

Info #4



A Consultation Paper on a

Model Architecture Policy

October, 2005

Quality Architecture and Urban Design: A Blueprint for Canada



Prepared by:
The Royal Architectural
Institute of Canada

RE.
DESIGN
GUIDELINES



North Toronto Station - LCBO Summerhill | Architect: Goldsmith Borgal & Company Ltd. Architects | Photo: Steve Evans

CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN
FOR THE
SUMMERHILL
RENOVATION PROJECT
IN NORTH TORONTO
BY
GOLDSMITH BORGAL & COMPANY LTD.
ARCHITECTS

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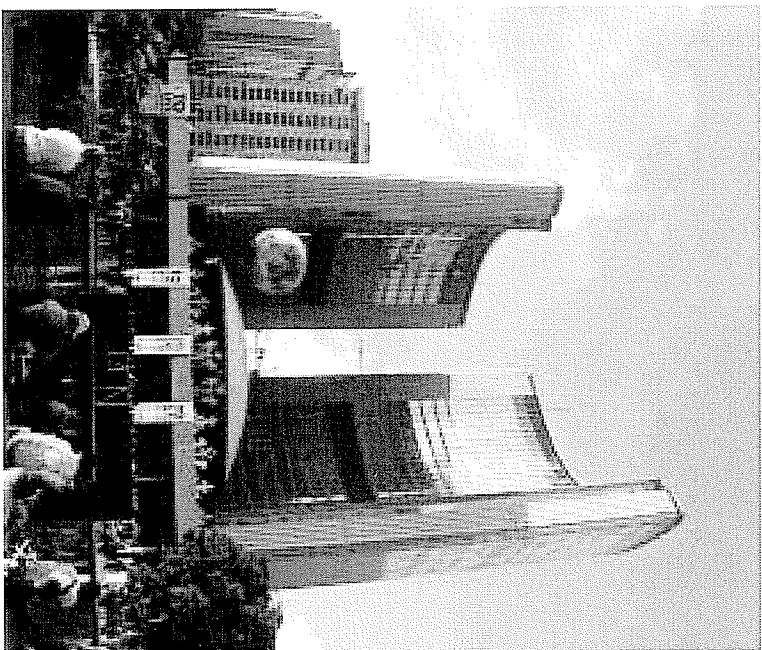
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Canada needs an architecture policy.

Other nations, especially those in Europe, have adopted architecture policies. Finland, Scotland, the Netherlands, Austria, France and many other countries have recognized the importance of excellence in architecture and urban design to a nation's social and cultural development, wealth creation, and economic well-being. And, they have developed architecture policies. If architecture was as important a force in Canadian society as hockey, or even as important as Canadian literature or popular music, there might be no need for such a sweeping policy. Surely our homes, our places of work, and our communities, are as important as the sports we play, the books we read, and the music we listen to.

The very creation of the policy itself through consultation will:

- Encourage public discussion about the role and importance of architecture and urban design in Canadian life;
- Inspire diverse interests in communities to participate in architecture, urban design and planning;
- Assist institutional building owners and various levels of governments in developing appropriate architectural standards and guidelines within their jurisdictions;



Toronto City Hall | Architects: Viljo Revell; John B. Parkin Associates | Photo: Vivian Manase

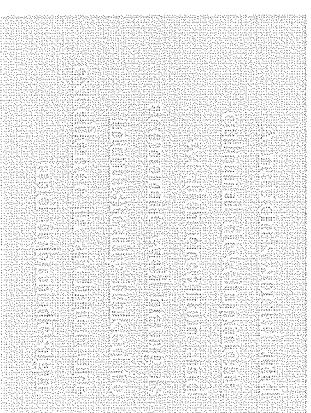
- Aid all decision-makers involved in building projects to develop best practices to improve quality; and
- Encourage school boards and provincial/territorial departments of education to include architectural and urban issues in curriculum development.

Discussions should focus on four objectives:

- Improving the quality of life for all Canadians;
- Achieving sustainability;
- Contributing to and enriching Canadian culture and heritage;
- Promoting innovation and research and improving building technology.

The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada believes it is critical to involve Canadian citizens in the development of an architecture policy to help address urban and environmental challenges. Canadians are facing continued population growth in urban areas – requiring new infrastructure and creating diverse challenges in community development. Equally challenging is the increasing need for health care, home care, housing, and social services for an aging society; a critical need for affordable housing in Canada's major centres; and, last but not least, the need for urban revitalization, creating sustainable communities.

An architecture policy will help ensure Canadians create “walkable, transit-oriented, mixed-use communities of resource-efficient, healthy buildings with careful consideration of the social fabric that makes vibrant living places.”¹ Only with such well-designed communities can we continue to provide the choices and a good measure of independence



¹ Gordon, Harry, Sustainable Design – a Journey through the Nautlius Shell – AIA Journal of Architecture, August 2004

expected by our citizens. Only with such well-designed communities can Canada expect to ensure a quality of life that supports the environment, and a rich and vibrant culture and economy.



*Love Krill Housing Co-op /
Architect: Henriquez Partners Architects /
Photo: Derek Lepper*



ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DESIGN

Look around as you walk down a city street or stroll through a municipal park. What do you see? A public landscape that has been designed by architects and other professionals to meet your needs and those of your fellow citizens. Public landscapes include office buildings, schools, hospitals, monuments, streets, bridges, parking garages, gardens – anything that is part of the built environment.

Now walk into your home. This is your private realm, a place that reflects you. Here you can relax, cook a meal for family and friends, decorate rooms or plant a garden to your own tastes, and focus on your personal concerns. But your private realm, however intimate, began as a building first, conceived and designed according to the needs of municipalities, developers, and the marketplace.

These buildings and other structures – both public and private – are fundamental to our lives and the fabric of our society. Yet, they are also so omnipresent that we generally take them for granted, forgetting that their very existence has a profound effect on the quality of our lives, defines and shapes our towns and cities, and impacts all aspects of Canadian society including our economy, our environment, and our culture. Architecture within our man-made environment must provide a sense of place and support all types of human activity.

Moreover, the design of these buildings and other structures has become increasingly important as our global world “shrinks” and our expectations expand. While Canadians continue to want buildings and

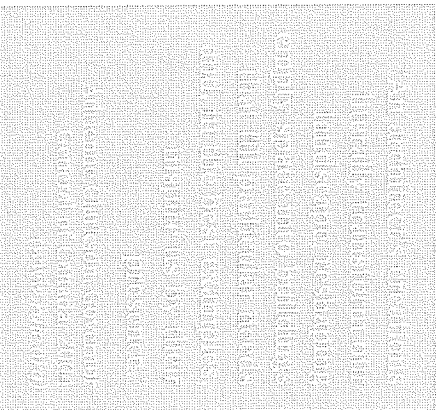


Art Gallery of Hamilton | Architect: Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg Architects

structures that are well constructed and whose forms fulfill their social needs, we have a growing awareness that these aspects of our public landscapes and private homes should also be harmonious with the environment, promote health and well-being, enrich our lives provide economic opportunities and create a legacy that reflects and symbolizes Canadian culture and traditions.

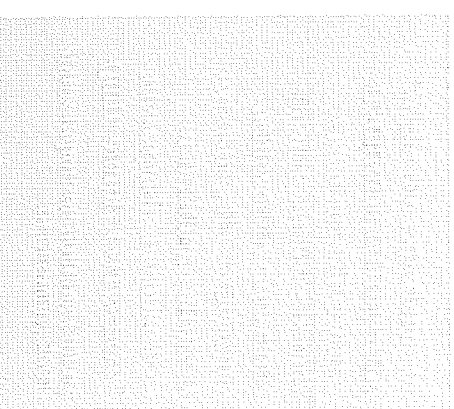
These expectations create significant opportunities and challenges for architects and others – governments, investors, developers, consultants, contractors, technical specialists – who must work together to ensure that our buildings and other structures:

- Meet practical demands for efficiency, safety, and security;
- Provide sustainability by minimizing the impact of human activities on the environment;
- Create spaces that enhance human health – physically and psychologically;
- Support in the development of vibrant communities;
- Are flexible to adapt to the ever-changing demographics of Canadian society;
- Represent a sound investment for the community through quality and durability;
- Provide enrichment to our culture; and
- Are appropriate and authentic in terms of regional traditions and culture.





*Roy Thomson Hall | Architect: Arthur Erickson |
Renovation Architect: Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg Architects | Photo: Peter Sellar*



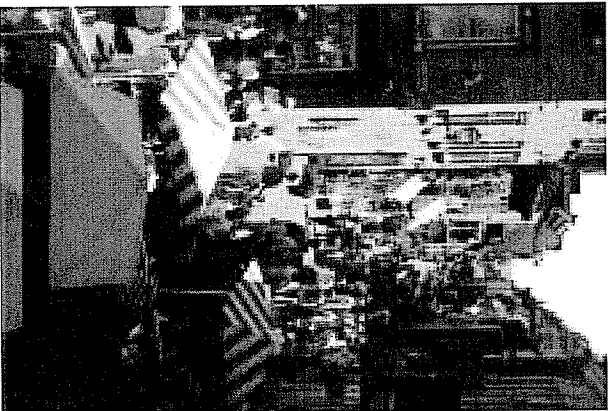
Architects are like conductors. They orchestrate and take the lead in reconciling all the goals for a building or other structure.

A MODEL ARCHITECTURE POLICY

Many countries have recognized the increasing importance of excellence in architecture and urban design to a nation's social and cultural development, wealth creation, and economic well-being. To support this excellence, they have developed architectural policies to raise public awareness of the significance of buildings and other structures in personal, urban, and national life, and to inform and assist public authorities to make appropriate decisions in the development of homes, towns, and cities.

Canadian citizens need to be partners in an Architecture Policy that will help to address, not only the general issues of architecture and urban design that affect all citizens and countries, but also those that are specific to Canada. The 2002 final report from the *Prime Minister's Caucus Task Force on Urban Issues, Canada's Urban Strategy: A Blueprint for Action*, highlights some trends that will have a significant impact on our nation's future:

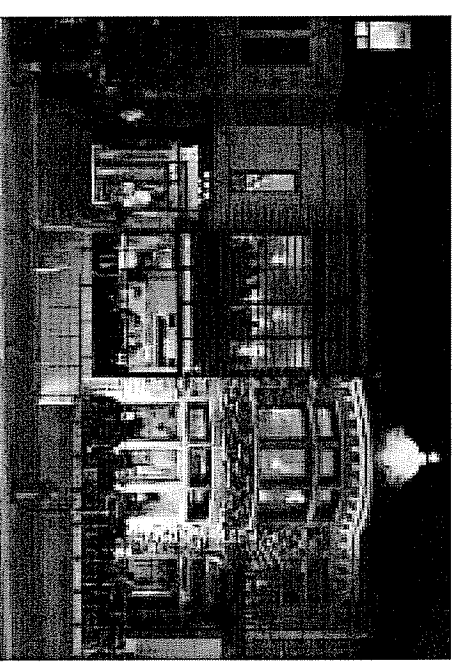
- Continued population growth in urban areas, requiring new infrastructure;
- The need for urban revitalization that will create environmentally sustainable communities;
- Greater numbers of immigrants whose diversity will challenge community development;
- An aging society that will need increased health care, home care, housing, and social services; and
- A critical need for affordable housing in Canada's major centres.



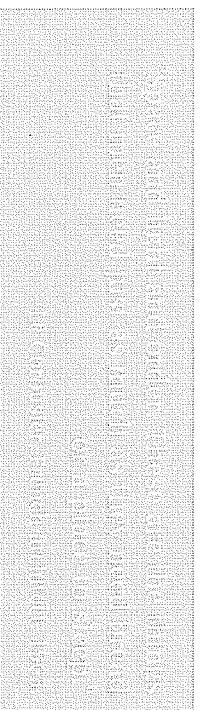
Old-Québec City Streetscape | Photo: Yves Casselin

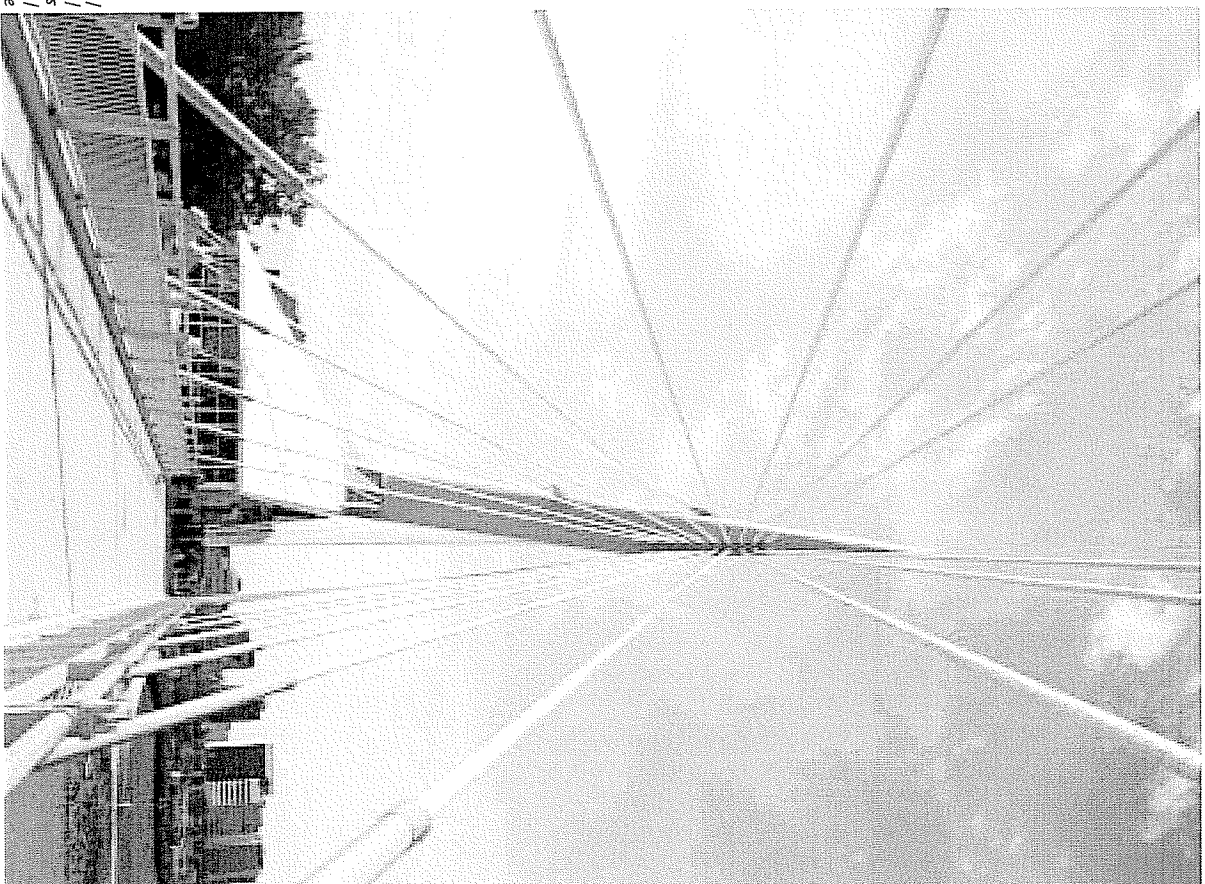
Promoting excellence in architecture and urban design can be achieved by:

- encouraging public discussion about the role and importance of architecture and urban design in Canadian life;
- inspiring community-wide participation in architectural and urban design and planning;
- assisting governments in developing appropriate architectural guidelines and benchmarks within their jurisdictions;
- aiding all decision-makers involved in building projects to develop best practices throughout the design and construction process; and
- encouraging school boards and provincial/territorial departments of education to develop architectural and urban design issues in their curriculum development.



Restaurant-lounge Le Newtown | Architect: Dupuis Le Tourneux architectes | Photo: Alain Laforest





*Provancher Boulevard Bridge /
Architect: CPP Architecture /
Landscape Architects: Hildebrand Thomas
Frank Crain / Engineers: Wardrop Engineering /
Photo: Henry Price*

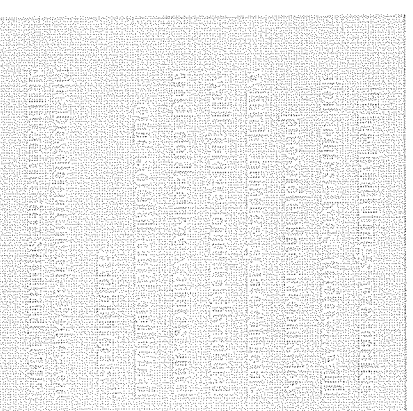
A CANADIAN MODEL ARCHITECTURE POLICY: OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

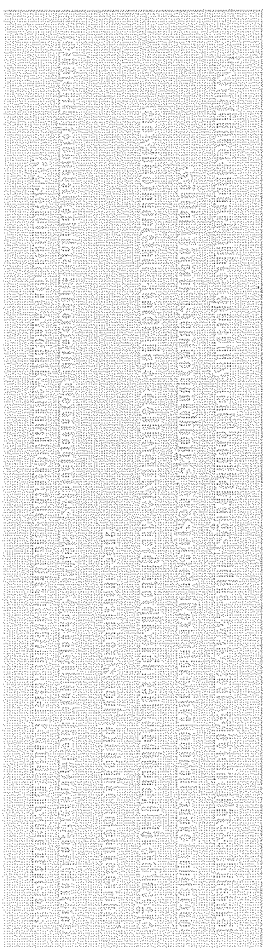
The goal of an Architecture Policy is to stimulate a partnership among the architectural profession and other professions, governments, building developers, and Canadians from all walks of life that will focus on the achievement of excellence in our architecture and urban design. To reach this goal, the Model Architecture Policy sets out four objectives for architectural and urban design in Canada:

- to enable, support, and improve the Canadian *quality of life*;
- to contribute to and enrich *Canadian culture and heritage*;
- to achieve *sustainability*; and
- to promote *innovation and research* and improve building technology.

To Enrich Our Quality of Life

"Quality of life" is a small phrase with a vast scope. To some, it means an urban existence: enriched with friends, culture, workplaces, and shopping; and composed of spaces that are seamlessly integrated. To others, it means a peaceful suburban setting with strong community values and spaces for community activities. Still, others want the ultra-quiet of a more rural environment where private and public spaces have greater differentiation.



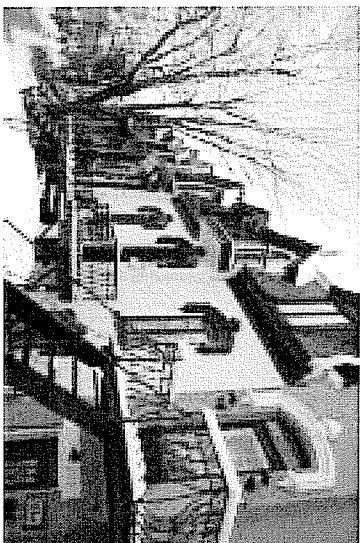


Quality of life also means more than lifestyle choices. It involves the ability to visit or live and work in buildings that are designed, not only for functional purposes, but also to be a delight to the eye, inspiring to our spirit and sensitive to our physical and mental health and well-being. Buildings and other structures that achieve these goals require excellence in architectural vision and practice.

Architecture and urban design that enable, support, and improve our quality of life depends not only on the skill of an architect: it rests squarely on the shoulders of all Canadians. We must be aware of what constitutes excellence in architecture and urban design, and demand that it be integral to our lives.

To Enrich Our Culture and Heritage

Our culture is, at any given period of time, the sum of who we are, how we are feeling, and what we are doing at that moment. This "temporal" sum is then reflected back to us in works of cultural significance produced during that period of time. Our heritage, on the other hand, is the accumulation of the works of significance that have survived their



Historical Houses in Montreal / Photo: Eric Gagnon

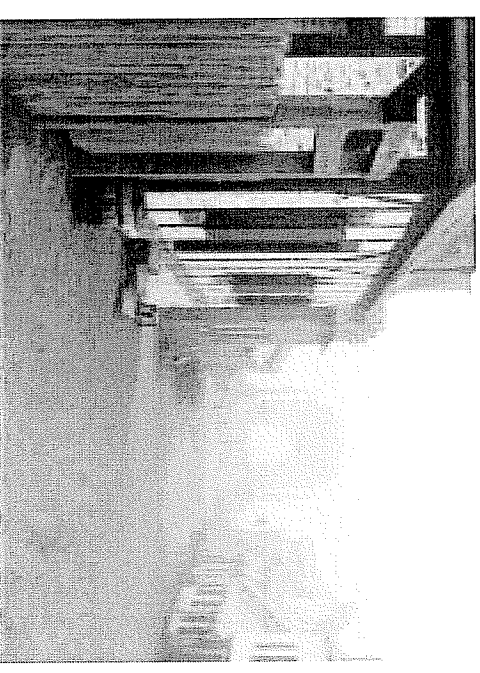
specific periods of time because they reflect back to us historical achievements and values that still resonate with our contemporary experiences.

Of all the art forms, architecture is the most visible to the public and, very often, the most enduring as well. And, as with all art, it both shapes our values and is, in turn, shaped by them. In this way, it contributes to our self-knowledge as individuals, as citizens, and as a nation. Therefore, to enrich our culture and heritage through architecture involves two types of awareness: first, the public's awareness about the value of our architectural heritage; and, secondly, an awareness on the part of all owners and developers of the fact that today's buildings will become tomorrow's heritage.

To Achieve Sustainability

That the environment of our planet is under stress is no longer a matter of debate. Human activities affect the patterns and processes of the natural world. Buildings, in particular, are interventions into nature. They use land, erode biodiversity, consume resources, generate waste, affect traffic volumes, and contribute to atmospheric pollution. Therefore, the role of architects in achieving environmental sustainability is a vital one.

Architects must mediate between the human experience – users, developers, decision-makers – and the environment. In this sense, they must be advocates for the natural world, ensuring that it is not something distinct and outside of architectural and urban design processes, but "heard" and thoughtfully considered in every aspect from planning and design to construction and maintenance. This includes developing sustainable servicing, supply and waste techniques; using more recyclable



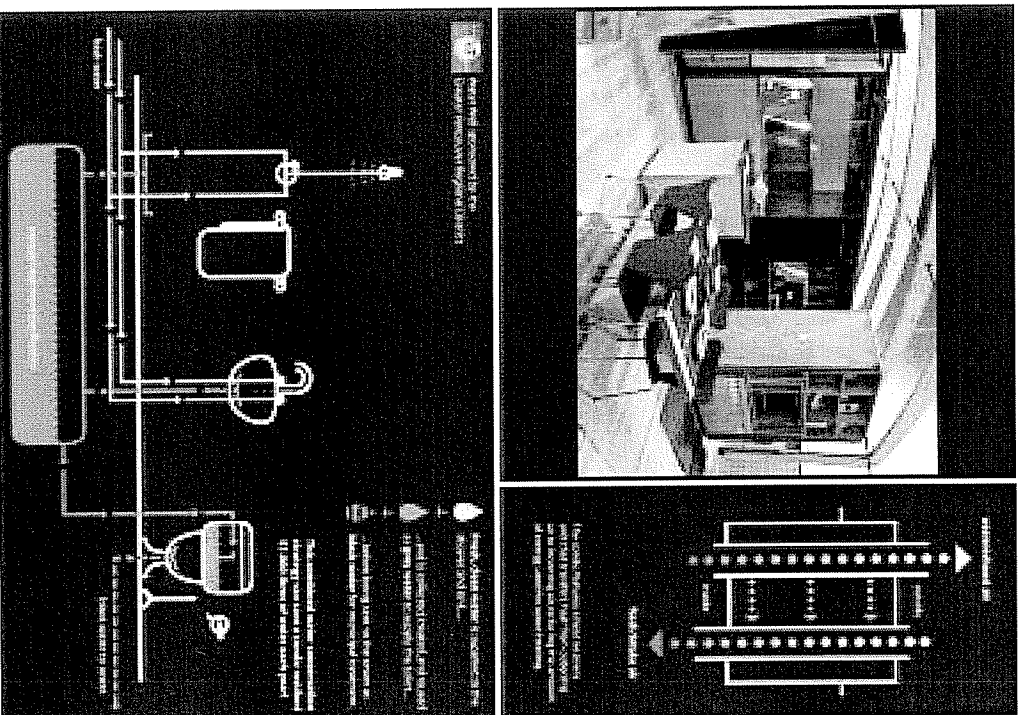
Historical Louisbourg Village | Photo: Eric Gagnon

and fewer synthetic materials in construction processes; and consuming energy at the lowest possible levels.

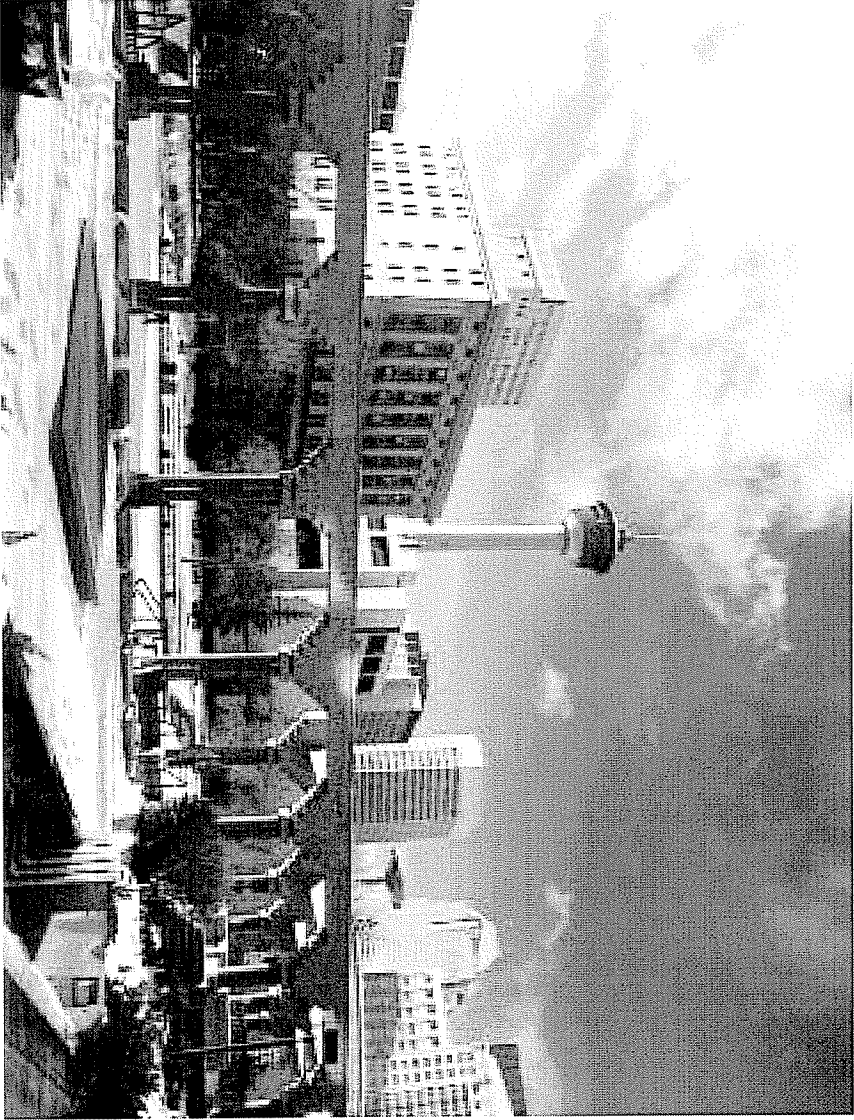
To Develop Innovation and Research and Building Technology

Architects have a dual responsibility: firstly, to build responsibly within our social and cultural times; and secondly, to innovate technically through advances in science and engineering. New materials and technologies work hand-in-hand with the architect's imagination in the design of a building or structure that reflects the present instead of the past, experiments with new ideas and possibilities, and challenges the status quo. A responsible architecture reflects our modern experiences and knowledge and makes our futures possible.

Innovation and research in architecture is about finding new or improved ways to use materials and technological processes. Research in this area will help us achieve our practical goals for excellence in architecture such as high efficiency, greater safety and security, more environmental sustainability, and healthier buildings.



The Sustainable Condo / Architect: Busby Parkins + Will Architects Co. / Photo: Martin Tessier



Olympic Plaza - Calgary | Photo: Murrel Lasure

"The construction industry makes up 12 per cent of the Canadian economy - making it the single largest sector."

Canadian Construction Association and Infomertica

THE CONSTRUCTION OF ALL CANADIANS WILL BE ENHANCED BY ADOPTING A MODEL ARCHITECTURE POLICY TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INNOVATION.

POSSIBLE POLICIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

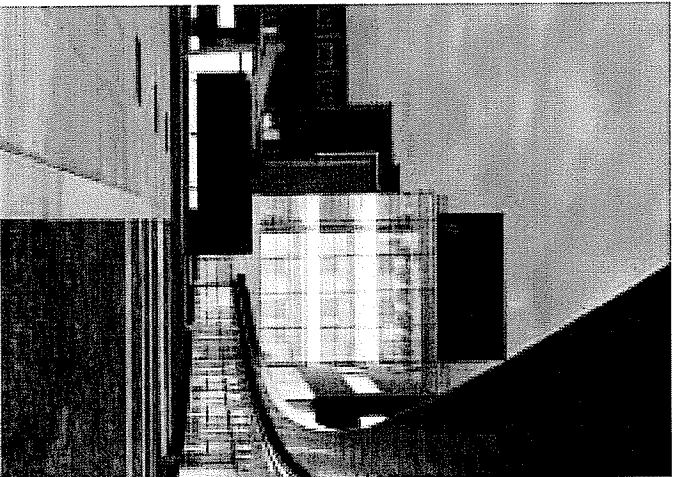
5.1 Quality of Life

A. The National Level:

The federal government is Canada's primary property owner and developer and should serve as a role model in promoting excellence in architectural design. Listed below are recommended policies or actions for adoption.

A1. Public Awareness:

- Establish new architectural grants/awards programs and enhance existing programs offered by the Canada Council for the Arts and other national organizations.
- Promote excellence in architecture and urban design through media presentation, public forum and symposia, publications put out by national organizations such as the Canada Council for the Arts, and commemorative markings for award-winning buildings.
- Include the right of attribution of authorship of buildings into the Copyright Act.
- Issue a series of postage stamps celebrating architecture.



Chatham - Kent Health Alliance | Architect: Stantec Architecture Ltd. | Photo: Richard Johnson - INTERIOR Images

A2. Procurement of Architectural Services:

- Improve contract award processes to ensure that the selection of architects and new structures for federal buildings and monuments is based on criteria that put the emphasis on quality and sustainability.

A3. Construction Trades and Building Crafts:

- Develop initiatives to ensure an adequate supply of skilled trades people.

A4. Adequate and Multicultural Workforce of Architects:

- Assist national professional associations in developing programs for recognizing or upgrading skills of internationally trained architectural graduates.

B. The Provincial/Territorial Level:

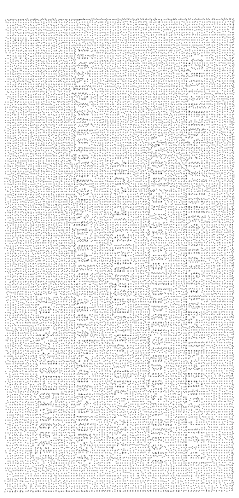
As the primary decision-makers in education, provincial/territorial governments can play a decisive role in educating Canadians about excellence in architecture and urban design.

B1. Education:

- Develop an "Architects in Schools" program in elementary and secondary schools and a web site that includes images, lesson plans, and a database of architects willing to speak in schools.



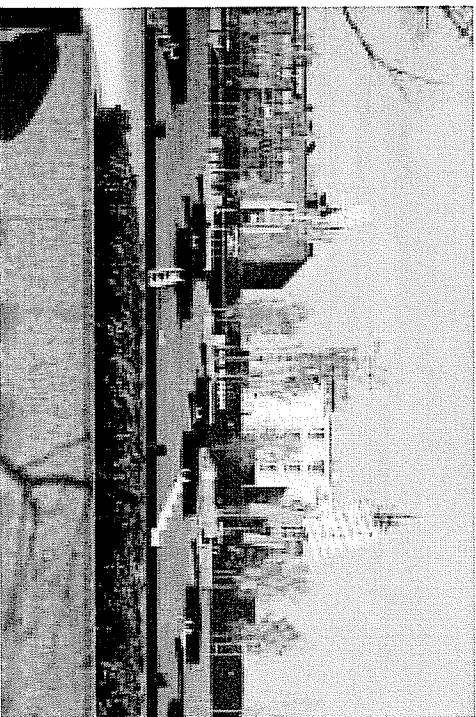
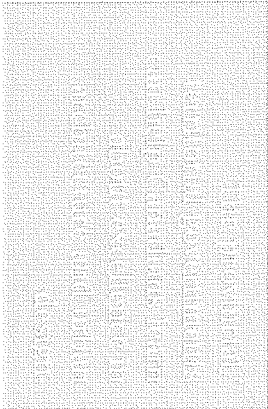
Microsoft Canada Headquarters | Architect: Derrrot J. Sweeny Architects Inc. | Photo: Ben Rahn Design Archive



- Develop curriculum on ways to add information on architecture to already existing subject areas in elementary and secondary school programs as well as in general arts programs at the university level.
- Develop and deliver programs in the construction trades and building crafts to enhance the skill levels of workers.

B2. Public Awareness:

- Establish new architectural grants/awards programs and enhance existing programs offered by provincial/territorial arts councils and other organizations.
- Promote excellence in architecture and urban design through media presentations, public forums and symposia, and provincial/territorial publications.



Montreal Urban Park /
Photo: Margaret Boyce

B3. Procurement of Architectural Services:

- Improve contract award processes to ensure that the selection of architects and new structures for provincial/territorial buildings and monuments are based on criteria which give greater emphasis on quality and sustainability.

B4. Adequate and Multicultural Workforce of Architects:

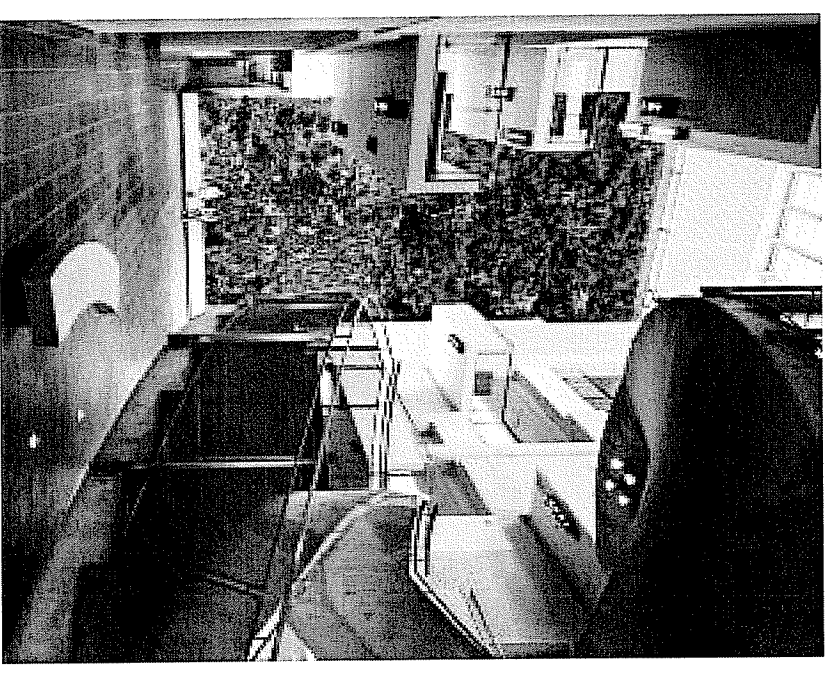
- Assist provincial/territorial licensing bodies in developing criteria for assessing internationally trained architectural graduates.

C. The Local, Corporate, Institutional Level:

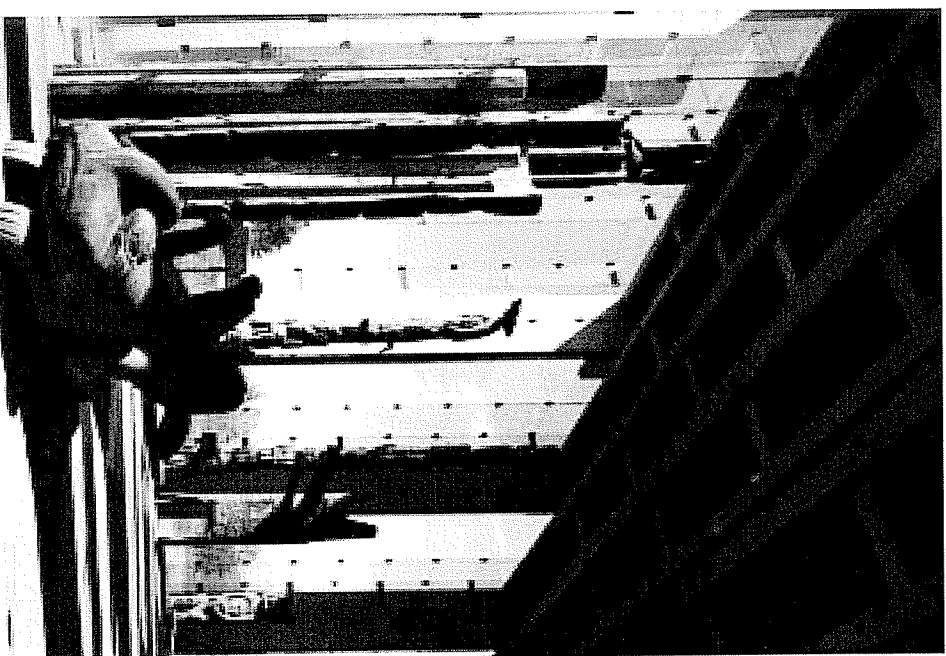
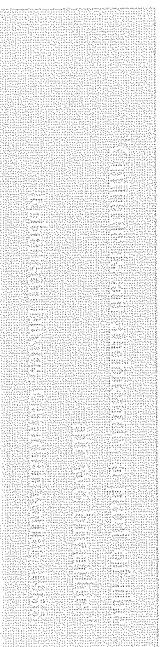
Individuals and community groups have the greatest political access to their municipal governments, corporations, universities, colleges, school boards health districts, and other institutions and decision-makers. Involvement at this level of can play a significant role in enhancing architecture and urban design because these organizations set policy for their own buildings and, in the case of municipalities, set policies for all buildings within their boundaries.

C1. Encourage and Celebrate Urban Design:

- Establish or expand an Urban Design awards program.
- Help commissioning bodies identify interested institutions, individuals, citizens' groups, and community organizations that can assist in early design



*University of Guelph – Humber Building |
Architect: Diamond and Schmitt Architects Incorporated, RHL Architects |
Photo: Steven Evans*



Museum of Anthropology | Architect: Arthur Erickson | Photo: Simon Scott

decisions so that buildings and other structures will be in accord with public needs and wishes.

- Include more architects on planning boards and other organizations to provide advice on physical planning and development.
- Support school boards in offering subjects related to architecture in adult and lifelong learning programs.

C2. Procurement of Architectural Services:

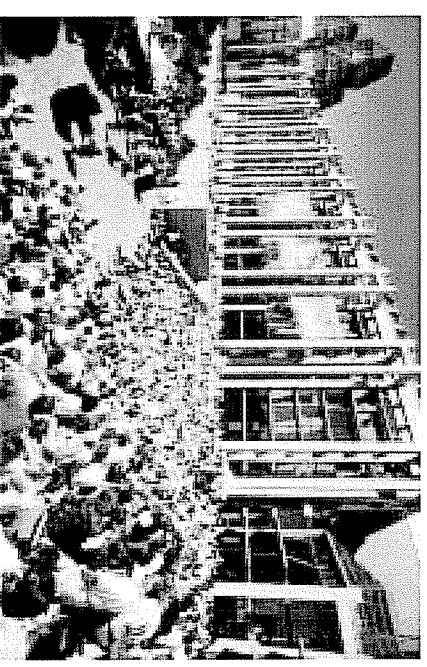
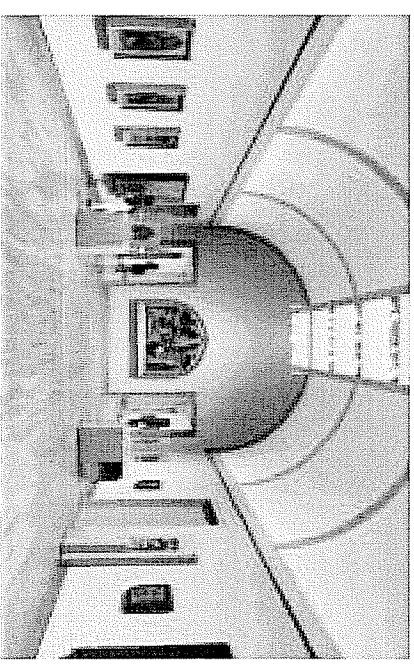
- Provide local decision-makers with training about the importance of architecture and quality design.
- Ensure that building standards and regulations reflect, and are supportive of, good design and design processes.
- Improve contract award processes to ensure that the selection of architects and new structures for local buildings and monuments are based on criteria that put the emphasis on quality and sustainability.

5.2 Culture and Heritage

Federal, Provincial and Municipal:

In general, the three levels of government – national, provincial/territorial, and local / regional – can undertake many similar initiatives to promote an understanding of the significance of architecture to our culture and heritage.

- **Act as Role Models:**
Ensure that all new public buildings support Canadians' cultural aspirations.
- **Conserve and Restore:**
Increase funding for conservation and restoration and provide tax credits and incentives for building conservation and re-use.
- **Support and Expand the "Doors Open" Program Across Canada:**
Provide Canadians with more opportunities to view the nation's architectural heritage in every city.
- **Integrate Public Art:**
Provide regulations or incentives to increase spending on public art for buildings to one or two per cent of project costs.
- **Engage Educators:**
Encourage educators to include information on Canada's architecture in courses involving history, culture, and heritage.
- **Promote Architecture to Tourism Workers:**
Encourage tourism organizations to help workers become aware of architecture as an important aspect of our culture and heritage.
- **Create Awareness Among Design and Construction Professionals/ Specialists:**
Work with organizations involved in design and construction to promote knowledge of members' participation in the development of Canada's architectural heritage.



National Gallery of Canada / Architect: Moshe Safdie / Top photo: Phillip Gabriel; Bottom photo: Yves Gosselin / Lighting: Phillip Gabriel

"No artist is ahead of his time.
He is his time; it is just that
others are behind the times."

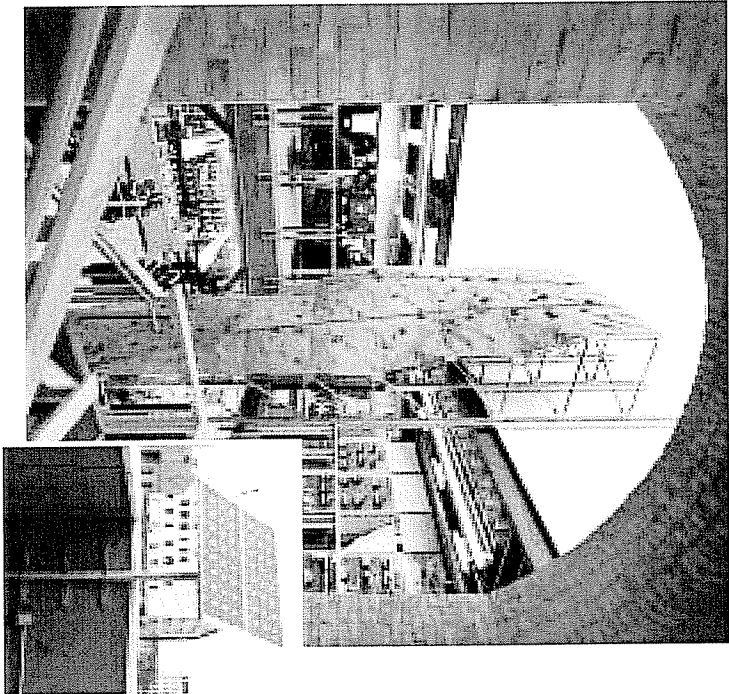
Martha Graham,
American dancer, 1979.

5.3 Sustainability

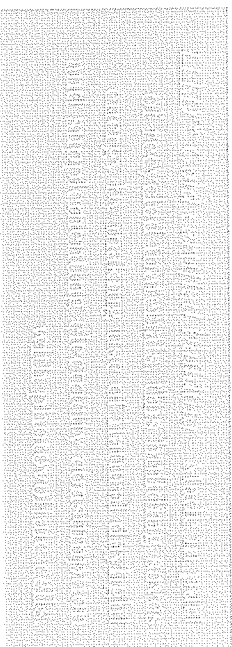
A. The National Level:

The federal government and other national organizations can set standards and practices that will help Canada reach sustainability and the government can act as a role model for "green" building designs. Some policies for implementation include:

- A1. **Using "Green Building" Rating Systems** by requiring the design and construction of new projects meet minimum ratings.
- A2. **Applying Life-Cycle Costing** and management to ensure that the costs of a building *throughout its lifetime* are considered.
- A3. **Increasing Alternative and Renewable Energy Sources** through various incentive programs.



Mountain Equipment Co-op | Architect: Prairie Architects Inc.



- A4. **Increasing the Use of "Green" Labelling systems** and developing, supporting and maintaining holistic database and system for life-cycle assessments and inventories of all building materials, products and processes.
- A5. **Reducing Construction Waste** through incentives.
- A6. **Reducing Water Consumption** in all new buildings or renovations.

B. The Provincial/Territorial Level:

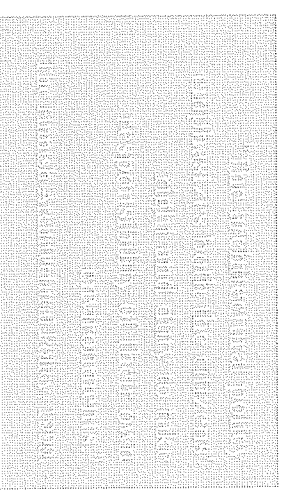
Provincial and territorial governments can assist in the goal of sustainability by ensuring that regional buildings and urban design meet sustainability challenges.

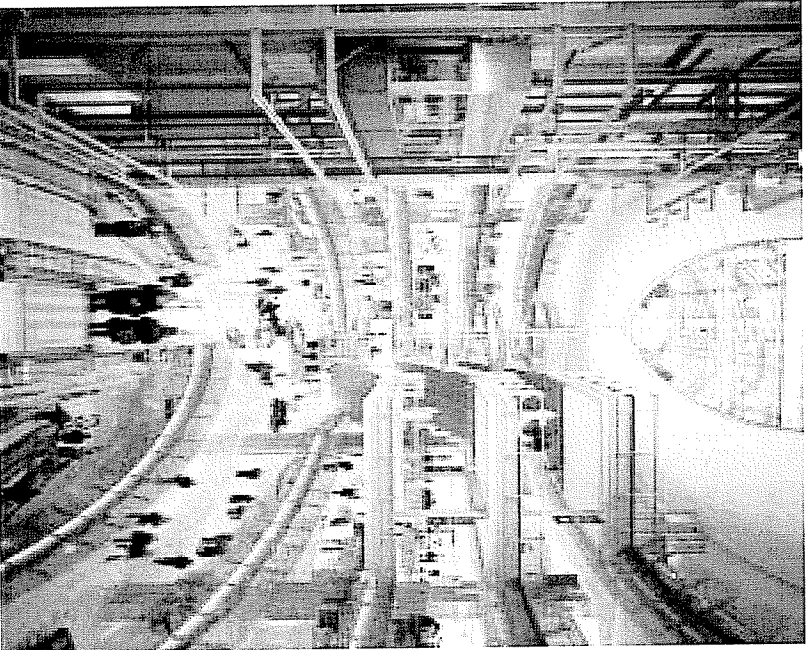
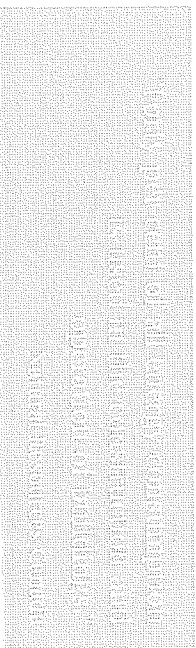
- B1. **Using "Green Building" Rating Systems** to ensure that all provincial/territorial government buildings meet a minimum rating.
- B2. **Applying Life-Cycle Costing/Management**
- B3. **Reducing Construction Waste**

C. The Local, Corporate and Institutional Level:

In addition to applying national and provincial/territorial standards to municipal and other local buildings, local and corporate action for sustainability can include regulations for urban design as well as codes for homes, condominiums, town homes, and rental buildings. Furthermore private corporations can adopt an Architecture policy that commits to leasing, building and occupying only sustainable buildings. Full cost accounting incorporating social, economic and environmental costs and quality of life indicators should increasingly be considered.

Architects are the environment's representatives in architectural and urban design processes.





*Complexe Les Ailes | Architect: Architects Lemay et associés |
Photo: Stephan Poulin*

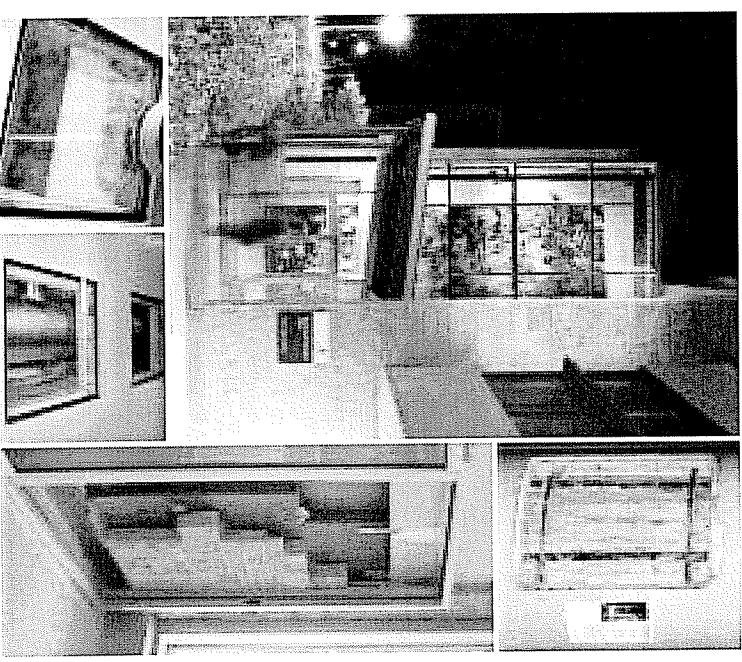
- C1. **Using "Green Building" Rating Systems:**
Relevant rating systems can also be applied to land development, and residential building construction.
- C2. **Apply Life-Cycle Costing/Management** to ensure that the costs and management of a building throughout its lifetime be used more extensively in the development of building programs and project delivery
- C3. **Facilitate Intensification and Increased Density** by altering land-use and zoning policies to permit denser, mixed-use developments and reduce urban sprawl. Use "smart-growth" strategies.
- C4. **Reduce Construction Waste** by providing incentives for construction recycling.

5.4 Innovation, Research and Building Technology

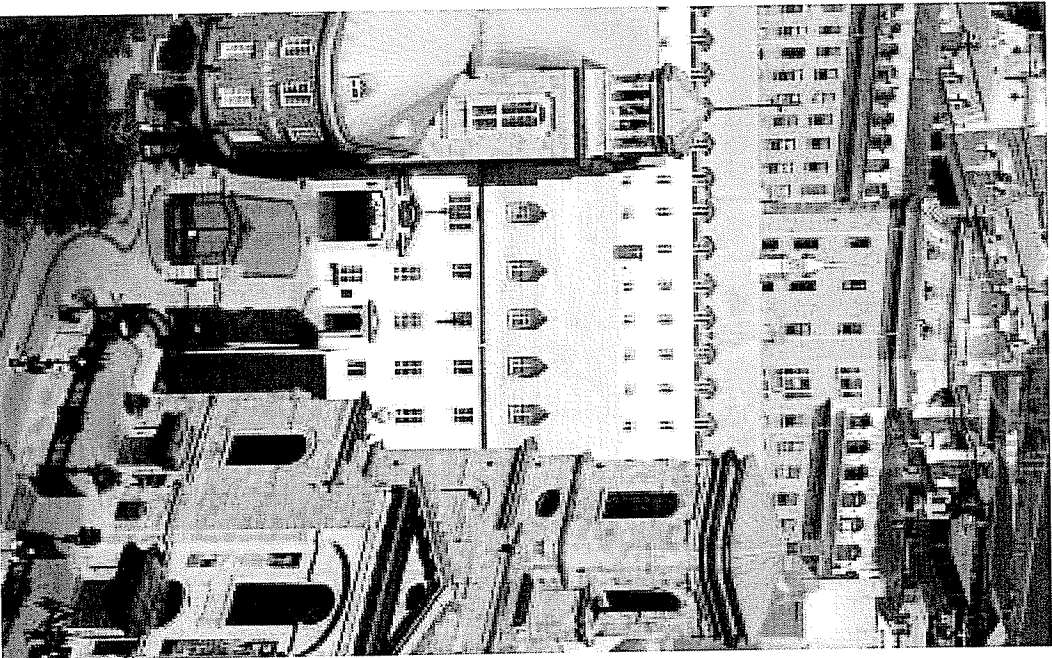
All Levels:

In general, the three levels of government, as well as the private sector involved in the development, construction and operation of buildings can undertake similar initiatives to assist researchers and innovators in the fields of architecture and urban design.

- **Support research into the benefits of good design, to prove unequivocally that design matters and is of added value in:**
 - Increasing productivity in the workplaces;
 - Enhancing learning in educational institutions;
 - Contributing to better health outcomes in hospital and health care institutions;
 - Creating a feeling of well-being in public buildings, offices, and homes;
 - Enhancing corporate branding and identity.
- **Award innovation and research:**
 - Expand programs which provide awards for the development and use of new building materials, construction methods, and project-delivery systems and quality control systems;
 - Ensure that architectural competitions emphasize innovation both artistically and technically;
- **Disseminate research from other countries:**
 - Increase awareness among architects and other business professionals of research and innovation around the world;
- **Review the allocation of risk on a project.**
 - Fairly assign and allocate risk among the design professionals, construction team and owners.



Queen's University – Beamish-Munro Hall | Architect: Bregman + Hamann Architects | Main Photo: Interior Images | Other Photos: Queen's University



- **Support the export of architectural services:**
 - Provide assistance for the export of architectural services as do other nations;
- **Increase public support for Research in Construction:**
 - Provide increased funding for the Institute for Research in Construction of the National Research Council and promote it as Canada's knowledge centre for Design and Construction;
 - Provide funding for innovative architectural research at the Canadian University Schools of Architecture.

In conclusion, the adoption of an architecture policy at all levels of government and society will raise the quality of architecture and urban design in Canada. Because a nation's social and cultural development, wealth creation, and economic well-being are intrinsically linked to excellence in architecture and urban design, Canada's environment, economy and society will consequently improve and thrive.

*Vieux-Séminaire-de-Québec, Université Laval -
Faculty of Planning, Architecture and Visual Arts /
Some architects include: L'abbé Jérôme Demers, architecte;
Joseph-Ferdinand Pashy, architecte | Photo: Benoit LaFrance*

"Healthy communities and competitive cities are vital to our individual and national well-being."

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Vancouver Waterfront | Photo: Yves Gosselin

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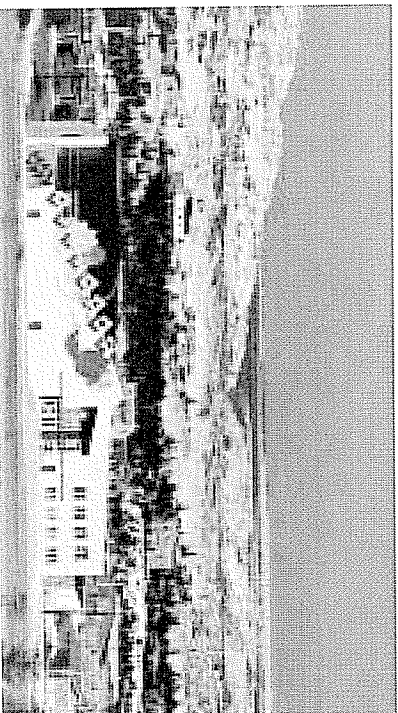
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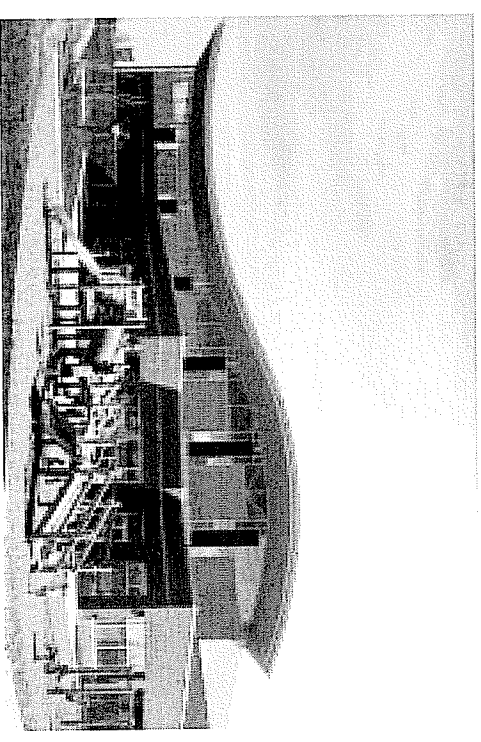
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Jamie Platz YMCA / Architect: Barry Johns Architect / Photo: James Dow

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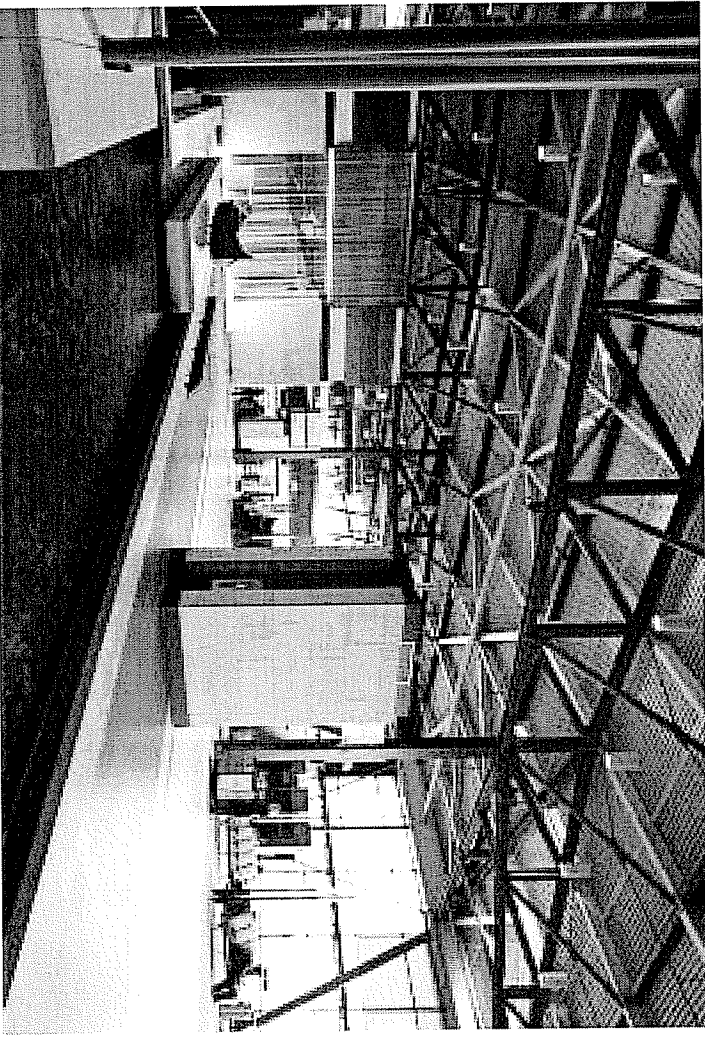
*Bishop's Landing Development /
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Front Cover Photos (left to right):

*Bahen Centre for Information Technology / Architect: Diamond And Schmitt Architects Incorporated;
Mckinsey & Company Offices / Architect: Taylor Herrin Pontarini Architects;
Private Residence / Architect: Parkau Architects Inc. / Photo: Undine Prohl;
James Stewart Centre for Mathematics / Architect: Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg / Photo: Tom Arban;
Background photo – Architect: Sturges Architecture*

Back Cover Photo:

Brockville General Hospital / Architect: Health Strategy Architects Ltd.



*Ottawa Macdonald Cartier International Airport - New passenger terminal /
Architect: YOW Consultants / Photo: WP McElligott*

Canadians must demand that architectural
excellence be integral to our lives.

