

Collins recognized that architectural drawings have a dual existence as *records* and as *art*. Drawings "have usually been studied for what they evidence about the built structures which they represent or which they, as studies, lead to"; on the other hand, there is "the intrinsic value of drawings and renderings themselves as works of art." Unbuilt projects are records too, but records of intentions rather than accomplishments. Beleaguered archivists may therefore plead that drawings of unbuilt schemes be deposited in art galleries rather than in archives. While this may be justifiable in theory, a division between built and unbuilt would disrupt the integrity of any group of drawings. So, unless we develop collections devoted exclusively to architectural records (such as the superb Drawings Collection of the Royal Institute of British Architects in London), archivists must begin to collect drawings of both kinds of projects in earnest.

Unbuilt America is so stimulating, innovative, and attractive that it may seem petty to point out a few flaws. Nevertheless, the authors should be chastized for having failed to identify the collections in which they found the drawings. (They give only the sources of illustrations, which are not always the same.) A few text sources are carelessly cited. And too much space has been given to less significant new schemes by young non-architects that were in no way intended to be realized, and would better be considered as conceptual art. But then *Unbuilt America* is itself a landmark in conceptual art: it is the catalogue of a non-existent exhibition of non-existent buildings. Delightful and instructive, *Unbuilt America* will stand as a testament to the inventiveness of architects and as a prod at the consciences of archivists.

Harold Kalman
Ottawa

Without Our Past? A Handbook for the Preservation of Canada's Architectural Heritage. ANN FALKNER. Toronto: University of Toronto Press in Association with the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs and Publishing Centre, Supply and Services, 1977. x, 242 p. illus. ISBN 0 8020 2239 1 bd. \$15.00, ISBN 0 8020 6298 9 pa. \$5.00. Govt. cat. no. SU31-29/1976.

Without Our Past? is a practical handbook for concerned citizens, community groups, and historical and heritage societies wishing to preserve Canada's architectural heritage. The book includes chapters on government preservation policy, the role of Heritage Canada, the survey, evaluation and selection of buildings, property acquisition and use, amenities, publicity and finance, as well as an eight-page bibliography, an appendix listing government departments, agencies and programmes, information regarding historical societies and foundations which might be of assistance.

It is distressing to those active in saving Canada's architectural treasures when the Chairman of the Board of Governors of Heritage Canada states that "we have possibly the weakest heritage legislation in the western world." More buildings have been destroyed in the past twenty years than in any other time in our history. Pressures for improved legislation must, therefore, continue at all levels.

Without Our Past? frequently refers readers to historical societies, museums, libraries, and archives for assistance. "An archives' staff can be of tremendous help if the requests for information are specific enough." In fact, Ms. Falkner reinforces many points mentioned by James Knight in his article on architectural records and archives in the last issues of this journal.¹ Both Falkner and Knight emphasize that on the whole archives have a surprising range of "secondary" sources to help in research about buildings: assessment

¹ James Knight, "Architectural Records and Archives in Canada: Toward a National Programme," *Archivaria* 3 (Winter 1976/77): 67-72.

rolls, deeds, probate records, city directories, correspondence, diaries, maps, newspapers, photographs, paintings, and occasionally plans. Yet archives have not been as successful in collecting such "primary" architectural records as working drawings, contracts, initial sketch plans, cost estimates, specifications, agreements with contractors, or notes of interviews. These documents are bulky to store and often expensive to preserve, and require cooperation and coordination among many institutions.

As a recent conference organized by the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada made clear, many art historians and architects automatically assume that architectural records are being preserved by federal, provincial and university archives. This assumption exists despite the lack of any effort by architects to place their drawings and papers in such institutions or to ensure that relevant documents were being saved by municipalities! If such material is not available, the increasing demand for sources for architectural history and for research relating to renovations and restorations will inevitably mean that archives will be criticized for their laxity in this area. The architectural materials to be collected must include samples of all types of architecture and a broad spectrum of the work of architects, past, present and future.

I read chapter four ("Evaluation and Selection") with intense interest since Halifax also uses a point system to determine which buildings are worthy of preservation, and I well know the problems that preparing and evaluating a list of buildings of historical and architectural significance entail. Ms. Falkner has also written an excellent section on how to prepare "heritage priority" and "heritage action" lists, and reiterates that once such lists have been made, the group must ignore threats to buildings not included. It is important to carry out the author's suggestions for educating the public, elected representatives, and government officials to the value of our architectural past.

In short, this is a valuable book which covers a neglected field, and should occupy a place on the bookshelf of every archivist concerned with the preservation of the past.

Phyllis R. Blakeley
Public Archives of Nova Scotia

Discover Your Neighborhood Heritage. IAN SCOTT. Toronto: Learnx Press, c1976. vi, 57 p. illus. ISBN 0 920020 02 X \$3.95. In a portfolio including *Ontario Historic Sites, Museums, Galleries and Plaques* by Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation (88 p.), "Information for Using the Facilities and Documentary Resources," by Ontario Archives (6 p.), and "Historical Collection (Archives)," by Toronto Board of Education (2 p.).

Local Studies. MARY FREDRICKSON. Halifax: Atlantic Institute of Education, 1977. 38 p. illus. \$1.00; 5 copies or more, \$.50 each (Available from The Institute, c/o Paul Robinson, Lighthouse Centre, 5244 South St., Halifax, N.S. B3J 1A4).

The search for roots has become fashionable in recent months but we are experiencing a more significant shift in historical studies than the popularity of a book and a television series would imply. Social and regional studies have become the norm in universities, the demand for Canadian content at every level of the school system is beginning to influence curriculum planners and book publishers, and the desire to introduce primary documents into history classes has accentuated the need for appropriate Canadian topics and source materials because it is only logical to conduct studies in depth upon familiar terrain. The above publications from Learnx Press and the Atlantic Institute of Education, introductions to the field of local studies, arise from these circumstances.