

## Three-dimensional reproductions a model of a business

Whether they are tackling Mount Everest, Lebanon or the site of a Toronto train derailment, Rollo Myers and his staff can cut it down to size.

Their business is precise, three-dimensional, scale reproduction of maps and architectural plans. Mr. Myers is president of Topographics Limited, a small company just north of Toronto that has carved out a special niche for itself in 15 years of operation.

"Anyone who needs to get a complex idea across to an audience can benefit by using a 3-D model," Mr. Myers explains.

Topographics' main clients are architects, consulting engineers and federal, provincial and municipal governments. But they have also done work for a variety of other projects, including topographical models of Grenada, Lebanon and Mount Everest to illustrate documentaries on CBC Television's *The Journal*.

They made a scaled-up version of the King Tut burial mask to decorate the exterior of the Art Gallery of Ontario during the Tutankhamen exhibition held there four years ago.

And the enquiry into the Mississauga train derailment, which resulted in the evacuation of thousands, was assisted by a scale model of the accident site.

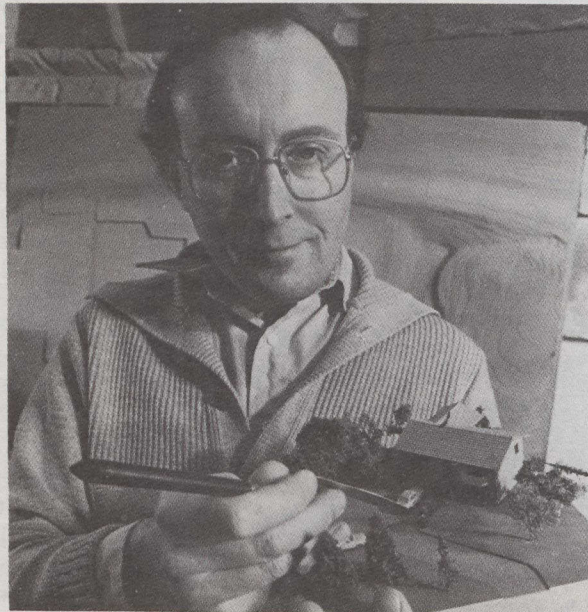
### Accurate representations

Mr. Myers emphasizes that Topographics does more than simple model-making. "Many firms out there can make scale models of buildings. Our strength is in accurate 3-D representations of contoured surfaces. It's really an extension of map-making."

This degree of accuracy would not be possible without the contouring machine that Mr. Myers invented while working for Arthur Erickson Architects in Vancouver.

Traditionally, maps had been transformed into three-dimensional models by laminating sheets of cardboard or wood together. However, this is not only a time-consuming process but it produces relatively crude models.

Since nowadays many large-scale developments must receive public approval



*Topographics Limited president Rollo Myers holds part of a model of a subdivision.*

before going ahead, the need for more effective visual aids that provide exact information is greater than ever.

Mr. Myers developed his contouring machine in 1969. With it, an operator traces the colour-coded lines of a two-dimensional map, while at the other end of the table a router cuts the exact contours into a block of polyurethane foam measuring up to 1.2 metres by 2.4 metres and up to .6 metres deep. If a larger model is required, the blocks are joined together.

The second important step is using a photographic technique which prints graphic data — such as property lines, roads, tree lines and geological information — onto the contoured surface.

"We can really add as much detail as required," says Mr. Myers. "One model of Canada we made for the Department of External Affairs was displayed at the Commonwealth Institute in London, England. The location and extent of major resources could be identified at the touch of a button, because we had installed integrated circuits and switching mechanisms. This provided a variety of electronic effects to make the display more interesting and informative."

Recent projects undertaken by the company have included the Toronto City Hall Peace Garden for the upcoming visit of Pope John Paul II and models for the proposed Toronto Railways Lands project.

*(Article from Ontario Business News.)*

## Sales to Benin, Mexico and Egypt

The Export Development Corporation (EDC) has signed five financing agreements totalling \$2.5 million (US) to support export sales of Canadian capital goods and services to Benin, Mexico and Egypt.

The agreements are:

— A \$1.1 million (US) financing agreement to support the sale of a *DHC-6 Twin Otter*, spare parts and support services by de Havilland Aircraft of Canada, Ltd. of Downsview, Ontario to Transports Aériens du Bénin of Benin. Under the agreement, EDC and the Equator Bank Ltd. of Hartford, Connecticut, USA, each will lend \$566 400 (US).

— A \$705 110 (Cdn.) allocation under a line of credit with Comision Federal de Electricidad (CFE) of Mexico to support the sale of high-voltage line traps to CFE by Trench Electric Ltd., a division of Guthrie Canadian Investments Ltd. of Scarborough, Ontario.

— A \$442 327 (US) forfeiture of six promissory notes to support the sale of aluminum formwork and shoring systems by Aluma Systems Inc. of Downsview, Ontario to Emac Internacional of Cairo, Egypt.

— A \$257 000 (US) allocation under a line of credit with Nacional Financiera, S.A. of Mexico to support the sale of chip refining equipment and related services by C-E Bauer, Division of C-E PEG Inc. of Brantford, Ontario to Fabricas de Papel Tuxtepec, S.A. of Mexico.

— A \$110 000 (US) forfeiture of promissory notes to support the sale of water pumps by Monarch Industries Ltd. of Winnipeg to Emac Internacional of Cairo, Egypt.

## German-Canadian aerospace project

A major development in Canada's aerospace industry has been the recent signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Canadian government and the German firm Messerschmitt-Bölkow Blohm (MBB) for the investment of \$72.6 million towards the production in Canada of light twin-engine helicopters.

MBB, the largest aerospace firm in the Federal Republic of Germany, will establish a new development and manufacturing facility at Fort Erie, Ontario, in a joint venture with the Canadian firm Fleet Industries. Over 20 years, the project is expected to generate sales of ap-