



MASSEY MEDAL TO NATIONAL ARTS CENTRE

The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, with the agreement of the Massey Foundation, has recognized the National Arts Centre in Ottawa as an outstanding example of Canadian achievement in architecture and design, and has awarded a Massey Medal to the Centre's architects. The Department of Public Works was responsible for the design of the Centre under the direction of J.A. Langford, then chief architect, with consulting architects Affleck, Desbarats, Dimakopoulos, Lebensold, Size of Montreal.

In its announcement of the award, the Institute described the National Arts Centre as a structure designed to relate to its location:

"The architectural concept envisages the total site as a focal outdoor area, with terraces of differing qualities; at one point, providing shelter; at another, landscaping; and at another, facilities for outdoor activities such as open air concerts.... The outdoor spaces are strongly related to the Rideau Canal and the view of Confederation Square."

The Massey Medals, 17 of which were awarded in 1970, were first awarded 20 years ago and are offered every second or third year depending upon the amount of building activity in Canada. They may be awarded to Canadian architects or groups of architects resident in Canada and responsible for the actual de-

sign and construction of architectural projects in Canada and elsewhere.

The selection of the 1970 winners was made by a jury of three internationally-known architects: Dr. Eric R. Arthur, Professor Emeritus of Architecture, University of Toronto; Peter Blake, editor of the *Architectural Forum*, and Jean-Louis Lalonde, a Montreal architect. The professional adviser and non-voting member of the jury was Professor Henry Elder, Director of the School of Architecture, University of British Columbia.

SIX YEARS PLANNING

The inauguration of the National Arts Centre took place on May 31, 1969, after six years of planning. Standing on a six-and-a-half acre site, the Centre, which cost over \$46 million, houses a combination opera house and concert hall (seating 2,300), a theatre of medium size (seating 800), an experimental studio (seating 300) and a salon (seating 100).

There are a large restaurant, a café and a coffee shop, as well as two bookshops, a record shop and several *boutiques*. An underground parking area accommodates 900 automobiles.

The stage of the opera house-concert hall is the second-largest in North America exceeded in size only by that of the Metropolitan Opera House in New York City.