

Ontario Masons Relations Council/1965 Awards

One Award of Excellence and six Awards of Merit were presented in the second annual competition of the Ontario Masons Relations Council for outstanding buildings in Ontario designed by architects in private practice and constructed essentially of structural clay products manufactured in Canada. The Award of Excellence, a plaque, was presented by the Minister of Labor, Hon. H. L. Rowntree, QC, MLA. Framed photographs of their buildings with an embossed seal were presented for the six Awards of Merit. Presentations took place at the OAA on October 28. 56 buildings were entered by 26 firms in the Awards program. Professional adviser for the Competition was George Gibson, FRAIC, and the assessors were J. A. Murray, FRAIC and Ron Thom.

Report of the Jury

The submissions this year tended less to produce master works than to achieve a fresh approach to basic building types too

frequently characterized by stereotype solutions. Such buildings as schools, apartment houses and laboratories were submitted whose design approach reflected new purposeful thinking rather than the dreaming up of potential new cliches. It is refreshing and encouraging to feel that buildings common to our day are being designed in an imaginative and sensitive way. The jury was impressed with the diversity of mood in these masonry buildings which range from the childlike intimacy of an elementary school to the classic discipline of a large industrial research complex.

The Awards are as follows:

Award of Excellence

Willow Park Public School,

Scarborough

Architects: Craig, Zeidler and Strong

This is a school building which to a

remarkable degree is built for children.

The school sits gracefully in a residential neighbourhood. Its dark brick, copper and wood exterior set in a landscape of evergreens is rich and inviting. One feels this pleasant building must constructively affect the attitudes of its pupils.

Willow Park Public School should be a lesson to school boards and to their architects: that regulations inevitably surrounding school design do not necessarily imply a regimented building. Here is a school which has managed to escape the long, tiresome corridors, monotonous cellular repetition of classrooms and the generally factory-like approach so inappropriate to the education of young children.

Surely the learning environment constitutes one of the most important architectural challenges of our day. A building creatively meeting the challenge well merits the Award of Excellence.

