

Wins Canadian awards

Architect carves his way to the top

By ED PICCININ
Business Writer

Ihor Stecura has carved his way to the top.

The Canada Wood Council has awarded the 53-year-old Mississauga architect a first prize for excellence in the design of the wooden church of St. Volodymyr near Saskatoon, Sask.

Stecura, a native of Lviv, Ukraine, said the church was designed "to reflect traditional forms of village churches in the Ukraine's Hutsul region and to commemorate the millennium of Christianity there as well as the centennial of the Ukrai-

nian pioneers in Saskatchewan."

He says his interest in Ukrainian wooden structures was piqued during his undergraduate years at the University of Toronto's School of Architecture. During his final year, after extensive historical research into the subject, he was called upon to design an open-air chapel at Plast Camp, near Grafton, Sask.

The chapel was built in 1963, following his "idea to construct a simple enclosure out of wood in the traditional but highly adapted form," he said.

After having visited the chapel on

many occasions, Rev. V. Iwashko got an idea. He asked Stecura to build him a church with a standing room capacity of 120, on a hilly site in the 160-acre Ukrainian Park near Saskatoon. Stecura obliged.

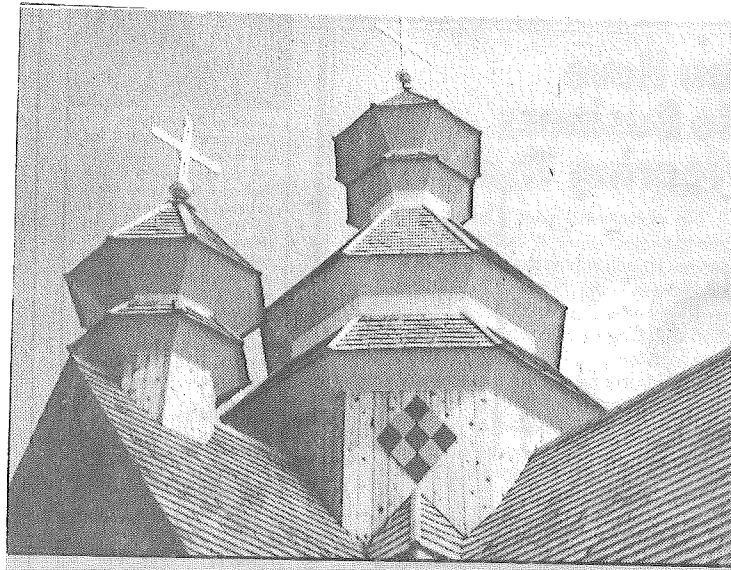
Stecura says wood was chosen for the prize-winning church in order to maintain the character of Ukrainian village churches, because its appearance was well suited to the park and camp environment and because it was an easy and cost-effective means of construction.

"Unfortunately," he says, "there still are some people whose ideas regarding log or wooden churches

are very primitive. Unbelievably, they still regard such churches as a 'poor man's church.' The aspect of character, mood, or esthetic value does not seem to have impact."

If Ihor Stecura has anything to say about it, those ideas could change. He is now designing two more log churches and has plans for an open-air chapel at a home for the aged.

Some local designs of his include the El Prado Reception Hall and Restaurant, the Mississauga Atrium office/retail building and the Ivan Franko Home for the Aged and senior citizen apartments in Mississauga.



Here's the winning design in the Canada Wood Council contest.

Red
Bing Bk
Nov 23-74
FIN

Rev. Iwashko.
Nov 23-74
FIN

STECURA, Ihor