

# **Architecture Canada**

NEWSMAGAZINE

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### **AWARDS**

A fresh look

Competitions and awards programs have been the focus of much attention recently by Canadian architects with last year's Massey Medals touching off most of the controversy. While the RAIC Council still waits for the Massey jury to report on its thoughts for future programs, BC architects have circulated a questionnaire in that province which could provide a barometer of architectural opinion about awards and competitions in general.

About 10% of BC architects responded to questions like: do you believe an awards program is worthwhile for the AIBC; should the program be province-wide?

Architects were also asked to rate objectives and criteria for judging. Says Design Awards Committee Chairman, Lawrence Redpath, official results have not yet been issued but replies seem to indicate that architects support the idea of an awards program.

"Most respondents seemed to feel that there should be no change to a traditional-type program. Most, however, indicated that there should be more carefully designed criteria in the judging process."

Meanwhile, Toronto architects, pleased with the reaction to their inaugural awards program last year, are proceeding again. Deadline for receipt of entries is April 23.

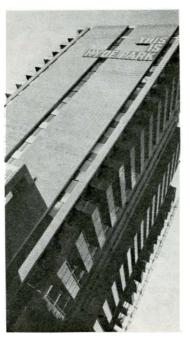
On the international awards scene, Canadian architects have been getting their share of laurels. Three York University buildings were cited for excellence (right).

And, as A/C went to press, Bell Canada proudly announced that it had walked off with more awards than any other Bell System company in North America for "good architecture at low cost". Top honors went to Bell's Data Centre in Don Mills, Ont., designed by Webb, Zerafa and Menkes, and a switching centre in Willowdale by Shore & Moffat and Partners.





Three York University buildings received international recognition last month at the College and University Conference and Exposition in Atlantic City. The three were the Central Library, Central Square, and the Ross Humanities and Social Sciences buildings. The latter won a special citation. Gordon S. Adamson and Assoc.; Parkin; Shore & Moffat and Partners were designers.





HUDAC (the Cdn. house builders' association) recently handed out two awards for "exceptional multi-family projects". One went to a high-rise condominium in Edmonton, Hyde Park, the other to a 20-acre development in Vancouver which will eventually house 600 families, Villa Montecito. In promoting the awards HUDAC gave no mention of the projects' architects but Hyde Park was by Holland and Rockliff, Villa Montecito by Thompson, Berwick and Pratt.

The "school-office"

Two Canadian schools of architecture are laying the groundwork for a revolutionary form of education for architectural schools.

The two are the three-year-old School of Architecture at Carleton University in Ottawa, and l'Ecole d'Architecture at the Université de Montréal. Both are attempting to put into practice a form of education that would successfully close the gap between the student and the professional.

How to help students get varied and quality experience has been the concern of world leaders in architectural education for some time now. The particular area of concern has been for the experience gained during the period of indenture. Some students, often due to their own aggressiveness, have been gaining wide experience while others have spent the entire time solving simple drafting problems.

Examination of this problem led both Douglas Shadbolt, director of the school at Carleton, and Dean Guy Desbarats of L'Ecole, to explore concepts that would not only benefit the graduate but the undergraduate and even the professional as well.

A number of schools in North America and Europe (including the University of British Columbia) have been experimenting with putting students in regular architectural offices to gain practical experience. Although valuable, both Shadbolt and Desbarats feel this type of program "tends to centre the experience virtually on practice as it is now". The school, they urge, must maintain control of projects. "Production of work should be experimental and on the leading edge of professional practice."

To sort out differences on how to achieve this goal a Montreal professional research group was brought in. Its research, financed by the two schools, RAIC, OAA, and PQAA and Université Laval, is now complete and in final stages of translation (from French into English). The major recommendation is that "the 'school office' should be experimental, multi-disciplinary, testing new career roles as they evolve in the profession; features should in-

clude incremental growth and strong student participation".

Meanwhile the two schools have been proceeding with their own interpretations of the school office concept. At Carleton, a theoretical model of how it could fit into the school's present program has been set up (see diagram below). Says Shadbolt, "it's now staged and on the way although we'll need to get a lot of approvals." When the "school office" there is eventually operating, it'll be in the form of an office wing of the school's already avante garde program. Shadbolt envisages it being "similar to a teaching hospital".

L'Ecole, on the other hand, is tooling up for immediate action. Already, four students are working on the planning of a commercial mall on St. Hubert St. in Montreal with the city and merchants as clients. Next year, students will work in ten offices on projects brought in both by the students and the professionals. Says Rodrigue Guité, one of the professors involved, "the school will control the choice of projects, offices and experience; the offices will pay the students nominal salaries, \$1,200 for four months".

## 'Ecobox' – a discovery kit on the environment

Ontario secondary students will have the opportunity this fall to dig into a mixed bag of environmental information which will include the controversial issue of *Architecture Canada* (21/12/70) prepared by Canadian artists.

Some 250 multi-medial kits, to contain over 1,000 items each, are being prepared by the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education with assistance from UNESCO, Ontario Hydro and the Atkinson Foundation. This experimental learning package is the third such one prepared by OISE and, like the previous two, will be published and commercially marketed if well received. The first two, "Ten Years in a Box" (about the '30's) and "Perception Bag" (on contemporary life) are now available for \$50 each.

"Ecobox", like its predecessors, will try not to have a point of view. For example, material on pollution will range from the best arguments of industry to the theories put forth

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A theoretical model of the 'school office' at Carleton to achieve "an integration of 'teaching and doing' for both staff and students".

in the current rash of pop-ecology books. Its approach, however, has been varied to appeal to a wide range of students. Instead of being totally unstructured, as the previous two, "Ecobox" will be divided into three parts: one formal and booklike; another less structured with a wide range of slides, tapes and print material (A/C included); and third a "soft" section of "bones, sticks, and things to help kids find out about nature"

OISE says it doesn't expect all children to like everything in the kit but hopes each will find a number of items that will "make him more aware of the environment".

The program is being put together by the Media Group of the Institute, Anthony Barton, Ken Johnstone, Pamela McLeod, and David Stansfield.

## **PEOPLE**

Scarborough architect Robert Greig has been appointed to the Ontario Conservation Council for a threevear term as an individual member. The Council is a non-profit group of individuals and major provincial associations concerned with the quality of the environment. Aims include: (1) planning and encouraging conservation research (2) providing the public with information and encouraging wise use of resources (3) co-ordinating activities of major Ontario organizations involved in conservation (4) advising and co-operating with involved government agencies.

Bernard Wood of Edmonton became



president of the Alberta Association of Architects at the Association's annual meeting earlier this year. New councillors elected were: G. D. Menzies, Edmonton, 1st vicepresident; H. W. R.

McMillan, Calgary, 2nd vice-president; Mrs. Freda O'Connor, Edmonton, honorary secretary, and M. E. Evamy, Calgary, honorary treasurer.

Members at large are: J. McIntosh; J. A. Barrett; W. Boucock; S. Hodgson; J. Naito.

Oakville developer James Snow, 41, has been appointed to the new Davis cabinet in Ontario as minister without portfolio. He was first elected to the Ontario legislature in 1967 and in his first session in the House gained notice by introducing a resolution urging the adoption of the National Building Code for the whole province. In 1970 he was the first MPP to be appointed to the Board of Directors of the Ontario Housing Corporation. He was also on the Board of the Ontario Student Housing Corporation.

Snow, who began his construction company at nineteen, built his business volume to \$2 million per annum. He first specialized in house building but later branched into industrial and commercial building

and the construction of high-rise apartments. He's giving up all that to devote himself full time to his new duties.

Calgary architect P. V. Esnouf has joined with landscape architect J. Burroughs, two town planners, Peter Davies and A. L. Ehlert, in a new firm, Interform, to do planning and urban design. Among their first jobs: a 225-acre low-income housing project for Imperial Oil and NuWest Homes (see p. 3).

Their address: 204 – 811A 17th Ave., S.W., Calgary.

#### A/C

### ... and the post office

Last month A/C wrote the post master general complaining of slow postal delivery. Since then, a number of architects have added their voices to our protest and the post office has informed us it's looking into the matter. Meanwhile, it still seems to take up to two weeks to get A/C across the country. More letters from architects will help.

## The post office replies:

The Honourable Jean-Pierre Côté has asked me to acknowledge your letter of 2nd March concerning delayed receipt by subscribers of your bi-monthly news magazine.

We have asked our Field officials to look into the matter and let us have a report. When the necessary information is available, the Minister will write to you.

P. Thériault, Special Assistant

#### The architects write:

... We're out west but not that far west. I could have driven to Toronto, picked up my copy (mailed March 3, received March 16), stayed four days and driven home in that period. We



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## Systems house for the National Home Show, Toronto

A feature of this year's National Home Show, opening this Friday for a nine-day run, is a systems house designed by Toronto architect Harold Kelman of Sirlan and Kelman. Commissioned by Consumers' Gas, the 1440 sq. ft., two-bedroom house of precast panels, with pool, garage, and patio is designed to fit on a standard 50' lot. Cost \$25,000. Kelman has varied levels, altered ceiling heights and staggered room layouts throughout. A family room, with built-in furniture and a natural gas barbecue, forms the central core. The house was built in eight independent sections in six weeks. It's being bolted together and finished at Exhibition Park in two days.





## Spaced out newspapers

A "semi-serious" problem given to Carleton architecture students last month was "to create a structure that encloses the greatest amount of space" using only a newspaper. The students had less than a day. The project was good training, said judge Dr. Mario Salvadori, head of Columbia's architectural technology division, . . . as a rehearsal for future architectural competitions".





have so much progress today but much of it is not an "improvement" of any sort.

John Porter, West Vancouver

... The postal service continues to deteriorate. In our office we are using every delivery method possible to avoid its use.

Wislon, Newton, Roberts, Toronto

#### HOUSING

Mobile homes are struggling for a place in the sun

"The aesthetically-minded might cringe at the design and pattern of individual units and overall parks," observed the Hellyer task force on housing as it probed reasons why mobile homes have not assumed "their proper place within the Canadian housing market."

Two years later, mobile homes are still struggling for their place in the sun. The reason for their lack of success was pinpointed by the Hellyer report: most existing mobile home parks look little better than shanty towns, and municipalities want no part of them.

In London, Ont. this week, the Ontario Municipal Board is hearing the appeal of a would-be mobile

home park developer who had his application for a permit for a 330-unit mobile home park turned down by the municipality. The main grounds for the rejection were aesthetic.

Among those watching the outcome of the London case (in which a ruling is expected by the end of the month) is Central Mortgage and Housing Corp. If the park gets a green light, it will also get NHA financing – the first mobile homes to do so.

And the problem of the mobile home manufacturers (who need more parks to increase their markets) and developers (who are attracted by the potential they have seen demonstrated in the U.S.) is that they still can't point to one single Canadian example of an urban or



suburban mobile home park that isn't a bleak horror.

On paper, proposals for some of the new parks look fine, with land-scaping, fences and reasonable looking community buildings. The latest mobile units themselves look less like biscuit boxes, too. But in their exuberance, both manufacturers and developers still keep spawning some monsters (see picture).

Only too conscious of their weak flank, the Canadian Mobile Home and Travel Trailer Association (whose 20-odd members produce 90% of the 15,000 annual national total) is working with the Canadian Standards Association on a model code for mobile home parks. CSA has already completed a structural code which is followed by most major manufacturers. When both codes are completed, CMHTTA hopes it will have enough ammunition to persuade municipal governments that mobile home parks need not be leper colonies.

### **PROJECTS**

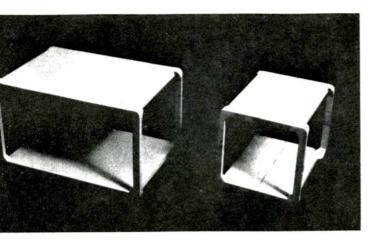
Village Lake Louise, a \$20-million "totally integrated" year-round resort development for Banff National Park is being designed by EricksonMassey of Vancouver for Imperial Oil and a group of ski resort operators who are joint developers.

Imperial announced a second project last week – this one with a Calgary builder. Architects and planners of this "innovative" mediumdensity, 1,200-family, low-income housing development are J. W. Long & Assoc. and the new Interform group of Calgary (see p. 2).

Both projects are expected to start construction this summer.

Rule Wynn Forbes Lord and Partners will begin construction this spring of \$4½-million expansion to the University of Alberta's Education Center. A tunnel will connect the new buildings to the existing tower and wings. The new Faculty of Education space will feature a large round experimental teaching space stepped in concentric circles, to be called the "Kiva" (a North American Indian word for council chamber).

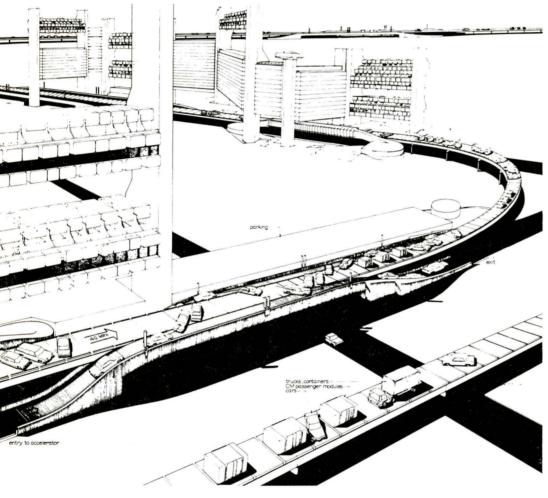
Construction was just completed on a \$1.2-million whale pool for Vancouver's Stanley Park. The new pool, designed by McCarter, Nairne and Partners, consists of a kidney-shaped main pool, 92 ft. long, 48 ft. wide, 18 ft. deep in the centre, and a smaller

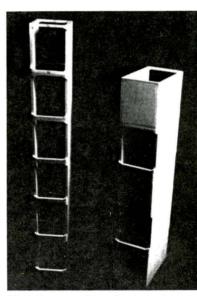


## Multi-purpose 3-D building component

A Don Mills, Ont. firm Trebron Holdings Ltd. (which has as directors RAIC president Gordon R. Arnott and planner Norbert Hamy, both of Regina) has come up with a unique multi-purpose building component. Says designer Hamy, Constant Module (CM) could help cut building costs by up to 75% (to about \$4 per sq. ft. from \$11 to \$14.63). Trebron's "building block" is made up of four identical segments of stressed skin and a porous core, e.g. steel and honeycomb cardboard or even paper and foam. Dimensions are 8' x 8' x 10' but splicing could extend these measurements in all directions. (Cross section could be 11' x 30'.) An assembled CM would weigh approximately 1,200 lb., each segment 300 lb

The possibilities for using CM seem to be infinite. Special closure panels and finishes could be supplied for specific jobs, fireproof jackets could be made (of lightweight vermiculite) to meet code requirements. CM, says Hamy, could be used for single-family dwellings (right), for high-rise structures, for containers, or combined with subsystems, also designed by Hamy as the basis of vast transportation networks.





Modules can either be bolted together or strung together on tension cables then tightened up. Open sleeves in the core structure carry post-tensioning cables, and mechanical equipment.

Closed loop air-supported transport system for pedestrians, cars, buses, freight modules. Power would be provided by linear induction motors at 200' intervals.

holding pool equipped with a solid gate so either pool can be emptied separately for cleaning, or to give whales medical treatment. A vast pumping and filter system will cleanse and recirculate 400,000 gallons of environmentally-conditioned seawater every 90 minutes to provide optimum spectator viewing and living conditions for Canada's only two performing killer whales.

Up to 250 spectators will be able to watch the whales from a viewing area.

Smith Carter Parkin has just completed a new \$1-million city hall for Brandon, Manitoba. The triangular, multi-level structure consists of a

two-storey tower, two office wings, a large, two-storey-high entrance foyer and a "floating" council chamber. The mayor calls it "very functional" and "far out".

## OPINION

Le professionnel et sa profession: autre opinion

Attendance figures for the PQAA Convention (A/C 15/2/71) seemed to indicate a discouraging lack of interest among Quebec architects either in the profession or in discussion of the convention theme – the profession and the professional. But, says Montreal architect Laurentin Lévesque (one of the 5% attend-

ing) the "communications gap" evident at the convention itself was even more discouraging. ARKI-D happened over two months ago but as problems there are ones worrying architects right across the country we print M. Lévesque's remarks:

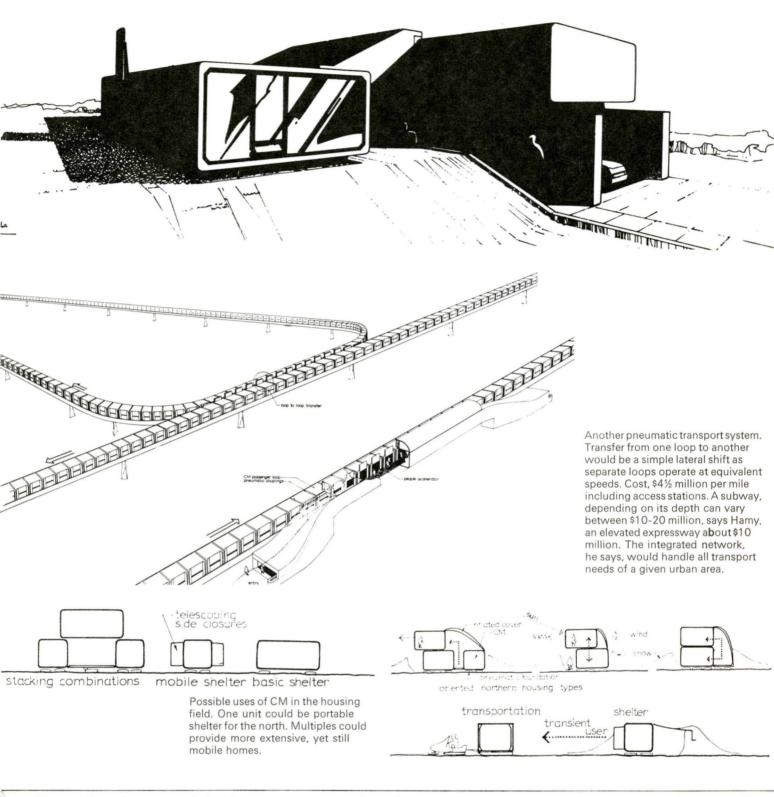
Devait consister en trois journées de "redéfinition" des relations entre le professionnel et sa profession . . . monologue de la profession face au fleuve plein de banquises . . . le professionnel n'était pas au rendezvous.

Publicité pleine de swing, promesses invitantes . . . ARKI-D : trois jours de jours, mais pas trois jours d'i-D....à peine quelques minutes par-ci, par-là . . . quelques étudiants fulminant contre les "établis", ces derniers se défendant de l'être.

Malgré l'effort des organisateurs et la réussite au plan formel, y compris l'idée anti-sociale mais introvertivement assez "tripante" de se loger dans ce baroque Château aux velours envahis par les cris saoûls des équipes nationales de curling ... qui couvraient les rires évasés de quelques architectes prospères. . . .

Les échanges, pour agréables qu'ils aient été, n'en ont pas moins pu quitter le niveau de l'échange de salon, de la retrouvaille comme par hasard de confrères qu'il fait bon revoir.

PITIE – PLUS JAMAIS: I'an prochain, entassons-nous en blue



jeans dans une baloune (ou structure gonflable, pour les initiés) avec du "heavy rock" pour les sensitifs ou du "Boulez" pour les intellectuels et là, les uns avec les autres, au centre du peuple qui nous observera par des hublots, vivons pendant trois jours . . . BON DIEU!

Laurentin Lévesque, Montréal

## **PRACTICE**

Client guide to project management

Ontario architects, engineers and contractors have prepared a joint document to aid clients seeking project management services. It defines project management, standards of performance, and recommends a fee schedule.

The complexity and cost of major construction projects, it says, necessitates project management by individuals or organizations with extensive training, experience, knowledge and expertise of the construction industry and design. Engineers, architects and contractors with relevant qualifications are best equipped.

Collaboration of the three associations (OAA, APEO, and OGCA) in preparing the document, says OAA president Frank J. K. Nicol, represents the first time major segments of the construction industry have jointly worked together to produce a unified approach to service.

### Better project management

Hard on the heels of a joint statement by Ontario architects, engineers and contractors on project management (see above), a daylong seminar on the subject was sponsored by LCN Closers in Toronto. Stormy discussion resulted from differences of opinion among the five-man guest panel.

One of the few areas the 300 attending agreed on was that the increasing complexity and size of construction projects today demands a new and better management approach, if time and cost are to be effectively controlled. As engineer-panelist Harvey Self (head of a

Toronto-based project management company, Scrivener Projects Ltd.) said, "The name of the game is money."

Self defined project management as "management of a project on behalf of a client from the initial concept to the final completion". It's applying 1971 management to the construction and design industry, he said.

Although Self and panelist Norman McMurrich (a past president of the RAIC and senior partner in the Toronto architecture firm of Somerville, McMurrich, Oxley) had worked together on the \$50-million University of Toronto Medical Sciences Complex (completed last year), they

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**Qualifications:** Graduate in City Planning. Membership or eligible for membership in the T.P.I.C. Several years' responsible planning experience with emphasis on Central

Applications giving personal data and full details of qualifications and experience should be made in writing to the Chief Planner, City of Toronto Planning Board, 20th Floor, E. Tower, City Hall, Toronto 100. Closing date for applications April 30th, 1971.

disagreed on the function of a project management team. McMurrich described the ideal

team as a multidiscipline group consisting of architect, project manager and contractors, all reporting to the owner. Different members of the team, he said, should assume greater responsibility at different stages of

the project.

Self, on the other hand, thought one person should be manager. "A committee without a boss is useless in construction."

Agreeing with Self on this point were panel members David Aird, an MBA involved in design and construction for Ontario Hydro and W. J. Milhousen, an engineer operating the management contract division of the Toronto architecture firm of Marani, Rounthwaite and Dick.

### URBANOLOGY

Preserving a unique heritage

Montreal and some other Quebec cities have over the years acquired a unique character which is in danger of being lost in today's emphasis of massive downtown commercial redevelopment projects, and housing suburbs.

The message came from Melvin Charney, a professor at the Frenchspeaking school of architecture in the University of Montreal. Charney was delivering the annual J. A. deSève lecture on the state of the arts in Quebec - the first time it has been devoted to architecture.

The North American tends to create new housing developments like he makes instant coffee, Charney said. It's easy: you just find an empty field, a developer, and some money ("which often includes a generous contribution from Central Mortgage and Housing Corp."), pull a couple of stock plans off the shelf, wait for a few weeks and the field will start sprouting houses, which you call a "model community" in the barrage of publicity with which you bludgeon the public into buying.

'And if, being instant coffee, the flavour could do with some improvement, you can sweeten it by tacking on a few 'colonial', 'ranch', or 'French Canadien' motifs. For a mere \$50 down (and that's still literally true in some Montreal suburbs) everyman can move into his own castle.'

Charney blames the headlong and often unwarranted rush to the suburbs, as a universal North American phenomenon, for the gradual disappearance of any distinguishing architectural style.

A new set of criteria for today's architect is also contributing to the change, Charney says. The appearance of even major buildings has become less important than the way they fit into an urban grid or transportation scheme. "Whereas before we tended to tailor the immediate surroundings to a building, today we are much more concerned with fitting the building to its site.'

Charney's lecture (in its original French) will soon be published in book form by the University of Montreal Press.

### CLASSIFIED

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

## AIBC post available

Applications preferably from architects for the position of Executive Director of the Architectural Institute of British Columbia are sought. For information on this part-time post apply: Secretary, AIBC, 1553 Robson Street, Vancouver 5, B C.

#### Partnership sought

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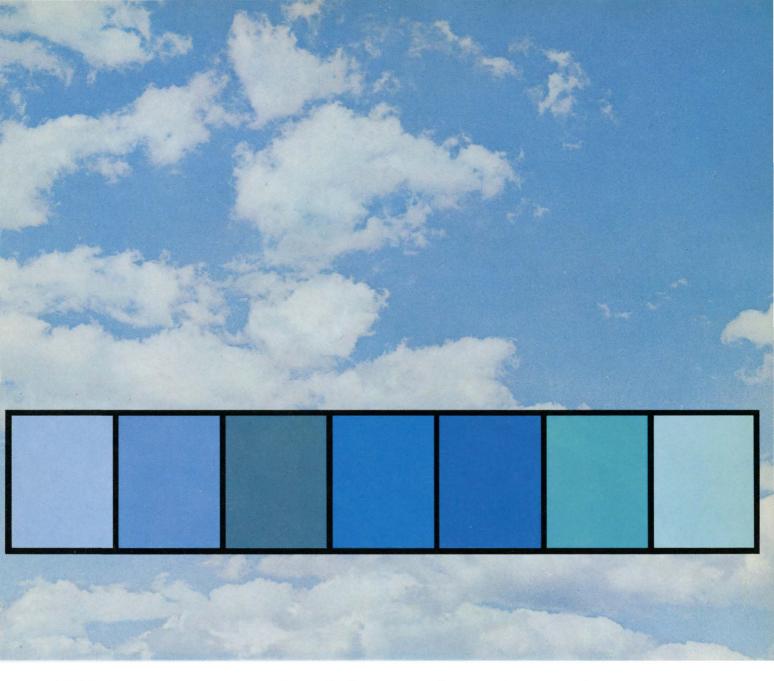
## karelia news

Since it was established, Karelia has been trying to improve the quality of life for everyone by making products and components of environment available which are honest, happy, and useful. We select things because we like them and enjoy them and because they have a place in our lives.

Karelia has had a very good response from people all across Canada who are appreciative of what we are doing and we would like to make our products available to them locally wherever we can establish a demand. Wherever we can find sympathetic existing outlets, we hope to co-operate with them. In Montreal we have recently established a dealer, Pour L'Instant, and in Quebec City, Le Mobilier International.

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Janis Kravis, B.Arch., MRAIC, ACID, President - Karelia International, 67 Front Street East, Toronto. 368-2188.



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# Here's why Confederation College chose electric climate control

When deciding which type of heating and cooling system to install on their new main campus, Confederation College of Applied Arts and Technology at Thunder Bay relied on the recommendation of their engineering consultants. After a detailed evaluation of four feasible systems, the engineers strongly recommended a Total Electric Resistance System.

Why? Economy – in terms of capital costs and operating costs – was certainly a major factor. The fact that this type of heating system does not require an operating engineer on duty around the clock reduced estimated operating costs substantially. But this wasn't the only reason.

An electric climate control system takes up less space, and the same system cools as well as heats. It's simple to operate and practically maintenance-free, because it's reliable and clean. It operates quietly, and there are no unsightly smokestacks and exposed fittings to detract visually from the surroundings. Also, the flexibility of the system makes it easy to extend and adapt with minimum cost and inconvenience. All these advantages influenced Confederation's decision.

In the system installed in the Shuniah Building, the first permanent building on the Confederation College campus, fresh incoming air is mixed with recirculated air and

A popular gathering place for students is this attractive indoor courtyard. The Shuniah Building is in use twelve months a year. In addition to undergraduate courses, evening extension courses and adult retraining courses are offered.

then filtered, humidified and warmed to 55-60°F by resistance heaters located on the penthouse floor. The pre-heated air is then circulated throughout the building via air ducts.

In-duct radiant heaters controlled by zone or room thermostats bring the circulating air's temperature up to the desired level at each delivery point.

The same system is also used for cooling.

Director of Property and Plant, Ian Clark, says that electric climate control is cleaner, healthier and easier to maintain. He also estimates that it saves the equivalent of four people's salaries in operating costs.

Incoming air is cooled in a central unit by coils fed by chillers located in the powerhouse, and is then circulated via the air ducts throughout the building. Heating and cooling can be shut down in individual rooms when not in use.

Confederation College decided on electric climate control because its advantages far outweighed those of the other systems considered. Electric heating reports are available which tell how other building designers, builders and owners have found electricity the practical answer to their widely differing heating and cooling requirements. To obtain copies of reports which describe recently completed installations, write to: Ontario Hydro, Advertising Dept., 620 University Avenue, Toronto 2, Ontario.

Architects: Smith-Carter-Searle; Engineers: W. L. Wardrop & Associates Ltd.; Management Contractor: Bird Construction Co. Limited.



April 5, 1971

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the Spadina garment district, Kensington Market and the Annex, before the Spadina Expressway cuts a swath through them. See where Harbour City might be, where Ontario Place really is. See downtown Toronto on a series of walking tours.

# HEAR:

Toronto artists in their studios talking about their work, listen to some of Canada's most interesting architects in their offices explaining works in progress. Hear experts and laymen discuss systems building, ecology, urban and regional planning and other current topics at workshop-seminars throughout the city. Take part.

# DANCE & SING:

uptown, downtown, at the Yacht Club, the Inn On The Park. Live it up in Toronto's lively discotheques. Meet old friends, make new ones, be entertained at home by Toronto architects – outdoor barbecues, buffets, sit-down dinners.

# JUNE 2-5 IRAC GALTELASSEMINE