

ARTH 548seminar

Reconstruction Canada

The two decades from 1943, and the establishment of the Advisory Committees on Reconstruction, marked as fundamental shifts in Canadian policy, status and identity as the transition from Union to Confederation. The Reconstruction period coincided with equally significant developments in the transatlantic and transcontinental spheres signified in the architectural and design fields by the adoption, and adaptaptation, of Modern Movement theory and practice. The positivist attitudes that marked much of the two decades – ending with the Centennial and Expo 67 – came under increasing interrogation and have been largely replaced by either deconstructionist or even cynical critique. The seminar will re-assess the Reconstruction decades by deploying theoretical, historiographical and formal analysis while seeking to situate its design practice in a more comprehensive arena that links larger scale infrastructure planning and institutional/corporate construction with the spaces of quotidian social activity.