

## (ii) The Mission:

Individuals living and working at the Chancery and Official Residence know when and how a modification to the interior design scheme could make their jobs easier. Often the necessary modification is not a drastic move. It may just be the rearrangement or removal of furniture or fixtures (ie. a functional change). Should they be required to ask Headquarters permission to do this and then have to wait for their response? Some DFAIT personnel interviewed said yes. They argued that the public and representational areas belong to the Government of Canada, not the Mission personnel, and any change to their design must be approved by headquarters. The majority of interviewees however felt that approval is not necessary as long as the modification does not drastically changed the original design. But what constitutes a drastic change? A drastic change is deemed to be any alteration to the structural aspects of the design (ie. changing the colour scheme, replacing or adding furniture, re-flooring, etc). Most of the time requests for these types of structural changes are motivated by personal taste. If approval was not required for this, headquarters would relinquish all design control and the problems outlined in Section 8 would continue.

*SUGGESTION:*

*SRMD must be allowed to maintain design control over the interiors of the Chanceries and Official Residences. They understand the image requirements of the original designs. However, Mission personnel must be allowed to modify these original designs to suit their needs. But by how much? SRM should consider setting approval guidelines. These guidelines should make it clear that any functional modifications (ie. adjustment or removal of furniture or fixtures) may be left to the discretion of the Mission. However, any structural modification (ie. re-flooring, alterations to the colour scheme, replacement of furniture, etc.) must meet the approved by SRMD before the change can be made.*

[c] Finally, SRM must determine who is responsible for the maintenance of the interior design standards.

## (i) Maintenance:

Mission and regional maintenance personnel (SRMM) are often the ones who recommend and make structural modifications to the Chanceries and Official Residences. They inspect these buildings and if they determine there is a problem with a structural aspect, they fix it. For instance, if the paint is chipped they are the ones