

Editorial

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The Fifth Column is the *Canadian Student Journal of Architecture*. This student status has its advantages and disadvantages, its implications and its inscrutable mysteries. For example, the Journal, abbreviated in print as *TFC*, is now in its fifteenth year of production, but only its ninth volume. Students busy working on tremendously important design projects and keeping close track of *X-Files* cannot also do all the stuff that needs to be done for *TFC* to appear on a regular schedule.

Nevertheless, the goal of being Canada's national student architecture journal—of the students, and by the students, but for the edification and delectation of all—is still an important one. There is surely a place for a discussion of architecture at a level between the glossy allure of *Architecture* and the dull pallor of *JSAH*, between fanzines and trade bulletins, a space where people can get excited about architectural ideas, and not simply bemoan the decay of science, bewail professional crises, and beget discord. That discussion is the responsibility of students, who presumably can be interested in architecture without having to consider too many political or economic interests. (Student responses at McGill and elsewhere to recent fee hikes and budget cuts suggest that students haven't actually considered those interests at all; but student apathy towards and complicity with the administration of post-secondary education in Canada could be the subject of another angrier and more frustrated editor's thousand words). That accounts for "Student Architectural Journal"; the "Canada's national" part is a teeny little bit trickier to define from headquarters here in Macdonald-Harrington 103, but instinctively it feels important that *TFC* continue to have an ambitious mandate and wide geographic, if not social, distribution.

And speaking of McGill, this sesquidecennial of the founding of *TFC* coincides with McGill's 175th anniversary and the celebrations for the School of Architecture's Centennial. The ice model of the Roman Pantheon, built this winter on the lower campus, has already fallen to ruins (architects these days just do not know how to detail!), but anyone who is around McGill this year may want to stop by and see the arboreal staff allegories in the Centennial Garden, and the larger-than-life bronze of James McGill, sculpted by David Roper-Curzon, before they are vandalized. You've already missed the Garden Party: cricket matches, croquet, pipes and drums, and free beer for new graduates.

We've made some changes to the format of *TFC* which should allow the next issues to come out more quickly. First, we've suspended the tradition of theme issues. The problem is that the editors and staff who ended up working on particular themes, sometimes years after they were suggested, often had little interest in those themes. If themes were vague enough not to be faddish—like this issue's "The Image of the Architect"—then they were too vague to be interesting. Second, we solicited articles from writers rather than just waiting for articles to come pouring in. Third, we sought to include less research-oriented, more topical articles including film reviews, exhibition reviews, and reports on new construction. Fourth, we've tried to involve McGill alumni and some of the more experienced *TFC* writers—the eminent Ricardo Castro, the ebullient Pieter Sijpkes, the outspoken Peter Lanken. Those students who first launched *TFC* are still around—founding editor Mark Pimlott, for example, was back at McGill recently for thesis project reviews. He showed us some of the amazing things he does with rubber, but we were unable to force an article out of him. Some other old staffers show up here again: Lea Zeppetelli contributes an article with two non*TFC*ers, Jean-Pierre Chupin and Nicolas Reeves, and Hal Ingberg's recent exhibition of his Prix de Rome work is reviewed here.

With these changes there should be enough momentum now for us to publish the next issues of *TFC* more smoothly and more regularly. So let's keep those contributions rolling in. With this new format, all articles are very welcome. Architecture students and ex-students everywhere, send in your insightful rants, carefully researched essays, images, projects, ideas, plans. This journal is both opportunity and tool. Use it.

P.S. This issue is 100% Lewerentz-free.