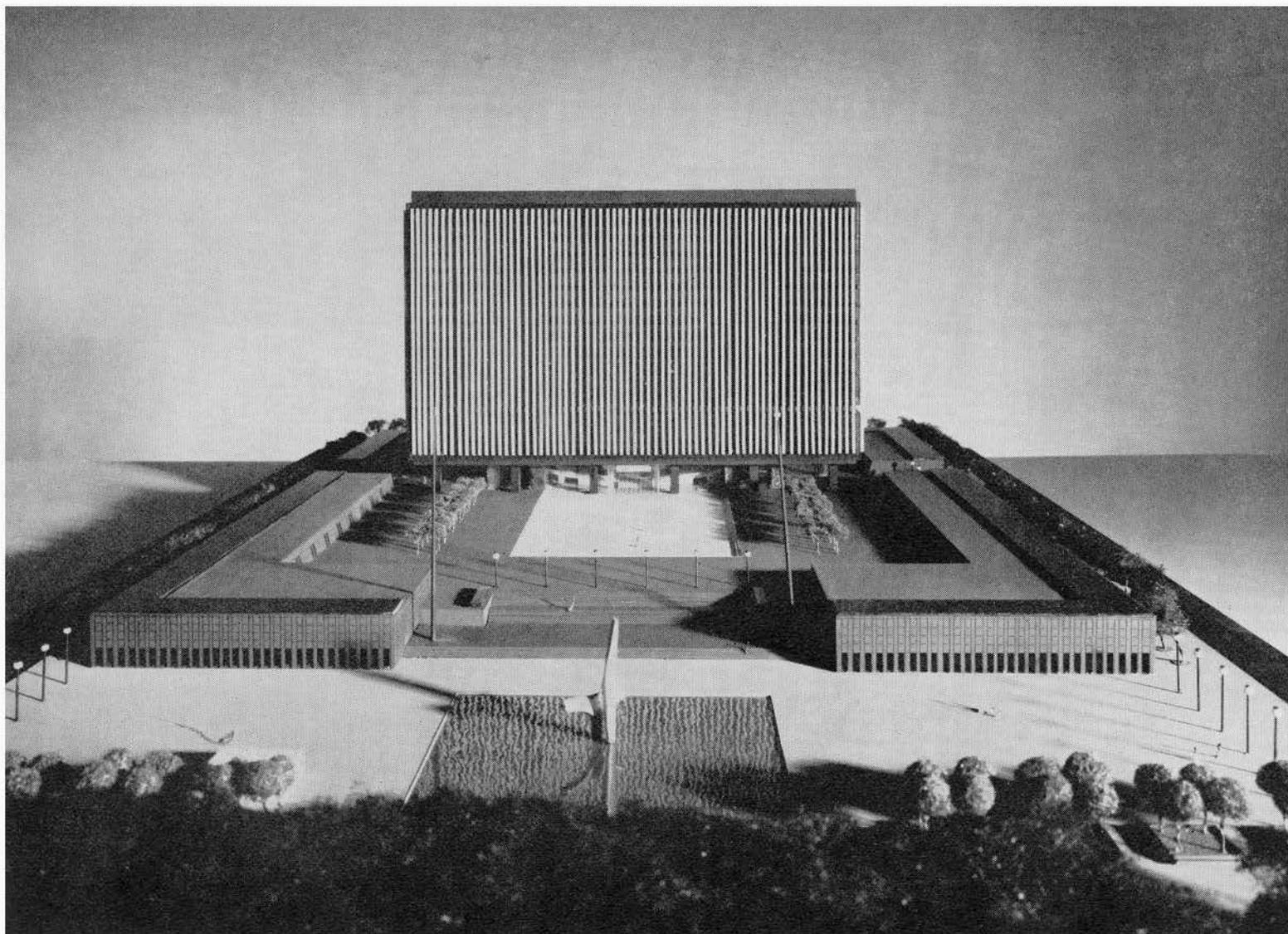
**William B. Hayward** was born in Kansas City, Missouri. He obtained his B.S. degree in architecture at the University of Kansas and his Master of Architecture at MIT.

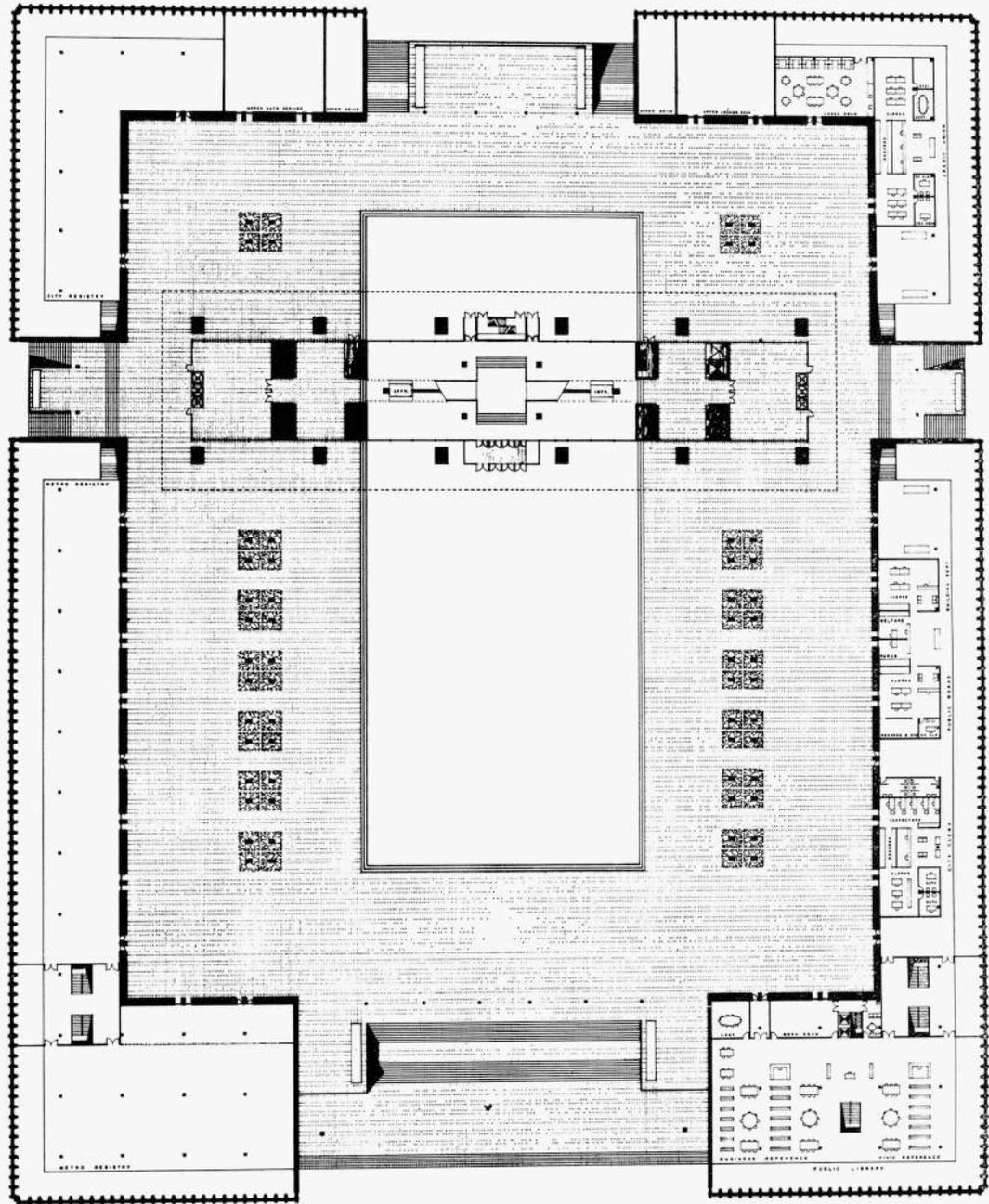
In 1955-1956 he was awarded the Skidmore, Owings and Merrill Travelling Fellowship to Europe.

Mr Hayward has been employed as a designer with Eero Saarinen & Associates in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and is, at present, an instructor in the Department of Architecture, School of Fine Arts, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

**Collaborators:** Joseph J. Wehrer and Harold J. Borkin.

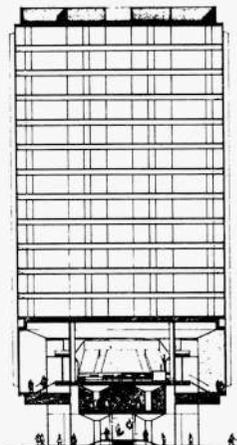
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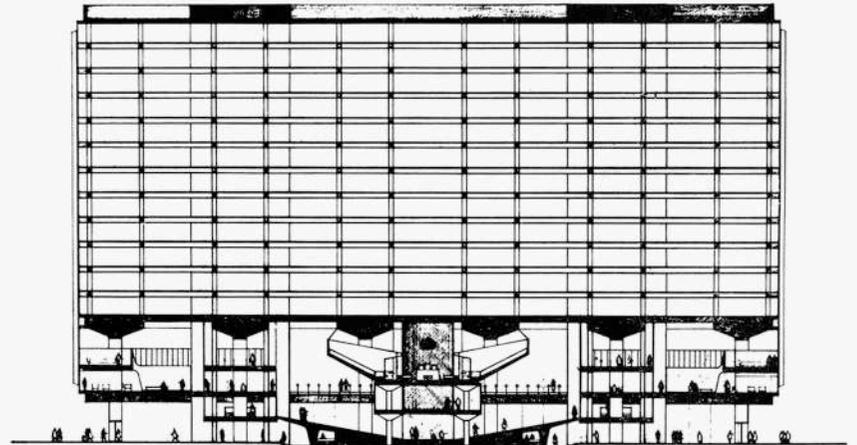


Plaza level plan

North south section



South transverse section

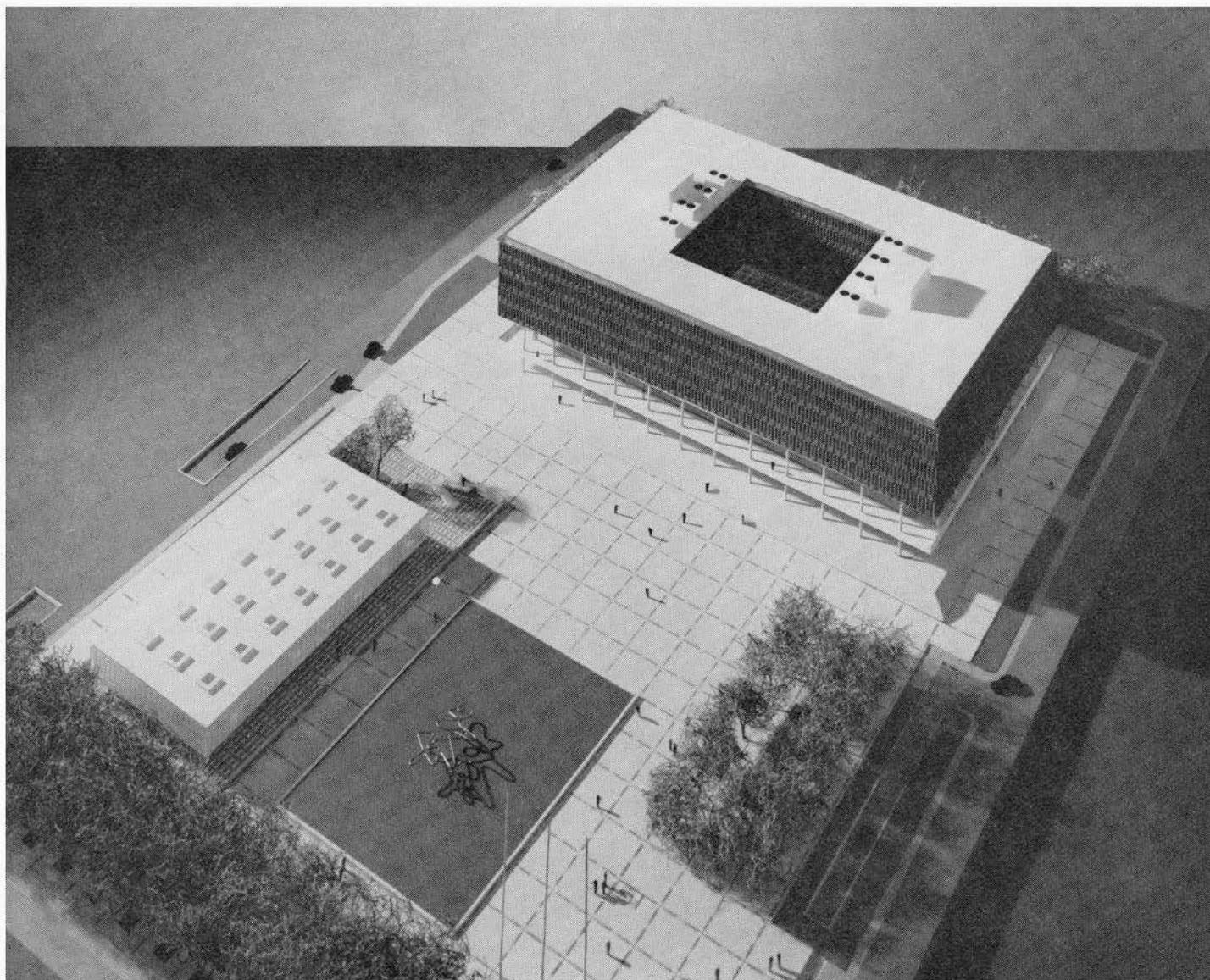


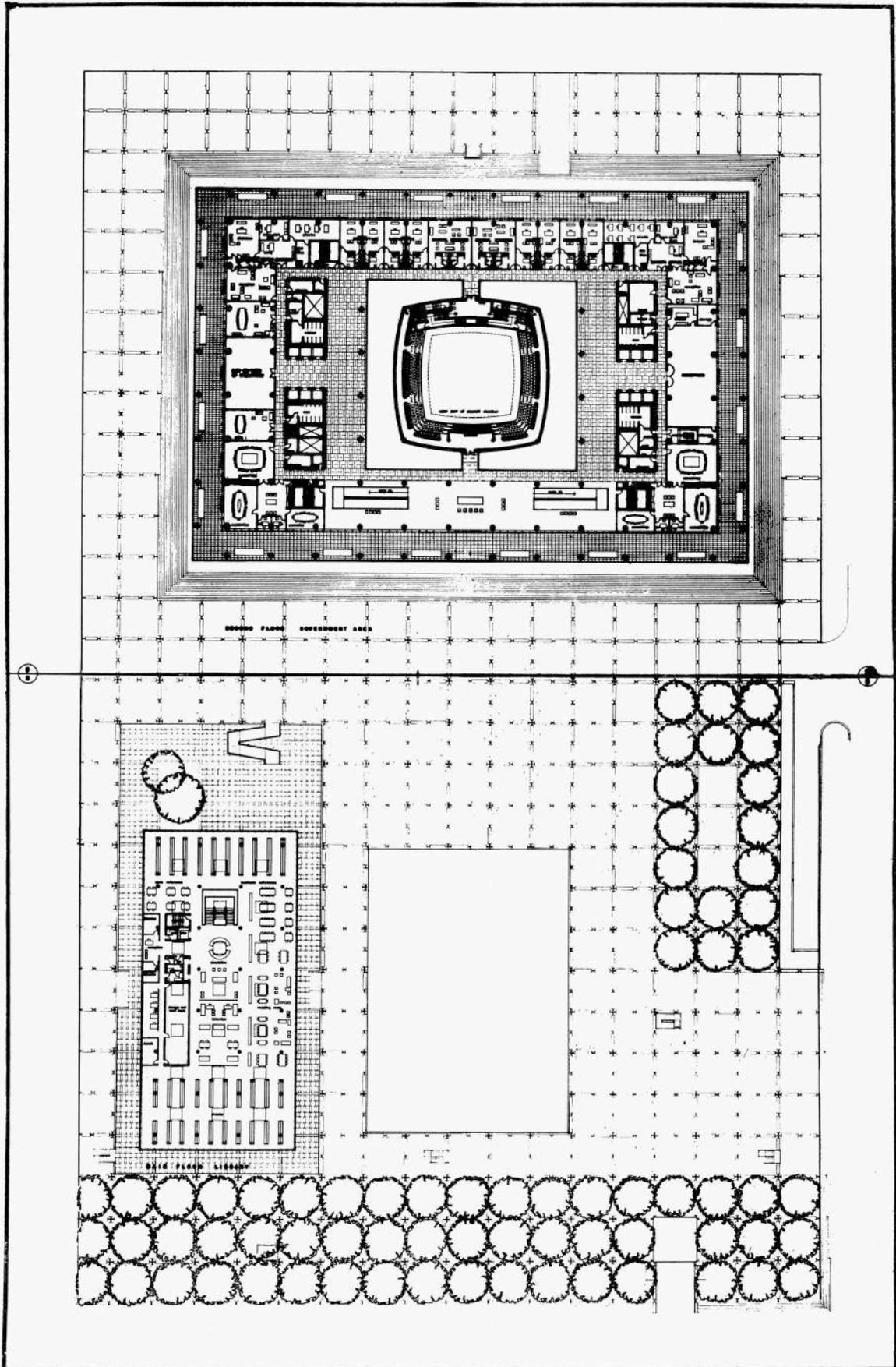


**David E. Horne** was born in London, England. He moved to Vancouver with his family, while very young, where he was educated. Later, at the School of Architecture, University of British Columbia, he received the Canadian Pittsburgh Industries Scholarship for proficiency in design and the graduating book prize.

Mr Horne came to Toronto in 1953, and worked for a firm of architects until he received the RAIC College of Fellows Scholarship in 1957, which enabled him to go to MIT, where he obtained his Master of Architecture.

PANDA





Composite plan showing: above second floor, below first floor with plaza, and library at left

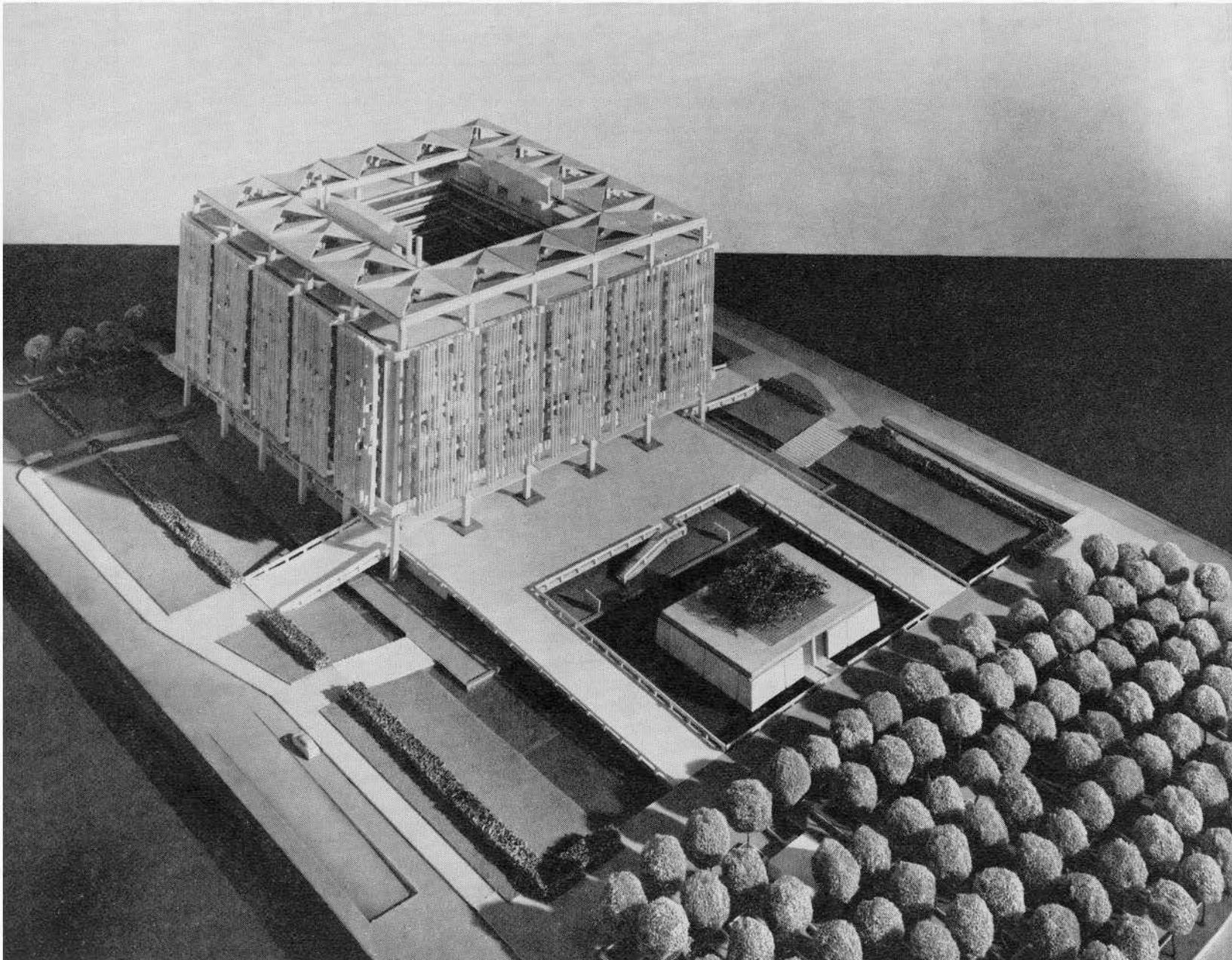


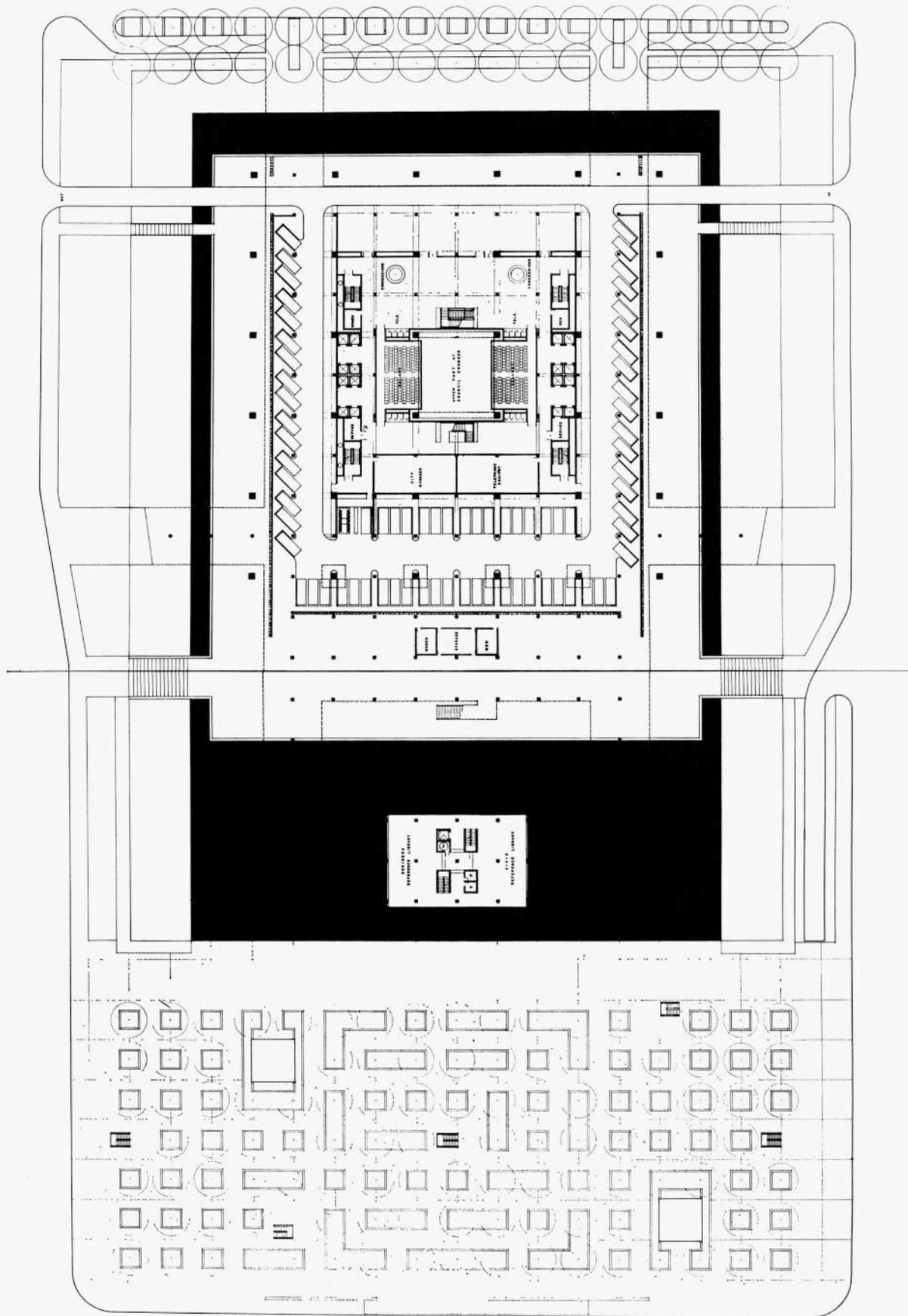
**Frank Mikutowski** was born in South St. Paul, Minnesota. He was educated at public and parochial schools in South St. Paul, and received his Bachelor of Architecture with distinction in 1949 at the University of Minnesota. Upon graduating from the University, he received the AIA medal.

Mr Mikutowski has had ten years experience, covering all types of buildings, and held the position of associate with a St. Paul architectural and engineering firm.

**Collaborators:** Richard J. Rafferty and George E. Rafferty.

PANDA





Concourse — gallery floor



**Ieoh Ming Pei** was born in Canton, China. He obtained his B.A. degree at MIT and Master of Architecture at the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

In 1940, he was awarded the Alpha Rho Psi Medal, the AIA Student Medal and the MIT Travelling Fellowship, and in 1951, the Harvard Wheelwright Fellowship.

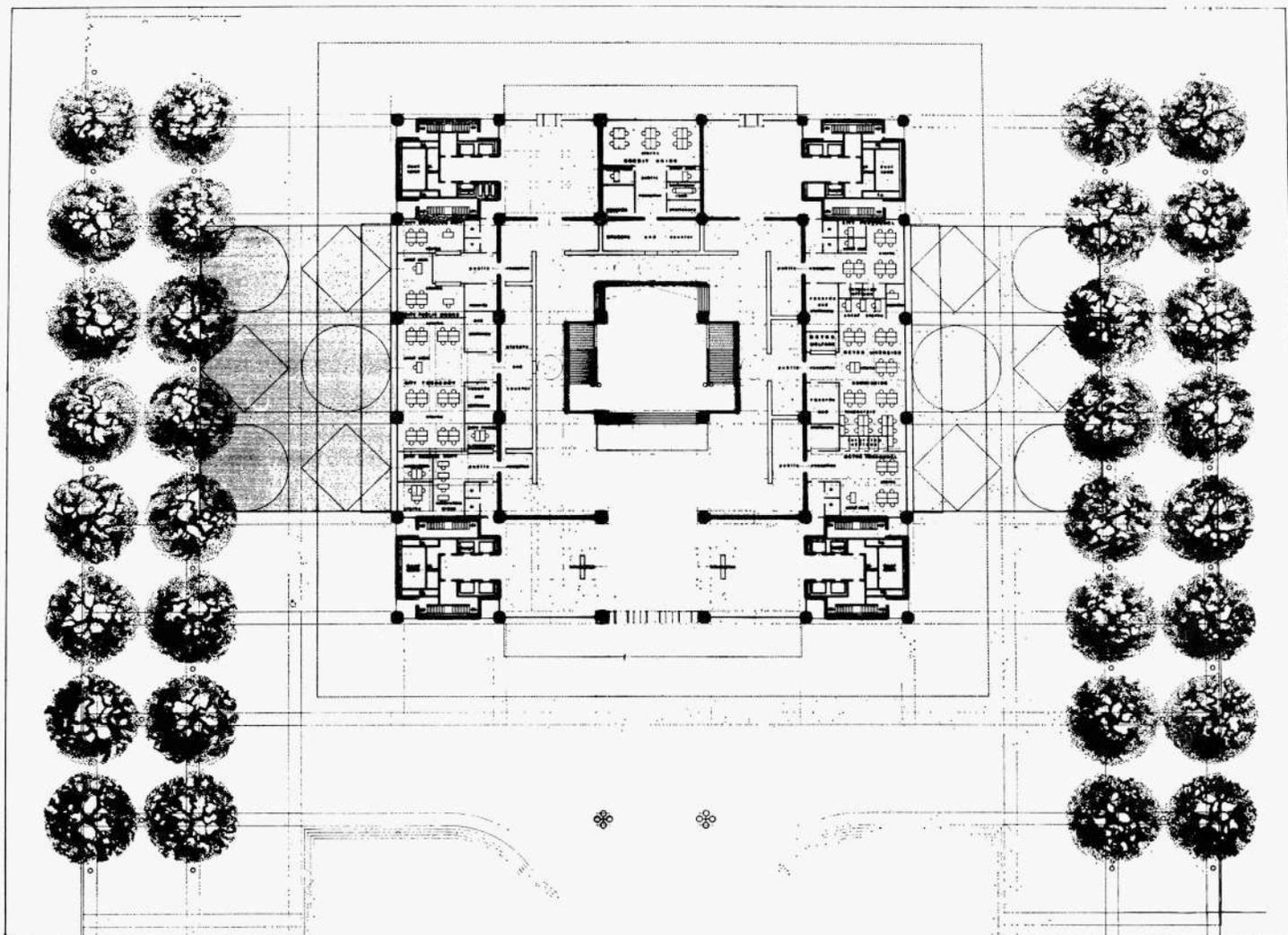
Mr Pei is a member of the visiting committees MIT and Harvard Graduate School of Design.

He was assistant professor at Harvard Graduate School of Design from 1946-1948.

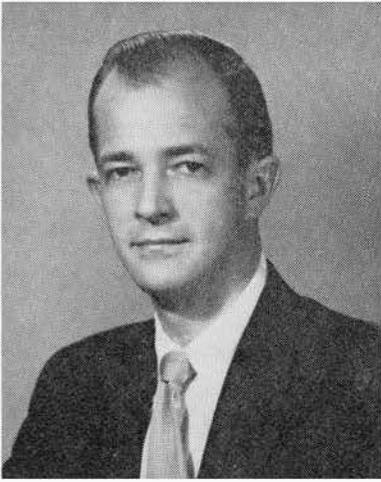
**Collaborators:** Anthony N. Candido, Henry N. Cobb, Araldo Cossutta, Ervin Y. Galantay (Structural Engineer), William C. Henderson, Vincent de Pasciuto-Ponte (City Planner), Pershing Wong.

PANDA





First floor



The firm of **Perkins and Will** is well known in North America, for their work as architects. They are perhaps best known in Canada for the schools which have been built under their direction, although their practice has not been limited to buildings of that type, and for the many magazine articles for which they have been responsible as authors.

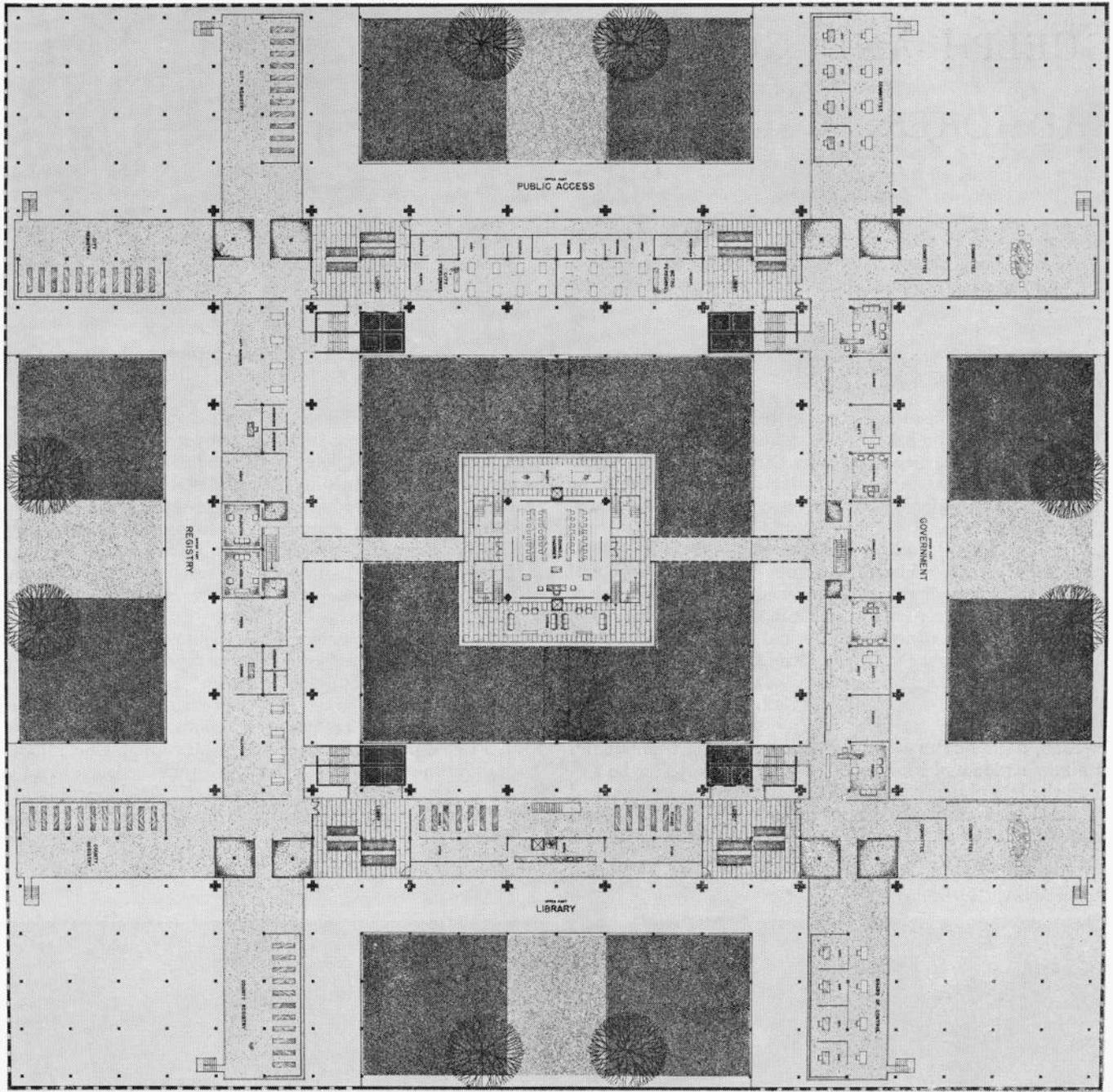
**James D. Lothrop**, Partner in charge, Perkins and Will, New York, was educated at the University of Illinois, where he obtained his Bachelor of Architecture in 1943. He has worked with Maher and McGrew, Kawneer Company and became a partner of Perkins and Will in 1956.

Mr Lothrop is a member of Scarab, Phi Gamma Delta and the American Institute of Architects.

**Collaborators:** Manfred Hufschmid, Edwin Paul and Friedrich W. Capelle

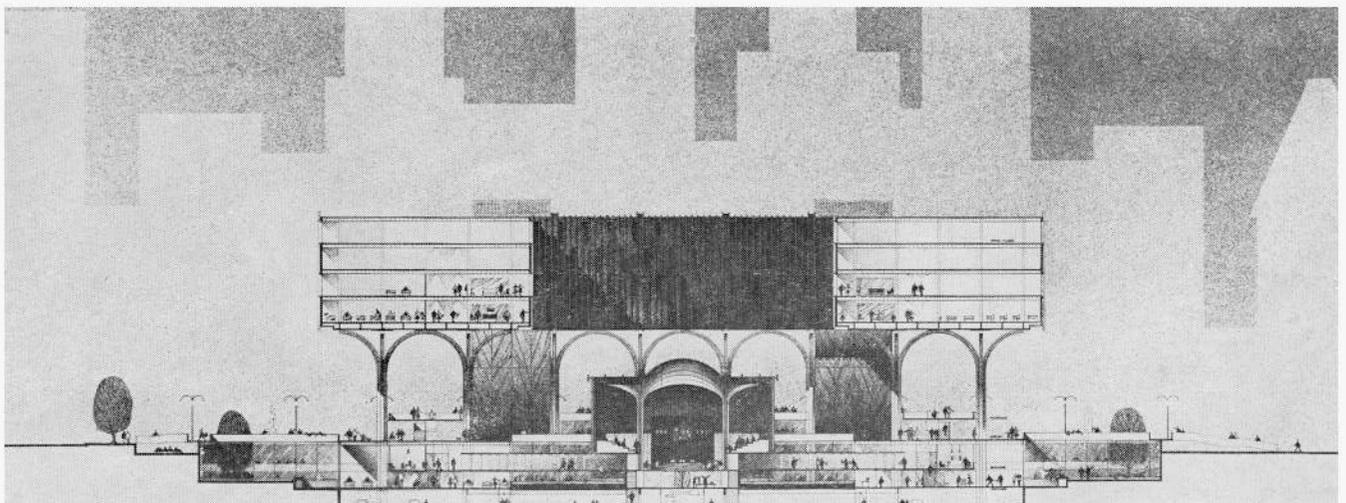
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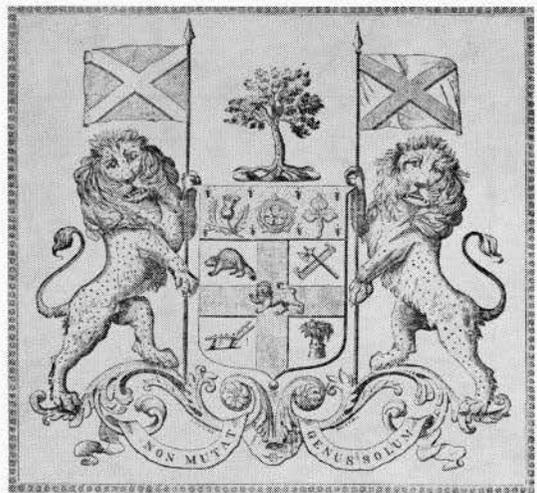
Above, mezzanine

Below, south transverse section



# GUELPH AND GODERICH: TADMORES IN UPPER CANADA

BY NORAH JOHNSON



Armorial Bearings of the Canada Company

"There are no historical facts more valuable than those which relate to the formation of communities and the origin of nations; nor, perhaps, are the narratives of conquerors more interesting than the plain tales of those who, by virtue of their designs alone, have improved the condition of mankind."

John Galt, *Statistical Account of Upper Canada*, 1807  
"Having myself a kind of amateur taste in architectural drawing, and being, in consequence, from the period of my travels, led to adopt as a rule in art, that the style of a building should always indicate and be appropriate to its purpose, I thought that the constructing of a city afforded an opportunity to edify posterity in this matter."

John Galt, *Autobiography*, 1833

IN 1826, GALT HIMSELF had the chance to form communities in a new nation and his own tale is indeed plain. For he suffered the fate of many another visionary. He was so badgered by the Directors of the Canada Company (which he had created) that he left its employ in less than three years and

died, bitter and penniless, in 1839. But the Company, operating with a sharp eye to profit, prospered, and was wound up as recently as 1953, having disposed of more than two million acres. Half of its holdings lay in the Huron Tract, purchased by the Upper Canadian government about 1825 from the Indians, and half in scattered crown reserves of one and two hundred acre lots or large blocks, including the township of Guelph. Although many settlers chafed under the Company's control, the land was good, and their condition was undoubtedly improved.

In his role as colonizer, Galt, the novelist-businessman, had the exhilarating prospect of throwing new roads across utter wilderness and "edifying posterity" by the new towns he carved out of the forest. What is remarkable to us, but not to Galt, the Man of Taste, nor his contemporaries is the choice of a radial pattern for the cores of his capital, Guelph, and his harbour town, Goderich. There is a popular legend that these plans were prepared in the London, England, headquarters of the Canada Company and that the semi-circular scheme intended for Goderich was mistakenly interchanged with the

Market Square, Goderich,



J. G. HENDERSON





soldier-surveyor-writer who, at the founding of Guelph, pulled a flask of whiskey from his bosom to provide the toast, and was The Warden of the Woods and Forests of the Canada Company, with "peculiar qualifications both in experience and habits . . . for the performance of out-of-door duties."

In laying out the townships, some attempt was made to make the survey lines relate logically to the topography. In fact, according to a minute of the Court of Directors, they wanted to improve upon the system in use which was, in their words, characterized by "regular mathematical figures or parallelograms without reference to the course of streams or quality of soil in laying down the direction of roads or the division of farms" but they could have made little headway with the Surveyor-General or his colleagues in Canada.

Burlington was intended as the site of warehouses for the receipt of produce in payment for land; Guelph, with seventeen mill "seats", still accessible by water via the Grand and Eramosa Rivers from Lake Erie, was to be the reception centre for settlers on their way to the Company's lands. Some settlers came by the Huron Road where taverns were built at regular intervals. A brick building still stands on the site of Fryfogle's first shanty near Shakespeare, east of Stratford. Goderich, with good waterpower sites, was planned as an alternative port of entry for settlers and supplies.

Galt's exertions in opening the Huron Road, establishing two towns, supplying some essential buildings and helping settlers, seems only to have caused disquiet back in London. He had succeeded in attracting many well-to-do emigrants and firmly believed he had improved on procedures used in the Holland and Pulteney settlements in New York State. He visited their offices in Batavia and Geneva, buildings which he regarded as satisfactory models for his own, and studied their systems of selling property and recording the sales, and the methods used in initiating settlements. A fellow Scot, Charles Williamson, had apparently run wild as agent for the Earl of Bath in the Pulteney lands in the 1790's having built a theatre, reserved land for a racetrack and provided a pleasure boat in order to attract settlers. Galt's extravagances were comparatively prosaic.

By the spring of 1829, misunderstandings between Galt and the Directors had grown to such a point that his position was no longer tenable, he returned to England and eventually died in Scotland after a lingering illness. Besides his work for the Canada Company, he gave his three sons to Canada, the most illustrious being Sir Alexander Tilloch Galt, a Father of Confederation.

Why did Galt, so intensely proud of his new towns, make no reference in his dispatches from Canada, or in later writings, to the radial form of Guelph and Goderich? The radial mania in the United States had apparently run its course with the cities of Washington ("Philadelphia griddled across Versailles"), Buffalo and Detroit. Robert Gourlay tried to carry it forward in 1821 with a curious radial scheme for new townships in Upper Canada, and is to be found as late as 1844 submitting *Plans for Beautifying New York and for Enlarging and Improving the City of Boston, Being Studies to Illustrate the Science of City Building* that included a fan-shaped system of streets, crossed by "circuits". In Britain, by the 1820's, the Renaissance influence was being displaced by the picturesque, with the Greek Revival in full swing. In Galt's towns there is an intriguing mixture: the main streets converge on a market place in the Renaissance manner, not in public buildings as was the fashion in the chief American radial cities. Only later was the central plaza at Goderich occupied by a court house. There is a trace of the Georgian in the crescent or two at Guelph and Goderich, yet the main part of each town is in gridiron form. But Galt was not handling the development of an estate for dwellings of people with means, nor was he proclaiming the glory of a republic. His purpose, as always, was utilitarian; that is to say, he aimed at a humanitarian yet sensible solution for obvious social and economic problems.

The Goderich plan must have been judged a useful precedent, for during the 1830's two other towns in the vicinity were designed in a similar spirit: "Gairbraid", of which there is no trace, was founded by Tiger Dunlop as a rival settlement across the river from Goderich after he had parted from the Company and become its fierce critic; and Bayfield, now a resort village some twelve miles south of Goderich on the Huron shore.

Goderich, described by K. and R. Lizars as the "pet and darling of the Canada Company", became the chief residence of the Commissioner who succeeded Galt and was a son-in-law of Bishop Strachan. Misleading posters showing a drawbridge and a fleet of vessels in the harbour were circulated in Britain about 1830 when the town was still in an exceedingly primitive state, resulted in severe disillusionment for some Scottish settlers who proceeded to make it uncomfortable for the Canada Company in political affrays of Scots vs. Irish, Reformers vs. Tories and so on. A captious visitor of 1833 described Goderich "as having about forty mean wooden houses, scattered irregularly over a considerable space. He was particularly scornful with regard to an item which he had noticed in a Montreal newspaper announcing the formation of a yacht club of which 'Captain' Dunlop was president. 'At the time of my visit to Goderich' he wrote, 'the population was chiefly subsisting on flour and salt pork, imported from Detroit. The harbor contained three craft of the smallest size and I did not see a boat or yacht of any description.'" Nevertheless, Goderich was gay enough for this evidence to be given by Anthony Van Egmond to William Lyon Mackenzie's Committee on Grievances.

"Q. Have the company taken proper means to encourage or promote the settlement of the Huron tract?"

"A. For the first year, in Goderich alone; since then they have taken no pains to assist the settlers. Last year there was a steamboat employed to bring settlers from Detroit to Goderich. Instead of attending to that they went several times on pleasure trips up Lake Huron."

The first settlement is said to have been on the harbour flats, although there was a squared cherry log house on the heights facing the lake as early as 1830. By the 1850's when the fine Court House was erected, the octagonal market place was bordered by buildings—but not in scale with the grandiose plan.

The only apparent changes in the original plan are a slight intrusion of one railroad line on the north-eastern edge of the town plot, and the loss of two out of three small reserves; the remaining one, marked as a general burying ground on an 1853 map, is now the site of a public swimming pool. Some simple houses of rosy brick and others of frame scored to resemble stone may be those which replaced the first shanties and cabins. Salt wells brought a boom to the town in the '60s when many of the grander houses were built and they are well set off by the broad, tree-lined streets, established at widths of sixty-six and ninety-nine feet in 1828.

One of Galt's first orders in founding Guelph was that quarries be opened and two stone buildings—the bank and a school—were soon begun. Throughout the nineteenth century, the stonemasons among the settlers from Britain did full justice to the local material. Examples are the Town Hall, by William Thomas, the battlemented Court House, the Scottish baronial Corbels on Allan's Mills, the Bank of Montreal and its manager's house, St. George's church of 1872 and St. Patrick's whose towers were only completed in 1926. But it is the well-proportioned business and factory buildings which give definition to the original street plan, however it may have been distorted. A case in point is the stone building which follows the curve of Nelson Crescent, a fine effect ruined by the 1905 Carnegie Library which covers the opposite segment of the crescent.

Galt had a stone office built to his own design: "I have at last succeeded in moderating the ideas of the Architect here to a plan that I conceive will suit all the purposes of the Company. I send inclosed a sketch of the design. . . As the office ought to be fireproof the Apartments are necessarily small



V. BLAKE

Market Place, Guelph

to sustain Arches". It is mentioned in his autobiography, "I undertook myself to draw the most problematic design of the office, and gave a house-carpenter instructions to make a plan and elevation for a tavern, delivering to him, like a Sir Oracle, my ideas as to the fitness of indicating, by the appearance of the building, the particular uses to which it was destined. My drawing was of course very classical, but his 'beat all' as the Yankees say, 'to immortal smash'. It represented a two story commonplace house, with a pediment; but on every corner and cornice, 'coin and vantage', were rows of glasses, bottles, punch-bowls, and wine-decanter. Such an exhibition did not require a man to be a god to tell it was an inn. In short, no rule was ever more unequivocally illustrated, and cannot even yet be thought of with sobriety."

The office was left empty when the headquarters were moved back to York in 1829. The new Company officials are said to have followed a policy of "masterly inactivity" and had to be petitioned by the settlers into completing a grist mill. However, the town began growing again in 1832 and finally hit its stride in the '60s and '70s. The railway that brought prosperity, cut the Market Square in half with a high embankment that forced the main axis to follow Wyndham Street rather than Market Street leading to the township of Waterloo. St. George's church moved to the bank of the River, and left its square as the new focal point. St. Patrick's, now the Church of Our Lady, still dominates the city as Galt had intended. In the '70s villas were spotted about on estates beyond the town proper, notably Tyrcahlen, belonging to Archdeacon Palmer and said to be designed by Sir Charles Barry. Although citizens took a case to Chancery opposing the sale of a large part of the Market Place by the Canada Company, yet there was a petition some years later, in 1860, to allow buildings there, controlled, however as to "class and style", to be of brick or stone three stories high, with streets as wide as those laid

An early Goderich house



V. BLAKE

down by the Company – presumably one and a half or two chains. Even today, this care for appearance persists: a Guelph by-law requires stone, or mock-stone, fronts on Wyndham Street buildings.

Samuel Strickland, one of Galt's employees and a brother of the writers Susanna Moodie, Catharine Traill and Agnes Strickland, admired the town of Guelph, but questioned the scale of its layout "especially the market place, which is large enough for a city containing fifty thousand inhabitants". For the record, Guelph now has a population of about 35,000, has been growing lately at the rate of one thousand a year, and has always kept well in advance of development by large annexations of farm land.

As a town planner, Galt must be viewed with respect. In Guelph, he chose the chief eminences as sites for churches, of Rome, of England and of Scotland. He directed the main roads around rather than across the hills. He intended that schools be provided from half the revenue from the sale of lots. He established suitable sites for mills along the Speed River. In Goderich, however mechanical the plan, the streets are adapted to conform to the curve of the high river bank, and there is this aesthetic note on an early plan: "When the timber is cut down, the Market Place will command a view of the Lake". But it is hard to understand why Galt did not foresee the eventual growth of Guelph across the Speed, which was easily bridged in his own time, nor why the market place at Goderich has an inland position, unless the town was considered from the first as needing to be defended from an attack across the lake, an idea raised from time to time for both Goderich and Bayfield in the early 19th century.

The chief clue to the novel forms of Guelph and Goderich lie in Galt's dilettante interest in architecture. As became an intellectual of his time, Galt had as he said, in some sort a kind of taste in architecture. His *Letter from the Levant* include a "Discourse on the Fine Arts", in which he derides the use of the Doric order as too majestic for the frivolities taking place within the Covent Garden Theatre. He is free with critical comment on the buildings of Philadelphia: the new national bank was "wanting in every respect the characteristics of an edifice for commercial purposes" and notes "the general obvious lack of correct taste in the Americans". Nevertheless, he admired New York's town hall, describing it as "grandier than anything either in Glasgow or Edinburgh."

On his return to Britain he unburdened himself of impressions "On the Recent Architectural Improvements of London" in which he lit into Nash's "splendid terraces" in Regent's Park, protesting: "If we ornament private dwellings so highly, by what superiority of features shall we characterize public edifices?" He shuddered at the bad grammar of architects who made one row of pillars serve two stories, "In the name of blocks and rubbish who is Earl Grosvenor's architect? He ought not to live. Let him be instantly stoned to death. . ." The object of Galt's distaste was a series of blind windows.

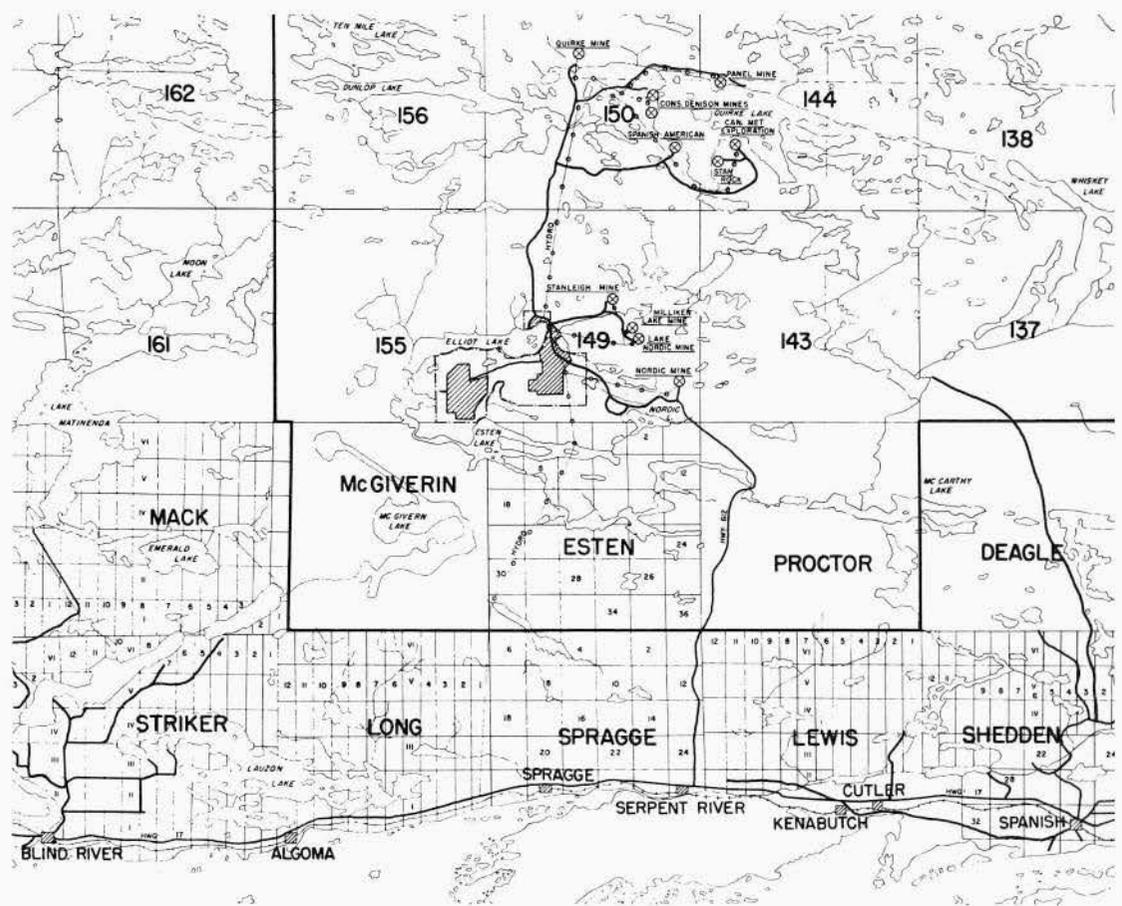
Such, then, was the strength of Galt's views on architecture. It is not surprising that he invested his towns with Renaissance forms symbolic of his pride in accomplishing a useful and noble purpose.

"The works and roads soon drew from all parts a greater influx of inhabitants than was expected, insomuch that the rise of Guelph far surpassed my hopes. The population now exceeds, I am informed, a thousand souls; mills projected have been built, a respectable bridge constructed, several taverns and a ball-room, and as a mark of improved society, there are, I have heard, several harps and pianofortes in the town. It was with me a matter of design to give a superior character to the place, and therefore, although the first settlers were not of that rank of life to make such things important, I encouraged dances and public associations among them . . . where the town is now spreading, all was then a wilderness and nothing would seem more romantic as the building of such a Tadmore in the desert."

John Galt, *Autobiography*, 1833

# REPORT ON ELLIOT LAKE

BY HENRY SEARS



Improvement District of Elliot Lake, lying inland from the north shore of Georgian Bay.

*This is an interim report, on the growth under the intense pressure of mining activity of a new town in Northern Ontario. These are the observations of a casual observer who visited the town and became interested in its sudden growth and the forces behind that growth.*

IT IS VERY FITTING that the main creative force behind the almost violent growth of Elliot Lake should be the contemporary symbol of energy and power, uranium. This sudden transformation of northern wilderness into urban centre within five years could only have been galvanized by such a dynamic force. Five short years ago the area north of Blind River was typical of much of Northern Ontario; tall spiky trees, rocky outcroppings and a sprinkling of many sparkling lakes. Today, a town of ten thousand inhabitants provides the focus for a billion dollar industry.

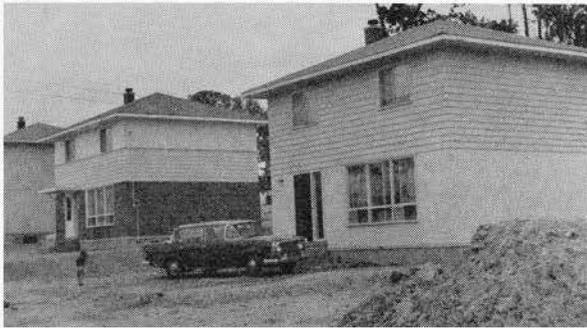
The story of the discovery of uranium in the Algoma Basin and the sudden development of one of the largest uranium areas in the world is a famous one. The early searchings of the geologist Frank Joubin; his backing by Joseph Hirshorn in 1952, the famous staking bee in May, June and early July of 1953; and the filing of over 1400 claims on July 11, 1953, with the resultant explosive publicity brought this quiet area into world-wide prominence. The rapid exploitation of the area revealed the full extent of the ore body, and the fantastic value of the refined product. The eleven mines with a scheduled capacity of 34,300 tons of ore per day have production contracts which already total over one billion dollars. This exploitation of the geological potential of the area is the foundation of Elliot Lake.

This region, the Algoma Basin or the Blind River area, has benefitted by some recent provincial legislative amendments which were designed to eliminate the sporadic temporary boom towns that had typified mining developments in the past. Under these amendments two committees were set up to decide on general policies for the development of new mining areas. The two committees contain representatives of the Ontario Departments of Planning & Development, Municipal Affairs, Lands & Forests and Mining. One of the committees is a Cabinet committee, the other a technical one. Under the new legislation, committees were enabled to set aside land for

development by the province in areas where mining activity revealed a necessity for the sudden development of facilities for the accommodation of mining and ancillary personnel. This land would be formed into a municipality called an "Improvement District". Under the direction of the two committees this District would be planned in detail by the Community Planning Branch of the Department of Planning & Development and administered by the Special Projects Branch of the Department of Municipal Affairs. An administrative council of three trustees is appointed to govern the community for a period of three years or until such time as the community is sufficiently established to elect an administration. Much of the land where such mining activity takes place is Crown Land, a factor which simplifies the problem of land acquisition for the new municipalities.

As the immensity of the mining potential of the Blind River area was revealed the necessity for a sizeable town to house the employees of the mines as well as the ancillary activities became evident. The Community Planning Branch under the instruction of the two committees commenced the study of the area. The area was carefully surveyed on foot and by aerial photography and a town site was selected, in the center of the mining activity nestled between Elliot and Horn Lakes. To prevent uncontrolled and sporadic development adjacent to the new town, an area of 396 square miles was set aside and the town-site of about five thousand acres was purchased from the Crown for approximately two dollars an acre. The municipality was named Improvement District of Elliot Lake.

In the early stages a community of twelve thousand was planned for, but the requirements soon grew. Ultimately the plans were to include accommodation for twenty-nine thousand, fourteen thousand in the Eastern townsite now nearing completion, and fifteen thousand in the Western townsite, one and one-half miles away. The two townsites are ultimately to be joined by a large recreation area. This was indeed an opportunity. This was to be a new town in an hitherto unpopulated area to be planned and built within a very few years. This was a challenge, both to the planners and to the architects, a new town on an exciting, virile and picturesque site, imbued with the energy and vitality of a frontier town and



HENRY SEARS



endowed with an industry of a guaranteed income over a billion dollars in the next decade.

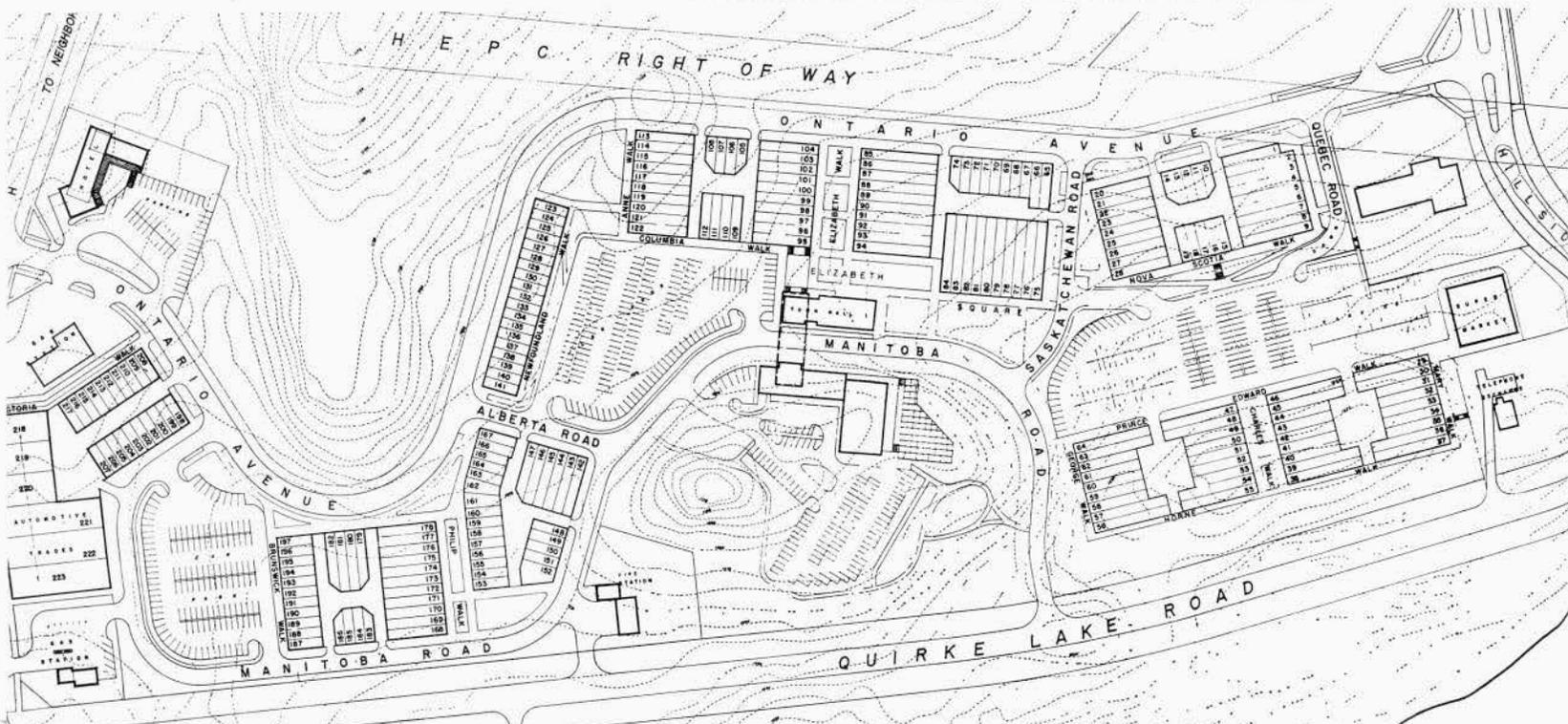
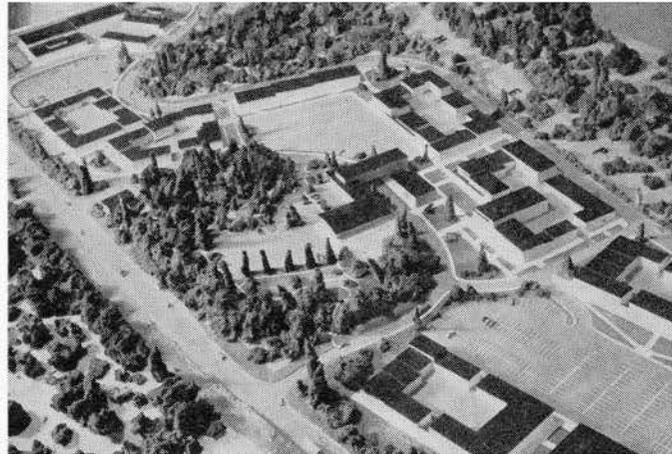
With much enthusiasm the planners began, and the plan slowly evolved. A neighbourhood plan was evolved, determined by the rigid topography. There was some resistance to a high proportion of multiple family accommodation, so only ten to twelve percent of the accommodation was planned for such occupancy, and the remainder was laid out in single family lots. A central commercial area was selected and carefully planned to make the most of the difficult terrain.

When the planning was finalized the land was sold, residential lots at one third the serviced cost, the commercial and industrial land by auction, the starting price being the serviced cost. The central commercial area, was laid out with large parking areas and the remainder was divided into lots seventeen feet wide which were arranged in blocks to induce block purchases. The person purchasing the first lot in a block was given the option of purchasing the remainder of the block at the same price per lot. This in general proved very satisfactory. Serviced accommodation was provided for about one thousand trailers, four hundred and fifty in or adjacent to the townsite; the remainder close to the mines.

Construction was started in July 1956, three years exactly after the great claim filing. Hordes of construction workers poured in, large bunk houses and mess houses were erected; temporary shopping centre arose, work began at a feverish pitch, new roads were out through, mine shafts were sunk and the town itself began to take shape. Today over fifteen hundred houses are occupied and another four hundred under construction. The central commercial area is two-thirds completed, three public school and separate schools are under construction. Eleven mines throughout the area are firmly

A good deal of the residential work at Elliot Lake is neutral and undistinguished. Single family boxes march up and down roads with enormous setbacks. It could be any subdivision anywhere in the country. Trailers accommodate construction workers and those miners who have been unable to find other accommodation.

Right and below, Central Commercial Area of Elliot Lake. Site layout by Ontario Department of Planning and Development. The model, built by the Department, was meant to show developers the block outlines of the buildings whose location had been determined by the plan. Unfortunately, the buildings as erected, show little unity or respect for each other.

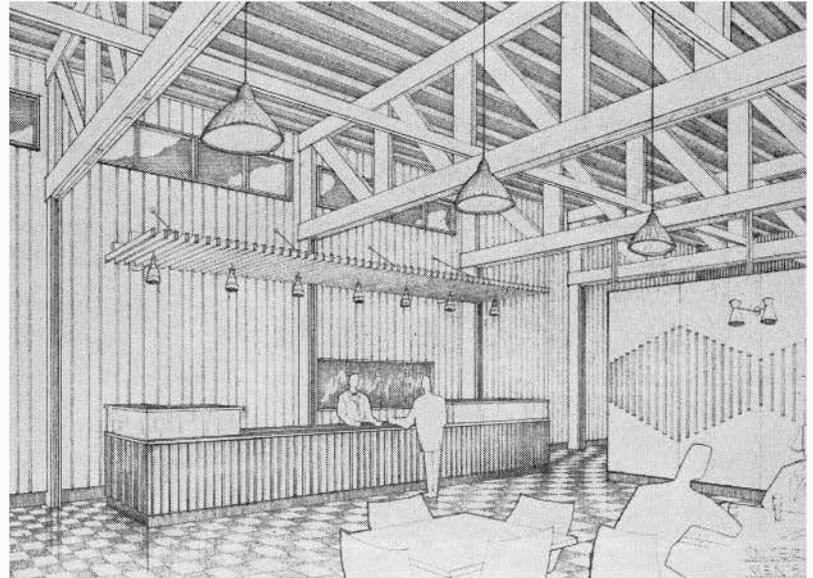


established and many are already in production. By July of 1959 three years after construction first started, the entire eastern town will be completed. If pressure for accommodation continues, the western townsite will then be started.

Six years from the first discovery of uranium, the completion of a town of fourteen thousand is quite an accomplishment. How successful is this town, this uranium by-product, whose accelerated growth has caused it to reach maturity within six short years? The planners worked very hard within the framework of existing legislation to produce a good plan. They were limited however to the making of subdivision plans, indicating lot limits and set back limitations. The central commercial area was carefully planned in detail, the parking areas laid out and building lots arranged in blocks and sold. No architectural control was permitted; no obligatory consultation of planners was required. The result is that many of the individual developers and architects working within the limited framework that the planners were able to erect, and being concerned only with their own immediate projects, produced a series of buildings, many of which have great merit, but which in total lack visual cohesion. The carefully conceived central commercial area in many places falls far short of its expectations because of the failure of individuals to concern themselves with the adjacent developments and with the total concept. Most of the single family housing seems somewhat inappropriate to the virile northern clime. They are anonymous houses which might be built anywhere, not houses created with climate, topography and character of the specific area as essential formative considerations.

We all realize the dangers and problems of architectural control, however, this new town emphasizes the problem of the friction created by the simultaneous development of a series of continuous projects by people with little concern for each other's work. In this instance an interested consultive body concerned with the total development existed in the Community Planning Branch, yet very few of the architects and developers consulted with this body except to obtain the minimum physical requirements of the zoning and site. For such development to be really successful from the architectural and planning point of view, procedure has to be significantly improved. The example of Don Mills where some degree of architectural control existed illustrates the possibility of eliminating many of the bad features found in so many other developments. We are all aware of the possible restrictions of architectural creativity through inept control. The visual chaos that can result with the total absence control is evident in Elliot Lake. Perhaps the best type of control is the voluntary co-operation of all the developers and architects through the vehicle of a receptive consultive agency. The lack of any voluntary co-operative attitude appears to be one of the main contributors to the ugliness of our urban developments.

Architectural control through legislation would find little public support in Canada today. It comes either from voluntary inter-action or mandatory control vested in one agency.



Sketch of beverage room in Elliot Lake Hotel

*Architect, Mandel C. Sprachman*

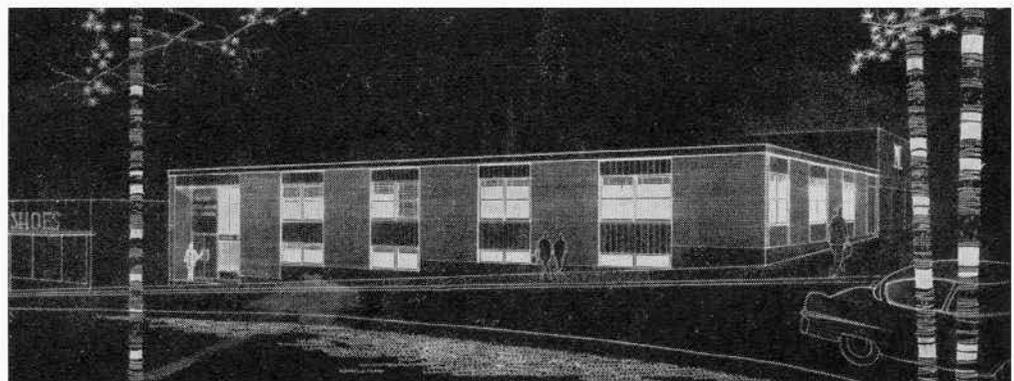
Mandatory control under existing legislation would take place only when a private agency developed an entire area and invested this authority in its planners and architects. This would have been the case in the original development proposed by Hirshorn and the other mining interests. In this development the entire town was to be designed and controlled by Philip Johnson of New York in conjunction with John B. Parkin and Associates of Toronto. It is very interesting to compare the ultimate result of the "democratically" developed town with the model of the scheme by Messrs. Johnson and Parkin which was later abandoned.

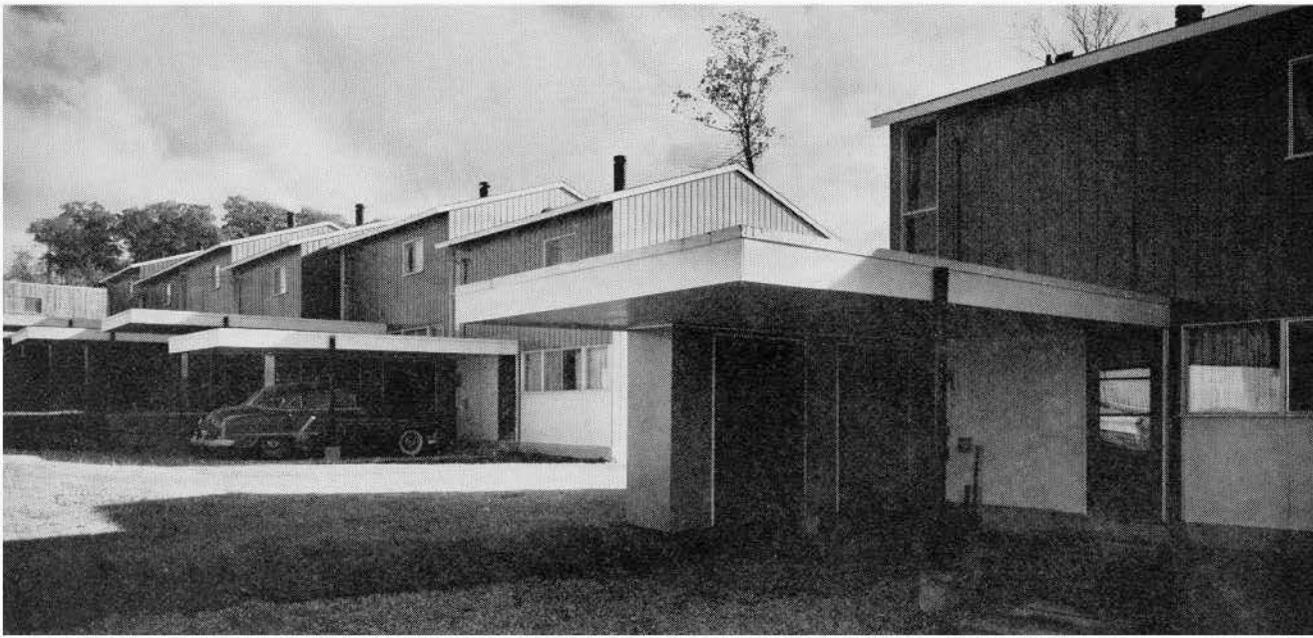
The Community Planning Branch was able to improve on the boom town developments of the past but was not able to avoid areas of visual chaos. However, good accommodation has been provided quickly and efficiently and the power of the great natural environment still remains dominant. The great rocky outcroppings, the glimpses of the lakes, the tall spiky trees, are reminders of the rugged beauty of the area. The mines, isolated from the community in virgin woodland settings, retain all the drama of the inter relationship of man and nature in this rugged scene. The tall mine shafts looming out of the trees are symbolic of civilization's arrival in this previously uninhabited area. These mine shafts are the only physical manifestation of the vast wealth hidden beneath this barren land. They serve to remind us of the men who, a few years ago in the face of great difficulty, gambled on the existence of uranium in the area.

Amenities for this particular pioneer community reflect its special character. Early on, the miners are establishing their meeting hall and their pub, both, it is to be noted, designed by architects.

Hall and offices for the United Steelworkers of America

*Architect, D. Perry Short*





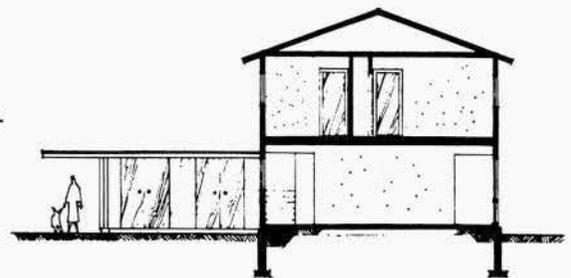
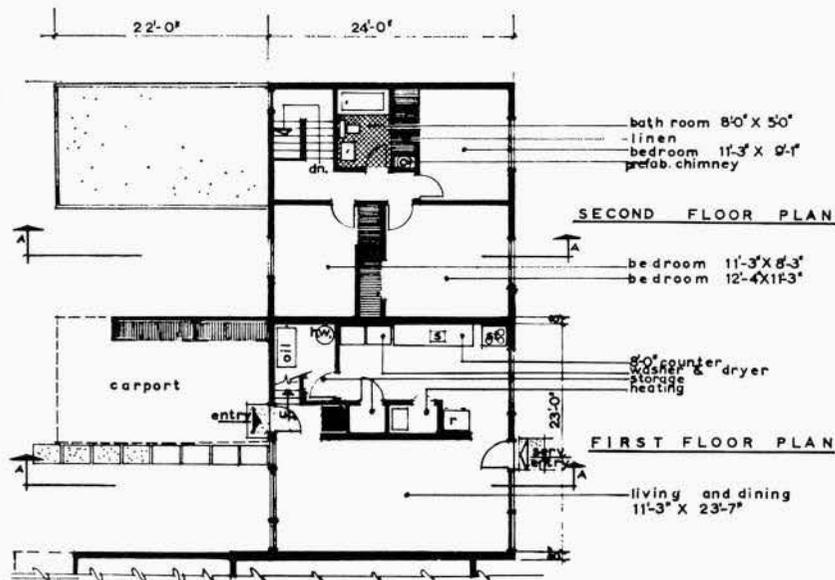
PANDA



PANDA

Terrace houses for mine workers at Elliot Lake, designed to follow the strong land contours of the neighbourhood, with peripheral roads and a central open space.

Architect, J. Markson



SECTION AT A - A

TWO STOREY ROWHOUSE  
scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

# NEWS FROM THE INSTITUTE

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Architectural Institute of British Columbia 1958 Annual General Meeting, Hotel Georgia, Vancouver, B.C. December 5th and 6th, 1958.

Province of Quebec Association of Architects, 1959 Annual Meeting, The Alpine Inn, St. Marguerite, P.Q. January 29th, 30th and 31st, 1959.

Ontario Association of Architects, 1959 Convention and Annual Meeting, Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Ontario. February 5th, 6th and 7th, 1959.

## ONTARIO

So much has been said and written about the high ideals of the profession of architecture, that I am certain no repetition from me is necessary. The same holds true for the need of architectural education of the man on the street.

The architect, we are told, should be more interested in his art for art's sake. We are advised to be arrogant and not apologize for our profession and our desire to be part of it.

I feel that this is the wrong approach. We as a body, talk shop enough as it is and too much talk will accomplish very little indeed. There is, to my mind, no better advertisement than a good product. In the architectural profession there is nothing like a building which is attractive to the eye, well conceived as to plan, efficient in operation and low in maintenance to proclaim the advantages which are the result of good architectural planning, detailing and supervision.

There is an old saying which I feel is very appropriate. It goes as follows — actions speak louder than words.

*Logan V. Gallaher, Kingston*

## MANITOBA

In Winnipeg, 258 entries in the New City Hall Competition have been received. Of these 23 come from Manitoba.

On September 16th the steel frame for the new building of the School of Architecture was completed.

Following the Urban Renewal Study for the City of Winnipeg, prepared by Professor W. Gerson and sponsored by the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Urban Renewal and Rehabilitation Board was appointed recently by the City Council.

Professor George Swinton, of the local School of Art, criticized the architecture of the new building of the Great West Life Insurance Company in Winnipeg by comparing it to a fortress. "Something like a fortress may well have been visualized by the Company," remarked Professor Stewart Webster, adding, "Is it not an important part of the function of a life insurance building to express a feeling of security to make the policy holder believe, for instance, that no matter what Dulles is doing in Formosa his savings are safe? Is it not true that a fortress, by virtue of the fact that it can repel attack, makes you feel secure?" This illustration may serve as an excellent examination question under the heading of "Functionalism — true or false?"

*V. J. Kostka, Winnipeg*

## VIEWPOINT

*"It is my impression that the ordinary self-appointed delegate to the RAIC Assembly is forced into an absolutely ineffectual position during his attendance".*

*Letter from Mr William Leithead, page 354-5 JOURNAL RAIC, September, 1958.*

I agree with this expression.

No doubt every member attending an RAIC Assembly has felt the frustration and ineffectuality of the deliberations, such as they are, that take place.

Lately there has been some interesting seminars and talks, but there has been nothing which allows for individual member participation, and which provides direction and guidance in the many problems besetting the profession generally. Further, there has been very little of public significance in our deliberations.

The criticism might seem strong, but I certainly recognize that programmes involving such features would require a greater organization than the RAIC is presently able to muster. The Assemblies would likely have to be lengthened and previous study and organization of subject matter for small group discussions would have to be accomplished.

Nevertheless, the responsibility to consider such problems as

The Architect and the Government

The Architect and the Promoter

The Architect and the Financier

The Architect and the Builder

The Architect and the Engineer

The Architect and the man on the street

and many others is certainly there.

Many aspects of problems similar to the above are gone into at the Banff Sessions. In effect, they are an attempt to discover the fundamentals and the future of the Architectural Profession.

The Session programmes have been designed to satisfy this individual craving of Architects to partake in serious deliberations on matters affecting our profession. The interest in the Sessions to date has been less than satisfactory, so it may be true that not as many architects as one would think are really concerned about these problems.

Perhaps with the support and prestige of the RAIC, the Banff Sessions could be developed as a pre-Assembly study with their findings published for the further discussion and interest of the Assembly itself.

*Howard L. Bouey, Edmonton*

It seems to me that the "self-appointed delegate" referred to in Mr Leithead's letter is only an interested architect representing no one else's ideas but his own. Thus one would expect him to be most outspoken in matters that directly concern him. One must also assume that the *chosen delegates* and the council, in particular, carefully select all topics to be discussed so that they are of interest to the majority of the members.

One cannot, however, escape the feeling that the annual assembly is, to many, just another North American convention which gives them an opportunity to meet their colleagues

on a social rather than a professional level. It is questionable whether it is possible to discuss items of any importance at such large meetings and, no doubt, many leave disappointed with the results of the discussions. If any participant at the convention does feel dissatisfied surely he should exert his energy through the provincial council to ensure that his delegates are familiar with his sentiments.

*D. F. Lebensold, Montreal*

The Editorial Board, in their wisdom, submitted the letter which contained the foregoing statement to the contributors of the current edition of *Viewpoint*. Had we been forced to comment on the statement alone, some bright contributor might have suggested that the "self-appointed delegate" take "the cure" before the Assembly.

The letter is thought provoking to the uninformed. The President has many travelling representatives and as a matter of fact they report in person to the President and Executive Committee at least five times a year. Not only does this local contact exist across Canada; but well before the Assembly, the RAIC requests each Provincial Association to submit resolutions and topics for discussion at the Assembly. This is done with a view to maintaining some semblance of order and to assure that advance preparation for intelligent discussion can be made. It is impossible to grant all delegates the opportunity of expressing their views on unlimited topics.

Since the RAIC's request for resolutions meets with limited interest and is more often ignored, one must assume the Provincial Associations are solving their own problems and well they should, for invariably such problems are of a local nature.

This contributor would experience depression, frustration, and utter despair if our Annual Assembly consisted of discussions on the odious problems facing the "independent practitioner." My only contribution to such a program would be to suggest that the Assembly be abandoned and we spend our time attempting to be better architects by providing better service, being able to discuss building finance and real estate, sponsoring better and more economical building techniques and making sure our clients are more than satisfied at the completion of a project. Satisfied clients can do more for us than P.R. consultants and if we had enough of them we would not have to worry about the horror boys that are purported to be making inroads while we have fun and games in Montreal.

My apologies for the tinge of ridicule, but it is annoying to find that one of our members thinks the profession is going to pot. On the contrary, the average intelligent Canadian is more aware of architects and their services than ever before and it is hoped that your correspondent finds himself well prepared for our glorious future.

Our service is personal and our problems, in the main, are personal. The experience of others is most helpful in resolving those problems, but we should not burden the entire membership with them. For those in need, I suggest more intimate discussions "under the stands."

*Alvin R. Prack, Hamilton*

I read with surprise the letter published in the *Journal* and signed by Mr W. G. Leithead.

The writer states that "so many of us came away from the Assembly with a feeling of frustration and disappointment". We did not talk to the same people because everyone of those I talked to said they had thoroughly enjoyed their Annual Assembly. The letter further states that there is an "apparent indifference of our Assembly when it comes to taking action on the many very serious problems which are facing independent practitioners today". I really do not see how Mr Leithead can say that, because the Assembly is composed in a very great proportion of independent practitioners, who are all interested in the problems they have to face and they certainly are not indifferent to them. All the members of the RAIC, whether they be members of Council or just attending the Assembly, have the same desire, to work for the profession.

A little further, the author states "it is my impression that the ordinary self-appointed delegate to the RAIC Assembly is forced into an absolutely ineffectual position during his attendance". Again, I do not see how Mr Leithead got that impression, because everyone attending the Assembly is entitled to voice his ideas. It is true that in all well organized meetings a definite agenda has to be followed and that decisions in certain cases, cannot be taken on the spot, but it is my sincere opinion that whatever a member has to suggest, will be taken up, if not at the General Assembly, surely at Council, and it will be discussed and action will be taken if the subject of the discussion warrants it.

It is not my intention to state here that our Assembly cannot be improved upon but I feel sure that, in so far as the directors of the RAIC are concerned, every effort is given to make our meetings, not only enjoyable, in a "gay and social atmosphere", but also in a constructive way and I think I can say safely that any member who would like to submit a particular problem could do so by writing to the RAIC's officers, long enough ahead of the General Assembly and, if the subject is justified, it will certainly be added to the agenda.

Personally, I think that the author of this article may be right in his general views but I do not think this was the right approach to the solution of the problem (if there is a problem). I hope Mr Leithead will attend the next Annual Assembly in Windsor and I am positive that he will soon realize that the officers of the RAIC are always willing to work for the betterments of our profession. I am not at all worried about "becoming one of the last members of a dying species". On the contrary, I feel quite sure that my profession is getting to be known more and more all the time and I have only to read the papers every day and see all the competitions held throughout Canada to realize our profession is really on its way to a period of expansion and recognition.

*Gérard Venne, Quebec 4*

#### CONTRIBUTOR TO THIS ISSUE

A native of Ancaster, Ontario and a graduate in political economy, **Mrs Norah Johnson** has been employed in various capacities in the field of town planning, chiefly as a research worker. She has made studies of the cities of Toronto and Windsor, the Niagara Peninsula and many of the towns and small cities in Southern Ontario.

#### BOOK REVIEWS

FOUNDATIONS: DESIGN AND PRACTICE, by Edwin E. Seelye, published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York (Chapman and Hall, Ltd., London), 1956. Four hundred and sixty-six pages, illustrated. Price \$16.00

In discussing with practising architects their information needs, the writer has been told by more than one member of the profession that, when he wanted technical information, he "wanted it fast" and so was not interested in lengthy discussions, preferring to have essential facts summarized and presented in written form ready for use. To those who like to have their information provided in this way, this excellently produced book can be recommended—but with some reservations. It has clearly been prepared with the needs of the practicing designer in view. It contains, for example, well over five hundred diagrams, sketches, and tables, the book even starting with eleven pages of drawings — showing different types of foundations — before the first textual matter is reached.

This is but one of the volume's special features. It is not paginated in the normal way, each chapter having its own pages separately numbered. Despite the subject with which it deals, it contains very few references and none which might guide the reader to further study. It includes one excellent coloured plate (to illustrate the standard test for fine aggregate for concrete). And the unusual approach of the author is typified by the title of the second chapter, "Push-Button Design of Spread Footings and Pile Caps". The push-button approach is reflected in the "Red Lights" which are sprinkled about most

of the chapters, guides to dangers that are to be avoided in the relevant parts of the subject.

For those who know the fundamentals of foundation design, such short cuts are to be welcomed. They may, however, perpetuate incorrect thinking on the part of those who use such guides without benefit of prior training in the complexities of this vital part of building design. It is, for example, not until page 27 of Chapter Thirteen that a diagram for the basic stress pattern beneath a loaded foundation slab is featured, a diagram which must be appreciated before any critical assessment of foundation designs can be made. Correspondingly, there is little in this fine volume to warn the unwary with regard to the misuse of piles as foundation units, nothing which suggests that piles should be used only as a last resort when ground conditions will not permit of any type of integral foundation. One of the "Red Lights", for example, merely states "Beware of soft strata at lower depths. It is better to drive piles than to take a chance". In some cases, not unknown in Canada, the existence of soft strata at lower depths, means most decidedly, that piles should not be used.

With this qualification, and an expression of regret that the distinguished author (a consulting engineer in New York) has seen fit to recognize the unfortunate term "hard-pan", an expression rigorously to be avoided in soil engineering, this fine volume can be recommended as a veritable compendium of useful information on all aspects of foundation design. Field problems are, very properly, dealt with in association with foundation design, since this part of building design must always be carried out with full appreciation of the construction methods necessary. Chapters are devoted to Field Practice, Costs, and Specifications, the latter especially useful to architects since many typical clauses are suggested. There is even a chapter on "Exercising Engineering Judgment"; it is to be hoped that the title does not discourage architects from reading it since it will show the virtue which can come from that construction experience which is so essential for the well trained civil engineer but which, so far, does not seem to be recognized in Canada as a corresponding necessity for architects.

Some architects who see this book, and it is hoped that many will, may suggest that the author got some of his unusual ideas on presentation from certain well known architectural handbooks. If so, such interchange of ideas is to be welcomed. There are few branches of design work in which engineers and architects must co-operate more closely than in the design and construction of foundations. If this volume, in addition being a useful design aid to architects, leads architects who use it to realize the vital necessity of working with a competent engineer on all unusual foundation designs, it will serve a double purpose.

*Robert F. Legget,  
Director, Division of Building Research,  
National Research Council.*

"BUILDINGS FOR INDUSTRY" An Architectural Record book published by F. W. Dodge Corporation, 1957. Price \$9.75.

In keeping with the book series compiled from material previously printed in the Architectural Record, the F. W. Dodge Corporation has seen fit to publish, once again, a book dealing with industrial buildings. The last of the series in this category was published in 1951.

Emerson Goble, managing editor of the "Record", points out in his introduction that the world of industry has not only grown in size and importance, but has also expanded into new fields and to more and new locations, and that we, as archi-

texts keeping abreast of mechanization, etc., can study and profit by the recent achievements illustrated on the following pages.

Generally speaking, the profit is to be gained in the first section of the book which discusses recent design principles and trends. This section consists of a number of articles written by engineers, architects and consultants, on such varied subjects as fluorescent lighting, air cooling, electrical systems, cafeterias and materials handling. Some very important data affecting technical and human aspects is considered.

The remaining six sections of the book deal, in a cursory way, with samples of warehousing, light industry, consumer goods, manufacturing laboratories, utility and service industries, and heavy industry.

I found it rather amusing to find a large two-page illustration of the Karl Benscheidt shoe-last factory (1911-12), by Walter Gropius, with the simple caption that it was one of the especially significant buildings of this pioneer architect and educator's career. This tribute would seem to have no bearing on the book's contents. One wonders whether any of the new buildings illustrated could be deemed especially significant.

The value of the book suffers from a lack of examples of outstanding aesthetic quality. There is a general tendency towards a feeling of mediocrity in the buildings chosen. We would hasten to add that there are notable exceptions, such as the Laidlaw Lumber Company project, by Pentland and Baker, Architects, Toronto.

*John E. Owen*

"AMERICAN CIVIL ENGINEERING PRACTICE", Volume III. Edited by Robert W. Abbett, published by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., New York City. Price \$25.00.

This is the third and last volume of a set of handbooks on Civil Engineering which has been prepared by a staff of specialists under the editorship of Robert W. Abbett, a partner in the firm of Tippetts, Abbett, McCarthy, Stratton, Engineers, New York City. These volumes are intended to constitute a comprehensive reference source for professional engineers and engineering students. Each section is written by a recognized authority in that particular specialty.

The first volume is devoted to topics concerned with metropolitan and community planning, surveying, traffic, highways, airports, railroads, soil mechanics and site planning, foundation, earthwork, and tunnels. Also included is a section containing mathematical tables commonly used in engineering. The second volume deals with hydraulic, sanitary and harbour engineering.

This, the third volume, covers masonry, reinforced concrete, steel and timber structures. It should be of particular interest to structural engineers and architects. The treatment of each topic is thorough, yet concise, and includes the most up-to-date methods and practices in civil engineering.

There are thirteen main sections covering, respectively, theory of structures, masonry and plain concrete, reinforced concrete, pre-stressed concrete, footings, retaining walls, steel bridges, reinforced concrete bridges, building structures, steel towers, reinforced concrete chimneys, timber structures, and design for earthquakes.

Architects and students of architecture will find particularly useful the sections on theory of structures, masonry and plain concrete, footings and building structures. Many tables and charts are included as well as numerous examples of detailed design of components of building structures.

*C. Hershfield*

# SEALANTS

## Curtain Wall Construction

Curtain Wall or Panel Construction has had its most rapid development since World War II. It differs from older construction forms in that Panels or Sections are attached to structural framework to form the skins or faces of buildings but are generally neither designed nor relied upon for structural strength.

An underlying reason for the development of this type of construction is the opportunity offered to effect economies through shop prefabrication plus simplified and speeded site erection reducing site labor costs to a minimum.

### The Requirements of a Good Sealant

The requirements of a good sealant for curtain wall construction should be to provide adhesion plus a cushioning ability to absorb motion and growth of a building. These basic concepts must, in practice, be expanded to include:

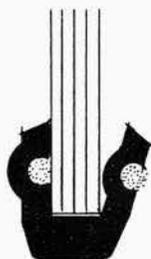
- Retention of sealing qualities at temperatures from minus 40 F. to plus 160 F.
- Resistance to weather, sun, abrasion, chemicals and oils.
- Life expectancy of at least 25 years without damaging change in durometer or hardness.
- Simplicity and speed of installation.
- Economy of completed and installed seal.
- Simplicity of panel replacement.
- Adaptability to industrial and construction tolerances.
- Compatibility with various panel materials.
- Ability to absorb unusual stresses and varying rates of expansion and contraction of different materials.
- Maximum joint protection.
- Lack of solvent migration.
- Elimination of the human factor for consistent sealing performances.

Fig. 1 — Cross section showing sealing compound.



METHOD OF WET SEAL CHANNEL INSTALLATION

Fig. 2 — Cross section showing panel.



### Compression Seals

Compression seals have proven their efficiency and practicality throughout the years.

In the construction field architects are, to an increasing extent, recognizing that these simple compression seals follow the directional pattern of Curtain Wall and Panel construction.

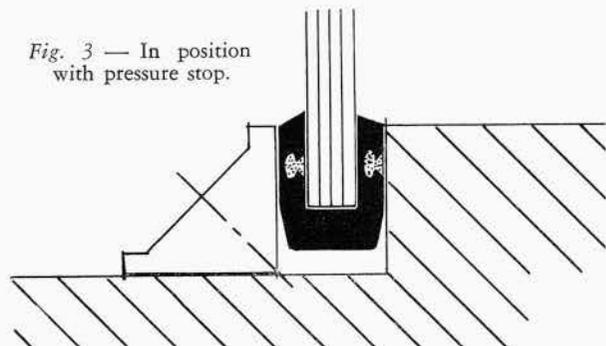
A compression seal in principle involves simply pressing two mating or butting surfaces together, with a gasket between them, tightly enough to prevent leakage. The gasket irons out surface non-uniformities and maintains the sealing pressure by its ability to resist distortion.

This system involves factory fabricated extruded channels, supplied either in straight lengths or with four corners vulcanized into an endless gasket. Where completed gaskets are used they are shipped from factory directly to erection site where they are snapped over panel or light of glass like a rubber band—an operation requiring less than a minute. This assembly is then placed into frame and seal affected by application of pressure through pressure strips.

### Wet Seal Channel

The sealing strips (channels) are designed with reservoirs on their inner and/or outer faces (wherever the seal is required). These reservoirs, are filled at the factory during production with a special formulated sealing compound. Gaskets made of this strip are shipped from the plant as completed units to the site of erection where they are snapped over a panel or light of glass, this assembly positioned in the frame and drawn up tightly with pressure strips. With the application of pressure, the sealing compound flows from these reservoirs through slot openings and forms an impenetrable seal between surfaces where required. It has the advantage of being able to caulk both sides of panel or glass simultaneously. Co-operation between the architect, contractor and sealant manufacturer is essential during the early stages of design.

Fig. 3 — In position with pressure strip.



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