new generation of architects.

Erickson is among the outstanding figures in Canadian architecture and he has held that position since about 1965. Geoffrey James wrote of him in _Time_ magazine in 1972: "In an age of team design, Erickson epitomizes the idea of the individual creator, the architect as superstar." When he won the competition for the design of Simon Fraser, he brought to the job a wide and rich background.

He had been a painter (good enough to exhibit at the Vancouver Art Gallery at the age of sixteen), a designer of distinguished houses, a teacher at the University of British Columbia, a world traveller, and a serious, careful student of architectural history. He was, and is, an advocate of good city design. In 1971, when the Royal Bank of Canada gave him the $50,000 prize it awards annually to a distinguished Canadian, Erickson began his speech of acceptance by saying: "I've chosen to speak on the most pressing subject of all — the most maligned, misunderstood, misrepresented of subjects and the most vital to human survival — the city." He then went on to present a passionate demand for more serious consideration of city building by business officials and politicians.

Simon Fraser University is on the top of a mountain — it stretches along the spine of Burnaby Mountain and looks down on the city of Vancouver. This is the most important aspect of it and Erickson's first job was to fit it to the site. As it stands now the university blends into the mountain as if it had grown there. But the fact that it is so high up also serves as a kind of symbol. As one professor said of it: "This is a living metaphor for me. It is a case of my climbing up to my ideals every morning." Erickson planned it just that way.

Erickson wanted to redefine the university in contemporary terms, to make it meaningful to the people who used it and a natural part of the place where it was to sit. He wanted to give the students and teachers a sense of community. He believed he could best provide this by carefully planning the spaces in between