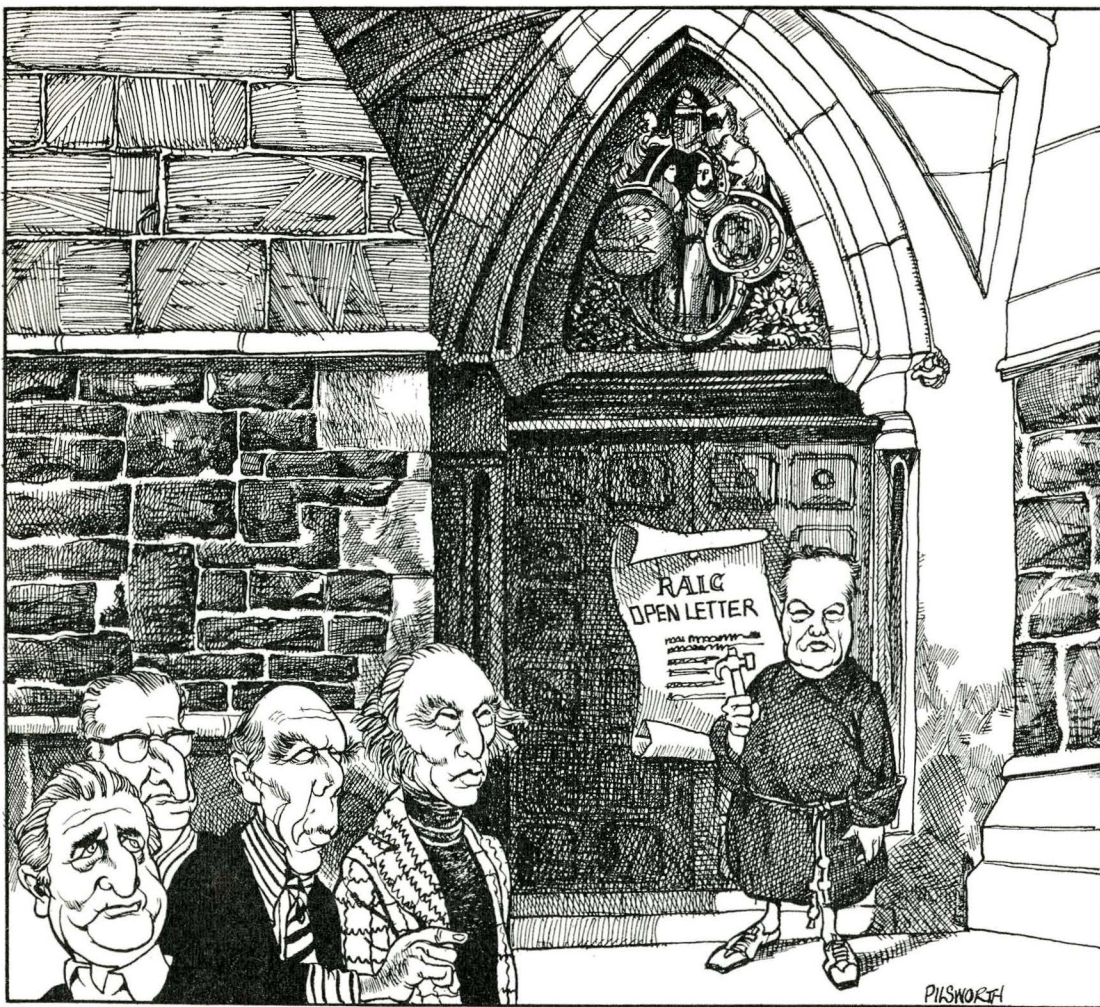


This stadium is a political football, see page 6

Architecture Canada

NEWSMAGAZINE

Published by RAIC/IRAC October, 1972



THE PROFESSION

RAIC addresses federal party leaders

For the first time in its 64 years of existence, this month the RAIC has stepped into the political arena with a public statement to the leaders of federal political parties.

In an open letter, RAIC expressed the concern of the profession about a number of issues ranging from housing, the environment, instability in the construction industry to the importation of foreign talent to design a stadium for Canada's first Olympic Games in Montreal. The purpose of the document, prepared by RAIC president C. F. T. Rounthwaite, is both to focus the attention of the government and opposition parties on matters which architects feel are of public concern and to give parties a chance to state their positions on those matters. According to a letter of transmittal signed by Executive Vice-President Wilson A. Salter, the RAIC intends to publish replies from party leaders at a later date.

The 12-page open letter is divided into ten major subject areas. Highlights include the following:

1. Urban Affairs

Under this heading, RAIC tackles such issues as energy conservation in building, the impact of major federal projects such as airports, dams, etc. on urban communities, and the preservation of important buildings. Recommendations include: the establishment of national policies on both energy conservation and planning; an increase of government efforts to ensure "Canada's valuable assets are not overwhelmed by the magnitude of federal works projects"; and the

To Federal Government Party Leaders: "As Executive Vice-President of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada I have been asked to draw your attention to certain matters of public concern to our profession in Canada. We would like to publish your Party's reply to the enclosed open letter to all Federal Government party leaders because we feel a positive attitude with respect to the issues raised will not only support but encourage our own members and Canadians in general. . . . We believe this exchange of views should prove to be mutually beneficial and timely." — Wilson A. Salter

establishment by the federal government of a catalogue of buildings both historically and architecturally significant as a step towards retaining them within the urban pattern.

Considering the long term implications of such matters does your party agree that the precautions we are suggesting are timely and necessary?

2. Housing

Is your party interested in a full review of national housing policy in hopes that better results will be achieved?

"The continued application of a means test as evidence of entitlement for a mortgage favours better-off citizens. RAIC would like to see a fresh approach which would indicate that CMHC is prepared to back Canadians collectively, not individually."

One of the ways quality housing could be made available to all, suggests the brief, would be to use a financing technique similar to Canada Savings Bonds. As with savings bonds, "issued as an investment on the strength of the resources and reputation of the people of Canada", the government could issue 'housing' bonds which could be considered as a sound long-term investment with a good return.

3. Natural resources

Questions relating to renewable and non-renewable natural resources, suggests RAIC, should be controlled by a non-political party. This group, a "National Board of Directors in the persons of Federal Members of Parliament", elected by the "22 million shareholders of Canada", could issue each year a report to help Canadians achieve a "more informed understanding of our situation. . . . A non-partisan report would avoid the confusion caused by the habitual clamor which emanates from vested interests and short range policies."

Will your party endorse such action and co-operate with all other national parties to achieve these ends whether you be the party in power or among the loyal opposition?

What is your party's attitude toward proposals by private commercial organizations for tourism developments in Canada's national parks?

4. Architectural research and development

While the recent establishment of the National Industry Development Foundation to assist in the development of new building methods, materials and craftsmanship is commended, RAIC expresses concern about overlap in research undertaken through national, provincial and independent sponsorship. It therefore asks:

Is your party prepared to institute an agency responsible for the co-ordination of research and development at all levels

in the interests of preventing duplication as well as directing the attention of interested parties toward the results achieved?

5. Instability of the construction industry

The RAIC, which has already prepared a brief on the cyclical nature of the construction industry for the Economic Council of Canada, [to be reported on in a subsequent issue] re-emphasizes its willingness to assist in government studies and efforts "to overcome this undesirable type of economic fluctuation". It further suggests that RAIC, as a national professional body, be encouraged to undertake, with federal financial assistance, research on ways to develop cheaper and more effective ways of producing structures and shelters.

The RAIC would like to know what it might be expected to do to serve the interests of the country with respect to the instability of the design segment of the construction industry.

6. Federal government contract policy

Noting the 1971 statement by RAIC to the Treasury Board on contract policy (AC/12/10/71), in its open letter RAIC calls for a firm statement with respect to contract policy as it applies to the services of the architectural profession.

Is your party interested in the RAIC's offer to supply advisory committees, etc. to assist in architectural matters relating to the government?

7. Education and professional employment

Status of the government architect and the relationship between government agencies executing architectural work and the private sector of the profession were highlights of this section.

"Touching upon the fact that provincial legislation requires all who are entitled to refer to themselves as architects must be so registered, we would like to mention the fact that the federal government continues to engage people who fill appointments which are classified as Architects Class I, II, III, with persons who do not belong to any of the professional associations. These persons pay annual dues to the civil service organization which speaks for those who are below the level of what is considered "Management" in the various government departments. Those in the public service who are registered as architects are faced with both annual provincial dues as well as Civil Service Association fees. This results in the fragmentation of

the profession as well as raising the question as to whether some who are so engaged by the Government of Canada could qualify for professional membership. This two-level system separates the non-managerial section of architects from the management sector of the civil service leading to dissatisfaction within what should be an integrated government professional service.

"Confusion exists in the minds of our members in both the public and private sectors as to the government policy with respect to federal departments and agencies executing architectural work. On the one hand the tax-paying private sector of our profession has been assured that the government is not in competition with them in their efforts to earn a living. On the other hand, evidence has been reported with respect to the build-up of the federal regional office staffs.

"It would be helpful if this was clarified by a simple policy statement to both sectors of the profession indicating whether federal architectural appointments are fundamentally for the purpose of providing an administrative and regulating service to assist in the implementation of government policy, or whether such publicly supported professionals are encouraged to build up sizeable technical staff in order to actively participate in the design and construction of structures and buildings.

"Certain government departments should have substantial in-house professional ability to carry out their own projects. The RAIC can see the need for such capacity in the instance of that of national defence where security is important. We agree that greater encouragement should be given to military personnel who are trained as Architects and Engineers in order for them to advance professionally. Our private sector questions the worth to the taxpayer of large technical staffs performing normal professional functions which can be contracted for on a daily, monthly or yearly basis. The deciding factor would seem to be the cost to the taxpayer for such operations."

Is your party prepared to clarify this situation by means of a policy statement which is comprehensive to all concerned?

8. International interprofessional organizations

In that the RAIC's role in international activities can be described more as a service to other countries rather than a benefit to the Canadian professional, the brief asks for reaction to the proposal that whereby the RAIC is providing the services of architects as 'ambassadors' at no cost to the government, that the government assist by providing the cost of transportation to international meetings and nominal out-of-pocket expenses.

9. Olympic stadium 1976

"The profession in Canada has formally expressed grave concern about the importation of foreign talent to design the stadium for Canada's first Olympic Games in Montreal. We fear that the exclusion of native professional expertise from the design of the new Olympic Stadium may be judged abroad as lack of local talent. We think that Canada's technological ability is enhanced when projects such as Expo '67 include the work of our members. We do not object to the engagement of foreign architects for projects where their special skill and knowledge is required but we are concerned when no attempt is made to assess the capabilities of our members before the decision to exclude them has been taken. We think such procedures defeat the commendable efforts of CIDA, the Department of Trade, Industry and Commerce, as well as the efforts that our individual members to export Canadian technology."

Aside from factors relating to the jurisdiction as to whether Canada is the host country or Montreal is the host city we would like to know your party's official attitude on this subject and whether or not you agree with our members' attitude.

10. Commonwealth Games 1978

"The scheduled program for Canada to be the host country for the 1978 Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, Alberta, will involve the design of extensive structures, facilities and accommodations for this event."

What is the attitude of your party toward utilizing professional design services for this event?



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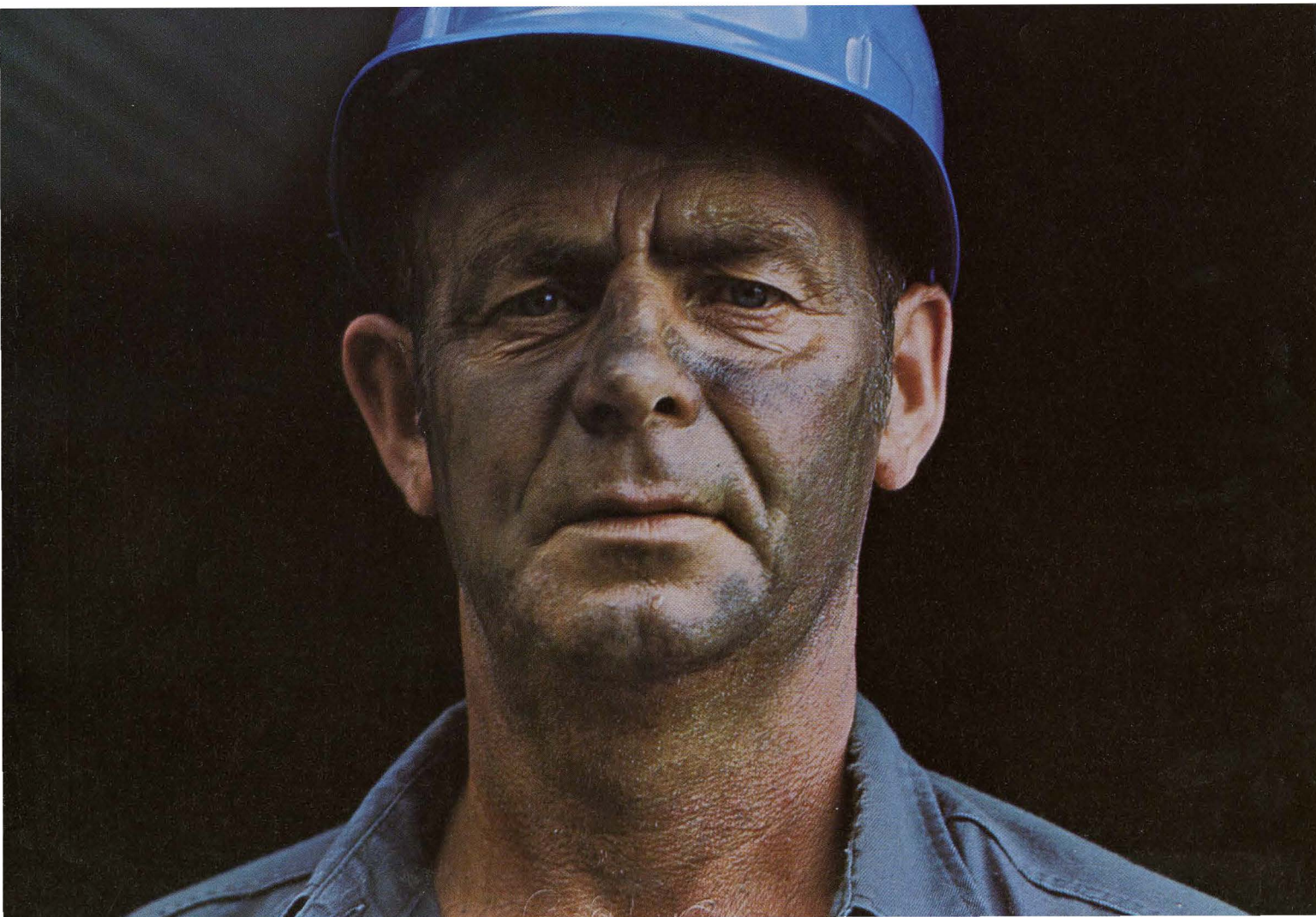
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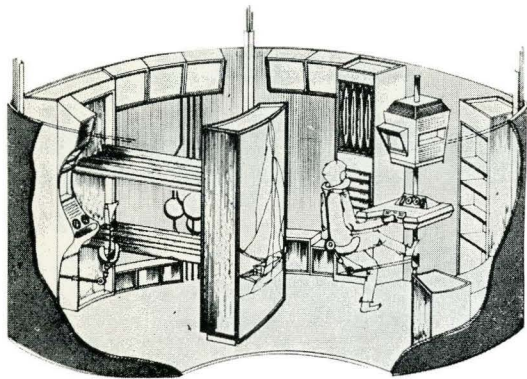
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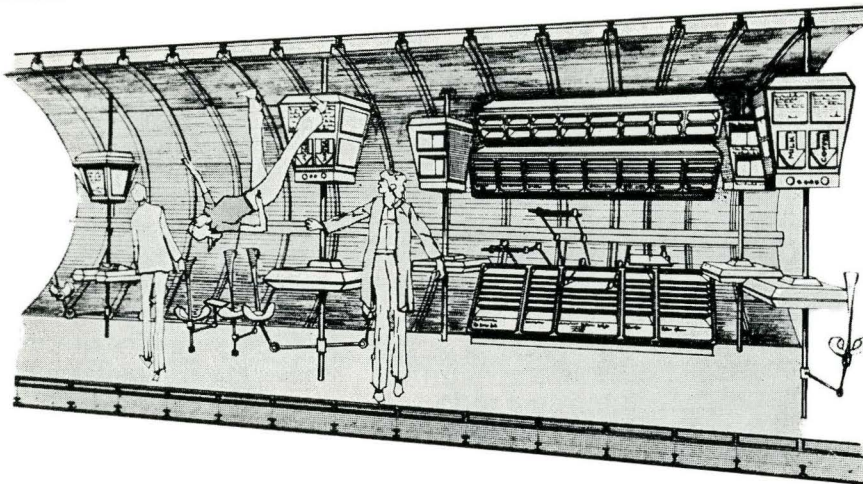
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Hostile environment architecture

Canadian architecture student R. D. Roberts, taking his Master's at the University of Washington, has won first prize in a NASA-American Institute of Architects space station design competition. He wins \$3,000 and a chance to present his ideas to U.S. space officials. The problem was to design an 11-module station, built in two phases, for 12 people (but capable of housing up to 24 at crew-change time). Roberts was praised for design efficiency, use of computer graphics, an inventive approach to lighting, body restraint systems, hygienic units, personalized work pods and overall modular configuration.



Les Architectes Canadiens et l'Union Internationale des Architectes

Pour les quelques 45 architectes canadiens qui ont participé au congrès de l'UIA à Varna fin septembre, il ne fait plus de doute que notre vocation est internationale et mondiale. La réputation de notre pays dans les différentes parties du monde est excellente et nous ne semblons pas compter d'ennemis. La Trudeau-manie s'est communiquée au monde entier, alors qu'au moment d'écrire ces mots (2 semaines avant les élections) il est impossible de mesurer encore son emprise au pays.

Les confrères qui ont profité de l'occasion pour visiter la Russie en reviennent enchantés, et malgré la lourdeur de l'organisation matérielle du congrès en Bulgarie, ils gardent tous, je crois, un excellent souvenir du site merveilleux et de la gentillesse des Bulgares.

Pour les trois délégués officiels de l'Institut (Thomas Howarth, Jim Langford et Jean-Louis Lalonde), qui ont participé aux délibérations de l'Assemblée Générale à Sofia du 18 au 23 septembre, avant de se rendre au congrès, le voyage aura été un peu plus ardu mais certainement très enrichissant. L'élection de la section canadienne, pour la première fois dans les 24 années d'existence de l'UIA, à un poste au conseil de cet organisme a cependant couronné nos efforts et tous les trois sommes revenus de Bulgarie très fiers. Nous croyons avoir rempli le rôle que l'IRAC nous avait confié et nous être assuré un poste de commande qui nous permettra pendant les six années à venir de participer activement à la détermination des politiques de l'Union et à son programme d'action. Je serai personnellement honoré de représenter l'Institut au conseil de l'UIA et je compte sur la collaboration de tous les intéressés pour apporter à la communauté internationale des architectes l'apport d'une section canadienne active et efficace.

Je me propose de vous faire part à périodes régulières des activités de l'UIA et à cette fin je vous communiquerai dans un prochain numéro le rapport détaillé que je prépare pour le conseil de l'IRAC ainsi que le programme d'action que notre Section adoptera. — Jean-Louis Lalonde.

Image polishing

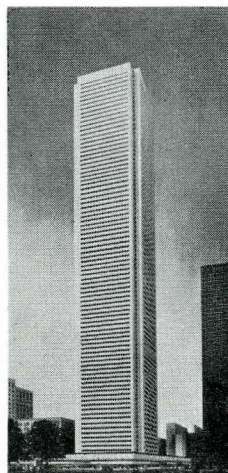
The American Institute of Architects is spending up to \$150,000 on a major image-polishing drive, following a study which showed many potential clients fear hiring an architect will mean delays and higher costs. "Some businessmen worry that architects are more concerned about building a monument to themselves than suiting the client's needs," says the AIA.

The new campaign, planned to dispel such fears, includes distribution of 10,000 booklets describing successful architectural work done for business concerns.



Global city

For almost a decade a team of internationalists has been at work near Pondicherry, India establishing the ground rules for a utopian city for 50,000 people. A progress report was presented at the UN Stockholm Conference this summer: a model has been established and future citizens are gathering. The idea behind Auroville, meaning city of dawn, is the creation of a laboratory-city where man can experiment on himself to help "transcend himself, and create conditions of life and environment that will accelerate his integral growth." The city, developed within a circular grid, would be "dynamic and evolutive." Because population would be limited, growth would be towards quality.



Nearer my God . . .

Initial approval has been given for this 70-storey building — to be Canada's tallest — for Toronto's King Street. Architects are Bregman & Hamann.

Meanwhile in New York, other architects are plotting how 11 storeys can be added to the Empire State building to regain its 'prominence' as world's tallest.

Advertising will follow such tactics as "Why hire an architect if all I need is four walls and a roof? — long-term cost savings, more efficient and useful buildings."

EVENTS

Fires in high-rises

The Canadian Fire Safety Association will discuss smoke and fire protection in high-rise buildings at a day-long seminar at the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto, November 2, 1972. For more information write CFSA, 1750 Finch Avenue East, Willowdale, Ont. or phone Richard Morris 291-9551.

COMPETITIONS

Zinc die casting

Students at schools of design across Canada are being invited to take part in Cominco's fourth annual Student Die Casting Design competition. The theme this year is "designing workshop tools/accessories or household hardware incorporating zinc die castings." Cash awards, to be presented early in 1973, are \$350 first, \$250 second, \$150 third, and five \$50 honorable mentions. Details available from Cominco Ltd., Market Development, 1500 West Georgia Street, Vancouver 5, B.C.

BOOKS

Foreshadow of a new approach to architecture

American Building 2 — The Environmental Forces that Shape It, James Marston Fitch, Houghton Mifflin, Boston (in Canada, Thomas Allen), 1972; \$17.95

This second volume of the expanded edition of a book originally published some twenty-five years ago comes at an opportune time. The author's concern for a truly rational approach to architectural design problems will be welcomed by architects weary of both Beaux-Arts and International Style aesthetics. Rather than as entertainers out to surprise and delight their clients they see themselves as problem solvers. Prof. Fitch outlines a method by which one important set of problems, normally overlooked by the architect, might be dealt with.

The book concerns itself primarily with the need for integrated environmental control systems dealing with extremes of climate, the modulation of light, control of sound, etc.; in other words, with aspects of the physical environment. It is at its best in the chapters that focus exclusively on the "experiential" qualities of architecture (they make up roughly half the book). Here Prof. Fitch calls for building enclosures conceived as membranes "... capable of variable response to

shifting environmental stresses...," as a "... permeable filter, neither a wall nor a curtain...". Drawing on the work of Ralph Knowles, he suggests using computers to help derive optimum architectural form. Ralph Erskine's work is given the prominence it richly deserves and rarely gets.

If the book has a fault it lies in its author's seeming inability to relate man's physical needs to his emotional and social needs. One is thus tempted to take issue with him already in the book's first paragraph where he states that "... the central function of architecture is to lighten the very stress of life". To this reviewer the concept of architecture as a social tranquilizer fits into the Summer of '42 better than into the present. So does the author's unquestioning belief in the essential goodness of technology. Lapses such as these devalue much of the text. Even so, the book should be read by every architect: it foreshadows a new approach to architectural design based on a full range of physiological, psychological, sociological, and economic considerations, and made possible by emerging new techniques.

George Banz,
Toronto

Shopping centre stats

The Urban Development Institute has out a 1972 report on retail businesses' sales and rent in Ontario shopping centres. Based on a sampling of 46 centres (1,146 stores), the report makes comparisons with a similar 1966 study. Copies are available for \$10 from the Urban Development Institute, 15 Gervais Drive, Don Mills, Ontario.

PEOPLE

Dr. Peter Manning, director of the School of Architecture, Nova Scotia Technical College, has been elected a director of the Canadian Construction Information Corporation.

Robert P. Wiele is new director of continuing education for the Ontario Association of Architects. The position has been created, says OAA, in recognition of architects' responsibility to maintain high performance standards and improve services. Wiele brings to the Association broad experience in the field of adult education.



Dr. Alan Waterhouse has been appointed chairman of the University of Toronto's Department of Urban and Regional Planning, replacing Dr. Dakin who will continue as professor in the department.

Alan Armstrong is chief of the Canada Council's newly created Development Section. He was formerly executive officer of the Canadian Council of Urban and

Regional Research. Now he will be responsible for devising means of evaluating and making more effective Canada Council activities on behalf of the humanities and social sciences.

Kenneth Campbell Lochhead, a professor of painting at the School of Art, University of Manitoba, has been appointed to the Department of Public Works' Advisory Committee on Art, to represent DPW's Western Region.

Lochhead has exhibited in major art galleries in Canada and has had work included in a number of international exhibitions including the Post-Painterly Abstraction Exhibition in Los Angeles and the Canada 100 Edinburgh International Festival Exhibition. He has been commissioned to execute murals at Gander International Airport Terminal, York University, the Canadian Chancery Building, Warsaw, Poland. He is also the designer of the Manitoba Centennial stamp.

LETTERS

Reconstruction of Fort Edmonton

Dear Sirs:
May we make an appeal to your readers for some missing documents?

The Historical Branch of the City of Edmonton Parks and Recreation Department has been researching information about the Hudson's Bay Company Fort Edmonton as it was during the 1840's, in preparation for an authentic reconstruction of the post. Much of our knowledge of this fort in the 19th century is derived from Fort Edmonton Journals of Daily Occurrences which are now in the Hudson's Bay Company Archives. Unfortunately, all of the Journals between the years 1834 and 1854 are missing, but it is possible that they still exist somewhere, perhaps in a private collection.

If any readers have information concerning the whereabouts of these missing journals, we would sincerely appreciate hearing from them at: The Historical Exhibits Building, 10105 — 112 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5G, 0H1.

D. Babcock,
Research Consultant,
Historical Development and
Archives Branch,
City of Edmonton

Low energy architecture

Dear Sirs:
I was delighted to read in the President's message to the RAIC membership about topics of importance and projects to be followed up for the ensuing year.

The recently appointed official committee on the "Environment and Urban Affairs" has as one of its tasks to pursue some of the recommendations it prepared (as an ad hoc committee) to the UN Conference on the Human Environment which included: "3... studies

be undertaken to determine the energy consumption patterns of different forms of urban development."

In beginning to pursue this important topic, preliminary discussions have already taken place with Richard G. Stein, FAIA from New York, regarding a national committee that is being set up by the AIA on the topic of energy consumption.

Peter L. E. Goering,
Co-chairman, RAIC Committee on
Environment and Urban Affairs

HOUSING

OAA submits "practical" brief on low-income housing

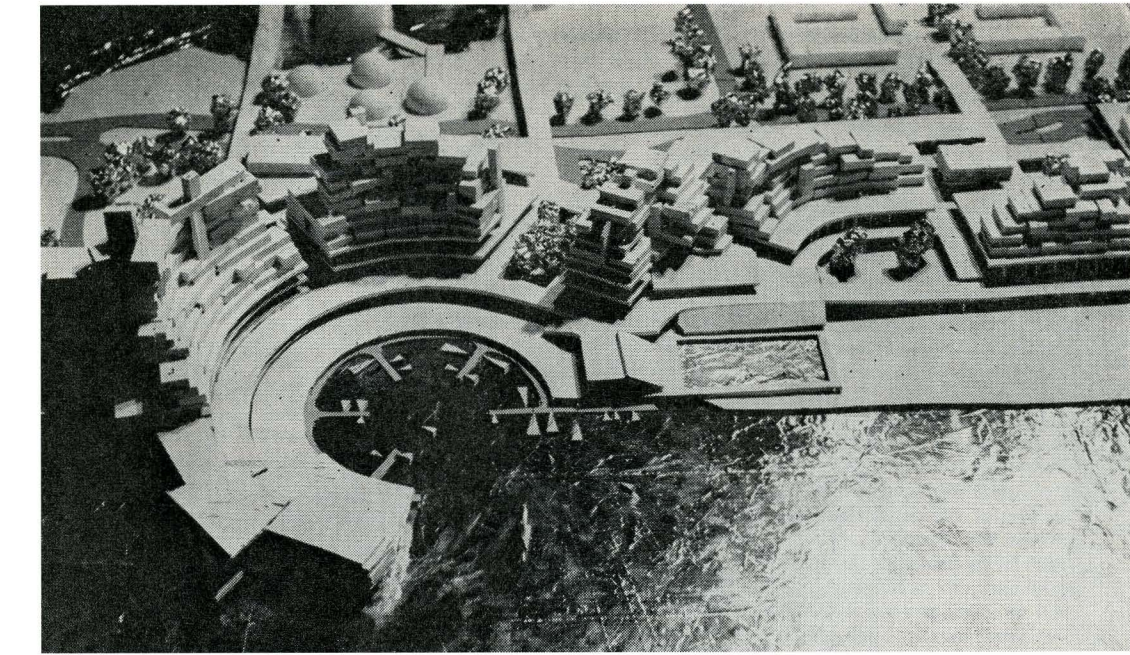
Hard on the heels of the brief submitted last month by the RAIC to the Ministry of Urban Affairs on amendments to the National Housing Act (A/C 9/25/72), this month came a brief on the same subject submitted by the Ontario Association of Architects. The two documents differ substantially in emphasis.

The OAA brief tends to have a less academic and more practical thrust says co-chairman of the committee that prepared the OAA document David Lipson, Toronto, because it was prepared largely by "architects in the thick of housing problems". The committee includes Blandford Gates, co-chairman, K. Becker, Macy DuBois, Stig Harvor and Elmar Tampold.

While the OAA lauds the general intent of the Bill, the main emphasis of its brief is that the \$457-million proposed low-income housing program is "heavily slanted" in favor of redevelopment areas in the centre of cities. "Job opportunities," it says "are increasing more rapidly in the suburbs than in the centre of cities in most large urban areas." Therefore the largest housing problems of the next decade will probably occur in suburban areas.

To rectify the imbalance, the OAA suggests further amendments to encourage intensive planning studies for the best forms of growth outside the centre of cities and a program to provide community amenities and transportation in new areas of development.

The major area of disagreement between OAA and RAIC occurs in attitude towards government land assembly. The RAIC proposes that there be "strong incentives in the Act for rational land banking by a public agency — municipal land assembly is imperative," while the OAA emphasizes that while government land assembly is appropriate in certain areas it is "not the answer to keeping down land costs within rapidly developing areas... in some cases this may inflate land prices by creating an initial shortage of land available needed for construction... Speculators are not the main cause of high price land today, but the governments themselves and their inability in the past to take a proper course of action. Both the federal and provincial



Four myths about architects.

- "To the architect, time is no object."**
The truth is that in the new science of fast construction, it is architects who are the pioneers. Using new techniques like "Fast Track" and "Critical Path," they are meeting and even beating some murderous deadlines. At the site for Metromore's huge new headquarters in Santa Clara, California, architects had steelwork up in 2 weeks, the first products rolling off assembly lines within 9 months, and the entire complex of buildings, which won awards for their good looks, finished inside of 2 years!
- "He loves to spend your money because his fee is a percentage."**
The truth is that architects today will often negotiate a fixed fee before they begin work. But the architect who did Citicorp Service Oil's headquarters in Tulsa was working for the traditional percentage. He found a way to use the outer walls as a truss, thus reducing the cost of the building by \$1,000,000 and—incidentally—clipping a sizable sum off his own fee!
- "His estimate is an underestimate."**
The truth is that despite the dizzying impact of inflation, architects' estimates have proved to be surprisingly realistic. A random sampling of 25 architectural projects in North Carolina last year showed that final construction costs were \$3,126,843 under the architects' original estimates. And there's no reason to believe that North Carolina's architects are any shrewder than the rest.
- "He cares more about the way it looks than the way it works."**
Ten businessmen who've dealt with architects recently have taken the trouble to demolish this myth. They describe how their architects gave them buildings that work in ways they would never have thought of themselves, and we've put their stories into a booklet. We'll send you a copy, free! Just drop a card to American Institute of Architects, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. (It happens to be a good-looking booklet, as well.)

Canadian entry wins third places in competition for a resort community in Tangier

Two architectural graduates, Alan Rodger of Scotland and Howard Jeffree of Australia, living in Canada for over a year, have won third prize and \$4,000 in the international competition for a holiday resort community in the Bay of Tangier, Morocco. The results were announced this month. The community is to be part of a recreational development for some 30,000 people. It is envisioned as a "magnetic pole" — a town centre — with accommodation for 2,300, entertainment and recreational facilities, shops, a marketplace, and communications, administrative and service buildings.

The main elements of the Rodger-Jeffree concept, says Jeffree (with Cohos Delesalle and Evamy Architects in Calgary) are: the relationship of the community to the water — although it is in a beach setting "we brought the water right into the scheme"; a marketplace with a relaxed atmosphere that is constantly changing to accommodate different activities; and a juxtaposition of narrow pedestrian streets with open plazas to provide visual surprise.

AIA public relations

One of the ads run by the American Institute of Architects as part of its pr campaign. This one appeared in a recent issue of Business Week. See story page 4.

governments have been alerted about this increasing problem over the last ten years, and yet no concerted *effective* action has ever been taken."

Other highlights of the OAA brief include the following:

- on residential rehabilitation: the Act should be broadened to include the occasional single family house in an otherwise stable area; there should be an authority or group to assist poor and elderly in the selection of tradesmen and contractors for rehabilitation projects; CMHC should inspect both the building and contract to assure reasonable quality.
- on assisted home ownership: while the proposed program appears to have a great deal of merit, and will work in areas where there is ample serviced land the OAA suggests it will only serve to increase the pressure on land costs where there is already limited serviced land in urban areas. . . . "Without a

realistic program of creating a surplus of serviced land, the only effect that the above policy will ultimately have will be to make more people in the short run able to compete for the limited land available until the price rises out of reach once again."

- on housing research and community planning: funds for innovative and experimental building and research into new technical systems should not be approved unless the projects appear to have a practical application."

CITIES

Olympic Games — Montreal's best kept secret

On March 21 of this year it became known that Parisian architect Pierre Taillibert would design the stadium for the 1976 Olympic Games in Montreal. A photograph of his scheme appeared in numerous publications. Since then the only other thing the public has been able to

find out about the Games, as the Province of Quebec Association of Architects succinctly puts it, "is that it will more than likely be footing the bill."

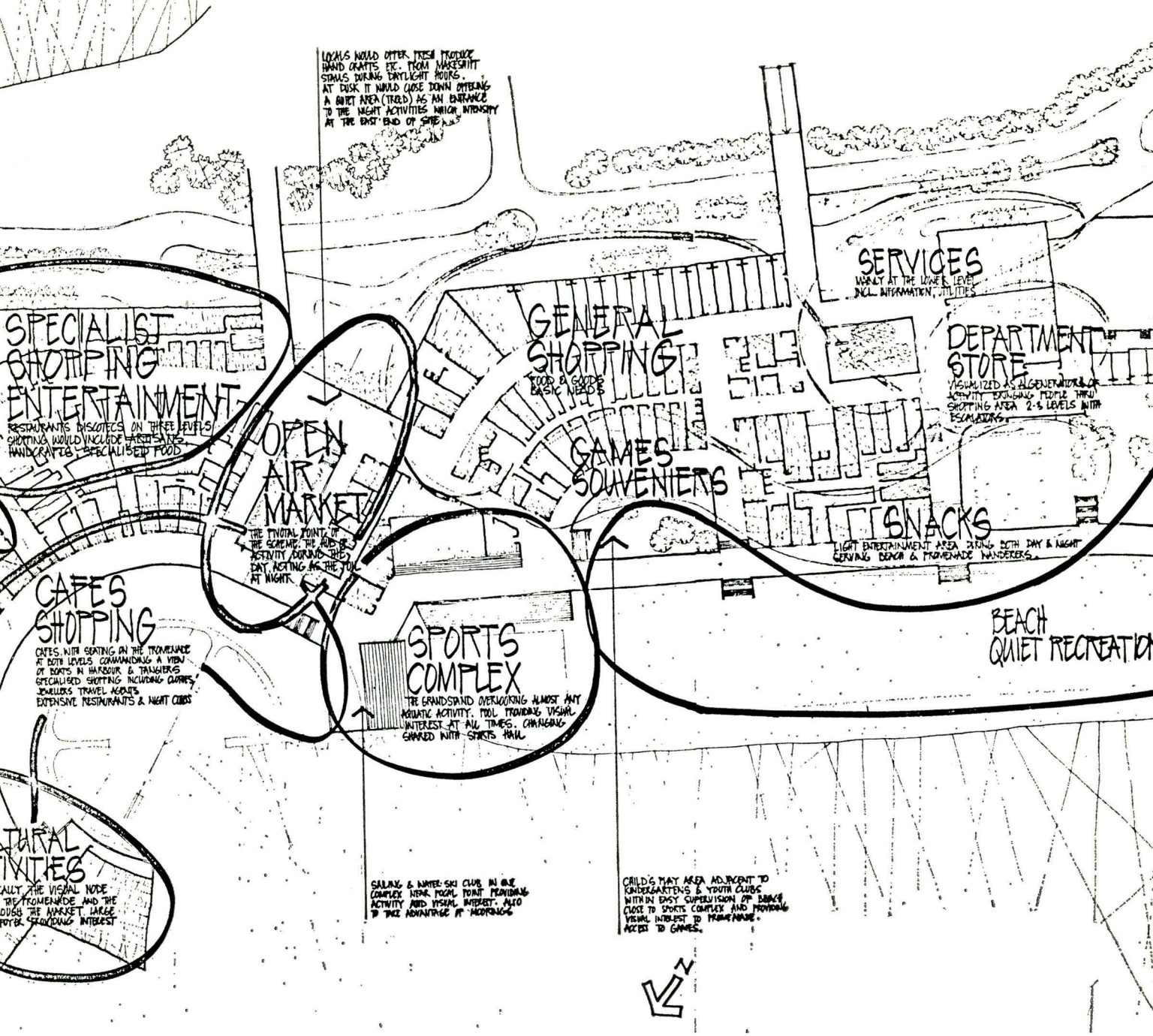
Evidence of just how secretive Mayor Drapeau is being about the whole thing was presented in a press conference held last month by the PQAA. The Association since last spring has been expressing both its concern about a non-Canadian being picked for the job and that there has been little co-operation between the City and the Canadian architectural profession. Because its comments have fallen on seemingly deaf ears it has now obtained permission from the courts to take legal action against M. Taillibert for illegal practice of architecture in the province of Quebec. This could have been avoided, says PQAA, if Drapeau had opened the lines of communication between himself, Taillibert and the Association.

The events leading up to this

action are as follows:

- On March 29 the Association issued a press release asking for a national competition for selecting a team of Canadian architects and engineers.
- On April 5 this request was officially presented to Mayor Drapeau.
- On April 6, there was a grand opening presenting the sports pavilion.
- On April 14 PQAA's letter was returned by Drapeau "to allow the PQAA to make modifications in light of the April 6 presentation."
- On April 14, a letter was sent to Taillibert, with a copy to Drapeau, asking him to conform to the Architects Act and By-law within 15 days. No reply to date.
- On April 26, PQAA returned its earlier letter to Drapeau and it reiterated in a covering letter its earlier stands. No reply to date.

At the same time as announcing its legal action last month against M. Taillibert, the PQAA also raised



the question about whether or not the Games should be held at all. "In view of the politicization of the Games [in Munich] it is said openly that the Montreal Games will be the last ones. Why do the Montreal ones have to be the last and not the Munich ones? . . . The cost of housing accommodations for the athletes and security measures will surpass no doubt original estimates. The replanning of an Olympic Village will probably be necessary for the security of guests, and this will affect original plans for the decentralization of accommodations. . . . There is still time to stop such a debatable adventure."

Meanwhile, RAIC, which has also expressed its concern about the "unacceptable position taken by Mayor Drapeau, has uncovered some interesting facts of its own about the Games.

Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Urban Affairs Andre Saumier has told RAIC "that the honor of holding

the Olympic Games is entrusted to a city and not to a country," while Secretary of State for External Affairs Mitchell Sharp has said that "any country that is contemplating large gatherings of this kind, and particularly *Canada which has undertaken to put on the Olympic Games* in 1976, must be concerned with [security precautions]."

PRACTICE

Calgary engineering firm expands west

Underwood McLellan & Associates, one of Canada's largest multi-disciplinary engineering firms, has recently expanded its range of B.C. consulting services with the acquisition of Kelowna-based Interior Engineering Services Ltd.

The UMA Group has offices in Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg and Toronto, and also recently acquired U.S. engineering consulting firm, Engi-

neering Pacific Inc., with offices in Portland, Oregon and Peoria, Illinois.

TECHNOLOGY

Computer bibliography

A *Bibliography of Computers in the Construction Industry* and a related key word search service are available from the Center for Environmental Research, Boston. The Center says its data bank consists of more than 1,000 entries of articles, books and conference papers relevant to computer use in architecture, building, planning and construction. Each entry is classified by key words, any combination of which can be searched at a cost of \$5.00 per search. The two-volume, 800-page bibliography costs \$110 prepaid. For more information write Center for Environmental Research, 955 Park Square Building, Boston, Massachusetts 02116.

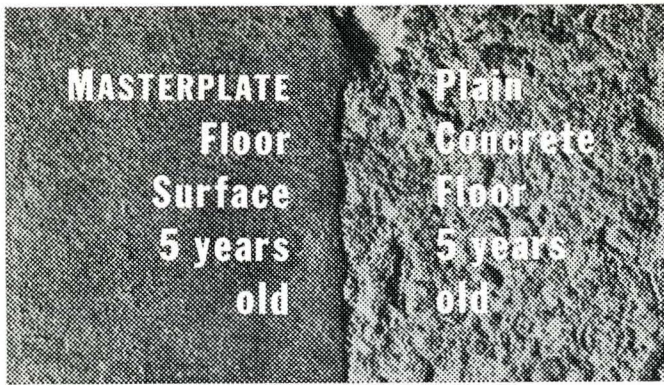
ENVIRONMENT

Urban conference in '75

Canada has offered to host an international conference on housing and urban problems in Vancouver during the summer of 1975. It could be the biggest event of its kind ever held in Canada, say senior officials of the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs charged with the responsibility for planning the conference.

What they have in mind is something similar in size and style to the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm last June. It, too, would be a U.N. conference, to consider in depth one of the six main subject areas on the Stockholm agenda: human settlements.

The RAIC has offered the cooperation of its newly-formed Committee on Environment and Urban Affairs, co-chaired by Peter Goering and Alex Leman, Toronto.



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Canada's offer was first made at Stockholm, where the idea was endorsed in the conference report to the U.N. General Assembly. Both external affairs and urban affairs officials have been promoting the idea during the general assembly in New York this month — as has U.N. environment boss Maurice Strong. The final decision on whether or not the Canadian conference will go ahead will be made by the new U.N. environmental governing council which is expected to hold its first meeting next spring. As of now, the prospects look good.

The first official references to the proposed Vancouver conference are very sketchy, reflecting the embryonic state of the plans (even the word 'plans' suggests a firmer concept than exists at this point, at least on paper). Eager to get away from the idea of yet another gabfest, the architects of the scheme have tagged it a "conference/demonstration". Now some of them are suggesting that this name may not have been a wise choice, implying, as it has in some minds, a kind of Expo '67 all made of Habitats.

Nevertheless, one objective is to promote actual working full size models of innovative housing, complete communities, transportation systems, water recycling plants, etc. These would probably be built in many locations, in many countries, and reported on at Vancouver. Other less tangible aspects of increasing urbanization — sociological ones, for instance — should also be treated. How, is anyone's guess at this point.

Like Stockholm, most of the preparatory work would probably be done by a specially created U.N. secretariat. This would likely be headquartered in Geneva and/or New York. Despite this, there would still be a lot of work to do in Canada, as the host country. And the prospect of an influx of 5,000 or more visitors is already tickling the palate of the tourist industry in Vancouver and elsewhere.

'Design for survival' theme of RIBA conference

The British Department of the Environment was created out of such ministries as housing, transportation, and public works. Which would seem to indicate that British officialdom is thinking more of the man-made environment (and therefore the world of the architect) than is the case in Canada (where Environment Canada embraces such fields as fisheries and forestry).

In this new era of ecological awareness, "we shall be compelled to look at every problem afresh and to question all the assumptions on which we have worked," says RIBA president Alex Gordon. He made the comment as he opened this year's RIBA conference which had as its theme 'Designing for Survival'.

Two illustrious eco-speakers were on hand to set the mood: Barry Commoner and Aurelio Peccei. Commoner is the author of *The*

Closing Circle; Peccei is the founder of the Club of Rome which sponsored the controversial *Limits to Growth* study. Both were prominent participants in the Stockholm U.N. conference.

Though they take issue with each other's theses (in what field doesn't that happen among the experts?), both men are stern advocates of the pressing need for mankind to stop fouling its collective nest.

Much of the burden of coping with the environmental crisis will fall on architects, said Peccei. And to cope successfully, the profession will "have to build alliances . . . with people who live and work in your buildings," Commoner added. "At the very least, it would be prudent to act as if you were aware of the ecological crisis."

Concluded RIBA past-president Peter Shephard: "we need a new kind of architect" who is more of a generalist and is prepared to develop judgment on the quality of life — always remembering that the architect's field is building, "and the effects buildings have on people."

As part of its environmental effort, the RIBA has launched a 'long life/loose fit/low-energy' study. Its purpose, says Gordon, is to learn more about "long life buildings with infinitely adaptable interior spaces that would achieve maximum economics through the low use of heating, lighting, power and water."

Some 25% of Britain's energy supply is used in servicing buildings, according to one conference speaker. He suggested an immediate doubling of insulation standards and the incorporation of solar energy collectors.

CONFERENCES

Commonwealth architects to meet in Canada next year

The Commonwealth Association of Architects has accepted an invitation from the RAIC to hold its 1973 meeting in Canada in conjunction with the RAIC Assembly in Montreal. The meetings will be held back to back to allow Commonwealth architects to participate in the RAIC affair. Laurentin Levesque, acerbic editor of the *PQAA Bulletin*, is chairman of the 1973 RAIC host committee.

RESEARCH

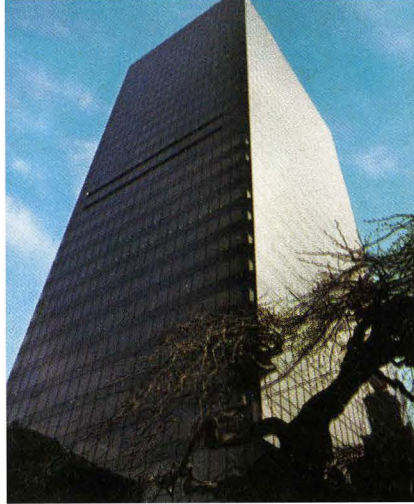
RAIC to coordinate research activity

As a first step to research projects becoming "a most important function of the RAIC," national headquarters has circulated a questionnaire on research activities to provincial associations.

It asks them to report back on: research studies being carried out by the association; suggestions for needed research studies; whether or not it would poll its membership on the same subjects; and if it would be prepared to nominate one of its members as an RAIC Research Committee member.

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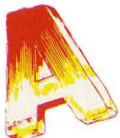


The new Pacific Centre with nearly 4,000 tenants in its first 30-storey Toronto-Dominion Bank Tower, is more than just a shopping centre. It is Vancouver's forerunner in the trend to integrated shopping cities, enabling people to work, shop, eat and find entertainment within one complex.

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The action was taken further to a proposal made to RAIC by Chairman of the Research Committee Frank Nicol.

Nicol also made the following suggestions which have been approved by the RAIC. RAIC should:

- Poll major government departments on their research needs, to see if any part of their programs could be undertaken by the RAIC.

- Through the Research Committee organize submissions for financial support for needed research, and direct to likely funding sources.

- Commission individual architects or firms to undertake the identified research projects.

- Monitor research projects and formally submit reports and findings.

- Ultimately, as a long term objective, form a research secretariat if RAIC can show capability to undertake meaningful research. This secretariat should be financially supported by funds and grants from sources other than normal RAIC revenue.

IRAC

Nouvelles

Pour la première fois dans son histoire, l'Institut royal d'architecture du Canada s'est lancé dans l'arène politique. Il a fait parvenir aux chefs des partis politiques fédéraux un mémoire exposant ses inquiétudes sur divers sujets.

Le but de ce document est d'éveiller l'attention du gouvernement et des chefs des partis à l'opposition sur ces sujets que les architectes considèrent d'intérêt public, et de susciter les dirigeants de notre pays à définir leur position officielle en ces matières. La lettre ouverte de l'IRAC comprends 12 pages et se divise en 10 chapitres.

L'IRAC vient de créer un comité sur l'Environnement et les Affaires urbaines. Ce comité est formé des membres qui ont été responsables de la présentation de l'IRAC à la Conférence des Nations Unies sur l'Environnement Humain, à Stockholm en Juin dernier. L'Institut a offert les services de son nouveau comité pour assister à la préparation de la Conférence sur les Agglomérations Humaines qui devrait avoir lieu à Vancouver en 1975.

CLASSIFIED

Positions wanted

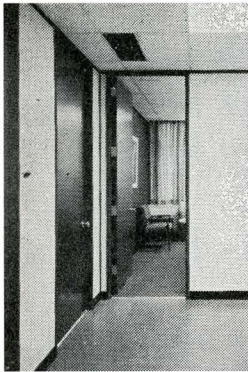
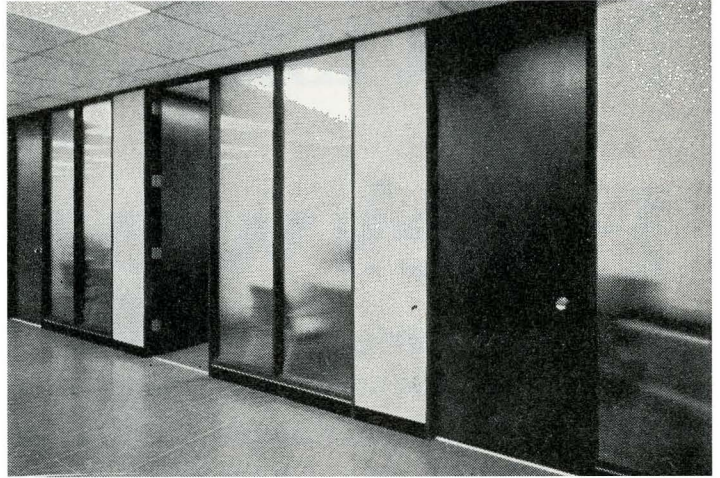
Iranian Architect, Dipl. Ing. Arch., graduated at Technical University, Munik, is emigrated to Canada and seeks employment in architect's office. Age 37, 8 years' experience, special knowledge, town planning. Reply: Morad-Hassel, Janeway Apt. B-201, St. John's, Newfoundland.

Etudiant français voulant compléter un stage de travail pratique au Canada désire entrer en contact avec un bureau d'architecte qui pourrait l'accepter pour une période de six mois à un an. Veuillez répondre à Michel Dusaussay, 9 rue Masurel, (59) Lille, France.

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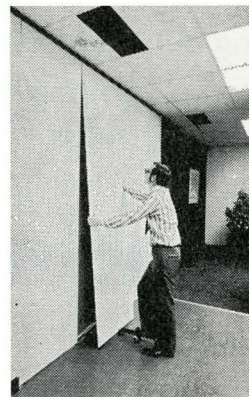
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