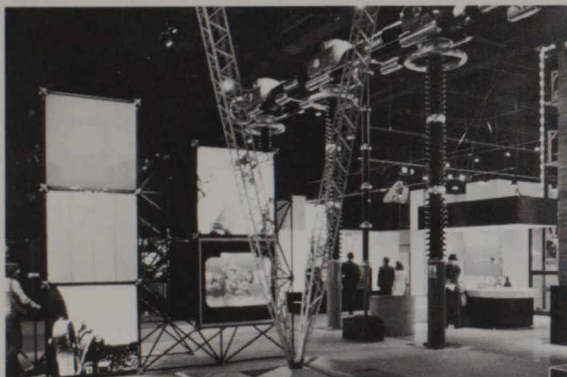




*The Ontario Science Centre, in cut-away on page eight, is fascinating, outside and in. The children are waiting to play tic-tac-toe on a computer.*



be a place for everyone — not cater to twelve specialists and ignore twelve thousand. . . . It must arouse curiosity. It must be a place of wonder. It must have unmeasurable qualities of comfort and joy, of discovery with others. It must fuse the visitor with ideas through active participation."

By January, 1965, he had learned that "medically an average man can absorb only about 20,000 square feet of detailed man-made exhibitions before his mind refuses to function" and he had conceived the basic plan for the Centre. Intensive exhibit areas would be broken into units of 20,000 square feet or less. They would be linked by "adjustment places," where visitors could relax, reflect and recharge their curiosity. Moriyama based his design on the Japanese character for the "heart," the basis for the composition of most Japanese gardens.

The \$23 million result is unlike any other museum, or building, that comes readily to mind. It is in three sections, two joined by a bridge across the ravine and the second joined to the third by escalators which move up and down a hillside.

The buildings are rough, poured concrete. Visitors approach a rectangular fountain in which water spurts from three hundred jets. Behind the fountain are low, broad steps leading to the low, broad Reception Building, which contains the heating plant at one end, a dining room and cafeteria at the other and the reception area between.

A two-level bridge extends from the back of the Reception Building, across the ravine to the Core Building. The north wall of the bridge is mostly glass with a continuous impressive view of tree-tops; the interior has blue carpet on the floor which extends up the south wall. The bridge is intended to take the visitor out of the routine world of the Reception Building (a place for removing hats and coats and for eating and drinking) to the special world of science. At the end of the bridge are the Core Building's three round barrels — one enclosing a 500-seat auditorium (with orange-coloured seating and walls of rugged, ribbed concrete), one containing two smaller theatres and the third holding the offices and administrative areas. Within the triangle formed by the barrels is the Great Hall.

Where is the museum? It is to the left, down the hill; escalators lead to and from the exhibition areas and the visitor is (as he was in the Great Hall) separated only by clear glass from the woodlands outside.

At the bottom the outside world is abruptly shut out. The architecture of the exhibition halls is, in Moriyama's word, "negative;" instructive, entertaining exhibits are located with great imagination in low, dark spaces. The visitor forgets the building, as a theatre goer forgets the theatre for the stage.

The exhibits are arranged in the Hall of Life, the Hall of Communication, the Hall of Transportation, the Hall of Engineering, Environment