

boxes, in back of electric boxes which have been set in holes slashed in the vapor barrier. Alternatively it is possible to find many examples of dry walls where the vapor barrier is either incomplete or entirely absent. This suggests that little condensation takes place in the absence of exfiltration. This would tend to argue against diffusion as the primary cause of condensation.

Despite this, the consensus is that diffusion causes condensation. Most modern books on house building and most government recommendations stress the importance of the vapor barrier as a means of reducing energy use and as a means of avoiding structural condensation. The vapor barrier is supposed to reduce energy use by slowing the rate of air exchange and it is supposed to prevent condensation by presenting, on the warm side of the wall, a barrier through which moisture cannot pass.

When structural condensation occurs the contractor is blamed for careless installation of the vapor barrier. Perhaps more blame should be placed on the designer and the government regulations which create situations in which condensation is almost inevitable.

A major assumption of the Greenhome design is that the main cause of condensation is exfiltration. The air tight north and western walls, the wind protected south and eastern walls and the stack ventilation are all strategies designed to eliminate exfiltration while simultaneously permitting adequate infiltration for ventilation purposes.

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## ARCHITECTURAL ARCHIVES

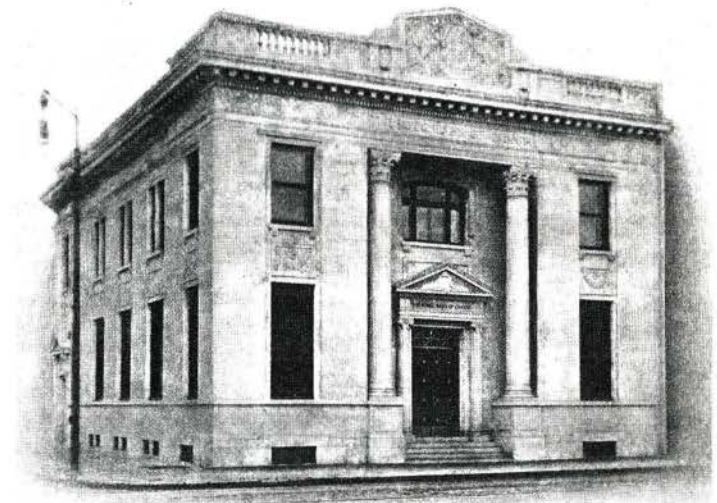
### The Royal Bank of Canada Archives

William Curran, Archivist for the Royal Bank attended the 1983 SSAC Annual Meeting and has since provided the *Bulletin* with not only the cover illustration for this issue but also the following information.

The Royal Bank Archives were formally established in 1977 to preserve materials of permanent administrative and historical value. The collection is inclusive of all the bank's domestic and international operations. The holdings include corporate papers, publications, memorabilia and a photographic collection. Approximately 10,000 photographs of bank buildings, exterior and interior, are available. Negatives 4" x 5" are on hand for one half of the collection. In addition background information on the architects can be obtained. This also applies to buildings which were acquired by the Royal Bank with the amalgamations of other major Canadian banks, such as the Union Bank of Canada, The Quebec Bank and The Traders' Bank. Information can be retrieved geographically but also thematically, log cabins, pre-fab buildings, etc. Davenport and Pearson and Darling are the major architects represented.

The Archives are located at the Bank's Head Office in Montreal and is open to staff and members of the public from 9:30 to 4:30 Monday to Friday. It is closed on statutory and Bank holidays. A small museum is located within the Archives and visitors are welcome. Various reproduction services are available at the discretion of the Archivist. Researchers are requested to make an appointment.

The Royal Bank of Canada Archives are located at 5 Place Ville Marie, I.B.M. Building, 13th Floor, P.O. Box 6001, Montreal, Quebec, H3C 3A9, phone (514) 874-2104.



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