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Pressman, Norman, ed. *Reshaping Winter Cities: Concepts, Strategies and Trends*. Published under the auspices of Livable Winter City Association. Waterloo: University of Waterloo Press, 1985. Pp. 158. Illustrations. \$12.95

Joy Woolfrey

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Book Reviews/Comptes rendus

Pressman, Norman, ed. *Reshaping Winter Cities: Concepts, Strategies and Trends*. Published under the auspices of Livable Winter City Association. Waterloo: University of Waterloo Press, 1985. Pp. 158. Illustrations. \$12.95.

This book presents a collection of ideas and experiences intended to help make our cities more livable in winter. It was put together subsequent to the 1983-84 national student competition on winter city planning and design sponsored by the Livable Winter Cities Association. Contributors are the Canadian architects, planners and a journalist who served as jury members for the competition. Its foreword is written by Peter Broberg, a Swedish architect and advocate of putting neighbourhoods "under glass." Its appendix describes winning entries in the planning and design competition.

Broberg enjoins architects to abandon the fixed notion of the individual building as the primary object of architecture and to concentrate their attention instead on city structure, and the possibility of exploiting our new technological capacity to produce cheap glass for developing a graduated series of protected climate zones or "urban rooms." Xenia Zepic's article discusses the transportation-land use relationship fundamental to densifying urban activities, a necessary precondition for the development of protective environments. Hans Blumenfeld's warns us not to forget, in our enthusiasm for protecting ourselves from winter, about the hot summers in most Canadian cities. Walter Kelm's proposes that the winter city problem is mostly an attitude problem. Blumenfeld, Kelm and Zepic all see arcaded streets, like those of ancient times, or, closer to home, like the Calgary Hudson's Bay arcade, as a good way to provide protection from both winter winds and summer sun. In contrast, Eberhard Zeidler, architect of the Eaton Centre, has contributed an article in praise of that particular example of the total enclosure approach.

Norman Pressman supports the design of cities to allow people to be outdoors as much and as comfortably as possible. He emphasizes the variation between winter cities and the need to take into consideration consequent effects on human behaviour. Guy Gerin-Lajoie proposes a "total concept approach" towards the construction of buildings in cold Arctic areas. John Royle, founder of the Canadian Livable Winter Cities Association, makes the rather remarkable suggestion that population in warm countries is increasing proportionately faster than in northern ones because their climates are more attractive. Royle would do well to differentiate between warm countries and to look for alternative explanations in immigration policies and birth rates.

Reshaping Winter Cities is a first expression of an important movement, one from which we will hopefully hear a lot more in the future. Themes, alternatives and related con-

straints do not emerge systematically from the book's pages. Contributors appear to assume, as in much design literature, that better ideas will resolve city problems. More attention needs to be paid to the relationship between design and political and economic factors, in particular to the relationship between scale of intervention, ownership, and the real political possibilities for public regulation. The increased privatization of public space, for instance, is of fundamental consequence in determining the choice between arcaded or enclosed approaches to weather protection. The Eaton Centre, an example of the latter, is, as Zeidler admits, "a giant cash register." He reminds us, in defence, that it was merchants who created the city. When it comes to the nature and scale of potential spatial intervention, however, modern technology and finance capital make to-day's merchants comparable to their predecessors in name only.

Pressman recognizes the relationship between urban sprawl, seen as a particular contributor to winter city problems, and economic forces; but his recommendations do not deal with it. Blumenfeld proposes the importance of all-season characteristics for livable winter cities, such as safety and prosperity. These obviously require more than design intervention. Descriptions of winning entrants' proposals in the winter cities planning and design competition are not detailed enough to assess how successfully they confronted economic and political constraints. As much as possible, however, they seem to have avoided them through "add on" proposals or through concentrating on situations under single agent control (e.g. the York University campus). It is economic and political constraints and the difficulty of dealing with them which best explains why architects may well continue, despite Broberg's admonitions, to focus on individual buildings, where design ideas may be of more importance in solving problems, rather than extending their vision to the city structure, in winter or summer.

Joy Woolfrey
Planning Consultant
Ottawa

Stelter, Gilbert A. and Alan F.J. Artibise, eds. *The Canadian City: Essays in Urban and Social History*. Ottawa: Carleton University Press, 1984. Pp. 503. Cartes, tableaux, illustrations. \$14.95.

De par son titre, cet ensemble d'essais sur l'histoire «urbaine et sociale de la ville canadienne» suggère que les éditeurs ont voulu présenter les traits de LA ville canadienne de la fin du XIX^e siècle, selon un modèle dont les composantes sont à la fois économiques, physiques, sociales