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**A**rchitecture is perhaps the ultimate blend of art and technology. It springs from an idea in the creative imagination and culminates in an artistic expression of culture, context and time. Yet the translation of inspiration into physical structures depends upon technical expertise and the considerations of climate, cost and space.

The challenge of combining functional practicality with beauty has been successfully met by Canadian architects working with state-of-the-art technology. Inside attractive climate-controlled malls the weather is perpetually perfect. And buildings in Canada's far North withstand extremes of wind and temperature while retaining simple but aesthetically pleasing lines.

Architecture is also a lasting record of a nation's history and culture. In the Canadian case, it forms a pleasing collage of complementary contrasts.

**Muttart Conservatory: a greenhouse formed by a quartet of transparent technological tepees.**

The cultures that have shaped Canada are reflected in buildings across the nation. The University of British Columbia's Museum of Anthropology creates echoes of the West Coast Indians' distinctive architecture. On the east coast, historic buildings recall Canada's past as a British colony, while the manor houses of French settlers dot the Quebec countryside. And today, a mosaic of mosques, temples and churches reflects the country's modern multicultural society.

Both a sense of time and of timelessness is conveyed in Canadian architecture. Carefully preserved heritage buildings recall the nation's rural origins, but architects must design for the urban society which Canada is today, creating modern structures that blend with the surrounding neighborhood. In a daring concept, the Mississauga City Hall blends the past and present by incorporating local nineteenth century forms into its post-modern design, perhaps marking a new trend in architectural design.

Canadian architecture is above all a reflection of the diversity of the land and its people. Canada is a vast nation composed of distinct geographic regions stretching from the sea-sprayed Atlantic provinces, rugged Quebec and Ontario farmlands, through the endless expanse of the prairies and the frozen northern tundra, to the soaring west coast mountains. Each region inspires a distinctive architecture expressive of the area's ethnic heritage, geographic characteristics and climate.

On the most personal level, Canadian architecture provides an intimate glance into the lives of Canadians — their attitudes, lifestyles and aspirations. Through these articles we open the doors of the Canadian experience and invite you to enter.

## Canada

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Telex: 053-3745

Editor-in-Chief:  
Irenka Farmilo

Editors:  
Mary Anne Dehler,  
Leeann McKechnie

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