



Photo: Robert Burley

In designing the Oval, local architect Graham McCourt enclosed the huge 25 200-m² rink without compromising perfect artificial ice conditions. The facility offers three speed-skating tracks, two running tracks, two international-size hockey rinks and a weight training centre during the winter. In summer, the entire space is converted into a fieldhouse with artificial turf for training in various sports. The building is directly linked to the university's sports medicine computer to allow monitoring of the athletes' vital signs during training.

The Oval is one of the largest buildings in the world to exploit the use of natural light. A reflective light shelf below the ring of windows that encircles the structure was developed and tested in a "sky lab." This precast concrete shelf increases the amount of daylight into the Oval, greatly reducing the need for artificial light, thereby lowering operating costs. The windows also create the illusion that the rink is outdoors. Even speed-skating traditionalists like the feeling!

Despite its size, the Olympic Oval is no higher than its campus neighbours. It sits beautifully in the landscape, the diamond-shaped facets of its roof seeming to reduce the building to a more human scale.

Canada's North has a unique raw beauty. Its silences are resonant and its landscapes magnificently primitive. Architecture, in this context, faces challenges uniquely physical and spiritual.

Not surprisingly, the extreme climatic conditions of the Arctic require radical architectural techniques. For the Arctic Research Laboratory situated in Igloolik, Northwest Territories — a small island well north of the Arctic Circle — steel and fibreglass prefabrication provides a solution.

The laboratory is a circular, mushroom-shaped building on two levels. The lower level houses entrances, along with storage, service and equipment facilities. The upper level has a sky-lit, central conference and multi-purpose room ringed by cantilevered offices and laboratories.

Mississauga City Hall: a post-modern design resembling a nineteenth-century Ontario barnyard.

The ground floor is constructed of insulated concrete sandwich slabs. The first floor is 22-gauge, zinc-coated, sheet-steel decking topped with concrete slabs that are either carpeted or exposed and polished.

Fibreglass-reinforced plastic panels chosen by architects Papineau, Gérin-Lajoie, LeBlanc and Edwards are used as a skin because of

their excellent rigidity in withstanding the most severe windloads, their durability, their ease of erection, and their aesthetic and maintenance properties. The panels are packed with 5 cm of polyurethane foam.

The Arctic Research Laboratory is both technically sophisticated and aesthetically simple. It brings up to date the clear geometry of traditional Arctic building forms, namely the igloo. Its simplicity of shape and detail, which may appear crude in a gentler region, somehow befits the harsh North.

In the opinion of some, the most conspicuously and consciously "Canadian" building is the Museum of Anthropology on the campus of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, which houses a rich collection of artifacts of West Coast Indian culture. This building is classed as eminent Canadian architecture because of the architect's sensitive handling of the collection and sympathetic treatment of the site.

"On the west coast, there is a great and noble response to the land that has never been equalled," was the message

Vancouver's Museum of Anthropology recalls the distinctive architecture of West Coast Indians.

