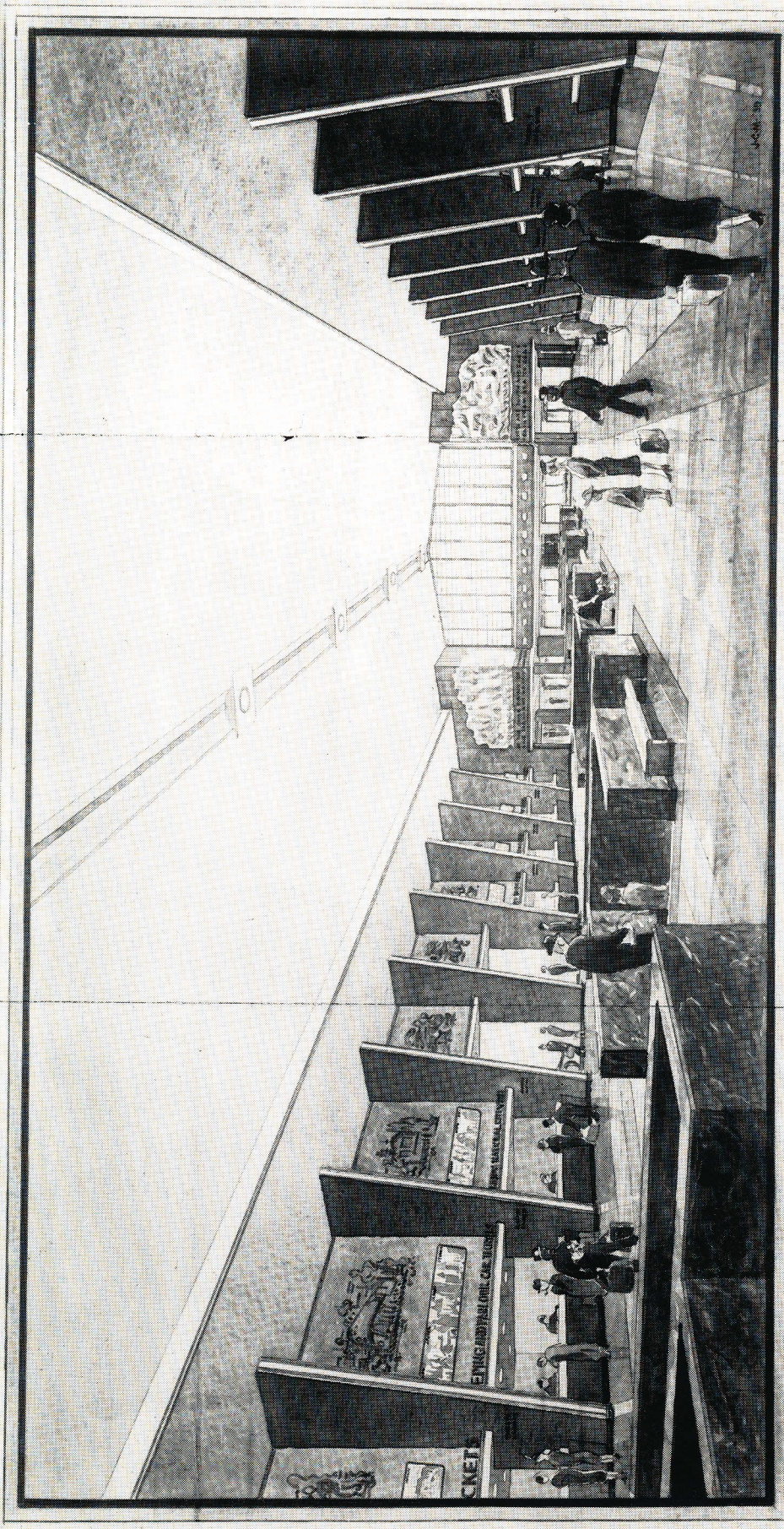


1934-1977+ X?  
PROFESSION

... I landed a spot in The Architect's Office of The Canadian National Railways...



J.C.M. DES. & DELT. 1939

Main Concourse, CNR Central Station: a lot of people have passed through it, but I do not ask for an epitaph like Wren's in St. Paul's! Missing from this drawing are the platform signs - arr. & dep.; and my original colour scheme was a lot better without the present poisonous pink paint. Charles Comfort A.R.C.A. designed the four corner bas-reliefs, carved \* in situ; and Fritz Brandtner did the exterior stone panels now disappeared under the surrounding construction.

Later, Dad, whose entire career had been with one <sup>two</sup> large corporations, thought I was foolish to leave the security of the C.N.R. for the gamble of planning Saint John, and then private practice.

\* by one Sebastiano Aiedo a carver of cemetery monuments for which I supplied him some designs!

580  
*Scholarship*

J. Campbell Merrett  
Biographical Outline  
December 1945

Born: Montreal, August 26th, 1909.  
Married: April 1937; two children.

Education: Selwyn House School, Montreal, 1916-1922  
Ashbury College, Ottawa, 1922-1926  
McGill University, Montreal, 1926-1931  
Degree: Bachelor of Architecture.  
Awarded Province of Quebec Travelling  
Scholarship, 1931; studied in  
Europe, esp. England, France, Italy  
Sweden, Germany, Holland, 1931-1934  
Post-graduate course, Architectural Ass'n  
School of Architecture, London;  
with Certificate, 1932-1933  
Certificate in Town Planning, University  
of London, 1933-1934  
Special Planning Course, Massachusetts  
Institute of Technology,  
Boston, Mass., October 1944.

Experience: Architects' Offices:  
Barott & Blackader (E.I. Barott), Montreal  
Sir Aston Webb & Son, London, England  
Ross & Macdonald, Montreal  
Fetherstongaugh & Durnford, Montreal  
  
Office of the Chief Architect, Canadian  
National Railways, Montreal, 1936-1942  
  
Construction Control, D. M. & S., Ottawa, 1943-1944  
(Assistant to the Controller) on loan from C.N.R.  
  
Town Planning Director, Saint John Town Planning Commission,  
Saint John, N.B., May 1944 - December 1945.  
(Preparing Master Plan for City and part of County)

Professional Associations & Interests: Member, Royal Architectural Institute of Canada  
" Province of Quebec Association of Architects  
" American Society of Planning Officials

First President, Architectural Research Group,  
Montreal, 1938-1942: with three others prepared  
first Canadian Town Planning exhibition of its  
kind, "City for Living", Montreal, 1941.  
Prior to 1943 (move to Ottawa) was joint chairman  
P.Q.A.A. Reconstruction Committee; member  
R.A.I.C. Redonstruction Committee; member  
various other P.Q.A.A. committees; member  
Advisory Committee, McGill University School  
of Architecture.

52E

THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS

627 DORCHESTER STREET WEST

MONTREAL

March 11th, 1935.

J.C.Merrett, Esq.,  
B.Arch., Architect,  
3200 Westmount Blvd,  
Westmount, P.Q.

Dear Sir,

Pursuant to your letter of February 20th,  
I enclose herewith copy of a resolution passed at  
our Council meeting of March 7th:

Upon the motion of Mr. J.R.Smith seconded by Mr. P.  
R.Wilson, it was unanimously resolved:

"That Mr. J.C.Merrett, as a graduate of McGill Uni-  
versity (Dept of Architecture - 1931), having  
passed a special examination in professional  
practice (March 4th, 1935), submitted certi-  
ficates of experience required, signed  
the Code of Ethics and paid the re-  
gistration fee and current year's  
dues, be admitted in the P.Q.A.

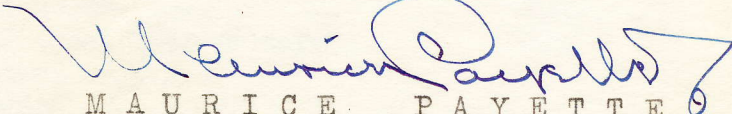
A.; and that his name appear  
on the Register of Architects  
for 1935;

And that copy of the pre-  
sent resolution be sent  
to Mr.Merrett".

Please find enclosed herewith our receipt  
No.2627 covering entrance fee and current year's dues.

A corrected copy of the Register todate will  
follow within the next few days.

Yours truly,

  
MAURICE PAYETTE

Honorary Secretary.

Encl.  
/D.

52E

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unanimously resolved:  
That, as a graduate of McGill Uni-  
versity (Architecture - 1931), having  
passed the examination in professional  
practice (4th, 1935), submitted certi-  
ficates of experience required, signed  
certificates and paid the re-  
gistration fee and current year's  
dues, admitted in the P.Q.A.  
that his name appear  
in the Register of Architects

A copy of the pre-  
sented resolution be sent  
to Mr. Merrett".

and enclosed herewith our receipt  
for the registration fee and current year's dues.

A copy of the Register to date will  
be sent to you in a few days.

Yours truly,

*Maurice Payette*  
MAURICE PAYETTE

Honorary Secretary.

Association des Architectes de la Province de Quebec  
Province of Quebec Association of Architects



*Montreal, Feb 22nd 1935*

*Regu de Monsieur J.C. Merrett*  
*Received from Mr.*

la somme de *50.00* Dollars,  
the sum of *50.00*

pour *Registration 25.00 Annual dues 1935 = 25.00*

*J.R. Smith*  
*per J.R.*

TRESORIER  
TREASURER

No. *2627*

PROFESSION

It was lucky for me that my three years away on a scholarship had coincided with the worst of the "Great Depression"; when none of the Montreal architects had much, if any, work. Ernest Barott who had given me my summer jobs still had none, and no job for me. Two firms, Fetherstonhough & Durnford and Ross & Macdonald, hired me for a few months each at slim salaries: fortunately I was able to live at home.

Then I landed a spot in the Architects Office of the Canadian National Railway, away down McGill St. There I designed everything from passenger car interiors, highway overpasses and miscellaneous structures for the Railway and for Trans-Canada Airways (for which my boss was also Chief Architect), to the large public rooms of the Vancouver Hotel (done on site during a month's stay out there), and finally the Montreal Central Station Building\* with its main concourse.

When the war came in 1939 that office became involved in work for the Government such as airport buildings - theoretically a "reserved occupation". During that time, those first months when W.W.2 seemed quiescent, I did a lot of soul searching as to whether or not to enlist for military service. In spite of two military grandfathers (and various uncles-in-law and cousins) my military experience was limited to that of private in the Ashbury Cadet Corps, and rejection by R.M.C. on physical grounds, and I had little doubt that I would make a poor soldier, whether private or commissioned. Nevertheless I joined the McGill C.O.T.C. and for several months trained at nights in the Gym and on the Campus. 1

Then my boss, John Schofield, was appointed Controller of Construction in the Dept. of Munitions and

\* Now surrounded by Hotel and Office Building.

Supply, in Ottawa, and took me there as "Assistant to the Controller." The Control's function was to conserve materials and labour by assessing applications from all over Canada for permits for construction projects. Since Schofield was also running his C.N.R. office in Montreal, most of the decision making began to devolve on the Deputy Controller ~~←\*~~ and me\*. Occasionally there was a direct order from the Minister ~~←\*~~, as when I was told to issue pronto a permit for work at the Eldorado Mine where (top secret) uranium was to be produced. (for research on the atom bomb.)

Kearny  
? Fiskin  
C.D. Howe

My term in Ottawa coincided with the first two years of Tim's life. He and his mother were living in our apartment on Lorne Crescent, and I was a week-end commuter between Ottawa and Montreal. At first I spent 6 weeks living in the Château Laurier, at government expense, until I found a congenial family to board with, in Sandy Hill, and bicycled to & from work. For a couple of summer months I had a room & breakfast at Ashbury in order to enjoy the cool of Rockcliffe Park, and play tennis at the Rockcliffe Tennis Club. Nick Archdale, then the Head at Ashbury, and his wife Sheila were good friends and tennis mates. Through them I met some of the wartime diplomatic contingent living in Rockcliffe. These included one "Junkie" Fleischman of the yeast family, who was U.S. Naval Attaché, and at whose house we often convened after a game to drink his mint juleps in frosted silver tumblers. Prince Bernhard of Holland was an occasional visitor and after one doubles game with him we went for tea with Princess Juliana at the nearby house where she and her young daughters were wartime refugees.

\* Joan and  
Campbell  
Radcliffe

\* One permit I issued was for alterations to turn "Ravenocrag" into the Allan Memorial Institute. Years later, when our firm was doing an addition there, we received a set of prints bearing the Control stamp under my signature. By the way, the client was Dr. Ewen Cameron, whom I thought a pleasant human being, unlikely to do inhumane experiments on patients for the C.I.A., of which he was later (posthumously) accused.

While I was with the C.N.R. and before I went to Ottawa, three of my architect pals and I started a little organisation which we called the Architectural Research Group<sup>1</sup>, whose objectives were to bring about some serious town planning in Montreal and generally promote anything in the way of good planning, architecture and design in general. We started by doing a study and report on slum conditions in Papineau Ward in the city. We\* wrote a critique of the McGill School of Architecture, still far behind the times, which resulted in preventing its being closed and instead given new life. (At a dinner we gave for poor old Traquair on his retirement he complimented us on our report even though it laid on him\*<sup>indirectly</sup> much of the blame for the School's decline). This led to our promoting as director of a re-constituted school, one Serge Chermayeff, a well-known Russian-born (refugee) architect practising in London and wanting to emigrate. He came and spent a couple of months in six weeks Montreal but he was too advanced for the "advisory committee" of senior architects and so McGill did not "buy" him. He went on to the Chicago Bauhaus and then to Yale, and John Bland was appointed, later, Director of the McGill School.

\* Note: - with others; see "School of Architecture & Urban Planning Prospectus", 1987: Pp 14, 16

A.R.G.'s big achievement was to research, design and build (all in our spare time) a bilingual exhibition which we called "City for Living", or "La Cité ou Vivre", and which broke all attendance records at the Art Gallery. We were allowed to promote it by erecting on the front steps of the Gallery a typical Montreal circular iron outdoor staircase, painted bright red: the morning it appeared Sherbrooke St. traffic almost jammed up. This exhibition went on to several other sites, including Ottawa?? (where "A.R.G.O." happened <sup>later</sup>)

<sup>1</sup> The A.R.G. consisted of Dick Bolton, Dick Eve, Harry Mayerovitch and me (The 1<sup>st</sup> and only president); later joined by John Bland and an American girl - Cloethiel Woodard; still later by Pierre Morency and Roland Gariépy, & others. Bob Montgomery, working out of town, was unavailable to us, but was involved in the McGill memorandum.



62

In the spring of 1944 the City of Saint John, N.B. decided it needed some active town planning, and one George Mooney, then Director of the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities, who had encouraged and got backing for us for our "City for living" show, recommended me as Saint John's resident planner. After a couple of trips to see the city and negotiate with the Council, and a considerable hassle with Munitions and Supply (though the Construction Control was beginning to wind down) I obtained a release, and went off for a year and a half in the Maritimes. Hazel and Tim followed once I had found an apartment in town. Housing was in short supply, and in the 18 months or so we were there we lived a few months in four different places, the last three fortunately being in the pleasant Kennebecasis area in or near Rethesay.

As far as I know - no one has ever corrected me - I was the first town planner employed full-time by any Canadian municipality. Research may refute that claim, but in any case I explored Saint John and its surrounding county in detail - and in the Buick car the town supplied me.

- I did demographic studies and traffic counts; I analysed school and playground and park facilities; I assessed housing conditions and surveyed industrial and commercial areas and requirements, and I prepared charts and graphs and maps.
- I hired two draughtsmen and a secretary to help.
- I gave lectures to local organisations and was borrowed to lecture in other New Brunswick towns from St. Stephen to Moncton to Bathurst. We got up an exhibition, published a booklet, wrote articles for the press, all to sell planning to the citizenry.

And at the end of 1½ years I wrote a final report to the City which got wide circulation - The American Society of Planning Officials was complimentary about it, and many towns wrote in for copies!



A.R.G.'s McTavish St. Studio - with John Bland, Harry Mayerovitch, Coethiel Woodard, & J.C.M.

The Architectural Research Group's "City for Living" Exhibition, Montreal Art Gallery. The exhibition was opened by the Mayor on May 12 '41. The same day the City Council adopted By-law #1682 creating Montreal's first City Planning Department. (over 6000 people visited the exhibit, breaking the (then) Gallery attendance records: it went on to several other sites, including Ottawa - where ARGO later formed)



Big-Wigs' Preview - Dr. Martin, Pres. Art Gallery, Mme. Therese Casgrain, Mayor Renault, M. Parizeau, Chas. Gravel (garage owner).



J.C.M. addresses Press Conf. in the (garage) studio!

J. B.  
C. M.  
C. W.  
H. M.



The finished bi-lingual panels of the Exhibit cover 4 walls of the Gallery lecture room.



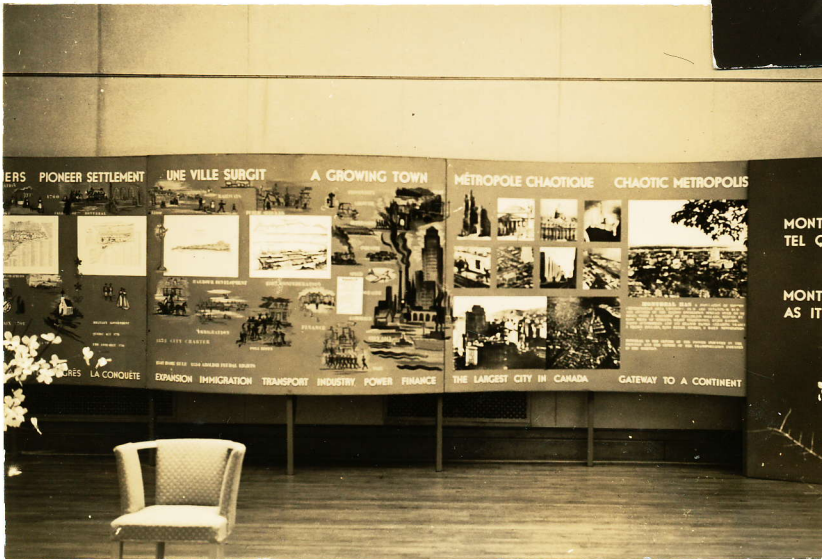


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A. A. School of Architecture,  
London, 5<sup>th</sup> year - 1933.  
J.C.M. - ? - Johnson - Stamford - Muncaster  
"Fifi" Lasalle - ? - Atkinson - "Auntie" ?  
Townsend (Absent: Teully - Spender)  
"PLANNING IS NEVER VERY HARD  
ONCE YOU'VE GOT A GOOD FACAD."



Saint John, N.B., Town Planning Commission  
planning staff: P. Goguen, J. Wallbridge, J.C.M. 1944



Marshall, Merrett, Stahl & Elliott, staff 1975 ±  
(Office Christmas Party, including Engineer guests)  
(In absentia - L.E. Marshall) • Among others, not in order:  
Cloubier • Nicolaidis • Stahl • Hudson (E) • Barbaki (E) de Romer  
Elliott • (Z L'Esperances) • J.C.M. • Leblanc • Fortier (E).



Sod Turnings & Grand Openings -  
(Centennial High School, June '71)

R.V.H. Women's Pav.  
Head Nurse Dupuis  
Arch. Merrett  
Dr. D. Popkin (Gyn)  
Dr. F. Naftolin  
Obs. Gyn Director

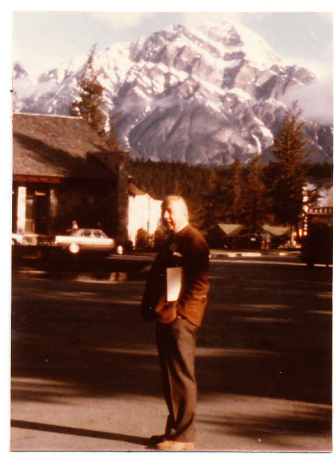
To C.M. - King  
of the Green  
Raiders  
Fred Taylor



"I spent a lot of time at The Royal  
Victoria Hospital"



Job Inspection  
± 1970



R.A.I.C. Convention  
Jasper Park Lodge  
(I got a Fellowship)  
1974

J. CAMPBELL MERRETT

TOWN PLANNING CONSULTANT 1019 CANADA CEMENT BUILDING • MONTREAL 2 • HARBOUR 7115

BAROTT, MARSHALL, MONTGOMERY AND MERRETT, ARCHITECTS

Saint John wanted me to stay on indefinitely, but I did not relish a lifetime as a civil servant, especially in the somewhat depressing ambience of Canada's oldest incorporated municipality. So I undertook to act as consultant and came home to Montreal in time for Christmas 1945, having sent on the family - Hazel and Tim and Brian (and a nurse) - ~~on~~ a couple of months earlier. As a consultant I returned to Saint John at intervals for a few years, and the Province borrowed me to advise its representative at a conference in Ottawa which gave birth to the Community Planning Association of Canada. I kept up my planning activity through that and the Town Planning Institute for a number of years, and did a bit of zoning legislation and sub-division planning locally; but it inevitably all gave way to the pressure of architectural practice.

Before making my final decision to leave Saint John I had three offers to join architectural partnerships in Montreal. I settled of course for the one Bob Montgomery had already joined, and thus I became the fourth partner of Barott, Marshall, Montgomery & Merrett, where I was to remain for 32 years until 1977.

The firm was successful in obtaining commissions and at one time boasted a staff of about 70, having accumulated in quick succession a series of major jobs including the Bank of Montreal head offices, the Montreal Star Building, the Prudential of England Bldg., two large new wings for the Royal Victoria Hospital, as well as buildings for McGill and Queen's Universities and a number of large schools around Montreal. At the same time the office developed a useful clientele for industrial and commercial work, and in later years acquired a reputation as specializing in laboratory work and pharmaceutical plants in particular.

who spoke on "Town Planning" in the Pointe Claire Town Hall on Tuesday last, January 28.

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(both by Art Price)

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J. CAMPBELL MERRETT

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The development of a university on a completely new site is something of a rarity today. As a result Carleton was in a position to plan its architecture and the use of the site unhampered by the style and location of previous buildings.

The university decided to entrust the architecture to a special association of outstanding Canadian architects. These include Watson Balharrie and Hart Massey, of Ottawa; Prof. Eric Arthur, of the University of Toronto; Prof. John Bland, of McGill University; and J. Campbell Merrett, of Montreal.

The site has been planned for a university that one day will have between 5,000 and 6,000 students and up to 35 buildings. Construction will proceed in stages. The first is scheduled for completion in 1965, when an enrollment of 2,000 full-time students is expected.

Weekend Magazine ± 1950

"The wild life in the Kruger Park and the Hluhluwe Reserve the Valley of the Thousand Hills says. 'The Union and the Rhodesia have tremendous natural attractions to interest tourists from every part of the world.'"

... and came home Christmas 1945, having sent on and Brian (and a nurse) - er. As a consultant at intervals for a few years I was asked to advise its presence in Ottawa which I did through the Planning Association of Canada and the Town Planning Institute for a number of years, and did a bit of zoning legislation and sub-division planning locally; but it inevitably all gave way to the pressure of architectural practice.

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You have to draw your own conclusions. There is nothing like the scientific analysis, the alarm and the direction given by the Architectural Research Group in its "City for Living" exhibition in the Museum just 19 years ago.

Robert Ayre. \*Star ± 1960

One member of that group was J. C. Merrett of the firm of Barott, Marshall, Merrett & Barott, the architects who designed the Prudential Assurance Company building on Dorchester Boulevard, which will be formally opened by Premier Barrette and Mayor Fournier on June 3. Part of the new Montreal, it incorporates, among other contemporary ideas, the use of sculpture. The company crest in cast aluminum and enamel over the front entrance, and the bronze statue in the foyer,

(both by Art Price)

... was successful in obtaining commissions and I have boasted a staff of about 70, having completed in quick succession a series of major buildings including the Bank of Montreal head offices, the Star Building, the Prudential of England Bldg., large new wings for the Royal Victoria Hospital, as well as buildings for McGill and Queen's Universities and a number of large schools around Montreal. At the same time the office developed a useful clientele for industrial and commercial work, and in later years acquired a reputation as specializing in laboratory work and pharmaceutical plants in particular.

## Town Planner



**MR. J. CAMPBELL MERRETT.**  
**M.R.A.I.C.**

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