

Ontario Place is already creating excitement in Toronto in its nighttime attire – 310 cylindrical lights illuminating the 90' by 110' triodetic Cinesphere dome. Opening date for the complex is May 22, but two weeks later a reception is planned there for those attending the '71 RAIC Assembly. **Come to Toronto, June 2-4.**

Architecture Canada

NEWSMAGAZINE

Published every two weeks by RAIC/IRAC March 1, 1971

RAIC – a new look

Competition between architects in Canada seems to be keener than in the US. This is one of the facts that emerges from a series of figures and tables prepared recently by RAIC headquarters as part of its "new look" at the profession. A report compiled by Director of Professional Services Wilson Salter and an overview of the architect's position in Canada were presented by RAIC president Gordon Arnott to the Ontario Association's convention in Toronto last month.

Last year, according to the tables, Canada had one registered architect for every 6,375 people vs. 1:5,721 in the US. Surprisingly, Canada's highest architect-population ratios were in Manitoba and British Columbia, with Ontario and Quebec following. The ratio predictably lags in Newfoundland although that province potentially has the highest construction dollar per architect.

The report also puts together some figures on both RAIC and provincial dues and expenditures. Assuming the normal increase in registrations, provincial associations will collect a total of more than \$2½ million in dues over the next five years; the national body will receive over \$½ million of that. Says president Arnott, in view of this, all bodies must "set goals for a longer period of time so there is more to show for this expenditure". To date the bulk of RAIC money has been spent on administration, travel and its publication. The latter expense was eliminated with the takeover of *A/C Newsmagazine* and *Directory* by a private publisher.

The portion of annual dues going to RAIC has remained at \$35 for the last eight years. In 1970 each architect paid to RAIC \$2.94 per month, 67½c. per week, or 9½c. per day.

For more on OAA convention, see page 6.

1970 NEW CONSTRUCTION DOLLARS AND THE ARCHITECT

(Figures obtained from D.B.S. via C.C.A.)

Province	Number of architects	% Total	New Construction dollars	% Total	Potential per arch.
B.C. (incl. Yukon & N.W.T.)	412	12.3	\$ 874,044,000	11.6	\$2.1 million
Alta.	221	6.6	659,661,000	10.0	3 million
Sask.	75	2.2	209,579,000	3.3	2.8 million
Man.	213	6.3	305,726,000	4.7	1.6 million
Ont.	1,365	40.8	2,823,265,000	42.1	2 million
Que.	922	27.5	1,343,762,000	20.2	1.4 million
N.B.	41	1.2	150,164,000	2.4	3.7 million
N.S. (incl. P.E.I.)	86	2.6	261,863,000	4.1	2.8 million
Nfld.	18	.5	96,881,000	1.6	5.3 million
Totals	3,353		\$6,724,945,000		\$2 million (average)

1970 POPULATION – CANADA AND THE ARCHITECT

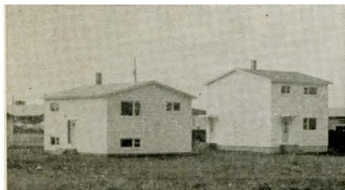
(Figures obtained from D.B.S.)

Province	Population	% Total	Number of architects	% Total	% Population
B.C. (incl. Yukon)	2,153,000	10.0	412	12.3	.0191
Alta. (incl. N.W.T.)	1,633,000	7.6	221	6.6	.0134
Sask.	942,000	4.4	75	2.2	.0074
Man.	981,000	4.6	213	6.3	.0204
Ont.	7,637,000	35.7	1,365	40.8	.0161
Que.	6,013,000	28.2	922	27.5	.0145
N.B.	624,000	3.0	41	1.2	.0064
N.S. (incl. P.E.I.)	876,000	4.1	86	2.6	.0098
Nfld.	518,000	2.4	18	.5	.0034
Totals	21,377,000		3,353		.0157

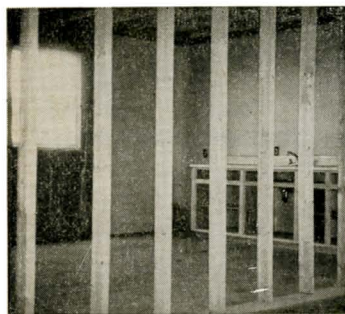
OPINION

The housing problem: once again – is the shell the answer?

The debate on the pros and cons of shell housing begun in the November 23 issue of A/C by Toronto architect Peter Hamilton which gathered steam in the January 11 issue seems to have provoked a bit more of a stir. Two more readers have responded. Alfred Stickel of Almonte, Ont., comments on the flexibility debate with a flexible statement (the meaning of which he says "either my colleagues understand or they don't"). Ernest Annau, an associate of Bregman and Hamann, Toronto, meanwhile, suggests that "architects, financiers and builders" look to shell housing for a solution to the housing problem.



Two views of CMHC shell housing in Newfoundland. The interior below shows the stage at which housing is sold.



Complimentary?

Mr. Hamilton's opinions (A/C 11/1/71) should be excellent credentials for the positions open in Waterloo (A/C 11/1/71).

Alfred W. Stickel,
Almonte, Ont.

Dutch design principle

With reference to the exchange of opinions on shell housing in A/C it may be of interest to note that indeterminate shell planning was the design principle applied to the new town of Maarsse for some 40,000 people now under construction in Holland. Architects associated with the Architectural Research Foundation in Holland (Stichting Architecten Research) won a developer competition by showing various dwelling combinations fitted into the supporting "frameworks for living" on a computer printout. Their proposed flexibility won for them their first prize and the commission.

It is evident that the flexible shell housing theories of Nicolaas Habraken (research director of the Architectural Research Foundation)

formed the background of Peter Hamilton's thinking as he referred to Habraken's work in his opinion piece.

Whether erected by totalitarian governments or free enterprise speculators, conventionally or systems built, quickly deteriorating or carefully maintained, all presently available apartment dwellings impose a strait-jacket on the individual. Neither layout or fitments can be arranged to suit the occupant's means or particular needs. Even if the market were such as to encourage the designer to strive for a rich variety of layouts (rather than demanding minimum costs, maximum profits and consequently a standard layout), with our present attitude to dwelling as a finished product, the individual would still be confined within an unchangeable, unadaptable, and ultimately impersonal environment. The economics of the present dwelling just do not make sense, since all components, structure and fitments are welded into an inflexible whole, and the value of the entire project is tied to the life cycle of its most fashion-oriented and thus its most quickly depreciating component.

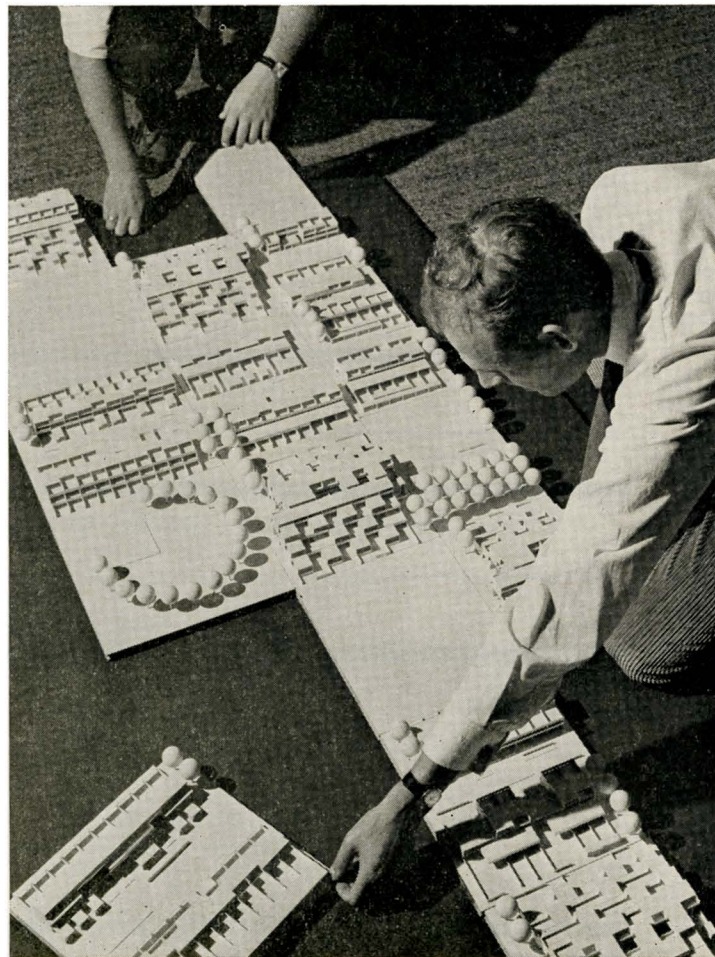
This can be changed only by a very different concept – that of dwelling as a continuous process rather than an elusive thing to be

discovered by "redeeming design." To quote Habraken: "A dwelling must be independent, it must be possible to alter, improve or replace it, independent of its surroundings. Up to now this has been possible only with the detached one-storey house, a fact which goes far to explain its popularity. To revise the housing process, this flexibility must be made possible in the case of the high rise dwellings as well. This, stated briefly, is a concrete problem which must be solved in order to derive a contemporary housing process."

In other areas of planning the principle of designing for growth and change has already been recognized, e.g.: office landscape and SEF schools. This concept of indeterminacy, flexibility and modular growth forms the basis of my own work for the York County Hospital in Newmarket, Ont. Is it not time to make our most immediate environment, our homes, able to respond to the basic human desire – to fashion things to one's own changing needs? It is up to us architects, financiers and builders to make this possible.

Ernest Annau, Toronto

An article by Mr. Annau amplifying his theories appeared in Canadian Interiors, Dec. 1970. – Ed.



The De Jong system of shell housing developed by the Architectural Research Foundation, Holland.

A/C

Why your magazine is late

Printed here is a letter that Architecture Canada has sent to the postmaster general re slow postal delivery of the magazine. If you are getting your issues up to a week late help us light a fire under the post office by writing your member of parliament. This issue, to catch some late news from the OAA convention, was mailed March 3.

We as publishers of a fortnightly newsmagazine for architects wish to register a strong complaint about the service the Canadian post office is providing.

Architecture Canada, the newsmagazine of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, has been mailed under postal permit C-52 for over a year now from Toronto every other Friday to reach its audience early the following week. The magazine's format was changed a year ago from a monthly glossy to a smaller fortnightly with later deadlines to enable us to include the latest possible news of interest to the profession.

The move was precipitated also by the fact that postal rates for professional publications were raised in 1969 by over 400%.

Our decision to provide this new form of communication was not reached without consultation with the post office. Your Toronto offices assured us that if the new Architecture Canada were mailed on Friday it invariably would be in architects' offices in Ontario on Monday and across Canada a day later.

Since we began with the new format in February 1970, architects report the service from the post office has been getting increasingly worse. Our last issue, for instance was mailed on February 12 and was not received even by Toronto architects until February 18, 19 or even February 23.

The post office, we are all aware, is one of the few Canadian enterprises that calls for payment in full before a service is performed. The reason for this, we can only assume, must be that if the post office asked for payment at the completion of a job it would not be able to collect.

We are publishing this letter in the next issue of our magazine to explain to RAIC members why they have been receiving their magazine up to a week after the date of publication. We hope to publish in the near future a letter from you explaining what the post office intends to do about this matter.

PEOPLE

Vancouver architect, Stanley King, originator of the "Adventure in Architecture" series of experimental planning seminars, which have been enchanting and educating Vancouver students for the past two years (A/C 27/4/70), has been awarded a CMHC grant to continue his studies in teaching techniques for the young. He will examine specifically techniques for teaching

about design and quality of the urban environment. King hopes to produce a set of images that can be used in student participation programs across the country.

Montreal architect Moshe Safdie has been named to the highest architectural chair of the Yale School of Art and Architecture. Safdie, 32, will become Charlotte Shepherd Davenport Professor of Architecture, teaching a special seminar in urban housing this spring term. He joins a distinguished list of architects who have been named to the chair since its founding in 1966: James Stirling, of Manchester, England, and Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown Venturi of Philadelphia.

H. Claire Mott of Saint John, a founding member of the New Brunswick Association of Architects, has been elected an honorary life member of the Association. Mr. Mott, who is also an RAIC fellow and honorary member, served as president of the AANB for two years and secretary-treasurer and registrar for 26.

Landscape architect Michael Hough of Hough, Stanbury & Associates Limited, of Toronto, has been appointed by the University of Alberta to develop a landscaping long range plan for the campus.

It will relate to the campus Long Range Development plan, which incorporates use of open spaces and pedestrian walkways into construction planning. Mr. Hough will examine such items as pedestrian movement and bypass systems,

surface parking and vehicular roadways, open space and interior landscape, including rooftop development, recreation and athletic programs for outdoor facilities, planting, lighting and street furniture, maintenance and long term landscape management, phasing and development, and costs and budgets. His six month study will help the University identify goals and objectives for campus landscaping, determine priorities and establish long term budgeting.

HOUSING

NHBA becomes HUDAC

The National House Builders Association officially changed its name to Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada at its annual convention in Edmonton last month.

When the association was formed 28 years ago, it was concerned with only the single-family house and its builders. The residential construction industry thinks the new name is much more symbolic of new developments in the industry. An important factor in the choice of HUDAC was the creation of a new federal Minister of State for Urban Affairs and Housing.

Accommodating the mobile society

Are housebuilders with their stress on home ownership doing the nation a disservice?

This question was raised last month in Edmonton by RAIC president Gordon R. Arnott in a double-barrelled architects' presentation to the HUDAC convention. Both Arnott and Toronto architect Irving Grossman were invited by the housebuilders to talk about good design.

Architects' and housebuilders' responses to the problems of the future, said Arnott, could be far off base. He questioned, for example, the notion that home ownership is "so all pervasive and fundamental to the human psyche that society must encourage it."

"Home ownership for a mobile labor force, or a labor force who, in order to have a job, must be mobile, could be the very feature perpetuating unemployment," he said. Being tied to a mortgage and a partial equity in a residence inhibits chances for job retraining and eventual relocation in a national industry.

Arnott then suggested that to accommodate the mobile Canadian worker, marketing concepts should include not only house rental, but also rental complete with furniture and furnishings.

DESIGN

Students win Cominco awards

Three Canadian student industrial designers won cheques totalling \$1,000 recently in Cominco Ltd's second annual student competition. This year's was aimed at promoting knowledge of zinc die casting and

encouraging design of zinc products (one of Cominco's major products).

First prize, \$500, went to Rene Price of the Ontario College of Art, Toronto, for a multi-blade desk knife; second to Jack Maffin of Contestoga College, Kitchener, for an office cabinet mover, and third to Peter Curtis of Fanshawe College, London, Ont., for a desktop microfilm viewer.

The 66 entries in the 1970 competition were from seven design schools. Cominco will be announcing a similar program for '71.

SEMINARS

Athens Ekistics month

Buildings and human settlements is to be the theme of the 1971 Ekistics month organized by the Athens Center of Ekistics in Athens from July 5-24.

The first week's schedule of activities includes discussion of ancient Greek cities, analysis and definition of the problems of buildings (shells) and the human settlements, and an international conference on Ekistics education. In the second week there's either the Delos Symposium, an informal shipboard gathering of invited authorities from different disciplines or a tour of ancient Byzantine. Two seminars are highlights of the third week: One is an interdisciplinary exchange of ideas on urban growth and change, the other, a Doxiadis-led discussion on the uses of the ekistics approach.

For further information, please contact: P. Psomopoulos, Vice-President, Director, International Programs, Athens Center of Ekistics, Box 471, Athens, Greece.

Rencontre internationale

L'Association pour la promotion de l'urbanisme et de l'architecture organise une 3^e semaine de rencontre internationale à Paris, du 16 au 23 mai; semaine qui aura pour thème "Construction et Humanisme."

Cette rencontre se situera au sein de l'exposition "France 2000" et sera complétée par la présentation des 30 projets sélectionnés pour le Grand Prix 1971 sur "l'architecture du temps disponible." Cette manifestation prendra cette année une dimension particulière du fait qu'elle sera la dernière à se dérouler aux Halles de Baltard avant leur destruction, donc, au coeur même d'un grand problème de rénovation urbaine.

Le thème du Grand Prix International d'urbanisme et d'architecture 1972 sera: élaboration de systèmes techniquement et économiquement réalisables aujourd'hui (ou dans un proche avenir) apportant des solutions à tout problème ou ensemble de problèmes urbains.

D'une façon générale, cette association a pour but de permettre des relations et des rencontres, par des conférences, séminars et journées d'étude, entre les diverses personnes et organismes intéressés aux problèmes de l'urbanisme et de l'habitat

Several architectural associations recently elected their presidents for the coming year. Below, three of the new officers:



Frank J. K. Nicol, Toronto, Ontario



William Kelly, Regina, Saskatchewan



P. J. Greenacre, Cornerbrook, Newfoundland



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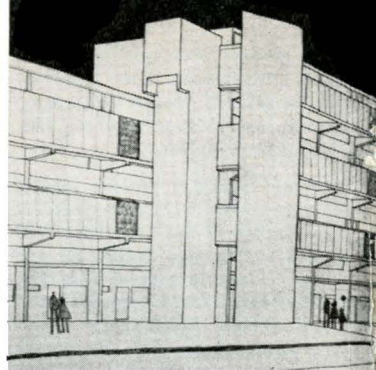
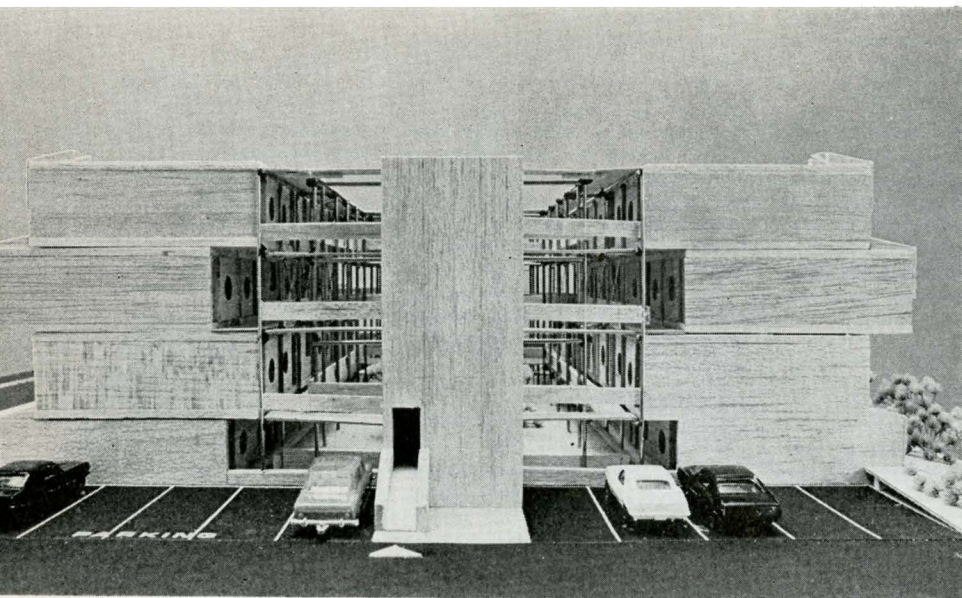
RAIC/IRAC office 151 Slater Street, Ottawa 4.

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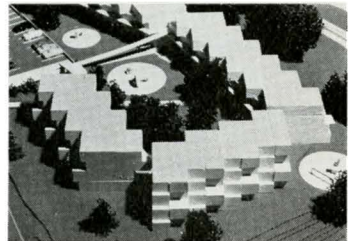
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Incentives for good design

To encourage good design, government through CHMC should reward innovation with "cold cash — a bonus system in the mortgage set-up", Toronto architect Irving Grossman told the HUDAC convention last month. "It should not expect developers alone to risk capital in developing new design experiments.

"Industrialized housing has to be the way of the future," he said, "but technology should play a secondary role to the planning and grouping of housing on the site." See a report on what the RAIC president told the house-builders on page 3.



Systems Construction's factory-built concrete boxes grouped 35 housing units to the acre. Irving Grossman, architect.

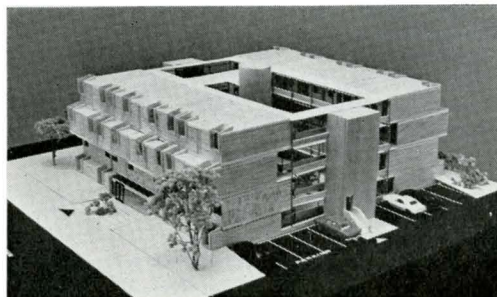
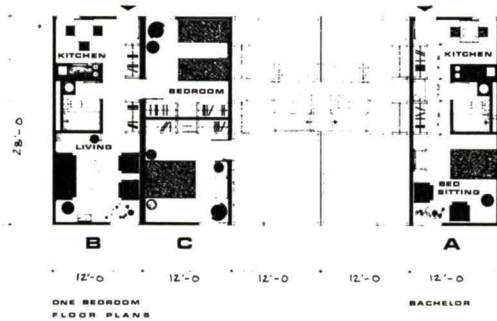
The Highlands, Ottawa, architect Irving Grossman. High density front door housing, pedestrian streets, a variety of form and accommodation.

Cellular housing for Edmonton senior citizens

Trailer-type units manufactured by trailer component firms then hoisted into position are being considered by the Alberta Housing Corp. and CMHC for senior citizen housing in Edmonton.

Says architect Peter Hemingway, preliminary estimates indicate "some very effective savings. The building unions in Alberta are asking for substantial wage increases which makes the possibility of using onsite labor to achieve building economies more and more remote."

The only site work for the Old People Pentecostal Tabernacle Housing would be the elevator and staircase tower and central gallery system. The towers would be poured concrete, the galleries, steel. The units themselves would be of typical trailer wood construction with cedar siding exterior finish.



sous toutes ses formes ; de favoriser les recherches et les techniques se rapportant directement ou indirectement à l'urbanisme, à l'architecture et à la construction, et aussi, d'en assurer la diffusion internationale.

Les règlements généraux, le détail du thème proposé, le cahier des charges et les formules d'inscriptions peuvent être obtenues en écrivant à l'Association pour la Promotion de l'Urbanisme et de l'Architecture, 67, rue St-Honoré, Paris 1er. Les formules d'inscriptions devront être dûment remplies et retournées au plus tard le 31 mars 1971.

Lightweight Concrete

The Portland Cement Association has announced an advanced seminar on lightweight concrete to be held at the PCA campus in Skokie, Ill., April 5-7. Its major purpose is

to provide understanding of the production and uses of lightweight concrete, with emphasis on recent developments, problems, and solutions. The \$100 registration fee covers all course materials and local transportation. Participants pay their own lodgings and reservations will be made by PCA at a nearby hotel. Further information contact Edward L. Kawala, Manager, Professional Education Section, Portland Cement Association, Old Orchard Road, Skokie, Ill., 60076.

School building

An international conference is being planned May 19-21 at York University, to discuss the latest developments in the philosophy, planning and construction of school building.

The conference, which has support from a number of organizations

including the RAIC and OAA, is being sponsored by the Ontario Association of Education Officials, the Ontario Association of School Business Officials and York's Centre for Continuing Education.

For further information contact the Centre for Continuing Education, York University, 4700 Keele St., Downsview 463, Ont.

Campus planning

Discussion of problems of campus traffic, transportation and parking will open a four-day conference to be held at the University of Illinois, Urbana, April 18-21, on campus planning and college building design. To follow are sessions on the design of intramural buildings, recreation centres and sports structures. Canadians particularly have been invited to attend. For further infor-

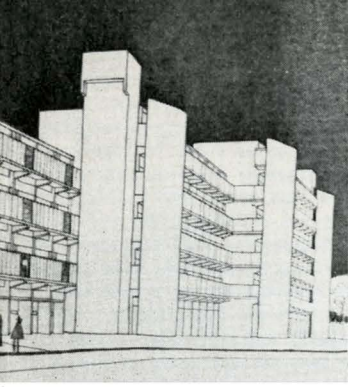
mation write Linwood J. Brightbill, Architecture and the College Conference, Department of Architecture, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, 61801.

LETTERS

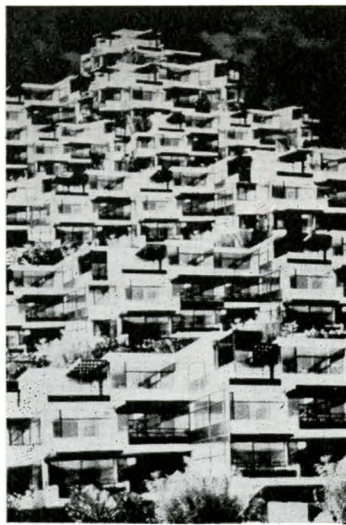
Submarine carpark

Your February 1 issue carried, under Innovations, a brief description of the underwater garage in Geneva, Switzerland. Last summer, I visited the site and had a personal tour given by the contractor, Zschokke, S.A. I thought you would be interested in some peculiarities I observed. First of all, this is the first management contract for Switzerland, and the whole country is eagerly awaiting the outcome.

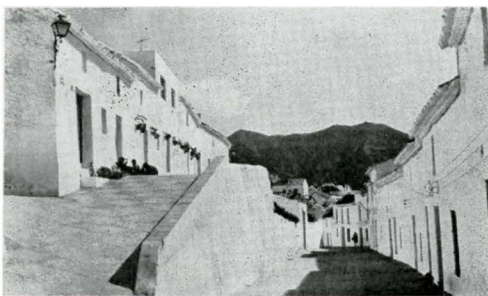
The entire reinforced concrete structural grid is independent from



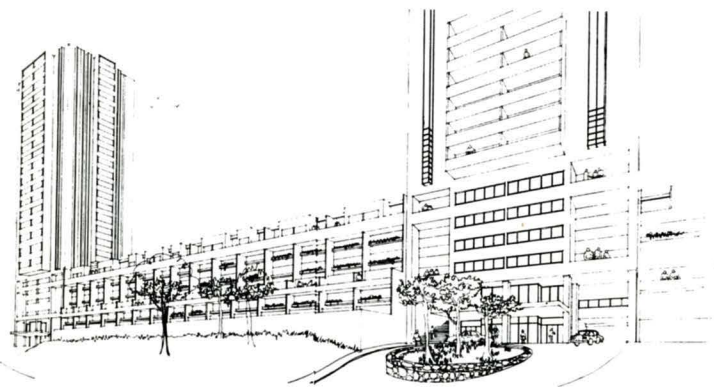
Edgeley-in-the-Village condominiums, Irving Grossman, architect. Outside corridors and stepped-up configuration.



Prefab boxes form a hill of terraced homes. E. Schneider-Weising, Germany



Mijas, Spain. "Economy of means, artful handling of ramps, simple building techniques"



Canada's first factory-built apartment – Martella Place

Jespersen-Kay Systems Ltd. has completed Canada's first factory built apartment in the Toronto suburb of Etobicoke. The 135-suite, seven-storey luxury building was built using the Danish Jespersen system of concrete components. Rapid assembly and a strictly controlled critical path, says the company, has kept rents low: \$167 for a one-bedroom; \$217 for a three-bedroom unit. The building is now for sale for \$2¼ million.

Jespersen Kay operating from its plant north of Toronto has over 700 units of housing in various phases of design and construction in the city. It plans one more plant for Canada and four for the US in the next three years

the continuous perimeter reinforced concrete retaining wall, four storeys high. The wall is poured with intermittent full-height gaps, and the gaps poured after initial shrinkage – consequently, no expansion joints.

But most interesting of all is the contrast between the imaginative architectural and structural concept and some of the site techniques. I observed, in disbelief, the preparation of partly non-reusable formwork made out of solid lumber, with the carpenters' tools being only the good old manual hammer and manual saw.

V. Milic, Toronto

PRACTICE

New Brunswick holds line on fees

New Brunswick architects agreed to reject a recommended fee increase

for the coming year at their 38th annual meeting in Fredericton at the end of January.

Architects in that province too have been affected by the construction slowdown and have expressed concern that the current schedule of fees, as set by association by-laws, is too low to cover increased costs. At their meeting, however, AANB members unanimously agreed that the problem should not be remedied by a fee increase. "An increase," they said, "would be contrary to national anti-inflationary measures."

As the situation now stands, most New Brunswick firms will continue trying to hold their offices together while they look for early signs of economic improvement and an increase in construction.

Also, at the meeting, John R. Disher, Saint John, was reelected Association president.

BOOKS

Alternatives to present school design

SEF T3, High-rise and Mixed-use Study, Metropolitan Toronto School Board, Toronto, 1970, \$10.50.

The initials SEF, as most architects know, stand for "Study of Educational Facilities," a small but lively organization created by the Metropolitan Toronto School Board some years ago "to estimate the nature and direction of the changes facing the public educational system in Metropolitan Toronto." Its early revolutionary activity culminated in the unveiling of a well-publicized building system that has since been used throughout Metro to produce "functional," but visually repulsive and, moreover, rather expensive standard schools. In spite of its somewhat

tarnished image, the SEF program did nevertheless mark the turning point at which the Canadian construction industry at last emerged from the craft stage. It is just possible that the present *High-rise and Mixed-use Study* will have comparable influence in starting to revolutionize government agencies' thinking about the true functions of public buildings.

The book is divided into three parts, the first two of which are devoted to a comparison of the relative merits of high-rise and mixed-use design concepts for school buildings, given the increasing cost of urban school sites. Unfortunately, the basic argument is not very sophisticated. There is, for example, no examination of why a school board should want to depart from conventional planning practice except to justify paying exorbitant

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prices for commercially attractive downtown land. Since old, and in many ways stagnant, U.S. cities have expediently used high-rise solutions to their school problems, it is blindly assumed that Metro should consider following the same path. One alternative that should obviously be considered in this context is that Toronto's growth be modelled on a modified Los Angeles pattern with corresponding de-emphasis on downtown development. It might, after all, prove far less expensive to create downtown urbanity in outlying areas than to maintain suburban life-styles near commercial centres.

None of this criticism, however, applies to the third part of the study, which presents a thorough evaluation of the potential of mixed-use buildings for educational purposes. Possibilities discussed range from such obvious examples as the combination of schools with parks, to the total abolition of traditional school buildings and the intensive use of alternative community facilities instead. It would have been interesting to see some of the best-known examples of design concepts for mixed-use buildings illustrated in the book instead of the one rather embarrassing design for a school-apartment tower. The text is marred only by an unnecessarily dogmatic attitude against private enterprise and an understandable tendency to advertise the SEF building system at every opportunity (no mention is made of its serious and basic shortcomings). One might also argue successfully against the author's contention that individual and public services should not be provided within the same building complex. But these are minor points that should not obscure the value of a book which, for the first time in Canada, outlines viable alternatives to the present sterile approach to school design.

George Banz, Toronto

OAA

'Throw away adjustable' Price meets the architects

"If we can't design a city that is continually self-destructing and regenerating at every moment of the day we'd better question cities."

That was typical of a series of far-out statements thrown out to Ontario architects by British architect Cedric Price who calls himself "throw-away adjustable" Price. He seemed to stun his full-house audience at the Ontario Association's convention last month.

Wrapping each sentence in wry humor, Price fed his audience two hours of laughs, slides and "unconventional wisdom". He began with some slides of playground signs, one which read "yes jump. skip, run, slide, climb, hop, have fun, but please no bikes, dogs, roller skating, peddling, or littering" and ended with a bleeding heart.

In between he told architects they should "never wait for a job . . . Immediate response to a problem is

too slow, be sloppily anticipating and hope someone finds you useful."

Calculated uncertainty, too, is something he felt the architect should be concerned with. "We are bad at remembering how quickly people learn new tricks, and buildings reflect this. Architects, he said, don't understand the intelligence of building users, for example, how vandalism occurs because of boredom.

He also advocated using materials on hand with ingenuity. For instance he said he had made a theatre in Amsterdam out of a circus tent and some old army heaters.

All this seemed perhaps too much for the architects. When Price called for discussion, the only question was "when would the British postal strike be over?"

Students spark lively discussion

The architectural technology students from Ryerson with trimmed hair, jackets and ties called themselves the new professionals and described the school's new program of degree-level courses. When they graduate in either architectural science, building science or construction management, the students say, they will be equipped as full-fledged members of the building team to complement the architect's work.

They were encouraged to hear from RAIC president Gordon Arnott that the institute is working towards broadening its qualifications to allow membership from a wider range of disciplines.

University of Toronto, Waterloo and Carleton students, on the other hand, were a much more free-wheeling bunch. They too had been invited to make a presentation to the convention but chose informal dialogue. Students in varying attires and hairdos challenged the 100-plus architects attending to ask questions of them. A two-hour dialogue ensued. While the communications gap, which seemed quite evident at the start, was by no means completely bridged, both sides seemed to enjoy the exchange of ideas.

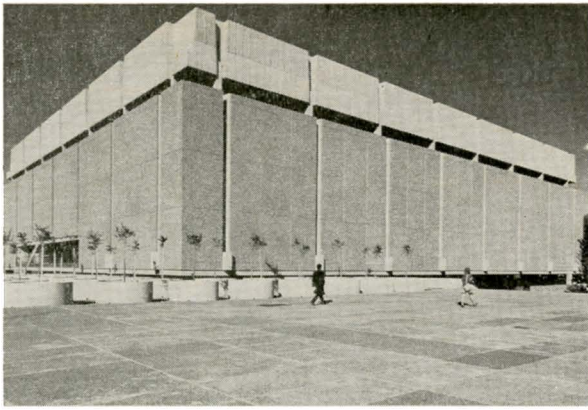
MAGAZINES

A/C in a binder

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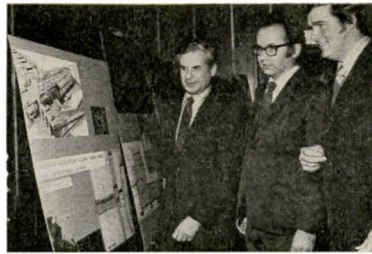
The publishers of *A/C* have had these "beautiful purple" (actually periwinkle blue) binders specially designed in response to a number of requests from readers. They'll not only put *A/C* within fingertip reach but make an attractive addition to your bookshelf.

We're providing them at cost, \$3 plus 55c postage. If you send us \$15 we'll send you a binder full of 1970 issues. 5th Company, 56 Esplanade Street East, Toronto 1, 364-3333.

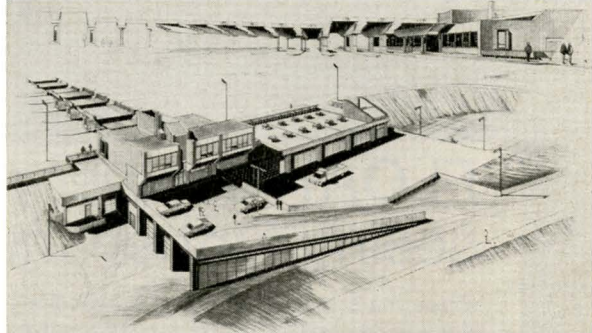


Killam Library

Three Buildings have just won awards in the Nova Scotia Association's 1971 design awards competition: The Administration and Maintenance Building for the Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge by Dumaresq and Byrne; the Killam Memorial Library at Dalhousie University, Halifax, by Leslie R. Fairn and Associates and the Varma Residence by Jim Sykes of the Dalhousie campus planning department. Ian MacIennan of CMHC, Ottawa, headed the jury.



John Way of Leslie R. Fairn, Jim Sykes, and Michael Byrne



Dartmouth bridge administration and maintenance building



A highlight of the OAA convention in Toronto last month was the manufacturers' exhibit. Architecture Canada was there too to display issues and binders and to talk with convention delegates.

RESEARCH

Group behavior and problem solving

Communications problems between designers and other members of the building team can be due to "the use of highly specialized language, the desire to play safe within the rules of one's own game and therefore protect ideas, and the designer's constant desire to identify the self with the solution".

These are the first findings of a research project by Prof. Fred Thompson of the University of Waterloo on group behavior and problem solving. Prof. Thompson, who has a grant of \$5,000 from the university, is using his students as his research subjects. His aim, he says, is not only to further knowledge of problem solving but to "involve students in the educational process rather than to merely provide them with schooling". Thompson's research is a result of a Waterloo policy that staff divide its time equally between teaching, administration and research. Other faculty members are working in engineering, computer-aided design, and perception.

Thompson considers his subject one of increasing importance today as the "designer is confronted with more decisions than he can make alone". In groups, he says, "indi-

vidual creativity can either be stimulated or repressed". He hopes his analysis will provide "a clearer understanding of the factors contributing to creativity".

One of the first tasks Thompson and his students have set themselves is to evaluate one of the latest methods for promoting individual creativity in a group setting, "synectics", in the solution of environmental problems. A test group of 14 will undergo synectics training and be able to see themselves at work on group problem solving through audio-visual playback. This should enable them to see more easily their co-workers' points of view. As a check, other students will merely read about synectics (without trying it in practice sessions) and still others will tackle problems in the more conventional manner. Findings of the study should be available by summer.

EDUCATION

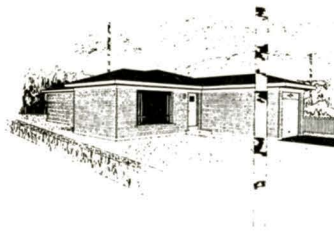
Schools for early childhood

The latest pamphlet from the Ford Foundation's Educational Facilities Laboratories, New York, is a report on "Schools For Early Childhood". It explores concepts of school development and design, and presents some significant school environments built between 1959 and 1970 that exemplify various teaching sys-

tems. Included are a wide variety of structures including houses, warehouses, even a nursing home and souvenir shop remodeled to encourage learning. Copies are available free from EFL, 477 Madison Ave., N.Y. 10022.

Keeping up a housing tradition

A house designed by a 19-year-old Toronto vocational school student is to be built and marketed by fellow students. It's part of a learning program sponsored by the local house builders association to encourage student participation and interest in the residential construction industry.



Sponsors are the Toronto Home Builders Association. Through an agreement with the Scarborough Board of Education, students in five vocational schools in that Toronto suburb are participating.

The first phase of the program was a design competition for a single

family residence and results were announced last month. The scheme by student Vincent Spensieri (above) was judged the winner by a jury of two architect-THBA members, Ubby Daskin and Paul Cooke plus James McFarlane, Vice President (Construction) Consolidated Building Corp.

Component work will be started this spring, construction this fall for completion in June 1972.

The Association says it's now considering the possibility of making the program an on-going one with various other Boards of Education in the Toronto area.

CLASSIFIED

\$2 per line for RAIC members
All others, \$3 a line.

Practice Notes

Anthony L. Kemp, Architect, has relocated his offices at Suite 200, 11 Yorkville Avenue, Toronto 185, telephone 416-920-1084.

Jean-Paul St. Jacques, architect, and Robbert P. Welter, civil engineer, announce their partnership in practice under the firm name of St. Jacques and Welter, Architects and Consulting Engineers. Their offices will be located at 550 Eighth Avenue, Thunder Bay, Ont. Telephone 344-7206.

float

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