

Halifax, Quebec City and Victoria have been transformed into lively boutiques, antiquarian delights and restaurants. The refurbishing of commercial and shipping structures of another age is economically sound and also prevents a visual urban monotony from developing. Ottawa, the nation's capital, successfully turns old and new buildings and neighbourhoods into people-places. One can skate for miles on the city's historic canal and cycle along the numerous man-made bicycle paths which are located in the national capital region.

Conservation efforts succeed when government, private enterprise and the citizens work together. New approaches to architecture and civic design have likewise been welcomed by these three groups.

Community planning is a comparatively new concept in Canada, and theories about how it might best be done constantly appear. Three "instant" towns provide interesting contrasts.

Five hundred miles northeast of Montreal lies the city of Fermont. Built to contend with the rigors of a Canadian winter, this sub-arctic community of 5,000 people is protected by a 17 metre-high (55 foot) windscreen which, in part, is the outer wall of an apartment complex. Entirely powered by electricity, Fermont is very compact and the complex is connected by climate-controlled walkways to a shopping center, a restaurant, schools, sports facilities, and a community center.

Leaf Rapids, Manitoba is a provincial government-sponsored mining town like no other. Here, the maintenance of a delicate natural environment within a permafrost region and the establishment of a supportive social atmosphere for the inhabitants were given equal significance in planning and construction. The architectural solution is a town where absolutely everything is under one roof — except housing and industry, of course.