



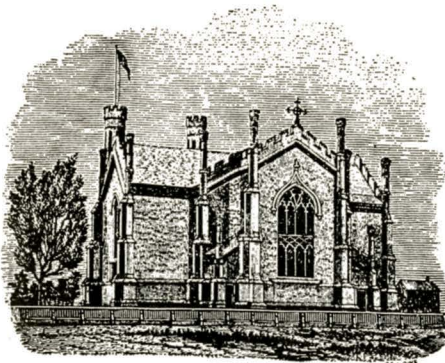
Sigmund Samuel Canadiana Gallery

Come to Toronto June 2-4 for the '71 RAIC Assembly

# Architecture Canada

NEWSMAGAZINE

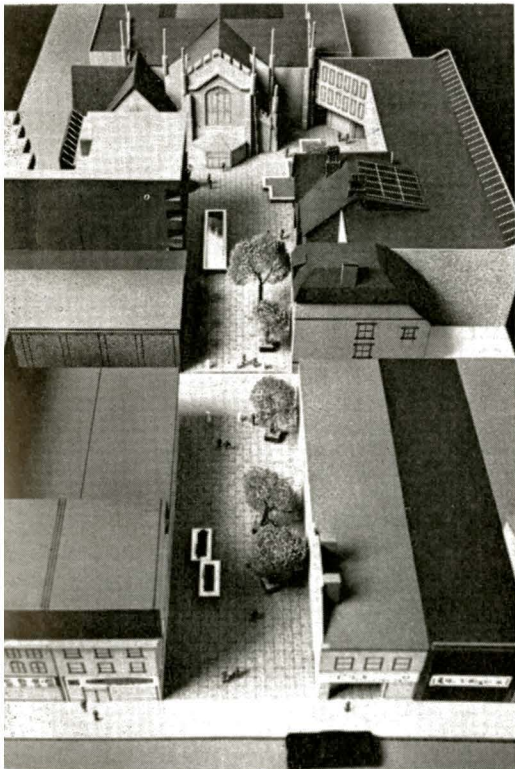
Published every two weeks by RAIC/IRAC February 1, 1971



## An "oasis of peace" for the heart of Toronto

What gives an old European square its charm and vitality? Toronto architect Peter Robinson (Robinson and Heinrichs) says it's that the most important part, the centre, is left free for people – a prominent building, usually a church, is placed off to the side and other buildings are linked to it. Robinson has borrowed this concept for his \$5-million redevelopment scheme for the square of downtown Toronto's Church of the Holy Trinity. His aim is not only to create a pedestrian precinct in the heart of the city but to help the Church derive an income from its lands.

The church itself will become a "town square with a roof". Its central area will be used for worship on Sunday, theatre meetings etc. at other times. A restaurant, raised slightly above floor level, will be located at one end. The sanctuary will become a permanent chapel for worship and meditation. Construction is due to start in March.



Just off Toronto's Yonge St., Trinity Square will be a blend of stores above and below street level, offices (on upper floors) and possibly a senior citizens' residence and children's art gallery. Present buildings will be modified, new buildings will be designed to harmonize with the 123-year-old church.



## RAIC/IRAC

### An 'ideal' plan for action

In an attempt to meet RAIC problems head on, the council at its most recent meeting in Toronto last month voted unanimously in favor of employing one of the latest analysis techniques to "look afresh at RAIC structure and goals."

The particular method decided on was developed only three years ago by a University of Wisconsin professor of industrial engineering, Gerald Nadler. Called IDEAL (for Ideal Design of Effective and Logical Systems) the technique has become particularly popular in Saskatchewan where it is being used to revamp Saskatchewan Power Corp. and to tackle problems in the highways department and government telephone company. The technique was recommended to RAIC by councillor Henry Grolle of Regina who learned about it from a University of Saskatchewan professor.

When the study is completed, the RAIC could end up with a whole new structure or possibly no structure at all — Grolle cheerily recalls the company which used the technique to explore efficiency in one of its warehouses and found out the whole operation was unnecessary!

The merit of the design strategy as opposed to the more conventional research strategies of analysis, says Grolle, is that "it forces you to rethink aims and objectives [and how to achieve them] rather than becoming concerned with existing operations." Using this technique, he says, you determine what the ideal should be (in the RAIC's case, how it would ideally work as a "tool for the profession and public"), then you refine that ideal into something practical.

The project will start immediately, guided by a committee comprised of RAIC vice-president Jean-Louis Lalonde, Director of Professional Services Wilson Salter, councillors Stan Butcherd, of Port Colborne, Ont. and Grolle. When this committee swings into action, says Grolle, a two or three day session of objective thinking should result in a set of positive recommendations.

### Bilingual executive assistant appointed

As part of its continuing effort to expand its scope of professional services, the RAIC had added a bilingual executive assistant to headquarters staff. The position was filled last month by Lorraine Rioux, a recent graduate in architecture from the University of Montreal.

Miss Rioux, 24, will be mainly concerned with professional serv-



ices. Her work will include the programming of RAIC research projects and communications. This will include responsibility for French content in *Architecture Canada News-magazine*.

After completing architectural studies in 1968, Miss Rioux worked as project administrator in the office of Montreal architect Gilles Laviguer. Although not yet registered, she has been active on PQAA and Montreal Society of Architects committees. She assisted the latter in preparing background information for a proposed TV program on architecture.

Miss Rioux has travelled extensively in Europe and Northern Africa. Her hobbies include photography.

### Nomination d'un adjoint exécutif

Dans son constant souci d'élargir l'éventail de ses services professionnels, l'IRAC a doté ses cadres administratifs d'un adjoint exécutif bilingue. Le poste est occupé depuis janvier 1971 par Lorraine K. Rioux, 24 ans, jeune diplômée de l'école d'architecture, faculté de l'aménagement, Université de Montréal.

Quoique ses fonctions principales soient de l'ordre des services professionnels, mademoiselle Rioux sera affectée à l'étude et à la coordination des projets de recherche de l'IRAC, ainsi qu'au domaine des communications. Elle aura également la responsabilité des publications, en langue française, du bulletin *Architecture Canada*.

A l'emploi de Gilles Laviguer, architecte de Montréal, depuis la fin de ses études en 1968, mademoiselle Rioux a été principalement chargée d'administration de projets. Elle était également professeur d'histoire de l'architecture au Collège du Vieux Montréal.

Bien que n'étant pas encore membre d'une association provinciale, mademoiselle Rioux a collaboré à certain comités de l'AAPO et de la Société des architectes de Montréal. Membre-associé de cette dernière, elle a participé à une étude préliminaire proposant une série d'émissions télévisées sur l'architecture.

Mademoiselle Rioux a voyagé longuement en Europe et en Afrique du Nord. La photographie occupe une large part de ses loisirs.

## OUTLOOK

### A rosy transportation future for Toronto?

"Movement of goods and services in Toronto is being treated simply as a matter of logistics... social and environmental implications are not being considered."

That's what the Toronto Chapter of Architects told the Ontario Municipal Board hearings on Toronto's Spadina Expressway controversy in a brief presented last month by Howard Chapman. The Urban Action Committee (chairman Howard Walker) asked that "further

construction... not be permitted pending a thorough study of Toronto's total transportation problem".

In making this recommendation, the Toronto chapter outlined some positive suggestions for the future — most important, that Metro set up a multi-disciplinary Transportation Department. This would, it said, provide an overview and impartial evaluation of Toronto's transportation goals and techniques.

The present lack of coordination, it said, between departments is inevitable. Each is "prejudiced by its own specific specialized interests". A Transportation Department could give proper consideration to environmental and social design criteria (noise, safety, effect on zoning, land use, etc.), analyze broad goals and provide opportunities for public discussion prior to critical stages of design.

## INNOVATIONS

### Underwater building

Swiss architects are going underwater to solve parking problems — a group of them has designed a 1,450-vehicle car park under eight to thirteen feet of water in the Rhone River, Geneva. When completed the \$7-million, four-level building, privately financed, will be absolutely invisible. Excavation will go down about 45 feet within a double-shield cofferdam and the load will be carried by pillars and the outside walls. The walls will sit on a filtering layer to eliminate upward pressure. Constant temperature and nine complete air changes per hour are other submarine features.

## BOOKS

### As fascinating as a whodunit

*Beyond Habitat*, by Moshe Safdie, Tundra Books, Montreal, 1970, \$10.00, 244 pp.

"Show me love, faith and the iron clad will to hope and I shall show you what it means to build."<sup>1</sup>

*Beyond Habitat* is the story "behind" Habitat and this would have been a truer title, because only a small part of its content is "beyond". Safdie's story adds little new to the existing knowledge of architectural technology and philosophy; it may even confuse the direction of its development; but it is not written for the architectural theorist, but addresses itself to a broader public. It talks about the struggle of a human being trying to realize a dream. Habitat was a dream, an architectural idea that fascinated the avant garde in the sixties, but it was Safdie that transformed it into concrete at Expo '67, and he was one of the few who stubbornly persisted in further developing this idea of mass producing "stacked housing units" and attempting to give them architectural unity. Habitat New York, Puerto Rico and Israel are not feeble attempts to improve Habitat

<sup>1</sup> Bruno Taut, from *Fruhlicht*, 1922

<sup>2/3</sup> Moshe Safdie, *Beyond Habitat*, 1970

'67 but bold steps to master this problem.

"Our problem is always to combine order and freedom: freedom without chaos and order without sterility."<sup>2</sup>

We have to find within the means of our technology a "system" that gives freedom to the individual and order within a community in which individuals must live side by side.

"Instead of finite solutions we must try to find the genetic code of a particular environment. The genetic code produces an infinite number of adaptations each in itself not finite, not buildings with beginnings and ends, but continuums capable of growth and change."<sup>3</sup>

Safdie touches here the cord that will sound an awakening, even if his own interpretations may mislead. His solutions, with the exception of San Francisco student union, anticipated the prefabricated box unit, as the cell of his system, as the smallest unit of space that in combination will create the whole. The factory finished living unit, ready to be plugged into place, is in close analogy to an outdated car industry and dates back to the dreams of the early twenties when architects saw in the car, and in Ford's method of manufacturing it, the dawn of a new age.

I think that this analogy is a misinterpretation of the future. Even if Puerto Rico falls economically within the feasibilities of today's housing markets; even if the trailer industry is already producing similar units; this view is too narrow and too much blinded by the past-present. The twentieth century "brick" as Rudolph has nicknamed it, is far too limiting to be a solution for the twenty-first century.

The idea of housing as an entity in itself is a concept that we must



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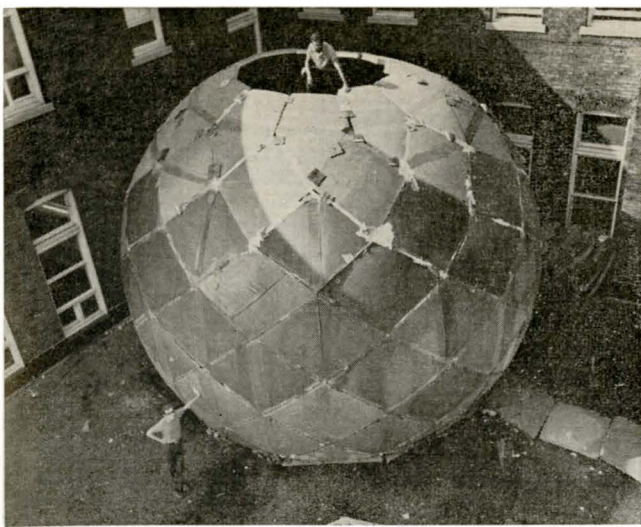
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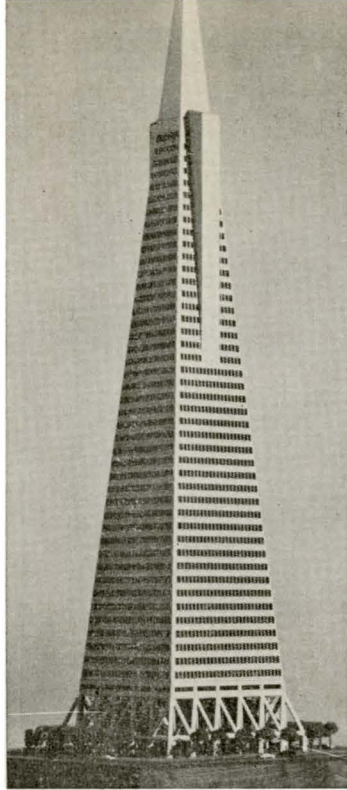
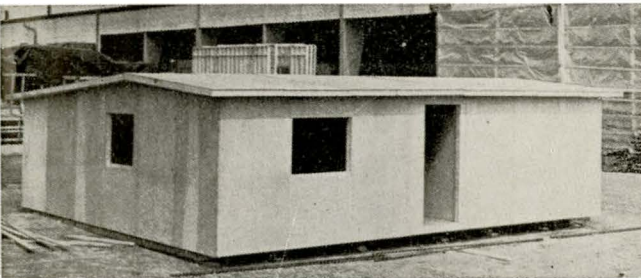
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**Polyurethane domes for the North**

As part of a research project on northern design principles for the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, a group from the U. of T. School of Architecture, headed by Prof. Morton Katz, is experimenting with polyurethane as a building material. The 26' prototype above is made of 116 3½" panels but one of the next models will be created by spraying an air-inflated structure with liquid plastic. Cost, about \$10/sq. ft., including fixtures. Below, what DIAND hoped four years ago would be an answer to the Eskimo housing problem.



**What's the point?**

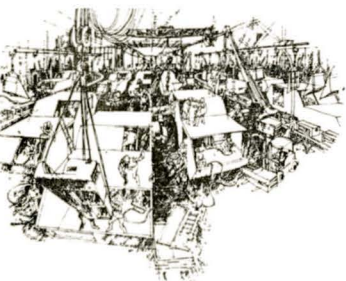
Why? This question might well be asked about the "classic and graceful" design of the Transamerica Pyramid in San Francisco. The rationale, according to architect William L. Pereira: the 212' spire will conceal mechanical and telecommunication equipment; the sloping walls will let more light reach the street.

**Government mixed use**

The first federal government office building to incorporate commercial space is now under construction in Hull, Qué. The 26-storey, \$12.6-million Place du Portage will have two levels of open-fronted boutiques and kiosks with "an international flavor". A park and city hall are adjacent. Landscaped planes will lead up to the building. Architect is Daniel Lazosky.



question, yet the book never does. The "vernacular village" was more than housing if we truly examine it; it enclosed life in all its faces within its "genetic code". If we want to find the code for our time we must embrace the total life and "housing" cannot be used in isolation any more (even if we add the "community facilities" to it). We must be careful that a philosophy that channels our thoughts too narrowly prevents us from seeing all possibilities.



Moshe Safdie's book was a delight to read, as it was to live and look at Habitat '67. Novels are entities within themselves, so are buildings. It is difficult in a book that is about a building to separate the art form of one from the other. "Beyond Habitat" is fascinating, in fact I devoured it with the same appetite as a whodunit. Its fluid

style will entice people, not only architects, to read it and perhaps it will make them wonder about the future of our environment.

I hope that besides Puerto Rico some of the other Habitats will grow into reality, as these buildings give us valuable experience in the task that must be solved.

*Eberhard H. Zeidler, Toronto*

**Combating "Neo-Miesian" sterility**

*Zodiac 19, a review of contemporary architecture; Edizioni de Communita, Milan. In North America, George Wittenborn Inc., New York, 1969.*

*Zodiac 19* is a book for the architect seriously concerned with the impact of technology on his profession and the sterility which has resulted from the "neo-Miesians". This issue seeks to present a compendium of ideas and projects which respond simultaneously to the needs of people and the restraints of technology. Here, the use of geometry in life and nature serves as the inspiration for the understanding of collective and repetitive forms. Contributions by R. Buckminster Fuller, Alfred Neumann, Anne Griswold Tyng, and Moshe Safdie offer a comprehensive treatment of the subject.

In contrast the book contains a

comprehensive re-appraisal of the work of Frederick Kiesler, whose 1925 *Manifesto of Tensionism* articulated his belief in the continuity of human experience as the basis of architectural form.

Anne Griswold Tyng's contribution is both thorough and articulate, offering a philosophical and historical perspective necessary to understanding both Kiesler and Fuller.

The essays of Alfred Neumann and Moshe Safdie, the one concerned with form and space and the other with the restraints of technology, are clearly articulated and representative of their two generations. However, their works - Neumann's Faculty of Mechanical Engineering Building in Haifa and Habitation at Ramat Gan, and Safdie's New York Habitat I and Puerto Rico Habitat - make it abundantly clear that excellence in architecture is not limited to a particular school of thought.

Two other articles are included in *Zodiac 19*. John McHale's statement, "Global Ecology", is wordy and only marginally comprehensible. An article on "Geometric Constructions" by Kahn and Steiner is somehow out of place. The book would not have suffered had these both been left out.

A special note of praise goes to

Mario Bottero, the editor, for his excellent commentary on the intent of this issue and his article, "Scientific Abstractions and Concrete Thought in Buckminster Fuller's Utopia".

*Carl R. Nelson, Jr., Winnipeg*

**COMMUNICATIONS**

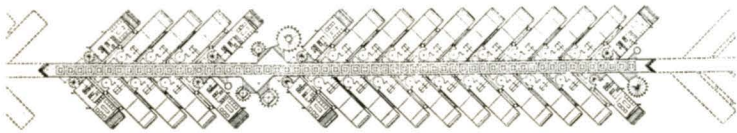
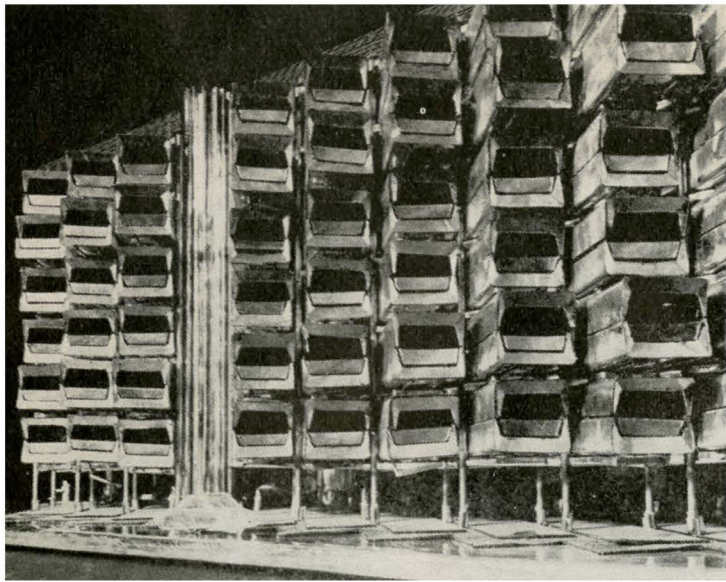
**BC architects make movie**

The Architectural Institute of British Columbia is this year producing a color film on the occasion of its 50th anniversary (last year).

Plans started, says chairman of the Film Committee R. J. Bickford of Vancouver, last summer.

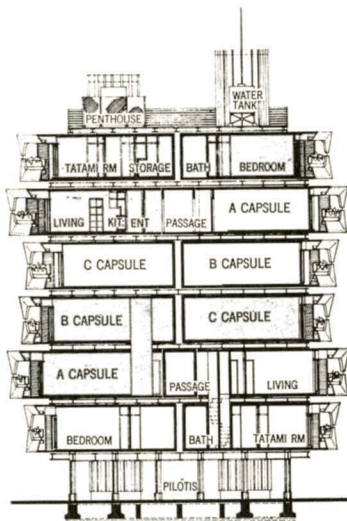
AIBC's film, designed "to illustrate how the profession feels its skills and knowledge can contribute to the built environment" follows on the heels of a similar film made by the Seattle Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, which was "well received".

Students of the Simon Fraser University Film Workshop under the direction of Stanley Fox are actually doing the filming. Says Bickford, they are right now holding interviews with architects "to obtain the widest possible view of the profession on which to base their interpretation". At a later date, they will talk with clients, contractors,



### Japanese housing – inspired by a willow

One of the latest in the new breed of industrialized housing schemes, by Japanese architect Yoji Watanabe. Called "Habitat '70" its concept was derived from the branches of a willow tree "where all parts have equal access to natural lighting". The only on-site construction would be the foundation; the light weight apartment units would be mass produced in a factory. The designer's intention is that such apartments would be freely built or dismantled and erected in forms which meet "topographical requirements".



and others involved in the building process. Target date for completion is the end of the year.

### AWARDS

BC architects award each other big cookies

"Who says architects haven't a sense of humour?" That's what BC architects said for the second year running as they awarded "send-up Messey Medals" to four members at their annual meeting in December. Awards this time went to:

Vladimir Plavsic for the "Only Project Exceeding Four Stories"; John Dayton for "The Carport of the Year Design"; Ian Davidson (who joined a large development firm, A/C 9/-



11/70) for "Best Style in Getting Out of Practice"; and Geoffrey Massey of Erickson/Massey for the Canadian Pavilion '70 Expo, Osaka" and the "best comic strip illustration" (A/C 23/11/70).

### NSAA design awards

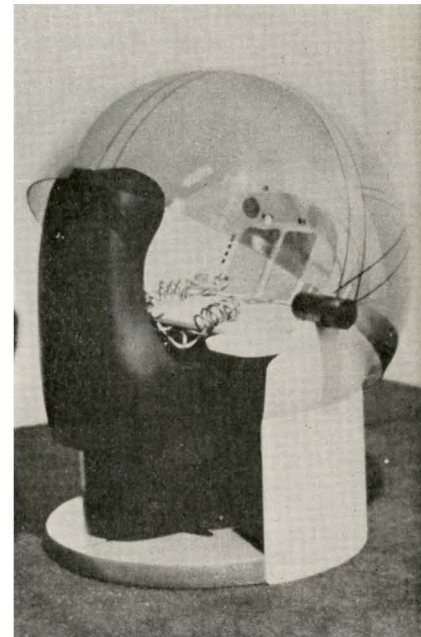
The Nova Scotia Association of Architects has announced that it will repeat this year its design awards program begun in 1969. As with the previous program, plaques engraved with the architects' names will be placed on winning buildings.

The deadline for entries is February 11. Judging will take place at the NSAA annual meeting Feb. 12. Buildings, to be eligible, must have been completed by January 31, 1971 and have been designed by members of the NSAA or architectural firms "where the majority of architect principals are members of

## Cellule II — working towards a new environment for work

How to improve man's working conditions and increase his efficiency is the subject of research at the Faculté de l'Aménagement of the Université de Montréal, sponsored by the federal Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the National Design Council and Bell Canada. Work to date has led to a preliminary design of an environmentally controlled communication and information centre, "Cellule". The user would enter a "cellular decision-making module" for periods of up to 30 minutes (this is the maximum for efficiency) for such activities as accumulating information from a computer or communicating with someone in another module. The changes in the concept of "office" brought about by Cellule could be far reaching say the researchers, and this is what they'll explore next, with an actual prototype in a real office situation.

Project initiator is Guy Desbarats, director is Leonard D. Warshaw.



the NSAA". Details are available from NSAA, 6009 Quinpool Rd., Halifax.

### ANNUAL ASSEMBLIES

#### Really big shows

For a provincial association to follow its own annual convention with an RAIC annual assembly a few months later is needless duplication, says the Province of Quebec Association of Architects.

The alternative, it suggests, is for provinces hosting the RAIC meet to prepare one big convention.

To get a precedent established, the PQAA last month asked the RAIC to consider turning its 1973 convention (scheduled for Quebec City) into a joint national-provincial affair. The RAIC council, worried about rising convention expenses

(last year's Manitoba committee ran up a \$12,000 deficit), was receptive to the idea.

A joint event, says PQAA executive director Antoine Ghattas, should not only get higher attendance but with costs largely paid for by a manufacturers' exhibit, the burden would be taken off the shoulders of the architectural associations.

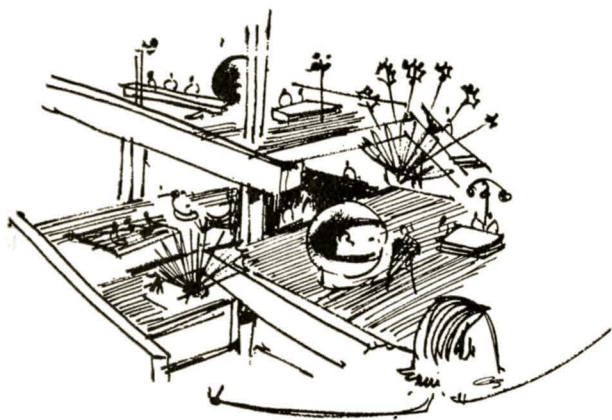
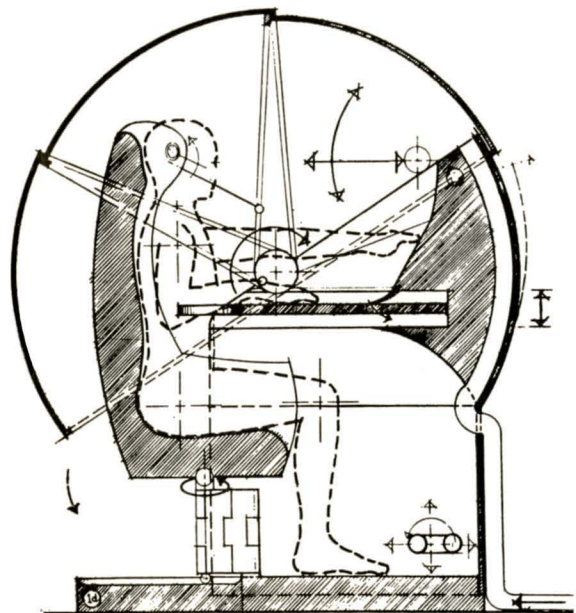
Another advantage, says Ghattas, is that an RAIC meeting at the beginning of the year (when most provincial associations meet) would enable national officers to budget more accurately.

### LETTERS

#### A Gaudi sketch

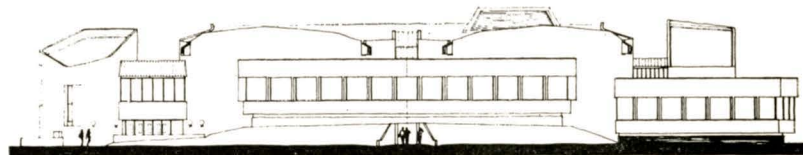
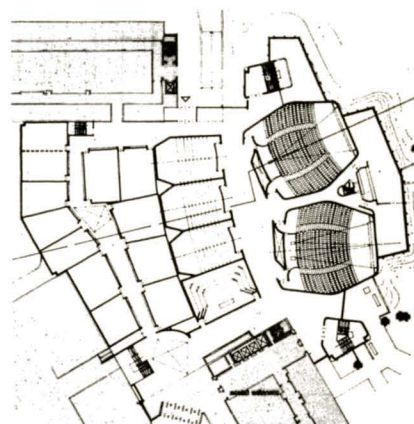
Sirs:

I was very pleased to see that you published our season's greetings



### Science Theatre complex for the University of Calgary

The least expensive building on the University of Calgary campus, a Science Theatre complex, opened recently – its cost \$2-million: \$20/sq. ft. Designed to accommodate 2,500 students, the new complex of theatres, classrooms and lounges is located between three older science buildings and acts as a pedestrian link between them. Most of its interior lighting is dramatically provided from huge skylights protruding from the corridor ceilings. Classrooms are windowless. Hugh McMillan and Associates were the architects.



card. However, I would like to correct the possibly mistaken notion that some people might have.

This is not our design but rather that of one of the Liebermeisters', Antonio Gaudi. I am sure many recognized this as the tower sketch for the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona.

*Jerome Markson, Toronto*

## DESIGN

### Furniture Show

The food at the opening reception included squishy cream cakes with bright orange and mauve icing. Somehow they seemed appropriate to a show where bad – dreadful even – design was much more in evidence than good.

The 22nd Annual Canadian Furniture Mart, January 10–15, was something of a marathon: 300

exhibitors filled three buildings with furniture, and 56 were in another building for the Floor Coverings Market. It seems that quantity rather than quality prevailed.

According to Ron Thom, "The Canadian design industry has come a long way but has no room for complacency. The young people are no longer satisfied with the mediocrity that has glutted our market."

Alison Hymas, of Webb Zerafa Menkes & Housdan, regrets the closing of Design Canada Centers in Toronto and Montreal, and thinks retailers have been too cynical re mass tastes. She advocates government assistance to design-conscious manufacturers, and other programs to bring together designers and manufacturers.

Despite the disappointment in quality, some trends emerged at the show. The future is modern – as indi-

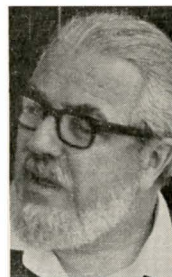
cated by vivid colors, chrome, plastics and acrylics. Styles are evolving to respond to new values – simple, functional, packageable, and low-priced. Shag, loose-laid rotatable squares, and prints are big in carpeting.

Design Awards went to the following: Wooden Furniture – Traditional, to Gibbard Furniture, Napanee; Wooden Furniture – Modern, to Simmons Ltd., Montreal; Upholstered Furniture – Traditional, to Baetz Furniture, Kitchener; Upholstered Furniture – Modern, to Avanti Furniture, Montreal; Occasional Furniture, to Star Chrome, Toronto; Casual Furniture, to John Hauser Iron Works, Kitchener; Lamps and Lighting – Modern, to Torin Lites, Toronto; and, Furniture of Man-Made Materials and Children's Furniture, to Mariko Div. of Donlee Manufacturing, Toronto.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Canadians play part in UIA

Director of the School of Architecture at Carleton University, Ottawa, Douglas Shadbolt, is being named to a key position in the newly reorganized International Union of Architects (UIA). Prof. Shadbolt was recommended as chairman of the North and South American Commission of the Education of the Architect by regional coordinator Daniel Schwartzman of New York.



The new educational commission which Shadbolt is to head will be one of four around the world.

UIA recently restructured itself into four regional divisions—the other three: Europe; Africa-Mediterranean; Asia-Africa. Each region will have one commission on education and one on professional practice. The first North-South American regional meeting will be in Ottawa this July.

UIA is also seeking, through RAIC, Canadians to participate in work groups on topics including town planning, housing, building and industrialization, public health, school building, educational institutions and recreational facilities.

Those interested in helping should submit their name and a brief résumé of qualifications to Wilson A. Salter, Director of Professional Services, RAIC, 151 Slater St., Ottawa 4. Participants will have to pay their own way, although some support may be forthcoming from the federal government.

## PLANNING

Urban diagram for Regina urged

"Unless Regina can assemble land in superblocks," RAIC president Gordon R. Arnott told a luncheon meeting of a Regina service club last month, "we should be aiming for a rehabilitated counterpart which would achieve the same results."

What Arnott hopes could be achieved is the creation of a downtown core where pedestrians would find pleasure in promenading and shopping. There should be a good mix he says of "interesting shops and stores uninterrupted by buildings that do not contribute to modern merchandising requirements."

"We should not think of a revived shopping core that . . . discourages uses that do not contribute to pedestrian shopping interest on the main floors. Can we not also think of allowing a planned mix of shops and apartments 'above the store'. The young professional and young marrieds might well prefer to be downtown in attractive studio apartments and avoid the expense and cost of an extra car."

The present slowdown in development, he urged, should be turned to advantage to develop a comprehensive plan for downtown Regina. Action now, he said, could have exciting visible results in the next decade.

## ARTS

A taste test

"I like what I know." What was suspected about majority art tastes has been proven by a recent UNESCO survey of 507 Toronto residents on their preferences in modern painting. Reactions to paintings clearly indicated the majority questioned liked realism, recognizability and familiarity. Tests were taken on works done between 1900 and 1960. Most said they preferred early pieces such as "peasants in

the field". Least popular were unorthodox religious themes, distorted female forms, or artistic "put-ons".

## EDUCATION

Phase out for 'minimum syllabus' program

The RAIC program which lets students register without graduating from a school of architecture is to be phased out. The council made the decision at its January meeting (see 'RAIC', p. 2), based on a study of the Institute's minimum syllabus program by council member Gregory Lambros of Halifax. Only seven provincial associations now use the program (the two biggest, Ontario and Quebec, don't).

The 1966 Survey of the Profession recommended that the only means of becoming an architect in Canada should be "through study and graduation from a university school of architecture".

The minimum syllabus program allows candidates with grade 11 education or better to qualify by working in an architect's office and writing RAIC exams. Says Lambros, "the average student is in his late 20s and has been working in an architect's office at least a year . . . he will try to take more than two subjects per year and is likely to fail about a third of his examinations." One of the main weaknesses of the present program, he finds, is lack of guidance. "This means that the student often underestimates requirements regarding time he has to spend on the course, as well as the quality of output in assignments, submissions and papers."

The only objection to the phasing out came from the province with the highest enrollment. Councillor John Dayton of Vancouver said that British Columbia likes the program because it "allows two routes into architecture".

The council also recommended that the program be improved as much as possible during the phasing out period, for the benefit of those already embarked on it.

## SEMINARS

School design

Ontario architects and educators once again are being provided the opportunity to discuss school design at the 13th Workshop to be sponsored by the School Planning and Research Section of the Ontario Dept. of Education. The three-day session is to be held at the Inn on the Park, March 15 to 17. For information write ODE at Box 560, Station F, Toronto.

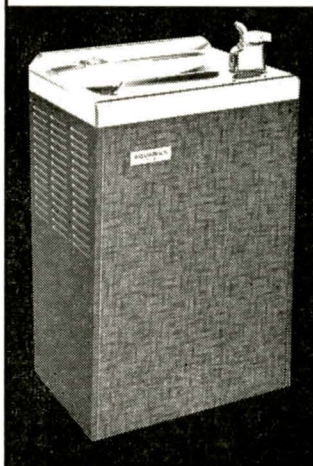
## CLASSIFIED ADS

Practice notes

Mr. John C. Clayton has left the Calgary practice of Clayton Bond and Mogridge. The new firm, Bond and Mogridge, will continue practice at the same address, 501 - 18th Ave. S.W., Calgary 3. Telephone 403-263-5990.

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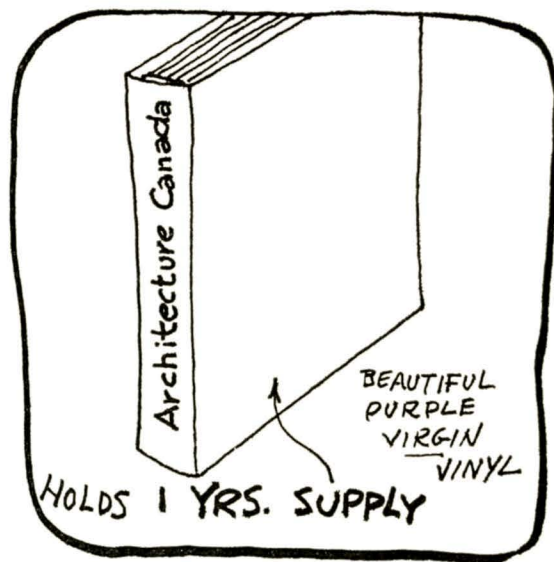
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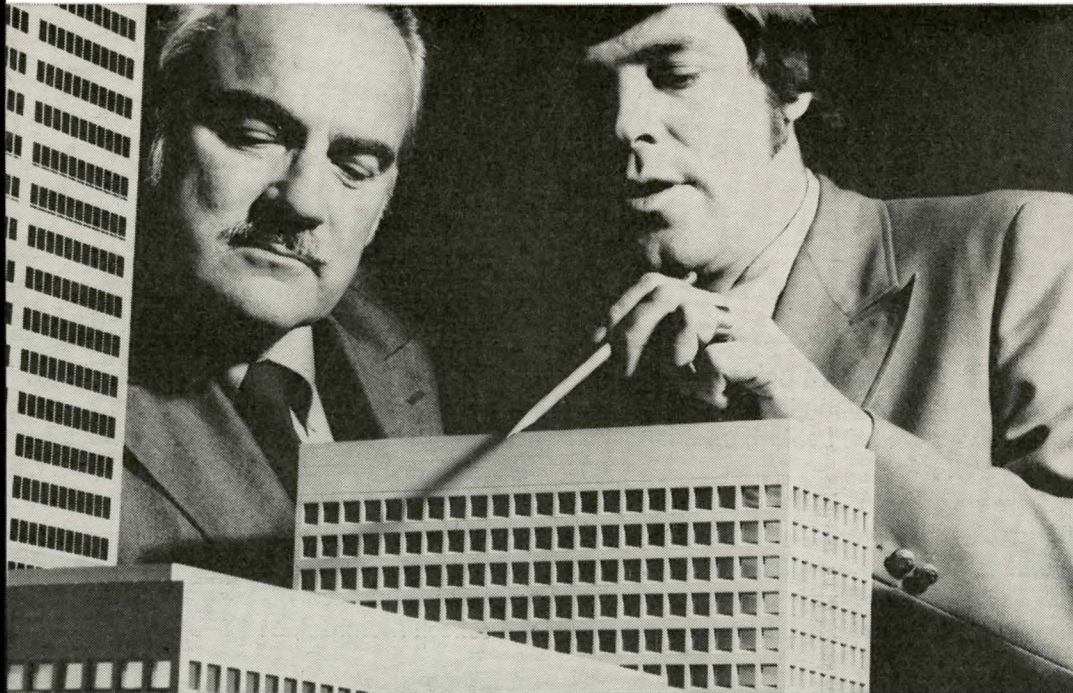
# float

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Buildings 3 and 4 of Commerce Court, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, Toronto.  
Architects for Commerce Court: Page & Steele, Toronto.  
Design consultants to the Bank: I. M. Pei and Partners, New York.



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