

Canadian **Architect**

Recreation/Community Buildings



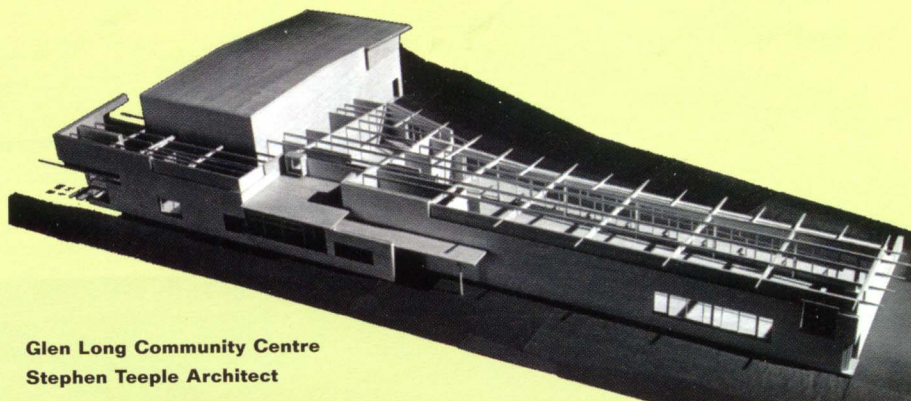
munity centre in Hamilton, and Natale Scott Browne's recreation centre in North York—both try to urbanize their banal suburban sites by anchoring arterial corners through the extension of their building masses. Both buildings also individually articulate the primary programmatic volumes, and disperse them along circulation paths to create attenuated compositions of linked rooms.

The fifth building we have featured, the Furry Creek Golf Club, is the sole privately commissioned building in the selection. The exceptional site and siting of this luxurious yet fairly economical building (at \$150 per square foot) make for an interesting point of comparison between public and private commissions.

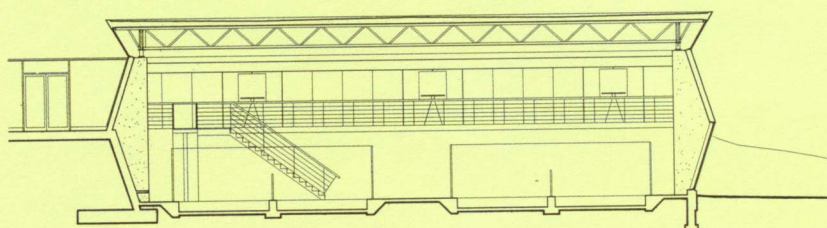
In soliciting work for this issue, we were pointed by several architects to a number of exceptional projects being executed under the supervision of Derek Nicholson of the North York Parks and Recreation department. Five of the nine recreation and community buildings commissioned in North York completed or under construction over the last four years are shown here, and Stanley Community Centre featured on page 26 is a sixth.

In his explanation of how North York hires and works with architects (The Client's View, page 33) Nicholson brings attention to some pressing issues on the topic of how municipal governments commission community buildings. His insistence on good design, willingness to hire architects without previous experience on a particular building type, and the high quality buildings produced on relatively modest budgets all contribute to an unusually high quality legacy of building. In a climate of institutional building in which the minimum acceptable standard is the main criteria, Nicholson's is a refreshing attitude. But even in this best case scenario, one characterized by an enlightened institutional client, and a desire to get the best possible building for the least dollars spent, there is still the disquieting suggestion that good design is a sort of voluntary subsidy, a value added by the professionalism and pride of the architect, in the absence of any financial motivation to make a well-designed building.

One of the great challenges facing our public officials today is how to retain humane community values in the face of short-term bottom line economics. Sadly, it may only be through the efforts of individuals within government departments that an argument can be made for the value of architecture as a lasting legacy of humanity, and not merely an expensive and elitist gratuity that should be avoided at all costs. ©



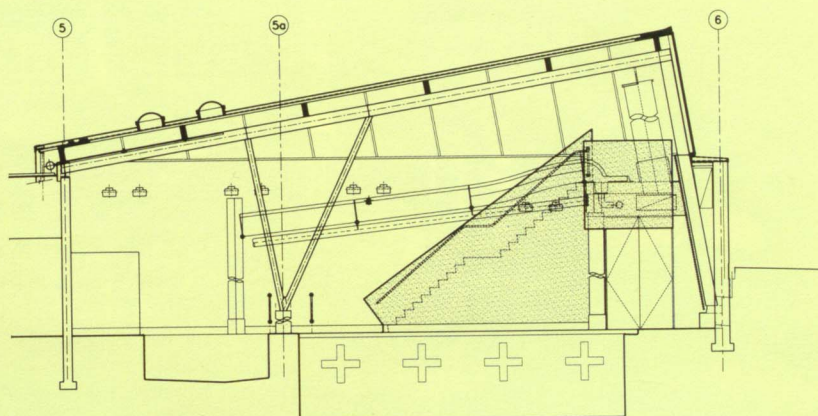
Glen Long Community Centre
Stephen Teeple Architect



Grand Ravine Community Centre
Julian Jacobs Architect



Broadlands Community Centre
Baldwin & Franklin Architects



Cummer Community Centre
MacLennan Jaunkalns Miller Architects