

RAIC/IRAC ASSEMBLY TORONTO JUNE 2-5

Help out the '71 Assembly committee by pre-registering. Forms for those who do not require hotel accommodation may be submitted until May 28. See last issue A/C.) Take part: provocative seminars; office tours; dinner parties (50 architects will open their homes); Ontario Place; much more.

This issue: 16 pages of RAIC Annual Reports in architects copies only.

Architecture Canada

NEWSMAGAZINE

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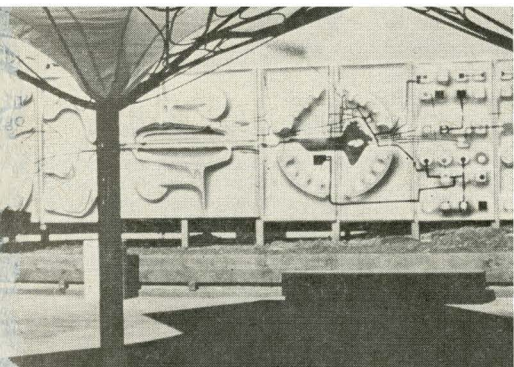
Prolific Ontario sculptor Ron Baird is winner of this year's RAIC Allied Arts Medal. Toronto born Baird, 30, is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art. He has been resident sculptor at the University of Toronto School of Architecture and has lectured there in design. He is now resident sculptor at Seneca College. Baird, who calls his work "totemic, for lack of a better word" has had

many major commissions for work on an architectural scale. His best known, probably, was for the huge wooden and steel figures brooding outside Erickson/Massey's Man and His Community pavilion at Expo '67. For the Osaka show, he did jewellery for Canadian pavilion hostesses. Two of his latest works are sculpture courtyard for the University of Waterloo and a 100-foot tower for the Department of Transport.

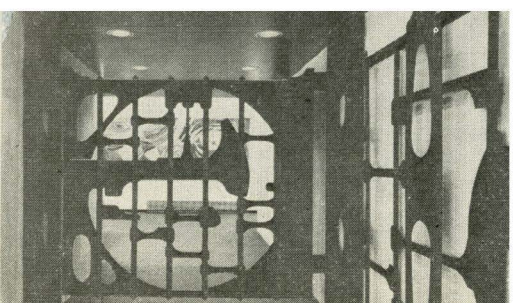


Baird at work

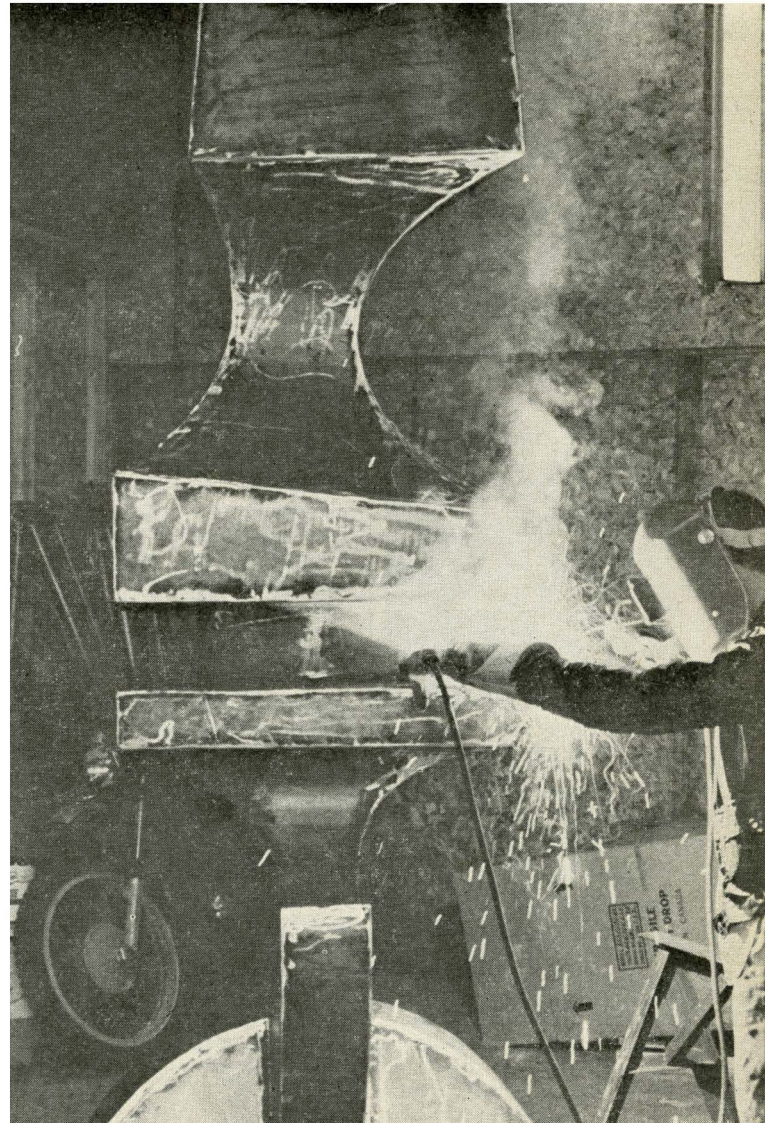
One frame from "The Birds," a children's movie



Man and His Community sculpture court at Expo '67



One of Baird's favorite works. Oakville Public Library.





Developer competition for Toronto's Palace Pier site

Architect George Abram (foreground, back to camera) discusses model of his winning project with developer Bruno Arnold, architect Eva Gordon (one of the judges), Max Beerli (in charge of property management for Alfa), and judges William Allen and Gerald Gladstone.

All four contestants started from same, simple outline requirements; all were briefed by the developer at the same time; all participated in joint meetings with client as work progressed. While each proposal had its own distinctive characteristics and architectural forms, on the whole they were more remarkable for their similarities than for their differences. (See story, right.) The four proposals:

COMPETITIONS

Building complex for Tanganyika

A new competition has been announced for a complex of government buildings for the Republic of Tanganyika with prizes totalling approximately \$42,500.

Being organized by the Ministry of Communications, Transport and Labor on behalf of the Tanganyika African National Union, the National Assembly and the Ministry of National Education, the purpose is to achieve, with the author of the winning design, a Tanganyika African National Union Party headquarters, parliamentary buildings for the National Assembly, and a National Cultural Centre. The competition is open to architects from all countries.

Registration is now open and will be until August 1. The program and registration forms are available from the competition secretary. When submitted, registration forms must be accompanied by \$US 20. Closing date for questions is also August 1; questions will be answered by September 1. Project submissions must be postmarked no later than December 31.

The international jury comprises: Major Hashim I. Mbita, TANU National Executive Secretary, Tanzania; Engineer A. G. I. Shayo, Chief Engineer, Tanzania Zambia Railway Authority, Tanzania; architects Dr. Yoshinobu Ashihara, Japan, Miro Marasovic, Yugoslavia, and Rolf Ramm Ostgaard, Norway. A U.I.A. representative (not selected at present) will also sit on the jury.

For further information write Mr. Alex Mathias, Competition Secretary, International Competition for TANU Headquarters Bldg., P.O. Box 9431, Dares Salaam, Republic of Tanzania.

Four architectural firms commissioned to compete with each other

In an unusual architectural competition, Abram, Nowski & McLaughlin were selected as project architects for a \$30- to \$40-million, 1,500-unit condominium project at the old Palace Pier site on the Toronto waterfront.

Developer Bruno Arnold, who graduated as an architect in his native Switzerland before coming to Canada in 1957, asked four architectural firms to compete for the commission to design his Alfa Group's latest and largest project. In addition to the winner, Clifford & Lawrie, James A. Murray and Associates, and Webb Zerafa Menkes Housden each agreed to participate for a \$10,000 fee. All of them were enthusiastic about the method, and said they would readily do the same again (one with the proviso that the jury "be better qualified and known to us in advance").

The simple and straightforward approach of the developer was favorably noted, too. "Beyond the client's request for a model (detail and scale unspecified), the com-

petitor was free to decide entirely on the scope and extent of the submission he would make," says Peter Webb; "one could thus relate in reverse what could or should be provided for a fixed sum of money."

Winner George Abram, who is chairman of the OAA Developer Proposal Committee, says this "limited competition contained many of the improvements that I feel would make the developer proposal system a more acceptable and responsible method of doing work."

Among the attractive features cited by Abram:

- The client was not held at arm's length during the preliminary design stage;
- The fee and the services required for it were known in advance, "the participants had the opportunity to accept or reject it at that time";
- The developer knew what he wanted, and was prepared to pay for it — he did not try to horse trade on fees;
- Adequate time was allowed;
- The developer continued to confer with all the architects as work proceeded, and was helpful in pinpointing specific zoning, planning requirements, etc.

James Murray comments favorably on the "give and take" of a series of joint meetings with all architects, the developer and other consultants present. The absence of "that kind of dialogue is missing from and a weakness of ordinary competitions," he says.

Murray says it was he who first suggested the competition approach to Arnold, who was enthusiastic about it because "we are used to operating this way in Europe."

Arnold stresses that the competition was not intended to produce a final design. In fact, he says, the project will likely end up with one large and two smaller towers — plus some townhouses, commercial and recreational facilities.

Sums up Abram:

"We visualize Lake Front City as a 'place' not just a dormitory. It must be a living thing offering the inhabitants privacy or the opportunity to take part in many activities if they choose to. The site is in fact a park to be used, not just a landscaped area to be looked at . . . our overriding concern has been with the quality of life possible in a very high density community."

SEMINARS

Summer Session '71

"Students, faculty and professional environmentalists" are invited to participate in a continuing educational experiment organized by the International Institute of Design, in London, July 12–August 20.

Those who have already agreed to take part include: Archigram, Reyner Banham, Nicolaas Habraken, Hans Hollein, Charles Jencks, Niklaus Morgenthaler, Martin Pawley, Cedric

(continued IBC, column 2)



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Last year saw such activity sparked by some 65 participants and 75 panelists from 20 countries.

Tuition £100. Some scholarships available. For further information write to Alvin Boyarsky, Director, I.I.D., 28 Upper Park Road, London, N.W. 3, describing background and interests.

RESEARCH

Construction Industry Foundation gets \$50,000 'seed grant'

A new National Construction Industry Development Foundation Inc. has been launched. Its purpose: "to execute or sponsor research and development work contributing to increased effectiveness and productivity."

Major impetus behind the Foundation came from the Canadian Construction Association, whose past president, contractor Mark Stein of Montreal, has been elected chairman. His vice-chairman is Toronto architect A. W. Cluff, past president of the Specification Writers Association of Canada.

The Foundation's 24-member charter board of directors includes representatives of most of the major building industry trade associations. There are three other architects: RAIC president Gordon Arnott, past president William G. Leithead, and James Findlay, past president of SWAC.

Initial funding comes from a \$50,000 federal Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce grant. With their eyes on a potentially fat purse, a number of would-be researchers are already putting in their bids for specific pet projects. But they'll have to wait a while yet. Cluff heads a committee charged with drawing up a list of suggested research projects, from which the directors will select an initial program. When this has been decided, individual companies and associations will probably be approached for additional financing. As one of them says: "It's no good asking for money until we have projects ready to spend it on. But informal discussions indicate that it is feasible to raise funds for some of the projects we have in mind."

These will likely include the preparation of more accurate economic forecasts high on the list of priorities. And, says Stein:

"Labor-management relations, education and training, job-site management and flow of funds are cases in point which would appear to have received less emphasis on the part of the construction industry, the

universities and others than has been the case with industries which are more cohesive and concentrated in character."

URBANOLGY

Toronto tries pedestrian mall

This year's RAIC Assembly happens to coincide with a week-long experimental run of a pedestrian mall on downtown Yonge Street.

Three blocks, facing Eaton's and Simpson's and The Arcade (an enclosed mall of small shops running east from Yonge) will be closed to north-south traffic, and temporarily landscaped by the city parks department (there's even talk of a bandstand).

Depending on how the experiment works out, the city is considering the possibility of a permanent downtown pedestrian enclave.

Comments *Toronto Telegram* columnist Ron Haggart: "Isn't it strange that everyone refers to the project as the 'closing' of Yonge Street - which is the point of view of the car, rather than to the 'opening' - which it will be for the people then able to use it."

Expressway protest group makes some yards in Montreal
Montreal architects Joseph Baker and Tom Gluck may not have won their war to stop completion of a downtown expressway (A/C, 1/11-/71). But they appear to be winning at least some of the battles.

Their suggestion that an existing street be regraded to become an access ramp would preserve 24 characteristic old Montreal grey-stone townhouses. The houses were due to be razed to make room for a new reinforced concrete ramp. The suggested change has won the approval of the municipality, which has agreed to recommend it to the provincial roads dept.

Meantime, the overall fight against the expressway goes on. The latest move of Baker's Lower Westmount Citizens' Committee: an eight-mile "field trip" along the proposed expressway route ("the word 'demonstration' is becoming socially unacceptable these days," says a sympathetic *Gazette* reporter). Two police motorcycles escorted the "field trip."

PEOPLE

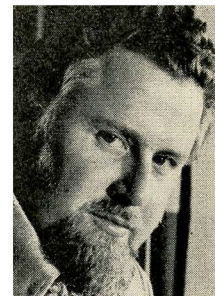
H. Claire Mott, 81-year-old charter member of the New Brunswick Association of Architects, at a luncheon in his honor last month became an Honorary Life Member of the Association. Mr. Mott, already an honorary member of the RAIC, has served on both NBAA and RAIC councils and executives. He has been an RAIC Fellow since 1935 and has been College Registrar, Dean and Chancellor. Although retired from active practice since 1966, Mr. Mott still maintains an interest in association activities. His honorary membership is the third to be granted by the NBAA.



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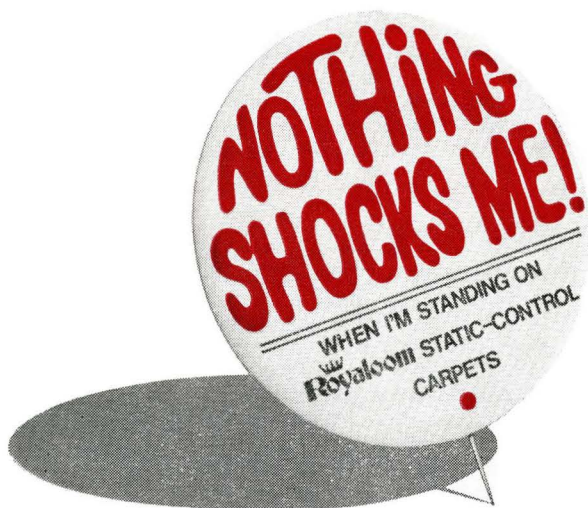
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