

French plan wins Regina urban design competition

A top prize of \$25,000 in Regina's International Urban Development Competition has been awarded to Claire and Michel Duplay of Paris, France for their design scheme that may shape the future look of downtown Regina, Saskatchewan. (See also *Canada Weekly* dated March 3, 1976, Page 3).

An international jury chose the design from five finalists who were competing in the second stage of the competition. Just over a year ago, Regina began the competition to seek out imaginative yet practical ideas for re-use of 114 acres of prime urban land that may be vacated by relocation of Canadian Pacific rail lines and marshalling yards.

A second prize of \$15,000 was awarded to the Tokyo firm of Polytechnic Consultants Inc., and a third prize of \$10,000 was awarded to the Los Angeles team of David Brindle and Chris Dawson for their urban design.

Public voted too

A unique feature of the competition was the element of public participation. Citizens of Regina were invited to choose the design they preferred for their city, and their ballots were tabulated as a seventh vote of the six-man jury. It is believed that this is the first time such a method of public involvement has ever been used in an international competition.

The six-man jury included three internationally-known architects: Alexander Kouzmanoff, New York; Fumihiko Maki, Tokyo; Ray Affleck, Montreal — as well as three Canadians sympathetic to the potential of Regina: Douglas Fullerton, economist, Ottawa; Clive Rodham, architect, and member of the Regina City Council; Richard Rendek, lawyer, Regina.

In the winning entry, the jurors announced they saw a realistic yet humanistic approach to "revitalizing" downtown Regina. The design, they pointed out, was a well-knit mixture of old and new, parks, commercial and residential structures, flexible enough to grow with the needs of the city.

"There is a feeling of ingenuity and joy in the whole design. If realized, it

will provide not only great pleasure for Regina but a showcase for cities everywhere," commented one of the jurors.

The vote, gathered through ballots filled in or mailed by the public, favoured the Japanese entry over the French but the six individual jurors were unanimous in their placing.

Next step

The urban design competition is part of the total Regina relocation study that includes possible establishment of new rail facilities at another location, and the re-use of railway rights of way. The city, backed by the province of Saskatchewan must now submit a transportation plan, an urban development plan, and a financial plan to the Canadian Transport Commission to support their application for railway relocation.

The federal Ministry of State for Urban Affairs contributed a total of \$100,000 in prize money for the international competition. In the first stage of the competition, which ended last February, the five finalists were chosen from over international 120 entries, awarded \$10,000 each, and given the chance to compete again by submitting more detailed design schemes.

Fertility regulation studies in Canada, Egypt and India

Three studies of the acceptability, effectiveness and possible side-effects of various forms of fertility regulation are being supported with grants totaling \$620,255 from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), President W. David Hopper announced recently. The studies, which will take place in Canada, Egypt and India, will involve the co-operation of about 15,000 women.

A \$259,000-grant to the Canadian Committee for Fertility Research will enable this co-ordinating body to set up a scientific advisory committee, hold training seminars and implement several research studies, possibly including a survey of infertility.

A grant of \$273,285 to the Indian Council of Medical Research will cover the costs of ten teams studying the effects, both medical and psychological,

of various methods of tubal ligation. The third grant, of \$87,970 to the International Islamic Centre for Population Studies and Research at Al-Azhar University in Cairo, will allow Egyptian gynaecologists to carry out clinical trials with Medroxy Progesterone Acetate (MPA) as a post-partum contraceptive.

New begonia variety

Plant lovers may soon be adding a new Rieger begonia to their windowsill collections.

The begonia, developed at Agriculture Canada's Central Experimental Farm in Ottawa by X-ray radiation of an older variety, has salmon-rose, semi-double blooms. Easily propagated by leaf cuttings, it is suitable for year-round production as a pot plant and grows well in semi-shade in the garden. It was named Northern Sunset by its originator, J.M. Molnar, chief of the Research Section, Ornamentals Research Service.

The new begonia is only one example of the ways Agriculture Canada is helping this country's fast-growing greenhouse floriculture industry.

The farm value of greenhouse flowers and plant crops totalled \$88.3 million in 1974, a 24 percent increase over the 1973 total.



Dr. J.M. Molnar of Ornamentals Research Service displays two new begonia varieties he developed.