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CLIFFORD WIENS – “TELLING DETAILS
THE ARCHITECTURE OF CLIFFORD WIENS”

AUGUST 2016

BY KIEU MA,

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THE ARCHITECTURE OF CLIFFORD WIENS”

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THE ARCHITECTURE OF CLIFFORD WIENS”

“**TELLING DETAILS**” is an exhibition of the work of Saskatchewan architect Clifford Wiens curated by Art and Architecture critic and historian, Trevor Boddy. The exhibition was arranged by the Mendel Art Gallery in Saskatoon from November 25, 2005 to January 15, 2006, then travelled to other venues and ending at the MacKenzie Art Gallery in Regina where it was on display from May 26 to August 26, 2007.

Sources (July 2016): <http://www.mackenzieartgallery.ca/engage/exhibitions/telling-details-the-architecture-of-clifford-wiens>
<http://www.mackenzieartgallery.ca/engage/exhibitions>

Biographical Sketch of Clifford Wiens: Clifford Donald Wiens was born in April 1926 on his family’s Mennonite farm near Glen Kerr, Saskatchewan where self-reliance was largely encouraged and growing up he became skillful in general construction principals, metalwork and mechanics. Interested in art and design, Wiens studied painting at the Banff Centre for Continuing Education with A.Y. Jackson; he studied agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon under a Wheat Pool Sponsorship Program for young farmers and machine tooling at the Moose Jaw Technical School. In 1949 Wiens was accepted into the Rhode Island School of Design on a full scholarship, graduated in 1954 and in 1957 started his own architectural firm in Regina. In 1958 he began work on his first important project, namely St. Joseph’s Church at Whitewood, Saskatchewan. In 1965 Wiens started what was to be a major project, the renovation and restoration of the Saskatchewan Legislative Building, taking some fourteen years to complete.

With a career spanning over 40 years, Wiens is considered one of Canada’s best architects. His diverse body of architectural work can be found throughout Saskatchewan and includes designs for the construction of schools and hospitals, chapels and churches, motel and apartment buildings, private residences, buildings for corporations and health spas, dairy creameries in Regina and Saskatoon, a Trans-Canada Highway campground near Maple Creek, an artist’s studio in Lumsden, and on the campus of the University of Regina, the award winning heating and cooling plant which, in 2011, also won the Prix du XXe siècle from the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

Wiens belonged to several professional organizations, these include the Saskatchewan Association of Architects, serving as president in 1970; the Regina Chapter of Architects from 1960 to 1969; the Canadian Department of Public Works’ Advisory Committee on Art for Public Buildings from 1974 to 1981. Wiens is an associate member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Arts and a Fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

In 2005 Wiens was celebrated with a 40 year retrospective of his work ranging in date from 1955 to 1995. The Mendel Art Gallery in Saskatoon organized and circulated this nationally traveling exhibition entitled “Telling Details: The Architecture of Clifford Wiens” which was curated by Trevor Boddy. The exhibition included over 170 examples of Wiens’ work including architectural models, drawings and photographs. The exhibition events also included a one-day symposium entitled “Homemade Modernism: Prairie Architecture Since 1955”, and a performance piece by Wiens’ daughter Robin Poitras of New Dance Horizons (Regina).

The Saskatchewan Communication Network (SCN) also highlighted this architects creative problem-solving skills articulated in and by his clever building designs in a television documentary series called “Edifice and Us”, Wiens portion included background for the University of Regina Heating and Cooling Plant, the Sifton Valley Chapel and a personal residence located in Regina.

Buildings designed by Clifford Wiens include John Nugent’s Studio (St. Mark’s Shop) in Lumsden (1960); the University of Regina Heating and Cooling Plant (1968), the Qu’Appelle Sifton Summer Chapel (1967); the Regina CBC Broadcast Centre (1983); the Prince Albert City Hall (1984) and many, many others.

Wiens has also been a visiting professor or lecturer at several post secondary schools in both Canada and the United States of America. These include the University of Arizona and the Arizona

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State University, the University of Manitoba, the University of Calgary, the University of British Columbia; the University of Saskatchewan and at the North Dakota State University.

Wiens closed his practice in Regina in 1994 and moved to Vancouver where he continued to practice, completing an important project for family in Denver, Colorado.

Wiens has written several books regarding growing up in Saskatchewan, his work and his family.

Elizabeth Seitz, 2016

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*.

Elizabeth Seitz, 2011

Scope and Content: This collection contains two Condition Report binders which consist of material related to the exhibition “Telling Details - The Architecture of Clifford Wiens”. The reports include information on the itinerary, condition reports, section lists, crate lists, and installation shots taken while on display at the Mendel Art Gallery. This exhibition originated at the Mendel Art Gallery in Saskatoon and showed there from November 25, 2005 to January 15, 2006. It then began touring to other venues within Canada such as Cambridge Art Gallery, in Cambridge, Ontario; Plug In Inc. in Winnipeg, Manitoba and the MacKenzie Art Gallery in Regina, Saskatchewan where it was on display from May 26 to August 26, 2007. This collection also includes one compact disk of the installation while on display at the Cambridge Art Gallery in Cambridge, Ontario.

106 photographs mounted on foam board, 18 oversize photographs on mylar, and one coro plast board are also included.

See Archives Oversize Inventory document for information about locations for this material.

Custodial History: This collection was sent to Archives and Special Collections by the donor in July 2016

Future Accruals: Future Accruals are expected.

Access Restrictions: This collection is open to researchers, although the material may not be scanned or reproduced without prior consent from the donor or his heirs.

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Boxes	Folder	Item #	
Box 1	1	1	COMAPCT DISK (#1) (Images printed) Cambridge Art Gallery, Cambridge, Ontario - Exhibition display
	2,3 4,5		CONDITION REPORT (4 folders) Sections A – E Sections F – Q
	6	1	CORE-PLAST BOARD (#1) (Oversize) Related to Lochhead’s Painting Studio (Additional information: The Lochhead Studio has been moved by flatbed truck from its site in Balgonie, Saskatchewan, to the Mendel property, where it will find a permanent home adjacent to the Meewasin Valley Authority Trail. With generous support from PCL (formerly Poole Construction Ltd.), the Mendel will preserve an important piece of Saskatchewan’s cultural and artistic heritage, commemorating the outstanding legacy of Regina Five artist, Kenneth Lochhead and architect Clifford Wiens)
	7		FOAM-CORE BOARD (#1-108) (All Oversize)
		1	Module 1 / 1.7f
		2	Module 2 / 2.21
		3	Module 2 / 2.24
		4	Module 6 / 6.34
		5	Module 6 / 6.38
		6	Module 10 / 10.19
		7	Module 11 / 11.7
		8	Module 12 / 12.16
		9	Module 12 / 12.17
		10	Module 12 / 12.23
		11	Module 13 / 13.5
		12	Module 14 / 14.2
		13	Module 14 / 14.2 (backwards print)
		14	Module 14 / 14.3 (backwards print)
		15	Module 14 / 14.9
			Section A- Student, Apprentice and Industrial Design Projects, Providence, Rhode Island and Saskatchewan
		16	1 Part I (Module 1 / 1.23) (Introduction, Photos, Panels)
		17	4 Part I (Introduction, Photos, Panels)
		18	5 Part I (Module 1 / 1.2)
		19	11 Part II (Module 1 / 1.9, 1.10)
		20	13 Part II (Module 1 / 1.8a, 1.8b, 1.8c)
		21	18 Part II (Module 1 / 1.7g)
		22	19 Part II (Module 1 / 1.6)
		23	20 Part II (Module 1 / 1.5)
		24	21 Part II (Module 1 / 1.4)
		25	22 Part II (Module 1 / 1.3)
			Section B- Schulte Earth-Scraper Model JS3A Industrial Design Prototype
		26	24 (Module 13 / 13.3)

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27	25 (Module 13 / 13.4)
	Section C- St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church
28	30 Part I (Module 2 / 2.26)
29	42 Part II (Module 2 / 2.19)
30	43 Part II (Module 2 / 2.20)
31	62 Part III (Module 2 / 2.25)
32	63 Part III (Module 2 / 2.23)
	Section D- Interprovincial Steel Corporation
33	65 (Module 4 / 4.11a)
34	66 (Module 4 / 4.15)
35	74 (Module 4 / 4.14)
36	75 (Module 4 / 4.13)
37	76 (Module 4 / 4.11b)
38	77 (Module 4 / 4.12b)
	Section E- John Nugent Studio (St. Marks Shop) Lumsden
39	81 (Module 5 / 5.3)
40	83 (Module 5 / 5.11 / 5.12 / 5.13)
41	84 (Module 5 / 502f4-14)
42	87 (Module 5 / 5.4)
	Section F- Kramer Lakeshore Residence Near Lebreton
43	92 Part I (Module 3 / 3.13)
44	93 Part I (Module 3 / 3.14)
45	94 Part I (Module 3 / 3.15)
46	100 Part II (Module 3 / 3.21)
47	101 Part II (Module 3 / 3.16)
48	102 Part II (Module 3 / 3.17)
49	103 Part II (Module 3 / 3.20)
50	104 Part II (Module 3 / 3.19)
	Section G- Sifton Summer Chapel, Qu'Appelle Valley
51	114 (Module 7 / 7.9)
52	115 (Module 7 / 7.5)
53	116 (Module 7 / 7.11)
54	117 (Module 7 / 7.4)
56	120 (Module 7 / 7.3)
56	121 (Module 7 / 7.6)
57	122 (Module 7 / 7.8)
	Section H- Heating and Cooling Plant, University of Regina
58	129 Part I (Module 6 / 6.37)
59	130 Part I (Module 6 / 6.36)
60	131 Part I (Module 6 / 6.5)
61	132 Part I (Module 6 / 6.3)
62	141 Part III (Module 6 / 6.35)
63	142 Part III (Module 6 / 6.33)
64	143 Part III (Module 6 / 6.32)
65	144 Part III (Module 6 / 6.31)
	Section I- Trans-Canada Highway Campground, Maple Creek
66	158 (Module 9 / 9.11)
67	159 (Module 9 / 9.14)
69	160 (Module 9 / 9.8)
69	161 (Module 9 / 9.13)

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	Section J-Spiral Teepee Picnic Shelters
70	169 (Module 8 / 8.4)
71	171 (Module 8 / 8.5)
72	173 (Module 6 / 8.6)
73	174 (Module 8 / 8.8)
	Section K- Nakusp Community Hot Springs Spa
74	181 (Module 10 / 10.20)
75	182 (Module 10 / 10.24)
76	183 (Module 10 / 10.25)
77	184 (Module 10 / 10.23)
78	188 (Module 10 / 10.21)
79	189 (Module 10 / 10.22)
	Section L- Wiens Design Studio, Regina
80	192 (Module 12 / 12.1)
81	193 (Module 12 / 12.6)
82	194 (Module 12 / 12.3)
83	195 (Module 12 / 12.2)
84	196 (Module 12 / 12.5)
85	197 (Module 14 / 14.7)
86	198 (Module 13 / 13.11a, 13.11b, 13.11c)
	Section M-Faith/Life Building Camrose Lutheran College, Alberta
87	199 (Module 12 / 12.22)
88	200 (Module 12 / 12.24)
89	201 (Module 12 / 12.20)
90	202 (Module 12 / 12.21)
	Section N- City Hall, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan
91	203 (Module 12 / 12.9a)
92	204 (Module 12 / 12.9b)
93	205 (Module 12 / 12.10)
94	206 (Module 12 / 12.8)
95	207 (Module 12 / 12.11)
96	208 (Module 12 / 12.7)
	Section O-National Gallery of Canada Competition Design, Ottawa
97	211 (Module 12 / 12.18)
98	212 (Module 12 / 12.15)
99	213 (Module 12 / 12.19)
	Section P- Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Regina Studios
100	218 (Module 11 / 11.9)
101	219 (Module 11 / 11.8)
102	220 (Module 11 / 11.10)
103	221 (Module 11 / 11.12)
	Section Q-Clifford Wiens Architect and Industrial Designer
104	227 Part I (end of text panels – photographs)
105	228 Part I (end of text panels – photographs)
106	229 Part I (end of text panels – photographs)

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8	OVERSIZE PHOTOGRAPHS ON MYLAR (#1-18)
	Section A- The Architecture of Clifford Wiens
1	3 Part I (Module 0 / H) Portrait of Clifford Wiens – Oversize Folder 1/2
	Section B- Schulte Earth-Scraper Model JS3A Industrial Design Prototype
2	23 (Module 13 / 13.2) – Oversize Folder 1/2
	Section C- St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church
3	41 (Module 2 / 2.22) – Oversize Folder 2/2
	Section D- Interprovincial Steel Corporation
4	64 (Module 4 / 4.12) – Oversize Folder 2/2
5	64 (Module 4 / 4.12) backwards print – Oversize Folder 2/2
	Section E- John Nugent Studio (St. Marks Shop) Lumsden
6	78 (Module 5 / 502f4.12) – Oversize Folder 2/2
	Section F- Kramer Lakeshore Residence Near Lebret
7	89 Part I (Module 3 / 3.18) – Oversize Folder 1/2
	Section G- Sifton Summer Chapel, Qu'appelle Valley
8	113 (Module 7 / 7.10) – Oversize Folder 1/2
	Section H- Heating and Cooling Plant, University of Regina
9	128 (Module 6) – Oversize Folder 1/2
	Section I- Trans-Canada Highway Campground, Maple Creek
10	157 (Module 9 / 9.12) – Oversize Folder 1/2
11	157 (Module 9 / 9.12) – Oversize Folder 1/2
	Section J-Spiral Teepee Picnic Shelters
12	166 (Module 8) – Oversize Folder 2/2
13	166 (Module 8 / 8.7) – Oversize Folder 2/2
	Section K- Nakusp Community Hot Springs Spa
14	176 (Module 10 / 10.18) – Oversize Folder 1/2
	Section L- Wiens Design Studio, Regina
15	191 (Module 12 / 12.4) – Oversize Folder 1/2
	Section P- Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Regina Studios
16	217 (Module 11 / 11.11) – Oversize Folder 1/2
	Section Q – Clifford Wiens Architect and Industrial Designer
17	226 (Module 14 / 14.6) – Oversize Folder 1/2
18	Unlabeled, Un-numbered interior of Saskatchewan Gallery, Legislative Building – Oversize Folder 2/2