

O u t d o o r

La rue Saint-Hubert situé dans l'est de Montréal est une rue animée tant au niveau architectural que social. Ses balcons, balustrades et ornement ainsi que ses résidents, lui donnent cette richesse et vitalité.

Running nominally north-south in the eastern portion of Montreal, about half way between the streets of St.Denis and Amherst, St.Hubert Street is a long, variegated thoroughfare. Between the east-west streets of Pine Avenue East and Mont Royal, in the vicinity of Parc Lafontaine, St.Hubert broadens into a boulevard-like avenue.

A froth of white painted balconies exudes from the grey limestone ashlar facades of four-storey flats or apartments, overlooking tall trees and wide sidewalks on each side of the broad street.

Like outdoor platforms or open-air rooms, the ornate balconies are wide and deep. Balconies jut far out from building fronts with many tiered or superimposed columns holding up the different layers. Fussily ornamented ironwork balustrades swell outward in opulent bulges. Open and light-hearted, lush and complicated, the facades of the buildings are too busy in appearance to appear either relaxed or dignified.

During the hot summer months, apartment dwellers often sit out on the balconies to take in the air. The tranquility of this occupation, taken up largely by glances at the day's newspapers, or by knitting, by desultory, low-toned conversation or even by listless passivity, tends to increase the curiosity of the balconies' occupants in any other possible source of interest or amusement. A stranger walking down the street may be subjected to much looking and whispering.

Stuart Wilson is a Montreal architect and Emeritus Professor at McGill University's School of Architecture in Montreal.



R o o m s

by Stuart Wilson

