

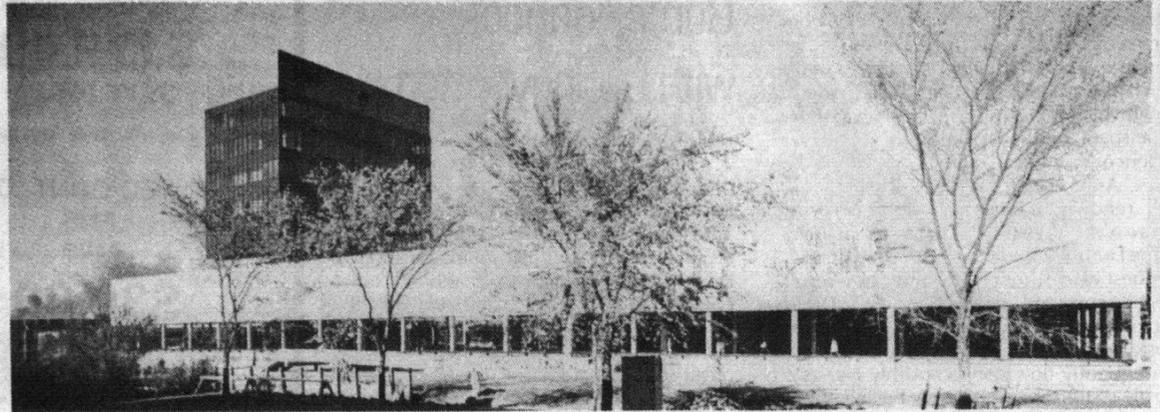
The changing face...

In 1911 the University of Alberta moved to its own campus overlooking the river valley. Two buildings stood on the 258 acres of partially cleared land — Athabasca Hall and Alberta College South, later named St. Stephen's College. The space was barely adequate for the 128 students and 5 faculty members of the university.

Today, the University operations cover not only over 70 buildings on the main campus, but also the Faculte St-Jean, Michener Park, and University Farms on separate locations in the city.

Over its 78 year history, this campus has seen many changes. The university buildings, like the education offered within, were designed to be continually adapting to the changing demands of students and society.

Two World Wars, the Depression, various economic upturns and downturns, and other events occurring throughout the history of the campus have denied the University of Alberta a planned, unified architectural style. Instead, the buildings are of a wide variety of styles and materials — the effect is jarring to some, excitingly eclectic to others.



The rapidly-expanding Department of Education received its own Normal School for the training of teachers in 1929. The building, on the south side of the campus, later housed the Faculty of Extension and was renamed Corbett Hall in honor of the Faculty's Dr. E.A. Corbett. The walk from Corbett Hall to the north end of campus became known to Ed students as the "four-minute mile".

The Depression of the Thirties brought construction to a standstill, and major expansion did not occur again until after the Second World War.

The war necessitated the construction of many temporary buildings to house and train armed services personnel. The RCAF Drill Hall was one of these "temporary" buildings that was purchased by the university and used for many different purposes until its demolition in 1960. The three residence halls served as Air Force barracks until 1945, and echoes of the servicemen tenants remain. The propeller hanging in the foyer of Pembina Hall is evidence of their presence.

After twenty years in which no permanent buildings were constructed, 1945 saw the end of the war and a revision of the original plans for the campus. The decade of the fifties was the last period when brick was used as the main building material.

Long awaited and desperately needed library space was supplied on the opening in 1951 of the Rutherford Library, named after the first premier of Alberta. Construction was delayed by difficulties in procuring materials, and the one-ton ceremonial cornerstone was abducted by engineering students. Rutherford Library boasted Italian marble floors, bronze banisters, and a smoking room in the basement of the otherwise non-smoking building.

The Students' Union had long endorsed a building for their own needs, and in 1950 the first phase of the Students' Union Building was completed. The building served its purpose until 1967, when circumstances forced the construction of a new SUB. The old building was sold to the University and renamed University Hall.

From 1953 to 1960, the campus witnessed the construction of the Engineering, Agriculture, and Administration buildings; and the Physical Sciences and Physical Education complexes.

The 1960's saw not only a tremendous increase in the number of students but also a corresponding building boom. However, changes in construction techniques and architectural styles meant the new buildings would resemble less and less their older neighbors. As well, increasing shrinkage in ground space led to more and more high-rise buildings.

The fourteen story Henry Marshall Tory social sciences building is the main example of the trend upward. In an effort to coordinate the structure with its surroundings, the white concrete walls were decorated with brown brick. The associated lecture theatre (Tory Turtle), made no effort to appear conventional — a prize feature of its four theatres being their non-perpendicular walls.

The Cameron Library, named after D.E. Cameron, Librarian from 1921 to 1945, was a complete iconoclast. Its white concrete walls and gold-colored trim matched absolutely no other building on campus.

Non-traditional design appeared again in 1964 in the new residence complexes, Lister Hall on campus and Michener Park to the South.

The construction of the PhysEd complex had made the planned expansion of the Students' Union Building impossible. Increasing enrolment emphasized the need for a new SU Building, and the Students' Council approached the task enthusiastically. Studies were done on financial assistance, food management, and building design, and students voted to raise their SU fees to pay for the new building. In 1967 it was completed, the largest SUB in the country at the time, with enough new and innovative features to merit a one-page feature in *Time* magazine. Financing had been through a \$2.25 million grant from the University, and the remainder as a loan from the Alberta government to be repaid out of the fee increase.

An addition to the medical facilities was made in 1969 with the construction of the high-rise Clinical Sciences Building. The quality of the workmanship was questioned, however, when in November of 1976, 90km/hour winds loosened five of the fourteen concrete panels attached to the face of the building. The 10 by 20 foot panels swung as much as three feet



The original plans for the campus, as drawn in 1912, showed a group of buildings arranged around a central quadrangle. The location of Athabasca Hall and its sister buildings Assiniboia and Pembina, as well as the Arts Buildings, were already determined. There was to be a uniform "elastic free classical style in accordance with modified English traditions."

The first buildings went up as planned. Assiniboia Hall, Athabasca Hall and Pembina Hall were completed by 1914. The Arts Building was completed in 1915 and housed the library, bookstore, and more classrooms.

The neat fulfillment of the architect's plans was interrupted by the First World War. As growing numbers of students left to join the war effort, University buildings were pressed into service as convalescent homes, and Pembina Hall became an emergency hospital during the Spanish Influenza Epidemic in 1918.

When the war ended, it was obvious that the buildings that had been under consideration before were now urgently necessary. Construction began on the Medical Building, now the Dentistry-Pharmacy Building, as well as on an addition to the Strathcona Hospital, which was then renamed the University of Alberta Hospital.

