

**A BUILDING FOR THE NINETIES:  
ONTARIO HYDRO'S HOCKLEY VALLEY OFFICE BUILDING**

We were asked to design a 10,000SF office building at Ontario Hydro's Conference and Development Centre in Hockley Valley. The building is sited near the high point of this 200 acre property, and forms part of a one storey building cluster at the crest.

This was the last new building project approved by Ontario Hydro before the new regime.

The building is a product for the nineties: economical, extremely energy efficient, and ecologically sensitive. An earth-integrated, heavily insulated cedar shingle-clad box; heated and cooled by a state-of-the-art ground source heat pump system; lit by low voltage fixtures. The colour and material palette, inside and out, reflects this earth-grounded approach.

I asked the site what it wanted. It said: 'lodge a minimalist structure into the side of the hill, like a boulder or two-floored barn, with that protolinguistic sense of eternal belonging'. Inspired by the site's commanding position, I became interested in fusing the evocation of simplicity and humility with the dignified power of the classical temple.