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PUBLICATIONS ON CANADIAN BUILDING TECHNOLOGY

by E. R. Carson and G. P. Williams

This Digest is intended to serve as a short introduction to the main Canadian sources of printed information on building technology. It cannot be stressed strongly enough to those unfamiliar with the diverse sources available that the places to begin a search for published information or for directories and periodicals are libraries, either public libraries, which often have a technical section, or the technical libraries of various government and private agencies. If they do not have the needed documents, library staff can usually provide advice on where the required information may be found or how to obtain articles through such services as inter-library loan.

Periodicals

There are many Canadian magazines dealing with various aspects of building, ranging from trade journals concerned with specific materials to technical journals reporting the results of research work. A good source of those available on subscription is the *Canadian Serials Directory* published by the University of Toronto Press and available in most libraries.

The Directory and special issues of Canadian periodicals are often very useful sources of information on building products and associations allied with the building industry, and sometimes provide directories of government officials and consulting firms. Examples include:

Canadian Architect; special supplements containing information on product literature; example, Product Bulletin Directory, Feb. 1975.

Engineering and Contract Record; example, special article on the Government and the Contractor, summer 1977 issue.

Heating, Plumbing, Air-Conditioning; Buyers Guide issue, August, 1977.

The only Canadian abstract service available for assistance in locating articles published in Canada in the building field is *Canadian Building Abstracts*. It is published once a year with abstracts in English and French and is available, free of charge, from the Publications Section, Division of Building Research, National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa K1A 0R6. Articles judged to be of practical value to builders, architects and others concerned with the building industry are selected by DBR staff from Canadian periodicals and other Canadian sources.

Building Product Literature

At present in Canada the main sources of information on building products are manufacturers' trade literature and catalogues. Some manufacturers provide useful technical bulletins on their products and it is often worth while to contact them regarding what is available.

The names of manufacturers of particular building products can be obtained from various directories such as *Fraser's Construction and Building Directory* and the *Canadian Trade Index*. The *Canadian Construction Product Directory*, P.O. Box 215, Mississauga, Ontario, lists products as well as manufacturers.

Collections of building product catalogues, usually prepared by simply binding together the catalogues of different manufacturers without editing for uniformity of content or format, are available from several publishers, including the following:

Sweet's Architectural Catalogue File,
Sweet's Canadian Construction Catalogue File,
Sweet's Engineering Catalogue File,
Thomas Register of American Manufacturers,
Thomas Register Catalogue File.

Standards, Specifications, Tests

The development of a national standards system for Canada is the responsibility of the Standards Council of Canada (SCC). It does not, itself, prepare standards but seeks to coordinate and promote the activities of the standards-writing organizations it has recognized. The SCC Standards Information Service (SIS)* in Ottawa can help to identify the organization likely to have published a particular building standard, but the actual standard will have to be ordered from the standards writing organization. These are:

Canadian Government Specifications Board,
Supply and Services Canada,
Phase 3,
11 Laurier Street,
Hull, Que. K1A 0S5

Canadian Standards Association,
178 Rexdale Blvd.,
Rexdale, Ont. M9W 1R3

Canadian Gas Association,
55 Scarsdale Road,
Don Mills, Ont. M3B 2R3

Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada,
7 Crouse Road,
Scarborough, Ont. M1R 3A9

Bureau de normalisation du Québec,
710 Place d'Youville,
Québec, Qué. G1A 1L2

The Canadian Government Specifications Board (CGSB) prepares standards for a wide range of construction materials, mainly in support of federal government requirements. It provides comprehensive listing of CGSB standards relevant to the construction industry and publishes jointly with the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce a *Building Standards Index* containing a comprehensive list of codes, standards and specifications used in the building construction industry in Canada.

The Canadian Standards Association (CSA) offers a testing and certification service and provides access to standards on building, among them standards for mobile homes. Its library is a source of information on organizations involved in the preparation of standards and on standards legislation. The Bureau de normali-

sation du Québec provides information on building standards used in Quebec.

The Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada (ULC) issues standards relating to the fire safety aspects of building and building products and lists equipment and materials for building construction they have tested. The Canadian Gas Association also carries out testing and certification and publishes standards for gas appliances and installations. The Canadian Testing Association, 159 Bay Street, Suite 208, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 1J7, maintains a directory of commercial testing organizations in Canada.

Construction Specifications Canada (formerly Specification Writers Association of Canada), Suite 301, 1027 Yonge St., Toronto, Ont., M4W 2K2, publishes a periodical entitled *Specification Associate*. In addition, it has produced a series called *CSC Specification Studies* dealing with specific building subjects such as steel stairs and railings, carpentry and wood-framing. It also provides for its members a listing of available CSC publications.

Building Costs

Several publications are available that provide information on current building costs and trends. These include:

Lansdowne's Construction Cost Handbook,
McGraw-Hill Ryerson Ltd.,
330 Progress Avenue,
Scarborough, Ontario M1P 2S5

Yardsticks for Costing, 1977,
1450 Don Mills Rd.,
Don Mills, Ont. M3B 2X7

Construction Price Statistics,
(Monthly Bulletin)
Statistics Canada,
Publications Distribution Div.,
Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0T6

Canadian Building Cost Modifier,
BOECKH Valuation and Cost Systems,
170 University Ave., Suite 402,
Toronto, Ont. M5H 3B3

Building Code Documents

The Division of Building Research of the National Research Council provides the Secretariat for the NRC Associate Committee on the National Building Code and the Associate Committee on the National Fire Code. These

*toll-free telephone number: 1-800-267-8220

committees publish, in addition to the *National Building Code* and the *National Fire Code*, a wide range of related technical documents including those on climatic information, fire performance ratings, building standards for the handicapped, residential standards, the heating, ventilating and air-conditioning code, plumbing code, farm building code, construction safety code and measures for fire safety in high buildings. These documents may be purchased from the Codes Secretariat (ACNBC/ACNFC), National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0R6.

Energy Conservation in Buildings

Recent interest in energy conservation has resulted in considerable printed information on the subject of energy conservation in buildings. Sources include:

The Office of Energy Conservation, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Ottawa K1A 0E4. This office produces booklets concerned with energy conservation in buildings.

The Energy Project Office at the National Research Council, Ottawa, is responsible for coordinating various aspects of federal energy programs, including solar and wind energy.

The Associate Committee on the National Building Code, is preparing a model code document entitled "Canadian Code for Energy Conservation in New Buildings." The model is written in a form suitable for adoption by appropriate authorities.

Provincial organizations such as the Ministry of Energy, 56 Wellesley St. W., Toronto, Ont. M7A 2B7. These organizations have started to provide publications on energy conservation.

Several other agencies, universities, and solar societies are interested in renewable energy sources and produce documents on an irregular basis on the general subject. Information about such publications can be best obtained through public and other library services.

Associations, Societies, Universities

Technical and professional associations are important sources of information on building. They range from national associations, predominantly technology oriented, to smaller regional associations such as builders' exchanges. Information about them can be obtained from directories such as the *Corpus Almanac of Canada*, the *Canadian Almanac and Directory*,

and the *Directory of Associations in Canada*. Although many associations, such as the Canadian Construction Association, are of special importance to building, only a few produce technical publications. Some examples are listed:

Canadian Roofing Contractors Association, Suite 710, 116 Albert St., Ottawa, Ont. K1P 5G3. Provincial roofing associations also publish information on roofing.

Canadian Institute of Steel Construction, 201 Consumers Road, Suite 300, Willowdale, Ont. M2J 4G8. Included among its publications are the *CISC Handbook of Steel Construction*, users' manuals for various computer programs, design notes, case studies and a number of general information brochures.

Canadian Wood Council, Suite 701, 170 Laurier Ave., W., Ottawa, Ont. K1P 5V5. The Council has published several booklets on wood design and construction, particularly in relation to framing, insulation, wood foundations, and commentaries on building code documents.

Clay Brick Association of Canada, 5218 Yonge St., Willowdale, Ontario M2N 5P6, supplies information on bricks and brick construction.

Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada, (HUDAC), 15 Toronto Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5C 2E3. The technical research committees of this Association have published several bulletins and manuals on building subjects.

The Canadian Sheet Steel Building Institute, 305-201 Consumers Road, Willowdale, Ont. M2J 4G8. This Institute has published a series of technical bulletins for steel building products.

Educational Institutes

Many technical colleges and a few universities in Canada have courses in building technology or science, but they produce relatively few technical documents designed to be of use to building practitioners. The best way to locate such documents is through library facilities.

U.S.A. Organizations

No listing of associations and societies of importance to building in Canada would be complete without mentioning the U.S. organizations, which have either Canadian branches or active Canadian participation. Three of the more important in terms of printed technical information on buildings are:

The Portland Cement Association, 116 Albert St., Ottawa, K1P 5G3, a division of the U.S. based association. It produces a large number of technical publications dealing with cement and concrete and maintains regional offices in Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, Edmonton and Vancouver.

The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE), 345 East 47th St., New York, N.Y. 10017, U.S.A. The Society has several Canadian chapters and strong and active Canadian participation. It publishes authoritative articles on various aspects of mechanical engineering.

The American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), 1916 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA. 19103, U.S.A. Canadians have strong participation in the work of the Society, serving on many of its technical committees. Many ASTM standards deal with building materials; they are available in the 48-volume ASTM Book of Standards.

In addition to these three major sources there are many other technical societies in the United States too numerous to mention that have strong Canadian affiliation and produce technical publications of interest to the Canadian building industry.

Provincial Organizations

Several provincial departments or agencies are useful sources of printed information on building; for example, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, 135 St. Clair Ave. W., Toronto, Ont. M4V 1P5, has issued a comprehensive booklet on septic tank systems. Several other provincial agencies also produce booklets on septic tanks. Hydro companies supply information concerning electrical heating and insulation, and provincial departments concerned with building codes and safety regulations are good sources of information. The best way to discover what is available is through library services or by contacting local offices of the appropriate department or agency.

Federal Government Building Documents

Several federal government agencies such as the Department of Public Works and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs

have extensive interest in building but they do not, in general, produce technical publications for public use. Only those agencies that are known to produce technical publications available to the building industry will be listed in this Digest.

Agriculture Canada, Sir John Carling Building, Carling Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0C5, has published several brochures of interest to builders; for example, those dealing with plants and landscaping and a recent booklet on *Insulation in Farm Buildings* (1976).

The Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Place de Ville, 112 Kent Street, Ottawa, K1A 0H5, has recently (1977) published a *Directory of Canadian Building Manufacturers*.

The Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, (CMHC), Ottawa, K1A 0P7, has issued a variety of technical publications ranging from builders bulletins to technical summaries. CMHC has also listed materials acceptable for use in houses built under the National Housing Act; this list, although primarily intended for the guidance of corporation officials, is available to the public at CMHC offices.

The Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Ottawa, Ont., K1A 0E4, in addition to its publications on energy conservation, issues reports on its research on building materials and heating systems for buildings.

The Eastern Forest Products Laboratory, 800 Montreal Road, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0W5, and the Western Forest Products Laboratory, 6620 N.W. Marine Dr., Vancouver, B.C., V6T 1X2, are concerned with the production and use of wood; they produce technical publications of interest to those using wood in building.

The National Research Council of Canada, Division of Building Research, Montreal Road, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0R6, has produced a large number of publications, ranging from papers that present the results of original research, initially published in scientific journals, to articles written in non-technical terms for laymen interested in building. The *Canadian Building Digests* (now numbering nearly 200) deal with specific subjects on building technology. Other DBR publications provide news and information for the industry at large; still others are directed to specialist groups in the building science field.

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Les Digests de la construction sont publiés en français aussitôt que possible après la parution de l'original anglais. On peut les obtenir en faisant une demande à la Section des publications, Division des recherches sur le bâtiment, Conseil national de recherches Canada, Ottawa, K1A 0R6.

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