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Vanguard

JUNE/JULY 1976

THE VANCOUVER ART GALLERY

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GALLERY ATTENDANCE 1976		
April	Open to the Public	7,865
	Events	1,138
	Guided Tours	689
April 20, 1976	Aggregate Open Attendance	7,679

COVER: Squatter slum housing, Tondo Foreshore on Manila Bay. Residents from this area will be rehoused in nearby Dagat-Dagatan, site of the International Design Competition for the Urban Environment of Developing Countries. Prize-winning competition solutions are featured in the Gallery exhibition *Habitat: Toward Shelter* (see pages 3-5) Philippines National Media Production Centre

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THE LOS ANGELES LOOK
76 YEARS - CANADIAN PAINTING IN THE 20TH CENTURY
ENGLISH WATERCOLOURS
EMILY CARR - WATERCOLOURS & DRAWINGS
- EXTENSION**
- WOMEN'S AUXILIARY**
- COLLAGE**
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Section of model by second-prize winners Takagi Design Associates of Tokyo, demonstrating use of colonnade as a basic prefabricated structure containing all services. Colonades would be first stage in building, and government-subsidized foundation for inhabitants' self-help.



Wieland: Canada (1972) quilt assemblage, Coll: Art Gallery of Ontario



Education Officer Ann Morrison with tour group

"To inform. It remains the most taxing subject with which we are concerned. There are no fixed proven methods with which we can work... I would suggest that a visit to the Gallery must be an experience - preferably a good one and consistently a memorable one. It means, on an ongoing basis, developing programs and techniques which make such a visit worthwhile. It implies that a gallery must be flexible in its thinking and its presentations."

Luke Roubout, discussion with board of trustees, Vancouver Art Gallery Association, April 1976



VIDEO SPACE is now open, with continuous showings throughout the day of video tapes, films, slide shows and other audio-visual presentations. For details, contact Nelson Becker at local 48

Education

GUIDE TRAINING PROGRAMME

Have you ever considered becoming a Docent? If so, there will be a new programme starting in September for training guides to work in The Vancouver Art Gallery.

What does it involve? For those volunteers who wish to be guides, there will be lectures with slides and discussions on contemporary art, particularly the art that has developed in Canada over the last seventy years. In learning about contemporary painting and sculpture, the emphasis will be on trying to discover the intentions of the artist, the influences on his work, and on analyzing and understanding what has happened, in that period in particular, and to art over the centuries. In trying to make the connections with the historical past, contemporary ideas fall into a continuum and become more understandable. These lectures and discussions will be held on Monday mornings on a regular basis.

Tour training will be incorporated into the programme so that the new guides will become confident with the public and will be able to interpret the works hanging in the Gallery. This most important aspect of informing the public helps make the ideas of the artist accessible to those who come to the Gallery.

This is challenging and always interesting. With the changing exhibitions, bringing new groups of different ages into the Gallery every week, the learning process continues for the guide as well as the public.

If you would like to volunteer to be a guide, just phone the Education Department at 682-5621, local 26. We would like to hear from you.

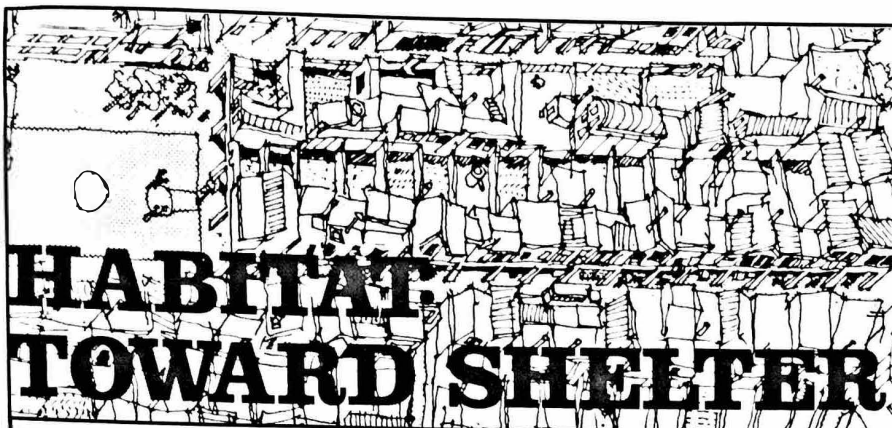
BOOKING A TOUR: To book a tour, call the Education Department at 682-5621, local 26. Tours are available by appointment during Gallery hours, including weekends and Wednesday and Friday evenings.

GALLERY HOURS FOR TOURS: Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 2 to 5 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday evenings, 7 to 10 p.m.

LIBRARY SUMMER HOURS

Library hours for June and August will be as follows: Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; closed Saturday. The Library will be closed during the month of July for staff vacation. Appointments to use the Library during the month can be made through the Education Department.

Saturday morning opening will resume in September.



HABITAT: TOWARD SHELTER

17 CANADIAN ARTISTS: A PROTEAN VIEW

*dean caven fisher graham hall hewson
jones martin ne. thing co. led.
ashburne parsons reitzelstein shaw
wieland whitmore williams coyne*

Two major exhibitions, planned to coincide with Habitat '76, will be officially opened May 30 at 9:00 p.m. by Their Excellencies the Governor-General of Canada and Madame Jules Léger. Habitat: Towards Shelter is funded by The International Architectural Foundation and The Canada Council. 17 Canadian Artists: A Protean View is funded by The Vancouver Foundation and The Canada Council. The exhibitions continue to July 4.

HABITAT: TOWARD SHELTER

by FREDERICK GUTHEIM

The world's design professions, mobilized to support the Habitat conference, are represented in this exhibit at The Vancouver Art Gallery during the United Nations conference May 31 - June 11. Architects, engineers, planners, landscape architects responded to the opportunity provided by an international design competition to address the developing world's urbanization problem in unprecedented numbers. From 68 countries, 2,500 design professionals registered to receive the competition documents; nearly 500 from 46 countries completed the required submission.

As organized for the International Architectural Foundation by the consulting firm Gutheim/Seelig/Erickson, the competition identified one major problem facing the developing countries — the squatter settlements that now comprise nearly half of the population of Third World cities. Here was a problem to which design could contribute solutions and that would give a new meaning to architecture.

While such problems exist in Latin America, Africa and the Near East, it is Asia which presents the most appalling spectacle of on-rushing urbanization and human misery in the homeless millions that surround almost every large city. Calcutta's hundreds of thousands of street sleepers; Djakarta's teeming slums; metropolitan Manila's squatter suburbs — these are typical examples. It was the willingness of the government of the Philippines to support the competition, to identify a specific site, and to guarantee to build the winning design that caused the selection of the competition site at Dagat Dagatan in the area of reclaimed fish ponds called the Tondo Foreshore.

The suburban Manila site will eventually accommodate a population of 140,000 but the prototypical settlement specified in the competition will house 3,500 persons. It corresponds to the *barangay* unit of Philippine society, a neighborhood and political subdivision.

Countries of the developing world may be poor in many respects but they are rich in manpower. To translate this resource into improved housing through self-help is the challenge the competition provided and that is brilliantly met by the winning solution by Ian Athfield, a Wellington, New Zealand, architect, who emerged in the world's architectural spotlight last February 6 in Vancouver when his design was selected by an international jury.

Athfield's design concentrates on the community rather than the household. It proposes to use the limited public funds available to provide a sort of linear industrial structure suited to bazaar industries and crafts, an open-ended invitation to sustained economic development that promises both to upgrade the employment and wealth of the community and to provide its architectural identity as well. The structure also connects with adjacent communities, reinforcing the overall development.

Once the most fundamental problem of all squatter settlements — assuring land tenure — has been settled, the self-help housing program can begin. Athfield's housing solution uses indigenous materials and specifies existing building skills. It proposes development by stages. Resources of the community as well as the family are employed to produce the dwellings.

As specified in the competition program, a major stress is put upon the community environment and its services. Garden plots are provided to assist the production of significant amounts of food. Domestic water and sanitation, and some use of windmills for energy production are described. A relatively self-contained, self-supporting community is envisioned.

As seen in the exhibition, Athfield's design is shown in its five-drawing entirety. It has been further described in two models, one showing the community as a whole, the other the housing design. The richly detailed competition drawings are presented in enlarged sections of the originals, revealing the architect as a witty and informed commentator on the life-style of the community.

As provided in the competition conditions, Athfield is commissioned architect for the entire project as well as receiving the \$35,000 first prize award. He is 36 years old, married, with two children, and heads his own six-man architectural firm in Wellington. He had not previously visited the Philippines, but his entry shows close and careful study of the competition program and additional sources.

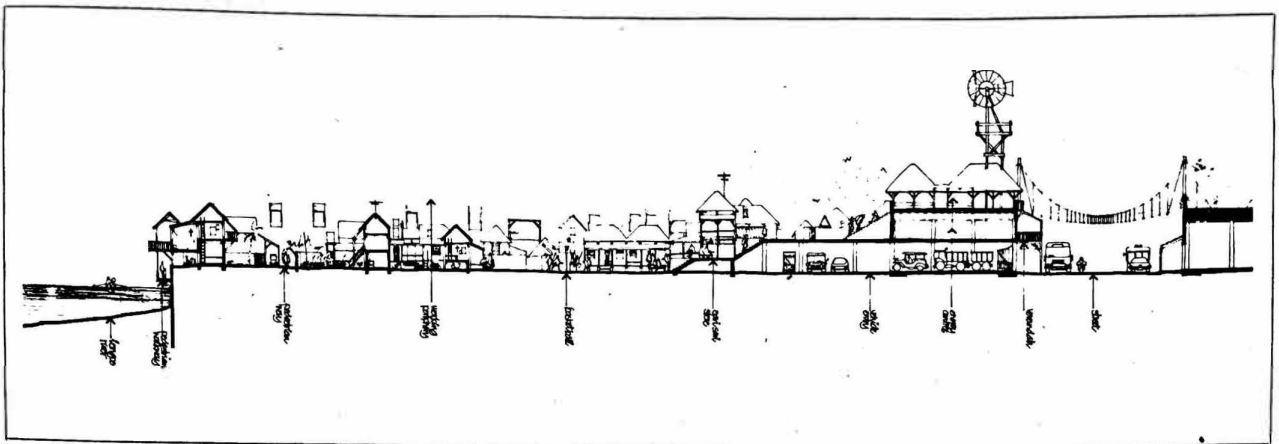
Second and third prizes were awarded respectively to Takagi Design Team, Tokyo, Japan; and Sau Lai Chan, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (who was a student of the architecture school of the University of Manchester, England, when he entered the competition but has since returned to Malaysia.)

Drawings of all prize-winning schemes are exhibited in the Gallery, together with models prepared by Athfield and the Takagi Design Team. In addition, selected details from more than 20 additional entries are displayed.

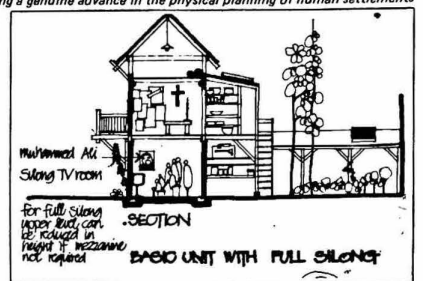
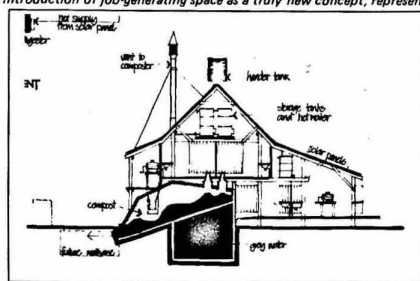
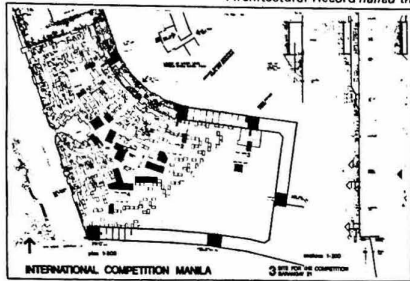
All the 476 designs submitted are also being shown at Habitat Forum. A comprehensive book analyzing the competition is being written by Dr. Michael Seelig, professor of community planning at the University of British Columbia, and a principal in the firm of Gutheim/Seelig/Erickson, competition administrators.

Following its showing in The Vancouver Art Gallery the competition will be shipped to Manila and shown there. Under consideration also is a photolithographed set of competition drawings, selected from those shown in the exhibition, which can be used as the purchaser wishes. A complete microfilm record of all 476 entries has been made and is available for purchase by housing agencies, architectural schools, libraries and private parties.

A highly distinguished competition jury under the chairmanship of Eric Lyons, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, was composed of Balkrishna Doshi, Ahmedabad, India; Moshe Safdie, Montreal, Canada, Mildred Schmetz, New York, U.S.A.; and General Gaudencio Tobias, director of the National Housing Corporation, Manila, Philippines. Jury alternates were William Whitfield, Great Britain; and Takamasa Yosizaka, Japan. The jury was further advised by Dr. Aprodicio Laquian, a housing specialist on the staff of the Canadian International Development Research Agency, and members of the Tondo community for whom the project was designed.



Architectural Record hailed this introduction of job-generating space as a truly new concept, representing a genuine advance in the physical planning of human settlements



First prize winner Athfield proposed that the major design element of the barangay be the work place -- a working periphery combining cottage and light industries

The competition has been more than two years in the making since it was first conceived by the UN Preparatory Planning Group which initiated plans for Habitat under the chairmanship of Helena Benitez, president of the Women's National University of the Philippines and a UN delegate. Senator Benitez was chairman of the Second Committee of the 1972 Stockholm Conference, with long-standing interests in housing and population, and has since served as president of the UN Environment Program Governing Council.

From the start it was hoped that the competition would be the work of some agency in the private sector rather than entangled in the procedures of the UN itself.

Recognizing that no existing organization was able to undertake this project, Blake Hughes, president of *Architectural Record*, the world's largest professional publication in its field, created the International Architectural Foundation, a nonprofit corporation, for this and similar purposes. He associated with the IAF the Paris publication, *L'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui*.

Funds for the project were solicited from a number of private foundations, building materials manufacturers, architectural firms and other sources. These have included the Graham Foundation; Johns Manville; International Development Research Centre (Canada); The Rockefeller Foundation; *Architectural Record*; The Architects Collaborative; The Asia Foundation; The Austin Company; The Ford Foundation; Hyatt International Corporation; George P. McNear, Jr. Foundation; Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation; PPG Industries Foundation; Skidmore, Owings & Merrill; *L'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui*; Architectural Record Staff; W. R. Bonsal Company; Building Industry Development Services; CP Air; Dalton-Dalton-Little-Newport; Arthur Sworn Goldman & Associates, Inc.; Ir. E. Hendrik Grolle, RAIC; Gruzen and Partners; Harrison & Abramovitz; Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum, Inc.; Smith, Hinchman & Grylls Associates Inc.; Stone, Marraccini & Patterson. A special grant was provided by the Government of the Philippines.

Gutheim/Seelig/Erickson were engaged as consultants and managers of the project. The firm's principals are Frederick Gutheim, planning consultant, Washington, D.C. who has also been a United Nations consultant since 1965 when he headed a housing and planning mission to Zambia; Dr. Michael Seelig, architect and planner, and professor in the school of community and regional planning, University of British Columbia; and Arthur Erickson, architect, Vancouver and Toronto. The competition has been administered by Dr. Seelig from Vancouver.

All international architectural competitions are closely regulated by the Union Internationale des Architectes, Paris, composed of representatives of the national architectural societies of the world. The UIA is a UNESCO-supported agency and thus part of the UN organizational system. Unlike most architectural competitions which aim at the design of a single building, the inter-professional character of the IAF competition presented many new problems which were successfully resolved by Michael Weill, secretary-general of the UIA.

The outcome of the competition, its exhibition in Vancouver to the Habitat conference and the thousands of other participants gathered here, is great. As has been noted by Blake Hughes, president of the IAF, the competition has helped to re-orient the thinking of the architectural profession world-wide to an awareness of social housing and community development. It has explored new dimensions of interprofessional relations

between architects, planners and others concerned with housing. It has contributed to the focus of Habitat and its interest in the still-to-be-defined problem of "human settlements." It has strengthened the techniques and design objectives of self-help housing. It has contributed to legitimizing squatter settlements, once the "untouchables" of the housing world, and to the realization of the social characteristics of migrants -- some 300 millions of whom have moved to the cities of the developing world in the last quarter-century. Instead of deploring the squattings, governments increasingly see them as an opportunity for social progress and urban development.

Some of these trends were already in progress, but they have been accelerated by the competition and its setting in the Habitat conference. It will be interesting to see what Habitat actually does about this world-wide problem. But it will probably be more significant to watch developments at the World Bank, which last year turned from its previous rural orientation to a recognition of the problems of poverty and urban development. The fall meeting of the Bank in Manila should reveal their response to Habitat, just as the fall meeting of the UN General Assembly will show how seriously they take Habitat's recommendations.

Visitors to *Habitat: Toward Shelter* will see an important event in world architecture. In addition to its social focus, the competition reveals a strong orientation to the community, to a revived interest in the architectural vernacular, to architectural teamwork. It has shown the remarkable proliferation of the architectural profession in the exceptionally wide geographical representation in the competition, and the availability of architectural services in many parts of the developing world.

As the Habitat conference examines what can be done about the problems of human settlements its agenda shows it will have to consider not only the visible problems of housing and urbanization but the underlying ones of research, training, housing finance and organization for self-help operations. To these and many other related questions the IAF competition, in its total experience and impact as well as in its specific and practical results, offers much to this world gathering.

The human settlements problem throughout the world did not just appear. It was sufficiently urgent at Stockholm in the 1972 UN conference on the environment to make it clear that a following conference on the made-or built environment would be needed to give it sufficient attention. But long before that, in population statistics collected by the UN, it was clear that a concomitant of economic development throughout the

world was the growth of cities. Twenty-five years ago the developing nations had only 16 cities with populations of one million or more. There are more than 60 today and there will be more than 200 by the end of this century.

Will this great urban development of that part of the world already occupied by one billion people offer a vast increase in human misery, or can it provide that richness of opportunity and that quality of life that great cities of the world have traditionally offered their citizens? This question must be faced with imagination and resourcefulness and human will. It demands high ideals as well as significant commitment of resources. It requires design of the highest competence, and the creative effort of millions of people. These resources exist and must be put to work. They cannot be ignored. That is the lesson of the Habitat architectural competition.

Frederick Gutheim API is a Washington-based planning consultant and widely published writer on architectural and planning subjects. He has edited two volumes of the writings of Frank Lloyd Wright, and has written a biography and critique of the Finnish architect, Alvar Aalto. A frequent contributor to architectural publications and symposia, he has also served as architecture critic of the New York Herald Tribune and the Washington Post. He is the author of *The Potomac: an environmental history of the region around Washington, D.C.*, and *The Federal City, Plans and Realities*, published by the Smithsonian Institution.

Habitat: Toward Shelter is presented by The Vancouver Art Gallery in conjunction with the International Architectural Foundation. The exhibition is sponsored by I.A.F. and The Canada Council. Local organization of the exhibition has been managed as follows:

- Exhibition supervision: Arthur Erickson,
- Dr. Michael Seelig
- Designer: Simon Scott
- Exhibition coordinator: Fergus Neilson

The exhibition is planned to encompass approximately half the Gallery's exhibition space, as follows:

Background to the competition and the development of the exhibition (Foyer)
 Historical solutions: 23 6'x6' colour photographs by architect Arthur Erickson, of "architecture without architects" -- indigenous housing in underdeveloped countries (South Gallery)

The Competition Problem: a slide presentation of existing conditions at the Manila site, plus pictorial documentation of squatter housing conditions in other parts of the Third World (Centre Courts)

Competition solutions: photo-blowups of the three prize-winning designs and four honourable mentions, plus other selected submissions, as well as three models: two of the first-prize entry (Ian Athfield, New Zealand); and one for the second-prize winners, Takagi Design Team of Tokyo (North Gallery)

Note: All 475 competition entries will be available for viewing at Habitat Forum library, Jericho Beach. A full-scale mockup of a lowcost high density dwelling from the first-prize winning design is also planned for the Jericho site.

