



Winter Cities

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Winter Cities: Quebec City 2001

From the Editor's Desk



his edition of *Winter Cities* is dedicated to the life of former Winter Cities Association Board Member Harold Hanen, who died of prostate cancer on October 3, 2000. I first met Harold at the 1998 Winter Cities Association meeting in Prince George, British Columbia and had the good fortune to meet him in his hometown of Calgary on several subsequent business trips to Alberta. I visited with Harold two weeks before his death and he was his enthusiastic self, discussing the upcoming Winter Cities Association meeting in Quebec City (p.2) and the future of the organization.



Harold was a visionary. Michael Robinson, who was a friend and colleague of Harold's at the University of Calgary and Jack Royale a founder of the Winter Cities movement, outline his life and work in two of this edition's articles (pgs. 3 & 6). Reading Jack's article it is impossible to underestimate the significance of Harold's contributions to the Winter Cities movement or indeed his impact upon city planning. One of Harold's legacies is downtown Calgary's Plus 15 system of elevated walkways, which has been copied throughout many North American cities.

Those of us who knew Harold found him to be a very kind and thoughtful man. He was deeply committed to improving the quality of life of winter city residents and the ideals of the winter city movement. When I first met him he enlisted my assistance in trying to get more cooperation between winter city organizations in North America, Japan and Europe. After Harold was diagnosed with cancer and began treatment he started a new venture by establishing a community group to address rapid growth issues in Calgary. It was this enduring commitment to improving the lives of urban residents that was behind much of Harold's professional work.

In compiling a tribute to Harold's life it seems only fitting to reprint some of his earlier articles, which attest to his visionary ideas- an Olympic Winter Festival, (p. 10) and managing growth (p. 12). Harold believed that North Americans had much to learn from other northern latitude regions in how they approached winter, a theme that is echoed in Norman Pressman's and Annie Luttgen's article (p. 16) and Pat Coleman's news item (p.3). Finally, Harold's 1994 farewell editorial is included (p. 8). He wrote that in stepping down from his editorial duties he intended to devote more time to designing a winter garden "to further walk the winter city walk." Harold, of course designed his garden.

It is difficult to imagine another individual who devoted more of his life to the cause of winter cities and improving the lives of their inhabitants. Those of us who live "up north" owe him our gratitude.

Michael J. Brouckway

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realizing the unique potentials of all northern
communities. Through publishing, networking,
organizing conferences, facilitating research
and other means, the Association seeks to
make available solutions and to promote
awareness of opportunities
associated with the winter season.

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Quebec City fortifications.

President's Notebook

By PATRICK COLEMAN

Climate change highlight of Winter Cities 2001 conference

There is currently great debate about the issue of global warming in the scientific and environmental communities. Unusually warm weather patterns across the circumpolar world in recent years contribute to theory and speculation about the greenhouse effect and rapid climate change. While much attention has been given to global warming, the long-term impacts of these changes, specifically for northern cities, are only now being projected.

Global climate change and its impact on northern communities is the theme of the Winter Cities 2001 conference. This event will be held January 30-February 2, 2001, in charming Quebec City. The City of Quebec is the host of the event, organized by the World

Summit on Nordicity, a non-profit organization. More than 700 participants and 80 exhibitors from around the northern world are expected for the event. Delegates are expected from all across Canada, USA, Sweden, Norway, Japan, and China.

The Quebec City Convention Centre is the site of the conference and exhibition. This beautiful facility provides an ideal environment for the events of the 2001 conference.

The conference will begin with a plenary session offering different perspectives on climate change featuring Mr. George Beauchemin, Minister of Public Security for Quebec, and Ms. Heather Auld of the University of Ottawa. As with all sessions at the conference, speakers will also participate in a panel debate following the plenary session.

Other conference topics will explore climate change impacts on specific aspects of northern city management and development. Natural disaster planning and management will be covered in several workshops that will chronicle the 1998 ice storm that caused severe problems in the Quebec City region. Other workshops include the topics of snow management, urban design and planning, building design, energy, transportation, and infrastructure. Workshops will also explore unique challenges of historic preservation in cold climates. Several technical tours are planned to provide participants with hands-on experiences.

An exhibition featuring companies, services, and products of interest to northern communities is also an important part of the event. A cultural and social pro-

Quebec City's Winter Carnival Activities

For countless years, when the snow capital gets ready to be covered with a long white blanket, one snowman comes out and heats up the city of Quebec by offering the biggest winter carnival in the world. Here is a listing of the Carnival's classic activities.

Night Parades

The Quebec Carnival's night parades provide sounds and sights for the thousands to spectators who flock to the streets each year.

Snow Sculpture

The International snow sculpture display is nothing less than an open-air museum. In addition to artists from Quebec and the rest of Canada, artists from approximately 20 countries take part in this activity.

Canoe Race

Each year, several courageous teams confront one another during a tumultuous ride along the St. Lawrence River between Quebec City and Levis.

Happy Trails

The Happy Trails dog sled race is a typically Nordic activity along a magic blanket of snow.

Ski Classic

More than just a sport, skiing was a mode of transportation and a way of life in Nordic regions. The Cross-Country Ski Classic takes place each year on the Plains of Abraham.

Snow Swim

There is nothing better than a refreshing swim. Grab your bathing suit and head off for an invigorating swim...in the snow! The snow swim is for the very brave or for those who just need a thrill!

gram is planned to provide additional activities, including tours, museum visits, shopping, and outdoor adventures.

All conference participants will be able to participate in the world famous winter carnival, the Carnival de Quebec. This is one of the largest festivals in the world. Delegates will be provided with ringside seats for the Saturday night parade. Other events include a snow sculpting competition and the exciting canoe race across the frozen St. Lawrence River.

For more information on the Winter Cities 2001 conference, log on to the Web site (www.nordicite.org).

Snow Management Exchange Planned

Snow management is a primary service provided by northern communities. In some places, expendi-

tures for this service are a major item in the municipal budget.

Cities are always seeking ways to improve snow management while controlling costs. There are few opportunities for cities to compare snow management systems, especially across international borders.

In a unique arrangement, several municipalities are planning an exchange this winter to improve service and future planning for snow management. The cities of Luleå and Kiruna, Sweden, Prince George, BC, Canada, and Marquette and Houghton, Michigan, USA, will participate in an exchange of public works personnel during January and February 2001.

The purpose of the exchange is to see and learn firsthand how different communities deal with their snow problems. While these cities have comparable climates, each has unique circumstances and condi-

tions. In Prince George, public involvement in the snow management process has led to improved service and employee morale, and the use of innovative methods, including a plow gate which prevents dumping snow in resident's driveways. In Luleå and Kiruna, snow is managed without the use of deicers and chemicals. In Marquette and Houghton, personnel deal with large volumes of lake effect snow and steep terrain.

According to Gerald Peterson, Marquette City Manager, the exchange offers "a practical means of learning how we might improve our service to our residents and is one of the benefits growing from our involvement in winter cities." Marquette is especially interested in snow management without salt, due to increasing environmental concerns. *Winter Cities* hopes to report on the results of this exchange in a future issue. ❄

The Man Behind the WCA and Winter Cities Magazine

By JACK ROYALE

To describe Harold Hanen's immense contributions to the Winter Cities Movement and Winter Cities Association would require many issues of *Winter Cities* magazine, on which he has placed his stamp so firmly.

He initiated many constructive changes as past president of the WCA. The list includes the following: establishment of an office and publishing base for the WCA; computerization of membership and subscription lists; revision of the Executive and Board of Directors mandate and structure to enhance their efficiency and continuity; launching of Winter Cities Forums to take place on alternate years and establishing of new conference guidelines; upgrading of *Winter Cities* magazine and facilitating WCA's publication program; completion of major social and business research projects; extension of membership recruiting and affiliate formation to Scandinavia, China, and Russia; and the formation of a "Mayors and Chiefs Network" to participate in forums.

"Worldwide" is an appropriate word to describe Mr. Hanen's vision in all aspects of his busy life. He has spoken out boldly on the architecture profession's failure to give cli-

mate priority in its designs, has pioneered the concept of elevated pedestrian streets and has traveled extensively around the world to spread the Winter Cities message.

His life has been steeped in architecture and urban planning. Born in Calgary, he studied architecture at the Rhode Island School of Design and took post-graduate courses in urban design at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He joined the circle of students who worked with world famous American architect, Frank Lloyd Wright.

Wright's chosen group studied in Wisconsin in summer and in Arizona in winter where "design with climate" received high priority. A basis of Wright's techniques was that built forms must respond to the challenges of the changing seasons.

Harold Hanen built on this foundation. He championed the case for more attention to climate in city design architecture in *Winter Cities* magazine. His powerful statements constitute an unequalled contribution to the pro-northern cause.

He wrote, "Since our existence is not severed from the earth, wind and sky, it makes little sense to ignore these elements."

Hanen describes the attitude of many architects as "seasonal

illiteracy." "One quarter of the earth's surface is cold climate, and building on it requires a broad, comprehensive and multi-dimensional approach."

"The north provides countless opportunities for creativity and innovation. There are so many problems that need to be effectively addressed that the ambitious should be chomping at the bit to tackle them. With this brave new frontier at every snow-covered doorstep, it makes little sense to blindly apply southern cookie cutter mentality."

"The new northern architecture should be a positive one. Streets and buildings should welcome season changes. Colours should be used which enhance the natural environment instead of stifling it. Protective scale and intimacy should be created using nooks and hearths. Given the chance, people would celebrate winter rather than fruitlessly trying to avoid it."

Harold Hanen's life has been an unceasing effort to put these beliefs into practice. Returning to Calgary in 1967 he joined the City of Calgary as an architect/planner.

Mr. Hanen proceeded to the "Design and Implementation Section" within the planning department.

Two projects were immediately undertaken. One was the conceptual plan for a recreational system of walkways and hiking/bicycle/skiing trails. The system now ranks second only to Ottawa's among Canadian cities.

The other was a downtown pedestrian infrastructure that included an elevated walkway system. With Calgary's winter winds that are sometimes extremely bitter, protective walkways for downtown pedestrians made much sense.

Some winter cities have preferred underground pedestrian systems. Calgary's Plus 15's have the advantage that they are less costly, more flexible and, being in the sun, more bright and airy.

Harold Hanen, acclaimed for his involvement in this successful example of pro-northern architecture became an adjunct professor at the University of Calgary and a favorite speaker at architectural meetings. When the WCA first came into existence in the early 1980s he became one of its first activists in Western Canada. At the International Winter Cities Forum/ Showcase held in Edmonton in 1986 he served as rapporteur and workshop speaker. He brought together Calgary supporters of the Winter Cities concept, including Prof. Tang Lee and Myrna Grimmon to form the WCA Calgary chapter, the first in the West.

The first project of the new chapter was to join with the University of Calgary and its faculty of Environmental Design in publishing a 135-page book Calgary in Winter. Later came the publications: *Calgary Design for Winter*,

Winterscape magazine, *Calgary's Directory for Cold Weather Products and Services*, *The Magic of Winter* and *Disable Access Guidelines*.

Harold Hanen became president of the WCA. As part of his presidential duties, he also took on the job of combined Publisher and Editor of the association's publication.

Harold Hanen used the magazine to show that there is much more than snow shoveling and dressing warmly to successful "north living."

The new president also turned his attention to membership. There were then a dozen affiliated local groups ranging from St. John's, NF, to Anchorage, AK, and a large winter cities organization in Sapporo, Japan, linked with the Northern Intercity Conference Committee.

In a series of visits to Asia and Europe, Mr. Hanen found widespread interest in the new movement. In China he met with interested groups in Daqing, Jilin, and Harbin and formed an agreement with the Chinese to establish "Winter Cities China" which would operate jointly with and in parallel to the WCA.

Through his initiatives, similar arrangements were made with Scandinavia where Tromsø, Norway, and Luleå became charter affiliates of Winter Cities Scandinavia. Several Russian cities and communities also showed interest and it is anticipated that Winter Cities Russia will be established on a similar basis.

A by-product of Mr. Hanen's publishing and membership activities was the launching of a series of Winter Cities conferences/

expositions to serve regional or special needs.

Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, broke the ice for regional conferences in 1991 with a Winter Cities Forum, Exposition and Mayors'/ Native Chiefs meeting on the theme: "Sustainable Development." This highly successful and well attended event was made possible by sponsorship of the WCA. Yellowknife, NWT, hosted a similar event in 1993. Bratsk, Russia, hosted the event in 1995 and Marquette, Michigan, in 1997.

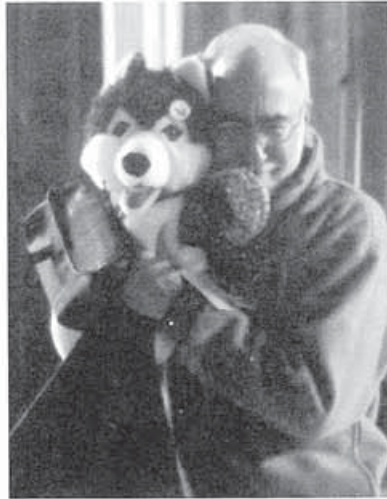
Still another achievement during Mr. Hanen's term of office has been the launching of the Canadian Snow and Wind Institute in Fergus, ON, under the sponsorship of the WCA.

In a recent editorial he offered some thoughts on future possibilities.

One of the reasons we join together in associations like the Winter Cities Association is to keep our ultimate goal in mind and learn from each other, not only the technology of sustainable society but also the consequences of everyday life that will force us to demand action by politicians, consumers and all citizens. We want not only to enhance the adaptation of winter cities, but also to learn to sustain ourselves without denying future generations the richness that nature has given us.

If we are a thinking people, we cannot separate the immediate from the eternal, but the synergy of people cooperating has the magic to perform miracles.❁

Jack Royle is editor emeritus of
Winter Cities.



Harold Hanen: A Life in Community

By MICHAEL ROBINSON

On Tuesday Maria asked me to say a few words on Harold's work in the community and upon reflection I decided to approach this task by considering his impact first upon individuals. To stand before Harold, inevitably well dressed with trimmed silver beard, was to be in the presence of a gentle, thoughtful, kind and yet challenging spirit. He drew you in; he was fun to meet. And you would always hear some kind words about how tanned, or vigorous or relaxed you looked. You immediately experienced that shine of eye and that wonderful sonorous Harold voice. You quickly learned that he was thinking of you before you were thinking of him. Over the years of our friend-

ship it became a kind of game for me to prepare for my lunches or walks or coffee meetings with Harold by planning to point out something auspiciously good about him before he pointed out something auspiciously good about me! I thought that I had finally got him two weeks ago in the lobby of the Glenbow when I walked over and gave him a bear hug and a kiss before he could get out one word of kindness towards me. But his goodness had already preceded him, as he was accompanied by two old family friends of mine from out of town. Typically, Harold had brought them to see me in my new office. His actions had already preceded my plan and intentions!

All this simply to say that Harold cared about individuals in

his life, thought first about the welfare of others, and gave praise first. In his community work Harold simply took these values to a higher level.

Harold was also a challenging man. He had an agenda, he was a public intellectual in its cause, and he expected more from Calgary. From his beginnings as an architect and urban planner Harold promoted thoughtful public consultation, grassroots involvement in the planning process, the notion of a developer's duty to public space and the common good, environmental stewardship, and historic preservation. He favoured a more candid politics and he stood up to bullies in public life. When his philosophy was fused with his passion he was unstoppable.

In his early days in the Calgary Planning Department (the late 1960s), he pioneered an innovative density bonusing concept that rewarded developers with greater densities in return for the development of public amenities. He also saw the potential of elevated pedestrian walkways between buildings and became the father of Calgary's Plus 15s. Along this path he also lobbied for the restoration of Stephen Avenue's historic sandstone and brick buildings, and pushed for parks to fulfill functions other than ornamental. When hyper-suburbanization and sprawl began in our city,

Harold was there to rail against the imposition of American suburban planning models and pink stucco housing plans from San Diego. I note that these were all positions Harold held in the late 1960s — more than 30 years ago.

After leaving the public service in 1969 Harold embarked on his second calling: that of philosopher developer. Here he put his money where his ideals were, and left us several beautiful prairie houses, the restored Clarence Block, a wonderful multiple residence complex in Hillhurst-Sunnyside, and many thoughtful household renovations.

Meanwhile, on the international scene Harold was struck by the utility and value of the fledgling Winter Cities movement. Increasingly as a volunteer, and using his own means, he con-

tributed to the organization's magazine and the annual Winter Cities' conferences. He worked to link Calgary to other cold climate municipalities (in spite of chinooks) in a circumpolar vision. At the Winter Cities Congress in Prince George two years ago he was able to see his idea in human



The skyline of downtown Calgary, Harold Hanen's home town.

form, as the mayors of over 100 Scandinavian, Russian, Chinese, American, and Canadian winter cities came together to discuss their common issues in a bold new political forum. As one of the fathers of this movement, Harold was in his element as a public intellectual who took the original concept to a higher level.

In the last years of his life, Harold once again turned his attention on Calgary. With a handful of like-minded citizens he founded Catalyst Calgary, a civil society, non-profit organization dedicated to making urban planning more of a community development process. Here again he was helping community associations in Bridgeland-Riverside and Cliff Bungalow-Mission develop community visions that were (in his words): "place-specific, resi-

dent-rooted and principal-based." Over the last few months his energies continued to flow to these ideas and tasks, even redoubled by the need to pass responsibilities to fresh hands.

As we look over Calgary today, some thirty years since the young Harold left the Planning Department, a surprising amount of his youthful vision prevails in physical form. The downtown core, and especially Stephen Avenue, has become trendy and purposeful. Eau Claire, East Village, and soon the Bow Valley Centre redevelopment are drawing citizens to live downtown.

Calgary has an annual Winter Festival. Our best public spaces are no longer just for ornament — they exist for festivals, the Famous Five, and yes, for play too. And above it all a Byzantine network of Plus 15s webs us all together. It was Harold's destiny to articulate a desirable urban future for Calgary, to articulate its focus, and to philosophize its values.

Of such a person, let us not say that he has died. Let us rather celebrate that he has lived. In the words of Oscar Wilde:

"A dreamer is someone who can find his way by moonlight, and his only reward is to see the dawn before the rest of mankind."❖

Michael Robinson is President and CEO of the Glenbow Museum in Calgary, Alberta. He was formerly Executive Director of the Arctic Institute of North America at the University of Calgary, Alberta.

The Times, They are Changing ... Again

By HAROLD HANEN

December is the month that tests one's character. No longer the flimsy meals and breezy clothes of summer but the rich winy beef stews, pot roasts, and rugged heavy duty wrappings of winter.

Therefore, in this my last editorial as publisher/editor of *Winter Cities*, it seems appropriate, admittedly through personal reality lenses, to review some history and future challenges that lay before Winter Cities and the Winter Cities movement.

Typically new insights take 20 years to be accepted. They have to go through the stages of awareness, interest, evaluation, trial, and then finally application. Innovation, like a wave is started by a just a few innovators, then joined by a few early adopters, then comes the mainstream surge and finally the tailing laggards.

Winter Cities and the Winter Cities movement are about halfway through the wave. Over their past and first decade of activity, they have succeeded in introducing a top of the world perspective into the mainstream's consciousness. They have engaged the interest of a broad range of innovators in addressing the

impacts arising from multiseason changes. Now, their focus is centered on the development and evaluation of new northern multiseason responsive solutions. (Northern Japan is leading the commercial initiatives of this phase.) Unfortunately circumpolar communities have yet to arrive at their new age of winter city enlightenment. The goal still to be achieved is a far greater incorporation of high and low tech northern appropriate solutions.

Change is commonly associated with the young, "you can't teach old dogs new tricks." However, recent experiences have made me wonder if one's ability to develop or accept climatic generated changes is directly related to the experiential time within one's local natural environs. Is it a coincidence that Frank Lloyd Wright and Ralph Erskine, both internationally renowned architects completed the majority of their famous northern climatic responsive work in later life. And the Winter city movement pioneers Jack Royale (Canada), Takeshi Itagaki (Japan) and Bill Rogers (USA) began their Winter city initiatives in their 60th to 70th years? An optimist might suggest the emerging graying of the baby boomer population will

boost the proliferation of ideal winter communities.

The growth of interest in the Winter Cities movement is evident in the dramatically increasing number of related conferences, publications, research projects, and competitions. WINTERNET, a Winter City information retrieval system has been put in place and every day there are new expressions of political and media recognition. All this seems to bode well for the further flowering of an authentically northern culture.

What is required to complete this wave of northern innovation acceptance? We must "stay the course." We must not continue to severely suffer belated bland imitations of yet another round of southern stylistic postmodernisms. We must promote with even greater passion local contextual expressions.

One priority is the introduction of new northern community planning, design, and management education criteria and templates. It is unfortunate the mainstream of northern city environment practitioners and teachers, both public and private, have not yet responded to the northern reality with common sense northern life-enhancing alternatives (the new University of Northern

British Columbia in Prince George is hopefully a harbinger of things to come). The Winter Cities movement needs to be more forceful and clearer to the relevant institutions about the irresistible advantages of more

positive and creative approach to multiseasonal community interactions with the north's surrounds. We also need to ensure urban and community research is deeply rooted into the changing seasonal life of northern communities.

We also need to be alert for negative impacts specific to northerners from new technologies. For example, the additional time workers now spend in front of computers in winter, in low light office environments has a significant probability of exasperating their natural human hibernation responses which could result in an increase in their incidence of SAD (seasonal affective disorder). This is of course not to suggest avoiding new technology but rather by being aware of their impacts, being prepared to take the effective mitigation steps early.

Citizens of winter cities do not have the luxury of wasteful power politics. The top of the world is in many ways a harsh new frontier. It also provides a new opportunity to try new ways



A skywalk in downtown Calgary.

of communally relating. Perhaps less hierarchical, less self interest biased, one based on the belief in the synergies of mutual benefiting solutions. The necessity of survival and coping with the surcharges of cold climate living necessitates a political priority which incorporates more equitable and cooperative strategies.

The focus must now be directed to the most basic issue, the impact of the north's environment on human development. Creating northern communities which meet the needs of their most vulnerable citizens, the seniors, children, and disabled is the key to unlocking their potential and clarifying the uniquely northern values necessary to direct the new emerging technologies.

The WCA conference in Bratsk, Russia, was an important step in the evolution of the Winter Cities movement. It was the first WCA gathering in the country with the world's largest amount of northern real estate. Its theme "The North and Children"

is an expansion of the Movements' concerns, from the physical to the social. While the WCA has conducted research and conference on "Seniors and Aging in Winter Cities," the themes of business,

building technology, and transportation has dominated the Winter Cities movement's themes.

For the past five years *Winter Cities* has given me a vehicle and challenge to feel part of making meaningful change. *Winter Cities* started by my mentor Jack Royale has consistently stood on the high ground of humanistic activism, viewing it through practical northern eyes. It consistently stated the belief that peoples of the north, facing squarely their harsher northern situation would produce innovative solutions second to none in the world.

For me, first, I plan to complete a winter garden. I am experimenting with new ways to enhance the winter experience with washes and speckles of colored light, water/ice crystal downspouts and plantings. Confirming winter gardens and the cultivation of winter insights can be a lifetime pursuit. And secondly, as an architect and urban designer I am trying to further walk the winter city talk. ❄️

—Regards, Harold



Winter Celebration

By HAROLD HANEN AND GREG LIBURD

The Winter Olympics is the largest global expression of winter celebration. For better or for worse, the majority of people in temperate regions see the Games as being the definitive winter experience. In addition, northerners undoubtedly compare their reality to that being portrayed on a larger than life scale.

If the Olympics is the ultimate winter celebration, then it is of value to examine its impact. Do the Games authentically portray the life and spirit of northern regions? What can be learned through the management of this event? Do the Olympics reflect global trends in the celebration of winter? Is this necessarily the best example to follow?

Unlike the Summer Games, the Winter Olympics have grown to showcase the cold climate culture of the host country. The

Unlike the Summer Games, the Winter Olympics have grown to showcase the cold climate culture of the host country.

Summer Olympics tend to explore the entire community without really exploring the relation to sea-

sonality. Conversely, the Games of Winter continually use the season as a reference point. Perhaps it is because that winter is foreign to many. All one has to do is glance back at the themes of recent Olympiads. Remember the turn-of-the-century pioneer ceremonies of the Games in Calgary or the futuristic Euro ice circus in Albertville. Obviously, the athletics are a focal point, but the winter character of the region invariably provides a context for the entire event.

This attention on winter tends to be, for the most part, positive. Of course, the host country is at its best behavior and the media coverage is sugar coated, but true insight to local communities still manages to shine through.

The controversies that lurk beneath the glossy surface tend to be political. The huge costs of the Games, media manipulation, environmental damage, white elephant legacies and treatment of aboriginal peoples are issues that attach themselves to both the Summer and Winter Olympics. These problems normally stem from the politicians, administrators and dealmakers for whom the event represents a business opportunity.

In this regard, the use of winter as a sales pitch is a reality. Nonetheless, it falls into the "there is no such thing as bad publicity" category. The millions of viewers of the Games are exposed to seasonality as a generally positive experience that is enabling a community to have the eyes of the world upon it. This is one of the first lessons to be learned, exposure is a key to expanding the Winter Cities Movement.

However, to what extent should winter values be exploited in order to promote an event? On the enormous scale of the Olympics it is next to impossible to provide an intimate and completely accurate exposure to any community. Considering this aspect, the event still does a good job.

From a Winter Cities perspective the Games start to fail when they create a situation where the local population suffers. Promoting winter is great, but forcing people to shoulder a lifelong burden is not. Any large-scale celebration



Every January and February Quebec City celebrates winter with its Winter Carnival, the second largest event of its type in the world after Rio de Janeiro's Carnival.

needs to be planned in accordance with the needs and wishes of the area's citizens. In retrospect, most of the negative legacies of the Games have been left behind when the powers that be focused on the short term, external factors instead of the long term, internal considerations. This aspect is applicable from a community snow carnival to a countywide winter week.

The Games, however, do generally continually succeed in other areas. By planning ahead and utilizing community spirit the Olympics generate well-organized, proud volunteer corps. These people are invaluable and can make or break the whole event. On any level it is essential to provide a volunteer infrastructure that creates benefits in both directions.

Olympic organizers are famous for lobbying and, though they can be excessive, they show the value of self-promotion. Winter Cities have to stand proud and tell the world what they have to offer. The "build it and they will come" mentality only works in the movies. The Games create their own means through aggressively seeking public and private sponsorship and there

is no reason that this should not happen for any other winter event.

Careful planning and management can ensure that winter celebration, on any level, can succeed. Essentially the emphasis just needs to be switched from entertaining the masses to celebrating the indigenous culture and people.

A local winter celebration should demand the same respect and esteem as any larger event. A sense of importance and dignity should percolate down from the organizers to the volunteers, participants and sponsors. Just as in the Games, everyone needs to know that they are part of something important, relevant and special.

Since the celebration of winter is, in effect, the celebration of regional individuality, instilling a feeling of pride should be an easy sell. Seasonal character is borne of strength, uniqueness, and energy. These are aspects that people want to display. Create an infectious positive attitude and everyone will want to be a part of it.

The Winter Olympics create an awareness of cold climate communities and show the global evolution toward recognition of the north. It shows the potential that all northern regions can realize with planning and concentrated efforts. The pitfalls encountered on a large scale illustrate that designing a successful winter celebration is an exercise in locally sensitive problem solving. ❁

Managing Winter City Growth

By HAROLD HANEN and GREG LIBURD

Naturally growth is a part of change and the organic growth/decay cycle is a homeostatic system. However, from the earliest attempts at a cabbage patch to the latest plans for the next Mall of America, humanity has always tried to control change putting a blind faith in the benefits of growth. The compulsion to grow has become one of the cornerstones on which we define modern civilization.

Society builds boxes; to live in, to drive in, to die in. The more boxes we make, the more we need, and each one has to be better, stronger and bigger than the last. With all these boxes a Pandora situation is inevitable, and there comes a time to look around and rethink fundamental attitudes as they affect the north.

There still exists a strong, but misguided perception of growth being a panacea for all of society's ills. This attitude is an extension of Adam Smith's premise that the pursuit of individual goals should be held above all. As a result, short term selfishness has been sanctified as an agent of progress and everyone is so busy trying to build the

**"Inch by inch, row
by row. I'm going
to make this
garden grow."**

castles of their dreams that they don't notice that the collective foundation is about to buckle.

These concepts of greed and "progress" are finally being questioned. Their recent agents and icons, the politicians now wince under an unyielding spotlight, lawyers are the butt of countless jokes and corporate tyrants are the villains in Saturday morning cartoons. Society's mantra is slowly shifting from "me" to "us." Generation X, with their irreverent take on the manipulative media, value leaching politic and vacuous professional posturing, may well stimulate the search for innovative, sustainable and meaningful expressions of quality living.

It is a given that the current overall approach to winter city management, let alone growth, is lacking. The multi-seasonal needs of people and place are, more often than not, left uncovered by the blanket application of southern "solutions." There is a serious dis-

junction between winter city ideals and actions, resulting in a crisis of vision towards future growth. The Bratsk conference in February 1995 focused on the question, "What will you say when your children and grandchildren ask what you did to conserve our great northern regions." Winter Cities has often addressed specific remedies in an attempt to support a paradigm shift in perception. The most lasting contribution of the Winter City Movement is the change in consciousness it has and will continue to produce. In the northern world a "top down" approach is never as successful as from the grass roots up.

To complicate the picture, the northern world is in the process of facing unparalleled expansion. Increased migration, land claim settlements, ceaseless resource extraction, and massive development are forcing us to deal with growth in a hurry.

How do we deal with challenging age old traditions of growth for growth's sake within the context of the northern world with its climatic problems and mammoth expansion? We look to those who have done it right.

Scandinavia: People of Season

The Scandinavian society accepts winter as an integral part of life (and conversely have the most elaborately developed Summer Solstice celebration). The recent Winter Olympics in Norway showcased a people who celebrate their seasonality. Unlike North American, the Scandinavians regard themselves as incarnations of their ancestors. Traditional indigenous customs and clothing are proudly displayed. This creates an attitude of accepting winter and embracing the role it plays in culture.

Norrbotten County represents 14 Swedish cities that approach winter growth in a collective, serious fashion. Integrated development, cold climate research and resource conservation are all taken into account when growth is considered. A reverent view of history insures that the old is not eliminated for the sake of the new. Since the culture does not detach itself from winter and deals with it as a part of living, the same holds true for industry and government.

Japan: Culture of Business

The Japanese have traditionally had a very strong attachment to their culture. Whereas many Western societies are a non-descript amalgamation of ethnic groups, the Japanese have a collective mindset. This guides the way they do business, interact socially, in short, the way they live. Since their culture contains a strong attachment to the environment, their approach to growth reflects it. The attention given to development is, more often than not, serious, sensitive

and effective.

The city of Aomori has taken an approach to make winter city awareness and growth accessible to the entire population. The examples from a public service brochure show the importance that the municipality places on educating its population. Concepts of winter city design leave the realm of theory and become practical. Citizens of all ages are informed and understand how their city is evolving. This leads to understanding, appreciation and creating strong collective standards for growth.

This mindset is similar in other northern Japanese cities such as Sapporo, Takikawa, Chitose, and Hokkaido. These locations have led the way in winter city management, development and marketing because cultural collective logic allows for it.

KST Natural Housing is an example of a Japanese company which integrates the ideals of society into creating efficient, affordable winter housing. They take an innovative approach to materials, construction and labor management. Waste wood is used in the building process, traditional wisdom is implemented using modern techniques and the entire process is geared to run year round. Bioregionalism is one of the keywords of their operation. The company is also strong enough in its vision to incorporate and improve upon ideas from other societies, like the use of Russian *petchka* passive radiant heating.

KST is just as concerned with what they do as how they do it. They have a strong philosophical platform which is based upon Philosophy, Wisdom, Heart,

Consideration and 4 Generations. In addition they believe that, "The key to creating an industry that solves the problems associated with winter requires a willingness to conduct research and development on both tangible and intangible issues centered around winter." All of this represents a successful transfer of cultural wisdom to a growth oriented business.

The Future: Collective Inspirational Influence

Japan and Scandinavia both have a homogeneous culture that respect local differences and realities, and this translates into their success with winter city development issues. Western cold climate regions generally lack a collective framework to address these challenges. As a result a tendency to pull ideas from historical southern biases instead of using in situ socio-cultural logic that has served to insure survival in multi-seasonal regions through the ages. However, there exists an indigenous culture in North America which is intrinsically and traditionally related to the land and its seasons. The First Peoples millennia of multi seasonal experience is a resource that must be utilized.

At present there is an 'us and them' view of natives and rather than seeing them as brothers integral to our past, present and future, we see them as separate. Until recently, treatment of First Peoples by western society has been atrocious. Only now, through initiatives such as Nunavut (a self governed native province in northern Canada), are we recognizing the current and potential political and

business significance of this population sector.

Given the melting pot nature of relatively new western countries, it would take centuries for a strong collective identity to emerge. Cold climate regions are the First People's Rome and we should learn to do as they do. Cross-cultural acceptance of traditional native views would improve the overall approach to cold climate existence and growth.

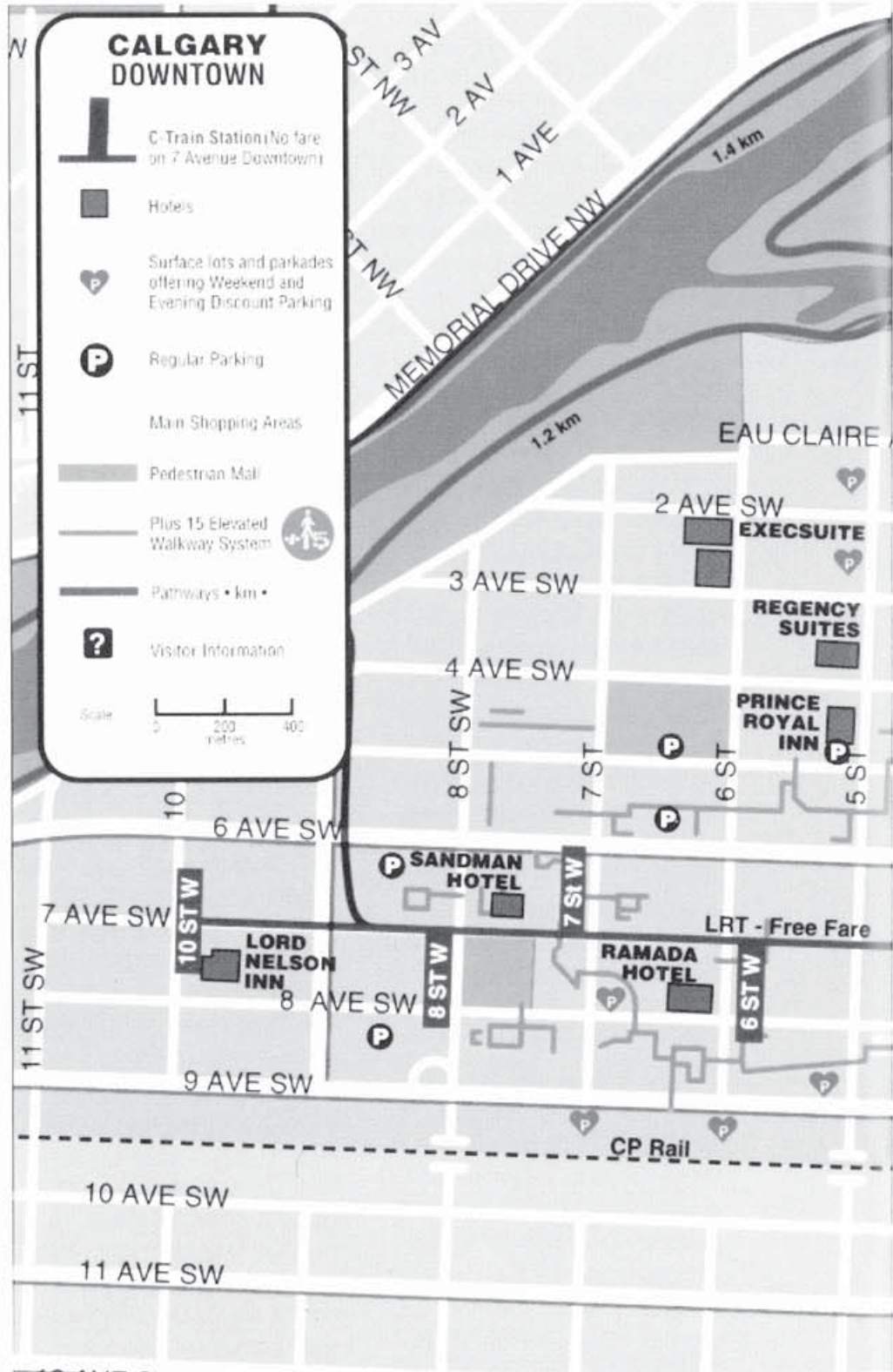
The ideal western educational curriculum would include bioregionalism within the context of the First Peoples. A systematic process for introducing cold climate culture to insure that the parameters and significance of rigorous multi-seasonal regional responses would change the mindset of students and recent immigrants.

Accepting the reasoning of the native peoples and integrating it into our system would insure that sensitivity to northern issues is inherent instead of an afterthought.

There are several components that are necessary to affect these changes in winter city mindset. First and foremost is to have a sound value system. This is the key to sustainability. Utilizing the wisdom of the First People guarantees that regional sensitivity happens across the board, not just in select cases. It also shifts emphasis back to the collective.

The foundation for facilitating these changes exists because of recent advances in communication technology. Priority should be given to establishing electronic networks to spread indigenous knowledge across vast northern distances.

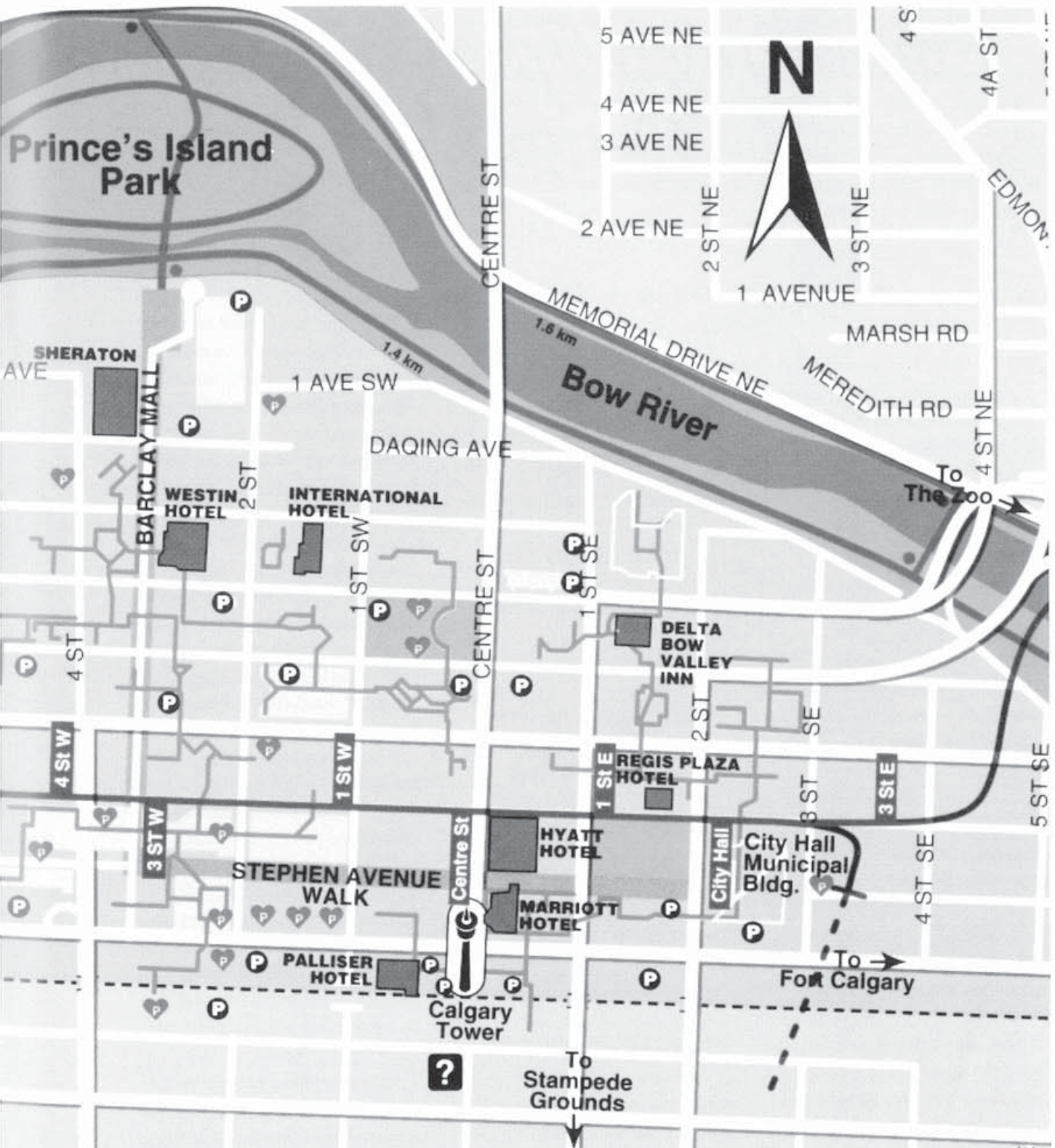
Pioneers such as Jack Royle,



Leonid Barkov and the late Mayor Itagaki have done a great deal to change attitudes. By absorbing the cultural psyche of First Peoples into

our own we can thrive as northerners in the most natural, effective way possible.

Consciousness raising is rein-



forced when people see that the ideas they are dealing with are also being discussed by the larger society. The onus is on northern inhabitants

to defy the southern status quo by thinking and acting in ways that are truly responsive to community and environmental needs.❁

One of Harold Hanen's lasting legacies is the Plus 15 Elevated Walkway System in downtown Calgary.

Embracing Winter in City Design

By NORMAN PRESSMAN and ANNIE LÜTTGEN

Globalization and the neglect of climate

Climate, with all its extremes, has been credited with shaping national character and defining common identities. Given its impact on human behavior, climate should be regarded as a modifying or determining force in planning and urban design. Urban form, particularly in its vernacular expression, often bears testimony to cultural and climatic influences. The result of carefully applying local materials and building techniques to topography and natural elements — the essence of the vernacular approach — is usually a composition that balances unity and diversity.

Even under the most stressful conditions, people have managed to survive and create permanent settlements by linking lifestyles and built forms to local and regional biophysical imperatives. And, even where conditions are severe and life in- and out-of-doors is carried out in a calculated, determined manner, a certain quality of life has evolved beyond the simple need for shelter, nourishment and clothing.

Since the advent of the Industrial Revolution, climatic concerns — so vital in earlier times — have gradually been ousted as design determinants of urban

spaces supportive of human life. Rapid economic development, particularly in temperate and more northerly regions, has constituted a major force in re-orienting the planning of settlements and in

Vernacular architecture influenced by the needs and desires of people under a variety of climatic conditions, responds with a holistic approach, not only in an implicit but also in a specific manner to climatic elements encountered.

influencing their overall urban form. The art and science of creating harmonious systems of shelter, so meticulously adapted to climatic demands, which had evolved over centuries, started to abruptly disappear. The voice of the site became a

neglected entity.

Climatic determinism was condemned as a valid explanation for individual and group attitudes and organizational structures at the beginning of the 20th century. New paradigms often based on economic determinism, erased the old and eradicated climatic and geophysical concerns from discussions where human nature was the topic of interest. This rejection of climate, and its associated elements as being central to the organization of urban space, had the result of neutralizing almost all climatic considerations in favor of standardization.

Vernacular architecture (which has withstood the test of time) influenced by the needs and desires of people under a variety of climatic conditions, responds with a holistic approach, not only in an implicit but also in a specific manner to climatic elements encountered. It is a kind of secular “science” springing from a symbiosis with nature, and strengthened by a feeling of powerful belonging to place.

Post-industrial standardization and internationalization tend to ignore ancestral knowledge and impose solutions that almost entirely reject a comprehension of vernacular experiences. In this context, the seasons almost cease to exist in the organization of space.

Quality, in terms of how designs are adapted to physical localities and of how they mirror cultural values, has been deteriorating as the 20th century progressed.

International Patterns and Urban Form

To guarantee economic returns on property, mainly in terms of financial profits, urban planning has adopted an approach of standardization — proposing a “conformist” model defying even the most basic intuition, experience, and judgment. This is to control the appropriation of space, often without replying to fundamental human needs. Suburban residential designs are similar in Reykjavik, Bangkok or Dakar. The same available technologically driven solutions are applied, in one case to heat, and in the other to cool, buildings and collective spaces.

Factors of international character have been sensitive neither to climatic considerations nor to intrinsic qualities of the site and location. Rather, they have tended to epitomize “placelessness” and have created steady state, thermally neutral environments. It is assumed — taken for granted, by economic dictates — that the structure and form of the built environment are adapted and integrated with the prevailing climatic conditions, using the assistance of modern technology. Corporate power and decision-making are constantly reshaping the form of the city in a way that reflects a competitive ethic and a market economy, in the guise of improving quality of life.

Given easy access to resources and sophisticated technologies, the

fundamental requirement of being protected from the rigors of nature has diminished. Post-industrial information and communication technology has speeded up the acceptance and proliferation of anti-climatic urban form at the global scale. We are witnessing arti-

arid and frigid parts of the globe — and similar architectural responses. Reference to climate can barely be discerned. We have justified these decisions by often using distorted economic reasons and, more likely than not, because we are addicted to our automobiles.



A typical (Bernese region) Alpine “Chalet.” Dwelling areas, cowshed, and barn are all grouped under a common roof. This reduces heat loss, offers protection for the balconies and working spaces, and shelters the facades from bad weather.



An Icelandic house. Hugging the ground, these dwellings are covered with sod roofs providing excellent insulation from the winter cold — an example of eco-design in traditional architecture.



Dwellings at Oraefi, Iceland. A typical Icelandic farm, earth-sheltered structures are extremely well insulated with layers of stone and sod covering (20 cms.thick). Animals stay at the lowest level, with people above.

ficial illumination and over-heating of buildings in cold regions: artificial snow and excessive air-conditioning in warm regions. The built forms are nearly identical. This has resulted in aseptic, sterile environments, which, although accommodating function, are often bereft of meaning. We have introduced the same urban design morphology in

The dispersed urban form has never developed an identity of its own because it has forgotten the design wisdom of vernacular building and cultural tradition. After all, why should Reykjavik resemble the suburbs of Los Angeles (which it does, in some respects, even by admission of Icelanders), and why should certain areas of Bangkok

and Dakar also look like parts of Los Angeles (which they do with pride and determination)?

In embodying a narrower view of the complexity of the city and the wealth of bio-diversity essential for all urban dwellers, we are stultifying the growth of an urban form traditionally characterized by a rich mix and variety of interactions and interdependence which, together, make up the urban organism.

Inspiration from the Nordic Nations

A positive approach to the varying expressions of winter life can be witnessed in the Nordic nations of Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Finland. These countries have a lengthy tradition of understanding the nuances of landscape and weather changes upon human habitation.

The Nordic peoples know instinctively that changing seasonal demands influence northern living. Their seven months of sub-zero darkness serves as a constant reminder. They possess a deeply rooted attachment to nature in all its manifest forms. Their industrial design products, urban furniture, architecture and neighborhood planning are exemplary and have always been one of their biggest worldwide exports. Their high degree of social caring and sensitivity appears virtually unmatched in the Western World (as exhibited through designs for every sort of physical and mental challenge) with the ergonomic and aesthetic qualities of artifacts and buildings creatively conceived and expressed. They are on the cutting edge of applied high technology that rapid-

ly filters down to everyday life.

Nordic nations have a tradition of unsurpassed design excellence. They were among the leaders in accepting the early tenets of modernity combining a sensitivity and respect for materials (usually found in the natural environment) and user requirements (emphasizing ergonomic factors), with an artistic flare inspired by a deep

To improve quality of life in winter cities, it is necessary to reduce inconvenience, offer protection from the excessive negative stressors associated with winter and optimize exposure to its beneficial aspects.

sense of belonging, resulting in products of genuine beauty — 'objets d'art'.

Elegance, clean and simple lines, quality finish in treatment of the materials, comfort, correct proportion and clever application of texture and color impart "character" despite an object's functional purpose normally being the major source of inspiration.

Design, interpreted in this manner, is a way of life and an

integral part of Nordic culture. If the built environment has any significant influence in shaping a user-friendlier, society — and if good design plays a seminal role — then Nordic experience is one that is essential to understand. This is more than just a collection of individual object-statements (although personal talent should not be minimized). It reflects comprehension of the human factors and cultural value constructs with their subtle variations, deeply imbedded in the Nordic soul. These can, undoubtedly, help us to mould the human habitat in a more compassionate manner.

The underlying message which Nordic design emits, suggests that both industrial design, architecture and urban planning embody, evoke, and transmit meaning in the attempt to relate function to form, form to function and both of these to deeper, human needs. Through an analysis of the design process and the everyday products that surround us, we can gain a clearer comprehension of the universally understood language of form through which the built world can be interpreted. Finally, we must not perceive the built environment as a collection of individual objects no matter how well designed these may be.

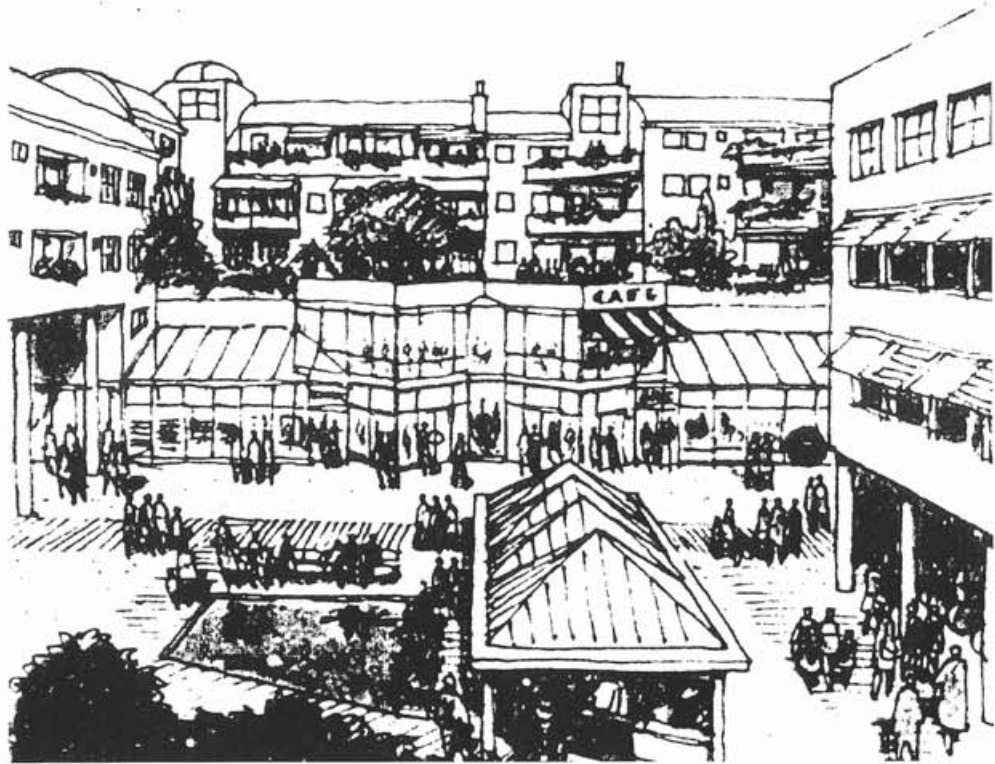
The world around us should be conceived in a 'seamless' manner in which interior design exists in relation to buildings, buildings in relation to open space, open space in relation to cities, cities in relation to landscape, and all of these combining the highest regard for humankind and the 'voice of the locality' — possessing distinct per-

sonality and evoking the spirit of place. At a time when major demographic and cross-cultural changes are occurring due to human migration all over the planet, one of the most urgent dilemmas is to create places that possess genuine meaning or 'genius loci' — belonging to and springing from the respective particularities of their sites and inhabitants.

Emerging Trends for Winter Cities

The city's public realm — its streets, squares, parks, open spaces, lanes, boulevards, alleys, arcades, passages and skywalks — is a critical determinant of the quality of urban life. Under severe conditions, the establishment of climatic comfort in urban space can help to preserve human well being. Where there is thermal comfort and safety, there is respect and beautification of public spaces. The physical environment of the winter city can either further or hinder social activities in outdoor public spaces. These activities are particularly important in the cold, dark months when mental health is adversely affected by isolation and other winter-induced stresses.

Public outdoor urban spaces in cities should be designed using microclimatic principles that block



Project for a Greater Oslo region (village centre). All the elements of a Nordic design "grammar" are present. These incorporate mixed-use, arcades, well illuminated areas (using glass generously), solar access, micro-climatic space, pedestrian zones, and human scale. Source: Publicity brochure Aker Eiendom, Bergen Bak, Ake Larson construction.

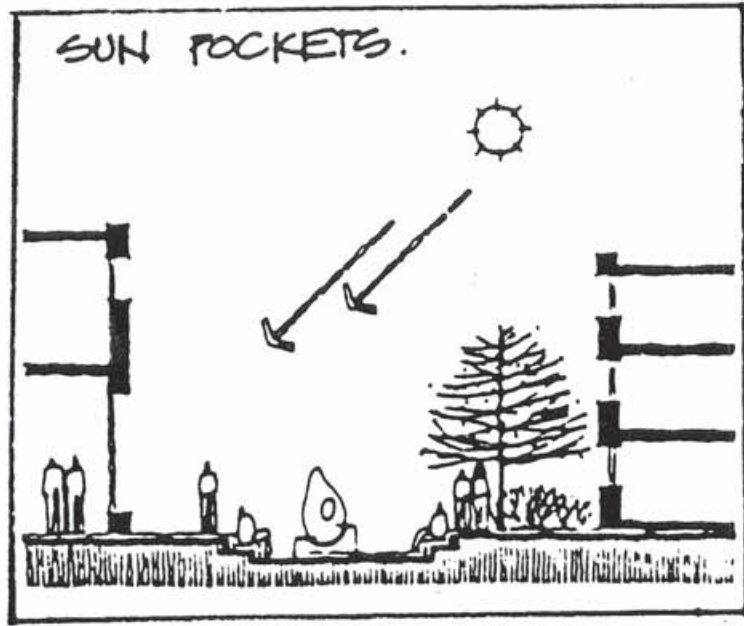
winter winds and allow sunlight to penetrate between buildings by proper orientation. Inhospitable surroundings should be 'walled-out' by clustering buildings and using vegetation, windscreens, snow fences, shelterbelts, and a relatively compact spatial configuration. Shadow, wind, and snowdrift impact statements are essential. Using these tools and techniques, it is possible to create favorable microclimates that can be improved through appropriate and skillful fitting of buildings to the natural terrain. The summer and marginal seasons can then be extended, to the point where summer-type activities — sitting in the sun, for example — can take place on mid-winter days.

Architect and planner Ralph Erskine of Sweden suggests that the

outdoor season can be extended by up to six weeks using microclimatic planning and design concepts. While not all 'summer' outdoor activities must be abandoned during the winter, microclimatic control of the environment is essential if human animation and life is to exist year-round.

To improve quality of life in winter cities, it is necessary to reduce inconvenience, offer protection from the excessive negative stressors associated with winter, and optimize exposure to its beneficial aspects. This calls for the development of highly creative and innovative approaches, since few excellent case studies that express a positive attitude toward winter exist. Most winter cities have attempted to create 'summer city' conditions throughout the year

OUTDOOR ROOMS.



Small, well-defined protected courts create sun pockets.

Outdoor rooms. The creation of sun pockets and protected space. Source: City of Sault Ste. Marie, Winter Cities Association: Winter Cities Design Manual.

instead of enhancing the characteristics that make northern communities unique.

The main principles that must be incorporated in the design of all cities, but are most at risk for exclusion in northern cities, are year-round usability, contact with nature, user participation, cultural continuity, and a pedestrian and transit-friendly environment. The shapes, volumes, textures, colors, materials, and urban spaces that appear between buildings should reflect the landscape and cultural heritage of the environs. Most importantly, the "good" winter city must, first and foremost, accommodate the needs of its most vulnerable groups — children, the elderly, physically challenged, economically disadvantaged, transit-users, cyclists, and pedestrians. By considering these elements, planners can design multi-seasonal cities that allow for the celebration of human life in all seasons.

With newly emerging climatic

changes, global economic imperatives and massive human migration, urban society is confronted with gigantic challenges to which it must stand up if an ecologically sustainable balance is to flourish on earth. To tackle these dilemmas, an integrated view of specialized knowledge in a wide spectrum of disciplines shall be critical. A thorough understanding of vernacular building know-how and cultural tradition, coupled with political determination and supported by public and private will, must emerge in order to generate viable solutions for improving and preserving all human environments that are so fragile and have become so vulnerable.

Designing and building according to a climate-sensitive approach can be one way in which we can be environmentally responsible. With the irreversible momentum of urbanization, planning and design will continue to play an ever increasing role in the 21st century,

and creating built environments which are comfortable in each of the four seasons — on all parts of the globe — is precisely what we should all strive to achieve.*

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