

Notes and Comments/Notes et commentaires

IUS Prepares Bibliography on Northern Housing

As part of the Institute of Urban Studies "northern housing" initiative, IUS is compiling an annotated bibliography of literature pertinent to the discussion of northern housing. The bibliography, which now comprises well over 300 entries, is an on-going endeavour which will be regularly revised and/or updated. It presents a thorough and comprehensive appraisal of the published material relevant to the study of the north, and should foster the continued analysis of the unique circumstances of the northern community.

Although the central theme of the bibliography is northern housing, it also provides an overview of literature related to northern development — particularly in the prairie north, and the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Issues addressed in the bibliography are those which are considered integral elements of the northern community phenomenon (i.e., industrialization, population mobility, utility servicing, cooperative programming or the concept of "deculturalization." In this regard, the bibliography offers an important community perspective to the northern housing issue.

This sense of community is articulated in such studies as: J. Adam's "Settlement in the Northeastern Arctic;" P.J. Usher and L. Beakhus's *Land-Use Regulations in the Canadian North*; or James Van Stone's formative anthropological study *The Changing Culture of the Snowdrift Chipewyan*. Whether addressing the Métis community as discussed by Valentine and Young in "The Situation of Métis in Northern Saskatchewan;" the resource town as portrayed by Janet Macpherson in "The Pine Point Mine;" or even the regional centre as described by O.B. Johnson in *A Study of Churchill, Manitoba*, in numerous publications the particulars of the northern community are examined as they relate to the housing process. Indeed, as argued by Dickens and Platts in a paper entitled "Housing in Northern Canada: Some Recent Developments," the unique quality of northern housing is a by-product of the "peculiar economic and logistic factors of the north."

The housing component of the bibliography ranges in scope from design and construction manuals utilized in the north to the program evaluation reports prepared by government officials. Emphasizing the distinct quality of northern housing, these materials offer an historical overview of changing housing form and construction techniques. While reference can be made to a northern housing tradition, most of the sources consulted are from a fairly recent genre. With the post-1950 expansionary boom into the north, the proliferation of housing studies has become a well established trend. From the "matchbox" units of the federal govern-

ment's crash housing program to the more contemporary fibre-glass-reinforced polyester structures, northern housing has spawned analysis. It has done so, however, at the initiative of government and while there is some evidence to suggest that the study of housing has become more acceptable as an intellectual pursuit, generally it still remains the prerogative of government.

The long list of government sponsored or co-ordinated studies on the topic of northern housing is headed by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). Through an extensive range of research documents (i.e., *Houses of the North*, *Examples of Northern Construction Practices*, and *Housing and Northern People*), CMHC has compiled an extensive inventory of northern housing reports. So too has the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Department of Public Works.

At the provincial level, all three prairie provinces have participated in the preparation of northern housing studies. The province of Saskatchewan, however, offers the most substantial contribution through publications such as the *Housing Needs Survey* or *Housing Needs in Northern Saskatchewan*. At the territorial government level, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is the most active participant in the study of northern housing. Its most notable publications in this regard are: *An Integrated Housing Policy*, *Housing Needs and Delivery in the Northwest Territories*, and *The Final Report of the Special Committee on Housing*.

The non-government approach to the study of northern housing has evolved from two sources; private consultants and academics. The consultants' reports are usually site specific and fairly technical in their analysis. For example, publications such as Moshie Safdie and Associates' *Development Plan of Frobisher Bay*, Underwood McLelland and Associates' *Preliminary Analysis of Facilities for the Townsite of Churchill* or Praxis' *Resource Community Study*, all discuss housing in the context of site re-development. The academic perspective, on the other hand, is generally more theoretical and tends to relate housing to the larger perspective of economic development. Growing out of such programs as the University of Manitoba's Centre for Settlement Studies, the University of Saskatchewan's Institute for Northern Studies or the University of Calgary's Arctic Institute, housing has become an important aspect for the northern focus of several universities. S.H. Dietze's "Housing in the Canadian North," B. Culjat's "Climate and the Built Environment in the North," or L.R. Zrudlo's "A Model for An Integrated Design Approach to Settlement Planning in the Arctic," are all outstanding examples of the academic community's interest in northern housing.