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TREVOR BODDY – SILTON SUMMER CHAPEL

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BY AMANDA CHIDDENTON
Biographical Sketch of Trevor Boddy:

Trevor Boddy was born in 1953 in Edmonton, Alberta. He earned a degree in art from the University of Alberta and a degree in architecture from the University of Calgary. Boddy started his career as an urban designer in Edmonton.

Boddy has been successful in his career as an architect, curator, writer, critic and columnist and has earned several awards and achievements. His book *Modern Architecture in Alberta* was the first critical monograph in Canada to look at the evolution of modernism in a regional context; and *The Architecture of Douglas Cardinal* was named Alberta Book of the Year in 1990 and was short-listed by the International Union of Architects prize for best book of architectural criticism. Boddy won the Western Magazine Award for arts writing in 2001; and was a joint winner in 2003 for the Jack Webster Journalism award of civic reporting.

Currently, Boddy lives in Vancouver and works as a critic for The Vancouver Sun and as a curator. Boddy writes for *The Vancouver Sun*, *Ottawa Citizen*, *Seattle Times* and design magazines globally. His column called, ‘Dwelling’, is featured weekly in the Globe and Mail. Boddy is also a contributing editor to Seattle’s *Arcade* and Toronto’s *Canadian Architect Magazine*. Boddy was the curator on a major exhibition entitled, *Telling Details: the Architecture of Clifford Wiens* which toured nationally and for which this tour of the Silton Summer Chapel was arranged.

Biographical Sketch of Clifford Wiens:

In 1926 Clifford Wiens was born on his family’s farm in Glen Kerr, Saskatchewan. Wiens was raised with strict Mennonite values that included hard work and independence. As a child he developed a range of construction, metalworking and mechanical skills that were pertinent for operating the farm and proved useful as an architect, which strongly influenced his work.

Wiens studied art in Banff and agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan. In 1949 he went to the Rhode Island School of design to study industrial design. However, he later transferred into the architecture program. After he graduated he moved to Regina, Saskatchewan, where he started his practice in 1957.

Wiens is known for his wide variety of clients and building types which are characterized by bold detailing, elegant spaces, modernism and simplicity. For the 40-years Wiens had his Regina practice he built many notable buildings like: the John Nugent Studio in Lumsden (1960); the University of Regina Heating and Cooling Plant (1968); Silton Summer Chapel (1967) and the Regina CBC Broadcast Centre (1983).

Wiens moved to Vancouver in the mid-1990s and is currently consulting, designing and teaching as a visiting professor at the University of Arizona and Arizona State University.

Silton Summer Chapel:

The Silton Summer Chapel was constructed in 1969 and is about 45 minutes from Regina. The Chapel is a fully consecrated Roman Catholic Church and is used in the summer for cottagers on Long Lake. The Chapel is situated perfectly between the open prairie and lake, giving different breathtaking views on each side. The wall-less structure’s roof is hung by beams and irons rods to give the space an open air feel. The Silton Summer Chapel is considered by many one of Clifford Wiens best works.

References:
http://www.cbc.ca/sask/features/mackenzie/exhibitions.html
http://esask.uregina.ca/entry/wiens_clifford_1926-.html
http://www.fbbva.es/TLFU/dat/nota%20autores%20ingles_america.pdf
http://pricetags.wordpress.com/2007/02/03/critiquing-the-critic-trevor-boddy/
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Box 1

1. **DVD**: 7 minutes 53 seconds

   **Content**: Trevor Boddy leads a tour of the summer chapel in Silton, Saskatchewan. This church was designed by architect Clifford Wiens. The discussion is regarding the possibility of this building becoming a historical Canadian landmark.