

## Toronto's Eaton Centre captures top prize

Toronto's Eaton Centre has won a prestigious award from the Urban Land Institute, based in Washington, D.C. It is the first project in Canada to win the group's top prize for excellence, which recognizes land developments of superior and resourceful design.

The Urban Land Institute, established in 1936 as a non-profit body, is well respected in the urban planning field. Members include land developers, builders, architects, planners, investors, planning and renewal agencies, financial institutions and others interested in land use.

"Toronto's Eaton Centre demonstrates the imagination and innovation of an exciting urban space created for year-round enjoyment," said Glen Coverdale, chairman of the awards jury and senior vice-president of Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. of New York. "It blends into the existing fabric of the city and is an outstanding example of what can be accomplished through public-private co-operative efforts."

The Eaton Centre is a joint venture of Cadillac Fairview, the T. Eaton Co. Ltd. and the Toronto-Dominion Bank. Cadillac Fairview acted as the developer of the centre and now manages the \$300-million downtown complex, which has more than .27 million square metres of retail and office space.

Winners in previous years have included the Charles Centre in Baltimore, Maryland and the Galleria in Houston, Texas, both large retail and office complexes. The winner in 1981 was the Walt Disney Reedy Creek Improvement District, near Orlando, Florida, part of the Walt Disney World complex.



## Limited sight heightens vision

Richard Briggs is able to see the detail on a large floral print six metres away, and the pupils of the eyes of the person to whom he is talking.

But he is unable to ascertain if there is a signature in a corner of a page. And "if you were wearing a badge, I wouldn't be able to read the print on it".

For seven years, since graduating from high school, the young man has worked as a clerk at the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), where he is registered as blind.

(According to an institute spokesman, a person is considered blind if he or she can see at only six metres or less what a person with regular vision can see at 60 metres.)

After-hours, however, his pursuits are ones which are usually believed to require good vision. He is an artist-photographer, and a perfectionist. That is very natural, he says, because, "when you don't have 90 per cent of something (sight), you don't take what you've got for granted".

Mr. Briggs wears glasses and, looking at him, it seems that his eyes are almost closed most of the time.

This squinting makes him more conscious of contrast in a scene. "When you squint, literally the diaphragm in your eye closes down," he said. "Things become sharper; it's virtually like the camera depth. You get rid of flare and all extraneous light."

With the squinting he is far more conscious of contrasts in a scene. "I'm literally dividing scenes into lights and darks, and seeing the colours and the details."

He believes his limited vision may have helped his development as an artist. He has been pursuing art ever since he was old enough to hold a crayon.

"I will stand forever looking at a tree and noticing how the light filters through the leaves," he said. "Or how the shadows strike the bark. I'm just very attuned to that. I think it all originated from the need to concentrate on the act of seeing."

Besides his photography, he draws in charcoal. An exhibition of his photographs, in colour and also in black and white, together with a collection of his pastels, were recently displayed in the lobby of the CNIB's national office.

Mr. Briggs uses none of the extra equipment now available for those with sight problems, "not even an eye-piece correction on my camera".



Toronto's prize-winning Eaton Centre, 250-metres long, includes a three-level shopping Galleria with more than 300 shops and joins two large department stores.

Frank Grant