

Badmouthing architect Cardinal

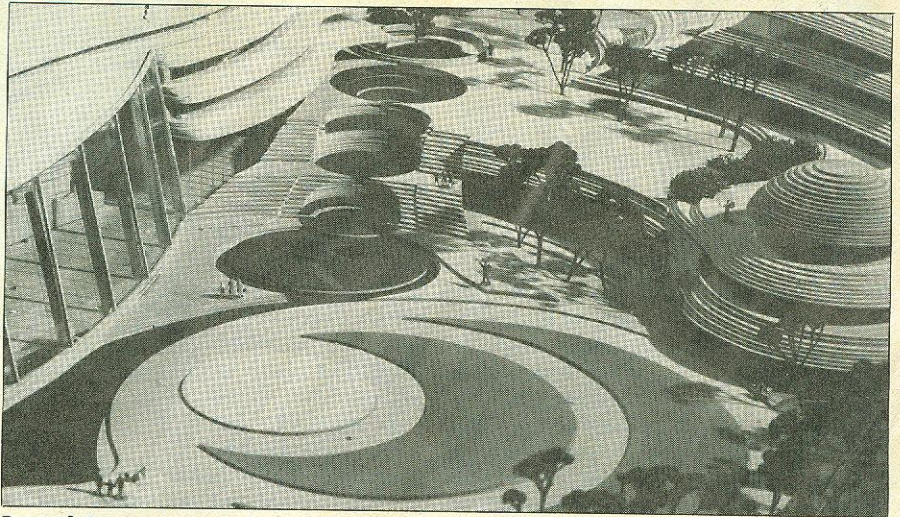
Edmonton rival Hemingway leads an attack on 'primitive' curvilinear

For years, architect Douglas Cardinal, 49, has been building a reputation through his unique curvilinear forms, intended to blend with a landscape—not dominate it. With the controversial selection last year of the Edmonton-based architect to design the \$93-million Museum of Man on the banks of the Ottawa River, the Cardinal style has achieved a national profile. Mr. Cardinal's critics argue, however, that his grand monument sweeping up from the river to the narrow streets of Hull, Que., will be "out of sync" with the rectangular, high-rise government towers already on the cityscape. The most vociferous critic is Edmonton architect Peter Hemingway, 50, a friend of Mr. Cardinal, who nevertheless published a scathing attack in newspapers across Alberta last month.

While the Metis Mr. Cardinal has long maintained the curve form to be superior to the rectangle for human habitation, Mr. Hemingway, a libertarian British immigrant, says the rounded forms are merely primitive, and that his rival's work represents a "romantic looking back at a time that never was." Rejoins Mr. Cardinal: "Who gives a damn what other architects say? I'm busier than hell. The public is the judge. If they like my work, then it's good."

The 420,000-square-foot museum in Hull will replace a ramshackle, century-old castle-like edifice. Funding comes from the federal government through the Canada Museums Construction Corporation Inc., whose selection committee announced the competition more than two years ago. To win the plum assignment, Mr. Cardinal bested 80 architects, including such notables as Vancouver's Arthur Erickson. Construction began last October with completion set for 1987. In selecting Mr. Cardinal, the committee made much of his Indian blood, since much of the human history museum's space will be devoted to aboriginal people in traditional settings.

Although the architect himself resists being categorized, he acknowledges inspiration from the spirituality of Indians. Acting on instincts like those of any species building a shelter in nature, he designs intuitively, fitting a structure to the local landscape, such as the St. Albert Civic Centre, or matching structure to function, as in his flying saucer-like Ed-



Part of Ottawa's Museum of Man model
'Looking back at a time that never was.'

monton Space Sciences Centre. "Engineering has evolved to a fantastic point. We have the flexibility to create some organic forms that have evolved in nature." Using a computer to plot the undulations of his creations, he criticizes the lack of imagination that goes into much straight-line design. "I don't like the box-like cities that look like they came out of a computer with no creativity." Boxes, he adds, are good for storing other boxes, not people.

Mr. Hemingway, however, argues that Mr. Cardinal's insistence on "organic" shapes misses the point. He says shape has little to do with how a person feels about his environs. More important is "scale," providing definable space and limits so one can measure his environment. As for the Indian appreciation for

the land, which inspires Mr. Cardinal's natural contours, Mr. Hemingway says that is simply romantic myth. "The Plains Indians were scavengers. They didn't co-exist with nature by choice; they simply endured it. To argue they have more significant insights than the rest of us is totally fallacious."

Toronto architect Raymond Moriyama, designer of the Ontario Science Centre, says that while Mr. Cardinal's forms are appropriate to the prairie, they are out of place in the urban setting of Ottawa-Hull. Mr. Hemingway, best known for Edmonton's Muttart Conservatory and Coronation Pool, complains that the Cardinal Museum of Man "says a lot about Cardinal's mindset, but precious little about the search for an urban form truly representative of man in his many stages of development." He says his friend's work is the product of a "poetic rebellion, an admonition to a society he doesn't feel comfortable with." Mr. Cardinal is out of step, attempting to impose values on an unconvinced public.

However, Mr. Cardinal insists he is no rebel, just an individual who must trust his intuitions. He sees his work as a reflection of his inner life. "To create, you have to believe there is something inside you that is beautiful. I'm not trying to be a part of any group or style. Cardinal does Cardinal—and don't expect anything else from me."

Shawn McCarthy



Alberta's Cardinal and Hemingway
A scrap over scale.

The Weekly Newsmagazine

AR This Week

For this week's cover story on the first test of the American cruise missile in Canada, *AR* reporter Tom Philip and photographer Tom Braid travelled to the Canadian Forces base at Cold Lake, 165 miles northeast of Edmonton, where the test concluded with the pass of a cruise-carrying B-52 bomber over the adjacent Cold Lake Air Weapons Range.

Upon arrival, they found the nearby town of Grand Centre awash with fellow

newsmen who had come from across the country to cover the test. Although Canadian and American military personnel were on hand to dispense information, only a handful of "pool" journalists were allowed onto the weapons range to witness the arrival of the historic B-52 and its controversial cargo. Most other reporters, therefore, spent their time conducting interviews with protesters.

The result was a "media event." Seven Greenpeace protesters marched to the edge of the weapons range at six o'clock Tuesday morning accompanied by more than three times as many reporters and photographers. Even later only 100 pro-

testers from across western Canada marched from Grand Centre to a military roadblock near the gates of CFB Cold Lake.



Cruise protesters at Cold Lake

The Cover

Cover photography by Tom Braid

While the first test of the American cruise missile in Canada went forward without an apparent hitch, debate continued about the weapon's role in NATO defence strategy and whether it is a stabilizing factor in nuclear war equations.

Cities & Towns

Medicine Hat loses its gas tax fight with Ottawa

Resources

The new, cautious Dome Petroleum devalues its assets by \$980 million

Business

Trizec Corporation of Calgary snaps up 16% of Toronto-based Bramalea Ltd.

Land

Indians berate the provincial government for a massive poaching bust

Schools

Diploma exams show problems in math, science and teachers' grading

Books

A Governor General's Award-winner digs into his trunk

People

Scientists offer a reward for finding a meteorite chunk

Law

The courts take children out of the clutches of bureaucrats

Faith

A United Church report condones masturbation and calls for sexual tolerance

Medicine

Mexican mini-pigs may replace dogs in research labs

Arts

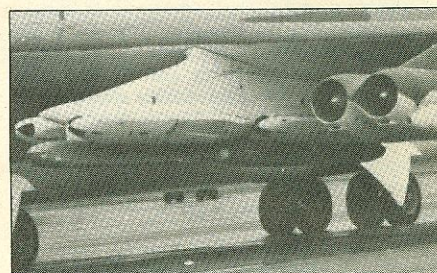
Edmonton architect Peter Hemingway blasts rising star rival Douglas Cardinal

Sports

Alberta's Olympic training program unfolds at the Winter Games

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The Cover—The B-52 bomber carries cruise missiles under its wings



Medicine—Mexican mini-pigs are the latest thing in lab research animals



Arts—Architect Douglas Cardinal's Museum of Man is attacked as 'primitive'