# COMMUNICATION ARTS





# Gottschalk + Ash

When CA assigned me to see what was happening in Canada generally, I did not expect that 1) during February the temperature in Montreal is literally zero except when it gets colder, and 2) I was going to witness a potentially significant event in Canadian graphics.

What happened was that while I was interviewing Fritz Gottschalk in his Montreal Studio, he received a call from his client at a major Canadian company. Gottschalk + Ash's entire presentation for a corporate design program had just that moment been accepted without reservation. Unfortunately, this cannot be a scoop. For whatever their reasons, G + A's client does not want any information to be released by our publication date. Maybe later.

It may seem strange that I mentioned this at all, but there are reasons why it is important. Canada is a pioneering area in terms of graphic design, and G + A are blazing many of the trails. The few big corporate design programs that happen here are usually produced by U.S. firms. This may turn out to be the largest one ever carried out by a Canadian studio.

Some background: Fritz Gottschalk is definitely Swiss by birth, training and inclination. (Although he has taken out Canadian citizenship and maintains that he is more Canadian than Swiss, don't you believe it. Of the eight people he has working for G + A in Montreal, five of them are Swiss, including the receptionist, one is an Englishwoman, one is American and the other is Canadian — and he is leaving to study in Switzerland. I leave it to you to guess where Fritz has found a designer to replace the Canadian. That's right.)

Fritz originally formed the studio with Stuart Ash, an English Canadian, in 1966 because he didn't want to create a little Zurich here. But Ash tired of the pervasive pro-French, anti-English attitudes of Montreal and moved to tolerant Toronto to open the second design office of  ${\sf G}+{\sf A}.$ 

This seems to work quite well. They each work independently of the other, for different clients.

The design level of the studio is consistently high. It is also predictably Swiss in style and sophistication, although Fritz delights in showing off his non-Helvetica samples and maintains that the work of the Ash office is far more rigidly Swiss than his is.

The designers in the studios have a relatively free reign in that they each work on separate projects and see them through to finish, with others helping out in the crunch of deadlines — and there are a lot of those.

Fritz told me that the studio is really supported by \$200 jobs; that an annual report is worth between \$1,000 and \$2,000 depending on the complexity of the job and the client's tolerance; and that Fritz and Stu bill out at \$20 an hour, the other designers at \$15 and mechanicals at \$10. At those prices, normal-to-high in Canada, he must produce a lot of work in order to survive as a studio — and he accepts no "garbage" but holds out for "only good design problems." He invoices an average of 30 jobs a month.

The other side of the coin is wages. Fritz says that a talented young designer, just out of a two-year term of apprenticeship, can expect to make \$75 to \$100 a week in Canada; and

that a top man in a studio can make \$12,000 a year. (The cost of living is pretty high — I didn't notice much difference between Montreal and San Francisco in that respect.)

Money aside, Fritz Gottschalk says quite seriously that for him "design is a way of life"; that "my work comes first and my wife second."There is no third that I can discern. His designers seem to share that view and they put in long, quiet, overtime hours at their boards.

This is a young, talented, well-trained and efficient group. They may be somewhat quiet and reserved, but they smile a lot and are extremely gracious and friendly. If I weren't so damn lazy and vocal, I might even like to work in Montreal — a great city. On second thought, strike that. I don't speak French and besides I'm not nearly well enough trained in the uses of Helvetica and the grid system to work with Fritz Gottschalk.

Toronto was much warmer, both in temperature and general acceptance of non-French speaking visitors. I had lunch with Stu Ash and then visited with him at his studio. This is another talented but smaller group with each of the three designers responsible for his own projects.

Fritz was right: The Swiss influence is indeed stronger here — not a non-Helvetica sample in sight — although none of the Ash group is from Switzerland. As I mentioned, Stu is a native Canadian, Malcolm Waddell is from England and Tiit Telmet was born in Estonia but grew up and was educated in the States.

There are subtle differences in approach and style between the two

groups, differences difficult to explain, but I'll try.

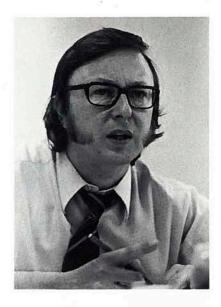
The work of the Toronto group seems more instinctive, to me, despite its chid adherence to the grid and Helvetica. The communication is more direct, particularly in the theatre posters and the transit system projects. Do not infer from this that I feel the Montreal office in any way lacks these qualities. I am only speaking of differences in degree and as I mentioned they are quite subtle and subjective.

Design is not "a way of life" to Stu Ash. He works hard but doesn't mistake that work for his life. Stu uses the analogy that "the designer's work, like the painter's art or the composer's music, are his footprints. They indicate the direction he is going but little of the substance of the man."

He seems slightly more concerned with the social content of his work than Fritz, although neither of them feels that designers can afford to reject or accept work on that basis. Stu is proud of the positive environmental impact of the transit system projects he has done, even as Fritz takes pride in his work for the Canadian National Parks and Wildlife programs.

Finally, Gottschalk + Ash, taken separately or together, is a remarkably consistent group. I didn't see a single piece that fell below a rather high standard of design. This is not to say that they are all extraordinarily exciting. Indeed, some are quite conservative, befitting the technical, scientific or corporate content of the jobs.

D.S.



#### Fritz Gottschalk

Montreal office: Wynn Medinger, Eric Morrell, Peter Steiner, Don Kindschi, Bill Podmore, Sue Scott, Fritz Gottschalk, Irene Florke, Fredy Jaggi

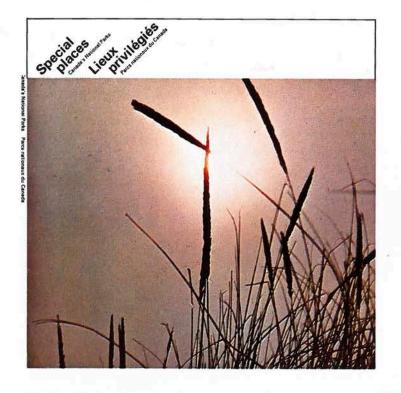
Toronto office: Tiit Telmet, Malcolm Waddell, Stuart Ash

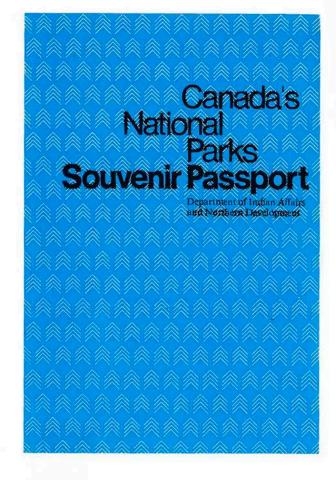
Photographs by Anne Dowie





The graphics for Indian and Northern Affairs, Parks Canada, represent a monumental sized program all executed on a very high level. Gottschalk + Ash began their development and presentation of this four years ago and the work continues. There are 28 National Parks that proserve 49,800 square miles and include parts of every province and territory. Each of these parks has its individual graphic materials, but all are executed within the continuity of the entire system.













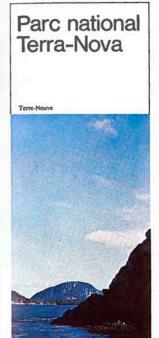


Left: a passport book given to children visiting the National Parks. Each park has its own stamp, examples of two are shown.

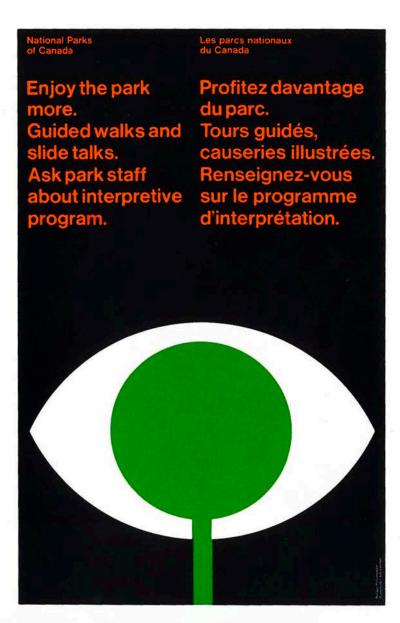
Cover and spread from a book on the National Parks.

Right: poster for use in all of the parks.

Below: brochures given out in the parks. The first spread of an unfolded brochure is shown at bottom. This opens again to a page of maps and information.







### **Point Pelee National Park**













Warden's cabin



View point

Examples from a set of standard symbols developed for the park maps.



Parking



Cave



Boating



Campground



On-site exhibit



Store



Ferry



Fishing



Supervised beach



Wharf



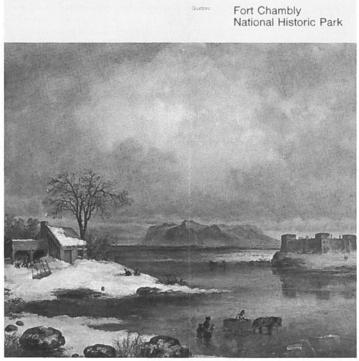
Ski area



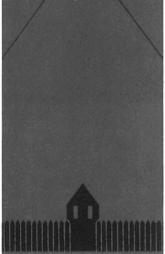
Spring

Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Park Nova Scotla

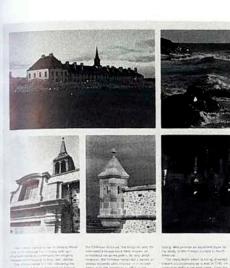


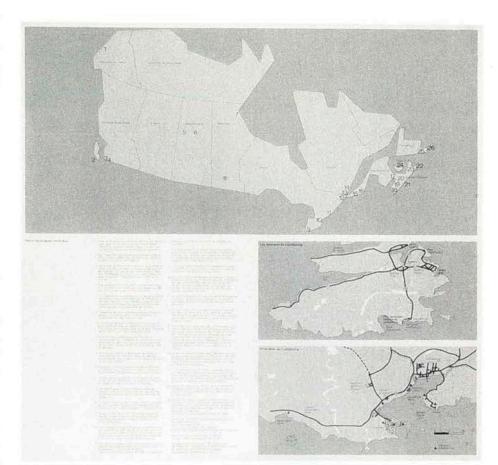


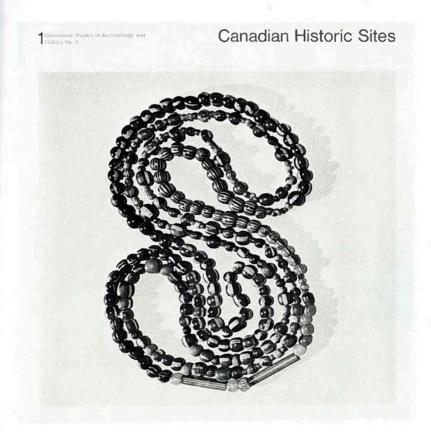
Rocky Mountain House Parc historique national

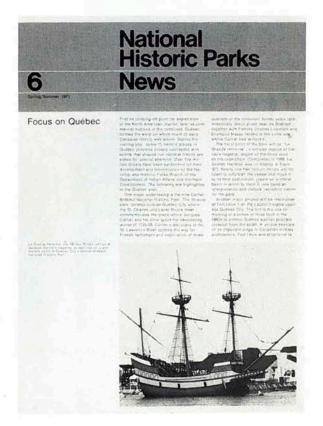


A similar program has been developed for Indian and Northern Affairs, National Historic Sites (34 designated sites). Samples of brochure covers are shown at lower left with the unfolded spreads from a typical brochure shown on this page. Below are examples of books produced for public sale and a quarterly newsletter.









Right, top: brochure for public hearings on plans for Canada's National Parks.

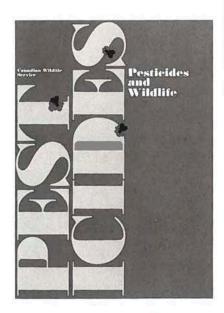
Brochures for Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service.

Below: prototype for sign, Canadian Wildlife Service.

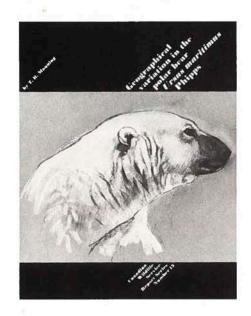
Bottom: statement of government Indian policy, Indian and Northern Affairs.

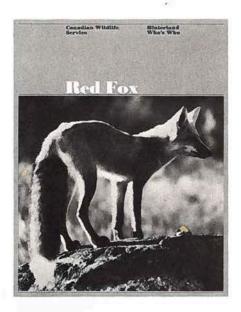
Facing page: covers and spread from a series of brochures for The Computer Communications Group/ Bell Canada.

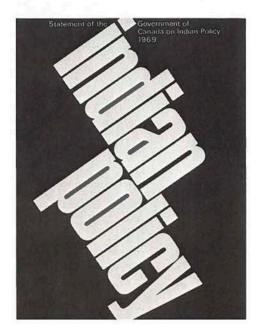






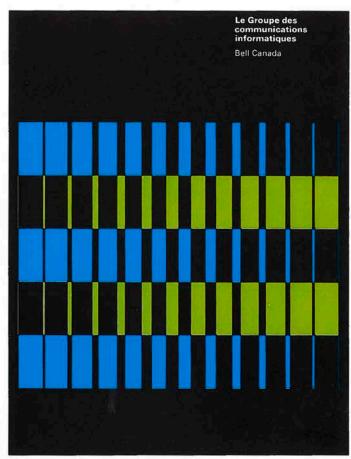
















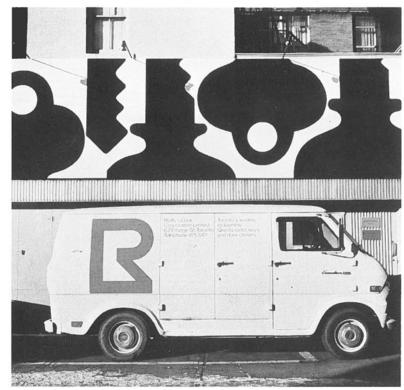
Mark, vehicle identification and building graphics for Reilly's Lock Corporation.

G + A have created identity programs for a number of transit systems. Shown here are a transfer and an ad for Oakville Transit and vehicle identification for Sudbury Transit.

Right: stamp designs for Post Canada commemorating four international congresses.

Poster for Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. Photograph by Tom Prescot.

Catalog for Canadian Arctic Producers, Limited, a non-profit marketing organization for Canadian Eskimo artists and craftsmen.









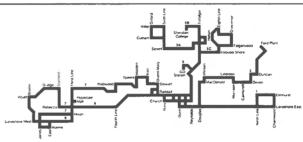
## Ride the new **Oakville Transit**

You don't have to wait an hour or two when you want to go shopping, visit the library, call on friends, cash a cheque, or catch the Go-Train!! Every 20 minutes the new Oakville Transis System provides service at two stop near your home . . . every day, Monday through Saturday, from 6:00 AM to 11:40 PM.

Regular fare 30¢ Monday through Friday, 6:00 AM to 9:00 AM and 300 PM to 7:00 PM ... Reduced fare 20¢ 9:00 AM and 310 PM to 7:00 PM and all day Saturday. Transfers are free of charge between routes and are to be secured from driver when fare is paid. Passengers must have exact fare ... drivers cannot make change. No service Sunday or statutory holidays.

The downtown transfer point is located at the corner of Dunn and Church Streets. Buses on Route 1 Eastlake and Route 3 Linbrook line up on Dunn Street. Buses on Route 5 Trafatgar. Route 7 Bridge, and Route 9 Rebecca line up on Church

Pictured below is the complete Oakville Transil System route map — east to west and north to south — illustrating the 5 expanded routes which serve a greater number of homes, more residential sections, and practically all urban and suburban activity centres in the greater Oakville area:



Route 1 Eastlake
Dunn, Church, Trafalgar,
Lakeshore East, Charnwoo
Elmhurst, Ninth Line and re
via Lakeshore East etc.

Route 3 Linbrook
Dunn, Church, Trafalgar,
Lakeshore East, Douglas,
McDonald, Watson, Maple,
Linbrook, Morrison, Devon,
Wedgewood, Duncan, Ninth
Line to Ford Plant.

Route 5 Trafalgar Church, Reynolds, Trafalgar, GO Station, Trafalgar.

Route 5B Trafalgar, Sheridan College.

Route 5C Trafalgar, Iroquois Shore, Eighth Line, Holton, Grand, Eighth Line, Gainsborough Grosvenor, Falgerwood and return to Trafalgar.

Route 7 Bridge Church, Trafalgar, Randall, Forsythe, Queen Mary, Stewart, Kerr, Speers, Morden, Wildwood Fourth Line, Bridge, Third Line, Hopddale Mall, Hixon, Jones,

Lakeshore West, Bronte, Wyatt, Bridge, Stanfield, Rebecca and return via Third Line etc.

Route 9 Rebecca Church, Trafalgar, Randall, Rebecca, Third Line, Lakeshore West, East Marine, Jones and return via Lakeshore West etc.

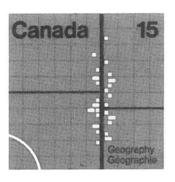


Go quickly! Travel in comfort! Ride Oakville Transit.











Une exposition organisée par le Conseil canadien des Arts esquimaux sous le patronage du ministère des Affaires indiennes et du Nord canadien

#### The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts March 23-April 22, 1973

An exhibition organized by the Canadian Eskimo Arts Council with the support of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development





