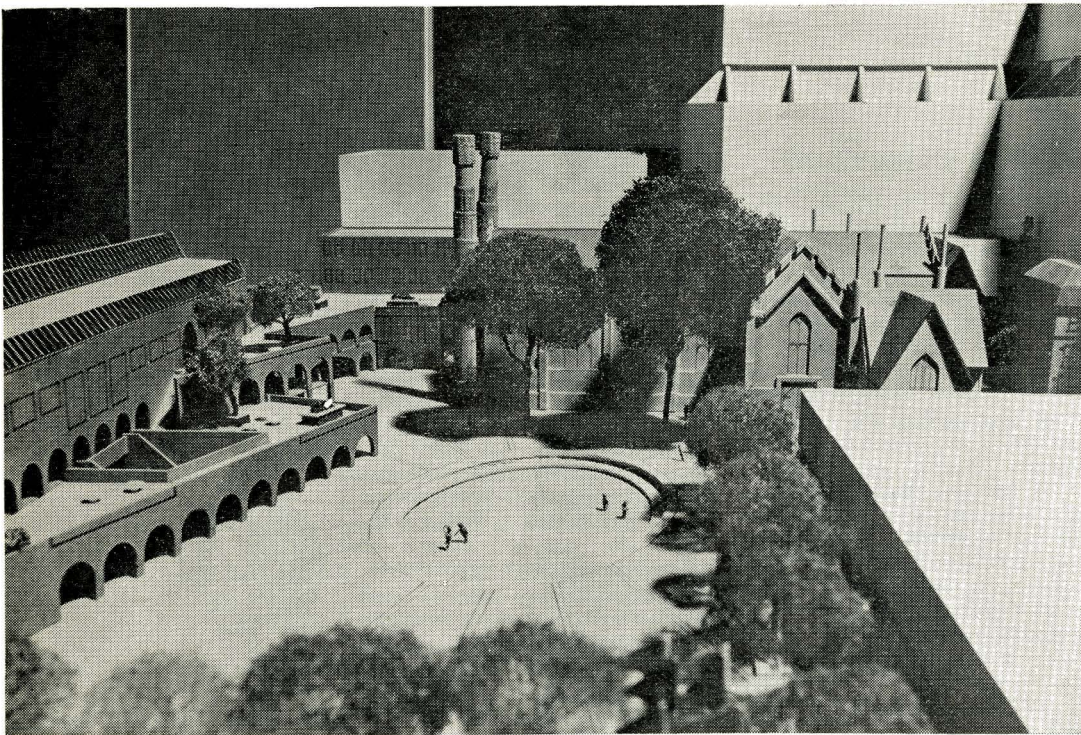


Victoria, scene of the 1972 RAIC Annual Assembly, May 31 through June 4, is also of national interest to architects as a test-ground for get-tough-with-development policies. A number are being suggested by the city's strong-minded mayor, Peter Pollen, who came to office in December. (See page 6.)

Architecture Canada

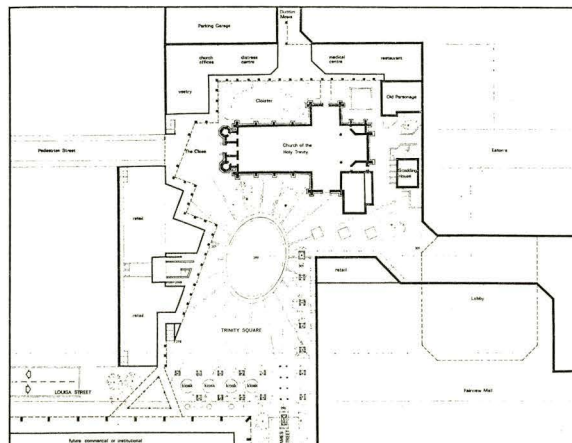
NEWSMAGAZINE

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A new plan for Toronto's Trinity Square

Last year's clash between the proposed \$5-million development for the square around Holy Trinity Church and the \$200-million redevelopment centring on Eaton's downtown store has been resolved with this new plan by architect Gerald Robinson. The Church's pedestrian square would not only have access earlier denied it (the new plan allows access from the south) but its shop-lined arcades would hook up with the City's proposed walkway through the downtown area to the lake. Terracing of buildings facing into the square would capture the afternoon sun and would be the setting for bistros and restaurants. A sunken area in the middle of the square would be a wading pool and fountain by day and amphitheatre by night.



HOUSING

More and better government involvement urged

Last November Montreal architect and professor Melvin Charney, in collaboration with University of Montreal School of Architecture professor Serge Carreau and building systems consultant Colin Davidson, submitted a report to the Task Force on Low-Income Housing sponsored by Central Mortgage and Housing Corp. Their brief was based on four months' study of production and adequacy of housing destined for low-income families. The general consensus is that the low-income housing problem suffers largely from overanalysis and from a lack of social framework within which to direct analysis, to utilize results or to redirect policy. It is expected the complete study will be released by CMHC at an early date.

The emphasis of the Charney, Carreau and Davidson study was on the conditions which directly affect the production and physical quality of housing, and on the modification of these conditions for alternate policies in housing. One top priority was to develop the sort of social framework the team criticized as lacking.

Their research took them through an examination of twenty-two instances of typical housing available to low-income families produced, for the most part, under government sponsored programs. They evaluated eleven projects realized under the "1970 \$200 million Special Low-Cost Innovative Housing Program"; did a survey of the home-building industry in collaboration with the Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada; developed a profile of the industry

from an analysis of 431 firms; and did a detailed analysis of five case studies. They also compared 2,500 plans of typical units built between 1955 and 1970 to assess variation in accommodations provided during the last fifteen years; and a survey was carried out of a sample of households in Montreal and Toronto.

Present confusion in housing, the study suggests, stems from a push-pull in government priorities. While the government actively supports the private sector, maintaining an infrastructure for the private market, it is also being called upon to assist the acquisition of adequate housing by a large and increasing sector of the population who can no longer afford accommodations at market prices. Conflicts are such that productivity and quality in housing are problematic, costs are high, and the pressing political need to step up a lagging housing production record has led to priorities being set by influential developer/builders clearly committed to their market routines, to the kind of housing they produce and to the way they make money; the private sector participates only insofar as the delivery of low-income housing corresponds to

The successful outcome of policies dealing with the homebuilding industry depend on the critical nerve-points within the multi-organization which is the homebuilding industry, and on an understanding of the multi-organizational dynamics of the industry, different from both the rest of the construction industry, and other industries. It is simply inadequate to refer to homebuilding as a "non-industry" as the Science Council has done in its 1971 study, "Cities for Tomorrow."

Here are some of the report's specific recommendations:

— There is a need for a comprehensive view of production, and a balanced policy between new construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of housing. Present priorities are largely determined by an exclusive commitment to "housing starts" distorting both the nature of housing "needs," especially in the low-income sector, and the nature of the "demand," to which the industry can respond, locking the industry into producing more of the same kind of housing in the same way. [Recent policy statements by the Minister of Urban Affairs and

necessary power to regulate and promote this code. The purpose of such a code would be to create mechanisms whereby consumer priorities can be introduced in an earlier stage of the production cycle. At present, the homebuilding industry builds what it likes and what it can, resorting to the creation of synthetic markets through extensive advertising — e.g., "Love is a Nuwest Home." The code should introduce "quality lines" and performance specifications to improve quality of multiple housing, to create "predictable" market conditions, and to upgrade present codes which are limited to policing action rather than to the promotion of decent housing for all.

— Homebuilding processes should be rationalized. Methods recommended include the introduction of mechanisms directed towards the elimination of unwarranted high risks and speculation from the production of housing through the stabilization of conditions at various levels of the industry, such as the promotion of "predictable" market conditions which provide incentives for volume production and innovation; the creation of housing development agencies to supersede the role of developer/builders, with community and non-profit sponsorship; the creation of consortia of builders and sub-contractors in various areas to pool labor and specialized know-how and bring it into a more direct relationship with "client" organizations; the introduction of alternative methods of formalizing building processes through government contract policies.

Finally, the study found that efficient production policies and adequate housing ultimately depend on good social policies. The objective that housing is a social right, rather than a "privilege," suggests the transformation of housing from a speculative market commodity to a necessary service available to all.

The rhetoric of low-income housing programs is improving from year to year. But these programs remain meaningless as long as they only toy with the mechanisms of the housing market. Government intervention in the production and distribution of housing should serve both to transform housing into a service making it available to those who need it, and to rationalize the role of the builder/developer — minimum requirements for effective policy.

High prices, poor quality

Housing was also a main topic at the OAA Convention last month.

Like it or not, housing and the total environment have become political issues. And, like it or not, architects are becoming enmeshed in this political process Toronto architect Irving Grossman, modera-

tor of the housing forum, told delegates.

"The pressures are on us from all sides to take sides in these issues, but most in the profession stay on the sidelines, watching uneasily as the battle becomes more heated, hoping they won't become involved."

Delegates were also told house prices in Toronto are so high the only thing left which the average wage earner can afford is a vacant lot. This was predicated on a family income of \$625 a month, which is only sufficient to carry a \$15,600 mortgage — the price of a Toronto lot, according to panelist John Hurlburt, Toronto Home Builders' Association president.

Even if such a family were subsidized down to a 6½ per cent interest rate (unknown for many years) the family could only afford a house costing \$22,211, said Hurlburt. Average house prices in Toronto are \$31,537.

Hurlburt, whose family has been in housebuilding for two generations, agreed with what many architects have been pleading for the past five years — that high land costs could be defeated if higher densities were permitted. He estimated a savings of \$10,000 per dwelling unit could be realized without resorting to high-rise.

Condominium housing has not proved to be the panacea for low-income family home ownership that was once predicted, reported Paul Goyette, Ontario Housing Corporation managing director.

But it has attracted affluent couples without children to such developments where they can own outright a dwelling unit in a multiple-family development without any worries of maintenance or the drudgery of snow shovelling.

However as the answer to housing for modest income families, the results to date have been "some-

"The present confusion in housing stems from a 'push-pull' in government priorities."

the objectives of the industry, as was demonstrated by the general failure of the 1970 Special \$200 Million Program to meet its objectives.

But problems it seems go deeper. The team found that the government allocates approximately \$1.1 billion per year to housing on the basis of very limited information on the overall state of housing stock, on the usefulness of the housing produced, or on the overall structure of the homebuilding industry. CMHC, which oversees these subsidy commitments, is by tradition generally oriented to market interest rather than to the legitimate needs of equitable, community oriented housing programs.

To bring the homebuilding industry into a position to deliver adequate housing, it seems of no use, the team suggests, to toy with either single aspects of the market by the injecting of funds at particular points in it as is done at the present, or with single aspects of the building process by the introduction of systems building as is advocated at the present. It would be useful, however, to engage in activities which bridge across the present divisions in the industry by introducing new systems of relationships between the organizations that control resources within the industry, between these organizations and the community, and by the stabilization of production through the control of the housing market.

senior CMHC officials indicate Ottawa agrees that greater emphasis should be placed on rehabilitation.]

— A national housing inventory should be implemented within the shortest possible time to determine the state of existing housing stock, to develop mechanisms to measure "need" for policy, and to filter information on these needs to the industry.

— A national rehabilitation program is needed "now" as an effective way of immediately improving housing for low-income people, as well as an essential catalyst in urban revitalization; it is especially needed to reverse both the deterioration of a large body of essentially sound housing built in the 1920s and 1930s, and to upgrade government sponsored housing produced since 1945.

— A maintenance assistance program should be established. The present trend is that the overall cost of operating and maintaining housing tends to grow in a greater proportion than the initial cost of construction. Low costs are presently being achieved at the expense of future high maintenance costs, and these costs are being directly transferred to the low-income consumer who can ill afford the housing in the first place.

— A national good housing code should be written into the NHA, in the form of regulatory guidelines on housing quality. The government, through CMHC, has at present the



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what discouraging," he conceded. The corporation has poured millions into financing condominiums.

The government housing agency's public housing program on the other hand is a runaway success with a waiting list 18,000 names long in the Metropolitan Toronto area alone.

Rather than concentrate its social housing in large blocks, the government has dispersed its Metropolitan Toronto projects in 115 locations, Goyette said. He challenged assembled architects to go out and find any 10 of them which could be identified as public housing, so well have they been integrated with the communities in which they are located.

John Jordan, executive director of Ontario Habitat Foundation, introduced a novel concept of how more people could afford to buy up to their capacity as modest income earners if a house was priced lower and lower each time ownership changed.

As things stand, he noted, most buildings, whether commercial or residential, are paid for several times as each new owner takes title.

But if a society of house purchasers was formed whose members would agree there would be no speculation on resale, such houses could become less and less expensive, he outlined. There was no rush among the audience to join such a society.

Grossman compared today's luxury office buildings with housing being built and wondered why they cost twice as much per square foot as housing does, yet people spend twice as much of their time in their homes.

Hurlburt provided the answer. The house buyer, unlike the corporation, has to pay for his building with after-tax dollars and has no tax write-offs for his house as corporations do for their office buildings.

Another answer was provided in a position paper prepared for the convention by a committee chaired by architect Irving Rayman. It said the economic return for rental housing is only about 50 per cent of the return for office space per square foot.

The paper also had harsh words for the calibre of work done by the house building tradesmen, particularly in the Toronto area.

"Housing general trades produce the very lowest calibre of work at the very lowest prices of any subcontractors in this area. The trades are often coerced into pricing below the last project for fear of losing a major client. More corners must then be cut in order to produce the job for the price, all in an effort to bring the cost of construction down."

Rehab — a \$3.5 billion market

Activist/architects Joseph Baker of Montreal and Colin Vaughan of Toronto were panelists at last month's 29th annual convention of

the Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada.

Baker's subject: "Rehabilitation — a \$3.5-billion market." For too many builders, he said, "their only involvement with rehab programs has been buying up property surreptitiously to demolish the buildings on it and redevelop.



"Speculation of this kind is at odds with the very idea of rehabilitation. You must make a commitment to support the idea, and this commitment must be conveyed to government," Baker suggested. "They are the only ones who can make rehabilitation possible."

Vaughan, who like Baker has made a name for himself as a champion of conservation and opponent of expressways, spoke of citizens' action groups on a panel on "people power."

The Toronto architect refuted the "massive myth" that people power groups are negative in their attitudes. He participated in a successful fight against the Toronto Spadina expressway, which was halted last year after a drawn-out battle.

In the past five years the formerly passive middle class have formed pressure groups after being faced with the effects of inflation and urban developments to which they objected, he noted. In the process they have joined the poor.

"The poorer classes have always let the government know what their problems were — they had nothing to lose," said Vaughan.

He predicted community groups will get into the development business themselves because they are not satisfied with what developers have done in the past.

Prof. Lloyd Axworthy, of Winnipeg, agreed. He suggested developers will be dealing with a new group of clients and help work out programs for them.

Axworthy, director of the Institute of Urban Studies at the university (A/C 9/27/71), said better housing and a better environment can evolve from properly directed people power.

Low cost housing symposium

How to create sufficient, low-cost, socially acceptable housing will be the theme of the Second International Symposium on Lower Cost Housing Problems, April 24–26, in St. Louis, Mo.

The Symposium, sponsored by the University of Missouri-Rolla, the U.S. National Science Foundation, St. Louis and mid-Missouri sections of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development,



the Mobile Homes Manufacturers Association, the National Association of Building Manufacturers and the National and Missouri Societies of Professional Engineers, will cover types of construction, building code problems, causes of delay in the construction industry, government programs and the mobile home as low-cost housing.

For more information write the University at Rolla, Mich.

OPINION

Architectural awards — why not let the user do the evaluating?

Nova Scotia architect Besim Hakim, like many architects, is concerned with the way competitions are carried out. He has expressed this concern and his ideas for improving competitions to the RAIC. This opinion piece, in fact, is based on a letter from Hakim to RAIC president Jean-Louis Lalonde. Hakim hopes publishing his suggestions will spark discussion of the topic among the RAIC membership at large.

If we agree that the major role and purpose of architecture is to provide environments satisfactory to users in terms of *present* and *future* needs, that it satisfy functional, physiological, psychological and other criteria, then it would make a great deal of sense to involve users in evaluating their environments and in the award-giving process.

The usual procedure is for buildings to be judged with the minimum information (usually graphic in nature) with criteria mainly visual and formalistic. And, awards seem to be granted to those projects that satisfy the majority of a jury comprised of mostly architects.

Some of the disadvantages of this system are:

a) it does not allow the user and public to evaluate their environment or to indicate those buildings which are more satisfactory to use than others;

b) judges from various disciplines are not involved in evaluating such aspects of a building as the integration of environmental systems, the kinds of technologies used, or a project's contribution to its urban and/or rural context;

c) criteria are subjective and hardly adequate to form a basis for fair and consensus opinion.

In light of the above, I propose the following award-making mechanism as one possible alternative and a point of departure for discussion and further investigation towards an optimum system. Using stages of implementation as a sequence for description, I suggest:

1a) that eligible projects be identified on a national basis and that population be a possible criteria to establish a project/province ratio;

1b) that all projects identified in (1a) be occupied for a minimum of, say, one year;

2a) that evaluation be by users using standard nation-wide "evaluation forms" especially developed by the RAIC;

2b) that best projects be selected by having the highest scores from (2a);

3a) that projects in (1a) also be evaluated by local architects and other experts using RAIC criteria especially developed for this purpose;

3b) that best projects be selected from (3a);

4) that the best provincial projects satisfying (2b) and (3b) be selected and presented to national award judging committee;

5) that all provincial projects (representing entire country) be judged nationally by a team of experts including architects, planners, sociologists and technologists, using criteria representing all disciplines of the judging panel. Best awards for "Massey" or other medals should be granted for those projects which provide the most significant contribution and impact on a national scale.

Some advantages of the above system are that it would:

a) provide a vehicle for the public at large to understand and appreciate the outputs and products of the profession's activities, and in this manner create a dialogue and interaction between the public and the profession;

b) influence the activities and concerns of the architect towards the direction of creating environments more responsive to social and human needs;

c) mean that chosen projects would represent more accurately their importance and contribution to society at large;

d) provide a vehicle for the profession to assume a more important and relevant role in society.

I hope the above will be of some use in starting a discussion about this issue, and hope that we in Canada will be amongst the first in establishing a mechanism to include the user as an equal partner in the awarding decision process.

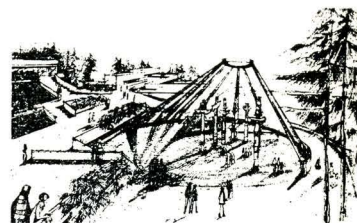
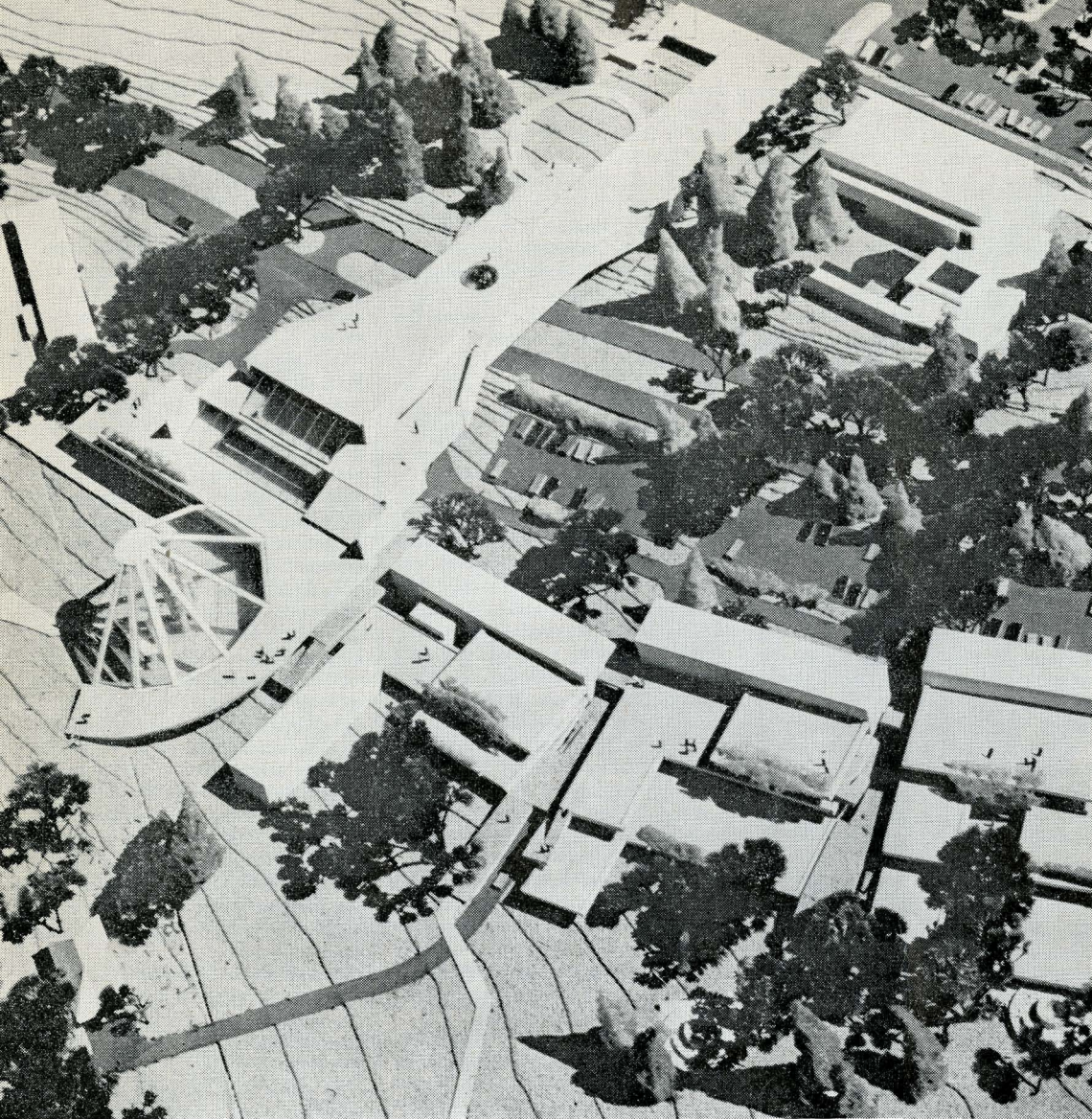
Besim Hakim, Halifax

DIED

John Miller

John Miller, dedicated secretary of the Ontario Association of Architects for 23 years, died February 9 at 65. He oversaw the administration of the organization through the terms of 21 presidents. In 1959 he was elected an honorary member of the OAA and in 1967, the year of his retirement from OAA service, he was honored at the formal dinner and dance at the OAA convention.

Prior to serving in World War II, Mr. Miller worked in an administrative capacity for the editor and publisher of the RAIC Journal. In 1937 he became assistant to then secretary of the OAA, J. P. Hynes. Following his discharge from the armed forces, Mr. Miller returned to the OAA.



A new UBC development

Vancouver architects and urban designers Henriquez and Todd have recently completed a study of Fort Camp, a 27-acre area adjacent to the main UBC campus in Vancouver, once a military camp and until recently barracks for UBC students. The firm would integrate existing buildings such as two early 1900's mansions and three 1950's residences with 325,000 sq. ft. flexible new buildings. Roofs would be useable and a museum (of man) would be focal point and the link with the main campus.



CALENDAR

March 15-16

The School Planning and Building Research Section of the Ontario Department of Education holds its 14th Workshop on School Design, the Holiday Inn, St. Catharines, Ont.

ANNUAL ASSEMBLIES

PQAA: mini-congrès, maxi-succès

L'AAPQ, au début de l'année dernière, mandatait un comité pour étudier les raisons du manque de participation des membres aux congrès de l'association et, sur recommandation de celui-ci organisait, les 3 et 4 février 1972, un mini-congrès d'une journée et demie, d'un style nouveau et ouvert à tous (A/C 22/11/71). De plus, le président de l'AAPQ invitait les "patrons" à libérer leurs employés, sans réduction de salaire, pour leur permettre de participer aux rencontres du vendredi 4 février. Toujours dans ce même esprit d'attirer les jeunes architectes et les architectes salariés, les droits d'inscription au congrès étaient réduits au minimum: \$10.00, y compris 3 repas et la danse de clôture (A/C 17/1/72).

La nouvelle formule "mini-congrès" excluait les grands diners

officiels, les longs discours, les attributions de prix. Toutes les activités avaient lieu dans une même salle, sans relâche, de 8.30 hrs le vendredi matin jusqu'à la danse de clôture. Petit déjeuner, déjeuner-snack et diner-buffet étaient servis sur place: on ne prenait pas la chance de perdre des participants!

Et cela a marché: le mini-congrès a connu un maxi-succès! 586 inscriptions au total dont 200 membres de l'AAPQ qui se sont donné rendez-vous à l'hôtel Bonaventure pour l'assemblée annuelle, les causeries, les tables rondes, l'exposition de matériaux, le lancement d'un livre, les conférences de presse. . . Cinq tables rondes ont formulé les recommandations suivantes, face aux Bills 250 et 259, et les ont présentées au nouveau conseil de l'AAPQ pour étude au courant de l'année 1972:

1. *L'architecte comme professionnel*: Que tout détenteur d'un diplôme d'une école d'architecture reconnue soit membre à part entière de la corporation, sous paiement de sa cotisation.

Que tout candidat, dans sa formation académique, inclue un stage pratique de 2 années dans un secteur connexe à l'architecture.

Que la corporation établisse un contact permanent avec le corps

des étudiants en architecture des écoles reconnues en les admettant dans ses cadres selon un statut particulier. Que la corporation, en accord avec le Bill 250, soit impliquée dans l'orientation des programmes académiques.

2. *L'architecte comme praticien*: Que l'AAPQ étudie la possibilité d'établir un service offrant aux architectes débutant en pratique la possibilité de consulter une agence établie, sur certains problèmes inhérents à l'établissement d'une agence architecturale.

Que les écoles d'architecture incluent à leur curriculum des cours, conférences ou séminaires pour aider les étudiants désirant s'orienter vers la pratique à "identifier" les clients.

Puisqu'il semble qu'en pratique plusieurs agences de placement exploitent le personnel architectural: Que l'AAPQ prenne en considération le bien-être du personnel salarié en recommandant les agences de placement de bonne réputation.

3. *L'architecte et les organismes-clients*: Que l'AAPQ fasse des représentations auprès de la SHQ (société d'habitation du Québec) pour que cette dernière consacre 5% de son budget d'investissement à des projets pilotes de type expérimental, où le critère de jugement

des offres soit exclusivement la qualité, à l'intérieur d'un budget adéquat prédéterminé, et que l'AAPQ offre sa collaboration pour l'organisation des concours et pour le jugement des offres.

Que l'AAPQ fasse des représentations auprès de la SHQ afin que dans les projets de proposition totale, le budget et le jury soient prédéterminés.

Que l'AAPQ fasse des représentations auprès du ministère de l'éducation pour que les procédures régissant la réalisation des projets soient modifiées afin d'assurer une concordance des exigences et du budget.

4. *L'éducation des architectes*: Que l'AAPQ favorise les contacts entre l'université et le milieu de l'action par:

- des séminaires praticiens/étudiants
- l'ouverture de certains projets réels à la participation du milieu universitaire
- la préparation et la tenue à jour d'un catalogue des emplois disponibles en architecture et dans les secteurs connexes.

5. *L'architecte dans la société*: Sans avoir présenté de recommandations formelles, les membres de cette table ronde ont identifié 8 moyens par lesquels l'architecte, en



In praise of Ekistics

After several trips to Greece and Ekistics' Delos symposia, Toronto architect Alex Leman has nothing but praise for both the Ekistics approach and the conferences. Leman (centre in photo above surrounded by such notables as Erik Erikson and Margaret Mead) says the conference not only "allows participants to see their own role in relation to the larger scheme of things but the relatedness of situations."



More Old York to disappear

The historic buildings in Toronto's old Town of York sketched by Toronto architect Howard Walker, left, are about to yield to the wrecker's hammer; in fact boardings are already up. Letters to the City Executive Committee with copies to A/C might help. Protests have already been voiced but the city says it will cost \$170,000 to repair damage from a recent fire. Walker calls this figure "astronomical."



Before



After

Press release of the month . . .

"C/S Octalinear Grilles, aluminum grille systems for refacing older buildings, have been introduced by C/S Construction Specialties Ltd. They are unique in being comprised of basic modules and interchangeable components, permitting an infinite variety of original designs. Pictured here transforming an 1880's vintage bank building in a small Midwestern city is a C/S Octalinear Grille in an octagon pattern with a reverse slope that completely conceals the original building. The finish is a handsome gold anodize. . . . no structural change to the old building is required; C/S Octalinear Grilles are simply and quickly erected over the face of the old building." Good grief.

tant que citoyen informé, peut agir dans la société :

- Par une participation active et continue dans les affaires de la communauté.

- En écrivant, publiant ou critiquant lorsque nécessaire, et en projetant ses vues par des conférences et autres media.

- En enseignant ou en facilitant l'enseignement - à tous les niveaux - de façon traditionnelle ou autre. ex: en aidant à introduire des notions architecturales dans les programmes d'enseignement primaire et secondaire.

- En collaborant avec d'autres, professionnels et autres, afin d'assurer que les priorités sont conjointement identifiées et de façon satisfaisante.

- En aidant de façon active à faire pression, lorsque nécessaire, auprès des organismes gouvernementaux ou autres.

- En établissant et en supportant des cliniques ou des services d'information et en éveillant la conscience publique par diverses activités de relations extérieures qui donnent une image plus complète de l'architecte.

- En favorisant la recherche afin d'arriver à créer de nouvelles options dans le domaine de l'habitation.

- En s'admettant à lui-même,

ainsi qu'aux autres, que dans plusieurs domaines il est ignorant, et en étant préparé à partager ses connaissances avec d'autres tout en apprenant d'eux.

OAA: discussion and food for thought

A new convention image in tune with the fast-paced 1970s was introduced by the Ontario Association of Architects this year. In a break with the practice of the last decade, learning sessions were substituted for speakers of international stature.

Delegates appeared to agree with the new approach and all three days of sessions in Toronto were well attended. The powerful Ontario group constitutes 40 per cent of the strength of the 3,400-member Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

Newly elected president Wilfred Lamb reflected the mood of delegates in voicing concern over intrusion of non-architects into the environment field.

"We are now much stronger than we were and are now in a position to do something about the quack in the environment field," the London architect said.

"The public is fed up with the quality of the environment and we

as architects are qualified to give leadership in this field."

Those who represent themselves as architects, but who are not, are being weeded out with the association becoming more active in prosecuting them, Frank J. K. Nicol of Toronto, the retiring president said.

He suggested architects could move into the project management field. Those now in it boast of their ability to control everything from dates to dollars and to bring in a \$50 million project within budget. "Who is to say it couldn't have been done for \$40 million?" Nicol asked.

Architects are just as capable of guaranteeing completion dates and prices as other segments of the construction industry, observed Harry B. Kohl of Toronto.

However, he said, the majority have developed their practices over the last 25 years when "any idiot could make a living. Buildings were popping up all over the place and anyone could work. Now there is greater competition."

To help architects achieve their goals of more participation, a committee of urban studies was appointed under the chairmanship of Irving Grossman. An additional aid came in a recommendation from the committee on education which

urged continuing education for architects to update their knowledge.

It also found guidance teachers in secondary schools lacking sufficient experience to advise youths on entering a school of architecture.

Prof. Douglas Shadbolt, of Carleton University School of Architecture, injected a sobering note at the assembly: "The thing that comes up at these meetings is that the architect can be everything. These discussions seem to imply the architect is God. This is stuff and nonsense."

When the convention ended, delegates found that by listening to their own members and a few outsiders in related fields the learning convention had much to offer. They returned home with more practical food for thought than was formerly engendered by internationally known experts in fields far removed from architecture.

OAA: coming to grips with developers

Ontario architects grappled with - but didn't solve - ramifications of the growing anti-development sentiment in Canadian cities at the recent OAA convention in Toronto.

The "anti" movement seems to have some of its strongest advocates in Toronto, but city developers too

UNIVERSITY OF NATAL

School of Architecture

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for appointment to the post of **PROFESSOR OF BUILDING.**

The salary scale applicable to the post is R8100 × 300 — R9900 per annum. The commencing notch will be dependent upon the qualifications and/or experience of the successful applicant. In addition an annual vacation bonus is payable subject to Treasury regulations.

Further particulars of the post and of the concomitant amenities such as travelling expenses on first appointment; pension, medical aid, staff bursary and housing loan schemes; long leave conditions, etc. are obtainable from the Registrar, University of Natal, King George V Avenue, Durban, or from the Association of Commonwealth Universities (Appts), 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF.

Applications on the prescribed form must be lodged not later than **31 March 1972.**

University of Toronto
Faculty of Architecture,
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Thursday 2nd March, at 8 pm.
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Toronto 5

March 2-10th, 1972.
Weekdays 9 am-6 pm.

are becoming vocal in their complaints. They say they are being harpooned and lampooned into a straitjacket by activist groups no matter how viable their projects. Some even say they have given up after facing opposition at every turn.

It was against this background the OAA met to discuss what will happen to cities if groups with narrow interests and small numbers, but big in power, continue to sway the decision making process of elected representatives.

Paradoxically, the anti-development groups will face just what they fear now if future downtown development is curtailed: sprawling low-density housing, dependence on the automobile and the need for more expressways. N. Barry Lyon, spokesman for the 270-member Urban Development Institute told the architects.

One of Toronto's strengths in the past decade, says Lyon, was its ability to provide a pleasant and safe living environment despite rapid growth, passing the 2,000,000 mark in population.

"This balance is now shifting and will soon be tipped completely outward, bringing about an inevitable downtown decline as it becomes more and more merely a daytime office area — dying each night as the employees desert it for the outer areas.

"How pathetically ironical it will be that all of this will have been brought about by the very anti-development groups who claim they are attempting to 'save' the city."

Toronto architect Colin Vaughan, who led the fight against the Spadina expressway, told the more than 150 delegates attending that he found the anti-development and pro-development forces polarizing into two camps. The alternative, he suggests, should be the community

point of view becoming part of the development process. Residents would work with agencies and others responsible for development to achieve the best result for the community.

What do Ontario architects stand to gain or lose if those opposed to development have their way? Plenty, according to Toronto architect Irving Grossman. The "no growth" concept rings the bells of unemployment for architects, or to put it another way: the more successful the anti-developers, the less successful the architects and thousands of tradesmen and others dependent on construction for a livelihood.

PQAA: mini-convention,
maxi-attendance

The Province of Quebec Association of Architects streamlined its annual convention this year, cutting the normal three days in half and eliminating almost all social activity.

It was replaced with stepped-up discussion and delegates of the 964-member association appeared pleased with the new format. The only social function was a ball. Delegates were able to cut their convention fees too — from \$50 to \$10. Registration was 586 — 200 members and 386 non-members.

Adopted were PQAA briefs to the Quebec government on two new bills. One will regulate architects and 33 other professions, while the second is the new Architects Act. Quebec architects feel tenor of the bills implies interference with the work of professionals and are seeking a right of veto over government appointments to the organization's council, according to retiring president William Stewart.

Both bills have had first reading in the Legislative Assembly.

While the number of architects in

the province is growing and is expected to pass the 1,000 mark this year, the amount of work to be done is not expanding to keep pace. Some graduates are not practising but are finding jobs wherever they can.

However, says Stewart, there are indications of a building upswing in Montreal and the situation should improve for graduates as the year progresses.

New president is Jean Ouellet, also of Montreal. His firm is Ouellet, Reeves.

PLANNING

Beauty as a political decision

Parkland acquisition, waterfront beautification and development of pedestrian malls are now high on the agenda for Victoria, B.C.

The city now has a mayor who has distinguished himself as one of those aldermen vocal in criticism of the status quo. For two years he has been taking swings at "irresponsible politicians, money-grabbing developers, apathetic citizens and short-sighted planning."

Peter Pollen, 44, according to recent newspaper reports, plans to limit the height of buildings in Victoria to 14 storeys. This puts a halt to several major projects, including a proposal by Vancouver developer J. A. Reid for a \$25-million, high-rise complex on Victoria's inner harbor and one from developer John Mace for a shopping centre and 29-storey residential tower in James Bay, just south of the Parliament Buildings. Pollen admits that, apart from Canadian Pacific's Empress Hotel and the Parliament Buildings, the inner harbor is largely an industrial slum, but says the dilapidated warehouses and industrial installations should gradually be replaced by waterfront parks, marinas and low-rise development. No high-rise, he says, should be allowed on the foreshore. It belongs to the public.

Besides acquiring parkland for the city (a 21-acre park is now in the planning stages), restoration of historic buildings is a high priority. "It just won't do to erase everything that's old," says Pollen.

Money for Pollen's new programs will, he hopes, be diverted from a number of major road construction and maintenance schemes. Motorists, he says, will just have to take five minutes longer to get home.

The new mayor is a business graduate, who worked for the Ford Motor Company as a business consultant, and today operates one of Victoria's biggest car dealerships.

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The SASKATCHEWAN ASSOCIATION of ARCHITECTS

The Saskatchewan Association of Architects is now underway with an advertising campaign spending \$1,000 to run eight ads similar to the one above in Regina and Saskatoon newspapers. The success of the ads can in part be measured by the increase of awareness by the media. Newspaper coverage of the Saskatchewan Association's convention last month was 3 1/2 column inches compared to the usual two to four, and tv carried an interview with chairman of the pr committee responsible for the ads Clifford Wiens and new SAA pres. Ross Johnstone.

PEOPLE

Toronto architect Alexander B. Leman has been commissioned by the Federal Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce to evaluate the SEF system of building. The project will be administered by RAIC.

The prime objective of Leman's research will be to carry out a "comprehensive professional evaluation" of the controversial system, but he'll also try to assess: the system as a way to procure a specific type of facility; SEF buildings as a product produced to meet specific needs; SEF system's impact on the construction industry; the economic aspects of the system as a whole, and SEF's potential for further development in Canada and abroad. The study should be complete by September.

Searle, Wilbee, Rowland, Toronto, has joined with Montreal consultants C. Eric and B. McConachie, and Acres Consulting Services, Toronto, to buy the U.S. aviation planning and consulting firm subsidiary, R. Dixon Speas Associates. The company's new name is Aviation Planning Services Ltd. (A.P.S.) with headquarters in Montreal. It will provide services to the aviation industry in domestic and international markets.

One of Brazil's most distinguished

honors has been conferred on Canadian engineer Jack K. Sexton, senior v-p, Montreal Engineering (a Monenco company). He has been named a Commander of the Order of Rio Branco, an honor awarded Brazilians who have performed abroad with distinction, and to certain foreigners who have made exemplary contributions to Brazil — in Sexton's case, for his work as director of a massive power study, by Montreal Engineering, of South Central and South Brazil, an area equal to most of Western Europe.

EXHIBITIONS

Concrete on tour

An exhibit of winning entries in the 1971 Design Canada Concrete Awards Program is now on tour across Canada. It will be at the Physics and Chemistry Building, Memorial University, St. John's, Nfld., March 3-13; the Avalon Mall Shopping Centre, St. John's, March 13-20, and the Nova Scotia School of Architecture, Halifax, March 27-April 3. The western Canadian schedule will be announced later. The purpose of the awards, sponsored by the National Design Council through the Dept. of Industry, Trade and Commerce's BEAM Program and supported by the Portland Cement Association, is to recognize design excellence in the use of concrete in architecture and structural engineering.

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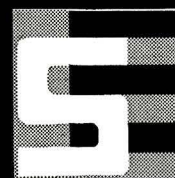
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