

LETTERS RECEIVED

Dear Mr. Kapelos: In your enthusiasm for the beautiful architectural drawings of Peter Rose et al you have neglected some mundane but nonetheless important matters such as who should pay for them and can the house actually be constructed and lived in.

For the drawings of the hilltop villa and the model shown in the illustration I was charged \$7,000 before one blade of grass was disturbed on the hilltop. The lowest bid for this 1700 square foot house was \$100,000 not including blasting, well-drilling and a lot of the interior finishing. Needless to say, I refused to proceed with the original design and removed all the frills except the central tower. In particular the window area was reduced by 50% on the windy north side and the interior was completely redesigned to make it livable. The final cost will be around \$70,000.

The average client of an architect generally does not consider himself to be a patron of the arts; otherwise he would make a tax-deductible contribution to the appropriate institution. He wants a house not drawings. He wants the architect to give him the most value possible for his money. The SSAC could serve the public by promoting such a philosophy. Sincerely, Colin P. Rose, M.D., Ph D, FRCP(C)

The proceedings for the annual SSAC conferences for 1975 and 1976 are now available for purchase. The price of \$3.50 includes postage. Orders may be sent to: SSAC, Box 2935, Stn. D, Ottawa.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Neil Einarson, Winnipeg assisted greatly in the preparation of this issue. If you are interested in becoming involved, contact me at the SSAC box number. Contributions are particularly welcome for the April issue which will feature Ottawa, site of the 1982 annual meeting.

My apologies for the lateness of this issue. Several problems presented themselves including the loss of our layout sheets by the printers.

Lack of space prevented the use of all illustrations provided for the articles. Should you have questions concerning any of the pieces, you may contact the authors c/o SSAC.

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FRANK DARLING/Lucius O'Brien's house, Toronto

Information is being sought by the Undersigned regarding the house built for Lucius R. O'Brien, first President of the Royal Canadian Academy (1832-99) in 1880 by the Toronto architect Frank Darling (1850-1923) on College St. (originally no. 36, now no. 32). The property later became the antique and art galleries of B.M. & T. Jenkins, Ltd., which, with the front and rear additions supplied by the firm of Sproatt & Rolph, Architects, in 1917, extended from College St. to Grenville St. In 1928 the main entrance of the new east gallery of The Jenkins Galleries reverted to 25 Grenville St., the College St. premises being occupied by J.M. Malloney's Gallery, and later by Ward-Price Ltd., Auctioneers. The front offices are now rented from the landlord by the Toronto Ba'hai Centre, but the old O'Brien house, sandwiched between its 'fore and aft' extensions, still stands, albeit precariously and in seeming threat of demolition; the house beside it was some time ago gutted by fire and is at present boarded-up. A campaign is being mounted to save the last dwelling of this founder-member of both the Ontario Society of Artists and the R.C.A., wherein were held, in the 1890s, the exhibitions of the short-lived Palette Club, and which later provided studio-space for the portrait painters John Russell, Richard Jack, and Austin Shaw, and for the advertising artists Reid and Wright, after having been used as headquarters and offices by the O.S.A.

Contemporary photographs, and knowledge of the whereabouts of any repositories of Darling's plans and elevations, would be of particular interest to: Dennis Reid, Curator, Historical Canadian Art, Art Gallery of Ontario, 317 Dundas St. W., Toronto, Ontario M5T 1G4 and Robert Stacey, 65 Metcalfe St., Apt. 3, Toronto, Ontario M4X 1R9.

All information received will be gratefully acknowledged.

EXHIBITION SPACE AVAILABLE

The Market Gallery of the City of Toronto Archives is looking for displays of public interest for exhibition on its mezzanines. We are a public gallery occupying the section of the South St. Lawrence Market which housed Toronto's first City Hall from 1844-1899.

Each mezzanine is approximately 1500 square feet and open on three sides overlooking the market. Certain display equipment is available as well as assistance in installation.

Displays, ranging in subject matter from information on your organization to historical topics, could be exhibited for up to one month. There is no rental fee.

If your organization is interested and would like more information please contact The Market Gallery, 95 Front Street East, Toronto M5E 1C2: Tel: (416) 367-7604.

Stephen Otto of Toronto has prepared a number of monographs on architects who practised in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Included in this list is John Tully, Henry Bowyer Lane, Richard Windryer, James Grand, Stephen Heward, William Leather, Tomas Kennedy and the firm of Knox and Elliot. Anybody wishing to receive a copy of this information is asked to contact Steve at the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation, 77 Bloor Street West, Toronto.

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