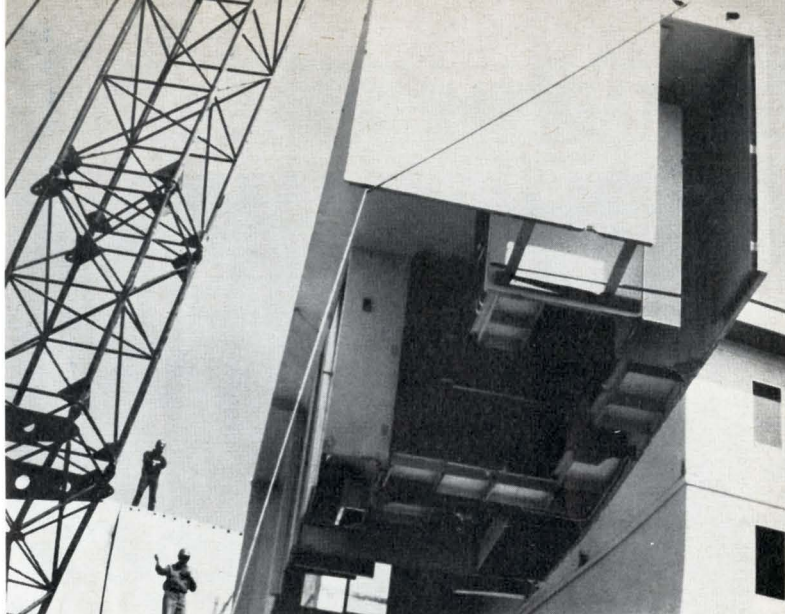


Systems building gathers steam

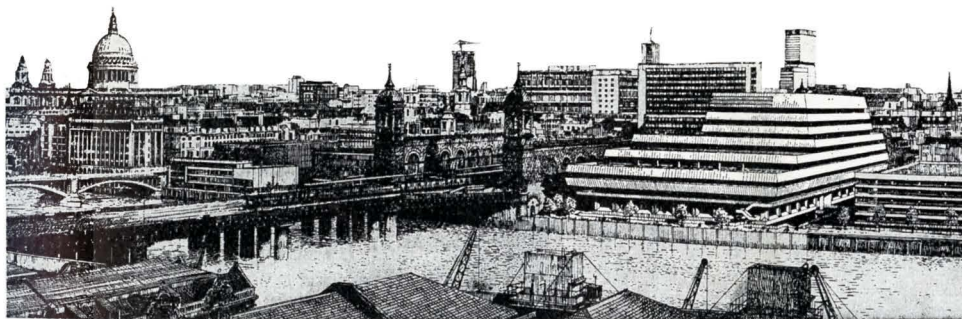
Polymer Corp has just bet \$3 million on systems building by acquiring Canadian and overseas rights to the U.S.-developed Uniment system (being used, right, on a California apartment building). In New York, an American-Standard Celanese joint venture is introducing a French system. For news of these and other developments in systems building, see p. 8.



Architecture Canada

NEWSMAGAZINE

Published every two weeks by RAIC /IRAC March 2, 1970



Preserving a historic view of old London

Views of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, England will be preserved in this scheme for a new international telephone exchange building. It replaces an earlier proposal for a 600-ft tower which would have blocked the view of St. Paul's from London Bridge. The new design calls for a building stepped up to a maximum height of 150 ft cantilevered 20 ft over the River Thames along a 250 ft frontage. What appear to be reinforced concrete balconies are actually white ceramic-faced fiberglass air conditioning ducts which surround the building. Architects are R. H. Ouzman, a senior architect with the Ministry of Public Building and Hubbard, Ford and Partners.



Computerized product data

The Department of Industry's proposed computerized building product information service got its first public showing in Edmonton last month at the annual convention of the Canadian Construction Association. Starting this month, trial installations will be made in 35 design and construction offices (14 each in Montreal and Toronto, 7 in Ottawa) to see how architects, engineers and contractors like the idea. Participants will receive a pilot computer console which will be left in their office free of charge for two weeks (it would cost a subscriber around \$100 a month, plus line charges if and when the system goes on stream). For the test, data will be limited to exterior cladding, with most of the information on 4" x 6" microfiche cards, each containing up to 100 catalogue pages.

RAIC

Leithead describes RAIC activities to Ontario meeting

RAIC is about to conduct a nationwide survey of architects' offices regarding work presently under way, on the boards, contemplated or abandoned for various reasons, the Institute's president, W. G. Leithead, of Vancouver, told the OAA Convention in Toronto.

"We are supported in this endeavor by the Economic Council of Canada, which realizes that the compilation of this information, and its utilization, will be significant in determining the prospects for everybody now in the building industry, its management, its labor force, and supporting manufacturers and suppliers," says Mr. Leithead. The information will also be made available to various government departments for their evaluation. "We hope that it will have some effect on reducing the pendulum syndrome which is so disastrous to the industry, the profession and the bright young minds anxious to enter the profession and to play an important role in the development of the Canadian environment."

Mr. Leithead also expressed pleasure at the federal government's



action in establishing the Construction Industry Development Council (A/C Feb. 16) noting that among its 36 members are ten architects, drawn from private practice, government and education. While stating his belief that this council has an opportunity for the development of significant proposals vital to the efficiency within industry and to national productivity, Mr. Leithead re-affirmed his conviction that Canada must soon have a national association of the construction industry. "It is my belief, shared by my predecessors in office, that no segment of the industry can debate or resolve the problems in isolation" (A/C Oct. 1969).

The Institute president also told convention delegates that a reciprocal registration agreement has been signed between the AIA and the RIBA, and that the RAIC Certification Board is now working to achieve reciprocal registration, first throughout Canada, and then with the United States and the United Kingdom (A/C Dec. 1969).

White Paper brief to be reviewed

The RAIC brief on the Federal White Paper on Tax Reform will be reviewed at a joint meeting of the council and presidents of all provincial component associations in Toronto, March 6th. President W. G. Leithead, accompanied by Director of Professional Services Wilson Salter, and Institute legal counsel and tax accountants are expected to meet Finance Minister Benson March 31st to discuss the brief.

Supporting briefs are also being prepared for submission by the Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and Alberta associations of architects.

OAA CONVENTION

Emphasis on 'the mechanics of architecture'

Frank discussion of the ways in which outside influences and forces have changed the traditional nature of architectural practice, coupled with equally frank examination of means to enable the profession develop a strong position before the event, rather than react to it afterwards, featured OAA's 80th annual convention in Toronto last month.

Said incoming president Michael Dixon of Ottawa: "The individual architect must strive to broaden his comprehension of a growing spectrum of professional discipline . . . the architect must aspire to emerge as leader."

Past-president Stan H. Butcherd was even more insistent that OAA "be ready and equipped to challenge those . . . who would replace the architect . . . we must serve as a watchdog . . . especially in the area of new regulations which tend to muddy our established responsibilities".

Such talk – and there was plenty of it – led exasperated John Sullivan

of Toronto to complain that "we are getting too deeply into the mechanics of architecture. Surely this is a wrong emphasis. We should be concerned about why we practise at all, how we can give greater service to the community, how we can become more humane, how we can develop a stronger social conscience."

More reports from the OAA convention will appear in the next issue.

COMPETITIONS

Toronto architect finalist in AA school competition

Donald J. Bolton, an associate with the Toronto firm of Clifford & Lawrie and a 1957 graduate of the University of Toronto School of Architecture, is the only Canadian among the six finalists selected in the first stage of the competition for a new building for Britain's Architectural Association and its School of Architecture in London. However, the finalists have been told not to proceed with their second stage designs because Imperial College has withdrawn from its agreement to merge with the AA and now the whole basis of the competition is being reconsidered.

The competition attracted international interest because it was one of the first to be held under the new RIBA regulations (and the first open to architectural students and non-architects). As a result there were 1,140 requests for copies of the conditions and 174 entries were received, many from abroad. Four other finalists are from Britain; one, Pafford Keatinge Clay, is from San Francisco.

Vancouver school competition

The Vancouver School Board is out to build the ideal elementary school and has invited all BC-registered architects to take part in a competition to design it. The \$6-million, 14-room elementary school is to be located in a new community development east of Kerr Road and south of 48th Avenue.

Architects have until April 15 to submit entries. First prize is the architectural contract; second prize is \$1,000; third is \$500.

Judges are Wolfgang Gerson of Vancouver, Ray Affleck of Montreal and D. B. MacKenzie, chairman of the BC Teachers Federation commission on education. Fred T. Hollingsworth is professional advisor.

Conditions are available from the Vancouver School Board. Closing date for registration is March 16.

INNOVATIONS

Conveyor system aids patient care

A horizontal and vertical conveyor system is the key to progressive patient care at the 174-bed acute

treatment building of the Kelowna General Hospital which opened last Saturday. Architects are McCarter, Nairne and Partners of Vancouver. This is one of the first such systems installed in a Canadian hospital.

Electronically-controlled, it frees nurses for patient care by taking over distribution and messenger duties. All material except trash and laundry moves horizontally through a crawl space under the main floor and vertically through shafts to ward floors. Provisions for handling trash and laundry can be added.

NEW FORMAT

Editors seek news from members

If you missed the first issue of *Architecture Canada Newsmagazine* (this is the second) please note that it will be mailed every second Friday (dated the Monday following). Value of the publication will depend largely on Canadian architects sending in news, opinions, drawings, photos and reviews.

What have you been up to lately? And what do you think about what's going on in the world of architecture?

Please note also that the RAIC will publish a major *Journal* twice a year, to be a handsome showcase and review of the profession and its achievements. The first *Architecture Canada Journal* will be published in November 1970, and will include a full report of the 1970 Massey Medal winners. Suggestions for other features will be appreciated.

The editors

Letters

Sirs:

Congratulations are in order on your new format.

In this computer age it is important to be able to assimilate information quickly and act accordingly.

Sulio Venchiarutti, Toronto

Sirs:

Congratulations on the new format of *Architecture Canada*. It is an excellent solution to a difficult problem.

Murray Polson, Vancouver

Sirs:

My compliments on a format, content, quality and quantity that can be consumed in combination with breakfast, lunch, or a ride on the subway.

A timeless way of keeping up to date.

Gerry Moore, Toronto

RAIC president comments

"At a recent meeting of our council, it was determined that if priorities were established for the RAIC, communications, as a means of preserving national unity, would receive the

highest priority . . . we have never before had the ability to communicate so rapidly with our membership."

Extract from Mr. Leithead's comments at the OAA convention,

INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

Money saved from Design Centre closing will fund new industrial aid scheme

The National Design Council will launch a program of incentives to increase the quantity and improve the quality of Canadian design activity.

This Industrial Design Assistance Program (IDAP for short) will assist Canadian industry by contributing to the costs of industrial design development. It aims "to help industry help itself; to support those manufacturing industries which demonstrate their interest in developing new and improved designs by employment of qualified industrial design services".

Financial assistance under IDAP will be concentrated on relatively short term projects of product or system innovation, up to 50% of the industrial design operational and administrative costs. These will include the salary, wages and fees for industrial design and associated technical services, on a staff or consultant basis, which are directly related to the specific project to be undertaken.

National Design Council scholarships and grants will continue to be offered for advanced training in the field of industrial design and to assist in the establishment of courses of study, but the new program means closing the operation of the two Design Centres in Toronto and Montreal as of March 31 (the money currently used to pay for their operation will be re-allocated to the new program).



Architecture Canada newsmagazine is published every two weeks by the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada / l'Institut Royal d'Architecture du Canada. The Institute also publishes *Architecture Canada Journal* twice a year, and *Architecture Canada Directory* once a year. RAIC/IRAC office 151 Slater Street, Ottawa 4. Walter B. Bowker, RAIC managing editor of publications.

Subscriptions are \$10 a year.

Architecture Canada editorial, circulation and advertising offices are at 56 Esplanade St. E., Toronto 1 416-364-3333

Editorial Board: Walter Bowker, Annabel Slaight, A. J. Diamond, F. W. Helyar, A. W. Cluff, Anita Aarons, Alastair Grant, Patrick Hailstone, Ron Butler, David Harris, Fiona Mee, Janeva Van Buren, Michael de Pencier.

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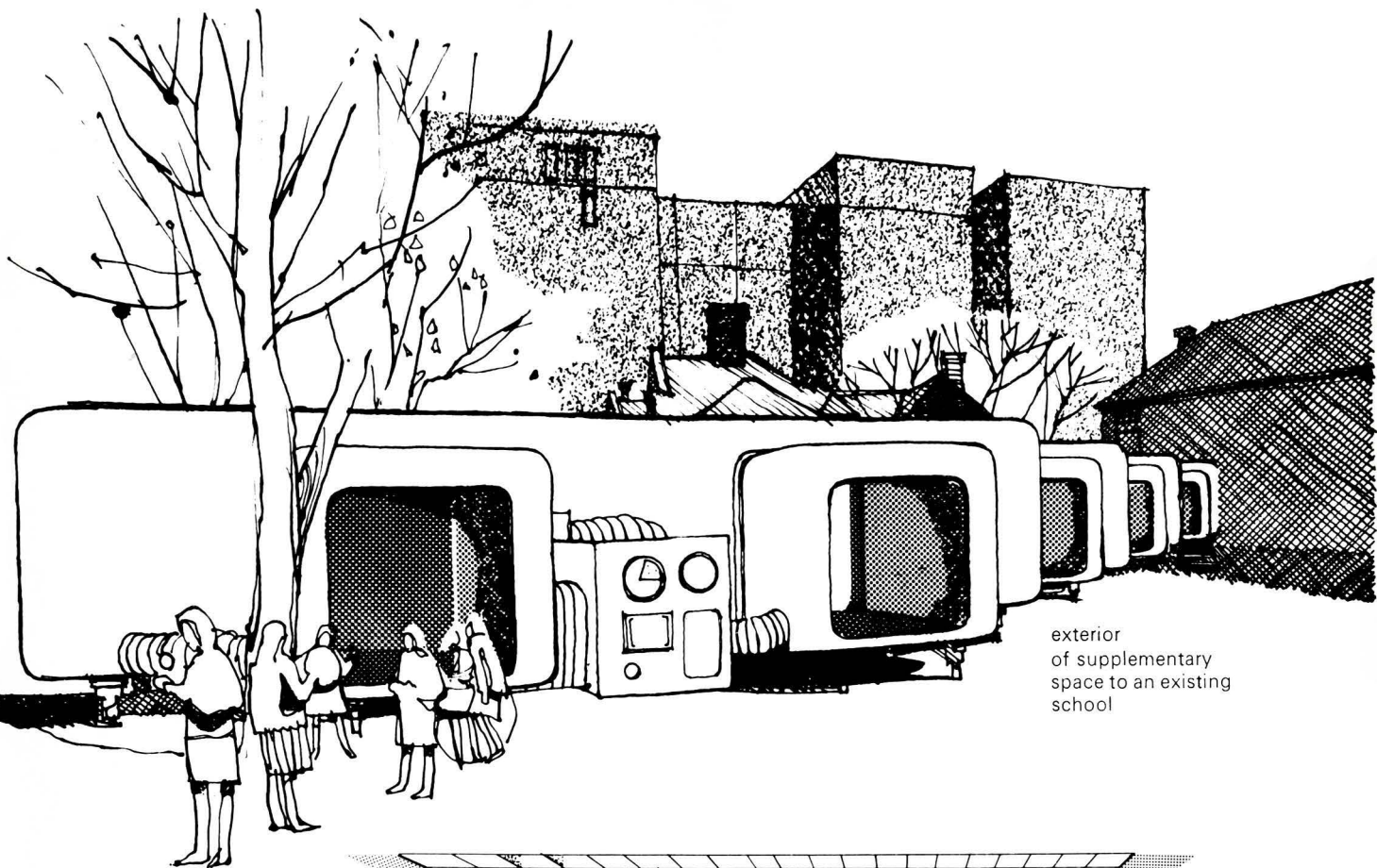


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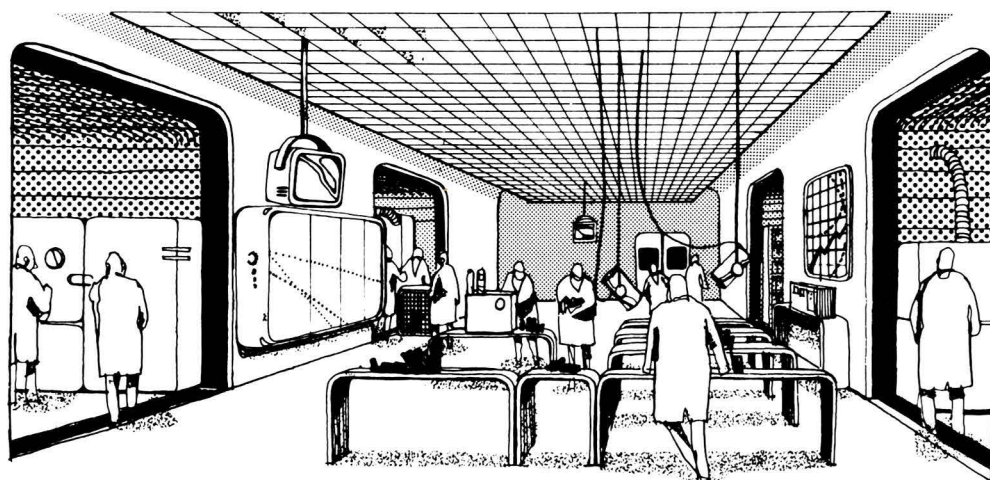
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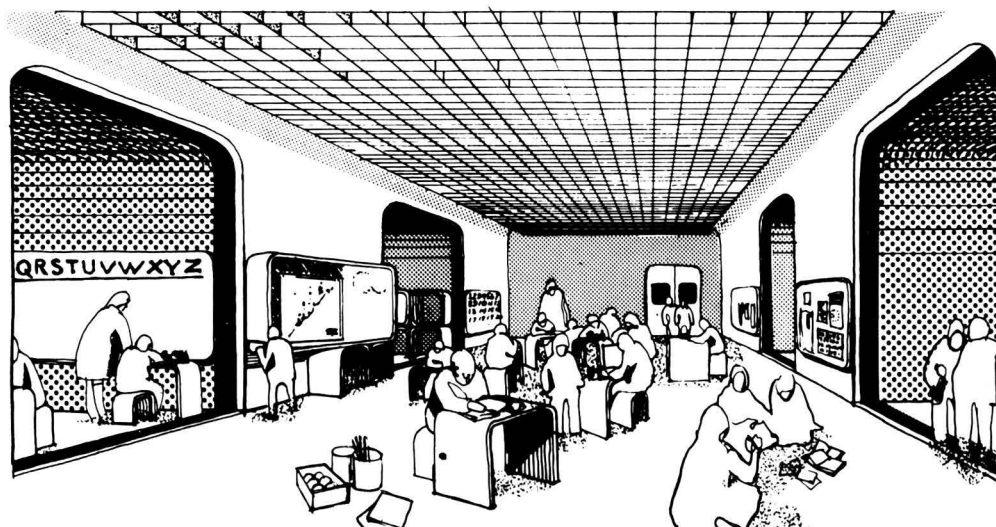
Fiberglas Base Cap roof insulation has stood the test of time. The main reason is dimensional stability. Fiberglas does not shrink or swell with extreme temperature changes. It is also exceptionally fire-safe. Lightweight and durable, it is available in larger than average sheets to reduce the number of joints. The factory-applied base sheet prevents the asphalt from being absorbed by the insulation to give you a virtually impregnable built-up roof. Many architects and contractors who have tried other materials for flat or low-pitched roofs now concede that for proven performance and long-term economy, Fiberglas Base Cap roof insulation is the best available. *Please write for further information.*



exterior
of supplementary
space to an existing
school



Interiors show the
same component
used as an
elementary
classroom and as
a high school
specialized space



Plug-in school being developed

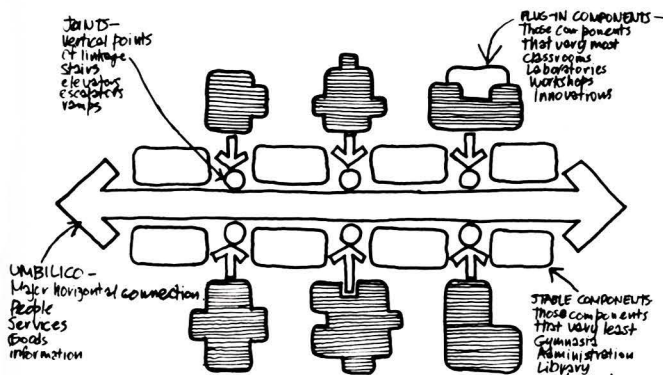
A concept for plug-in modular components and connecting tubes for schools is now under study by the Toronto research and development group Intendes.

Their Nexus school (nexus from Latin meaning link) is a result of two years' research for the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Intendes is now working with the Ontario County Board of Education to develop a preliminary school design by June 30th this year.

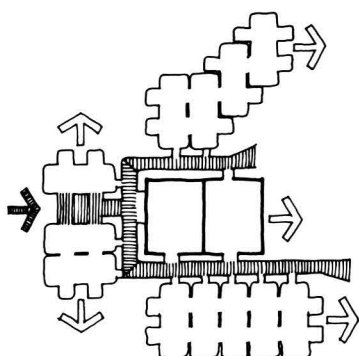
The Nexus concept grew from the group's view that present portable classrooms are potentially sophisticated technologically. Their plan, according to project director Brian A. Self, allows schools to become amalgamations of space rather than "one-off" solutions.

Each component would be a separate space designed for a specific activity and fabricated by industry. Some would be permanent; temporary components could be added or subtracted at reasonable cost. Links would be networks of mechanical services and pedestrian movement systems.

When asked to comment, George Roberts, Director of Education of the Ontario County Board of Education, and a graduate engineer, said that he felt "for a thing as traditional as a school, there would be a psychological barrier for academic people and the public to something that looks like a meccano set". He hoped however that "his Board and the Intendes group would be able to learn from each other".



Schematic of plug-in preconcept



Possible school amalgamation

HOUSING

\$200 million to attract private enterprise into low-income housing

To encourage private architects, builders and developers to get more interested in low-income housing, federal housing minister Robert Andras has "reserved \$200 million to assist those of you who can come forth with new and better ways of meeting the needs of low-income families".

Mr. Andras added that "I don't want to set down too many conditions because I want to flush out ideas from anybody in the country."

The news was included with announcement of the 1970 budget for Central Mortgage and Housing Corp. CMHC will have \$854 million to spend this year (vs. \$680 million in '69) - most of it for welfare housing.

Newly-elected president Michael Dixon of OAA sees the \$200-million "innovative housing" fund as an opportunity for architects to work more closely with builders and developers. But, he points out, "the association has never been satisfied with the fees formula for the various types of housing". The problems of architects working with developers got a thorough airing at the OAA convention and will be reported in detail in the next issue of A/C.

1969 was biggest year ever

More new houses and apartments were built in Canada last year than ever before - 210,415 of them to be exact. Over half (110,917) were apartment units; 78,404 were single detached houses; the other 21,000 were about evenly divided between duplexes or semi-detached units and row houses.

The 1969 housing total was 7% higher than 1968, the previous record year.

BOOKS

Noted briefly:

Concrete Bridge Design. ACI Publication SP-23, pp. 821 - \$27.50. American Concrete Institute, Box 4754, Redford Station, 22400 West Seven Mile Road, Detroit, Mich. 48219.

A series of 45 papers from the First International Symposium on Concrete Bridge Design on subjects ranging from methods of theoretical structural analysis to examples of unique bridge designs and construction techniques.

The Office-Environmental Planning, Part One, by Gordon Forrest, pp. 49. Queen's Printer - available from the Dept. of Industry, Trade & Commerce, Ottawa.

A systematic approach to the theory of space planning.

Hospital Architecture and Beyond - by Isadore Rosenfield, pp. 310 - \$24.95. Van Nostrand Reinhold Co.,

450 West 33rd St., New York, N.Y. 10001.

A well illustrated general survey of hospital planning and design.

Construction Contracting, Second Edition, by Richard H. Clough - \$14.25. pp. 382. John Wiley & Sons Inc., 22 Worcester Drive, Toronto.

A basic approach to construction management, estimating, contracts, scheduling, and labor relations.

EDUCATION

Early learning centres subject of latest EFL book

Current interest in educating rather than entertaining nursery school children has been the impetus for the latest publication from the Educational Facilities Laboratory, New York.

The Early Learning Centre, part of the profiles of significant schools series, illustrates children responding to scaled-down furniture and equipment in an open-plan Montessori school in Stamford, Conn.

The 32-page book is free from EFL, 477 Madison Ave, New York, NY, 10022.

URBANIZATION

Second international conference at Cannes this month

Experts in town planning, architecture and related fields, will moderate discussions and judge the 1970 international award for the most valuable contribution to research or experimentation at the second session of International Encounters at Cannes, March 11th-17th.

The Encounters program is aimed at finding ways of "confronting and relieving the great urban problems of our times" (and then they hopefully add "if not completely resolving them"). Over a thousand participants from various countries attended the first Encounters in March '69.

Among those serving on the 17-member international jury will be Americans Louis Kahn and Robert Le Ricolais.

COSTS

Materials price indexes up

Building materials price indexes rose in January, due mainly to sharp increases in plumbing and heating equipment, wallboard and insulation, and concrete products.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics residential index was 139.4 (vs 138.4 in December and 138.2 in January '69); the non-residential index was 128.4 (vs 127.8 in December and 123.1 in January '69). Both indexes are based on 1961 = 100.

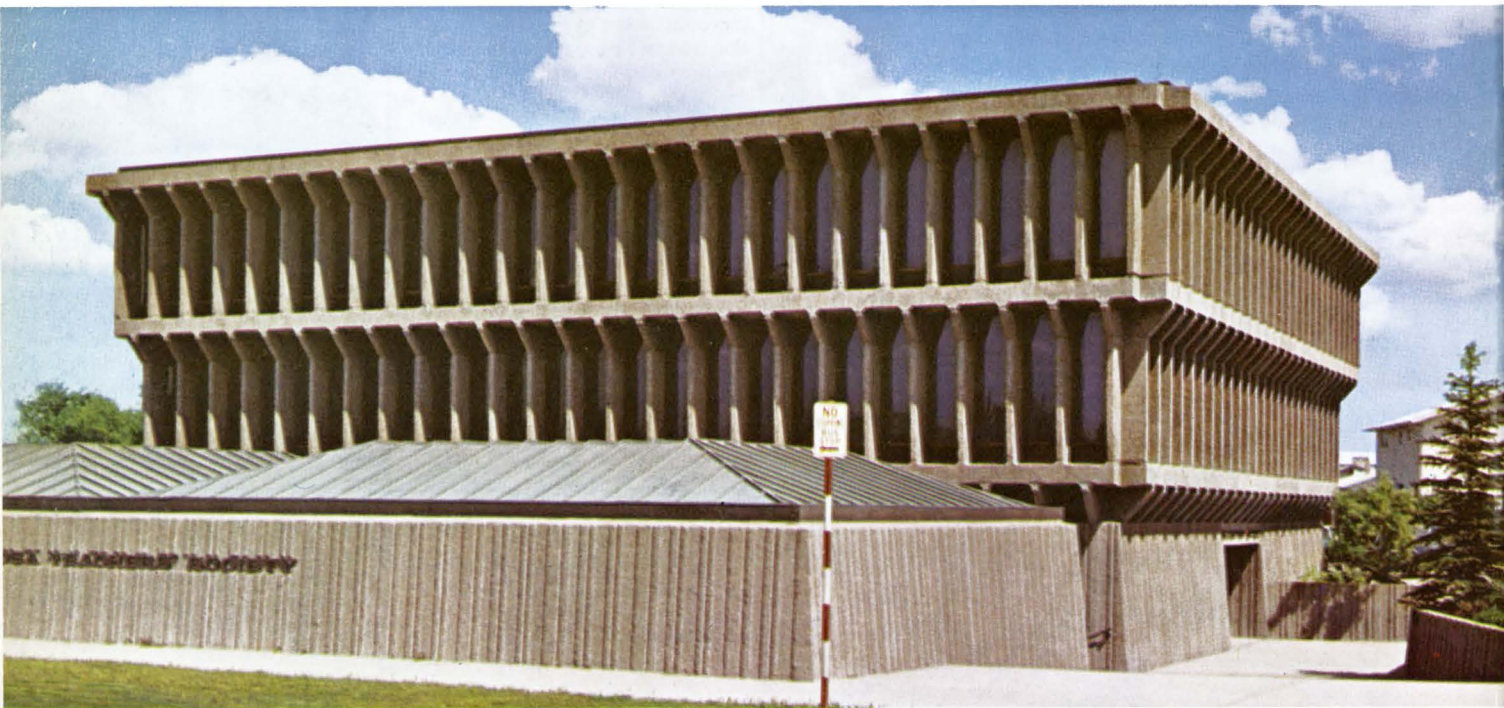
Lumber is the one component in the indexes which is lower than last year.



1 The Regina Inn, Regina, Sask., a modern, all-concrete building.



2 Exposed aggregate concrete panels for the Centennial Building, Edmonton.



3 Headquarters of The Manitoba Teachers Society, Winnipeg, winner of the Manitoba Association of Architects 1968 Award of Excellence.

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4 Brunswick House, Saint John, N.B., features precast concrete construction.



5 Precast concrete panels for the President Kennedy Office Building, Montreal.



6 Cast-in-place and precast concrete blend pleasingly at the Mathematics and Computer Centre of the University of Waterloo.

CONCRETE

CANADA CEMENT

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Cons. Struct. Engrs.: Abugov & Sunderland
Genl. Contr.: Sam Hashman & Co. Ltd.
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Ready-mixed concrete: Redi-Mix Concrete Ltd.

2. Archts.: Sinclair, Skakun, Naito
Cons. Struct. Engrs.: Read, Jones, Christoffersen Ltd.
Genl. Contr.: Hashman Construction (Edmonton) Ltd.
Precast and prestressed concrete members: Con-Force Products Ltd.

Ready-mixed concrete: Alberta Concrete Products Co. Ltd.

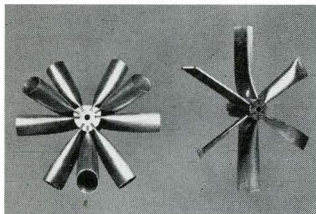
3. Archts.: Libling, Michener & Associates
Cons. Struct. Engr.: R. Lazar
Genl. Contr.: Kraft Construction Co. Ltd.
Ready-mixed concrete: Winnipeg Supply & Fuel Co. Ltd.

4. Archts.: Elmar Tampold, J. Malcolm Wells
Genl. Contr.: Ferro-Chemi-Crete Engineering Ltd.
Precast concrete units: Strescon Ltd.
Ready-mixed concrete: Jos. A. Likely Ltd.

5. Archt.: Reuben Fisher
Cons. Struct. Engr.: Irving S. Backler
Genl. Contr.: Magil Construction Ltd.
Precast concrete panels: Francon Limited

6. Archts.: Webb, Zerafa, Menkes and Matthews
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Genl. Contr.: Ellis-Don Limited
Precast concrete members: Sandrin Precast Limited
Ready-mixed concrete: Hogg Fuel and Supply Limited

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Academy recognizes industrial design

A special industrial design section, which included a fire hydrant and a tridetic structure, was included in this year's annual exhibition of the Royal Canadian Academy. Although the 90-year-old constitution of RCA provides for industrial design, this was the first year that a truly representative section of the exhibition has been devoted to it. John C. Parkin of Toronto, who succeeds Dr. Clare Bice of London, Ont., as president of the Academy, said that "The visual arts are in a process of self-examination and renewal everywhere. Our Academy felt it should perforce do the same."



Michael G. Dixon, 54, a project manager with the Department of Public Works in Ottawa is the new president of OAA — the first government architect to hold the post.

International symbol for the disabled

An international symbol to indicate building services available to the handicapped was selected by the International Society for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled at a recent meeting in Dublin, Ireland, from world-wide submissions.



SYSTEMS BUILDING

Polymer gets franchise for chemically-prestressed system

Polymer Corporation, Canada's Crown-owned synthetic rubber producer, has purchased the exclusive Canadian license to use the Uniment systems building technology of Stressed Structures, Inc. of Denver, Colorado, based on the application of chemically prestressed concrete.

Options for exclusive licenses in other countries and a minority equity interest in the Denver firm have also been purchased by Polymer.

The Uniment system employs lightweight three-dimensional modules that can be used for single and multiple housing. It applies equally to schools, hospitals, motels, office buildings and other commercial structures. It uses a concrete that expands as it dries, elongating the reinforcing steel in the three-dimensional structure and simultaneously placing the concrete under compression. This produces a stable, permanent, high-strength concrete that is "chemically self-stressed" in all three directions.

Unlike conventionally reinforced concrete, this system provides continuous stressing around corners and throughout intersections of walls, floors and ceilings, allowing strong, load-bearing walls only two inches thick. Finished units, including roof surfaces, are said to be virtually impervious to water, so conventional roofing sealants are not required.

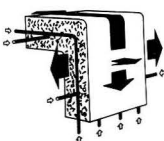
The Uniment system used by Stressed Structures, Inc. was one of 37 recently selected by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as potential participants in the department's "Operation Breakthrough" program designed to help solve the critical U.S. urban housing shortage.

Large project for Toronto

Modular Precast Structures, a consortium of five big Toronto apartment builders and a British systems building firm, will get its first chance to show its skills on a 1,472-unit Ontario Housing Corp condominium project for Flemingdon Park.

The job is expected to be announced formally in the next few weeks. It is due to start in June or July. Meantime Modular's new plant abuilding in northwest Toronto is closed in and starting to install machinery.

Modular uses the Wates system (after a firm of the same name). Wates started in systems building in World War 2, when it developed the Mulberry prefabricated portable harbor used for the Normandy invasion. Since that time the firm has built some 40,000 housing units in and around London, Eng., where it is



currently putting up almost 6,000 systems-built units a year. Coincidentally, this is just about the combined production of the five Toronto apartment builders who are Wates's partners in Modular: Cadillac, Greenwin, Belmont, Meridian and Heathcliffe.

New periodical

A periodical on building systems, construction, analysis and research entitled *Industrialization Forum* is being published jointly on a non-profit basis at The University of Montreal and Washington University (St. Louis).

The new publication will "disseminate information about processes of building and about the processes of change in building". It will also "provide a systematic means of handling information within the context of an individual's files".

For information, write: Prof. Colin H. Davidson, University of Montreal, Box 6128, Montreal 101.

French system tried in N.Y.

A French precast concrete building system will be tried out on a 110-suite, 20-storey New York City apartment building, prior to possible use in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Operation Breakthrough.

Known as Tracoba No. 1, it's being introduced to North America by Construction For Progress Inc., a joint venture of American-Standard and Celanese.

The Tracoba system uses load-bearing precast concrete panel cross walls with non-load-bearing exterior curtain walls. The New York tryout will be a luxury building. Its 4- and 5-room suites will cost an average \$40,000 to build.

BUSINESS

Contract awards up 11%

Value of building contracts let last year was 11% higher than in 1968. All types of building shared in the increase: housing was up 4%; commercial and institutional building were both up 19%; industrial building was up 10%.

Figures collected from Southam Building Reports show 1969's contract dollar volume was the highest ever. The contract figures typically account for some 75% of construction work put in place.

Toronto building off 8%

Largely due to a slowdown in apartment building, value of building permits issued in Metro Toronto last year declined 8% — to \$698.5 million.

Permits were issued for a total 17,505 apartment suites and row houses in 1969, vs 27,931 in '68. By comparison, there were only 2,692 single home permits issued (3,912 in '68).

CLASSIFIED ADS

\$2 per line for RAIC members. All others, \$3 a line.

New partnerships

Butcherd and Wilson, Port Colbourne, Ont., and Macdonald and Zuberic, St. Catharines, Ont., announce their merger. The new firm, Butcherd, Macdonald, Zuberic and Wilson, Architects and Town Planners, will maintain offices at 84A West St., Port Colbourne and 39 Queen St., St. Catharines.

New practices

Anthony Kemp, MRAIC, formerly with Parkin Architects, has begun private practice at 115 Walker Ave., Suite 101, Toronto 190. Telephone 920-1758.

Changes of address

Warnett Kennedy, MRAIC, ARIBA, TPIC, planning consultant, architect, announces change of address to 715 Marine Building, 355 Burrard St., Vancouver 1, B.C., Telephone, 685-2825.

Positions wanted

Senior Assistant, 21 years Canadian experience in banks, office buildings, apartments, industrial buildings, as draftsman as well as designer, works alone or under others, seeks position. Reply Box 165, c/o Architecture Canada.

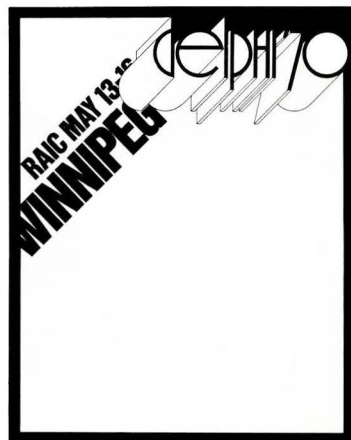
Library seeks old magazines

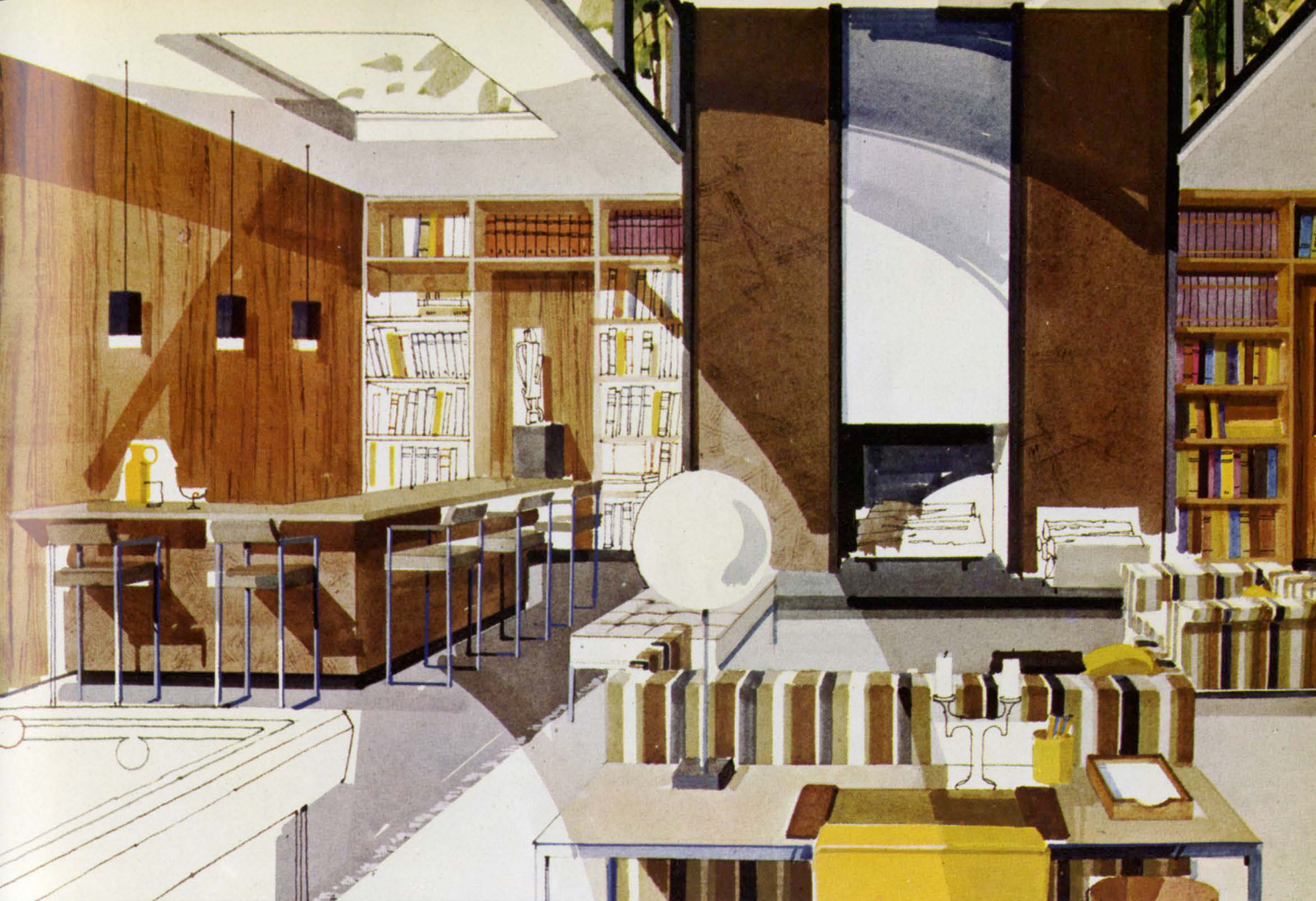
The Library of the National Gallery of Canada needs early issues of the RAIC Journal to complete its collection and would be interested in hearing from anyone who would supply copies of the years prior to 1947, that is, volumes 1 to 23.

COMING EVENTS

AIA to meet in Boston with follow-up in London, Eng.

"The Architect in the Dynamic Society" is to be the theme of the AIA's 102nd convention to be held in Boston, June 21-26. Three days after its adjournment in Boston the convention will reconvene in London, England. A group flight leaves Boston June 27th and returns July 4th.

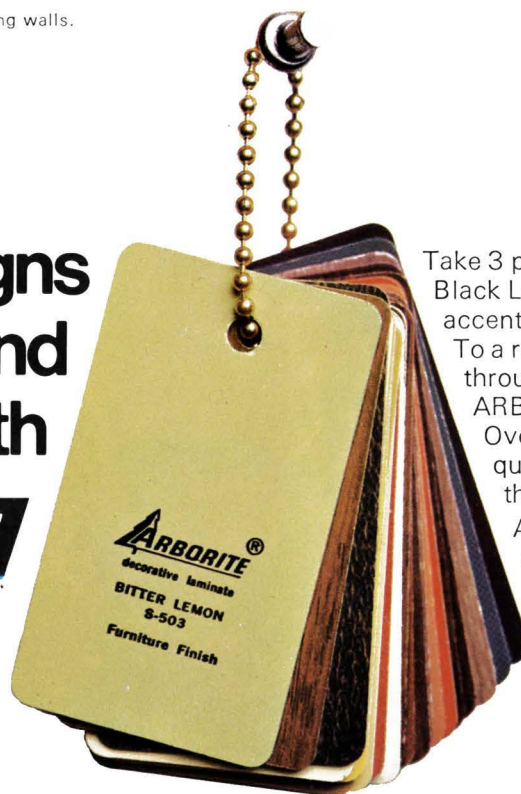




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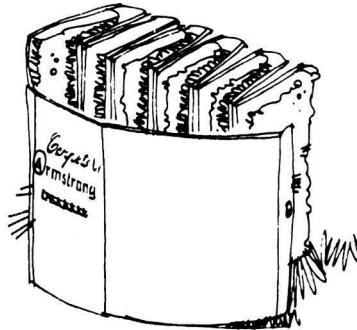
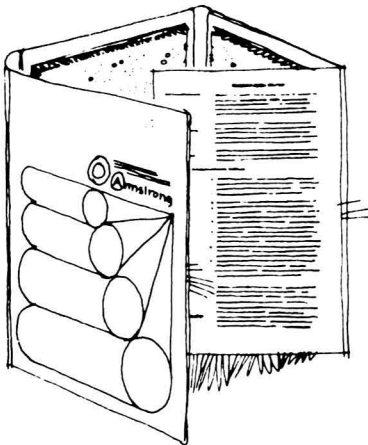
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