

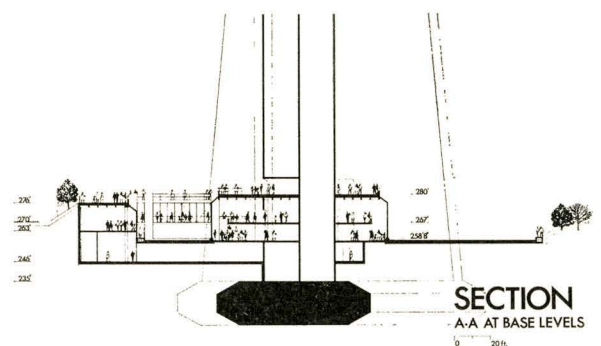
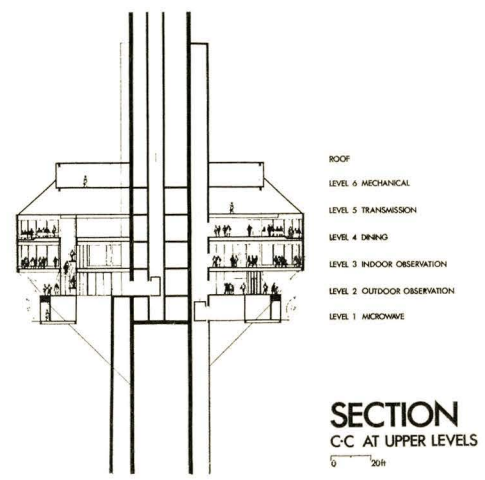
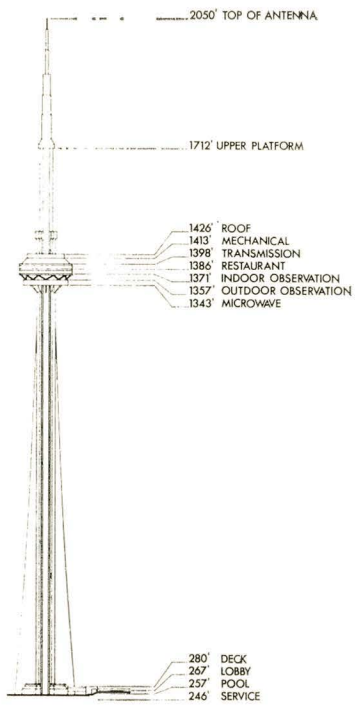
Architecture Canada

NEWSMAGAZINE
 Published by RAIC/IRAC February 1973



Top of the world – Now it's in Toronto

Till now, the battle over who shall have the tallest building in Canada has been the exclusive preserve of the banks. This month, the CN Tower in Toronto takes the lead. It will be almost double the height of the present record holder (Commerce Court, Toronto, 942 ft.). More than that, it will top the world's tallest structure (Ostankino Tower, Moscow) by a comfortable 50 ft. The CN Tower will be the first building out of the ground in the CN/CP Metro Centre, whose 190 acres make it the largest single downtown redevelopment in North America. Work has already started on the foundations for the new tower. It is due for completion in December '74. Up to the 6-storey restaurant/observation pod the tower will be slip-formed post-tensioned concrete. Above that it will be structural steel.



Consulting architects: John Andrews/Webb, Zerafa, Menkes, Housden.





RAIC/IRAC **communiqué**

Joint RAIC/PQAA convention

This year the RAIC experiments with a brand new type of convention and annual meeting – holding joint activities in Montreal with the PQAA Convention, between May 30–June 2, 1973.

The Convention Committee is giving considerable effort to design a streamlined convention, opened to the maximum number of individual members through small participation fees, through loosely structuring theme activities, through suggesting "crash pad" invitations to fellow architects of other provinces, and through opening the discussions to members of other professions of the environment.

Laurentin Levesque, Committee chairman, says he hopes the convention will provide the opportunity for a national friendly get-together – for "extra-communication" and for a "trip into awareness."

RAIC starts new awards program

The Council of the RAIC has authorized the initiation of a program of annual awards in conjunction with the convention in Montreal.

The purpose of the program is: a) – to bring to public attention the variety, the scope and the value of architectural services; b) – to recognize distinguished accomplishments in architecture by Canadian architects.

Projects must be submitted by members of the RAIC but may be the work of architects or of multi-disciplinary teams in which the submitting architect(s) is acting as coordinator or head of the team.

All works of physical design contributing to the built environment can be submitted, from the simple shelter to the multi-function complex, and including components, building systems, renovation and restoration works, or any other project which can improve the quality of life. Entries will be classified in two categories: a) – projects substantially completed after January 1st 1968; b) – projects not built or not substantially completed. There will be a maximum of ten awards in each category.

A Screening Committee, under the chairmanship of Clifford Wiens, Honors and Awards Committee chairman, will review proposed submissions. Members who intend to participate are invited to submit in brief form a description of their proposed entry with sufficient details of exhibit material to allow for allocation of space and time at the Convention.

Judging will be done by ballot by RAIC members at the Convention. Awards will be presented at the annual dinner on Friday, June 1.

Registration and submissions in preliminary form (see above) must be sent to the Province of Quebec Association of Architects, 1825 Sherbrooke St. West, Montreal, P.Q. A registration fee of \$25.00, not refundable, shall be included with every submission. Cheques shall be made to the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

The Screening Committee will meet in Montreal on March 9th and all registrants will be advised within two weeks of their decision. Instructions relating to time and space allocated for each entry will also be included.

The Convention Committee look forward to a significant participation by members. The traditional type of anonymous competition under a jury, with a predetermined set of rigid requirements for presentation, has often been criticized for its lack of objectivity. The program of annual awards offers an alternative to architects who wish to present their projects themselves, using the means that they believe appropriate, and relying on all their colleagues for judgment.

*Jean-Louis Lalonde,
Chairman*

Note from the honorary secretary

Architecture Canada was intended to be a vehicle for disseminating news of interest to members. Items about members are of particular interest. Consequently it is up to the members to supply the news. There is no reason why A/C should not also be used as a platform for expression of opinion by individual members. Use it!

Congrès conjoint IRAC/AAPQ

Cette année l'IRAC met à l'essai un tout nouveau genre de congrès et d'assemblée annuelle alors qu'il tient ses assises à Montréal conjointement avec le Congrès de l'AAPQ, du 30 mai au 2 juin 1973.

Le Comité de congrès s'est mis au travail il y a maintenant quelques mois et travaille activement à la conception d'un congrès souple qui s'offrira au plus grand nombre possible de membres individuels. Cela se fera par les frais réduits de participation, par une structure ouverte des activités thématiques, par la suggestion d'inviter les confrères des autres provinces à son "crash pad", par l'ouverture des discussions faites aux membres d'autres professions de l'environnement.

Laurentin Lévesque, président du Comité, dit espérer faire du Congrès l'occasion d'une rencontre amicale à l'échelle nationale, le temps d'une "extra-communication" et d'un "voyage dans la conscience."

Programme de prix annuels

Le Conseil de l'IRAC a récemment endossé un programme de Prix Annuels qui sera mis à l'essai à l'occasion du prochain Congrès à Montréal.

Le but de ce programme est: a) – de signaler au public la variété, l'étendue et la valeur des services architecturaux, et b) – de promouvoir les meilleures réalisations des architectes canadiens.

Seuls les projets soumis par des membres de l'IRAC sont éligibles. Les projets peuvent être l'oeuvre d'architectes seuls ou d'équipes multi-disciplinaires dans lesquelles l'architecte agit comme coordonnateur ou chef de l'équipe.

Tout projet de design se rapportant au domaine du milieu bâti peut être soumis, allant du simple abri au complexe multi-fonctionnel, et comprenant les équipements, les systèmes de construction, les ouvrages de rénovation et de restauration, et tout autre projet architectural qui contribue à l'amélioration des conditions de vie.

Les projets seront classés en deux catégories: a) – les projets substantiellement terminés après le

1er janvier 1968; b) – les projets non réalisés ou en voie d'exécution.

Un Comité de vérification, sous la présidence de Clifford Wiens, Président du Comité des Prix et Bourses de l'IRAC examinera toutes les soumissions. Les concurrents sont invités à soumettre une brève description du projet qu'ils proposent présenter, accompagnée d'une liste des documents à exposer suffisamment détaillée pour permettre au Comité du Congrès la répartition de l'espace et du temps.

Le jugement sera fait par tous les membres de l'IRAC qui se seront inscrits au Congrès et qui auront reçus un bulletin de vote. Un maximum de dix (10) prix sera décerné pour chaque catégorie.

Toutes les inscriptions et soumissions sous forme préliminaire devront être au siège de L'Association des Architectes de la Province de Québec, 1825 ouest, rue Sherbrooke, Montréal, Qué.

Un droit d'inscription de \$25.00, non remboursable, devra être joint à chaque soumission.

Le Comité de vérification se réunira à Montréal le 9 mars et tous les participants seront avisés de ses décisions dans les quinze jours suivants. Des instructions concernant le temps et l'espace alloué à chaque présentation seront aussi communiquées aux concurrents.

Le Comité du Congrès compte sur la participation de tous les membres de l'Institut pour donner à ce nouveau programme un succès retentissant. De nombreux architectes ont critiqué le manque d'objectivité des concours anonymes traditionnels, à présentation rigide prédéterminée, avec Jury; le programme de Prix Annuels offre une alternative qui permet aux auteurs de présenter eux-mêmes leurs projets, utilisant les méthodes qu'ils croient appropriées, et d'être jugés par tous leurs confrères. *Jean-Louis Lalonde*

Notes du secrétaire honoraire

Le but d'"Architecture Canada" étant de diffuser des nouvelles d'intérêt aux membres. Les items se rapportant aux membres sont importants. Conséquemment, les membres s'assurer que toute nouvelle d'intérêt soit transmis à l'IRAC.

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What goes on under Edmonton's tall tower?

Business as usual—even in the worst winter weather. The architects of the AGT/Oxford Leaseholds Complex utilized a variation of the "IRMA" roof system in the plaza deck, and the rain screen principle in the tower wall system. Of course, it features Styrofoam* FR plastic foam insulation throughout. No other material would perform as well. Details on this and some other interesting applications overleaf.

BCI 5-13 INSULATION
polystyrene



DOW CHEMICAL OF CANADA, LIMITED

*Trademark of The Dow Chemical Company

How functional insulation helped make Edmonton's tall tower so pleasing to the eye.

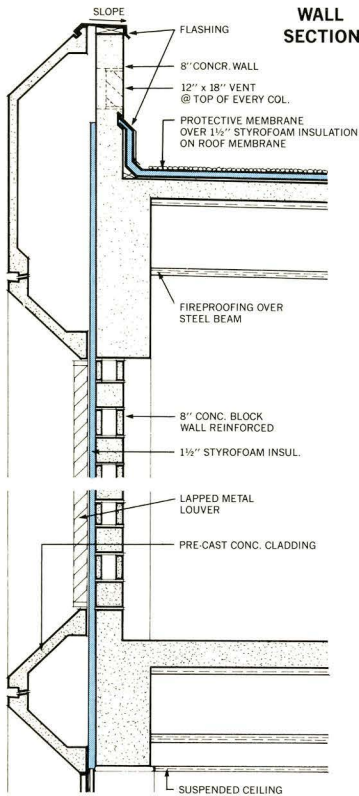
When you visit Edmonton you can't miss the striking landmark tower of the AGT/Oxford Leasehold Complex—at 35 stories the tallest in Western Canada. On closer inspection, visitors are impressed by the plaza deck with its fountains, planters and reflecting pools. Directly below is Western Canada's first underground shopping mall, with 80,000 sq. ft. of rental space, and below it a two-level parking garage.

Styrofoam* was the only insulation material used in the entire complex. The exceptional *functional* characteristics of this unique insulation were fully utilized in the planning and design of the eye-pleasing *aesthetic* features...as

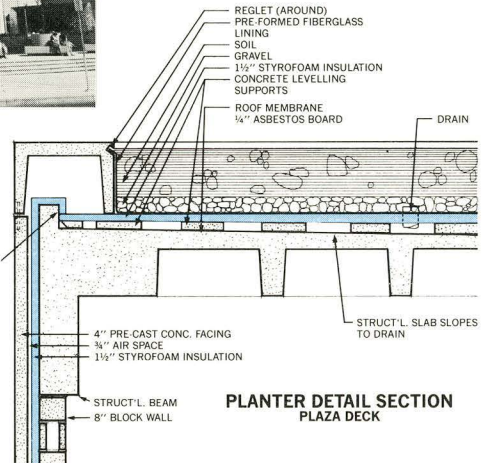
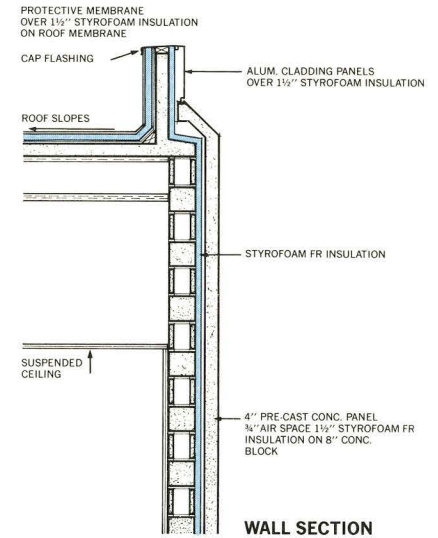
you'll see in the photographs and detail drawings below.

Styrofoam is a unique insulation material. Its compressive strength is unusually high. It can never absorb moisture. And it is an excellent moisture vapour barrier. The thermal efficiency of Styrofoam remains permanently high in the presence of moisture and high humidity. Styrofoam will not support mould growth nor provide food for vermin.

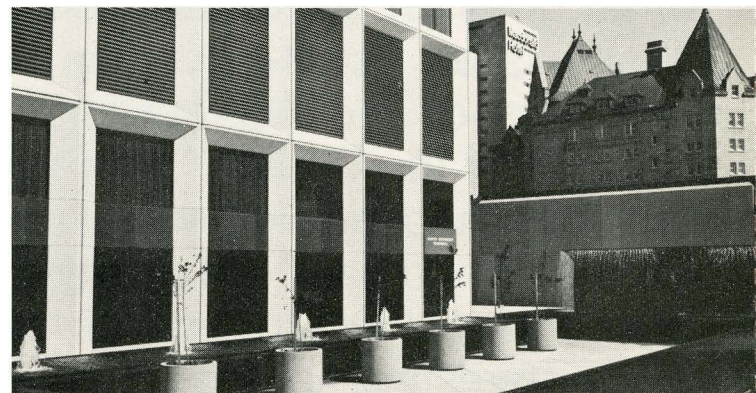
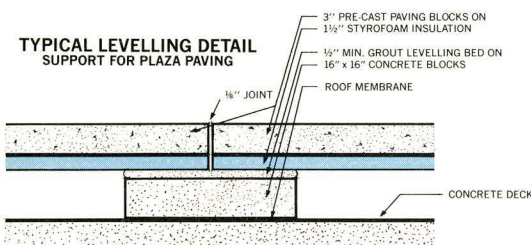
For more information consult Sweet's Canadian Catalogue; contact a Dow Construction Materials distributor; or write: Construction Material Sales, Dow Chemical of Canada, Limited, Sarnia, Ontario.



Architects: Wynn Forbes Lord Feldberg Schmidt
 General Contractor: Poole Construction Limited
 Insulation Contractor: Rocky Mountain Distributors Ltd.
 Owner: Alberta Government Telephones



TYPICAL LEVELLING DETAIL
 SUPPORT FOR PLAZA PAVING



DOW CHEMICAL OF CANADA, LIMITED

*Trademark of The Dow Chemical Company

Architects' Act under review in Quebec

In that the "convention" part of the Province of Quebec's annual assembly is to be held jointly with the RAIC Assembly in June, the Association's 82nd annual meeting January 27th in Montreal was primarily a business session. Attendance at the high point was 63, with the quorum being 35.

Delegates unanimously approved past council's action regarding the Olympics (A/C, 10/72) and its representations on Bills 250 and 259 (two provincial bills, the first of which would have regulated architects and members of other professions, the second of which is the Architects' Act (A/C, 6/3/72)). The motion was adopted to categorically oppose Article 16 of the Architects' Act calling for plans and specifications for projects exceeding \$100,000 or for buildings of over ten dwellings to be signed and sealed by a member of the proposed Order of Architects of Quebec (a professional corporation of architects). The article was felt to withdraw from the PQAA's influence the major part of the building field, threaten its existence as a professional body without ensuring the protection of the public. The new council was urged to "use all the means at its disposal to obtain an Architects' Act which fulfils the main objective of Bill 250 - the protection of the public."

Two major themes pervaded the whole session:

1) the need for the association to increase its activities to benefit members, and its liaison with the general public and different levels of government;

2) to boost regional societies in taking an active role in local affairs.

C. F. T. Rounthwaite represented the RAIC. He spoke on the federal activities of the RAIC and reiterated his concern about RAIC financing.

Energy crisis talk headlines Nova Scotia session

RAIC President C. F. T. Rounthwaite speaking at the Nova Scotia Association of Architects' annual meeting February 9th in Halifax issued once again his plea to the profession to take an active part in the energy conservation movement. (A/C, 1/73).

"Enlightened design can slash a building's energy demand by one-third," he said. "A big problem is that buildings are too often designed first then turned over to engineers to solve the climate control problem any way they can."

Examples of thoughtful energy conserving design, according to

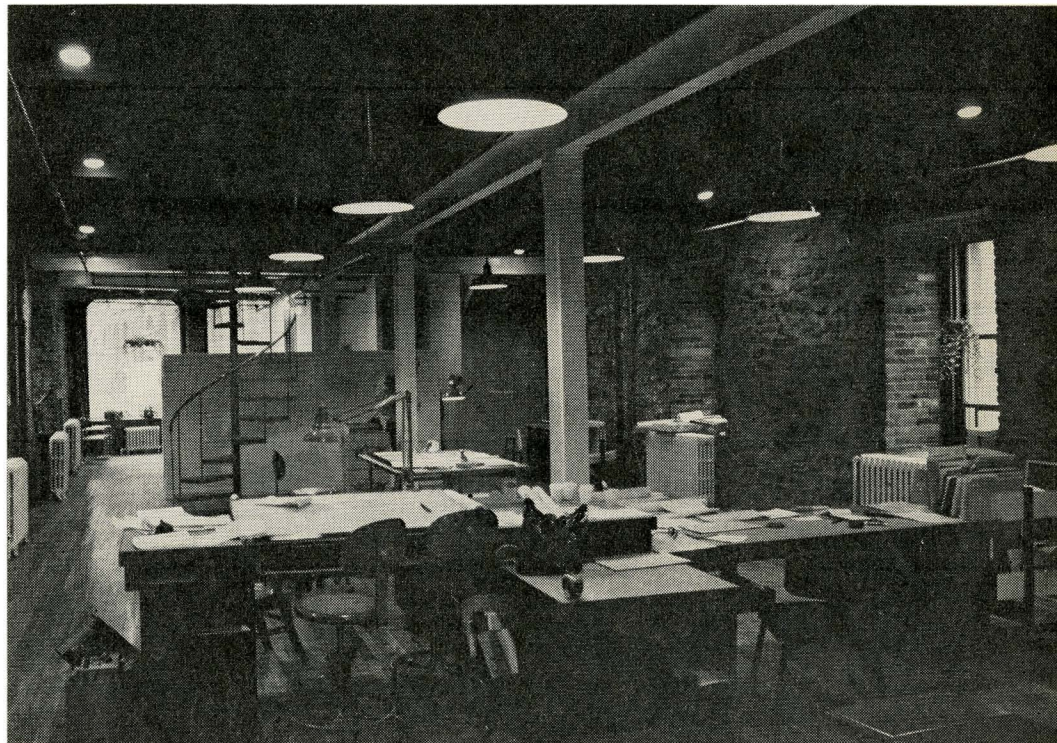
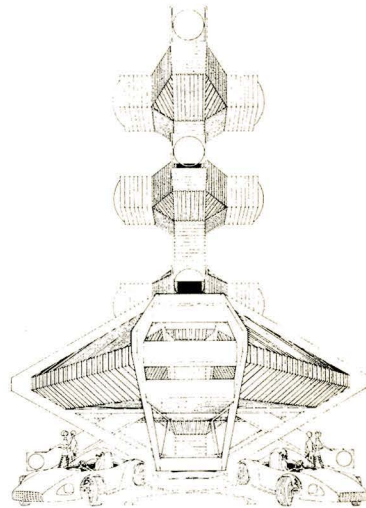


Housing project uses concrete modules

Toronto architect George Banz designed this 220-unit condominium housing project for a 7-acre site in a Toronto suburb. It would be built to utilize a total 876 factory-built concrete modules from the nearby Polymer plant. Construction costs are estimated at \$19,200 for a 1,160-sq.-ft., 2-bedroom unit; \$22,200 for a 1,360-sq.-ft., 3-bedroom unit; and \$23,700 for a 1,480-sq.-ft., 4-bedroom unit. These figures include an allowance of \$5,200 per unit for foundation and site work. They do not include land cost.

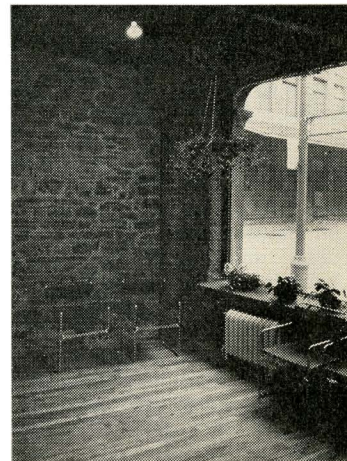
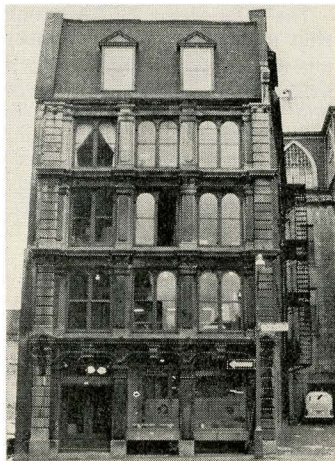
Shape of future?

Montreal architect Henri Brillon designed this restaurant for Stelco. It's described as "a simple geometric module or a cell that grows into a 'living' piece of architecture."



Architects' office in Old Montreal

Sankey Associates of Montreal renovated two floors of a 100-year-old tannery building for its office in the old part of the city. "Rather battered" ceilings were painted charcoal, "undulating" floors were sanded and urethaned, "providing a good backdrop for the 3-ft.-thick stone and brick walls," says partner Michael G. Werleman.



A strong case for low-profile housing

One more burden of responsibility has been placed on architects. The challenge comes from Oscar Newman, author of the controversial new book "Defensible Space—Crime Prevention through Urban Design". Newman, Montreal-born McGill architecture graduate now working in New York, challenged delegates at the Ontario Association of Architects convention (see below) to consciously design for the safety of the city dweller. Although architecture cannot create behavior, he said, it can significantly modify it. High-rise, high-density apartments which allow tenants little sense of community are possibly the "most cogent ally the criminal has in his victimization of society".

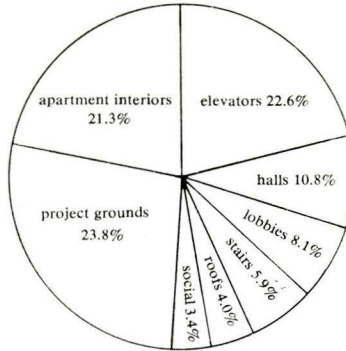
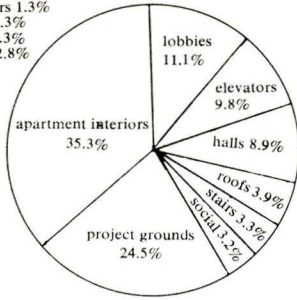
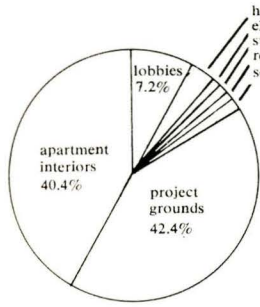
Newman has been studying the relationship of building design and crime for three years for the U.S. Dept. of Justice. He cites as an example of well-intentioned design gone wrong the Pruitt-Igoe high-rise, low-income project by Yamasaki in St. Louis. When built, the development with ample parkland was heralded as a triumph. Crime and vandalism rates had become so high by last year it was demolished as unfit for habitation.

Here, a few of the notions put forward in Newman's book (Collier MacMillan, \$8.95 :

crime in interior public spaces 17.2%

crimes in interior public spaces 40.2%

crimes in interior public spaces 54.8%



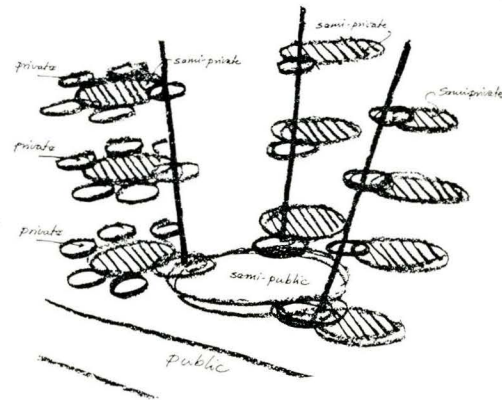
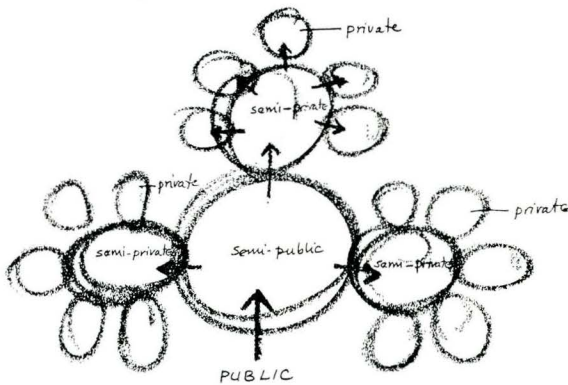
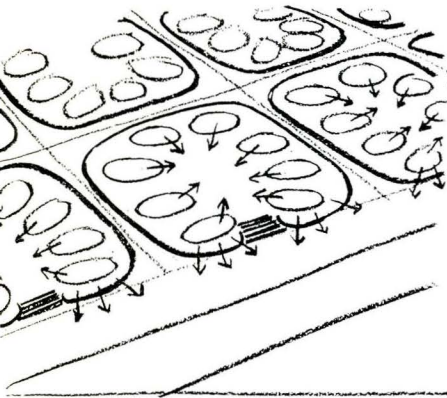
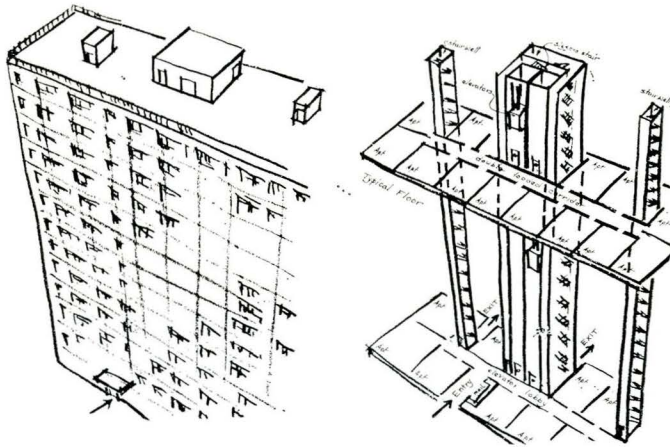
Three-story buildings
Mean felony rate: 9 per thousand population

Six- and seven-story buildings
Mean felony rate: 12 per thousand population

Buildings thirteen stories and over
Mean felony rate: 20 per thousand population

How design affects crime:

While crime in Canada has not reached the proportions it has in the U.S., Newman's statistics and arguments are still worthy of note by Canadians attempting to satisfy basic human needs through new housing designs. Because interior spaces — blind elevators, long "anonymous" corridors, enclosed stairwells — in large high-rise housing developments, says Newman, are public in nature but are not under constant surveillance. Such buildings have the worst crime problems.



Newman outlines four elements of physical design that contribute to the creation of secure environment: 1) As people are basically territorial, they therefore need clearly defined space in which they can take a proprietary interest; 2) Design should allow residents to survey, and feel responsible for, the public areas adjacent to their private and semi-private space; 3) Care should be taken to avoid designs that allow others to perceive the vulnerability of inhabitants; 4) Residential developments should be placed adjacent to areas that do not cause a threat (e.g. apartments entered directly from the street are safer than those with access only from park space within a development).

Rounthwaite, include: a southern California building which used walls that slope inward to minimize solar heat; a public utility in Los Angeles that cut the cooling load by putting concrete canopies over the windows of its building; and another building, in which louvres are adjusted to adapt to the changing path of the sun. Several more new buildings feature reflective glass façades, which bounce back as much as half of the sun's heat.

He also suggested that unnecessary floodlighting of buildings and extravagant signs should be seriously considered, and regarded in the context of the growing shortage of fuel.

The 50% of the NSAA membership in attendance at the meeting elected Gregory Lambros as president and A. Lynch, D. MacLeod and G. E. C. Brown as councillors.

Rounthwaite, as well as outlining RAIC activities, confirmed that the 1975 RAIC Assembly would be held in Halifax. The last in the Maritimes was in 1964.

Expressing the spirit of a place

It is, perhaps, significant that the OAA should in the same year: 1) elect as president the co-chairman of the RAIC environmental

and urban affairs committee (pp. 7, 10), 2) vote to give that committee badly needed financial support (p. 7), and 3) entertain as guest speaker one of the world's most eminent environmentalists.

It was the latter speech, by René Dubos, which was the highlight of the annual convention for many of the delegates.

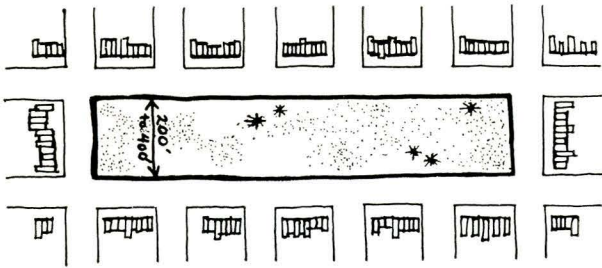
Dubos, a French-born biologist from Rockefeller University in New York, found it not at all strange for a biologist to be addressing architects. Louis Pasteur taught a course at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris 100 years ago, he pointed out.

Dubos's message, like that of his eminent predecessor, was people's

"extraordinary capacity to adapt to bad surroundings." Architects therefore have a special responsibility not to create bad physical environments for people to live in, Dubos says.

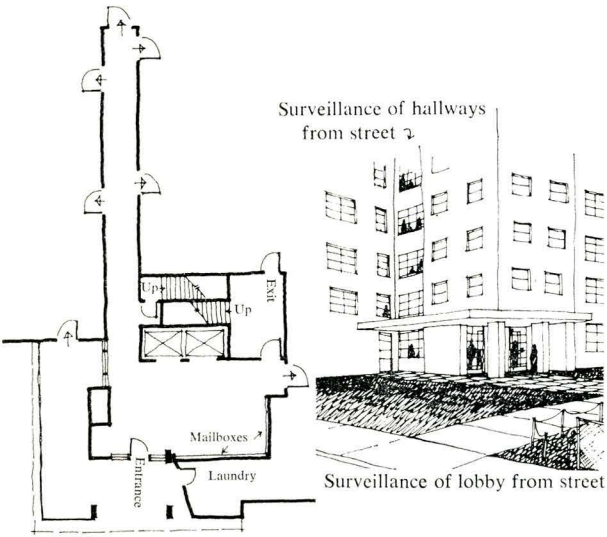
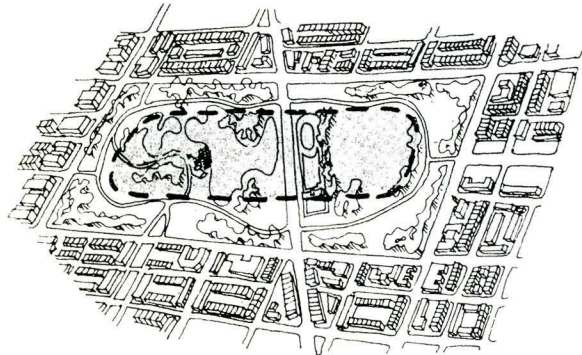
A prime need, he suggests, is for increased emphasis of the small 'neighborhood' or 'community'. Through most of mankind's history 'tribes' and 'villages' have tended to have about 500 people. "Our brains have been programmed to relate to no more than a few hundred people," he explains.

The 72-year-old biologist also says that his studies have convinced him that it is not so much crowding ("ancient cities were more crowded

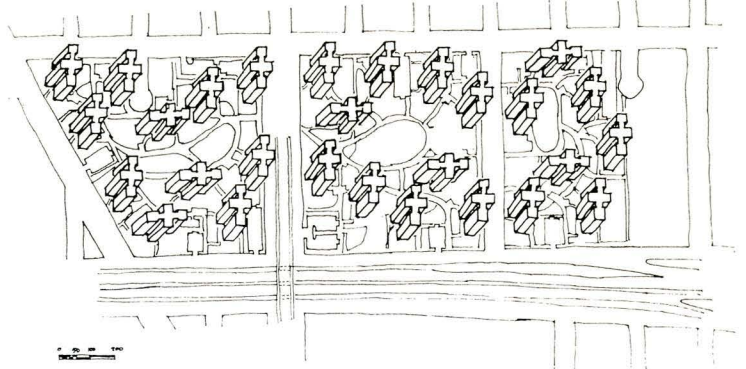


Two examples of site treatment:

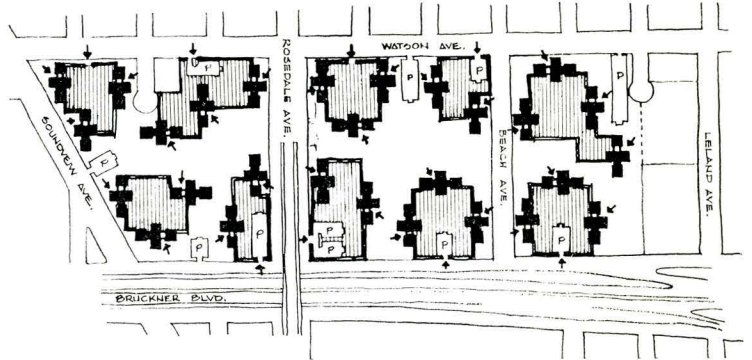
Strip park (above), says Newman, provides recreation and ready observation from surrounding buildings and streets. It's also intimate enough that residents of adjacent housing consider it their "territory". By contrast, while the larger park below looks pleasant, in high crime areas its interior (shown shaded) would not be used.



Newman talks of many ways of creating "defensible" space. For example, the positioning of windows at the end of corridors and at stairwell landings in the apartment building above allows a patrolling officer on the street to observe activity in these public areas.

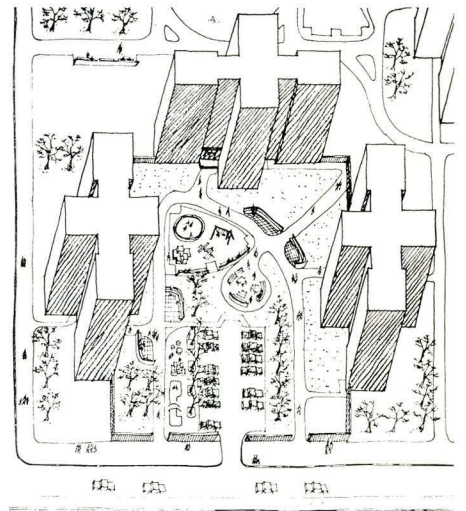


The Bronxdale housing development in New York City was carefully planned to allow generous green space — roads were even closed to do this. But its layout is such that the "territory" belongs to a vast number of people — and therefore nobody. Illicit access to — and escape from — building is easy. The grounds are open to adjacent streets, and have become happy hunting grounds for muggers, etc.



Part of Newman's work for the U.S. Dept. of Justice was to modify some high crime environments. This is no mean task for a project such as Bronxdale (it is obviously impossible to make major physical changes). Newman has combined redefinition of space with electronic surveillance. New landscaping around buildings intensifies use of these areas and increases feeling of territoriality.

New "clusters" were created by fencing in three or four buildings. This channels access into the cluster through a common courtyard. Play equipment and seating has been added, and mothers can also survey the area by closed-circuit tv. Though still far from perfect, the environment has been improved — and crime reduced. For low income families, says Newman, the ideal is a medium-density, low-profile housing that meets all four characteristics of "defensible space" (opposite page).



than today's") as machines "and social mismanagement" which create stress in city dwellers.

Also missing from too many modern cities — particularly those in North America — are "monuments, not merely as an expression of civic pride, but which incarnate the spirit of the place . . . human societies appear to have a biological need for . . . structures which symbolize the collective dreams and aspirations of the people."

Business meeting considers funding

"Put your money where your mouth is", became a familiar plea at

the OAA annual meeting.

Two groups who felt their interests were not fairly reflected in the proposed 1973 budget nonetheless received unanimous support from members. RAIC president C. F. T. Rounthwaite expressed frustration at inability to act due to insufficient funding; and the OAA public information committee criticized the lack of interest from the membership at large.

Asking for re-examination of regional representation, Rounthwaite described RAIC as a "Fire Brigade Headquarters", expected to respond immediately to all requests for information, but with no money for ongoing programs on a national

basis. A request for OAA assistance in funding the national environmental and urban affairs committee (see p. 8) was one instance where a wealthy RAIC might have acted on a truly national basis, without having to request funding for specific projects.

Members of the Public Information Committee condemned a general lack of support for their endeavours and did not feel that the continuing education program could substitute for a properly budgeted public relations program. Committee chairman Michael Zuberec said architects had buried their heads in the sand for too long and should now be concerned

about their public image.

A resolution calling for a quarterly OAA newsletter did not pass, but a decision against a P.R. film may be reconsidered.

A second resolution asking federal and provincial governments to employ as "architects" only members in good standing of a provincial architectural association was amended to include employment by any company or corporation.

Just what in-coming President Alex Leman and the new council will do with these non-binding resolutions remains to be seen. He outlined a busy tentative program for 1973, with emphasis on education, active participation in the

construction industry and relations with governments. He suggested that attendance at continuing education programs might eventually become a prerequisite for continued certification in the province. Other ideas were a practice handbook, to be produced by either OAA or, preferably, RAIC, and a professional advisory telephone service.

Education and participation in government policy were also emphasized by out-going president, Wilfred Lamb.

"The time has come to stop writing letters and start talking," he said. Lamb felt that public relations on an individual basis had been most successful. Other examples of good P.R. were exhibitions such as 'Homes for the Aged', and the housing information centre being developed by the housing committee.

Manitoba discusses public housing

A combined luncheon and forum on the pros and cons of public housing chaired by the CBC's Alice Poysner kicked off the Manitoba Association of Architects annual meeting on January 26th and was the highlight of the session.

Public housing has been a controversial subject in Winnipeg for some time and much of the conversation at the forum was based on an MAA brief on the subject presented to the city and the province in December. The recommendations of that brief follow:

• *A Winnipeg Housing Policy Required.* The City of Winnipeg Committee on the Environment proceed immediately with the implementation of a comprehensive policy on social housing. Such a policy is now being formulated and we would urge that the fullest possible public discussion with community committees be given to the various recommendations.

• *Public Information Program.* We believe that the Manitoba Housing and Renewal Corporation should introduce a comprehensive and continuing program of public information on housing and describe its development policies sufficiently far in advance to permit full public understanding. If the intentions and programs are widely understood, we believe there is an excellent opportunity to avoid the kind of negative reactions which have frustrated the efforts of the corporation in the past.

• *Vest Pocket Housing.* We recognize the efforts of MHRC to minimize the detrimental aspects of large scale public housing projects by establishing "vest pocket" housing projects throughout the urban area. We believe that the city of Winnipeg, in establishing its new policies, should encourage zoning for small scale developments of this kind, although we are not convinced that

this is the total solution to the problem.

• *Alternate Strategies Required.* Alternative strategies for integrating socially needed housing into existing and growing communities should be developed by MHRC in consultation with the city and citizen groups.

• *Broadened Membership on MHRC Board.* We believe that it is mandatory that better mechanisms for consultation and decision in respect to the formulation of housing policy at the provincial and municipal level be established. We recommend that well informed and representative citizen participation be introduced on the Board of the MHRC.

• *Joint City, MHRC Board.* We recommend the establishment of a responsible joint municipal-provincial committee dedicated to action and committed to finding practical solutions for the short and long term. This committee should have citizen advisors attached to it.

• *Evaluation of Existing MHRC Housing.* We believe the housing undertaken by MHRC has been of real benefit to the community. No doubt future housing programs can benefit from the experience of residents in the existing housing. There has now been a sufficient number of units of social housing in Manitoba built and lived in to make such an evaluation of particular use in assessing success and failure. We recommend that a prime function of the joint City-MHRC committee should be to evaluate the existing housing in social, economic and physical planning terms as a basis for new planning.

New president of the MAA is Michael D. Rattray, Winnipeg.

AWARDS / SCHOLARSHIPS

Win PA citation

Rhone and Iredale of Vancouver won a citation in the Progressive Architecture 1973 design award program for a housing scheme designed for the Ontario government. The prize-winning scheme uses the Fabtec Structures system, originated by partner Randle Iredale in 1963. It was part of a program to encourage the development of experimental housing systems.

Rhone and Iredale were the only Canadians to receive awards this year.

CMHC fellowships

A total 125 fellowships for 1973-74 are being offered by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation for full-time graduate study in various fields of urban and regional affairs. Of these, 115 are designated for study in Canadian universities and 10 for study outside Canada.

Fellowships are tenable in a

broad range of fields involved in understanding and dealing with the urban and regional environment. Programs of study must be specifically related to urban affairs.

Fellowship awards are selected by a national jury which includes prominent members of the business, government and university communities.

Applications must be sent by the applicant to the university where the candidate proposes to enroll before March 31. Applications must be sent to CMHC by the university postmarked not later than April 11, 1973.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

'Store-front' advisory service begins in Halifax

Nova Scotia is the latest architectural association to get rolling with an advisory service.

The "store-front" operation is located in the School of Architecture, under the sponsorship of the NSAA. It is staffed by 16 association members who volunteer services on a rotational basis for three hours every Saturday. After a month of operation, the group sees its main inquiries "from people who are either making alterations to their homes or are about to embark on their first or second home."

"Our job is to give advice," says committee member Andrew Lynch, "we can act as a clearing house and referral centre for maintenance, alterations, or building problems. It's a service for people who might never otherwise engage the services of an architect."

The centre assists group builders such as co-ops as well as private individuals.

The Manitoba Association has also been experimenting with the "store front" advisory concept. Volunteers have been minding the "shop" at the Association's headquarters one night a week since July. Man. feels the program has been well received but has halted it temporarily to assess implementation.

ENVIRONMENT

RAIC committee gears up for action

The RAIC committee on the environment and urban affairs has added several new members and held its first full meeting - by conference phone.

The new members are: Prof. Dimitri Procos of the Nova Scotia Technical College School of Architecture; Douglas Cardinal of Ed-

monton; and Terry Tanner of Tanner/Kay Environmental Design Group Office in Vancouver. They join co-chairmen Peter Goering and Alexander B. Leman of Toronto, who set up the committee just over one year ago, Ray Affleck and Melvin Charney of Montreal, and Dean Thomas Howarth of the University of Toronto School of Architecture. The telephone conference discussed three major topics:

1) Establishment of priorities from the list of ten recommendations sent by RAIC to the UN conference on the human environment held in Stockholm last year*;

2) Collaboration with task forces set up by both the American Institute of Architects and the Royal Institute of British Architects to look into the energy consumption of buildings;

3) Architectural involvement on both an individual and professional-wide (RAIC) basis in the UN conference/demonstration on human settlements to be held in Vancouver in 1975 (A/C, 10/72).

Perhaps because so many members of the committee are involved in education, this area of activity ranks high in importance for most of them. But, warns Tanner, while "without an informed public we will never solve the environmental crisis . . . we should concentrate on those things we can actually do something about [because] people are tired of lectures from 'experts', [and] people do respond to others who 'put their money where their mouths are'."

Co-chairman Goering has already made one trip to New York to establish contact with the AIA task force on energy conservation, and is also in touch with the RIBA counterpart.

In this and other ways, the committee is responding to a request from RAIC president Fred Routhwaite to supply information on energy conservation studies to be passed on to the Science Council of Canada (A/C, 1/73).

Preparations for the Vancouver conference are at an early stage, but the RAIC has already formally offered its assistance to the federal Ministry of State for urban Affairs

*RAIC's recommendations for environmental action: 1) education to achieve a better understanding of the multi-disciplinary nature of environmental problems; 2) that cities, as "the places of man's major achievement," should be rendered safer and healthier places in which to live; 3) studies of energy consumption in relation to different types of development; 4) physiological studies of the long-term effects of large-scale climate-controlled environments; 5) promotion of new attitudes of governments toward land use and development "in light of the present ecological crisis"; 6) encouragement of "involvement of the citizen, in the shaping of his physical environment"; 7) a study of curricula for "positively directed" environmental studies in schools; 8) a similar program (as in No. 7) for universities and adult education; 9) "the necessity for ensuring that human values are maintained and given precedence" in implementation of environmental controls; 10) a two-way educational thrust to encompass both present and future generations.

which is responsible for the conference arrangements.

Suggests Procos:

"RAIC's role should perhaps be a service one rather than a substantive one. We should begin organizing techniques of presentation and visual animation of the work that will be produced by the conferees of the many disciplines that will be represented at the conference."

The danger of neglecting the need for a multi-disciplinary approach to environmental problems is also of concern to the committee. Says Cardinal:

"In our endeavors at identifying individual areas of concern, we are in danger of neglecting the relevance of a holistic approach to the problems facing us today. We need very much to understand that all our actions, all our 'solutions' in one area have repercussions in several other areas."

Goering says that a practical problem of bringing the committee together for a face-to-face meeting is that it has received no allocation of funds from the RAIC. He hopes this situation may change in time for a meeting to be held in April — in time to refine an action program for submission to the RAIC annual assembly in May.

"Meantime," he laughs, "we have some rather large phone bills and write a lot of letters."

Building in the north country

A conference/workshop to discuss the natural environment, engineering work, construction processes, the built environment, including papers, case studies and exhibits in the north is being organized jointly by the School of Architecture of the Université de Montréal, the Center for Northern Engineering of the Ecole Polytechnique and the Arctic Institute of North America. It will be held at the Université de Montréal during the week of May 7, 1973. For more information, contact Kenneth De La Barre, Arctic Institute of North America, 3458 Redpath, Montreal 109, P.Q.

HOUSING

Hallmarks for housing

By this time next year, buyers of new homes should be able to get real protection against faulty construction and/or delinquent builders. The protection would take the form of a warranty administered by an independent public/private body and backed by a specially created insurance fund.

Even before the industry-wide warranty comes into being, pre-fabricated houses shipped by some half dozen manufacturers will be



offered with a Canadian Standards Association seal — indicating that they have been inspected in the plant and found to meet acceptable construction, electrical and plumbing standards.

The warranty program is being developed jointly by the Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada (formerly the National House Builders Association), Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and the federal Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. HUDAC directors endorsed the idea in principle at the association's annual convention in Toronto last month. Now the details have to be worked out by a joint industry/government committee which could ultimately form the nucleus of the ongoing administrative organization.

The proposed warranty system would likely involve these features:

- Creation of an independent national body to run it;
- Registration of builders wishing to participate;
- Establishment of industry-wide construction standards;
- Provision of an inspection service to make sure standards are met;
- Guarantee against structural failure;
- Financial protection of buyers against builder failure.

The last two features would probably be provided through an insurance fund similar to the present system of mortgage insurance. In fact, this is provided for in a new housing bill (C-133) just introduced in the House of Commons.

It is envisaged that participating builders would have to undertake to build entirely within the scheme. And it would be mandatory for all NHA housing.

There would be a standard form of sales contract providing buyer protection for a specified term. A standard warranty certificate would be issued for each unit on closing. This would state the back-up organization's commitment to:

- 1) Pay to the owner sufficient compensation to complete the house or make good where a builder failed for whatever reason to carry out his contractual obligations;
- 2) Provide conciliation and arbitration in the event of dispute during construction and throughout the term of the warranty;
- 3) Pay for any defects required to

be made good as a result of arbitration, where the builder fails to do so;

4) Pay compensation to repair structural defects which appear during a specified time after the builder's contractual liability runs out.

Estimated cost of the warranty would be around \$100 per unit. However, this might need to be higher if, for example, extra inspections were required over and above those normally carried out by CMHC.

The voice of the consumer

"Consumerism is the relationship between seller and buyer; it is the relationship of the product's benefits inferred and the product's performance; it is a level of expectation on the part of the consumer as to a product's durability; it is the call to task of the seller's warranty and/or guarantee; it is the growing cynicism towards goods and services on the part of the consumers; it is the failure of the seller to take the intelligence and perception of the 'average Canadian' seriously; most of all, consumerism is a movement directly connected to all other movements of powerlessness; it began with the civil rights movement and the recognition that status quo was no longer in; it continued with the perception that things happen when there is economic and political power and leverage."

This elaborate definition came from Sanford R. Goodkin, a market researcher from Del Mar, Calif., speaking at the HUDAC convention.

Although not billed as such, it provided an appropriate keynote for what has become the largest annual get-together in the building and development industry (some 1,300 delegates registered). As Goodkin said:

"It may well be that consumerism will find its most fertile field in housing." And consumerism, he warned his attentive audience, "is an idea whose time has arrived; it is explosive, and will detonate in 1973."

The voice of the consumer was also in the air as 200 prefabbers met just ahead of the HUDAC convention for the 8th annual conference of the Canadian Home Manufacturers Association. The theme was picked up by a number of speakers. Among them was Ms. Kay Hodgins, Ontario regional consumer consultant to the federal Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Financial protection against builders who default is "needed desperately," said Ms. Hodgins.

Also speaking at the CHMA meeting, president H. W. Hignett of Central Mortgage and Housing Corp. said that "the whole idea of protecting consumers is not a passing fancy; we must expect it to become a permanent part of our way of doing business."

NEW PRODUCTS

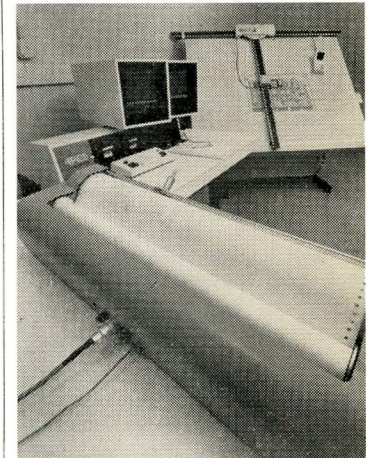
A new computerized method of handling a wide range of traditional design/drafting tasks has been developed by Applicon Inc. of Burlington, Mass.

Termed "graphic processing", the innovation is said to offer the promise of "revolutionizing conventional design/drafting methods in the same way data processing up-graded general accounting."

Heart of the new system is a computer console and "software" system able to accommodate each user's particular requirements.

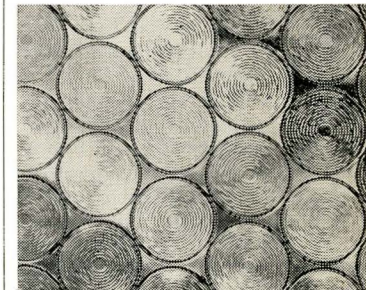
Graphic processing, similar to its forerunner data processing, reduces graphic/design tasks to a faster, more efficient minicomputer system approach, says Applicon. It works with drawn lines rather than numerical information. A user can work on a traditional drawing board, project his sketches or drawings to a television-like screen, and make any changes instantly with a minimum of time and effort.

Write: Applicon Inc., 22 Third Avenue, Burlington, Mass. 01803.



Factory-built fireplaces, the Heatilator Mark 123, arrive as single units ready for installation. They can be set directly on flooring and do not require masonry footings or foundation. Available in two models from Vega Industries, 3495 Lawrence Ave. E., Scarborough, Ont.

A new portable drafting machine is available from Design Instrument Manufacturing Co. Can be used for alternate use with conventional drafting machines. Draws radii, perspective lines and divides circles. Scales are calibrated in inches or millimeters. Price \$9.95. Write 10341 Brookhurst St., Anaheim, Calif. 92804.



A new patterned glass, Orbit, has been added to the Pilkington range. The pattern, with a circular motif, is available in an amber tint in 3 mm thickness.

This product can be effective for adding visual interest in large interiors — hotel lounges, bars and restaurants, discotheques, and showrooms. Also useful for room dividers and partitions.

The aluminum *Pittco T-Wall* thermal framing system by Canadian Pittsburgh Industries holds glass panels securely in watertight rubber gaskets. The zipper-type gaskets are designed to give a smooth all-glass look with only the narrow neoprene frames surrounding the glass panels. All framing metal is on the indoor side of the wall.

Industrialized building catalogue

Russian architects have been handed a "unified catalogue" of some 300 standard building components, mostly concrete, which can be used in combination.

While design flexibility is being touted as a major benefit of the attempt to co-ordinate a number of building systems, the real emphasis continues to be on speed of erection.

With good reason: one-third of Russian city dwellers still share their homes with other families.

Operation Breakthrough — success or failure?

In an angry confrontation last month, U.S. housing secretary George Romney sprang to the defence of his controversial 'Operation Breakthrough'.

He accused an audience of 3,500 builders attending the massive (56,000 delegates) annual convention of the National Assn. of Home Builders of "kicking around" a program which had "done more to focus attention on the need to get rid of construction obstacles than any other and I don't appreciate it."

Then, after an angry exchange with a past-president of the association over the government's freeze on funds for some of the most popular low-income housing programs, he stomped off the platform.

CRITICISM

Time magazine looks at architecture

Time magazine, which now sells more than 500,000 copies each week in Canada, has started a regular 'Architecture' department. It's sophisticated, witty and well written — and, inevitably, it throws some sharp and well-directed darts.

Sample, from a recent article on Philadelphia architect Louis Kahn: "It was not the fault of the Bauhaus that its formal lessons were so quickly vulgarized by American business. Most architecture is parody, and the International Style's problem, paradoxically enough, was not so much that it failed in the U.S. but that it hardly got a break. For every pure and major act of creation, like Mies van der Rohe and Philip Johnson's Seagram Building (1958), there have been a hundred ripoffs: bland, scaleless crates with their \$50 per sq. ft. marble foyers and 10¢ Sheetrock offices, their eggbox planning, insipid detail and graceless propor-

tions. The International Style expanded itself in these shallows, not in its masterpieces. But what is the alternative? Not the culture of Vegas casinos and duck-shaped roadhouses beloved of Pop architectural theorists like Reyner Banham and Robert Venturi; trash may be language, but it remains trash. The desire for an architecture that is grand, exemplary, responsive and practical still exists. And general expectations of such an architecture have to a large extent converged on Kahn."

CODES

National Building Code News, vol. 12, no. 5 describes a number of significant changes to Part 3, Use and Occupancy, of the NBC.

Unlike earlier editions, the 1970 code will not include revisions in any reprintings. Rather, such revisions are detailed annually in pamphlet form and sent automatically and free of charge to all holders of the code. Additional copies, or other code information can be had from: The Secretary, Associate Committee on the National Building Code, National Research Council, Ottawa K1A 0R6.

Next complete edition of the NBC is due in 1975.

Architects sought for code work

The Division of Building Research is seeking graduate engineers or architects to coordinate technical assistance to the committees concerned with developing regulations relating to the National Building Code and the National Fire Code.

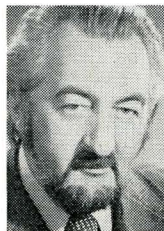
The positions will encompass the delineation of code needs, the provision of appropriate information to meet these needs and the development of suitable code requirements. The specific duties will include assembling technical information relating to the code, preparing background reports for the committees and the handling of technical inquiries on both codes.

Write: H. B. Dickens, Head, Codes and Standards Group, Division of Building Research, National Research Council, Ottawa, K1A 0R6.

PEOPLE

Jean-Luc Poulin est nouveau président de l'Association des Architectes de la province de Québec. Pendant l'année 1972, il occupait le poste de secrétaire.

Après plusieurs années d'enseignement à l'École des Beaux-Arts et à l'École d'Architecture de Montréal, M. Poulin était



promu au rang de Professeur agrégé et il devenait Vice-doyen de l'École d'Architecture lors de son intégration à l'Université de Montréal en 1964. En juin 1968, il était promu au rang de Professeur titulaire et devenait Directeur de l'École d'Architecture et Vice-doyen de la Faculté de l'Aménagement. Il exerça cette dernière fonction jusqu'en 1972.

Les activités de M. Poulin s'étendent à plusieurs domaines reliés à l'enseignement ou à la pratique professionnelle. Il a participé à l'élaboration de programmes d'études ou à enseignement dans les domaines suivants: Technologie architecturale, Sécurité du bâtiment, arts intégrés à l'environnement, etc. Il est membre de plusieurs comités consultatifs d'architecture, président du comité de rédaction française du Code National du Bâtiment et membre d'autres comités qui oeuvrent dans le domaine de la sécurité du bâtiment.

1er vice-président est Denis Bouchard; 2e vice-président — Marvin Cohen; Secrétaire — Laurentin Lévesque; Trésorier — Germain Casavant; Ex-officio — Jean Ouellet.

Mrs. Vera Starostina-Treymann is president of the PQAA committee of salaried architects.

Mme. Vera Starostina-Treymann a été nommée présidente du comité des architectes salariés de l'AAPO.

Alexander B. Leman is the new president of the Ontario Association of Architects. Leman, 46, was born and educated in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. After graduating from Belgrade University School of Architecture, he came to Canada in 1950.



In 1957 he founded the firm he still heads, Alexander B. Leman Architect. His office is in a renovated old stable just south of Bloor and Yonge streets in Toronto.

Since 1968, he has been a regular participant in the annual international ektistics seminars in Athens, Greece. He also serves as Canadian correspondent for *Ektistics* magazine, and is co-chairman of the RAIC environmental and urban affairs committee.

C. H. Cullum is 1973 president of the Newfoundland Assn. of Architects. He was elected at last month's annual general meeting.

C. Congdon is vice-president; R. A. Warren is hon. secretary-treasurer; R. Horwood, W. E. Brown, and B. C. Sheppard are members of council.

Sir Christopher Barlow is immediate past-president.

Raymond T. Affleck of Montreal was awarded an honorary degree at the University of Calgary for his contributions to and influence on contemporary urban architecture.

COMING EVENTS

Bugs in the Building Process will be examined at the Specification Writers Association of Canada 15th annual convention, June 6-8 in Edmonton, Alta.

The convention's topic, 'The Process is the Culprit', is "an exploration of problems that arise between the idea and its actualization in the construction process," says convention committee chairman George Oakley, of the federal Department of Public Works in Edmonton.

Technical seminars will consider performance specifications, master specifications, industrial representation, and building materials.

Other events of interest to architects:

'Project management contracts', Montreal Architectural Society, Engineering Institute of Canada, Specification Writers Assn. of Canada, joint dinner meeting, March 20. Engineers Club, 1175 Beaver Hall Hill, Montreal.

'Future Shape' is the theme for this year's exhibition of the Interior Designers' Institute of Manitoba, to be held at the Winnipeg Inn, March 21-23. Write: Box 255, Winnipeg, Man.

'Social and political context of environmental design research', 4th annual Design Research Assn. conference, April 15-18, Blacksburg, Virginia. Write: J. C. Wang, College of Architecture, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

'Thin Plates and Sandwich Panels' will be the subject of a CIB international seminar in Linz, Austria, June 4-7. Write: Dr. Karl Luger, Oesterreichisches Institut für Bau-forschung, Ring 10, A-1010, Vienna.

'Technological innovations within the urban context', MIT summer seminar, August 6-10. Write: Director of Summer Sessions, Room E 19-356, MIT, 77 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass., 02139.

'Dialogue in Development — Natural and Human Resources', 3rd world congress of engineers and architects, December 17-21, Tel Aviv, Israel, write: World Congress, 200 Dizengoff St., POB 3082, Tel Aviv.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Positions vacant

Draftsman — landscape, Hough, Stansb. & Associates Ltd., 69 Sherbourne Street Toronto. (416) 366-9497.

Architect required with design ability & experience in institutional, residential & commercial projects. Please apply to: Le Venchiarutti Architect, 194 Wilson Ave Toronto, M5M 3A8. (416) 481-5151.

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