

of form and structure..." The newcomer to Canada can still see parts of Expo on the old site.

Expo didn't change Canadian architecture immediately and didn't deeply affect the cities we continued to build and rebuild in the 1970s. But it did produce a challenge to Canadian architecture — and to builders of housing all over the world. That challenge was embodied in the personality of one young man: Moshe Safdie, an Israeli-born immigrant to Canada. He designed Habitat '67.

A few years before Expo was planned, Safdie was a student in the architectural school at McGill University. There he was attracted to new theories of design. According to these theories, cheap and good housing could be provided if architecture and building were reorganized on an industrial basis. Safdie began to imagine a world in which apartment buildings and other housing could be built in a mass-produced way, like toasters or radios. Housing, he knew, is one of the great needs of mankind in this period, and he felt that the role of the architect is to provide it in new and imaginative ways.

Safdie brought his ideas to the people who were planning Expo. He argued that a world's fair should be a catalyst for new ideas, a once-in-a-lifetime chance to try great innovations in practical terms. He proposed a unique kind of apartment development: a series of boxes, uniformly built by mass-production process, stacked together in an ingenious way. Each apartment would have its own garden, each would have a great deal of privacy. At the beginning Safdie wanted 1,000 apartments, along with shops and a school. In the end the project was scaled down to 158 apartments, no shops, no school.

Still, it was impressive. It was industrialization carried into housing. An American architectural critic called it possibly the first real victory of the modern industrial revolution.