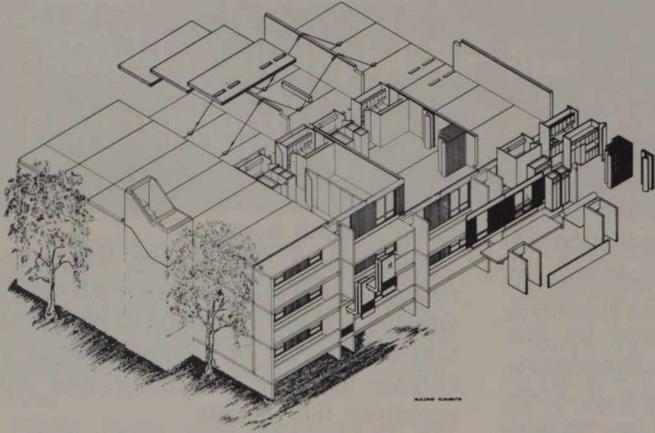


HUD selects Canadian housing system



Modular design for HUD: a Canadian approach to U.S. housing.

A Canadian-designed building system has been selected by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as part of its \$75,000,000 "Operation Breakthrough" program. Designed by Descon/Concordia, a Montreal consortium, the system is capable of producing 15,000 homes a year, with a potential of 50,000 homes a year after 10 years. The Montreal consortium was the only non-U.S. firm selected under the program sponsored by HUD.

Operation Breakthrough's first objective is to remove constraints on housing needs, estimated at 2.5 mil-

lion units a year. The present rate of construction averages 1.5 million units a year. The Canadians propose a system of readily available "off-the-shelf" components or assemblies fabricated by standard manufacturing processes. The structural system utilizes a factory-produced reinforced concrete panel system, which is applicable to townhouses, high-rise apartments and other multiple dwellings—but not to single family detached units. The panels may be prestressed, post-tensioned or simply reinforced, depending on the availability of local resources. If necessary, all casting

may be done on site. These structural components can be assembled under any weather conditions by using dry mechanical joints.

HUD Secretary George Romney, in announcing the participating firms, said the program is "not to see just how cheaply we can build a house, but is a way to break through to total new systems of housing construction and marketing."

Other winners, all U.S. firms, also were selected by HUD to design and produce low and moderate-cost pilot housing projects in 10 states. The winners were among some 250 American and foreign groups which competed for the contracts.

The Canadian consortium received assistance in making their bid from Canada's Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the National Research Council, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Canadian Standards Association.

Actual components of the prototype system will be built by local firms near the site. It is not yet known where the Descon/Concordia system will be applied.

The Descon/Concordia system is designed to reflect local construction capabilities, to stimulate local industries and to use local labor resources. 

New Center for Canadian Studies created at Johns Hopkins



Dale Thomson (right) discusses courses with students and faculty at Johns Hopkins.

The first graduate center for Canadian studies in the United States opened this fall at The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D. C.

Funded by a five-year \$1 million grant from the William H. Donner Foundation of the United States and from the Donner Canadian Foundation, the center's director is Dale C. Thomson, 46, a teacher, author and political activist.

Dr. Thomson was an aide to Prime

Minister Louis St. Laurent for five years and subsequently was an unsuccessful candidate for Parliament. He is the author of the biographies, *Louis St. Laurent: Canadian*, and *Alexander MacKenzie: Clear Grit*, a life of Canada's second Prime Minister. Fluent in French and German, Dr. Thomson has lectured extensively in France and Germany as well as in England.

On leave of absence from the University of Montreal, a major French-speaking university, where he headed the political science department, Dr. Thomson is recruiting a staff of four full-time specialists in Canadian affairs and anticipates work with some 25 graduate and research students drawn from both countries. The Center offers both masters and doctoral programs.

Dr. Thomson expects that the Center will study aspects of the multifaceted U.S.-Canadian relationship, and will also investigate such domestic

Canadian questions as Constitutional reform and the future of the Arctic. Because "the life and destiny of the two countries are inextricably intertwined and it is becoming more and more impossible to conceive of policies that are not intertwined," he anticipates that Canadian relations with the U.S. will be the Center's central concern.

He foresees little change in the basic closeness and warmth of bonds between the two North American neighbors, but cautions that these bonds should not be taken for granted.

"In the next decade or two," says Dr. Thomson, "Canadians and Americans are going to be thrown together more closely than ever before. As this happens, they are going to have to learn to know each other a lot better if they are to continue to live together in mutual respect." He sees the Johns Hopkins Center helping make this possible. 