

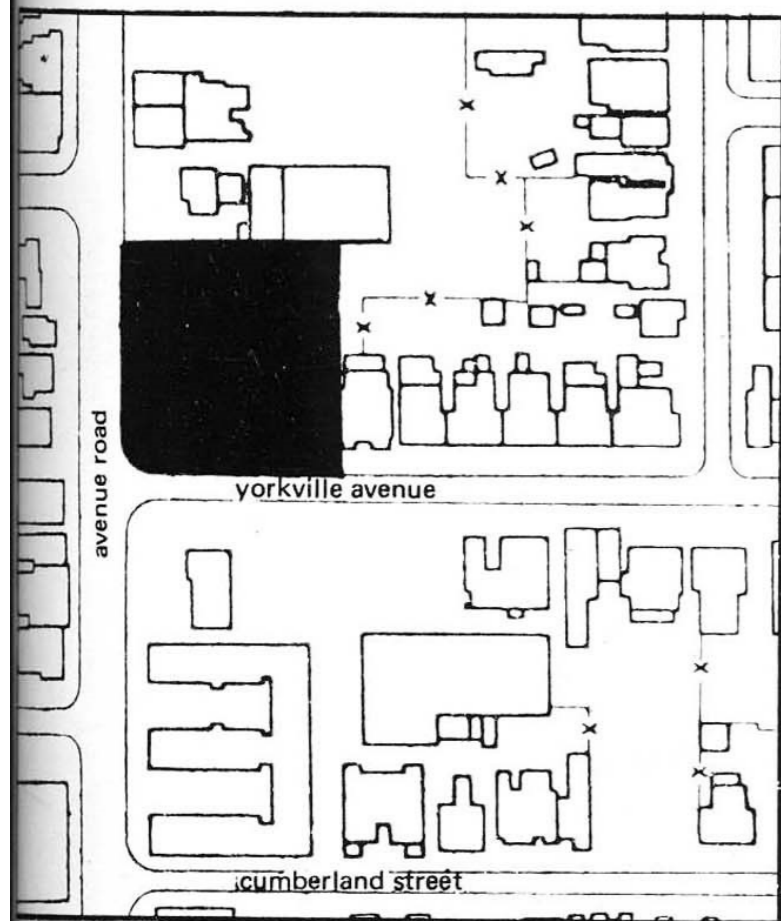


YORK SQUARE, TORONTO. ARCHITECT: A.J.DIAMOND. ASSOCIATE DESIGNER: BARTON MYERS

Located near the University of Toronto and the fashionable Bay-Bloor-Yonge shopping and business district, Yorkville Village has become famous for its hippies, coffee houses, boutiques and good restaurants. The development of Lothian Mews in 1963 was an event in Toronto history: until that time, Bloor Street, with its strip-like drag of exclusive but drab stores, symbolized the dying age of genteel sophistication. (The following year, Toronto cinemas opened on Sundays).

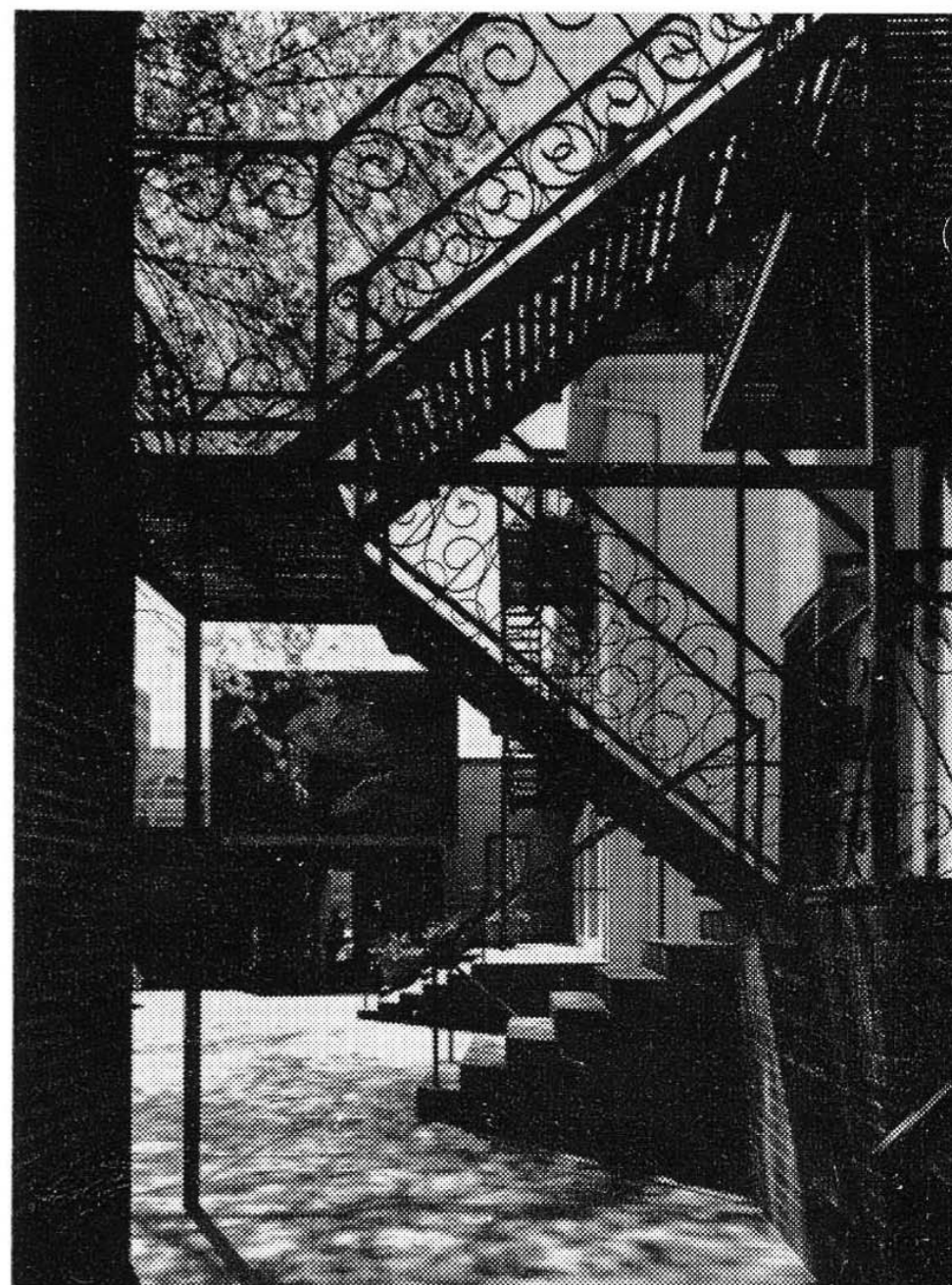
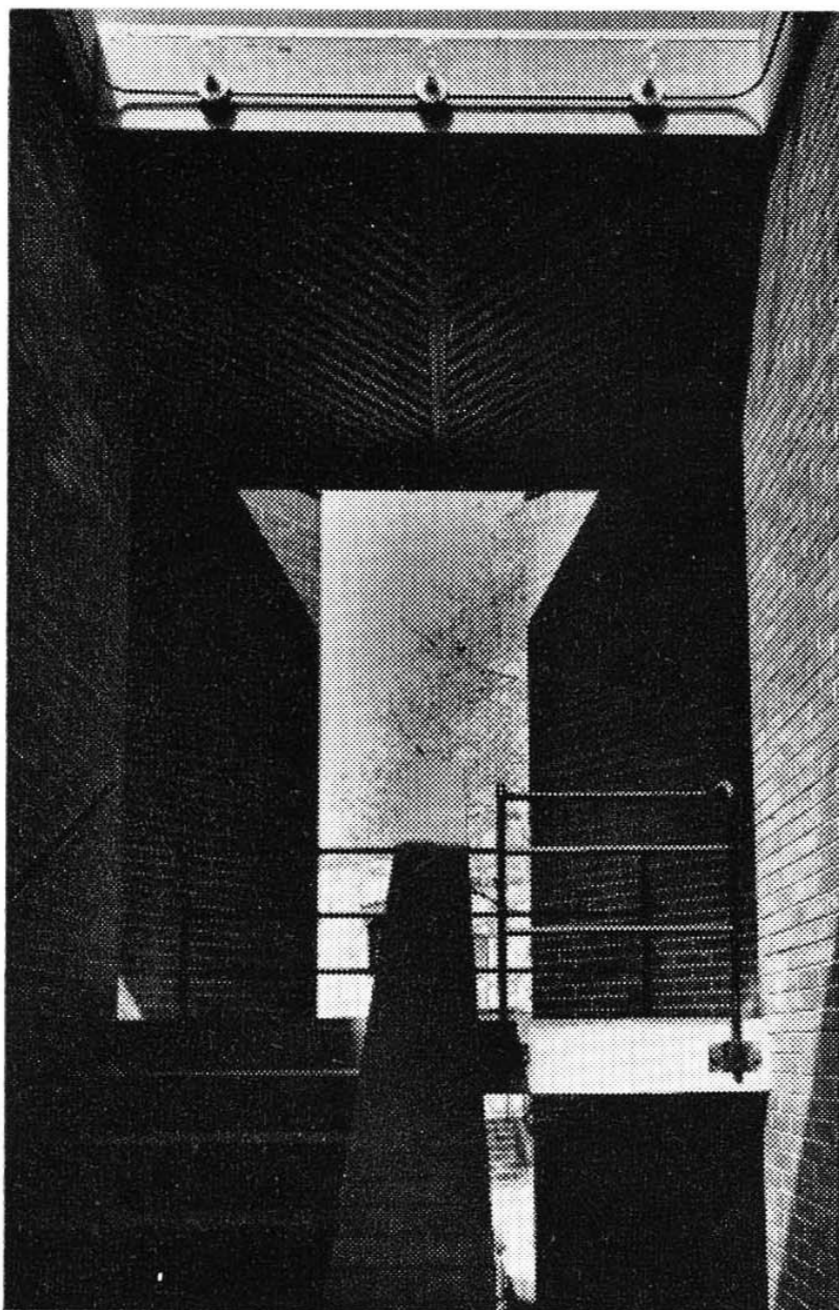
Six years later, York Square brings to the village a new degree of sophistication—a focal point, intimate in feeling and related to human scale and vistas. A court where people can meet for coffee, dinner and where the boutiques work beautifully (the best entrance to the square is through the bookshop).

In the square, warm red brick combines with the white of the older buildings and the stark relief of fire escapes. Above all, a magnificent tree has been retained, its branches extending to the eye level of diners on The Terrace and in Le Coin.



From the exterior, super graphics across the face of the building mark the surface—a fad of our times—which will no doubt be mercifully painted out as the fashion subsides with bell bottom pants. Who really says, "Look for the sign YORK SQUARE", when the distinctive round windows make it unique in the area?

These same round windows will bother architects who visit the square, but all will admit that the project is a courageous excursion into the commercial world, a tribute to both developer, I. R. Wookey and the architects. Right now, hippies and solid citizens are protesting the building of a nearby high rise office block—let's hope that York Square will continue to live on in the face of long term





York Square

