

York Square in Toronto

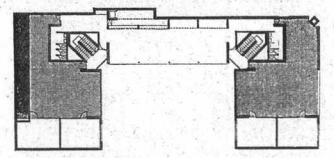
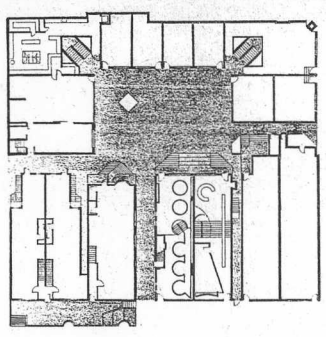
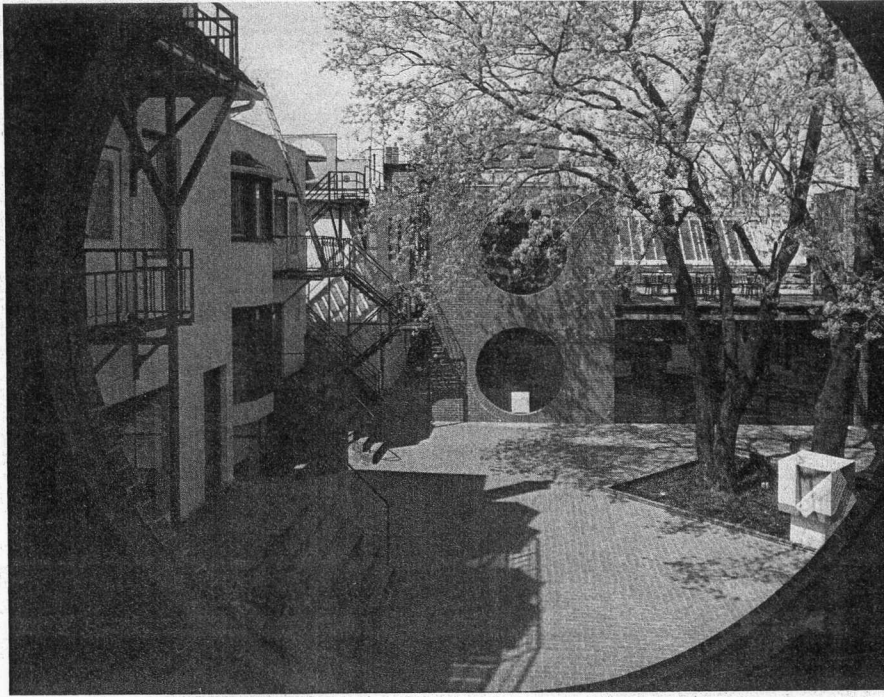
Architekten: A. J. Diamond und Barton Myers, Toronto



Ist es Sentimentalität, an dieser Stelle kein 21geschossiges Apartmenthotel auf ein schönes Podium mit Arkaden zu setzen (was in der Nachbarschaft vorgesehen ist), sondern die Maßstäblichkeit der Stadt zu wahren? Und ob der Bulldozer die Antwort auf ein langsam absinkendes Stadtviertel ist, der zuerst radikal alles das wegschiebt, was einmal das Quartier interessant gemacht hat, kann auch bezweifelt

werden. Und letztlich: die Neubauten sind immer so teuer, daß eine möglichst hohe Dichte erreicht werden muß, damit die Kosten wieder hereinkommen. Stadt-Erneuerung endet oft mit Stadt-Tod. York Square ist den anderen Weg gegangen. Man hat möglichst viel von der alten Bausubstanz erhalten und ihr das Neue im Maßstab angepaßt. Nirgendwo ging man über zwei Obergeschosse hinaus, und

nirgendwo hat man den alten Rhythmus der Einzelhäuser verlassen. Die Prozedur war verhältnismäßig einfach. Die alten Häuser auf der Yorkville Avenue waren das, was man auch städtebauliches Gerümpel nennen könnte. Da sie im Innern aber neuen Funktionen gerecht werden konnten, ließ man sie stehen, blendete ihnen nur eine neue Ladenfassade vor, eingeschossig mit großen Kreisen als

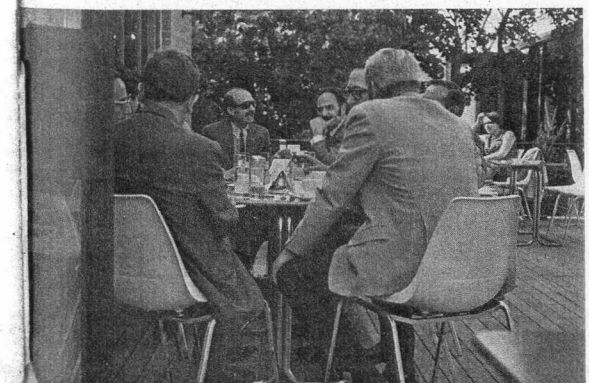
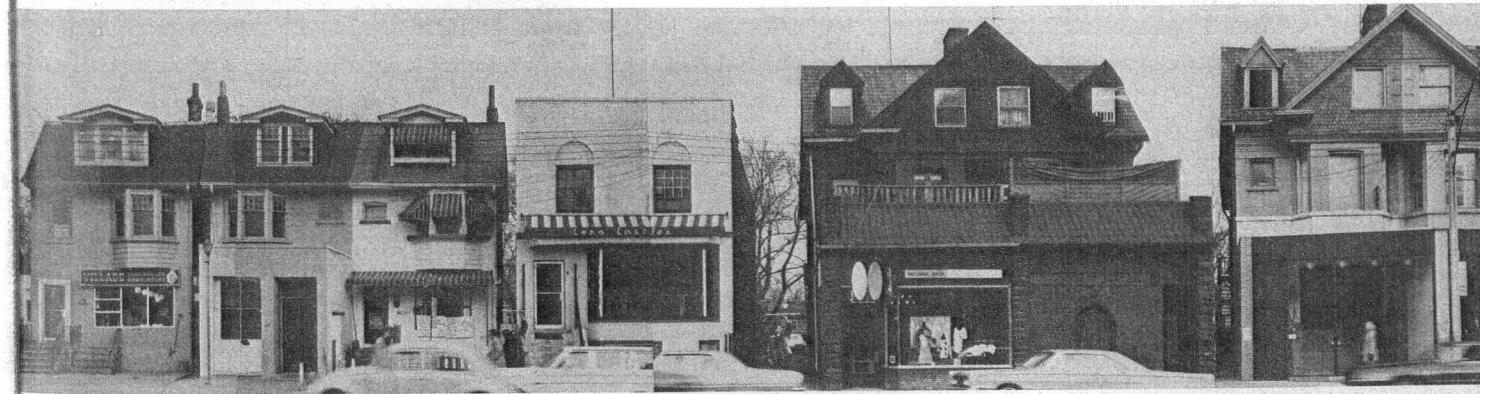


Obergeschoß ▲

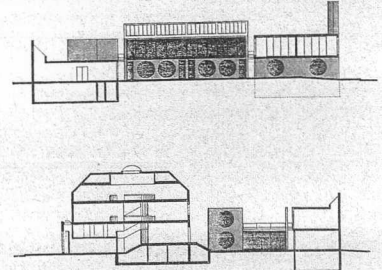
Grundrisse und Schmitte M 1:1000

Erdgeschoß

Fotos: Ian Sampson, Carl Sliva, Robert Tittle (11)



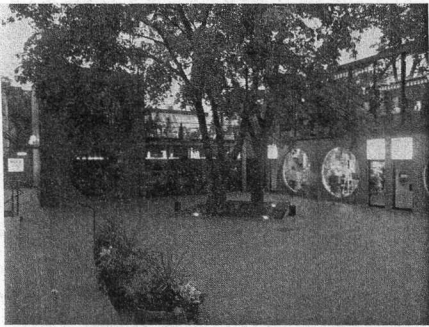
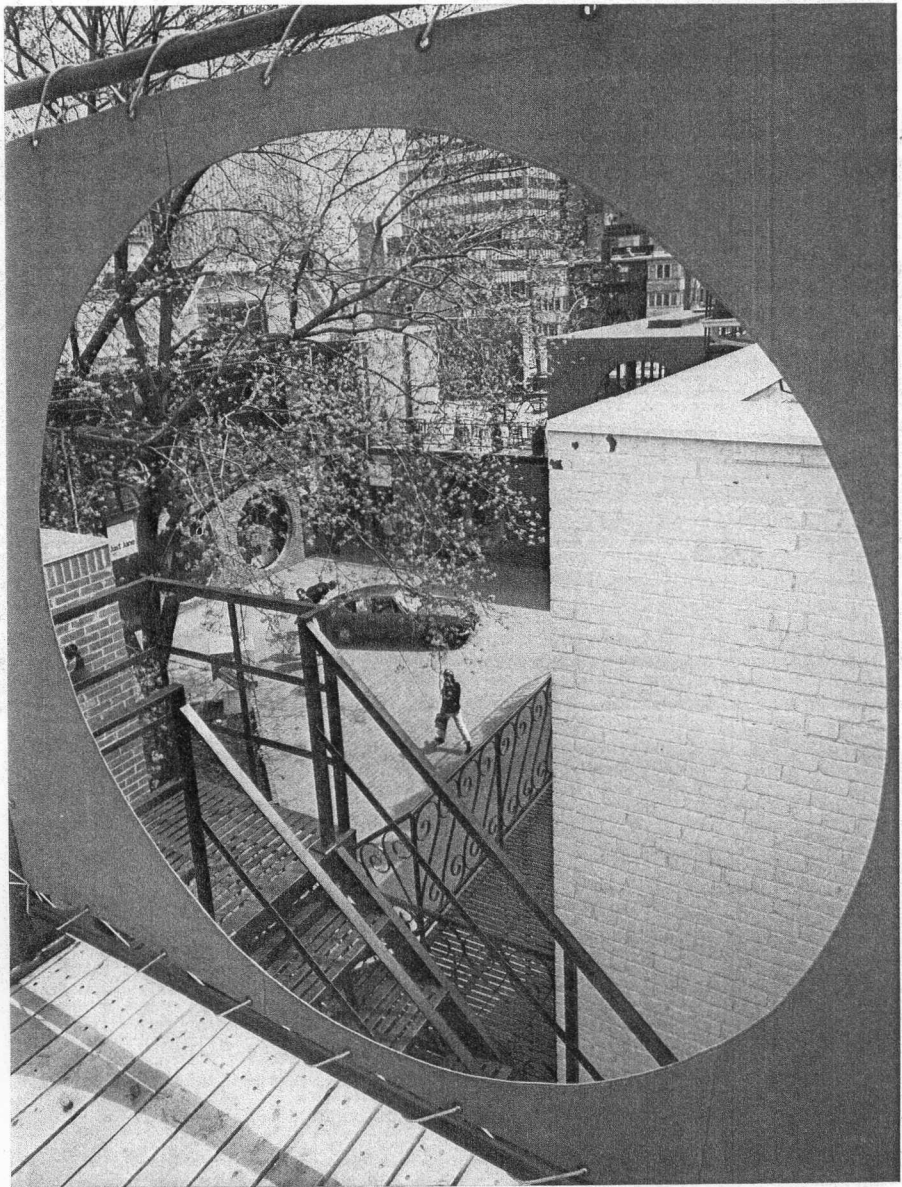
Schaufenster und rechteckigen Öffnungen als Zugängen. Diese Lösung ist sehr simpel, hat aber eine überraschende Steigerung der Attraktivität zur Folge. Vielleicht deshalb, weil einfache Figuren wie Kreise schon von weitem wie Signale, auf jeden Fall auffällig, wirken, ohne maßstabbestimmend zu sein. Dieses Motiv setzten die Architekten auch im Innenhof fort, der sich dadurch so vorteilhaft von



allen endlosen Glasfassaden, die Architekten heute immer noch für modern halten, absetzt. Die Kreise sind Öffnungen, die groß genug sind, hinter ihnen viel auszustellen, sie sind aber nur schwer in ihrer absoluten Größe ablesbar und als solche sowohl für den großstädtischen Maßstab der Yorkville Avenue geeignet als auch im Innenhof richtig. Als Spaß und Attraktion pinselte Barrie Briscoe noch einen Superkreis auf das Eckhaus, das auf der Südseite keine vorgeblendete Ladenfront erhielt.

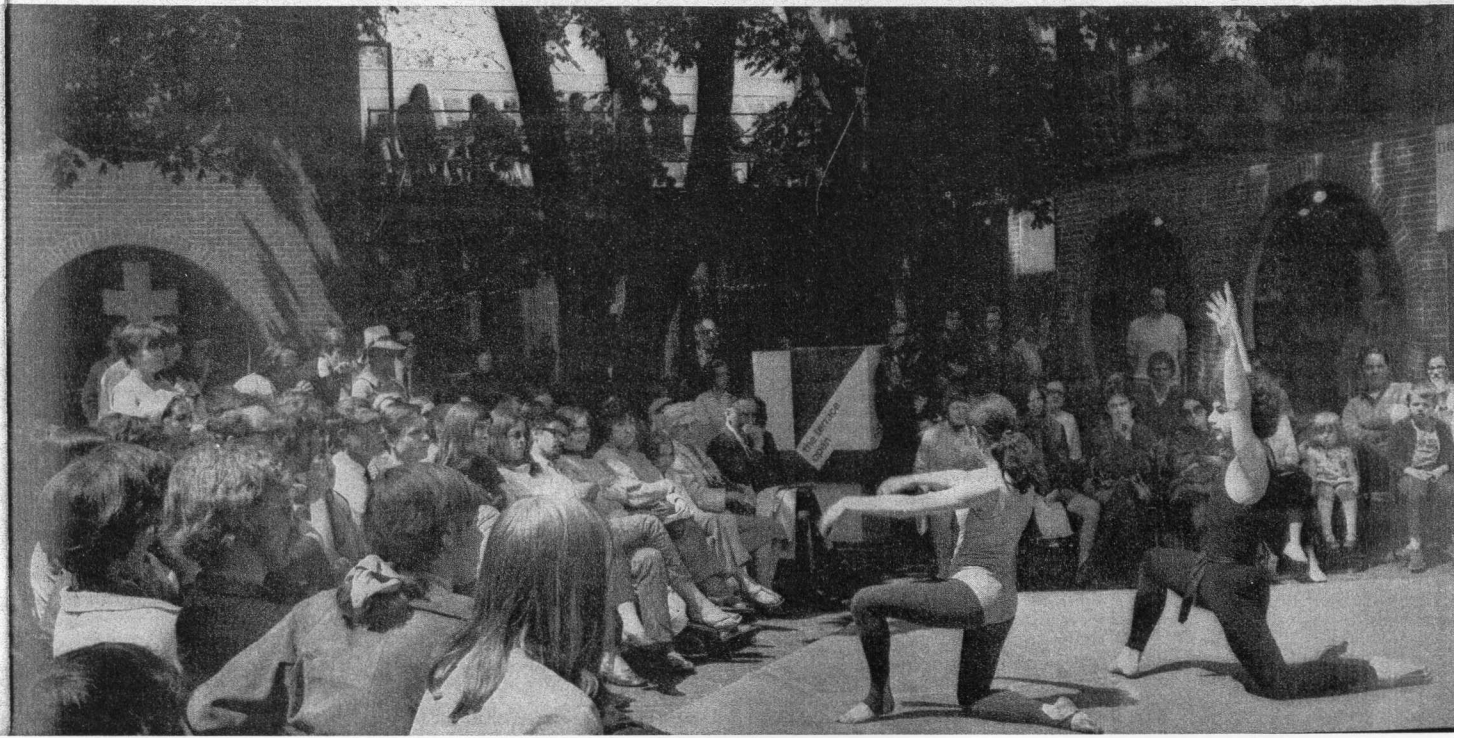
Im Blockinnern entstand der York Square, eine Mischung aus Hof und Platz, halböffentlich, zugänglich von zwei Straßen, gebildet aus den unregelmäßigen Rückfronten der straßenseitigen Bebauung (ohne Kosmetik der Fassaden jedoch), und dem U-förmigen Neubau mit Läden im Erdgeschoß, einem Restaurant, geschlossener Lunch-Terrasse, freier Kaffee-Terrasse und einer kleinen Cafeteria. In den Ecken führen Treppen nach oben. Zentrum des Hofes ist die Gruppe alter Ahornbäume (Kanadas Nationalbaum).

Was alte deutsche Innenstädte seit Jahren praktizieren, hat Toronto auf seine Weise



nachgeholt und die gleichen Erfahrungen gemacht: Es wird nicht nur von den Besuchern »angenommen«, sondern, weil es Raum bietet, entstehen neue Aktivitäten, die nicht geplant waren, Tanzgruppen, Folkloresänger haben eine neue, ihnen gemäße Bühne gefunden.

Vielleicht ist das Geheimnis des Erfolges von York Square das Neben- und Durcheinander von alt und neu, Stadtverkehr und Intimität, Inszenierung und Happening, von Wechsel und Ahorn-Beharrlichkeit. Vielleicht gehört auch dazu, daß die Architekten weder einen Raster über das Ganze gebreitet haben, was ja der Tod der Abwechslung ist, noch gezeigt haben: Schaut, was uns alles eingefallen ist, was der Tod der Aktivität der Benutzer ist. Es sind nur wenige Elemente, nur wenige Motive und wenig Raum, die York Square zum Prototyp eines städtischen Freiraumes gemacht haben.



Summary

"Rollberge" redevelopment in Berlin-Neukölln (p. 1091)

The area is a typical worker district in the south of Berlin, dating from the turn of the century. The houses are in such bad shape that the piecemeal renovation of single houses would be too costly. Therefore the whole area is to be torn down bit by bit and replaced by a scheme more suitable to modern social structures and planned with an eye to traffic requirements and ecological protection as well as to the more valuable traditional factors (e.g., the street as place of encounter).

"Barberaren" - redevelopment scheme in Sandviken (p. 1096)

The district is in the town centre, near the main shopping street, market place and town hall. Therefore the scheme includes several elements which only make sense in downtown areas, like office blocks, public health service, kindergartens, savings-banks, etc.

York Square in Toronto (p. 1098)

City redevelopment often means the death of a city. York Square has taken another course: instead of using the bulldozer, old buildings have been reshaped and new ones adapted to the 3-storey scale, resulting in a mixture of urbanity and intimacy, of variability and the cosiness of maple-tree courtyards.

Youth club in Wellingborough (p. 1102)

The building is a former school for girls dating from 1873. Conversion work was confined to the creation of a larger hall by hollowing out the interior, by the addition of a mezzanine level and the construction of a fire-escape.

"Banneker Homes" in San Francisco (p. 1104)

The project was realized with the simplest means (wooden skeleton construction) and yet has none of the usual elements of downtown redevelopment: there are no multi-storey blocks, no desolate front spaces and no disruption of the local atmosphere. Parts of a former brewery and bottling plant have been cleverly incorporated.

Competition ideas for redeveloping "Ritterhof" in Eschborn (p. 1107)

The "Ritterhof" project is to include a large number of freehold flats of various sizes, a kindergarten with four classes, some special-line shops, offices, doctors' consultation rooms, a wine-tavern, a newspaper stand, etc. Some of the winning designs are published here.

Who are the multi-service residential hotels being built for? (p. 1115)

Self-contained towns like the Arabella House in Munich or the Hancock Centre in Chicago, instead of engendering communal living, offer one social class the desired isolation from others. Such houses fill the gap on the market between luxury apartments and hotel suites for well situated social groups without collectivising their way of life.

Mother-and-child home in Stockholm (p. 1116)

The scheme includes a children's home in three sections corresponding to the needs of different age groups, and a home for unmarried mothers.

Children's Town in Vienna (p. 1118)

This town for children has been designed in such a way that the inhabitants can continue to live there as adults, thus ensuring permanency of environment.

Hostel of Students' in Cologne (p. 1120)

In this new hostel for 830 students, the architects hope to avoid the usual disadvantages of dormitories, such as monotony or the isolation of the individual despite communal facilities.

Students' dwellings at Bradford Junior College (p. 1122)

This group of prefabricated houses in a lightly wooded area near Haverhill, Mass., has the atmosphere of an old New England settlement. The T-shaped wooden house-units can be assembled so as to form detached or terrace-houses.

Student housing at the University of Surrey (p. 1124)

The aim of this design was to build something that would avoid the depersonalized accommodation usually offered by students' hostels; the layout of the houses and the spaces between them promote a feeling of community, lend optical definition to the environment and make personal contact inevitable.

Student housing in California (p. 1128)

The 2-storey wooden buildings are arranged around gardens. The loggias which stretch along the whole length of the

houses are particularly suitable to the local climate, affording additional studying and recreational space for most of the year and casting necessary shade in the hot months.

Student settlement in Höggerberg, Zurich (p. 1130)

When all four construction stages have been completed, the settlement will include accommodation for 800 students (mostly bed-sitters but also apartments for married students), an infirmary, a restaurant, sports facilities with gymnasium and a swimming-pool, a kindergarten, common rooms and administration offices.

Hellebo and Birkebo (p. 1132)

Both institutions are situated a couple of miles from the town centre of Helsingör. Hellebo is a housing scheme for elderly people who are still capable of being independent, Birkebo an old-age home. Occupants of both institutions can make use of the community centre with restaurant, pub, recreation rooms and an infirmary.

Rosa Spier House, Laren, Netherlands (p. 1134)

The Rosa Spier House is an old-age home for artists who want to remain productive as long as possible. The home includes ateliers, workrooms, exhibition rooms and a hall for 150 people.

Old-age centre, Hürth (p. 1136)

The old-age home is situated on a green belt south-west of Cologne. A school, kindergarten and sportsgrounds are in the immediate vicinity. The occupants of surrounding dwellings cross through the old-age centre on their way to the shopping centre.

St. Birgitta C.O.S. Home, Bremen (p. 1138)

The building has a dwelling zone for more independent old people, each apartment consisting of 1 or 2 bed-sitters, a small lobby and a bath and WC, as well as a section for the sick and disabled in the form of a modern geriatric clinic.

The redevelopment of the old town of Karlsruhe (p. 1087)

In the unique situation now facing the planners in Karlsruhe the worst thing that can happen is that the planner wants to make a name, or that the official in charge hopes for promotion without indulging in any risks, or that the politician wants to be voted in again but does not care about the historical moment. Although this is impossible without clear planning and financial security, too much planning and financial security can lead to half-hearted urban development.

26 April 2012

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Hi Cathy !

OUR FILE: Diamond & Myers

Here is the copy of the BAUMEISTER article from Volume 69, the October 1972 issue of that magazine .

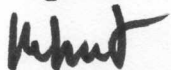
This includes:

1. front cover, with view of the "supergraphic" design on the south side of the complex, executed by Barry Briscoe, incorporating a plan of the York Square complex
2. 4 page illustrated article on the finished building pages 1098-1101
3. copy of English summary on page 1086

I think you may be able to scan these photocopies at your office because the high quality images captures the grey tones quite well. The front cover may look coarse and grainy to you, but this is the effect that the graphic designer wanted by using a coarse screened image of the south facade.

Hope these are helpful.

Regards



Robert G. Hill,
Architect, FRAIC
