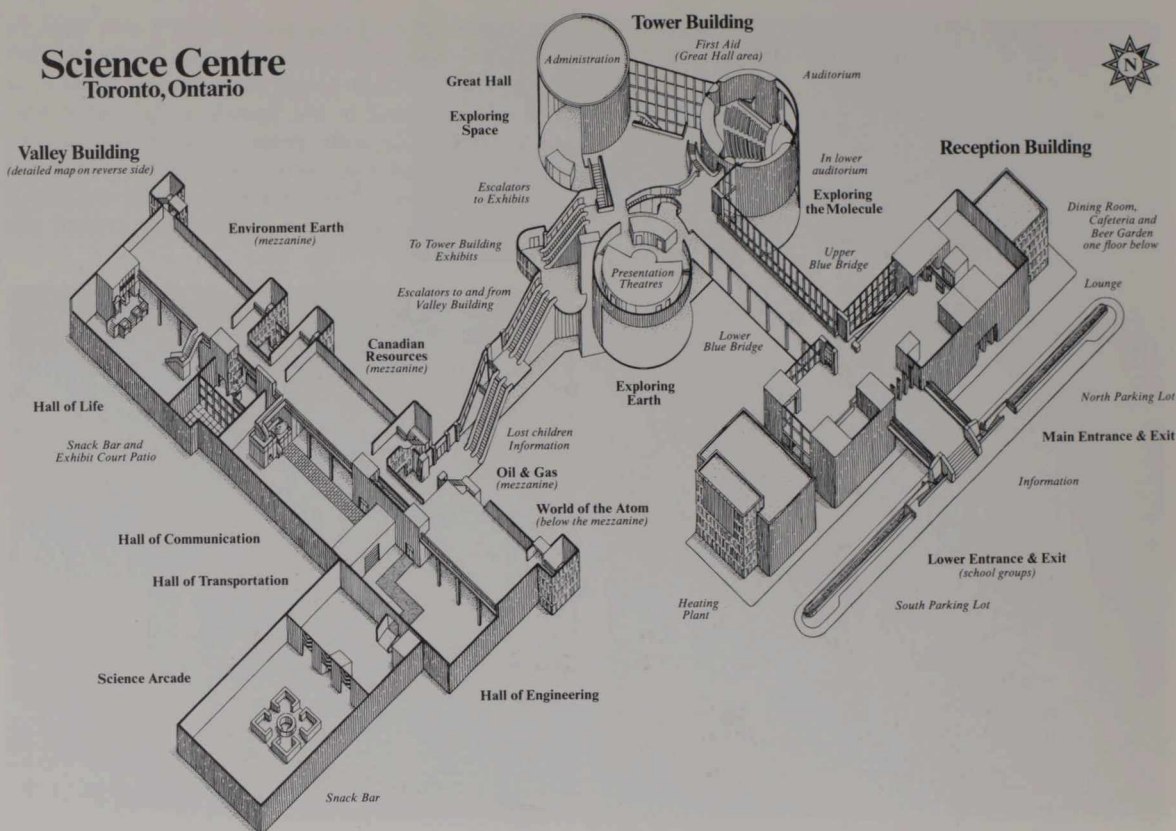


Science Centre Toronto, Ontario



structed for pouring concrete — in effect it was a movable, three-storey building of I-beams, steel-grid and wood, which rose in the air twenty feet a day, growing narrower as the tower tapered. Concrete was poured through the top, into the bottomless mold below. As the concrete set the platform was pushed up by hydraulic jacks. The falling, wet concrete tended to swirl, the way water swirls down a bathtub drain, so it was checked by transit, plumb bob and optical sight after each pouring to make sure that it set untwisted, straight up and down. The final check, in March, 1974, showed that nowhere did the tower vary from the perpendicular more than one inch.

Four exterior elevators, in glass-covered shafts, will be able to carry one thousand, three hundred people an hour to the 70,000 square-foot skypod

at the 1100-foot level. The skypod, 149 feet wide and 116 feet high, contains the revolving restaurant (one thousand, four hundred diners) and two observation levels, one indoors and one out. An interior elevator will carry the determined observer to a third observation level at 1500 feet. When in full operation the tower will broadcast programmes from eight TV channels and eleven FM radio stations.

The tower's effect on wildlife is still undetermined. Naturalist Barry MacKay contends that when it is fully illuminated it will attract thrushes, warblers and other night-migrating birds and that in bad weather "hundreds and perhaps thousands" will be killed. The Canadian National insists that so far, at least, not a single bird has hit the tower.

The Ontario Science Centre

"I think," one visitor wrote, "the Science Centre is a great improvement for science." "It finds a way to my brain," said another.

The observations were substantially correct; the Ontario Science Centre, if not precisely an improvement for science, is an improved way to make the fascination and joy of science perfectly clear to the young (two of whom made the observations above) and to the old.

The fascination begins with the Centre itself,

a set of singular structures that cover a small part of the 180-acre Don River conservation area, at the geographic centre of Metro Toronto, ten minutes from downtown. The site is hilly, split by a ravine, with a ninety-foot drop from the knoll at the top to the valley floor.

Architect Raymond Moriyama was commissioned to design the Centre in 1964; he took the job, went to work and kept a diary.

First he defined his goals: "The Centre must