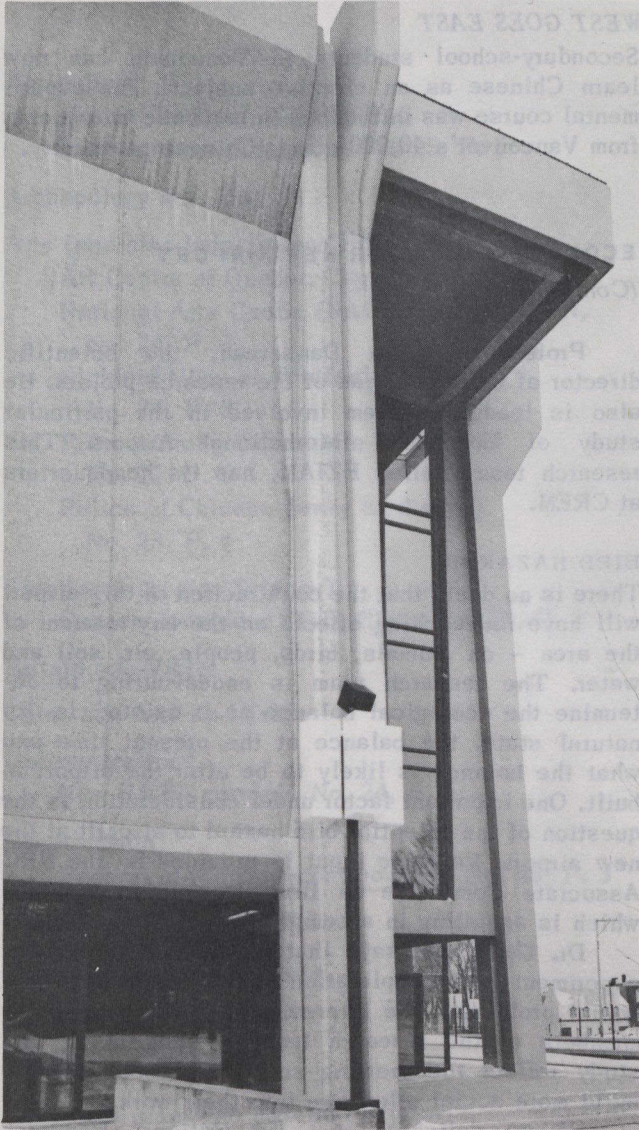


## ART CENTRE OF QUEBEC CITY



(Above) One of the corner entrances of Quebec City's Grand Théâtre.

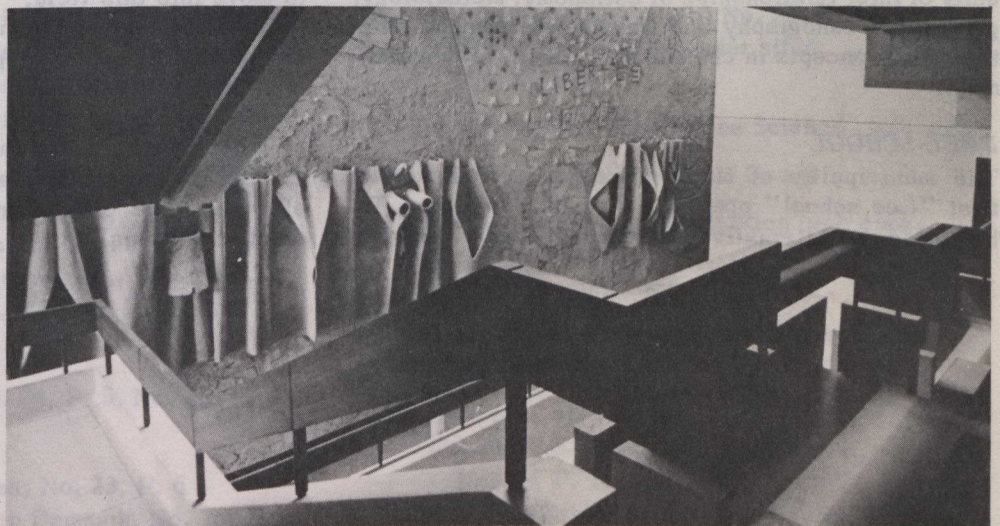
The Grand Théâtre was inaugurated in the city of Quebec last January with a series of concerts and shows that brought together the major artistic organizations of the old capital as well as artists from the province and Europe.

This art centre is situated at the westerly extremity of a vast rectangular area close to the old part of the city, and to a large sector now being developed as the Parliamentary city. It is one of the most remarkable achievements of modern theatre architecture and cost some \$10 million to build.

The Grand Théâtre has an auditorium called Louis-Frédéric, with a seating capacity of 1,800, for dramatic art and opera, ballet, orchestral concerts and cinema. A second auditorium called Octave-Crémazie, with 600 seats, can accommodate dramatic art, small groups, recitals, symposia and cinema. The theatre also contains the Quebec Conservatory (with its practice studios, music and record libraries) an exhibition hall, a restaurant, administrative offices and all the services attached to the theatre.

The exterior is a square concrete building with a main frontage consisting of a vast bay-window divided at regular intervals by high vertical piers on each side of the building. Patrons enter the building at the cutaway corners. Inside as well as outside the absence of curved lines is striking, and a rectangular design predominates. Foyers on four levels covering an area of 12,000 square feet, surround the large auditorium on three sides, and their wall is made of sand-blasted concrete carved in relief by Jordi Bonet.

Owned by the Department of Cultural Affairs of Quebec, the Grand Théâtre has been designed with a view to the artistic, sociological, educational and cultural aspirations of the community. It is expected to contribute to the democratization of culture by promoting popular participation in the varied artistic expressions.



(Right) A partial view of the large sculpted fresco, the main part of the interior decoration in the new art centre.