



A number of interesting Canadian architectural books will appear this fall: this month, "The Barn; a Vanishing Landmark in North America" by Eric Arthur (and Dudley Whitney); later, James Acland on Gothic vaults, Union Station by Anthony Adamson and others and a city guidebook by the Toronto Chapter of Architects.

# **Architecture Canada**

**NEWSMAGAZINE** 

Published every two weeks by RAIC/IRAC

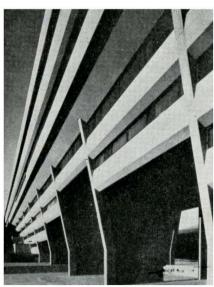
September 25, 1972

#### Three Canadian projects win concrete awards

Several structures still under construction showed such "exceptionally high promise" that the jury of this year's (the tenth annual) Prestressed Concrete Institute awards recommended they be re-entered in 1973. Judges included Jean-Louis Lalonde, RAIC past president.

A total of eight structures and two bridges were awarded for "aesthetic expression, function and economy". Erickson/Massey (who have now parted ways to become Arthur Erickson and Associates and Geoffrey Massey and Associates) won for the University of Lethbridge; Ronald E. Murphy and John Andrews Architects for the D. B. Weldon Library at the University of Western Ontario, London; and Gordon S. Adamson and Associates — Searle, Wilbee, Rowland — Shore, Tilbe, Henschel, Irwin for the Ross Humanities and Social Sciences Building, York University, Downsview, Ont. Jury remarks are below:

University of Lethbridge, Project 1. "This building (dramatically sited between hills) is a very strong statement, but somehow is not overpowering. It seems a building with wonderful outward views and a place where students would enjoy 'just being there'."







Ross Building, York University. "The main, or front, elevation is stunning as both architecture and sculpture... areas within are spatial and noble in feeling with few concessions to current fashion."



D. B. Weldon Library, University of Western Ontario. "This library carries its monumentality with great style and assurance. It is a very forceful structure that uses concrete beautifully."

#### **EDUCATION**

RAIC pres. discusses future trends and the profession

Last month I wrote a letter to the Canadian Architect commenting upon the remarkable response of our members to their June questionnaire. Close to a thousand architects answered the questions and also took the trouble to express their personal opinions about the profession. Many comments were made about the RAIC and the subject of architectural education.

My letter to the Canadian Architect dealt with the RAIC and the vast subject of education in terms of the status quo. In this article I would like to draw the attention of our members to significant factors which influence the profession and its education.

Recently the western world has discovered that there is a limit to the rapidly growing demand for the energy necessary to supply the household appliances, air conditioners, automobiles, factories, and aircraft associated with our post World War II style of life. The President of the United States has ordered that this extravagant waste of power be curtailed. In addition, research programmes are being launched to produce low energy consuming buildings. Housing is also included and better insulation has been advocated for all U.S. federally assisted residential projects.

Even when the results of this undertaking are evident the need to conserve energy will continue.

So significant are the operating costs of today's buildings, the Americans have begun to emphasize the fact that higher quality and performance is more important than the old idea that low initial capital costs are the end all and be all objectives.

objectives. What has this to do with our profession and education? Low energy consuming buildings depend upon many things to achieve optimum results; orientation, consideration of solar gain, minimum skin with respect to floor area, restraint with respect to glass areas, proper insulation, efficient mechanical systems and heat reclaiming devices, lower lighting intensities, energy restoring features, etc., etc. All these will pose new obligations upon our designers and require a much higher standard of technological training if one intends to practise architecture. The old "formula approach" will not be sufficient and "custom" design work will increase on every project. The next generation of buildings will be designed on the basis of dynamic principles in order to compensate for the energy flow through the outer skin. A few of our members who have studied this form of technology for some time are well on their way toward dynamic system design. The U.S. Government is prepared to spend millions on this type of research. The Hydro power distributing Commissions are following these developments with interest and in some cases doing their own research in this field. Floors, walls and roof will become like the polar bears' fur, "environmental separations". Grave concern has been expressed about the safety of our buildings and in particular high-rise structures. Current thinking recommends that each building will have its fire protection systems designed as would be the case for the structural mechanical and technical components. To this end we can expect fire protective design training at the undergraduate level in our universities. Whether such courses will be restricted to engineering students or taught in our architectural schools remains to be seen. Meanwhile the profession can ponder what additional proportion of the field of building technology it is prepared to vacate or retain.

These topical issues are very much on the minds of the Executive and Council of the RAIC. In the hope of being able to pull our collective professional head out of the sand we have formed several important committees:

(1) The Forward Planning Committee

This committee under vicepresident Allan Duffus is charged with the responsibility of looking up and ahead. It will seek to identify important priorities and report on such findings. This Committee must give continuity to the on-coing objectives of the Inst.

(2) Interprovincial relationships, under Marvin Cohen of Montreal. A sincere effort will be made to identify the resources, programs and services rendered by each of the Provincial Associations in the hope that those of common value can be jointly shared and supported. It stands to reason that these associations who provide ongoing educational programs for their members are as a result increasing their provincial standards. Until all associations do likewise the discrepancies between provincial standards will only become more evident. There is much to be said for shared resources and especially those which are expensive.

(3) John Disher of New Brunswick heads a special committee studying the possibility of regional components within the Institute. If nothing else argues for such thinking our varied geography and climate present arguments for region design criteria and standards.

This is intended to be anything but a "Gloom and Doom" message. It is not absolutely certain that if buildings are to become more sophisticated technically speaking they will require more professional input. The owner, and the developer builder, will come to recognize the fact that buildings which are less expensive to operate and maintain can be rented for less money or

return a higher profit over a longer period of time. The economics of the marketplace will force these techniques upon those who are building either for sale or rent. Greater safety for those who use such buildings will become important as soon as the general public becomes sufficiently astute to differentiate between obsolescent structures and those designed on the basis of new techniques described above.

I suggest that the profession should collectively decide how it will prepare itself to serve the public under these pending circumstances.

If we all respond effectively a bright future is in prospect. If we choose to be indifferent to the latest trends we too will face obsolescence.

> C. F. T. Rounthwaite RAIC President

#### RAIC

Nomination of new Fellows

The following is the procedure for the nomination of new Fellows of the RAIC: "A Member of the Royal Institute who is over 35 years of age and who has achieved professional eminence or has rendered distinctive service to the profession or to the Community at large shall be eligible for nomination to Fellowship.

"Under the revised RAIC By-laws of June 1972, any five Members of the Institute, of whom at least one must be a Fellow, may nominate a Member of the Institute for Fellowship. Nominations must be made on the prescribed printed forms and accompanied by a letter from each Nominator attesting to the qualifications of the Nominee.

"Nomination forms and letters are to be submitted by October 15th to the Regional Chairman for the Region in which the Nominee normally resides.

"The names and addresses of the Regional Chairmen are as follows: British Columbia - Ray L. Toby, 1650 Alberni Street, Vancouver 5, B.C.; Alberta - Edwin Raines, 1106 - 4th Street SW, Calgary, Alberta; Saskatchewan – Joseph Pettick, 2500 Garnet Street, Regina, Saskatchewan; Manitoba - Isadore Coop, 10 Donald Street, Winnipeg 1, Manitoba; Ontario - H. Derek Buck, 2 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto 7, Ontario; Quebec Gilles Marchand, 506 Ste Catherine est, Montreal 24, Quebec; New Brunswick and Nova Scotia - John R. Myles, 13 Germain Street, Saint John, New Brunswick; Newfoundland - Frank Noseworthy, 5 Church Hill, St. John's, Newfoundland.

"Nomination forms are available from the Regional Chairmen, Secretaries of Component Associations and from RAIC Headquarters."

Mise en candidature des nouveaux membres du Collège des Fellows

La formule à suivre pour la mise en candidature des nouveaux membres

du Collège est la suivante :

Tout membre de l'Institut royal âgé de plus de 35 ans qui a atteint un haut degré de distinction professionnelle ou rendu des services signalés à la profession ou à la population en général peut être proposé comme membre du Collège.

Selon les règlements de l'IRAC révisés en juin 1972 tout groupe de cinq membres de l'Institut, dont au moins un doit être un fellow, peut proposer la candidature d'un membre de l'Institut comme fellow. Chaque candidature doit être proposée sur le bulletin imprimé réglementaire, accompagné d'une lettre du proposant attestant les qualités du candidat.

Les bulletins de mise en candidature et les lettres doivent être remis du président régional de la région où réside normalement le candidat, avant le 15 octobre 1972.

Les noms et adresses des présidents régionaux sont: Colombie Britannique - Ray L. Toby, 1650 Alberni Street, Vancouver 5; Alberta Edwin Raines, 1106 – 4th Street SW, Calgary; Saskatchewan Joseph Pettick, 2500 Garnet Street, Regina; Manitoba - Isadore Coop, 10 Donald Street, Winnipeg 1; Ontario - H. Derek Buck, 2 St. Clair Avenue West, Toronto 7; Québec -Gilles Marchand, 506 est Ste-Catherine, Montréal 24; Nouveau Brunswick et Nouvelle Ecosse John R. Myles, 13 Germain Street, Saint-John, Nouveau Brunswick; Terreneuve - Frank Noseworthy, 5 Church Hill, St-John's.

Les bulletins de mise en candidature peuvent être obtenus des présidents régionaux, des secrétaires des associations constituantes ou du secrétariat de l'IRAC.

#### Nouvelles

 45 architectes canadiens prendront part à un tour organisé par "Professional Seminar Consultants



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Ltd." qui les amènera à Léningrad et à Moscou ou des visites et des séminaires ont été prévus à leur intention, conjointement avec les architectes russes. Leur visite les conduira également à Varna ou ils participeront au congrès international de l'Union Internationale des Architectes, du 25 au 30 septembre 1972

- Mm-J. L. Lalonde, T. Howarth et J. Langford représenteront l'Institut et le Canada à l'assemblée générale de l'UIA, à Sofia, Bulgarie, durant la semaine précédant le congrès de Varna.
- Monsieur Lalonde, président sortant de l'IRAC et responsable des Relations Internationales de l'Institut, représentera également l'Institut lors de la Deuxième Conférence Internationale sur la Réciprocité en Architecture, qui aura lieu en octobre prochain à Dubrovnik, Yougoslavie.
- Yougoslavie. · L'Association des Architectes du Commonwealth a accepté l'invitation de l'IRAC de se réunir au Canada en 1973. La Conférence de la CAA aura lieu à Montréal, conjointement à l'Assemblée Annuelle de l'Institut, et réunira des délégues de tous les pays du Commonwealth. · Lors de la dernière réunion du Conseil de l'IRAC, le Dr. W. E. Haviland s'est adressé aux membres du Conseil, principalement sur l'historique de l'étude sur l'instabilité de l'industrie de la construction, entreprise par le Conseil Economique du Canada. Il a également réitéré son invitation à soumettre un rapport sur la situation telle que vue par les architectes. Il a souligné que les divergences régionales devraient être indiquées. Bernard Wood (Alberta) a été mandaté par l'Institut pour compiler l'information soumise par les diverses provinces sur ce sujet, et pour rédiger le rapport à être présenté au Conseil Economique au nom de l'Institut Royal. Il est assisté dans cette tâche par Douglas Menzies (Représentant de l'Alberta au Conseil de l'IRAC). Se basant sur l'expérience de l'OAA, le président de l'IRAC, C. F. T. Rounthwaite a préparé un questionnaire à ètre soumis à tous les partis politiques fédéraux en vue des prochaines élections nationales. Les Associations Provinciales ont été invitées à collaborer à la rédaction de ce questionnaire en présentant leurs commentaires, suggestions et questions avant la fin du mois d'août. Les membres de l'IRAC

#### HOUSING

ture Canada.

RAIC urges greater role for architects

Complete architectural services should be mandatory for all National Housing Act housing projects of ten dwelling units or more, and recommended for all others, the RAIC told the federal Ministry of Urban

seront informés des résultats par les

bulletins de nouvelles des Associa-

tions Provinciales et par Architec-

Affairs earlier this month in a special task force document on Bill C-123 – amendments to the National Housing Act.

The introduction to the 16 pages of conclusions and recommendations, assembled by F. J. H. Nicol, Task Force Chairman with Blanche Lemco van Ginkel, Jean-Louis Lalonde and Wilson Salter, says that "all provincial associations have had the opportunity to participate in the views expressed . . . and [although] they may not all agree in detail, the submission is made in the belief that it will properly reflect the principal concerns of Canadian architects." The RAIC brief resulted from a speech delivered on behalf of the Minister of Urban Affairs, Ron Basford, by Dr. Peter Oberlander to the RAIC Assembly in Victoria (A/C 7/10/72).

In general, the RAIC indicated it strongly supports proposed amendments to the Act but that it has some reservations about the ultimate effectiveness of some parts and impact on housing needs and the urban situation generally.

In embellishing its recommendation about the increased role of the architect, the task force suggested architects save considerable costs in housing during the design stage with "well-planned and well-coordinated programs, through maximum utilization of indoor-outdoor space, new housing types, recognizing infill and rehabilitation characteristics, land-use planning and citizen design input.

Other highlights of the RAIC document include recommendations:

- that the Government introduce supportive measures outside the National Housing Act, which will improve the quality of housing for low income groups;
- · that there be strong incentives in the Act for rational land banking by a public agency. A sound program for land assembly, it suggests, should be required of a municipality and land so acquired be leased on long term instead of being resold; · that there be greater flexibility in the cost-sharing formulas of the Act in recognition of regional disparities. Most regions, it pointed out, which have most difficulty in matching grants, are usually those where the most housing support is needed; that all projects assisted by the National Housing Act be presented to the public within the framework of a total city or metropolitan plan. Objectives should be clearly stated publicly and implications be fully discussed with residents:
- that there be greater emphasis on the maintenance of potentially sound housing stock and that 'rehab' funds be greatly increased, and finally;
   that Government provide financial support to free architectural service programs undertaken by the component associations of the Institute.

The report then commends the Government for increasing funds available for research and for including experimental development in the

program. RAIC said it proposes to direct studies under this program.

In the meantime regulations governing National Housing Act projects were changed this month to:
• Raise the maximum loan from \$25,000 to \$30,000 on new single-family houses; from \$18,000 to \$23,000 on resales, co-ops and condominiums; from \$18,000 to \$20,000 per suite for apartments; from \$7,000 to \$10,000 per bed for senior citizens' hostels; from \$7,000 to \$8,000 per bed for student housing.

- Base loan amounts on a flat 95% of appraised value.
- Raise gross debt ratio from 27% to 30% (and allow 100% of a working wife's income, instead of the present 50%).

Builders with loan approvals from CMHC dated back to August 24, '72 can apply for the loans to be renegotiated under the new rules.

### La loi Nationale sur l'Habitation

L'IRAC, ce mois-ci, vient de soumettre au ministère des Affaires Urbaines un rapport sur les amendements proposés à la Loi Nationale sur l'Habitation.

Le comité spécial de l'IRAC était présidé par Frank Nicol, assisté de Blanche Van Ginkel, Jean-Louis Lalonde et Wilson Salter.

Voici, en résumé, leurs recommandations:

- Nous espérons que le Ministère chargé des Affaires urbaines jouera un rôle déterminant en dirigeant l'orientation des politiques en tout domaine affectant l'environnement urbain
- Nous proposons que le Gouvernement adopte, indépendamment de la Loi nationale sur l'habitation, un programme de mesures de soutien qui auront pour effet d'améliorer la qualité de l'habitation des groupes à faible revenu.
- Nous proposons que la Loi stimule par des mesures appropriées la formation de banques de terrains par une agence publique. Un solide programme d'acquisition et de regroupement de terrains devrait être exigé des municipalités et le sol ainsi acquis devrait être loué avec bail à long terme plutôt que revendu.
- Nous recommandons que les formules de partage des coûts prévues dans la loi soient plus flexibles pour tenir compte des disparités régionales.
- Nous recommandons que tout projet entrepris sous l'égide de la partie III-I de la Loi soit présenté au public dans le cadre d'un plan d'ensemble pour la zone urbaine ou métropolitaine et que l'objectif de tout projet proposé soit clairement énoncé publiquement et que ses implications soient discutées à fond avec les résidents.
- Nous proposons qu'une attention particulière soit accordée à la préservation des logements en bon état et que les montants engagés immédiatement pour cette partie de

la loi soient considérablement accrus.

 Nous félicitons le Gouvernement d'avoir prévu des fonds plus importants pour la recherche et d'avoir inclus de développement expérimental dans le programme de la partie V de la Loi. L'Institut Royal d'Architecture du Canada propose de prendre la direction d'études spéciales à ce titre.

- Nous recommandons une révision des règlements et des procédures administratives pour que l'esprit de la loi et de ses amendements, tel qu'exprimé par le Ministre, soit effectivement appliqué.
- Nous recommandons que les services architecturaux complets soient obligatoires pour tous les projets d'habitation de dix logements ou plus et soient recommandés pour tous les autres projets.
- Nous recommandons que le Gouvernement fournisse une aide financière aux programmes de services architecturaux gratuits entrepris sous la direction des associations constituantes de l'Institut.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

Computer course

To bring members up to date in the practical use of the latest developments in computer technology in the field of architecture, the Ontario Association of Architecture is sponsoring a seminar November 17, 18.

Included will be an opportunity for exchange of experience among members, a review of various computer options for practising architects, and a look into the future.

For more information contact T. M. O. Grodnik, Chairman of the Committee on Computer Technology, OAA, 50 Park Rd., Toronto.

#### **PEOPLE**

Montreal architect David Bourke has left his partnership Dobush, Stewart, Bourke, Longpre, Marchand, Goudreau, and the active practice of architecture in order to assume a senior administrative position at McGill University.

Peter Blake, editor of Architectural Forum, has resigned to join Informat Publishing Company, in the development of the first international, English-language architectural publication due to be issued in January of 1973. Blake is also a partner in the architectural firm of Baker & Blake (NYC) and President of the Architectural League of New York.

Architecture student Michael A. Harvey, studying at Nova Scotia Technical College, has been awarded a \$1,000 research scholarship by the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers Union in the Maritimes. The award is part of a research fund to which union members contribute 15 cents per hour. Harvey says he is using the money to research the usage and effects of exterior lighting of public spaces and buildings throughout the Maritimes.



New blocks of flats under construction in Moscow from precast parts.

#### From Russia with love

More than just hockey players are making the rounds in the USSR this month. Nearly 100 Canadians are right now participating in an architectural tour of that country on the way to the International Union of Architects Congress in Varna, Bulgaria. Victoria architect Peter Cotton, who preceded them by several months, says he found his trip so interesting he would gladly turn around and go right back. One of the highlights, according to Cotton, was the careful attention to restoration. Another was the work of architectural students – about as bad, or as exciting, as here. With pictures, and an article below, Cotton describes further impressions.



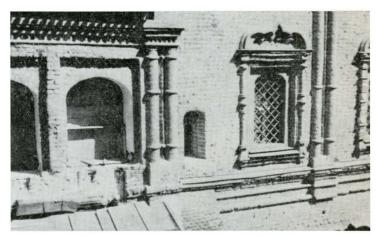
Model of "Russia" hotel for Moscow. It will accommodate 6,000 guests and on the site are eight old churches, all being restored.



Typical house numbering device and flagholder. Number lights up at night.



Library under construction in Tashkent.



Carved brick on old church being restored near Red Square in Moscow.

#### **OPINION**

USSR: fascinating from onion domes to new 'international' buildings

Before I went I agreed to write an article on Russian architecture. How rash and naive to make such a promise. The subject is so vast — like the country — that all I can hope to do is make some observations about the corners which I saw.

It is more accurate to use "Soviet Union" than "Russia" since the country is a federation of fifteen republics and the Russian one of those is itself a federation of thirtyone parts. Moscow and Leningrad are Russian, Kiev and Odessa are in the Ukraine while Tashkent and Samarkand are in Uzbekistan.

Before I went to the USSR I read a lot of books and sorted out the chronology of the czars and their peculiars.

I found the onion domes were the old style of church, that Peter the Great about 1700 had opened the country to Western Baroque, that the 18th century with its succession of empresses had sustained this trend, that the 19th century had seen a revival in neo-classicism followed by a period of eclecticism and pseudo-historicism and then a period of Art Nouveau.

After the 1917 revolution there

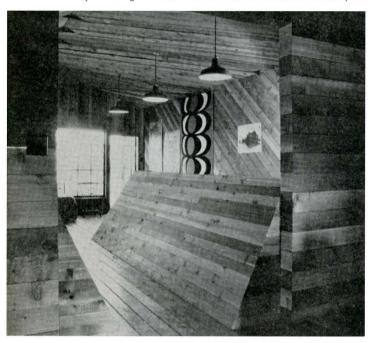
was a period of some fifteen exciting years of experiment and new ideas when many of the most avantgarde structures were proposed and some built. Unfortunately there were aesthetic conflicts and the current technology was not adequate for the design demands. By the 1930's a reaction had set in and the next thirty years saw an enormous amount of building throughout the country of a kind we called reactionary. In isolation on the pages of a magazine I would think them strange but in place, on the city street, they look more at home and related to the urban scene than many of the modern eggcrate structures they are now erecting.

The new buildings are international in appearance and though they are big they have not got that sense of scale that to me is one of the grand attributes of architecture in the USSR.

I was fortunate enough to be taken to the Architectural Institute, the professional school in Moscow, and was shown the student work on exhibition. Some of it was as bad as any our own students might do but there were some very interesting and exciting projects. The rector of the Institute has agreed to provide me with photos of some of the thesis projects and when they arrive I would like to discuss them. The rector, Mr. Sokolov, was, at

#### Creek House - new old space in Vancouver

On Granville Island in Vancouver's False Creek area is an old group of buildings that began in 1914 as a Brewery and has since served as machine shops and a chemical warehouse. This year they are getting a new lease on life as offices for professional and semi-professional people — architects, photographers and engineers — shops and an evening only restaurant. Renovations of the 40,000 sq. ft. (29,000 of which is rentable revenue space, the rest is public) is estimated to cost \$220,000 over the original purchase price. All space for lease will be raw space — tenants will provide their own renovations and furnishings in line with the overall concept of the building. Rents start at \$1.50 per foot. Principals in the Creek House project are Bill Harvey and Mitch Taylor. Designer Brian Johnston has his office in the complex.

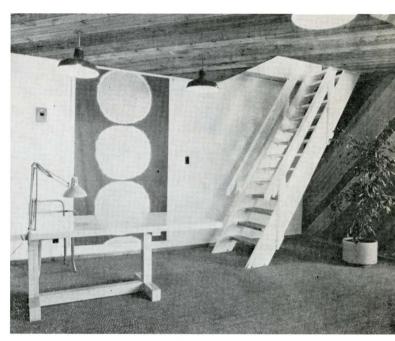


Office space in Creek House. The contrasting application of the cedar panelling, in diagonal and horizontal patterns, above, extends the dimensions of the space and creates an interesting linear effect. Sloping sides of reception counter add to the visual interest. Round porthole window, below, reflects the proximity to False Creek.

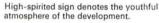




Exterior of Creek House. Outside decks are planned.



The Toronto architectural firm of Lloyd Sankey Architects has established its Vancouver office in Creek House. Ship's ladder leads to loft above.





one point in his career, at the University of Washington in Seattle so he was familiar with the Pacific Coast. The last year at the Institute the students specialize in one of three fields, planning, housing or industrial buildings. I was shown the work of this last group by the head of that division who had good English (as did the other staff members I met).

One of the things that bothered me about the buildings I saw everywhere was the apparent lack of good maintenance. All the horizontal surfaces were kept spotlessly clean. The street sweepers and water trucks which hose the streets daily are become legendary in all

travellers' reports but the vertical surfaces get much less attention and I was constantly aware of dirty glass in large window walls - compounded by the fact that many of the large sheets have heavy pronounced ripples in them. For me this often had the effect of making the exterior scene take on a mosaic quality when viewed from inside but this was obviously not the intent of the design. I tried to discuss the design implications of these two factors at the Institute and was assured that they were aware that maintenance was not a strong point but that they were working on it yet the provision of space and facilities was much more important. I began to be aware that perhaps I was applying my Western standards (or hang-up?) to an attitude that made this fact less relevant than the social values the buildings were satisfying, and I began to be thankful they were not quizzing me on how our buildings reflected our social needs.

The bulk of the new buildings I saw under construction was housing but there were also hotels, schools, libraries, restaurants, sport facilities and offices. A vast amount of time and money were being spent on restoration work to palaces, churches and old buildings and this work is being done superbly (I've written on this in an article for

Canadian Interiors).

In both Leningrad and Kiev which suffered terrible war damage whole streets are being restored and repaired. If the building is beyond repair the facade is kept and restored and new apartments are built behind the facade. By now enough work has been done that one must really look for evidence of damage. It is possible, if you do not choose to live in an apartment, to rent or own a house or even to build a house but expense and convenience and location must all be weighed. There is a long tradition of apartment dwelling in the cities unlike our own past experience so the new buildings with their open spaces

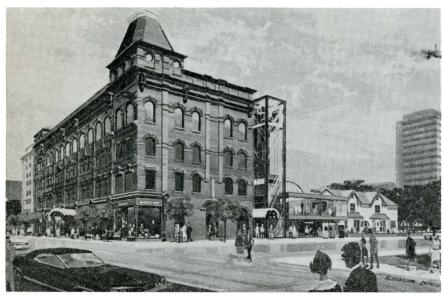
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#### Nova Scotia communications

Once every six weeks the Nova Scotia Association of Architects is placing ads similar to this one in two Halifax papers (A/C 1/17/72). Although, it says, it's hard to measure their success, the Association feels the approach is right. The ads not only bring the name of the Association to public attention but show that Nova Scotia Architects are doing good buildings. No reference is made to firm names; projects are selected by the "luck of the draw".

Further in the "communications arena", Nova Scotia architects say they hope to begin soon a consumer advisory program similar to the one in British Columbia. Maritime provinces at the NSAA Fall Session earlier this month have also set the wheels in motion towards establishing uniform registration standards for the region — a step towards a Maritime Union of Architects.



## Yet another old building gets a new life

One of the latest Toronto buildings to undergo a facelift is the old Masonic Hall built on Yonge Street in 1888. Gordon S. Adamson and Associates, the design consultants, are turning the old hall into an office/retail complex with a dome-covered courtyard. Incorporated into the scheme will be two century-old houses, one occupied briefly by Timothy Eaton (founder of the Eaton merchandising empire) and his wife.

An exterior glass shafted elevator with brightly painted workings will be exposed to passersby.

#### Efficient triangle

The triangular floor plan of this \$12-million building in Sydney. Australia takes advantage of setback allowances and hence permits five more rental floors than possible with a more conventional building (notice the new rectangular building next door to the right). Designed by John Andrews Architects for Hooker Pty., it provides 390,000 sq. ft. of retail-commercial space at a net to gross efficiency of 86.3 per cent.



must look attractive to them with schools, shops, nurseries and other services all built-in. It takes a tremendous wrench of imagination to consider working under conditions where your building budget is spent on designing good durable structures to give X number of people Y number of square meters each with the supporting facilities they need and not to think in terms of what must we add to make them pay more rent or what commercial facilities will be added that can pay their way or earn extra income. The Soviet approach tends to be paternalistic, I suspect, but probably there is a greater equity and certainly less evidence of discontent than some of our cities suffer from.

On second thought of course our own developers and mortgage companies are paternalistic in a different way. They assume the authority as to what the country needs but in terms of what will sell.

The remarkable thing about Soviet housing is the rent structure. They pay no rent for the kitchen, bathroom or entry but pay only for the living spaces and the rent plus the utilities come to 3 or 4 per cent of income. This factor alone makes an enormous difference in comparing income levels. Some eleven million people moved into new apartments each year of the last five years. This works out at about 10 square meters per person according to Soviet statistics.

Each republic seems to have its own policy for housing. One of the new series of apartment blocks which I saw being erected in Tashkent was of interest because the end walls were glazed with the traditional blue tile of the area in large patterns of geometric design and the panels of screening to the balconies were perforated in the shallow pointed arch motif of the mosques. These arches varied in size and arrangement but the total effect of the development was that it belonged in the city and was not a foreign object. The sense of strangeness is more apparent in another section of the city where a number of large apartments were the gifts of other Soviet cities and areas as disaster relief after the 1966 earthquake which levelled a third of Tashkent. It is now a city of one and a third million and the whole area is a building site with cranes wherever you look.

The blocks of flats which were given by other areas reflect the design and methods of the donors and the area where they are located is in some ways an exhibition of the variety of approaches.

When I got home I found an invitation to the International Union of Architects conference in Varna, Bulgaria, in September and the pre-conference tour of Moscow and Leningrad. If I had the money I would have gone right back again. to see more of what I got a glimpse of on this first trip.

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Applications are to be addressed to

The Bursar, The New South Wales Institute of Technology, P.O. Box 123, Broadway, 2007. N.S.W. Australia.

hope that those of you who read this will catch some of my enthusiasm and if you can, go! Peter Cotton, Victoria

**AWARDS** 

Scarborough awards for good design

The Metro Toronto Borough of Scarborough has jumped aboard the awards bandwagon saying it wants to make itself known as one of the most attractive urban areas in Canada. It will give awards to residents, industries, and to businesses and institutions for taking up the challenge.

The program of awards the Scarborough Planning Board has established is for outstanding examples of housing - both single-family and multi-family - of commercial and industrial buildings, and of public buildings like schools, hospitals, homes for the aged and government buildings.

Says John Wimbs, member of the Board and Chairman of its Design Awards Committee, "We are looking for people who have a particular regard for their homes or their businesses, or for the institutions that they build and manage.

'We are repeatedly told that Metropolitan Toronto is one of the finest urban areas in North America. We who choose to live in Scarborough feel that no part of the Metropolitan complex has more to offer than our own borough.

'We want to encourage people to enhance their environment, in order to make their lives pleasant. We will give recognition to those who appreciate good design and attractive surroundings, who thereby show that they know that there is more to life than just getting up in the morning and going to work.

Besides Wimbs, who is an architect practising in Metro, the Awards committee includes architect Jerome Markson, William Brown, Director Parks for Scarborough, and Edward A. Endersby, Scarborough Horticultural Society. Frank Lemon is the alternative representative of the Society.

Closing date for entries will be September 30. There is no entry fee. Full information, including entry forms, is available from The Scarborough Planning Board, 2001 Eglinton Avenue East. Telephone 759-4747.

Design in steel

North American architects, engineers and designers are invited to compete for international recognition in the 1972-1973 Design in Steel Award Program sponsored by American Iron and Steel Institute.

The biennial program, in its twelfth year, honors the creative use of steel and is aimed at helping develop a better understanding of steel's versatility.

There are four categories: housing, high-rise construction, low-rise construction and public works construction. Two awards will be offered in each - one for best design and one for best engineering.

Entries must be received by January 26, 1973, Submissions are limited to structures completed after January 1, 1970, or components initially offered for sale after January 1, 1970.

Judging will take place in New York, in February. Three designers, three engineers, three architects and three experts in contemporary art will make up the jury.

Entry forms and information are available from: Design In Steel Award Program, 201 East 42 Street, New York, New York 10017.

Canadian architects jury U.S. awards program

In something of a departure, the Detroit Chapter of the American Institute of Architects this month packed all the entries for its 'chapter awards program' up to Toronto for iudaina.

The jury, comprised of C. F. T. Rounthwaite, RAIC president, Dr. Thomas Howarth, Dean of the University of Toronto Department of Architecture, and practising architect A. J. Diamond, seemed to commend the idea of going out of a region for judging. According to Rounthwaite, the jury didn't recognize any of the projects. Yet, it was unanimously agreed on the top four entries.

#### **ENVIRONMENT**

RAIC committee following up Stockholm conference

The institute's environmental committee, originally set up on an 'ad hoc' basis to prepare a brief for the Stockholm UN conference this summer, has now been given more permanent status. A major activity will be to follow up some of the recommendations of the Stockholm meeting, which was attended by a committee member

The RAIC committee is urging the International Union of Architects to establish a working relationship with the permanent UN environmental secretariat which is expected to be set up this fall as one of the outcomes of Stockholm. It has also offered its services to help in the planning of a proposed UN "conference /demonstration on human settlements" which Canada has offered to host in 1975 as a follow-up to Stockholm (A/C, 7/10/72).

Co-chairmen Peter Goering and Alex Leman are also seeking to make the committee more national in scope by 1) soliciting additional members from eastern and western Canada, and 2) circulating the Stockholm brief to all provincial associations for their comments and suggestions.

NS architects urge downtown planning control

"Planning must be given top priority if the downtown area [of Halifax] is to be determined more by design than by default," says

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the Nova Scotia Association of Architects.

NSAA is supporting a movement to halt the building of a highrise office building opposite the hostoric Province House. Too often such issues," NSAA says, "cloud the real main issue: that is, the growth of the downtown area has been proceeding without prior establishment of guidelines which acknowledge the sensitivity of man and his environment."

Quotations from the RAIC brief to the UN environment conference in Stockholm (see preceding story) were used to back up the NSAA argument.

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Architects' office currently engaged in residential, commercial and industrial work requires architectural graduate with AMTPIC membership, for the development of a planning department. Applicant must have initiative, practical experience, and be capable of dealing with clients and staff. Reply, Box 183, c/o Architecture Canada.

#### **Graduate Architect**

A position is now open with an expanding practice in Prince George, B.C. Applicant should be a graduate of an accredited school with three to five years of diversified experience; and should be willing, under supervision, to accept responsibility for all phases of conception production and supervision of projects. Reply outlining experience and sufficient information for basis of further discussion to P.O. Box 1813, Prince George, B.C.

#### Nova Scotia Technical College School of Architecture, Professor of Architectural Design

This university School of Architecture of one hundred students operates a trimester, co-operative program on a year-round basis. Applications are now sought for a new faculty member to teach design during two of the three terms per year.

Applicants should have wide experience of architectural design, both in practice and as teachers. They should have an adequate understanding of the components of design (such as construction, economics, space-planning, internal environment) and display particular skill in their ability to synthesize and communicate. A university degree is mandatory; a higher degree would be preferred. Appointment as Assistant or Associate Professor with starting salary subject to negotiation. (Salary 'floors' are: Assistant, \$11,000; Associate, \$14,000.)

In first instance, please reply with résumé and names of three referees to Dr. Peter Manning, Director, School of Architecture, Nova Scotia Technical College, P.O. Box 1000, Halifax, Nova Scotia, within two weeks of appearance of this advertisement.

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#### 2 P.M. FRIDAY, OCT. 27

"Standards for Schools — Design Straight-jacket or Innovative Stimulus" Moderator: J.S. Cauley, Architect, Toronto. Panelists: George Abram, Architect, Willowdale; R.J. Black, P. Eng., Etobicoke; D.V. Grayson, Architect, Lincoln County Board, St. Catharines; W.J.B. Keith, physical plant administrator, Waterloo County Board, Kitchener.

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