

CANADIAN ARCHITECTURE

Introduction

The written history of Canada is short — less than 500 years — but during this period its people have built structures that embody "all the great ideas, changing tastes and permanent values of western civilization."* Canada's heritage is indeed a rich and diverse one.

While variations in outlook have been inevitable, given Canada's heterogeneous character, Canadians hold many attitudes in common — respect for responsible government and individual and collective freedom, and a strong love of the land. Variation in opinion and outlook is mirrored in Canadian architecture which has gone through a number of stages since Confederation — stages that reflect the interplay of social, economic, and physical factors.

In exploring the evolution of Canadian society, four historical epochs can be seen:

- 1) Conquest (to 1867)
- 2) Expansion (to 1945)
- 3) Abandon (to 1967)
- 4) and Concern (to Present)

Each period produced an architecture which left a distinctive imprint on the Canadian scene. Architectural forms were visual expressions of changing values, issues, concerns and achievements in a society faced with an accelerating pace of life.

Like other industrialized societies, Canada has been transformed from a natural environment barely touched by the hand of man to a technologically

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