Taming the West:
The Thirty-Year Struggle to Regulate the Architectural Profession in British Columbia

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British Columbia was very late in regulating the profession of architecture.[1] Following thirty years of debate and political manoeuvring, the Architectural Institute of British Columbia was incorporated by an Act of Legislature in 1920. The reasons that B.C. lagged behind the rest of the country in professionalization were linked to an enduring frontier mentality, violent swings in economic cycles, political and popular sentiment that distrusted monopolies, and personal differences between strong-willed individuals. The maturation of the architectural profession strongly parallelled the taming of the frontier spirit in many segments of the province's societal structure. Aspects of this struggle still resonate today.

There were few architect-designed buildings in the province before the Fraser River gold rush of 1858. But with the rush came a major wave of immigration, including eight architectural practitioners — five of whom had been living in California — who settled on the coast.[2] The progressive western march of the transcontinental railway created a momentum of settlement, promoting the establishment of a more stable resource-based economy. The province's seemingly unlimited potential was widely publicised throughout Eastern Canada, the United States, and Great Britain. Many restless settlers followed the railway in the 1880s, seeking fortunes offered by vast, unexploited western lands. As the infrastructure for permanent settlements was established, a crop of immigrant architects, almost exclusively English and Scottish, found a bustling frontier economy eager for their talents. Their professional collegiality and a common background in the British system led to their almost unanimous support for regulation.[3] This mirrored contemporary movements in Eastern Canada, where architects achieved legal recognition in Ontario in 1890, and in Quebec the following year. Bills to establish similar status in B.C. were stonewalled by a hostile legislature that viewed professional organizations

as elitist monopolies, reflecting popular sentiment that embraced the concept of the "self-made" man. Professional affiliation received little public support, and a collapsing economy in the mid 1890s further fragmented the architectural fraternity. Attempts to establish registration were abandoned for almost fifteen years.

A renewed drive for registration started about 1908, coinciding with the province's greatest boom period. Conflict was certain, as there was no longer consensus among those who considered themselves architects. The established practitioners of this era (ranging from those competently trained and with professional credentials from the old country, to those with more dubious credentials) clashed personally and professionally. The situation was exacerbated by an ongoing rivalry between the two main cities in the province, and by regional squabbling. Those who promoted registration were also motivated by fear of outside competition, mainly from American architects. The booming economy brought a flood of members of the building trades into the province. They were free to bill themselves as architects, and therefore resisted registration (and confirmation of their credentials) for as long as possible. Registration was desirable for those who were established and qualified, but anathema to the unqualified. Added to this volatile mix was a get-rich-quick frontier mentality and a vigorous distrust of regulation — if these men (for at this time those that called themselves architects in British Columbia were almost exclusively male, white, and British[4]) had craved stability and regulation they would not have travelled so far to such a wild and untamed area to make their fortune. These intrepid immigrants had followed the boom trail as far west as they could, and were determined, or forced, to make a go of it there.

Two competing architectural societies emerged, one inclusive of virtually anyone who wanted to join, the other a splinter

Figure 5. Delegates to the first convention of the British Columbia Society of Architects on the steps of the Empress Hotel, Victoria, June 1912: 1. Charles Herbert Bebb, Seattle; 2. Hoult Horton (president); 3. Norman Leech, Vancouver; 4. J.L. Putnam, Vancouver; 5. Harold Joseph Rous Cullin, Victoria; 6. J.C.M. Keith, Victoria. (B.C. Archives, J.C.M. Keith File, photo F-09372)

group of elitists who worked to reserve the profession for those properly trained and qualified, based on British and American models. The depression of 1913 and the subsequent devastation of the local economy during the Great War resolved the situation in favour of the elitist group.

Very little has been recorded about the history of this struggle. Robert Percival Sterling Twizell, one of the key players, wrote a very brief history of the development of the Architectural Institute of British Columbia, published in 1950 in the *Journal of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada*.[5] This article related the bare facts of the A.I.B.C.'s development, and demonstrates not only a selective memory on the writer's part but also a few obvious grudges, decades after the events described. The development of the architectural profession in B.C. was much more complicated than Twizell described.

FIRST STEPS: THE BRITISH COLUMBIA ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS, 1891

The arrival of the transcontinental railway on the West Coast in 1885[6] and the establishment of local resource-based industries created an economic climate of explosive growth:

Nor is Vancouver the only city in British Columbia. Its older sisters, Victoria, Nanaimo and New Westminster are coming on apace and also showing wonderful development, each of which contains features of special interest in the lines on which the CANADIAN ARCHITECT AND BUILDER is conducted. Not only are these progressive, but all British Columbia, for many years in the Slough of Despond [sic]. Its architects and builders are the sons of England, Ireland and Scotland and of the Eastern Provinces, and no nation on earth can boast of better workmen.[7]

Until this time there had been few resident architects in B.C., but the seemingly unlimited opportunities based on the expanding exploitation of natural resources and facilitated by the confluence of rail and water transportation proved irresistible to a number of British-trained architects eager to seek their fortunes in the colonies. Victoria was still the largest and most important city in the province, but Vancouver was fast growing in size and importance.[8] Architects in this period were often transitory, staying mobile to follow potential work. Some were following the railway to its terminus on the coast; some were intending to pass through but stayed; and some kept right on travelling.[9] The 1891 Henderson's B.C. Directory listed 25 architects in its classified business directory.[10] Among those who settled on the coast there was a clearly defined architectural fraternity based on a common background of apprenticeship and academic training. Even at this early stage in the province's and the profession's development there was a general agreement on the value of registration, as well as a developing sense of a local architecture based on the Arts and Crafts movement and rooted in the indigenous landscape.[11] Here, on the edge of the wilderness, these men were working together to establish collegial bonds.

The first major step to self-organization of the profession was a meeting held in the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association building in Victoria on 29 June 1891.[12] This session lasted from 10:30 in the morning until 10:00 at night. Eleven men were present: Cornelius J. Soule, William Ridgway Wilson, Edward Mallandaine, L. Buttress Trimen, A. Maxwell Muir, Edward McCoskie, and Thomas Hooper, all from Victoria; C. Osborn Wickenden, Noble Stonestreet Hoffar and Alan E. McCartney from Vancouver; and Richard P. Sharp from New Westminster. Seventeen others had sent a proxy or a letter of support, or had indicated their willingness to join a provincial organization.[13] Thus, twenty-eight men who considered themselves qualified as architects were represented. These names intertwine, harmoniously and acrimoniously, throughout the ongoing debates that occurred over the next thirty years before official incorporation finally passed.

The minutes of this meeting offer a number of clues as to the background initiatives that led to this marathon meeting:

Mr. Muir, having acted as secretary *pro tem* for the Victoria Architects at a previous meeting, again took his seat in a similar capacity.
At the suggestion of the Chairman, Mr. McCartney read the minutes of the several meetings that had been held in Vancouver.[14]

There is no known record of these earlier meetings, but it is clear that a movement had been underway since at least early 1891, and probably the previous year, to self-organize as a prelude to asking the province to pass regulatory legislation.[15]

A number of resolutions were passed at the 29 June meeting. The group agreed to call itself the British Columbia Association

of Architects, with the ultimate goal of incorporating on a similar basis as the Ontario Association of Architects.[16] A constitution was adopted, based very closely on that of the O.A.A. Officers were elected, with John Teague as president, C.O. Wickenden as first vice-president, R.P. Sharp as second vice-president, W. Ridgway Wilson as secretary, Edward Mallandaine as treasurer, and L.B. Trimen, C.J. Soule, Thomas Hooper, R. Mackay Fripp, and A.E. McCartney as directors. Following the election, the association was considered formed, with the names of 27 men attached.[17] After lunch the group passed a set of bylaws, also based on those of the O.A.A. The meeting then drafted a proposed bill for professional regulation, based on a recently passed bill that enabled the registration of Ontario architects. The preamble of the bill is of special interest to the debate that ensued over the next several decades:

An Act Respecting the Profession of Architects
WHEREAS, it is deemed expedient for the better protection of public interests in the erection of public and private buildings in the Province of British Columbia, and in order to enable persons requiring professional aid in Architecture to distinguish between qualified and unqualified Architects, and to ensure a standard of efficiency in the persons practicing the profession of Architecture in the Province, and for the furtherance and advancement of the art of Architecture.
THEREFORE, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, enacts as follows: ...

The preamble was followed by thirty-three articles that outlined the powers and responsibilities of the British Columbia Association of Architects. The meeting adjourned with instructions to the president and directors to interview the government as quickly as possible to determine the feasibility of passing this bill and accepting the attached list of 27 as those legally qualified to call themselves architects.

The B.C.A.A.'s first Annual General Meeting was held at Victoria on 5 December 1891.[18] Fourteen of the 24 paid-up members were present. Wickenden reported that, with the assistance of their legal advisor, the proposed registration bill had been considerably altered "but which now appeared to be about as near perfection as could be wished for." Officers were then elected, with Teague re-elected as president.[19] The association was now poised to submit their bill to the Provincial Legislature.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, 1892-1894

Soon after the A.G.M. the name of the association was changed to the British Columbia Institute of Architects. The explosive growth of the architectural field, and of the economy in general, is demonstrated by the total of 46 architects listed in the 1892 B.C. Directory, almost double the previous year.[20]

On 8 May 1892, the B.C.I.A. adopted a code of professional practice and a set of standardized charges, which included for the first time a fee of 5 percent on works above $2,500. This was based primarily on the practice and charges of the Royal Institute of British Architects, but also referenced the architectural societies of Liverpool, Glasgow, Melbourne, Ontario, Kansas State and the American Institute of Architects.[21]

The government's reaction to the proposed registration bill was less than heartening. It was submitted in the spring of 1892 but was defeated on third reading. Although it had been introduced as a private member's bill, the Speaker ruled that it was in essence a public bill and would have to be reintroduced. In response, the group made application to register the B.C.I.A. under the Literary Societies Act, which was granted on 24 June 1892. The Declaration of Establishment was signed by ten men who would be the first trustees.[22] Subsequently, the B.C.I.A. published its bylaws, professional practices, and charges, reiterating the 5 percent fee structure.[23] In the fall of 1892 Ridgway Wilson seems to have been active in contacting prospective members and honorary fellows.[24] This could only be a voluntary organization until legislation was passed, but the stage was now set for a strong push for official recognition. The B.C.I.A.'s second A.G.M. was held on 4 November 1892, in Vancouver.[25] There were now nearly 40 members. One of the council's main activities had been monitoring and commenting on two competitions in Victoria, for Christ Church Cathedral and the new legislative buildings, their interest apparently motivated by fear of American architects. It was also reported that

Probably the most important action taken during the past year has been the attempted passage in the Local Legislature of our "Bill respecting the Profession of Architects," which, as you all know, was thrown out by the small majority of one, the time of its being voted on being late on a Saturday at the fag end of the session, with a very few members present. It is a question for your consideration whether the Act should be brought up again at the next session of Parliament or not. After some further discussion on the subject of the proposed Bill respecting the profession of architects, a committee consisting of Messrs. Soule, Bayne, and Ridgway Wilson, with power to add to the number, was appointed to consider what further steps should be taken in the matter and to report to the Council.[26]

In February 1893 the B.C.I.A. introduced another private bill that would have required architects to register with the Institute; it was "more badly beaten than its predecessor."[27] At the B.C.I.A.'s third A.G.M., held in Victoria on 2 December 1893, there was not much good news to report. Vice-president R.R. Bayne reported that "a period of unexampled dullness has prevailed in our profession — we have not a single new member to welcome .... Before we meet again, gentlemen, let us hope that things may improve with us all, and that we will be all busy men as now too many of us are idle men."[28]

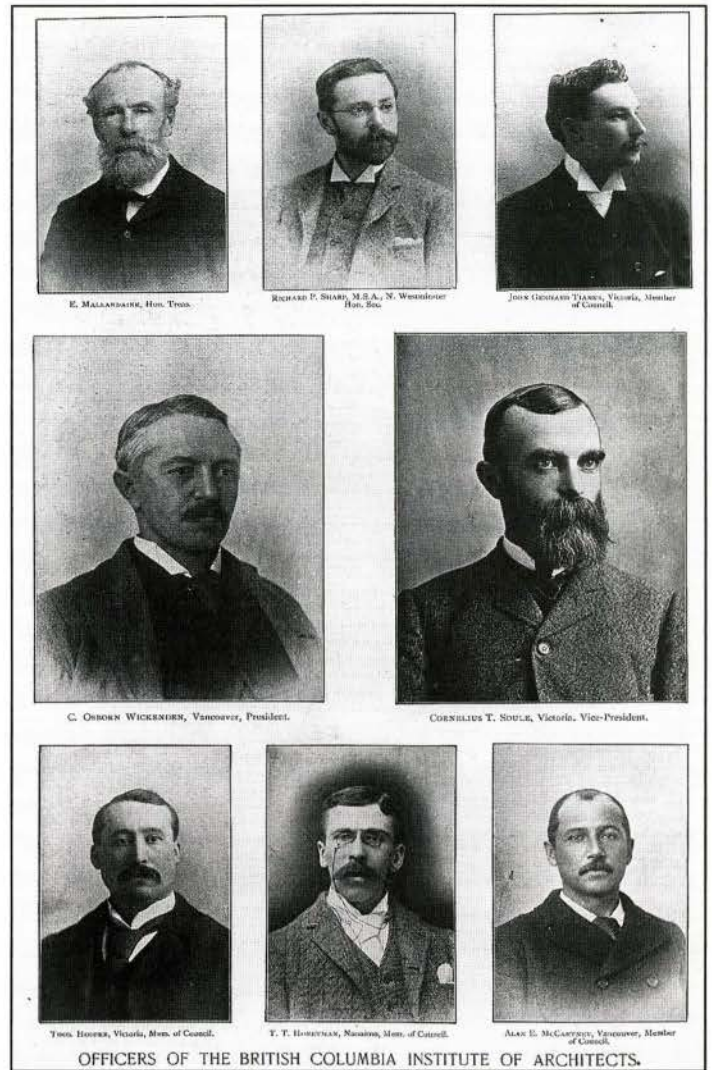OFFICERS OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

Figure 1. Officers of the British Columbia Institute Of Architects. (*Canadian Architect & Builder* 7, no. 10 [October 1894]; Thomas Fisher Rare Book Collection, University of Toronto)

Concerns were expressed about the conduct of competitions, which were becoming an important source of work. The established architects had clearly been startled when a virtually unknown 25-year-old English immigrant, Francis Rattenbury, won the prestigious competition to design the new legislative buildings, though they did acknowledge the apparent fairness of the process, and appear to have been relieved that an American was not chosen.[29] The discouraged members abandoned their attempts for provincial registration and decided to approach the associations in Ontario and Quebec to work toward national registration. Their inquiries, however, revealed that there was little interest in pursuing this ambitious goal, and worsening economic conditions caused them to turn their attention to their own struggling practices.

INTERREGNUM, 1894-1909

The *Canadian Architect & Builder* reported in early 1894 on the worsening economy in B.C.: "There is very little in the way of building news to report at present as architects and builders in this province in common with those in other countries are feeling the effects of the world-wide commercial depression."[30]

In October 1894 photographic portraits of the officers of the B.C.I.A. were published in the *Canadian Architect & Builder* (**Figure 1**), but there was no further mention of their activities and no record that their fourth A.G.M., scheduled to be held in New Westminster in November, was ever held. As the economy worsened the B.C.I.A. faded away. But the idea of registration never quite died: in 1899 Ridgway Wilson was still contacting other provincial associations, gathering information for yet another try at regulation.[31]

As consensus on the need for professional registration faded, conflicting currents developed in the architectural community. Many in the profession were devoted to serving the needs of the entrepreneurial class made rich as a result of the Klondike gold rush. They provided overwrought and fanciful designs that boasted of newly-acquired wealth, framed in a frontier context of new urban centres being carved out of forest wilderness. This was opposed by an emerging school of design that pursued the evolution of a local architecture rooted in the native landscape and natural materials, reflecting the growing influence of the Arts and Crafts movement. This conflict can also be ascribed to competing American and British stylistic influences, a battle that waxed and waned for decades.[32] The more British-aligned mentality is illustrated by the comments of an anonymous B.C. correspondent (likely R. Mackay Fripp; **Figure 2**) describing Victoria's buildings in 1899 (**Figures 3, 4**) in the *Canadian Architect & Builder*:

The Five Sisters Block though not exactly a new building is one of the more recent improvements, a plain red brick building with mansard roof, with refined detail throughout, marred by its execution in painted metal, a hopelessly lifeless material to design in. The Bank of British Columbia though not lacking a certain degree of dignity is rendered trivial by its overload of cement and metal ornament, some of which is flimsy; the style is a conventional style of Italian.... the Board of Trade Building and the new home of the Colonist newspaper are attempts in that species of American Architecture which is described by the ubiquitous reporter as "That Splendid Block" or "That Handsome Structure," both having much of the swaggering, braggadocio, painted and galvanized iron, rock faced stone and tuck pointed brick genus of features which may be more but generally are less original and cannot be deemed architectural.[33]

In a subsequent edition, the writer complained about the state of affairs in Vancouver:
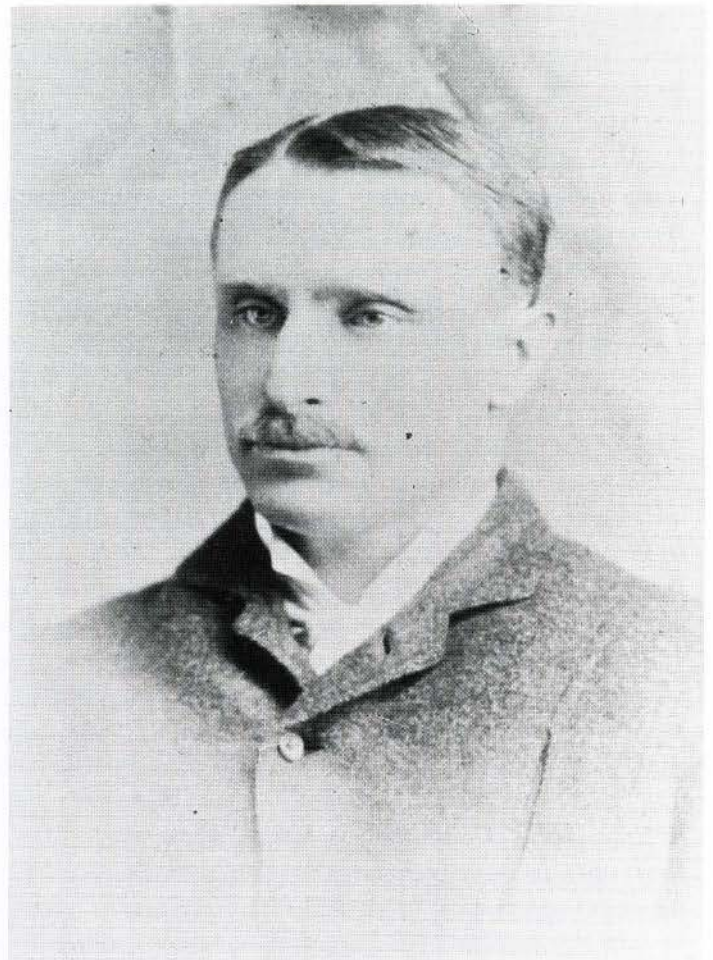

Figure 2. Robert Mackay Fripp, c. 1888. (City of Vancouver Archives, CVP Port 552)

It must be borne in mind that this is the west, and that there has not been sufficient time to evolve a standard in matters of taste. There are no old established interests, no cultivated leisure class. The town does not possess a museum, much less a gallery of arts, not even a fine arts society. Every man is fully occupied in making a way for himself, and until he decided to buy a lot and build a house, never gave two thoughts to building. His idea of what constitutes the calling of an architect is a beautifully mixed one, and consequently, in his utter ignorance, turns to what he is pleased to call a practical man, with the hapless results that defy criticism. That bogey, the practical man, is ever the most hopeless; unpractical; knows nothing of planning; his designing is not less ridiculous than his planning or more feeble than his drawing; his vaunted practical knowledge is invariably confined to the one trade he followed before he started speculative jerry building operations on his own account.[34]

Despite signs of emerging cultural organization in these frontier cities, the architectural profession maintained a low profile. The first annual event of the Arts and Crafts Association, which had been founded by Fripp, was held in Vancouver at the Alhambra Hall from 24-26 September 1900.
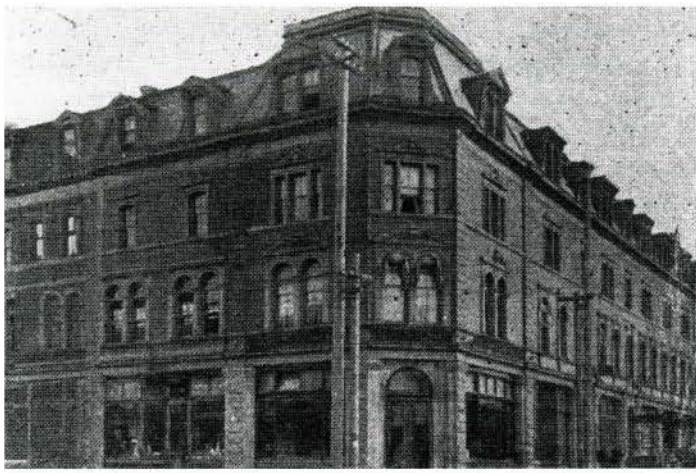
Figure 3. The Five Sisters Block, Victoria; T.C. Sorby and William Ridgway Wilson, architects, 1891. (Victoria City Archives, #98207-15-540)

Figure 4. The Bank of British Columbia (Craft & Norris Block), Victoria; Elmer Fisher & William Ridgway Wilson, architects, 1888. (B.C. Archives, HP #71442)

When it is considered that the number of architects practicing in British Columbia is probably nearly half a hundred it is surprising to find but three of that number exhibiting on the walls of the association. The disregard, not to say ignorant neglect, of the art of architecture by the public is not all that surprising. If the practice of the first and highest of the arts lie with men who are themselves so little appreciative of the real position of architecture in the world of art, or so little desirous of impressing upon the public the high nature of their vocation, what can be expected from the same public but a continued attitude of indifference? ... This is, no doubt, a digression, but, really, an Arts and Crafts Association with scarcely a sign of the architectonic foundation upon which such associations must of necessity rest is a noteworthy curiosity.[35]

The situation at the Association's second annual show in 1901 was even worse, where the only architectural drawings exhibited were several by Fripp; perhaps other architects shied away to avoid his withering criticisms.

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS AND THE ARCHITECTS' ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA, 1909-1914

The dream of a national architectural organization persisted.[36] In April 1907 a letter was sent to 500 architects inviting them to join a proposed Institute of Architects of Canada. An encouraging response led to a convention being held in Montreal from 19-23 August 1907. The sole representative from B.C., William H. Archer, sat on the Institute's provisional council.[37] In an address to the convention, Edmund Burke, president of the O.A.A., stated:

I regret to say that we in Ontario are behind the Province of Quebec in our laws in connection with the status of the architect. We have tried two or three times to obtain restrictive legislation, but have failed so far, partly through the opposition of the labour organizations, whose members seem to think that it will prevent their sons from becoming architects on the ground that architecture as a profession will become too exclusive and expensive, and partly by others who are opposed to restrictive legislation on the ground that it is class legislation. We hope, however, some day soon, to see a change in public opinion, and that these people, will learn that it is to their own interest, even more than to ours that such legislation should be passed.

I have heard to day that the architects of Manitoba expect to obtain restrictive legislation, either at the end of this or early next year. The Province of Alberta obtained it last year, and the Province of Quebec has had it for many years. So we are all moving forward in the direction desired.[38]

Many topics of interest were discussed in the sessions, including uniform building laws, public competitions, the conservation of historical monuments, and copyright considerations. The convention appears to have been an unqualified success, and was followed by the first general annual assembly of the Architectural Institute of Canada[39] in Ottawa from 28 September to 1 October 1908. The federal act assenting to the Architectural Institute of Canada was passed on 16 June 1908, and an alliance with the R.I.B.A. was completed on 15 May of the following year, allowing the prefix "Royal" to be added on 2 June. The second general annual assembly was held in Toronto from 5-6 October 1909.

The establishment of the national organization revived the idea of a local organization in British Columbia. On 29 January 1909 a group calling itself the British Columbia Association of Architects met "to look into the formation of a provincial association of architects." Among those who were elected as officers were Francis Rattenbury (president), William Tinniswood Dalton, R.M. Fripp, Samuel Maclure, and William Goodfellow (likely Sr.). W.H. Archer, T. Ennor Julian, Norman A. Leech, Sholto Smith, and a Mr. Jones were appointed an entertainment committee for a smoker early in February to bring members together.[40]

The stupendous economic boom that lasted from 1908 to 1913 attracted record numbers of new settlers to the coast, including many involved in the building trades. The situation within the architectural community was chaotic, as many of the new arrivals billed themselves as architects whether or not they had any training or qualifications. Concerned about public confidence as well as their own livelihood, a small group in Vancouver experienced with architectural societies had its goal of establishing the "British Columbia Society of Architects" well underway by the fall of 1909. It became apparent that the qualifications of prospective members could not be confirmed, and the original founders were soon outnumbered, with estimates of up to 300 in the province claiming to be architects. Trained, qualified architects were clearly in the minority.

A parallel group was developing in the capital city. The first meeting of the "Architect's Association of Victoria" was held at the Driard Hotel on Tuesday, 25 October 1910. Francis Rattenbury was elected honorary president, Samuel Maclure president, W. Ridgway Wilson vice-president, and Percy Leonard James secretary-treasurer. Twenty-two architects subscribed as members at a meeting on 10 November, although their minutes show only sporadic gatherings through 1911.[41]

By October 1911 the British Columbia Society of Architects had been firmly established in Vancouver. The Victoria and Vancouver associations remained separate during this time, though they appear to have been in communication with each other: on 18 December 1911, for example, a special meeting was held in Victoria for several of the members to meet delegates of the B.C.S.A. who had come to Victoria to interview Dr. Henry Esson Young, the Provincial Secretary. The question of registration of architects was discussed at this meeting. One of the greatest concerns facing the profession at this time was how the government would conduct the competition for the proposed campus for the University of British Columbia. A number of meetings and delegates addressed this issue in the following months; it was apparently considered advantageous to present a united professional front to the government.[42]

On 23 March 1912 the Architects Association of Victoria voted to become the Victoria chapter of the British Columbia Society of Architects. The Vancouver chapter was by far the larger group, with 70 members listed in January 1912. The biggest issue facing both groups continued to be the UBC competition. After extensive study a location was chosen at Point Grey, outside of Vancouver, and the competition was announced for the master plan of the campus.[43] On 3 April 1912 a special meeting was held between delegates of the Vancouver and Victoria chapters regarding this competition. At the time it was reported that the Society was running smoothly, and that all its committees were working properly. President Norman A. Leech[44] announced plans to hold

Vancouver's first architectural exhibition, although he favoured "the postponement of the display until after the summer holidays as all the members are in the thick of the spring building rush at present and will not be able to give to the exhibit the attention which such an event needs."[45] Perhaps the members were busier than reported, or other events intervened, as the exhibition was not held until the following summer.

The first annual convention of the British Columbia Society of Architects was held in Victoria in June 1912 (**Figure 5**, page 109). Hoult Horton was elected president, Norman Leech vice-president, John Wilson honorary secretary, and Percy Leonard James honorary treasurer.[46] This seemed to be a real step toward cooperation among architects on a provincial level, but trouble was soon to erupt.

The Society's meetings in the predominant Vancouver Chapter were moderately harmonious during the first year of its life, but after that time until it ceased to function the meetings became increasingly turbulent and noisy mostly due to charges made by certain members of the open and continued unprofessional conduct of many of the others, and the indifference of the executive to obvious irregularities.[47]

A joint meeting of the Vancouver and Victoria chapters of the B.C.S.A. was held in Vancouver on 6-7 September 1912, with about a dozen architects attending from Victoria.[48] The B.C.S.A. finally held its "First Annual Architectural Exhibition" in the chambers of the Progress Club[49] in Vancouver from 28 June to 5 July 1913 (**Figure 6**).

It is estimated that fully 20,000 people visited the Architect's Exhibition .... The exhibition was divided into two departments, one dealing with the architects' plans, sketches and drawings exclusively, and the

Figure 6. The Architect's Exhibition at the Progress Club, 28 June to 5 July 1913. (*Industrial Progress*, August 1913, 15; Vancouver Public Library, Special Collections)

other showing exhibits of building materials, builders, builders' hardware, and other essentials of construction. Both departments were tastefully and artistically set out, the floors being covered with Oriental rugs and the corners being filled with palms.[50]

In conjunction with the exhibition the Society published a year book lavishly illustrated with architectural renderings; a foreword by W. Marbury Somervell[51] summarized the history of the profession and discussed the civic role of the architect.[52] A design for the Society's seal was also included (**Figure 7**). This publication is the best evidence we have of how the Society had matured in a very short time. For 1913 the Vancouver chapter listed four executive, ten council members, and 116 members; one additional member showed up on the 1913-14 executive, for a total of 131.[53] The Victoria chapter listed three executive, five council members, and 50 additional members for a total of 58. W.T. Whiteway was president in Vancouver, J.C.M. Keith was president in Victoria, and Hoult Horton was provincial president. This list of 189 presents a snapshot of those who considered themselves to be architects at the height of the boom era.[54] It is noteworthy that about half of them either disappeared from the scene or were not considered eligible for registration just seven years later.

The B.C.S.A. held its second A.G.M. at about the same time as the exhibition. President Hoult Horton of Victoria and vice-president W.T. Whiteway of Vancouver welcomed the members, and the committee reports indicate that the society was in excellent shape and fast growing in influence. There was a continued push for the province to pass a registration act, with the hope that there would soon be official recognition of the profession, placing it on the same footing as other provinces. Hoult Horton was re-elected as president, J.L. Putnam of Vancouver as vice-president, and P.L. James of Victoria as treasurer, with George A. Horel, William Marshall Dodd, Archibald Campbell Hope, Charles J. Thompson, and G.A. Birkenhead of Vancouver and H.J. Rous Cullin, John Wilson, Mr. Jameson, Ridgway Wilson, and J.C.M. Keith of Victoria elected to the executive council.[55]

The general public might have been given an impression that all was well within the profession, but this seemingly close-knit fraternity was about to split apart on clearly defined lines of self-interest.[56]

SPLINTER GROUP: THE ARCHITECTURAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1913-1914

A number of architects felt that the all-inclusive nature and in-group clubbishness of the B.C.S.A. served neither their nor the public's best interests. They decided to form a parallel society that reflected the British and American models for professional organizations, requiring relevant education and office experience as criteria for accreditation.

Figure 7. First prize for a design for a seal for the British Columbia Society of Architects; J. Drummond Beatson, 1913. (*Year Book of the British Columbia Society of Architects Vancouver Chapter AD MCMXIII*; Architectural Institute of British Columbia collection)

In the fall of 1912 a special meeting was called at the demand of a small group of dissatisfied members after a case became known of flagrant collusion between an assessor and winner of a school competition. The competitor was an officer of the Society and every attempt made to have an enquiry was evaded and finally blocked. This episode and the general prevailing conditions convinced the small group which had requested the enquiry that there was no hope of improvement in the society; they severed from it in March 1913 and formed a club of very limited membership for friendly intercourse among architects.[57]

The leader of this breakaway group was R. Mackay Fripp, who continued to fire broadsides at everyone involved:

Why do not the efficient architects do something to raise the standard of professional competence? Simply because provincial and federal legislatures refuse the enabling legislation. A registration bill which proposed to render examination compulsory has been turned down three times by this provincial legislature. Even in those provinces where such a bill has been enacted the educational facilities are either non-existent or wholly inadequate. The young Canadian who wishes to become an all-round efficient architect must seek in Europe or the United States the higher training denied him by his own country. Having spent his years and his money, he returns to find himself in competition with the practical man, the self-made man, the shyster, and all the tribe of incompetents that are encouraged by the actions of the legislatures and the preference of the public to style themselves "architects" .... It is considered most desirable that a

school of architecture should be established in our new university, but apparently it is too early to do more than agitate gently.... There being no compulsory test of qualification, the undesirables and the inefficients pour in at the open door.[58]

Despite the continued existence and obvious dominance of the B.C. Society of Architects, this elitist breakaway group of ten established itself in Vancouver as the "Architectural Institute of British Columbia." Membership was closed until incorporation was obtained under the Benevolent Societies Act. There were ten signatories to the application for incorporation made in April 1914; the society was duly incorporated on 10 June of that year.[59] The signatories to the application to incorporate the society were R.M. Fripp, James W. Keagey, R.P.S. Twizell, Samuel Buttrey Birds, William Charles Frederick Gillam, Gordon B. Kaufman, Arthur Julius Bird, Kennerley Bryan, J. Charles Day, and John James Honeyman.[60]

The search began for other suitable members. The first A.G.M. was held on 25 June 1914. Fripp was elected president, W.T. Dalton vice-president, Fred Laughton Townley secretary, and S.B. Birds treasurer. A hearty vote of thanks was given to Kennerley Bryan "for his unceasing efforts in connection with the formation of the Institute."[61] Twenty-one men indicated their intention to become members of the Institute.[62] On 25 June an official application was made for affiliation with the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

THE B.C.S.A. STRIKES BACK, 1914

The Victoria chapter of the B.C.S.A., learning of this action, immediately sent a similar application to the R.A.I.C., stating that they had the much larger membership. At the 25 August 1914 meeting of the Victoria chapter, members discussed the questions regarding provincial registration and the new Architectural Institute in Vancouver. They also prepared a draft bill, intended to be introduced in the provincial legislature. Thirty men were listed as supporters of the bill, most notably Hoult Horton, Ridgway Wilson, Maclure, Hooper, Rattenbury, G.L. Thornton Sharp, and Charles J. Thompson.[63] It is notable that the preamble was closely modelled on the proposed bill of 1891:

An Act Respecting the British Columbia Association of Architects
WHEREAS, it is deemed expedient for the better protection of the public interests in the erection of public and private buildings in the Province, and to enable persons requiring professional aid in architecture, to distinguish between qualified and unqualified architects, and to ensure a standard of efficiency in the persons practicing the profession of architecture in the Province, and for the furtherance and advancement of the art of architecture;
And whereas it is desirable that the persons hereinafter named, together with such other persons as may be hereafter admitted to membership as hereinafter provided, be incorporated by the name of

the "British Columbia Association of Architects," having for its objects the acquirement and interchange of professional knowledge by and amongst its members, and more particularly the acquisition of that species of knowledge which shall promote the artistic, scientific and practical efficiency of the profession of architecture:
Therefore, His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, enacts as follows: ...

The Society's bill proposed the following broad qualifications for membership without examination:

- Any person twenty-five years of age or older practicing the profession of architecture in B.C. at the time of the bill's passage;
- Any person engaged for seven years as an assistant in an architect's office; or
- Any member in good standing of the R.I.B.A. or any association of similar standing.

Others who did not qualify would be subject to qualifying examinations. These rules opened the membership to many who had never received any formal education in the profession, but would close the doors soon afterward. The scale of fees was not set, but would be established by the council. The act was to apply to any works over $10,000. This bill does not appear to have ever been introduced in the legislature, which would have been unlikely to have considered it once war had broken out.

The two competing applications to the R.A.I.C. also caused a deadlock, and after further correspondence a letter was sent to each organization on 27 April 1915 stating that neither group would be admitted until they had resolved their differences.

At this time the B.C.S.A. was still recognized as the voice of the architectural profession. W.M. Dodd and C.J. Thompson represented the Society on the general committee for the Vancouver Civic Centre competition of 1914.[64] This seems to have been the Society's last official function. To quote Twizell, "In the meanwhile the Great War had become all important and questions of architectural affiliation were laid aside. The B.C.S.A. withered, never to recover."[65]

With the great building boom over many architects volunteered for overseas service, and some were killed or seriously wounded in action.[66] Others left the province, held on in reduced circumstances, or changed occupations entirely. During the war the B.C.S.A. faded away, symptomatic of its lack of central purpose beyond self-interest. The upstart, highly-motivated Institute was kept alive by several active members who filed the yearly returns required under the act. At the A.I.B.C.'s second A.G.M., held 10 March 1915, a committee was appointed

to collect Data and Statistics of existing and proposed legislation for purposes of Registration. That this committee have power to further affiliation with RAIC. To have power to prepare any proposed legislation for B.C. To have power to fill vacancies in itself and add

to its numbers. This Committee to report to a Special General Meeting of the Institute to be called for the purpose. The following Committee were appointed: Kennerley Bryan — Chairman; J.J. Honeyman; J.W. Keagey; R.P.S. Twizell.[67]

At their 23 January 1917 meeting the A.I.B.C. drafted a letter to Charles Thompson to enquire whether or not the B.C.S.A. still existed. A reply is not recorded, but undoubtedly the answer would have been no. At the third A.G.M., held 7 March 1917, the A.I.B.C.'s registration committee reported that "it would be unwise to do anything this year, but valuable information has been gathered."[68] Correspondence with the R.A.I.C. regarding affiliation continued throughout the war, but no further progress was made. R. Mackay Fripp, president since the Institute's formation, passed away unexpectedly on 16 December 1917, his 60th birthday. He had not lived long enough to see his profession officially recognized in B.C.[69]

Of the competing architectural factions only the A.I.B.C. survived the war. After armistice the Institute rounded up most of its previous members and renewed its application to the R.A.I.C., which was finally accepted on 5 October 1918. Substantial correspondence was sent to American jurisdictions in 1918 and 1919 researching the states in which architecture was a "closed" profession. The A.I.B.C. also continued to voice its opposition to the passage of a proposed bill to incorporate the Engineering and Technical Institute of British Columbia.[70] The stage was now set for the passage of legislation.

INCORPORATION OF THE A.I.B.C., 1920

In January 1920 it was announced that both architects and civil engineers would shortly be seeking the passage of private bills calling for professional registration. As reported in the *Vancouver Daily World* on 10 January 1920,

While the architects have an association among themselves, this association has no standing such as is possessed by the legal, medical or dental professions, and it is with the object of placing the profession as near as possible on the same footing as these other professions that steps are now being taken. The granting of a certificate to an architect, under the provisions of the act, will mean that he is properly qualified to undertake work in which, it is pointed out, not only the lives of the men engaged on the work are sometimes at stake, but the safety of the public during the life of the building must also be safeguarded.

On 13 February 1920, two private members bills were introduced, Bill 51 concerning the regulation of architects, and Bill 54 for the incorporation of the Association of Professional Engineers. These two bills were to proceed along a parallel and equally perilous course. They were subject to a great deal of public comment and scrutiny, and their passage was not a foregone conclusion. They were part of a series of broader issues widely debated in newspapers and journals of the time. Popular sentiment favoured hard-working, self-made men rather than elitist academics, and many young men had spent their prime years on the battlefield rather than in school. Many who worked in the building trades saw their livelihood threatened, and those hoping to rebuild a new post-war prosperity hated the thought of further government regulation, or the possibility of paying useless professional fees. Why pay an architect when an experienced builder was more practical? These were the same arguments that had been heard for the last thirty years.

The General Contractors and Master Builders' Association mounted a campaign against the passage of Bill 51, which would regulate who could call himself an architect. In addition, objections were received from Imperial Oil and the American Can Company, which maintained in-house design staff and resisted the idea of having to hire outside expertise. A letter was also received from the B.C. Manufacturers' Association opposing the bill's requirements, but it was exposed as fraudulent, as it had been written by the contractors' and builders' section of the association, who had affixed the secretary's name to it without his knowledge. This admission did not help their case in opposition of the bill, and indeed upon further investigation many individual contractors were found to be in support of it.

There was also considerable opposition to the regulation of engineers, based on the fear of loss of American investment in mining. The British Columbia Prospectors' Protective Association had publicly opposed the bill even before it was tabled. On 25 February 1920 the lobbying of the Mining Institute sent the engineering bill back to the private bills committee. On 18 March, Bill 51 and Bill 54 came up for second reading, with the Engineer's Act up first. By all accounts it was an antagonistic debate. Liberal Premier "Honest John" Oliver said he would not oppose second reading, but that he would oppose the bill unless it was rewritten. The premier stated that

in expressing his views he was not speaking for the government. Nor did he wish to cast any reflection on the engineers, who as a class were as beneficial to the world as any of which he had knowledge. But when they sought to put laws upon the statute books that would deny an unprofessional man the right to earn an honest living, they had reached a stage at which the voice of the common people should be raised against it. If I were engaged in mining I would take the advice of a practical mining man with a lifetime's experience in preference to the vast majority of men who will register under this act as professional engineers.

Mr. Anderson, Liberal Member for Kamloops who was sponsor for the bill, interrupted with "The Premier is absolutely mis-stating the bill. He has not read it at all or he would

not make such wild statements." J.H. Shofield, Conservative Member for Trail, considered this a bill to create a closed shop, and did not know of any class of industry willing "to act as wet nurses for it. It is another octopus with tentacles reaching out from Vancouver and the classiest of class legislation, of which we already have too much." He also called it "another case of Coast against Hinterland. Kootenay had too long been the milch cow of British Columbia, but there was a limit in all cases. Any man coming into the country to ask advice about the development of property would go to a practical man, not necessarily a man with letters after his name, but a man who worked in the mine and not in the office." J.W. Weart, government Member for South Vancouver, adjourned the debate.[71]

After this fractious reception, it was the turn of David Whiteside, government Member for New Westminster, to introduce the architect's bill for second reading. The Royal City representative observed with fitting solemnity that the bill in his charge was designed in harmony with the dignity and importance of architecture: "One only had to look around at the public buildings in Victoria to recognize the importance of architecture in securing harmony and beauty. While the bill was brought in at the request of 70 architects in the province there was no desire to create a high board fence around the profession. The bill had been carefully considered by the private bills committee, the objectionable features had been eliminated, and the contractors had withdrawn their opposition."[72] Presumably there were no perceived gains from further grandstanding. There were no real political or economic implications to the registration of architects, and a number of perceived public benefits. The architect's bill was given second reading without further discussion.

On March 29, Bill 54 was given third reading, establishing the Association of Professional Engineers of the Province of British Columbia. As a compromise, regulations concerning mining were removed and covered under the Mining Act, a situation that continues to the present day.[73]

At the 30 March meeting of the Standing and Select committees of the Provincial Legislature, Schedule A was added to Bill 51, setting out, among other changes and conditions, a fee for architects of 6 percent on works over $4,500. Additional changes and refinements were also agreed to. Bill 51 was sent on to the Legislature and was passed after considerable debate, and with some amendments, on 7 April 1920. The profession of architecture had finally been regulated after thirty years of debate and controversy.

On 20 May 1920 the first council of management for the A.I.B.C. was chosen, which included Professor E.G. Matheson, CE, of UBC (who was also chosen to be on the provisional executive council of the Association of Professional Engineers), Percy Fox, C.E. Watkins, R.P.S. Twizell, and Andrew Lamb Mercer. At their first meeting on 10 June, Mercer, a Scottish immigrant who commenced working in British Columbia in 1911, was elected as president, S.M. Eveleigh as treasurer, and Fred Laughton Townley as secretary. Townley began the task of notifying those engaged in the practice of architecture to apply for registration. At their second meeting on 14 July an official seal was chosen, designed by Robert C. Kerr, from among a number of others submitted in competition (Figures 8, 9, 10).[74] The first A.G.M. following incorporation was held in the Board of Trade rooms, Saturday, 4 December 1920. Council began the task of approving applications to the Institute, and the 1921 register listed a total of 99 registered architects.

On 25 February 1921 the A.I.B.C. held its first annual banquet in the Rose du Barry room of the second Hotel Vancouver. Previous divisions seem to have been forgotten, and by all accounts this was a jolly event. President Andrew Lamb Mercer acted as toastmaster and there was musical entertainment, including a flute solo by Harold Cullerne and a banjo solo by S.A. Kayll. A specially designed menu card was prepared for the occasion:

Specifications of labour to be performed and eatables to be supplied ... General Conditions: the Head Waiter is to give his personal super-intendence to the meal and keep competent accomplices on the job during demolition and is to furnish all service, cutlery, napery, etc. needful for the consumption of each item hereinafter specified.

And if anything is mentioned in this Specification and not provided on the table, it shall be vigorously demanded; but if anything should appear on the table that is not mentioned in the Specification the same shall be drunk as though it had been both mentioned and provided.

All knives, forks and spoons, as instruments of Service, are the property of the hotel and shall be returned to them upon repletion.

Celery: All celery is to be properly fluted and tapered.

Olives: Olives to have not more than one stone each of quarter inch mesh.

Oysters: Oysters to be properly supported on fifty per cent of shell.

Clear Turtle: To be coloured green and carefully soup-ervised.

Filet of Sole: To be fin-ished, although scale not given.

Sweetbread en Villeroy, French Peas: Provide 'P' trap for catching French Peas.

Roast Capon Favorite, Pomme Noisette: Capons to be securely trussed and the Noisette to be made soundproof.

Salade de Saison: To be the best that the local market affords and free from roots, knots, sap, etc.

Peach Melba Friandises: To be guaranteed to maintain a zero temperature in a 70° atmosphere.

Demi Tasse: All coffee to be "Berry" brothers.

All toothpicks to be kiln-dried.[75]

The province's architects had finally settled on common cause. From three decades of drawn-out and rancourous debates had evolved the Institute that still regulates the profession of architecture in British Columbia.

POSTSCRIPT, 1921-1998

The subsequent development of the A.I.B.C. during the remainder of the century is worthy of comment. Over time, the white, male, British dominance of the organization was progressively diluted, allowing a more egalitarian and Canadian focus. In 1933 Sylvia Holland became the first female architect to be accredited in B.C. The establishment of the School of Architecture at UBC in 1946 increased opportunities for local training, and the post-Second World War building boom ensured steady employment. As conditions stabilized after the end of the war, the architectural profession in B.C. evolved into a more open and welcoming place for women and non-British immigrants. Women, although still in the minority, have clearly made steady progress, with Bonnie Maples serving as the Institute's first female president from 1995 to 1997.[76]

Despite these advances the A.I.B.C. faces many challenges. The continuing boom-and-bust nature of B.C.'s economy has given rise to alternating periods of openness and self-protectionism in the profession, and a tradition of western individualism has led to difficulties in establishing strong collegial bonds. The Institute has suffered assaults on its authority,[77] and undercutting of fees is a chronic issue. At times the Institute has been portrayed as elitist and inflexible in an era when practice and technology are experiencing rapid and monumental change. Connections with the UBC's School of Architecture have often been tenuous, partially due to the lack of a cooperative program that would directly involve students in the working aspects of the profession. Recently, and devastatingly, there has been a public crisis of confidence in the entire construction industry, engendered by the failure of practice and technology that has resulted in the "Leaky Condo" fiasco.[78] The A.I.B.C. continues to struggle with these and larger societal issues. Even at the turn of the 21st century, we may not be able to answer to what extent the West has truly been tamed.

Endnotes

1 The development of provincial architectural associations has been admirably covered by Kelly Crossman, *Architecture in Transition: From Art to Practice, 1885-1906* (Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1987). Crossman briefly mentions attempts to organize the profession in B.C. prior to 1906. In order to complete the story it has been necessary to consult widely-scattered primary material. Discrepancies in factual information and the spelling of names have been verified against A.I.B.C. membership files, city directories, and other sources.

2 John Teague, Richard Lewis, Edward Mallandaine, Charles Vereydhen, and Thomas Trounce had been in California; J.C. White was a surveyor with the Royal Engineers who remained here after they disbanded; Hermann Otto Tiedemann and Frederick Walter Green came directly to Vancouver Island. Only Teague and Mallandaine played a role in the later attempts to regulate the profession. See Madge Wolfenden, "The Early Architects of British Columbia," *Western Living*, September 1958, 17-19. There were at least two others involved in the design of buildings around this time, but architecture was not their primary occupation (both turned to more lucrative industrial pursuits): James Syme worked as an architect in Victoria in 1862, but later operated a salmon cannery, and T.W. Graham (another retired Royal Engineer) designed Irving House in New Westminster but later operated the Pioneer Mills at Moodyville. Others arrived shortly afterwards: by 1863 William Oakley was established in Victoria, advertising himself as an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects. There were certainly others, but most did not stay for long. It was not until the arrival of the railway that the profession began to grow and stabilize. Research on the careers of these early architects is ongoing.

3 The contemporary debate in Britain about whether architecture was a profession or an art is covered in John Wilton-Ely, "The Rise of the Professional Architect in England," in *The Architect: Chapters in the History of the Profession*, ed. Spiro Kostof (New York: Oxford University Press, 1977), 180-204 . Ruskin, among others, advocated for the alliance of architecture with sculpture rather than engineering, a view that became less popular as the century progressed. By 1884 the Society of Architects had been formed, which promoted a series of registration bills. Those who received training in Britain at this time would have been well aware of the growing trend towards professionalization. The situation in the United States was somewhat different: the American Institute of Architects had been founded in 1857, but there were no state laws regulating architecture until one was passed in Illinois in 1897. See Joan Draper, "The École des Beaux-Arts and the Architectural Profession in the United States: The Case of John Galen Howard," in *The Architect*, 209-237.

4 The extent to which the profession was male, white, and British until after the First World War can be clearly documented. It is virtually impossible to find any mention of women in the profession before 1920; Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart is the only real exception. The first woman to be registered as an architect by the A.I.B.C. was Sylvia Holland, in 1933. See *Constructing Careers: Profiles of Five Early Women Architects in British Columbia* (Vancouver: Women in Architecture Exhibits Committee, 1996). Lydia H. Archer is listed as an architect in the 1915 and 1916 city directories (sharing an office with W.H. Archer), but nothing is known of her career. The virulent racism of the time has been well documented. Only one Chinese-Canadian, W.H. Chow, stands out in the early history of the profession. He was working in Vancouver just after the turn of the century, and was listed as an architect with the British Columbia Society of Architects (an organization that did not stipulate qualifications for membership) in 1913, but his application to the A.I.B.C. in 1921 was rejected for his "lack of technical training." In the opinion of Percy Leonard James (through the reminiscences of his daughter Rosemary James Cross), there were a number of architects registered at the time who were not properly qualified, so the exclusion of Chow is telling. The vast majority of the early architects in B.C., and certainly those who led the profession, were from England and Scotland, a factor that did not change until well into the 20th century.

5 R.P.S. Twizell, "Evolution of the Architectural Institute of British Columbia," B.C. Architecture Edition, *Journal of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada* 27, no. 9 (September 1950): 287, 326-27.

6 The first transcontinental train arrived in Port Moody in 1885, after years of political foot-dragging, and in Vancouver two years later.

7 *Canadian Architect & Builder* 2, no. 5 (May 1889): 56. The "provenance" of the architects can be more precisely defined (A.I.B.C. membership files list place of birth): virtually all of the men considered to be architects had apprenticed or studied in Great Britain, and a high percentage were Scottish. Many who came from Eastern Canada were in fact British-born and, like Thomas Hooper, quick to point this out in terms of loyalty and connections. Some were the product of a colonial upbringing: William Ridgway Wilson was born in China but educated and apprenticed in England. Others had experience in other parts of the Empire: G.L. Thornton Sharp and H.W. Cockrill worked in South Africa; R. Mackay Fripp practiced in Auckland, New Zealand, from 1884 to 1888 before moving to Vancouver, and returned there from 1896 to 1898. There were very few Americans (N.S. Hoffar was one) or Europeans practicing in B.C. prior to the pre-First World War boom era; even then they were the exception and often did not establish permanent connections. Samuel Maclure was unique in having been born in B.C. The balance did not shift to non-British architects until the middle of the 20th century, and an R.I.B.A. qualification was considered a great asset until the 1940s. The extent of the Scottish influence on the local profession was significant: As S.W. Jackson wrote, "It was once said that Scotland gave its people to Canada, and England gave its institutions" (*The Men at Cary Castle* [Victoria: Morriss Printing Co., 1972]).

8 Other cities in the province such as New Westminster, Nanaimo, Vernon, and Nelson ultimately played a minor role in the development of the architectural profession. They generally supported one or more resident architects, but the difficulties of communication, as opposed to the close, daily ties between Vancouver and Victoria, ensured that the profession was driven by those practitioners in the Lower Mainland and the capital. This is still largely the case, given the current distribution of population.

9 Thomas Hooper reputedly walked the last five hundred miles to the coast. One notably itinerant pioneer architect was Elmer H. Fisher, a Scot who worked his way across the United States, ending up on the West Coast. He chased Great Fires, transcontinental railways, and other opportunities from city to city, barely staying in one place long enough to finish projects. Fisher arrived in Victoria in 1886, worked in Vancouver and Port Townsend, Washington, simultaneously, and had established his Seattle, Washington, office by November 1887. He had a few extremely successful years but was dogged by personal scandal; he gave up architecture and moved to Los Angeles, where he ended up working as a carpenter.

10 *B.C. Directory* (Vancouver: Henderson, 1891), 725. This list includes 11 names in Victoria, 8 in Vancouver, 5 in New Westminster, 2 in Vernon, and 1 in Kamloops. Hooper & Goddard are listed in both Vancouver and Victoria.

11 Crossman, 120.

12 The following information is extracted from the *Report of Provincial Architects' Meeting, Held 29th June 1891 at Victoria, B.C.* (Victoria, B.C.: The Colonist Steam Print, 1891) [A.I.B.C. collection].

13 John Teague and Richard Roskell Bayne from Victoria were unable to attend, but sent a message of support for forming a provincial association. Sharp had brought written authority to act by proxy for another four mainland architects, C.H. Clow, William R. King, and Samuel Maclure from New Westminster, and Charles E. Hope from Vancouver. Eleven others had indicated their support: T.B. Norgate, Cole Woodall, and E.M. Mallandaine, Jr., from Victoria; George W. Grant from New Westminster; R. Mackay Fripp, William Crickmay, and C.W.H. Sansom from Vancouver; J.A. Coryell and J.P. Burnyeat from Vernon; R.H. Lee from Kamloops; and J.J. Honeyman from Nanaimo.

14 An additional reference may be found in the report of the A.G.M. held on 5 December 1891: "Mr. Wickenden therefore explained in as few words as possible that the formation of the present Association had emanated among some of the Architects on the Mainland who held two or three local meetings and then arranged a meeting with the Victoria Architects which was held on 29th of June last." See "Report of the Annual General Meeting of the British Columbia Association of Architects," 5 December 1891, held at the B.C. Archives, NW 720.9711 B859.

15 Crossman, 43. This group apparently wanted to model itself on the provincial associations in Ontario and Quebec.

16 The progress toward registration in Ontario and Quebec was regularly reported in the *Canadian Architect & Builder*. Although western issues were rarely covered, this journal was an invaluable connection to the profession in the rest of the country. Local architects were clearly aware of the growing national trend toward professionalization.

17 For some unknown reason R.R. Bayne was omitted from this list.

18 "Report of the Annual General Meeting," 1891.

19 Teague, president; Wickenden, and R.P. Sharp, vice-presidents; Ridgway Wilson, secretary; Edward Mallandaine, Sr., treasurer; and Trimen, McCartney, Bayne, Soule, and Hooper, directors.

20 *William's B.C. Directory*, 1892, 1202. This list includes 23 names in Victoria, 11 in Vancouver, 3 in Nanaimo, 8 in New Westminster, and 1 in Steveston.

21 British Columbia Institute of Architects, "Professional Practice and Charges of Architects. Adopted by the Institute 8th May 1892" [A.I.B.C. collection]. During the Victorian era the architectural profession in Great Britain was more concerned with status and business ethics than education, leading to the imposition of uniform fees. In 1845 the R.I.B.A. adopted a standardized figure of 5 percent, reinforced by the publication of "Professional Practice and Charges for Architects" in 1862. This was increased to 6 percent after the end of the First World War. See Wilton-Ely, 177.

22 Mallandaine, Ridgway Wilson, Sharp, McCartney, Wickenden, Teague, Soule, Bayne, Hooper, and Trimen.

23 British Columbia Institute of Architects, *Declaration of Establishment and Bye-Laws* (Victoria, B.C.: The Colonist, 1892) [A.I.B.C. collection].

24 Letter, Ridgway Wilson to Edward Mohun, CE, 26 October 1892 [Victoria City Archives, CRS 104 13E4].

25 Reported in the *Canadian Architect & Builder* 5, no. 12 (December 1892): 118.

26 *Ibid.*

27 *Canadian Architect & Builder* 7, no. 1 (January 1894): 12.

28 *Ibid.*

29 Professional jealousy dogged Rattenbury throughout his career. The feeling of the architectural community may have been somewhat justified, however, as Rattenbury freely exaggerated his past experience and credentials. See the discussion in the first two chapters of Terry Reksten, *Rattenbury* (Victoria, Sono Nis Press, 1978), and in Anthony A. Barrett and Rhodri Windsor Liscombe, *Francis Rattenbury and British Columbia: Architecture and Challenge in the Imperial Age* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1983).

30 "British Columbia Correspondence," *Canadian Architect & Builder* 7, no. 5 (May 1894): 64.

31 Crossman, 159.

32 B.C. architects were well aware of the prevailing styles in other areas, either through travel or architectural journals. Hooper travelled back east courtesy of his Methodist clients, and the Metropolitan Methodist Church in Victoria (1890-91) is copied almost directly from Edmund Burke's work in Toronto (among others, Sherbourne Street Methodist Church, 1886-87, and Trinity Methodist Church, Toronto, 1887-89, both by the office of Langley & Burke). After importing the Romanesque Revival to B.C., Hooper continued to be more influenced by American models, to his ultimate detriment. For the context of the Romanesque Revival and the source of Hooper's inspiration, see Angela Carr, *Toronto Architect Edmund Burke: Redefining Canadian Architecture* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1995), and William Westfall and Malcolm Thurlby, "Church Architecture and Urban Space: The Development of Ecclesiastical Forms in Nineteenth-Century Ontario," in *Old Ontario: Essays in Honour of J.M.S. Careless*, ed. David Keane and Colin Read (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 1990). Commercial work was generally influenced by American models, including Maclure's sublime Temple Building, Victoria (1893), which draws on the Romanesque, heavily influenced by Sullivan (although his residential work was purely English in derivation). The Classical Revival arrived late but it did arrive (see G.D. Curtis' seminal Catholic Cathedral of Mary Immaculate, Nelson, 1898-99; Dalton & Eveleigh's Royal Bank, Vancouver, 1903; Rattenbury's Vancouver Court House, 1906-11; Hooper & Watkins' B.C. Permanent Building, Vancouver, 1907). Most residential work was clearly British in derivation, and Colonial Revival styles are almost completely absent in B.C. (except in vernacular Foursquare houses) until much later . The enormous influence of the California Bungalow movement is, arguably, based on English Arts and Crafts sensibilities.

33 "British Columbia Letter No. I," *Canadian Architect & Builder* 12, no. 3 (March 1899): 50.

34 "British Columbia Letter No. II," *Canadian Architect & Builder* 12, no. 7 (July 1899): 137-38.

35 "British Columbia Letter No. IV," *Canadian Architect & Builder* 13, no. 12 (December 1900): 235.

36 Covered by Dr. Thomas Howarth, "Royal Architectural Institute of Canada College of Fellows: A History," revised 1977 [courtesy R.A.I.C.].

37 He was confirmed as a council member in the elections held in Montreal on 22 August 1907, and also served on the council in 1908 and 1909, although it is not certain he attended the following two conferences.

38 Programme, "First Congress Of Canadian Architects and First Annual Convention of the Institute of Architects of Canada," Montreal, 19-24 August 1907, 12-13 [City of Vancouver Archives, Add. MSS 326 Vol. 1 File 2].

39 Howarth, "College of Fellows: A History," notes some political significance in the subtle name change.

40 Reported in the *Institute of Architects of Canada Quarterly Bulletin* 2, no. 2-3 (April-July 1909): 31-32. It is not known which Jones is referred to.

41 Architect's Association of Victoria / B.C. Society of Architects minutes, 1910-1914 [B.C. Archives, Q/Q/B77].

42 Crossman makes the point that architectural competitions stimulated the drive to organize throughout the country. See also Carr, 167-69.

43 Included on the jury were two resident architects, Samuel Maclure of Victoria and A. Arthur Cox of Vancouver; British architect W. Douglas Caroe was chairman. Sharp & Thompson's "free style" Gothic design was chosen. Although it refers to American Collegiate Gothic precedents, the outcome of this competition firmly established a British idiom as the fitting mode of local design. The concept of British tradition was explicitly stressed in the competition documents. The outright rejection of his American-influenced Beaux-Arts plan appears have been a contributing factor in Thomas Hooper's decision to leave B.C. for New York in 1915. See Douglas Franklin, "The Competition for the Design of the University of British Columbia," *West Coast Review* 15, no. 4 (spring 1981): 49-57.

44 Leech was later the architect for the Vancouver School Board.

45 *The Daily Province* [Vancouver], 6 April 1912, 51.

46 Menu from the convention dinner, Empress Hotel, 22 June 1912. John L. Putnam, William T. Whiteway, Kennerley Bryan, Richard T. Perry, John J. Honeyman, J.C.M. Keith, Maj. Ridgway Wilson, Capt. H.J. Rous Cullin, and S. Maclure were elected to the council [City of Vancouver Archives, Add. MSS 326 vol. 1 file 3].

47 Twizell, 287.

48 *The Architect, Builder & Engineer*, 16 September 1912, 11.

49 Located in the E.A. Morris Building at 437 West Hastings Street. The Progress Club was a booster group established in Vancouver in 1912 as a joint effort of local business people and the city. Dedicated to continued civic growth in optimistic anticipation of the opening of the Panama Canal, this short-lived group did not survive the 1913 economic downturn. See Patricia E. Roy, *Vancouver: An Illustrated History* (Toronto: James Lorimer and National Museum of Man, 1980), 87.

50 *Industrial Progress*, August 1913, 14-16 [Vancouver Public Library, Special Collections].

51 Somervell, a highly talented practitioner, was one of the Americans drawn to the province during the boom years. Originally from Washington, D.C., he attended Cornell University and worked in New York before he settled in Seattle. He opened a branch office in Vancouver in 1910, forming a partnership with J.L. Putnam. Although Somervell served overseas, the office remained open and active until just after the end of the First World War. Other Americans, and branch offices of larger firms, had gained a foothold just before the war, but virtually all were driven out as a result of the 1913 economic downturn.

52 *Year Book of the British Columbia Society of Architects Vancouver Chapter AD MCMXIII* [U.B.C. Special Collections, and A.I.B.C.].

53 Two honorary members are also listed in Vancouver, artist Charles Marega and landscape architect/town planner Thomas H. Mawson.

54 One obvious name missing from the B.C.S.A. list is that of Francis Rattenbury. There were still no limitations on who could call himself an architect, and it is extremely difficult to determine accurate counts of architects in the city directories during this volatile time. Names show up for one year only, or in one directory only; some move from city to city; some are more accurately builders than architects; and there are numerous inaccuracies, especially in spelling. Nevertheless, the effect of the boom and bust is obvious: a rough count yields approximately 56 architects listed in B.C. city directories in 1909, 172 in 1912, and 50 in 1917.

55 *Industrial Progress*, August 1913, 15. The Jameson referred to has not been identified; both a Jameson and a Jamieson were practicing in Vancouver, but no-one by that name in Victoria.

56 It has been difficult to extract information about the public perception of the registration issue, or indeed of the profession itself. B.C.'s earliest architects seem to have been part of the general entrepreneurial mix, and they often had other business interests. Despite increasing recognition of professional status, there was little coverage of the architects themselves. B.C. lacked truly heroic figures in this profession (Rattenbury, arguably, being the exception). Many led quiet albeit industrious lives. Joan McCarter, daughter of architect John Young McCarter, recalls what contractors generally thought about several leading architects: Rattenbury and Thomas Hooper were considered very competent, pragmatic practitioners, the best around; Samuel Maclure was dismissed as "just a watercolour painter," not terribly practical and not good with stairs. The split between architects being perceived as business people or artists is discussed in Andrew Saint, *The Image of the Architect* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1983).

57 Twizell, 287.

58 R.M. Fripp, "Inefficiency in Architectural Practice," *The Contract Record* 27, no. 12 (17 March 1913): 290-91. His comments about the lack of Canadian-based architectural education are exaggerated, given the opportunities in the East; see Crossman, 51-63, and Harold Kalman, *A History of Canadian Architecture* (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1994). The development of architectural education and the role of apprenticeship in the West are not covered in this article, but other than Fripp's comments, we find little discussion of the inherent value of academic training. The British system was traditionally one of apprenticeship, which Canada followed quite closely. The situation in the United States was somewhat different, with a growing influence from the French École des Beaux-Arts, which was the preferred place of training for those who became the leaders in American architecture (Richard Morris Hunt, Louis Sullivan, and Henry Hobson Richardson among many others). See Draper, "École des Beaux-Arts." There is no evidence that any of B.C.'s early architects ever trained in France; rather, almost all were apprenticed in Britain. One architect is known to have maintained the traditional British apprenticeship system: Thomas Hooper, born in England in 1859, apprenticed in London, Ontario, with J.H. Dodd & Son from 1875 until 1879. In turn, C. Elwood Watkins apprenticed under Hooper, starting in 1890, and did not pursue any other formal architectural education. Later in partnership (c. 1902 to c. 1909), Hooper & Watkins' office grew to become the largest in Western Canada. It was a fertile ground for the training of many young men; John Young McCarter, for example, was articled directly to Hooper from 1907 to 1912. A school of architecture was not established at UBC until 1946.

59 Benevolent Societies Act, certificate no. 411.

60 Twizell, 327.

61 A.I.B.C. minute books, 1914-1918 [A.I.B.C. collection].

62 *Ibid.*: R. Mackay Fripp, A.J. Bird, R.P.S. Twizell, C.D. James, S.B. Birds, S. Mason (associate), Max Downing (associate), D. Jamieson, W.F.T. Stewart, J.J. Honeyman, Gordon L. Wright, Kennerley Bryan, Cecil Croker Fox, W.T. Dalton, S.M. Eveleigh, F.L. Townley, G.P. Bowie, W.C.F. Gillam, Gordon B. Kaufman, J.W. Keagey, and George Twizell. Several other members also were listed in the letter sent on 25 June 1914 to the R.A.I.C. requesting affiliation, including J.C. Day and George Mackay Fripp.

63 Hoult Horton, Victoria, J.C.M. Keith, Victoria, W.T. Whiteway, Vancouver, W. Ridgway Wilson, Victoria, S. Maclure, Victoria, J.L. Putnam, Victoria, J.J. Honeyman, Vancouver, John Wilson, Victoria, Percy Leonard James, Victoria, N. Emms Read, Victoria, J. Rous Cullin, Victoria, R.T. Perry, Vancouver, G. Thornton Sharp, Vancouver, H.S. Griffith, Victoria, F.M. Rattenbury, Victoria, L.W. Hargreaves, Victoria, F.S. Gardiner, New Westminster, W.M. Dodd, Vancouver, Thomas Hooper, Victoria, J.A. Berkinhead, Vancouver, C.J. Thompson, Vancouver, G.A. Horel, Vancouver, J.D. Beatson, Vancouver, A.C. Hope, Vancouver, C.B. Fowler, Vancouver, A.J. Russell, Vancouver, J.H. Bowman, Vancouver, T.E. Julian, Vancouver, W.F. Gardiner, Vancouver, Edward Mallandaine, Cranbrook [printed bill in the collection of the A.I.B.C.].

64 *Vancouver Civic Centre: Report by Plans Committee* (Vancouver: News-Advertiser Printers), 8 April 1915 [U.B.C. Special Collections, SPAM 23275]. There were 37 submissions. The competition was won by Theodore Korner and Robert H. Mattocks, draftsmen in T.H. Mawson's office, but the project was never started. Second prize went to F.L. Townley, who was eventually awarded the design of the new city hall in 1935, partly on the strength of this competition. Korner had a more problematic career, and ran into numerous troubles with the A.I.B.C., including a rancourous lawsuit.

65 Twizell, 327. The last recorded meeting of the Victoria chapter of the B.C.S.A. was held on 1 September 1914.

66 It is unknown how many architects were killed overseas, but at a minimum this would include C.C. Fox, George Fripp (the son of R. Mackay Fripp), D. Jamieson, and H.S. Davie [City of Vancouver Archives, Add. MSS 326 Vol.1 File 5; and G.P. Bowie].

67 A.I.B.C. minute books 1914-1918 [A.I.B.C. collection].

68 *Ibid.*

69 R.P.S. Twizell was elected second president of the A.I.B.C.

70 Correspondence in City of Vancouver Archives, Add. MSS 326 vol. 1 file 7. The history of the incorporation of the engineering profession has not been fully covered. Notice of the intention to introduce a bill to regulate engineering had officially been given as early as 1917, but the bill was delayed until after the war. By 1918-19 there was a country-wide movement to regulate engineering. Many returning soldiers had received technical but not necessarily academic training; self-interest among qualified engineers presumably drove this movement. A national committee was struck, which provided a draft bill to nascent provincial organizations. In contrast to the late incorporation of architects, British Columbia was among the first to regulate engineering.

71 As reported in the *Vancouver Daily World* and the *Daily Province* [Vancouver], 18 March 1920.

72 *Ibid.*

73 The Association's first A.G.M. was held 16 October 1920. It is now called the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of the Province of British Columbia.

74 A.I.B.C. council minutes [City of Vancouver Archives, Add. MSS 326 Vol. 2 File 11].

75 Illustrated by Ross Lort [City of Vancouver Archives, Add. MSS 326 Vol. 5 File 32]. The event was also covered in the local press [A.I.B.C. collection].

76 In addition to *Constructing Careers*, the struggle of women for professional acceptance has been covered in Blanche Lemco van Ginkel, "Slowly and Surely (and Somewhat Painfully): More or Less the History of Women in Architecture in Canada," Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada *Bulletin* 17, no. 1 (March 1992): 5-11. See also two articles by Annmarie Adams, "Archi-ettes in Training: The Admission of Women to McGill's School of Architecture," SSAC *Bulletin* 21, no. 3 (September 1996): 70-73, and "Building Barriers: Images of Women in Canada's Architectural Press, 1924-1973," *Resources for Feminist Research* 23, no. 3 (fall 1994): 11-23.

77 William F. Gardiner, on behalf of the A.I.B.C., took Charles Bentall and Dominion Construction to court in 1938 over their design-build activities for Vancouver's Bay Theatre. Bentall, as a registered engineer, stamped the drawings for it and many other structures without the involvement of a registered architect. After dismissal and appeal, the case was ultimately decided in favour of the architects, and Bentall was fined a nominal twenty-five dollars. It was a hollow victory, as the architectural profession continued to languish while Dominion Construction prospered throughout the following decades, continuing to design many of their own projects. See Shirley F. Bentall, *The Charles Bentall Story: A Man of Industry and Integrity* (Vancouver: The Bentall Group Ltd., 1986), 118-22, and Rhodri Windsor Liscombe, *The New Spirit: Modern Architecture in Vancouver 1938-1963* (Montreal: Canadian Centre for Architecture; Vancouver: Douglas & McIntyre, 1997), 44.

78 Covered extensively in the local press throughout the last several years but now reaching crisis proportions. There is no quantifiable answer yet as to how much responsibility architects may have to bear in the resolution of this issue.

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