

the technical school.⁴ In 1907, ambitious plans were underway to consolidate all classes in a purpose-built facility with 150 rooms. The Board of Education was challenged in finding a site large enough to accommodate the planned complex. It decided to use one of its existing properties, occupied by Borden Street Public School in the residential neighbourhood northeast of Bathurst and Harbord Streets. As illustrated on the Goad's Atlases attached as Images 4-6, the Board acquired the adjoining lands, razed the structures thereon, and received permission from the City to close Herrick Street between Lippincott and Borden Streets (Image 8). A design competition was organized in 1912, with construction commencing the next year and continuing into 1915 (Image 9). The estimated cost of \$1,500,000 was borne entirely by the City of Toronto without provincial grants. The new school filled the city blocks bounded by Harbord, Borden, Lennox and Lippincott Streets, with open space reserved for a football field at the north end and tennis courts adjoining Harbord Street to the south. The principal (west) entrance was positioned to complete the view east along Herrick Street to and from Bathurst Street. This orientation was deliberate, as the School Board planned to extend its property westward to Bathurst Street as, according to an editorial in the October 1915 issue of Construction magazine, "...in time when the nearby shacks are demolished and a wide approach planned from Bathurst Street, the work will be heartily commended by all."⁵

Following its opening for the fall session in 1915, Central Technical School was profiled in a comprehensive article in Construction magazine, accompanied by plans and photographs (Images 10 and 11). The complex included an auditorium with a seating capacity approaching 1300, an amphitheatre accommodating 200 seats, and a basement gymnasium with a running track. While the design incorporated four passenger elevators, only one was installed in the southwest corner of the complex. One floor was devoted to the "domestic science and domestic art" classes offered to female students, while workshops for different trades were placed in the basement.

The new school accommodated 5000 night students and 2500 day students. It added courses in social studies and English to its curriculum, and offered preparatory classes for university admittance in science and engineering. The institution introduced the first art department in Toronto's public school board, with English sculptor Alfred Howell, followed by artist and designer Peter Haworth and painter and illustrator Charles Goldhamer, as the successive directors of the art school. As part of the protocol for the art program, only academically-trained professional artists were employed as instructors, and included such notables as painter Doris McCarthy, muralist Frederick Challenger, and sculptor Elizabeth Wyn-Wood. Group of Seven member Lawren Harris and Painters Eleven associates Harold Town and William Ronald were among "the legion of department graduates who became ranking artists in Toronto, and who were to make national names for themselves in all artistic disciplines, including graphic design, illustration, stage design, painting, sculpture and ceramics."⁶

The success of and demands placed on Central Technical School quickly strained its capacity and temporary structures were added to the site. In response, additional complexes were planned in

⁴ In 1904, the Board of Education placed the eight commercial classes then offered in its public high schools under the jurisdiction of the technical school. However, the courses were taught in temporary facilities at elementary schools until the Central High School of Commerce opened on Shaw Street in 1916. It was joined in 1925 by the Eastern High School of Commerce to serve the other half of the city

⁵ Construction (October 1915), 408

⁶ Sisler, 99