

A new book, written by architect John Bland and art historian Pierre Mayrand was published in Montreal last month. In spite of the book's mediocre printing and confusing graphic design, it is of interest, says reviewer Michael Fish, for its perhaps unintentional commentary on Canadian duality. See page 9. See also the architect as a writer, page 7.

Architecture Canada

NEWSMAGAZINE

Published every two weeks by RAIC/IRAC December 13, 1971

Massey awards for excellence in the urban environment

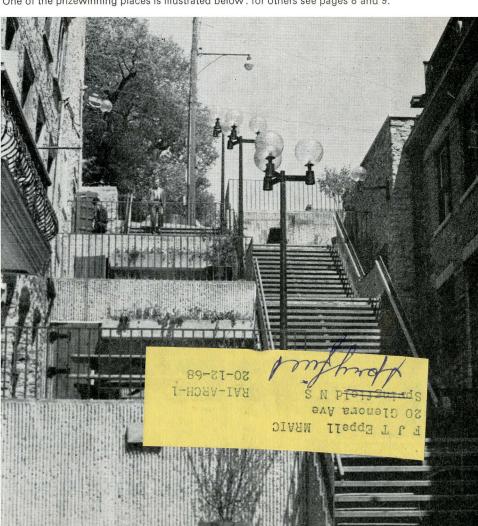
Thirteen awards were announced last week for imaginative "people places" in the inaugural Vincent Massey Awards program. The program is sponsored by the Canada Council and the Massey Foundation to encourage private citizens and community leaders in the "discovery and achievement of excellence in the urban environment." Eligible for this first competition were city places developed in the past decade—"a period of vigorous urban growth." Subsequent awards will be offered at "suitable intervals." Nearly 100 submissions were received from citizens' groups, government and public bodies,

institutions and individuals. This Massey program is entirely separate from the Massey Medals for Architecture administered by the RAIC.

One of the prizewinning places is illustrated below: for others see pages 8 and 9.



BEFORE Escalier Petit Champlain et rue Saint Louis, Quebec . . . "A modest city street can be as beautiful as an art gallery when the urban arts are applied with animation and imagination". AFTEL



Council meeting report

Continuing the policy of joint meetings with provincial associations (A/C, 10/12/71), RAIC officers met with the OAA Council at OAA Headquarters, November 16. This meeting mostly involved exchange of information, RAIC president Jean-Louis Lalonde reviewed his visit to the Atlantic provinces and reaffirmed his opinion on the value of such meetings. He outlined current RAIC activities, especially policy discussions with the federal government on the Competitions Act, tax reform, and methods of contracting architectural services. He described these dialogues as "friendly."

Another highlight of the meeting was discussion of a report now being prepared by OAA past president Michael Dixon on "how the RAIC can provide a better service." Dixon told the meeting that the point at issue is "how RAIC and provincial associations can mutually reinforce each other."

Architecture Canada was also discussed. Council explained that although it agrees A/C is a good means of communication, it feels provinces are not yet making proper use of it. It suggested the provinces submit more material that could be of value to other Associations.

At the RAIC council meeting the following day, November 17, the agenda was varied. Some highlights follow:

- Appreciation was expressed to John Hoag, Toronto, for his chairmanship of the host committee of the 1971 RAIC Annual Assembly, and for his report and recommendations for future assemblies.
- David Hambleton, Victoria, chairman of the 1972 host committee, detailed his program for the 1972 Assembly in that city. Council agreed that a full morning should be allowed for a Members' Forum.
- The 1973 Assembly will be held jointly with the PQAA convention in Montreal.
- Following the president's proposal of an RAIC Honor Awards Program, Council agreed that a committee be formed immediately to develop and initiate a program, if possible, for 1972.
- Council affirmed that RAIC should host a meeting of the executive directors and executive secretaries of component Associations in March to formulate a means of improving communications and effectiveness. Executive directors and secretaries are being asked to submit items and topics for the agenda.
- The Manitoba Association of Architects reported it is gathering information on the state of the construction industry in the province. Findings are being submitted to the RAIC which is exploring the idea of assembling similar national statistics, with assistance from component associations.
- The report of the November 5th meeting of the RAIC Certification Board was approved with certain

amendments. Chairman D. A. D. Hickman and the members of the Board were commended for progress made to date.

- There was discussion of RAIC meeting with the federal government: arrangements for the RAIC president to see Hon. Arthur Laing, Minister of Public Works, in December; and the RAIC representation at the Canadian Construction Association meeting with the federal cabinet, November 29. It was announced that copies of the RAIC Report to Treasury Board Contract Policy Project are available at Headquarters for \$1.50 per copy.
- The OAA "Outline for a Proposed Handbook of Practice" was received by Council. RAIC is now to refer it to component associations to check its endorsement and to get feedback on proposed contents.
- It was announced that programs of the UIA World Congress in Varna, Bulgaria, next September 25–30, are now available through provincial Associations. Members interested in participating are asked to communicate their intention to RAIC.
- Council agreed that the Commonwealth Association of Architects be invited to convene its 1973
 Biennial Meeting in Canada, possibly in Montreal, following the joint RAIC-PQAA Annual Assembly.
- Council approved that the title Director of Professional Services be changed to Executive Vice-President to better reflect the tasks and responsibilities. For the same reason, the title Executive Secretary is being changed to Executive Secretary-Treasurer.
- It was agreed an ad hoc committee be formed to prepare an outline of action to implement the resolution presented by Toronto architects Peter Goering and Alexander B. Leman on "global environment and Canadian development problems in view of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment to be held in Stockholm in June 1972." (see p. 13)
- The next meeting of Council will be in Ottawa, January 12–13.

Lorraine K. Rioux Wade RAIC Executive Assistant

IRAC

Rapport de la réunion du conseil

Poursuivant sa politique de réunions conjointes avec les associations provinciales (A/C, 10/12/71), le comité exécutif, à la veille de la réunion du conseil de l'IRAC à Toronto les 16–17 novembre dernier, a rencontré le conseil de l'OAA.

Le président de l'institut a commenté sa rencontre du 5 novembre avec les représentants des provinces de l'Atlantique. Il a énoncé les activités courante de l'IRAC, principalement celles reliées aux divers ministères du gouvernement fédéral, par exemple les études sur la réforme fiscale, la loi sur la compétition et le "Contract Policy Project." Monsieur Lalonde a décrit cette expérience

comme étant un échange amical d'information sur diverses activités et projets futurs.

M. Michael Dixon, ancien président de l'OAA et représentant de celle-ci à l'IRAC, prépare actuellement, au nom de son association, un rapport sur l'institut ayant pour thème: comment l'IRAC peut devenir un meilleur service. Monsieur Dixon a émis son opinion en affirmant que "... la solution est dans l'appui mutuel...."

Un autre sujet discuté lors de cette rencontre est le fait que Architecture Canada, revue officielle de l'IRAC et reconnue comme le canal propice aux communications, n'est pas utilisée de façon intensive par la majorité des associations.

Lors de la réunion du conseil de l'IRAC, à Toronto les 16-17 novembre:

- Les membres du conseil ont exprimé de façon unanime leur appréciation envers John Hoag, pour sa collaboration à l'assemblée annuelle 1971 de l'IRAC, à titre de président du comité de réception, ainsi que pour son rapport et ses recommandations pour les futures assemblées.
- M. David Hambleton, président du comité de réception 1972, a présenté un programme qui a été reçu avec enthousiasme par le conseil, pour l'assemblée de l'IRAC à Victoria. Il a été établi qu'une demijournée serait allouée pour un forum ouvert à tous les membres.
- Montréal sera le siège de l'assemblée annuelle 1973 de l'IRAC, conjointement avec l'AAPQ.
- Le président de l'institut a proposé un programme de prix d'honneur pour l'IRAC. Le conseil a approuvé le principe d'un tel programme et reconnaît la nécessité qu'un comité soit formé dès maintenant, pour développer et mettre sur pieds le programme, si possible dès 1972.
- Le conseil s'est entendu pour qu'une réunion des directeurs et/ou secrétaires administratifs de l'IRAC et des associations constituantes soit convoquées durant le mois de mars. dans le but de formuler des moyens et méthodes d'améliorer les communications et l'efficacité de l'IRAC et des associations. Les directeurs et secrétaires administratifs des associations constituantes seront invités à soumettre un choix de sujets en vue de la préparation de l'agenda. Les frais de transport et de logement des participants seront remboursés par I'IRAC.
- L'association des architectes du Manitoba a entrepris une étude sur l'état de l'industrie de la construction dans la province et fera rapport des résultats à l'institut, qui, après analyse, considérera la possibilité de suggérer une étude similaire aux autres associations afin d'établir des statistiques nationales.
- Le conseil a approuvé, avec amendements, le rapport de la réunion du 5 novembre du Bureau de Certification de l'IRAC, et a félicité le président ainsi que les membres du Bureau, pour l'excellent

progrès fait à date.

 Le président, lors de sa rencontre à la mi-décembre, avec l'Hon.
 Arthur Laing, ministre des travaux publics, compte présenter un rapport au nom de la profession.

Le président a également représenté l'institut à la rencontre de l'association canadienne de la construction avec le cabinet fédéral, le 29 novembre dernier.

Des copies additionnelles (50 copies), du rapport de l'IRAC au conseil du Trésor concernant le "Contract Policy Project" sont disponibles au siège social de l'institut à \$1.50 la copie.

– L'OAA a présenté au conseil un aperçu de sa proposition pour un manuel de Pratique. L'IRAC soumettra ce rapport aux associations constituantes, pour fins de commentaires, afin de déterminer le besoin d'un tel manuel et de s'assurer du support des associations.

Les membres intéressés à participer au congrès de l'union internationale des architectes à Varna, Bulgarie, en septembre 1972, peuvent se procurer les renseignements nécessaires auprès de leur association provinciale, et sont priés de communiquer leur intention de participer à l'IRAC.

 L'association des architectes du commonwealth a été invitée à tenir son assemblée biennale de 1973 à Montréal, faisant suite à l'assemblée conjointe IRAC-AAPQ.

- Le conseil a approuvé une recommandation de l'exécutif à l'effet que le titre "directeur des services professionnels," ne reflétant pas de façon claire les fonctions et les responsabilités associées au poste, sera remplacé par celui de "vice-président administratif." Pour les mêmes raisons, le titre de "secrétaire administratif" sera maintenant remplacé par "secrétaire-trésorier administratif."
 - Un comité ad hoc a été formé (continué page 7)



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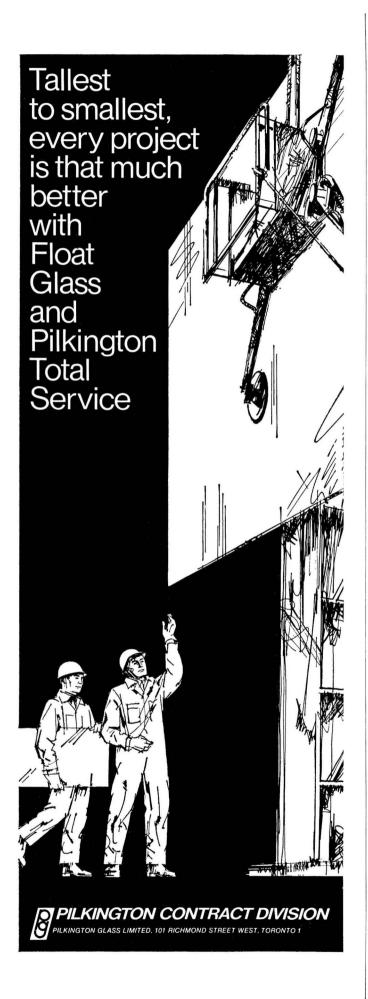
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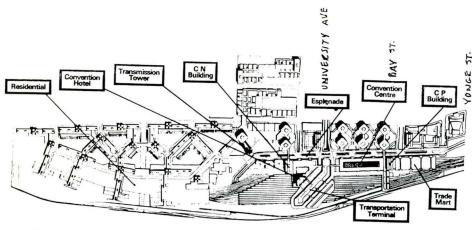
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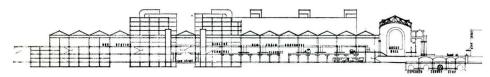
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Toronto: Metro Centre proposal, 1968



Metro Centre, U. of T. architecture student told the public forum earlier this month (see below), "represented the antithesis of what he would see there." Transportation elements, he suggested, are scattered like "so many dice." His alternative would be an "exciting transportation centre" for train, bus, subway and airline, featuring a concourse level where "transportation and public elements can rub together making a 24-hour public plaza." His ideas are being developed as part of his 5th year project.



Metro Centre has been likened by Toronto rebel alderman John Sewell to that strange Wonderland to which Alice chased the white rabbit.

In real life, Sewell calls Metro Centre "the biggest swindle ever" in Toronto. In 'City Hall,' a bi-weekly non-profit publication written by four Toronto aldermen including Sewell, he has the white rabbit saying things like, "Hurry... there are things to do and profits for people to make if we can only hurry," and the Cheshire Cat (whose name is Bill – a "denizen of Metro Centre parts") reading poetry:

"The taxpayer's dollar is one of those things, You must rarely respect if you can, For the railways come first, And don't take it amiss, It will all work out for the bankers."

Metro Centre – Union Station becomes a heated public issue

The battle over the fate of Union Station in Toronto is "going to be a big one," says architect Jim Acland, who is president of the Ontario Architectural Conservancy. The debate has heated up in the past two weeks, to the point where it has developed a sub-plot which could turn out to be as significant to the profession as what finally happens to the station (see 'The architect in the public arena' below).

"Union Station is important not only locally," says Tony Richardson, president of the Conservancy's Toronto Branch, "it's important provincially as the major terminus for the province's rail service; nationally, as the transportation hub of the country; and internationally as one of the most splendid examples of its type of architecture on the face of the earth."

Toronto is "being railroaded by the railways," says architect-planner Anthony Adamson, who holds that demolition of the 44-year-old station would be an artistic, architectural and spiritual loss to the city.

Acland, Richardson and Adamson were among speakers at a two-night public forum before the Toronto Building and Development Committee at the beginning of the month. The public was invited to express its views on Canadian National Railways' and CP Rail's \$1-billion joint development proposal for Toronto's waterfront Metro Centre.

Metro Centre architects John Andrews Architects and Webb, Zerafa, Menkes & Housden have suggested a scheme that would uproot existing CN-CP trackage to provide office space for 50,000 people, housing for 20,000, a convention centre, a new train station with adjoining connections for subway, bus, possibly an ultramodern monorail to the airport, a new Massey Hall, a convention centre, CBC's English-language headquarters and a 1,500-ft. communications tower.

Plans for the 187-acre site were first unveiled December, 1968 (A/C, 2/69).

Adamson, speaking for the Save Union Station Committee, was the star of the first evening session and, perhaps, of the whole forum as far as the CN-CP Metro Centre group was concerned. One of the few concessions made by the development Corp.'s president, Stewart 'Bud' Andrews (no relation to the architect), to the protestors was his agreement to meet with Toronto **Development Commissioner Graham** Emslie and Adamson to discuss preservation of the 88-ft. high station concourse, somewhat grandiloquently referred to as Great Hall. This decision was announced in the wee hours of the morning of the second session, when it became Metro Centre's turn to speak to questioners.

Adamson's ideas were reinforced by interior design instructor P. G. Gilbert of Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, who tabled sketches by third year students. Both suggested the concourse be retained as foyer for the five office towers planned for the site. It could also function as an indoor civic square, Adamson suggests.

Tony Richardson opened the second evening session, followed by Acland urging a return to "first principles." "The diagonal placement of towers and terrace rows," says Acland, "effectively precludes direct access to the lakefront... if developers are to make a pitch about opening to the lake, they should be advised to give some physical evidence of this opening." He suggested that people be allowed to walk on parkland to the lake instead of "wiggling through towers."

Toronto Dominion Centre and Commerce Court cluster was intelligently sited, says Acland - "close to Union Station." "Like it or not, this golden loop... is where the operative decisions will be made in coming decades. . . . It is of crucial importance that this financial magnet be served efficiently" by all transportation modes. "The railroads propose tearing down the very element which has made possible this whole concentration [Union Station], to replace it by a new passenger terminal some 1200 ft. away . . . to get a piece of the real estate action on Front Street."

Also to speak on the second evening was fifth year University of Toronto architecture student Hugh Taylor (see above) and Peter Goering for the Urban Action Committee of the Toronto Chapter of the Ontario Association of Architects.

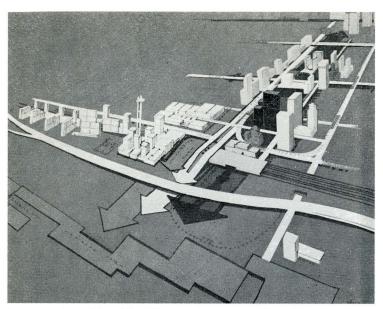
The UAC brief was signed by I. D. Boigon, A. J. Diamond, H. V. Walker, Robert Becksted, K. Dick, Russell Fine, Alastair Grant and Goering. It called for closer cooperation between the developer and the city to "define problems... and to establish principles and objectives.... The city should assist the developer to obtain clarification and policy decisions involving higher levels of government... before promoting implementation."

Major questions to be answered, UAC suggested, include: how an adequate transportation centre can be established without stated policies for development of all modes of regional and local transit: what should the mix be for family and non-family housing; if the need is for family housing, should not the city help the developer seek assistance from higher levels of government, to ensure its implementation without penalty to the developer; what major recreational facilities are planned; and how pedestrian traffic can be threaded through Metro Centre from the lakefront without consideration of other proposed development of the lakefront area.

The UAC also went on record as supporting the Adamson-Union Station Committee request that Metro Centre consider alternate uses of the station concourse.

The architect in the public arena

Professional responsibility is something that Metro Centre architect Robert Anderson feels strongly about – and the Metro Centre forum raises for him questions about how



In a speech acclaimed by citizen protest groups, Toronto architect James Acland told the public forum on Metro Centre that the scheme does not relate to the existing north-south city pattern. He suggests parkland down University Ave. right to the lake; leaving Union Station where it is; and concentrating commercial development in the existing central business core.

Metro Centre architect Bob Anderson (see below) accuses Acland of "emotionalism." "Nonsense," counters Acland, "we [the Architectural Conservancy] are just trying to bring the Metro Centre people back to reason."

architects should fulfill this responsibility.

"If professionals have an excuse for existence they have to take life seriously," says Anderson. "A professional has to be available to give people real, responsible information that can help. Tony Adamson filled that role as did the Urban Action Committee (which consulted with Metro Centre architects before the forum), but some architects' performances, Anderson says, had to be dismissed as "emotional." "Performances such as Acland's do not clarify anything to anyone."

Anderson is also worried about the presentation of a school project by 5th year student Hugh Taylor. "It was an excellent thing for a student to do" [Taylor's cool presentation included slides. He suggested ways Union Station could be retained "as an exciting transportation centre and public area"]. But, says Anderson, this presentation "fell into the 'wouldn't it be nice if' category. It didn't tackle real problems . . . and I'm not sure if this is the way to educate people into the profession. The teaching of this attitude is still a major problem for architectural education in this country generally."

Turning to discussion of Metro Centre itself, Anderson describes Metro Centre Developments as a new type of organization – and more than just a developer. "It's an agency, with one part government input (CN), to coordinate development, professional skills and the whole process."

The problem we face, he continues, is that we're still in the stage of testing hypotheses and at "this stage we need to retain as much control of what we do in the future as possible. The more commitments we have to make to the city as assurances of performance, the less we have to work with to meet the objectives as set out. Contrary to most development proposals," says Anderson, "we have tried to stay away from specific visual presentation to retain the ability to respond to realities as they emerge."

In the residential area, for example, Anderson says, "Metro Centre does not want to get locked into specific densities or land use classifications. Our objective is to produce a stable community for the widest possible socio-economic range, with the right sort of outdoor spaces and housing closely related to grade. We intend to go after zoning regulations with a double-barrelled shotgun . . . we have to retain our flexibility."

Anderson expects to have a realistic plan of Metro Centre by "early '72."

And what about the old station? Metro Centre president Andrews has agreed to meet Adamson and Emslie (see left). "In spite of Union Station's architectural qualities, we couldn't start out by setting as a primary objective the saving of the station without compromising other objectives," Anderson says.

(continué de la page 2)

afin d'étudier une proposition des architectes P. E. Goering et A. B. Leman, et de formuler une méthode de réalisation de cette proposition concernant l'environnement global et les problèmes du développement canadien, en vue de la conférence des Nations Unies sur l'Environnement Humain, qui aura lieu à Stockholm en juin 1972.

 Le comité exécutif se réunira à Ottawa à la mi-décembre, et la prochaine réunion du conseil de l'IRAC, également à Ottawa, se tiendra les 12–13 janvier 1972.

Lorraine K. Rioux Wade

LITERATURE

The architect is a writer, is a talker

Vancouver architect Arthur Erickson is working on a book which states some of his philosophy and illus-



trates a representative selection of the buildings done by his firm, Erickson Massey Architects.

Time magazine staff writer Geoffrey James is actually writing the

text from Erickson's dictation into a tape recorder. "Like a lot of architects, he can talk better than he can write . . . but the words are all his," says James. He calls it a "show-off book" (his term for the more usual "coffee table book") "with lots of pretty pictures of Erickson's buildings."

The book will be published in Fall '72 by Tundra Books of Montreal. The format will be more sumptuous than Tundra's earlier book on Montreal architect Moshe Safdie, Beyond Habitat. The idea of an architect/writer team was used for Safdie's book, on which free-lance writer John Kettle collaborated.

That book sold "very badly" in Canada, says publisher May Cutler of Tundra. Around 1,300 copies have been sold here vs. 7,000 in the U.S., where there has just been a 3,000 reprint order. A paperback U.S. edition is planned for Fall '72. Another recent book, Canadian Architecture 1960/70 by Carol Moore Ede, is selling (at \$25) "as well or as better than we expected," says its publisher. The Moore Ede book received a substantial Canada Council subsidy. Some 5,000 copies were printed.

THE PROFESSION

OAA starts to bridge the communications gap

"Architects have the best of all worlds. They get their money – but if the roof falls in they walk away."

If this quotation from a Toronto reporter is typical, what chance do architects have for positive coverage of activities?

This was one of the things the Ontario Association of Architects has attempted to find out in commissioning the public relations con-

sultancy firm of Management Communications Service to study the communications needs of architects. The study which cost \$1,400 ("A dollar a head for image?" one Toronto newspaper quipped) has recently been completed. The 80-page document has been received by the OAA Council, and the Public Information Committee is now interviewing pr firms to flesh out some of the report's recommendations.

The report is not gentle. It was compiled from interviews of private and public building owners, members of the consumer and business press, architectural students, the man on the street, other members of the building team, and architects themselves. The picture of what an architect does seems to be unclear and even the architect himself, the report suggests, has problems in defining his responsibilities. The report's authors describe the architect as an "individualist with artistic leanings, proud of his calling but a little uncertain of his present status and future expectations with groups important to him.'

He is often not a good businessman, the report continues, ... or well organized.... He is aloof and doesn't find it easy to unbend. "The consequence is that he is believed to be more interested in fees than in performance.

"As a communicator he leaves much to be desired . . . he fails to communicate in an organized way with clients . . . and other members of the construction team.

"He responds to the Press because he recognizes the value of publicity, but doesn't always pay this opinionmoulding group the attention it merits.

"He also has a language problem ... and takes refuge in architectural jargon which is difficult enough for other architects to understand but incomprehensible to a layman."

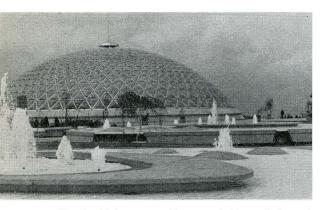
What to do about all this? Management Communications Service suggests the architect must sell himself as a "competent knowledgeable, articulate, concerned and dedicated member of a changing society in order that he may exercise his professional talents to the betterment of society and himself. . . . He must accept the word 'sell' in its broadest sense as a necessary part of his professional life and learn to do it well; he must remove selfimposed restrictions which prevent his profession from being properly understood by society at large and clients in particular." Some of the steps might include the OAA: publishing a "high impact" internal publication; sponsoring seminars for exchange of views between architects and outside groups; taking a stand on public matters; distributing ready-to-print newspaper and magazine articles; working more closely with educators in teaching children about architecture and the environment; preparing public information pamphlets and displays; and giving its members some tips

December 13, 1971

People places – "excellent by the most exacting standards"

"Canadians are capable of creating great beauty in the urban wilderness... we may yet win the battle against the computer and the systems analysts." This is Humphrey Carver, chairman of the Vincent Massey Awards for the Urban Environment after travelling with the jury across the country for a first hand look at 40 out of 100 "places" in the inaugural awards program. Other jurors were Michel Barcelo, town planner, Montreal; Sidney Buckwold, mayor, Saskatoon; Gérald Fortin, sociologist, Quebec; and Doris Shadbolt, art gallery curator, Vancouver.

In addition to the award-winning "urban environments" pictured here and on page 1, awards were presented for: Mayfair Park in Edmonton; North Vancouver Recreation Centre, Ehling and Brockington Architects; Bastion Square, Victoria, Roderick Clack Architect; Lothian Mews, Toronto, Webb Zerafa Menkes & Housden Architects.



The Bloedel Conservatory, Vancouver, Architects: Underwood, McKinley, Cameron, Wilson and Smith . . . "a splendid example of enlightened collaboration between city authorities and private philanthropy."

Lower Westmount Community Action . . . "Citizens' groups displayed great ability in gathering people to resist the intrusions of a freeway and the threat of high rise density . . . positive outcomes include a small neighbourhood play-park".



COMPETITIONS

Innovative housing design

The Ontario Housing Corp. has announced a design competition with nearly \$40,000 in prize money for innovative housing design for larger family houses.

It is anticipated that of the up to five designs that will be selected as winners one or more would be developed to the construction stage.

The Ontario Minister of Trade and Development, the Hon. Allan Grossman, describes this first such OHC design competition as an "attempt to develop a fresh approach to lowrise multiple housing . . . that will offer to residents of this type of housing the advantages of land ownership and privacy comparable to those enjoyed by the occupants of single family housing."

Each unit, for example, must have a private entrance, adjacent parking and private yard space.

A jury of five will select winners in the initial stage of the program. Each successful competitor will be awarded a prize of \$2,500. Jury members are Macklin L. Hancock, President, Project Planning Associates Limited; Keith Morley, Second Vice-President, Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada; Frank J. K. Nicol, President, Ontario Association of Architects; Mrs. June Rowlands, Housing Consultant, Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto; Douglas Shadbolt, Director, School of Architecture, Carleton University. The judging is scheduled for March 27, 1972.

In the second stage of the competition, successful competitors will assemble their own development teams to produce documents and establish cost and time data for the construction of a 10-unit prototype project. Each development team will be awarded \$5,000 on submission of a firm bid proposal.

In the third and final stage of the program, OHC may order the construction of one or more of the designs. The successful team or teams will be awarded the costs of the projects they build for OHC.

The design competition is open to all registered architects and Canadian companies that have a registered architect on staff or under commission. The development teams must include a qualified construction manager, quantity surveyor or contractor. Non-Ontario competitors must be capable of becoming registered or licensed in Ontario to be eligible.

Details of the competition may be obtained from William A. Gibson, Manager, Research and Development Branch, Ontario Housing Corporation, 101 Bloor Street West, Toronto 5, Ontario.

THE PROFESSION AND TAX REFORM

New ruling allows change in fiscal year end

The path is now clear for architects to change their current fiscal year end if they so desire.

It was suggested in A/C 9/8/71 by RAIC tax consultant Keith Sandford that, in some cases, this move would be desirable to "ensure accounts receivable are at the highest level." At that time Sandford also suggested that for those who

have already closed their books for '71 this step could be difficult.

Under the definition of "fiscal period" in Section 139(1)(r) of the Income Tax Act it is provided that a taxpayer carrying on business may not make a change in the usual and accepted fiscal period of his business without the concurrence of the Minister of National Revenue. It has been the policy of the Department to approve a requested change in fiscal period whenever the circumstances indicated that the change was motivated by genuine business reasons but not to approve in the absence of such reasons.

On November 19, the Minister announced that the Department would "concur in any request to have a current fiscal period end in 1971, provided the request is made before December 31, 1971, and assurance is given that the profit from business can be properly calculated for the altered fiscal period."

Requests for change in the fiscal period should be made in writing to the Director of the District Taxation Office where the taxpayer normally files his tax returns.

8



Three Rivers City Centre, Architects: Leclerc et Villemure, Denoncourt et Denoncourt. "The designers provided that the heart of the city, besides being a serious place, as the seat of government, is a place for festivity, celebration and worship.

Rockwood Park, Saint John, N.B. "A reservation of

response to the spontaneous inclinations of the people

wooded and rolling landscape . . . within easy

walking distance of the centre of the city



Sparks Street Mall, Ottawa, Architects: Helmer & Tutton. "A pioneering project... giving the city a quality of pleasant sociability to contrast with the more solemn environment of Parliament Hill.'



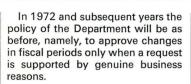
Plus 15 pedestrian system, Calgary . . . "A far sighted plan to deal with one of the fundamental problems of urban areas...courageous enterprise on the part of the city government, and an intelligent response from building owners,



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constructors and investors."

Midtown Plaza, Saskatoon, Architects: Gordon R. Arnott and "A handsome shopping centre with an enclosed mall, a major department store at each end . . . a large office tower . . . a community theatre over a convention centre.... A positive force attracting and stimulating new growth. Lively use of directional signals" (Paul Arthur and Associates).



who go there.

Changement d'exercice financier

La définition d'"exercice financier", à l'article 139(1)(r) de la Loi de l'impôt sur le revenu, stipule qu'un contribuable exploitant une entreprise ne peut apporter aucun changement à l'exercice financier habituel et agréé de son entreprise sans l'assentiment du ministre du Revenu national. Le Ministère avait adopté comme politique d'approuver une demande de changement d'exercice financier lorsque les circonstances indiquaient que des raisons d'affaires sérieuses motivaient le changement, mais de ne pas l'approuver en l'absence de telles raisons.

On reconnaît qu'un contribuable dont l'exercice financier a commencé en 1971 et se terminera en 1972 peut éprouver des doutes

quant à l'application des règles actuellement contenues dans la Loi de l'impôt sur le revenu et celles proposées par le Bill C-259, dans le cas de certaines transactions effectuées au cours de cet exercice financier. Pour faciliter la transition sans heurt aux nouvelles règles, le ministre du Revenu national agréera toute demande portant que la fin d'un exercice financier courant tombe en 1971, à condition que la demande soit faite avant le 31 décembre 1971 et que les intéressés donnent l'assurance que les bénéfices de l'entreprise pour l'exercice financier modifié pourront être dûment calculés. Toute demande de changement d'exercice financier doit être faite par écrit et adressée au directeur du bureau de district d'impôt où le contribuable produit habituellement ses déclarations d'impôt.

Pour 1972 et les années subséquentes, la politique adoptée par le Ministère sera la même qu'auparavant, c'est-à-dire qu'il n'approuvera les changements d'exercice financier que si la demande est appuyée par des raisons d'affaires sérieuses.

BOOKS

Two authors warring within the bosom of a single book

Trois Siècles d'Architecture au Canada by Pierre Mayrand and John Bland-Federal Publications Service, George Le Pape, Montreal, 1971, 122 pages.

This book will undoubtedly be much more interesting to Canadian readers, many of whom will not be architects, than either its authors or its publishers intended. For here we have a view of the Canadian "duality" through interpretation of Canadian architectural history.

This is not a co-authorship. Instead, like the country that produced it, it is a combination of two distinct books with one cover . . . naturally, the number of pages has been prorated on some obscure basis - rep by pop - perhaps?

Mayrand's third (51 pages) deals with Quebec, Louisbourg, New Orleans, and reflects the Gallic wish to improve the secular life through collective action. Appropriately, therefore, the architecture is presented at the town scale. Individual buildings are only dimly represented as having a life of their own. We read of the concern about a square, a street pattern, a fortified settlement. French Canada inherits that European medieval concern with the whole organism - the city being the unit scale of measurement. The church is concert hall, theatre, city hall, on occasion bazaar! It is built with volunteer labor in the French Gothic tradition. M. Mayrand's appreciation of this is personal, confident, lively, and refreshing. It is a labor of love. One regrets its brevity and hopes that it will be expanded in a later work. English-Canadians with the even most nodding of acquaintance with the French language will enjoy perusing M. Mayrand's French prose.

Toronto City Hall Square, John B. Parkin and Associates, Architects; Consultant Viljo Revell. . "Gives a quality of spaciousness and dignity to the whole environment of the centre of the city . . . Toronto could never have claimed a place amongst great cities . . . until it possessed a gathering place of such

Professor Bland's contribution (two thirds of the book) confines itself to the time after the Conquest -'The mid-18th Century.'

Bland, as one of the originators of the international style in Canada, speaks less of the collective life-style and the community and more of economy, engineering, honesty and integrity in materials and form. Ar-

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chitecture here means a building, a room, but seldom a square or a town. But his exposition of Quebecois' work nevertheless is sensitive and knowledgeable. No less pleasant is it to read of the period of English influence culminating in the design of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa "one of the great Victorian building achievements . . . structural integrity amid fantasy." It is only when we arrive at the 1870's that Bland's tone begins to lose its security.

Speaking of the period of Second Empire influence (Montreal City Hall, Quebec Parliament Buildings) Bland speaks of a "mad period of applying the facade details of the Buildings of Napoleon III to almost everything that required a front," and "superficial fashions."

These statements perhaps betray the hostility for recent historical styles felt by many of Bland's generation of modernists. These styles were, at one time, for them – the enemy – to be conquered by the rationalism of the architecture of the machine. The feeling is becoming dated today as modern developers attack the best of these buildings: Toronto City Hall (barely saved), Windsor Station and Union Station.

Canadians need a full and sympathetic catalogue of these buildings (1860 to 1920) — these last flowerings of Victorian taste — in order that they may be understood more fully. For we forget that Canada was born on the political equivalent of these same visual ideals — frozen into stone. We belittle these ideals because we adopted internationalism and modernism — and with the zeal of recent conversion, we deny our past.

The limited number of modern buildings in the book are well chosen and nicely explained. Missing from the list of modern personalities is John Bland himself and his work — not the least of which are the legion of McGill graduates in architecture now practicing all over the world. The photographs, with very few exceptions are quite interesting. The book is a must for anyone interested in the history of our communities and the country.

Michael Fish, Montreal

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A loving look at Los Angeles Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies, by Reyner Banham, Longman Canada Ltd., 1971, 10.00. Reyner Banham cut his architectural writing teeth as one of the brilliant group of journalists who staffed the British Architectural Review in its golden years of the early fifties. AR became the standard against which most architectural magazines since have been judged. And Banham, after a 12-year stint as journalist, is now a world figure as architectural teacher, lecturer and – still – writer.

So the simple fact of his having authored a book on Los Angeles gives that book instant importance. But there are better reasons to read it. The author is a sensitive and witty man, who brings a fresh approach to a subject that would evoke little more than a curled lip from most architects. The resultant book should change the way one who reads it looks at cities — particularly the roughest, toughest North American cities.

Banham is not one of your typical academics (and make no mistake, he is a learned man) who seem compelled to express their erudition through foggy writing [see p. 7, Ed.]. The very readability of his text draws undue attention to blessedly infrequent lapses into jargon (quick now, what's a palimpsest?). His approach to his subject has much of the upbeat, "gee whiz" enthusiasm which characterizes good popular magazine writing. The love for the subject shines clearly through; but the eye which scrutinizes it is acute. While Bonham the social commentator and sometimes gadfly entertains, Banham the historian and teacher points out many lessons. "Los Angeles," Banham writes,

"threatens the intellectual repose and professional livelihood of many architects, artists, planners and environmentalists because it breaks the rules of urban design that they promulgate in their works and writings and teach to their students."

As everyone knows, the city Los Angeles was shaped by and for the automobile. Not so. The city's exemplary infrastructure in fact dates back to the old rancho property lines and farming patterns, then a century-old commuter train network, which in turn was patterned on where the citizens wanted to be and what they wanted to do. It so happens that the beaches were and still are "one way and another . . . what life is all about in Los Angeles," Banham contends. And 'surfurbia' is the first of the 'Four Ecologies' of his book's title; the others are the 'Foothills' (where the rich like to live), the 'plains' (where the poor have to), and 'Autopia' "the Freeway, quite as much as the Beach [his capitalization] is where the Angelino is most himself, most integrally identified with his great city."

There is not room here to detail the other myths Banham demolishes, nor the pieces of folk legend he upholds. But it is all here, including (for he is after all writing about architecture) an eye-opening series of pictures and incisive descriptions of more than a hundred buildings, non-buildings, fantasies and townscapes. Read the book, and you'll acquire a deeper understanding of North American cities in general and Los Angeles in particular. Who knows, you might even learn to love them for what they are. *P.H.*

Need for Viet-Nam

The Union of Architects of Viet-Nam has made a plea to the International Union of Architects for French or English books, publications, magazines, etc., on architecture or urban planning to restock their library which has been destroyed during the war. Contributions should be sent to RAIC headquarters, 151 Slater, Suite 1104, Ottawa K2P 5H3.

Guide through tortuous paths of legality

Legal Pitfalls in Architecture, Engineering and Building Construction by Nathan Walker, LL.B. and Theodor K. Rohdenburg, AIA, McGraw-Hill Book Company, 270 pages.

Co-authored by an architect and a lawyer, the book sets out to act as a guide to the professional designer through the sometimes tortuous paths of legality which are constantly attendant upon his actions.

Divided principally into two sections, the first dealing with the legal responsibilities of the designer, and the second concerned with special professional relationships, each section is subdivided to examine specic examples of the kind of difficulties which have arisen in the past.

For example, some of the headings discussed include legal difficulties in owner-architect agreements, professional services, responsibility to the public, intro professional relationships, contractor responsibility, lien and bonds, arbitration, partnerships, joint ventures and so on. A list of case references (although not the text of those cases, of course) is included at the end of the book as an appendix.

The book is written in straightforward, reasonably concise language conveying legal concepts in layman's terms. Indeed the authors' stated intention is to provide students and practising professionals with an up-to-date overview of their legal responsibilities in the design and construction industry process.

Although the book has been written for and about legal pitfalls as they affect the professional in the USA it can still form a useful reference for the Canadian architect. If it does no more than indicate when and when not to resort to legal counsel then it is worth its purchase price. If, on the other hand, it succeeds in providing the professional with the hindsight of knowledge of the misfortunes of those who have gone before, and so avoid them for

himself, then its value may be beyond price.

The book is informative, well written and it can be recommended as an invaluable guide to anyone who wishes to avoid joining legal battles through ignorance.

F. J. Eppell, Halifax

ENVIRONMENT

Canadian architects urge representation on the global scene

Toronto architects Peter Goering and Alexander Leman are hoping that Canadian architects will be able to make their concerns about the "human environment" known on the international scene.

Goering and Leman submitted a resolution to the latest RAIC Council meeting in Toronto last month urging the RAIC to form a committee either to attend the upcoming United Nations conference on the human environment in Stockholm this summer or to prepare position papers on Canadian development problems.

Goering and Leman have the goahead from both the RAIC and the Ontario Association of Architects to start work on the project and they now are looking for help from other architects.

Says Goering, "we should be able to get some architectural input into the second of ten UNESCO conferences on the environment which will also be held this summer but in Stockholm."

Goering and Leman may be contacted at 643 Yonge St., Toronto.

Aesthetic logging

How can interests of industry, recreation and aesthetics in Ontario crown land forestry operations be combined?

This problem is presently being examined by Toronto landscape architects Hough, Stansbury and Associates for the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests.

The firm has been hired not only to analyze the effects of current forestry practice but develop management principles, criteria and guidelines for its integration with aesthetic requirements. Findings will be incorporated in a manual for lands and forests staff. The Department hopes this manual will result in: "logging being planned in relation to the needs of wildlife; logging roads built with an eye for beauty; and the discipline of landscape architecture integrated into forestry operations on its 148,000 sq. miles of publicly-owned productive forest lands."

Getting in out of the noise

The federal department of Transport and Central Mortgage and Housing Corp. are working on a study of noise pollution around airports — and how it affects the occupants of nearby buildings.

Out of the studies are coming a series of maps showing a 'Noise Exposure Forecast' pattern around each of the country's major commercial airports. Three zones are laid down where: 1) no new housing may be built; 2) housing may be built with special sound reduction construction; 3) there are no restrictions.

CMHC has prepared a draft addition to its Site Planning Handbook that indicates the kind of structural modifications or architectural treatments which might be used to curb noise. A final document is expected to be ready early next year. If the scheme works, it may next be applied to building near expressways (where the provincial highway department of Ontario, for one, is already experimenting with noise baffles.

HOUSING

A record-breaking year, then another

When the final scores are counted, more new houses and apartments will have been built this year than ever before (230,000 vs. 210,000 in 1969, the previous record). And present prospects are for 240,000 in 1972, according to president Harold Shipp of the Housing and Urban Development Association.

... and more mobile homes

Some 400 mobile home dealers and 11,000 members of the public were in Toronto last fortnight to inspect, and buy, the latest offerings of some half dozen major manufacturers who between them produce 80%—90% of the 12,000-plus mobile homes produced in Canada each year.

The manufacturers have their eyes firmly fixed on the high volumes of housing being predicted for the years ahead. Their major concern: getting municipalities to accept mobile home parks. The homes themselves would be regarded by most architects as downright offensive to look at; they are full of the worst sort of gimcrackery associated with project housing and cheap furniture stores (they are usually sold fully furnished, down to the chocolatebox pictures on the walls). The appalling thing is that - if the 'oohs' and 'ahs' of the public visitors to the show are anything to go by - this sort of coy coziness seems to appeal an an awful lot of people.

Wood for houses

Is there a prejudice against the use of wood as a building material for housing? Yes, it is thought to be a rather fragile and non-durable material, synonym of low quality and poverty, reports Montreal architect Gilles Belanger who attended the World Conference on the Use of Wood in Housing Construction earlier this year.

This reputation results, he says, mainly from the use, in the past, of inappropriate species combined with deficient techniques. In trying to dispel this image of wood as an inferior material the conference agreed that universities should be



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encouraged to add to their curricula more courses on wood techniques, and that specialized organizations be more concerned with the gathering and dissemination of available information.

A first step in this direction has now been taken by the Canadian Wood Council which has just published a booklet called *Canadian Dimension Lumber*. Among other things it outlines Canada's new national grading rules and standards for softwood lumber. For more information write: The Canadian Wood Council, 77 Metcalfe Street, Ottawa, Ont. K1P 5L6.

Prefabbing – in Germany

In the eternal search for ways to cut housing costs a countless number of new techniques have emerged over the past few years.

Here is one of the latest, this time from Germany.

Right now, in Germany, prefabbing is hot. It accounts for over 20 per cent of commercial construction and the percentage has also been steadily increasing in the single family housing field — from 3 per cent in 1965 to over 7 last year. A group of Dusseldorf architects are capitalizing on this by experimenting with assembly line techniques for high-rise apartments.

This is how they see the home of the future – a container, or a series of plug-ins:

- The core of the building would be a three-sided unit of steel girders, capable of supporting the entire structure.
- Container slots would be incorporated in the three sides of the tower. An apartment would consist of four to six containers. The container flush with the tower would include the hall, kitchen, bathroom, toilet and wardrobe.
- Adjacent containers would not be separated by prearranged walls.
 Individual requirements could be catered to without special alterations. Size and number of rooms could be varied.
- The core of the building would not only support the entire structure, it would also contain drains, mains, stairs and elevators.
- The core would be built as a steel framework. From the foundations components would also contain drains, from the top of the core.
- Each apartment would be separated from the ones above and below by two inches of open air.
 Containers could be traded in and replaced by newer and better models whenever required.

AWARDS

For architectural studies

The British Architectural Association has announced its 1971 Michael Ventris Memorial Fund award for architectural studies.

The £150 annual award (made alternately for classical studies and architecture) is open this year to applicants from all countries having at least the equivalent of the Royal

Institute of British Architects' intermediate status. If possible, it is to be used to support a specific project rather than extend an existing one, and the successful candidate must give evidence of the study carried out under the award. Typewritten applications, giving qualifications and outlining work to be pursued and where money will be spent, should be sent to the Secretary, Architectural Association, 36 Bedford Square, London WC1B3ES by December 31.

Canadians jury American awards program

Winners of the North Dakota Chapter, American Institute of Architects' annual honor awards program were selected this year by an all-Canadian jury of Saskatchewan architects, E. H. Grolle, R. A. Johnstone, and Clifford Wiens.

The Canadian group selected Brandy Wood Condominium, Fargo, North Dakota, to win the top award and described it as "representing a high density housing solution with a good sense of human scale for both interior and exterior spaces." The project had a sense of place so often lacking in row housing and related well to the residential and street scale of the area. The development of the site and incorporation of existing landscaping was also commendable, it said.

In submitting this item to A/C as part of the Saskatchewan Association's new campaign to improve the architect's image, the Association neglected to include the winner's name. Like a lot of people, perhaps they find it harder to practice than to preach.

PRACTICE

Innovators should innovate

"The four-day week is not only a progressive idea but it's bound to come – just like the metric system." So said Paul Arthur on announcing his Toronto-based industrial /interior design firm's recent adoption, for a three-month trial period, of a four-day work week – 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. "Innovators should be among the first to try out new ideas," says Arthur.

Another innovative and "inevitable" trend which Arthur advocated at a recent federally-sponsored conference on design in government was abandonment of the 'one-piece-at-a-time' approach to design, and adoption of a systems approach. This, he said, would be the "most liberating of influences" since it would result in guidelines allowing persons who never aspired to be designers to do good and creative work. He also urged the formation of an association embracing all design disciplines in Canada. Such an association, he said, that was concerned with establishing practice and achievement standards and not with protecting designers against the public. "would enormously enhance the

state of design in Canada and hence the quality of all our lives."

One of Arthur's recent projects for the state of Vermont, a highway communications system to replace billboards (one of two U.S. states to ban them), won for the state the American industrial design society's Damon Woods Memorial award "for conspicuous contribution to the betterment of the environment." The system involves symbols and color coding to show the location of food, lodging, etc. on highways.

If you want to zap up your design, buy a movie lot

Levitt & Sons, largest homebuilder in the U.S., is launching its latest 'Levittown' on a 68-acre former movie lot in – where else? – Los Angeles.

Levitt paid \$72 million for the lot, which includes a man-made lake, that can be turned into a churning river by a series of paddlewheels. Some 50 townhouses will be built around this lake /river.

Most of the decrepit movie sets now standing will have to be razed because they are unsafe. But some props will be "salvaged and integrated with the architecture," reports *House & Home* magazine.

This joyous environment will be called 'Raintree County' after the movie of the same name which was made there. And to keep out the undesirables, the project will be walled around and the gates guarded, just like in the old MGM moviemaking days.

NOSTALGIA

The un-stationary station

Toronto's Union Station isn't the only railway station in the news today – The Sunday Times reports that 90-year-old East Grinstead station in Surrey, England, claimed by some to be the very one where Sherlock Holmes met Dr. Watson in Conan Doyle's, The Valley of Fear, has been temporarily saved from demolition by a California restaurant owner who wants to transport the station brick by brick to the States.

Robert A. Freeman, who owns a chain of *Victorian Station* restaurants in the U.S., says, "it could be just what I've been waiting for – gaslamps, Sherlock Holmes' ghost and all. I can see it ending up in a restaurant I have in mind for Boston."

If he can't make a "deal," the old station will be torn down and replaced by a modern concrete structure.

London Bridge was recently transported and rebuilt in Havasu City, Arizona.

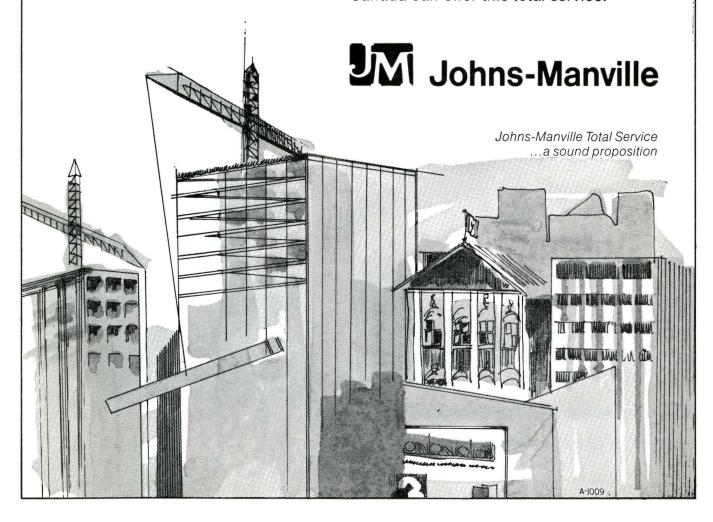
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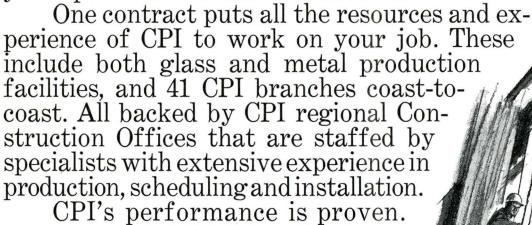
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