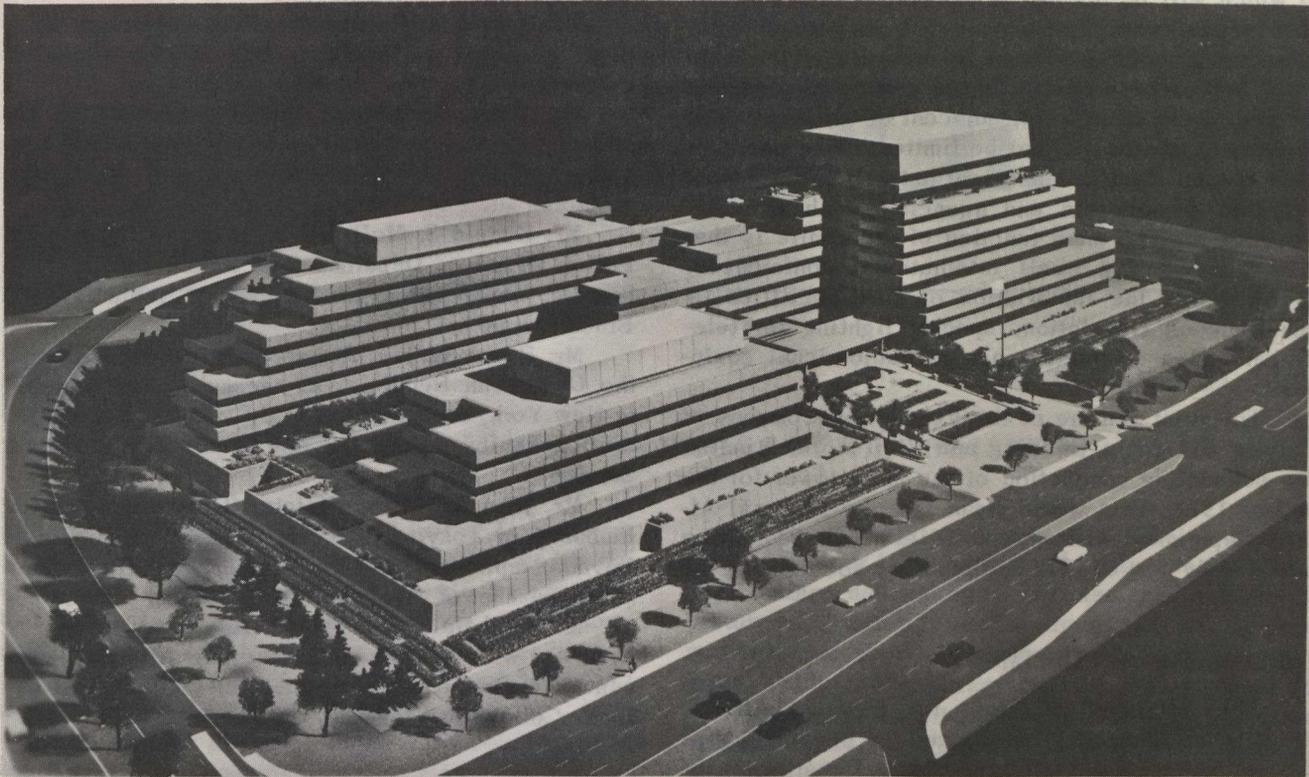


EXTERNAL AFFAIRS' NEW HOME



Soon, probably for the first time in the history of the Department of External Affairs, its numerous services, the headquarters staff and all divisions, now dispersed throughout several Ottawa buildings, will be housed under one roof.

Construction has already started and the new complex, when finished, will cover an area of 1,080 square feet, including two levels of parking.

Today, when most construction projects are of the high-rise type, pointing ever upward, for the purpose of, as the planners explain it, maximum use of the available land, it is somewhat unusual to accommodate more than one million square feet of buildings in a four-element complex, near the heart of a capital city, with the highest building a mere ten stories above ground.

DESIGN MOTIVATION

In designing the complex, the architects of the project, Webb, Zerafa-Menkes, of Toronto, were inspired by the desire to instil a sense of pride into Canadians and, at the same time, to convey to foreign visitors an image of Canada, the young country, on the threshold of its second century.

To achieve this double aim, the project was designed along two very definite themes: the first is seen in the sculptural form of the complex which provides the onlooker with a constantly varying profile, retaining a scale relationship with adjacent masses and an affinity with the scale of the human being to this vast building complex; the second lies

in the strong consistent and repeated horizontal lines of the treatment of the exterior wall which, coupled with the soft bronze tone of the aggregates, imparts to the complex a feeling of repose, quiet dignity and simple elegance.

The basically-horizontal building comprises four elements, or towers, scheduled to be erected in two phases. First to be built will be the ten-storey main office tower and the formal conference element. The other towers, to be used for general offices, will be seven, five and four stories high and will be built during the second phase of the construction program scheduled for occupancy in April 1973.

The complex, designed on a 20-year projection of the needs for space of the External Affairs Department, will also be occupied initially on a short-term basis by other government departments until complete occupancy is attained by External Affairs.

LOCATION

The new building is located on Sussex Drive, just east of the Macdonald-Cartier interprovincial bridge. The Ottawa City Hall, on Green Island, stands a few hundred yards to the east of the project, across the west channel of the Rideau River, above the picturesque Rideau Falls. Just opposite is Earnscliffe, the official residence in Canada of the British High Commissioner, and next to that building is the National Research Council.

The main entrance lobby will be the hub of the entire complex. For convenience and security rea-