

UNIVERSITY OF REGINA ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
DR JOHN ARCHER LIBRARY

2005-36

TREVOR BODDY – SILTON SUMMER CHAPEL

JUNE 2011

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 Sifton 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); Sifton 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.

Sifton Summer Chapel:

The Sifton 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 iron rods to give the space an open air feel. The Sifton Summer Chapel is considered by many one of Clifford Wiens best works.

References:

<http://www.canadianarchitect.com/issues/story.aspx?aid=1000203157&type=Print%20Archives>

<http://capitalmodern.blogspot.com/2007/04/trevor-boddy-biography.html>

<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/>

<http://www.vancouverism.ca/press/PRESS%20RELEASES/Vancouverism-Bios.pdf>

<http://vancouverlights.blogspot.com/2010/09/telling-details-of-clifford-wiens.html>

Scope and Content: The date of this collection is 2005. There are 1 millimeters of material including: 1 digital video disk.

Custodial History: This collection was sent to Archives and Special Collections from the donor.

Legal Agreement: Pending

Future Accruals: Future Accruals are expected.

Access Restrictions: Contact the University Archivist to access this collection

Related Accessions: No other related accession numbers currently exist.

Note on Arrangement: The original file titles and their order have been maintained.

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.