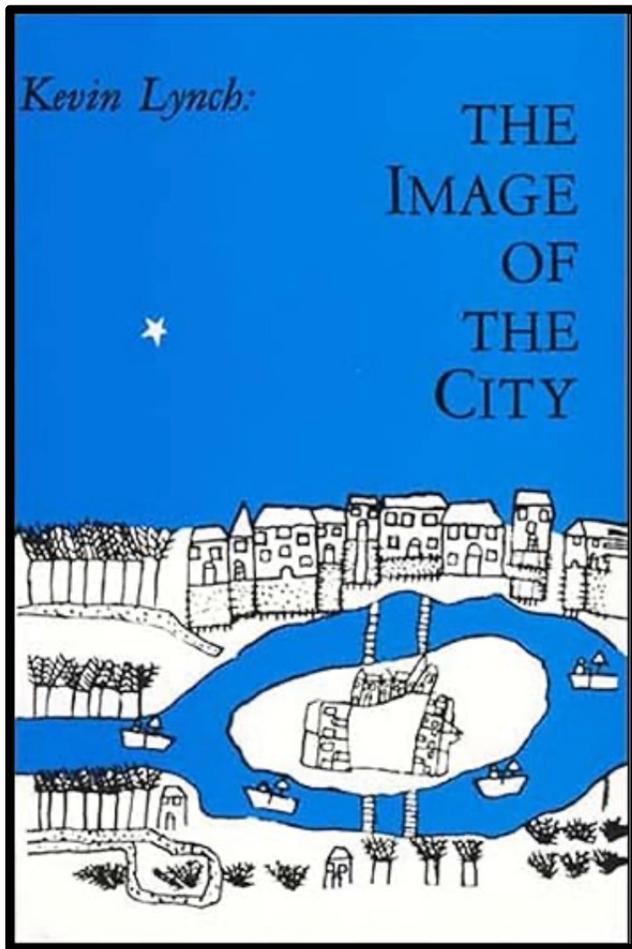


1968

*A moment in time*

# The Image of the City

A Torontonion discovers Edmonton



“What does the city's form actually mean to the people who live there?”

"City planners and urban designers everywhere will be taking account of his work for years to come . . . The importance of this book in the literature of urbanism is obvious. ... we have lacked a theory of the city's visual perception based on objective criteria. For some strange reason, in the period dating from the late 19th Century in Germany and lasting until Lynch's efforts . . . there was no experimentation in the matter of how cities are perceived. All of us can be grateful for the resumption of this line of thought. The impact of this volume should be enormous." — Leonard K. Eaton, Progressive Architecture

“This book is about the look of cities, and whether this look is of any importance, and whether it can be changed. The urban landscape, among its many roles, is also something to be seen, to be remembered, and to delight in. Giving visual form to the city is a special kind of design problem, and a rather new one at that.”

*1960 PUBLICATION OF THE JOINT CENTER FOR URBAN STUDIES*

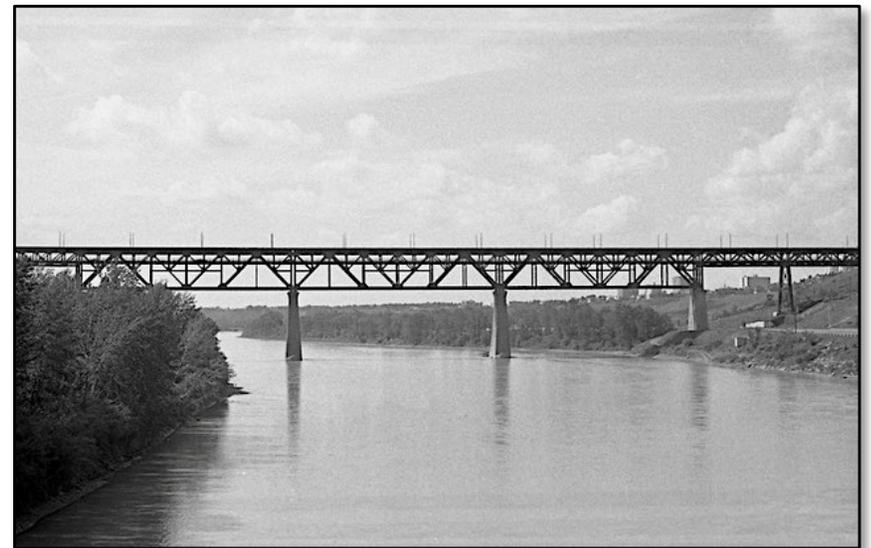
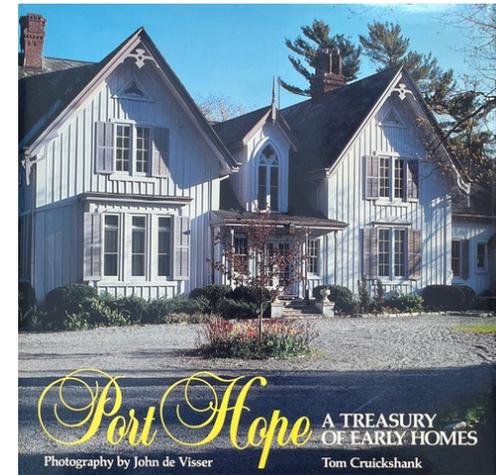
*This book is one of a series published under the auspices of the Joint Center for Urban Studies, a cooperative venture of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University.*

## 1968

It was the start of summer. I had just completed my 4<sup>th</sup> year at the University of Toronto School of Architecture, one more year to go. I decided to travel out west for an adventure with a friend and fellow student. I don't really recall what we were expecting. I was hoping for a job, some summer employment. Luckily when I arrived in Edmonton, with a family connection, I got a job with the architectural firm **Rule Wynn Forbes Lord**. Little did I know at the time that my career had now started, far from Ontario, where I grew up in the historic town of Port Hope. I didn't know the significant architectural history of Port at the time. My family's roots were in nearby Toronto.

At school we had been given a summer assignment. Choose a book that could be applied to a summer's urban study. I chose Kevin Lynch's **1960, The Image of the City**.

**Edmonton was a revelation.** It was small compared to Toronto. It was on the western prairie, which was a mysterious and distant attraction. Unlike Toronto, it had edges that I could see and feel. I felt I could take it in with some exploration. So that is what I set out to do - study and document the city for the next 3 months.



# Kevin Lynch's Process for examining the image of a city

## The Image of the Environment

Legibility, Building the Image, Structure and Identity, Imageability

## The City Image and its Elements

Paths, Edges, Districts, Nodes, Landmarks, Element Interrelations,  
The Shifting Image, Image Quality

## City Form

Designing the Paths, Design of Other Elements, Form Qualities  
The Sense of the whole. Metropolitan Form, The process of Design

“**Looking at cities** can give a special pleasure, however commonplace the sight may be. Like a piece of architecture, the city is a construction in space, but one of vast scale, a thing perceived only in the course of long spans of time.”

“**City design** is therefore a temporal art, but it can rarely use the controlled and limited sequences of other temporal arts like music. On different occasions and for different people, the sequences are reversed, interrupted, abandoned, cut across. It is seen in all lights and all weathers.”

“At every instant, there is more than the eye can see, more than the ear can hear, a setting or a view waiting to be explored. Nothing is experienced by itself, but always in relation to its surroundings, the sequences of events leading up to it, the memory of the past ... **soaked in memories and meanings.**”

Kevin Lynch

**The following photographs are those I took while exploring and discovering the city during the summer of 1968.**

## Landmark Symbolism



*Edmonton is split by the grand North Saskatchewan River and is known by its citizens as the **north side** and the **south side**. The two parts were joined by the High Level Bridge in 1912.*

## Landmark Symbolism



*The **High Level Bridge** is a robust and enduring symbol of connection.*

## Landmark Symbolism



*The High Level Bridge is so closely associated with the North Saskatchewan River and its valley.*

## Landmark Symbolism



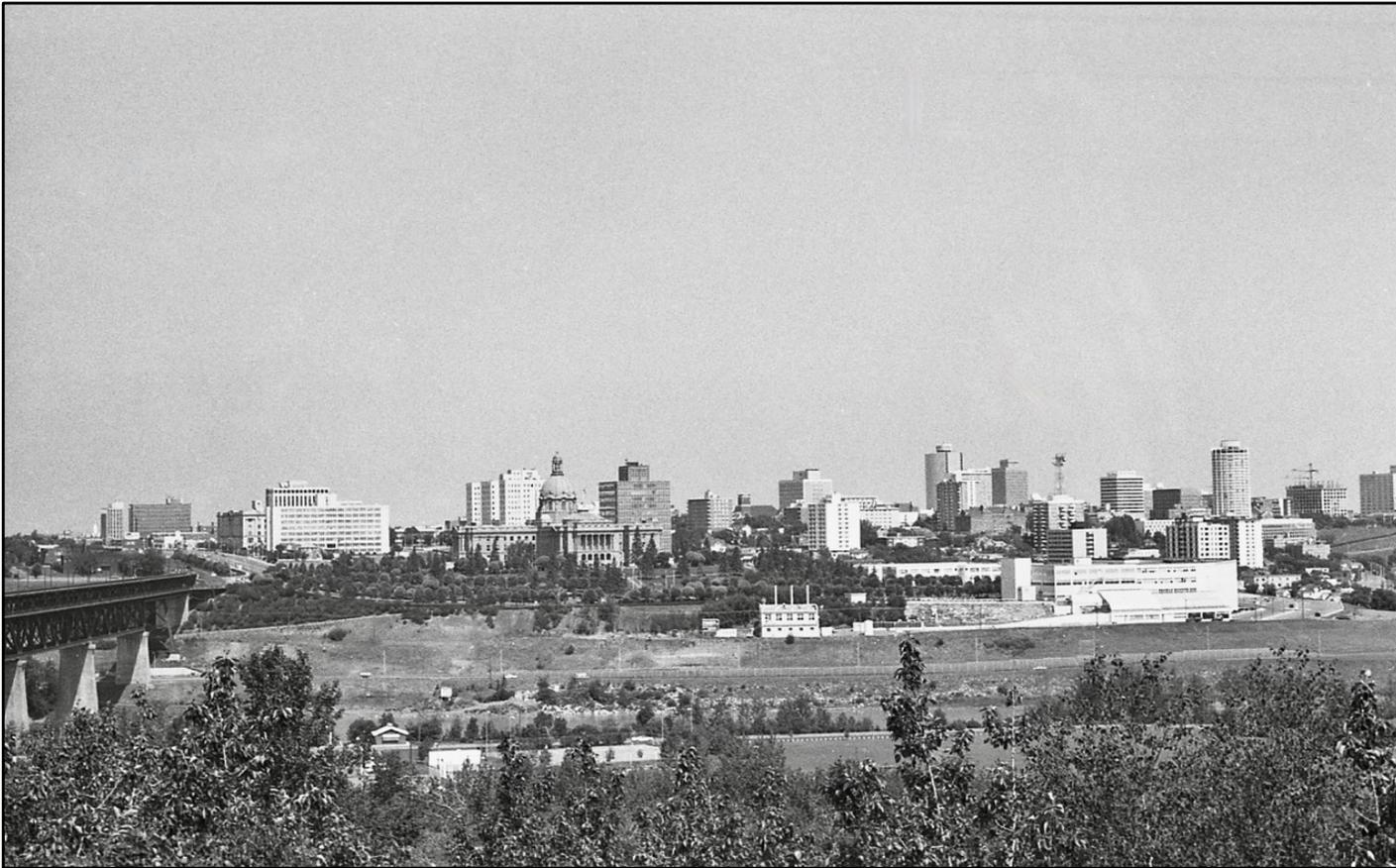
*The High Level Bridge is an impressive symbolic link, seen from the north side.*

## Landmark Symbolism



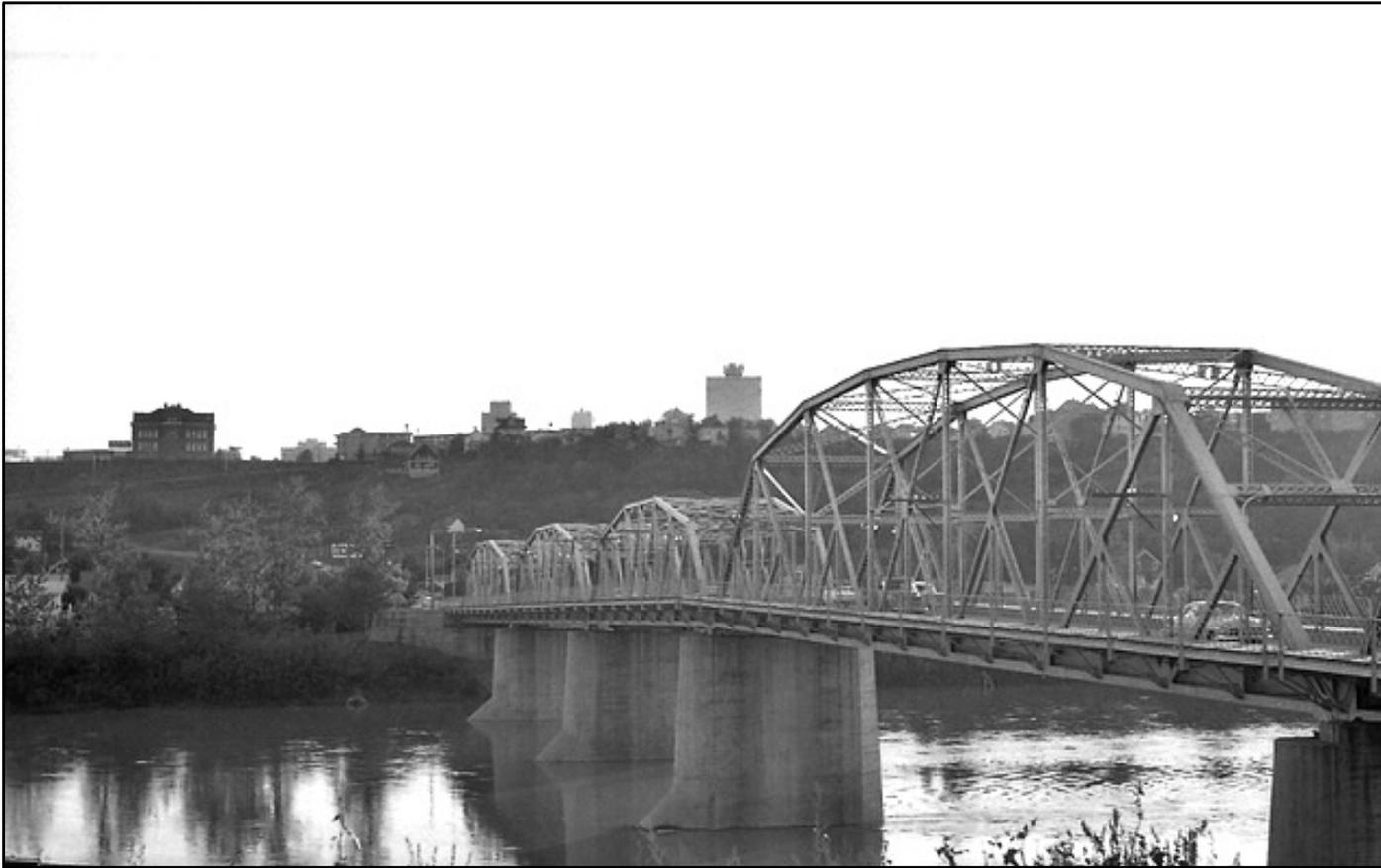
*The High Level Bridge is an impressive symbolic link, seen from the south side in 1968.*

## A Symbolic View - 3 Landmarks



*The North Saskatchewan River Valley    The High Level Bridge    The Alberta Legislature*

## Edmonton's Bridges



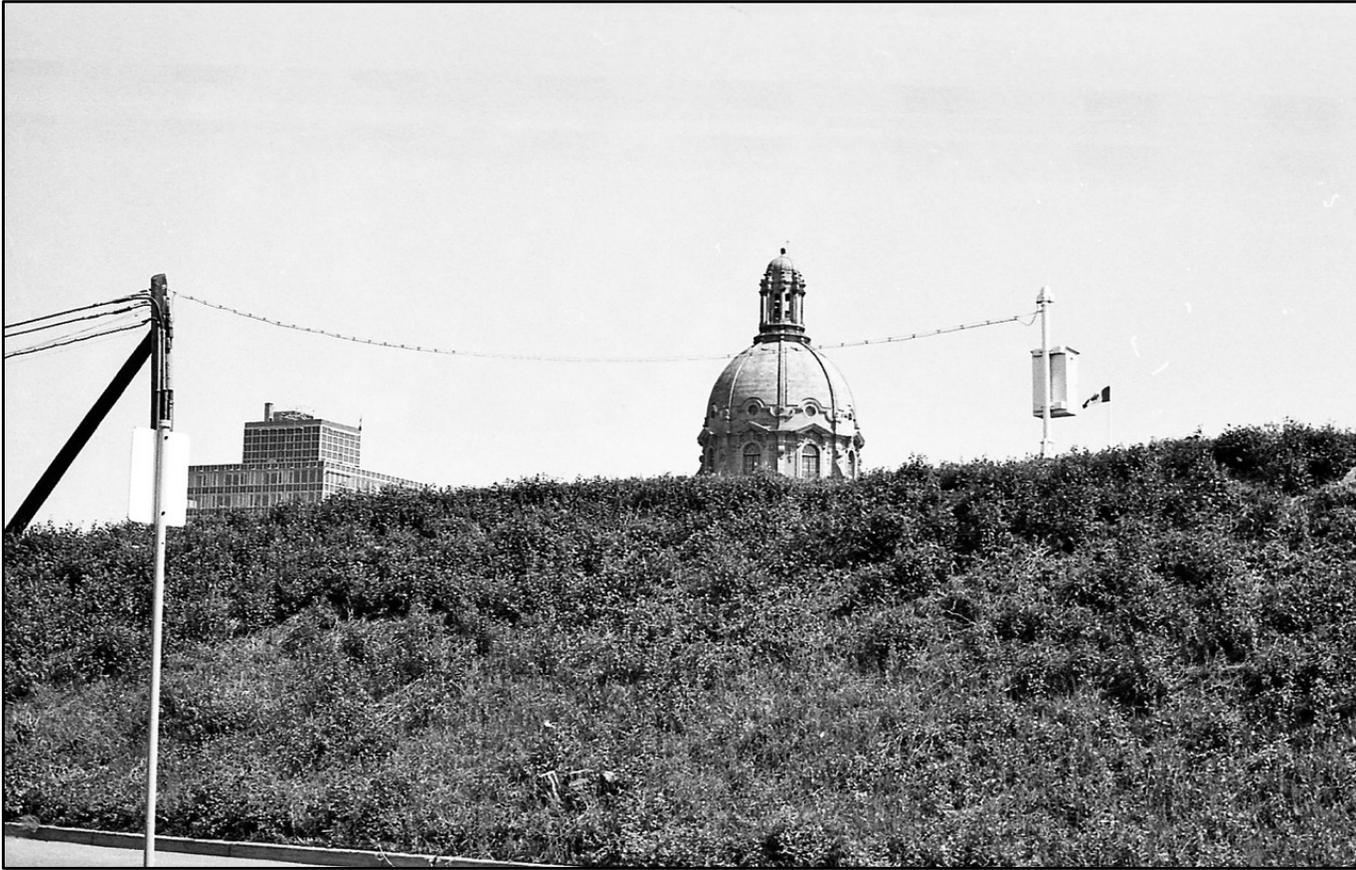
*The Dawson Bridge - the bridges over the North Saskatchewan are important symbols of this city.*

## Edmonton's Bridges

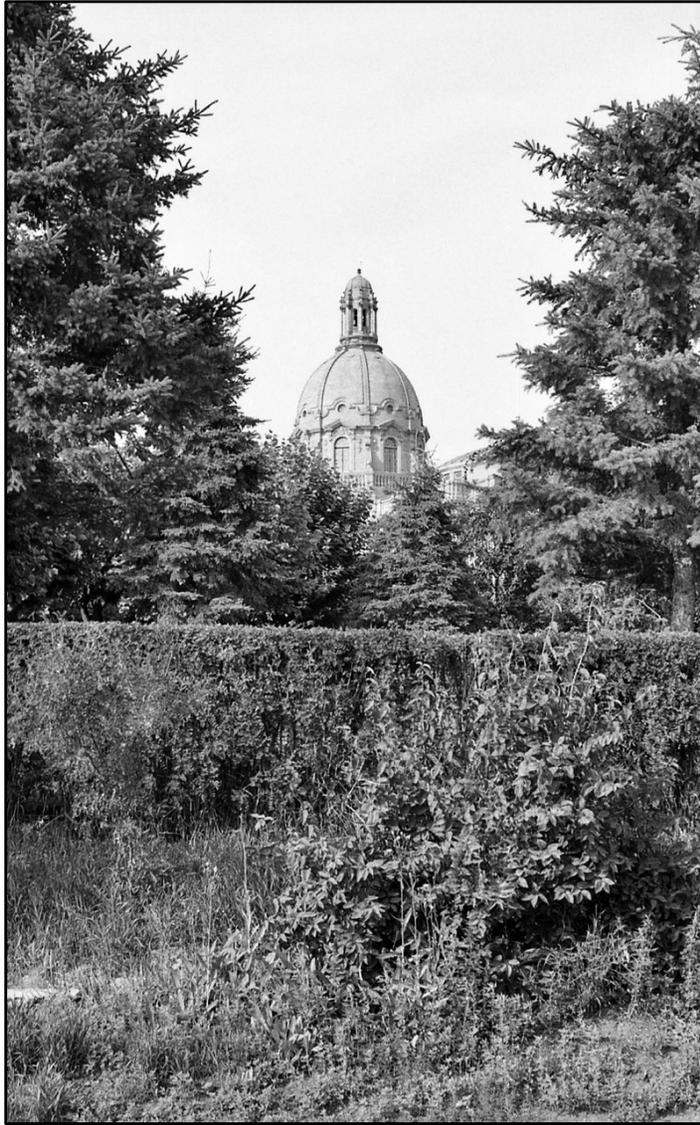


*2 bridges – the 1912 High Level and the 1955 Groat Bridge. The North Saskatchewan is the great divide.*

## Landmark Symbolism



*2 important contrasting buildings at the time – the partially hidden Legislature and the Legislative Annex*



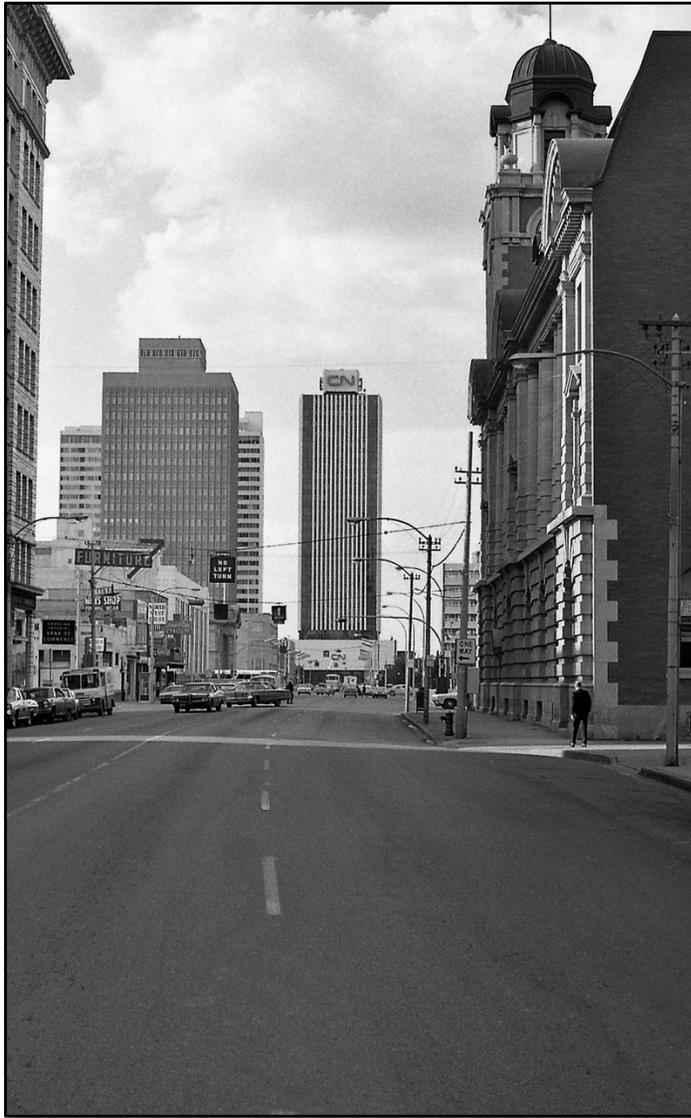
## Landmark Symbolism

*Surprises and discovery*

## Landmark Symbolism



*Old and new – Edmonton was emerging into the modern post-war era.*



## Landmark Symbolism

*The 1966 CN Tower on the axis of 100 St was a significant downtown city landmark at the time.*

## Streets and Avenues



*The attraction of the landmark CN Tower leading to City Hall in the distance*

## Discovering the City



*The gradual approach to Sir Winston Churchill Square along 100 Street*

## Discovering the City



*On the way to City Hall, I found this ambiguous but intriguing space behind the Centennial Library.*

## Discovering the City



*I was distracted by this use of space around the Centennial Library. It did not make sense and seemed somewhat offensive. What were the architects thinking?*

## Discovering the City



*Finally, I made it to the site of City Hall, Edmonton's symbolic centre.*

## Discovering the City



*Sir Winston Churchill Square, named in 1965, was vast and provocatively empty, but it felt like the **centre** of the city.*

## Edmonton's Streets and Avenues



*I was impressed with the broad avenues and streets of this Prairie city, unlike my eastern experiences.*

## Edmonton's Streets and Avenues



*I found Edmonton's numbered streets and avenues to be intriguing. Very imaginable. Easy to find your way around.*

## Edmonton's Streets and Avenues



*116<sup>th</sup> Street and Jasper Avenue*

## Edmonton's Streets and Avenues



*104 Avenue was intriguing for its proximity to the railway yards, so close to the downtown.*

## Edmonton's Streets and Avenues & Landmarks



*I found the tall, landmark downtown buildings to be very important for orienting myself.*

## Edmonton's Streets and Avenues



*Along 104<sup>th</sup> Avenue, further west, I was still able to orient myself to the downtown landmarks.*

## Edmonton's Alleys



*Edmonton is a city of alleys. This downtown alley, west of 101 Street was amazing for all its activity.*

## Edmonton's Alleys



*This residential alley in the Garneau neighbourhood juxtaposed the old with the new. It was new to me.*

## Edmonton's Parks and Open Spaces



*Mayfair Park had just been completed. It was an important complement to the extensive North Saskatchewan River Valley Park.*

## Edmonton's Parks and Open Spaces



*Charles Simmonds neighbourhood park was at the end of my block, where I was staying for the summer on 79<sup>th</sup> Avenue, south of the university. It was oddly without any amenities.*

## Old and New



*I had not seen these typical 3-storey walkups in Ontario before. They seemed somewhat intrusive into the single-family neighbourhoods. The contrast between old and new attracted my attention. The sense of street scale had changed.*

## Old and New



*This former corner store must have been close to where I staying for the summer. Even then the local grocery stores were closing by 1968. The modern era with its large Safeway stores was becoming well-established.*

## Old and New



*The contrast in street scale could not be more obvious than along this street.*



## Old and New

*This post-war modern apartment is clearly contrasted with the neighbouring Edwardian Style residence, probably originally a duplex.*



## Small Things of Interest

*I found this storefront to be intriguing. It was located in the Lodge Hotel on Jasper Avenue East, earlier known as the Pendennis Hotel. Little did I know that I would one day work on the conservation of this building.*



The Lodge Hotel in the 1960s

Edmonton Archives 33-113

## Small Things of Interest



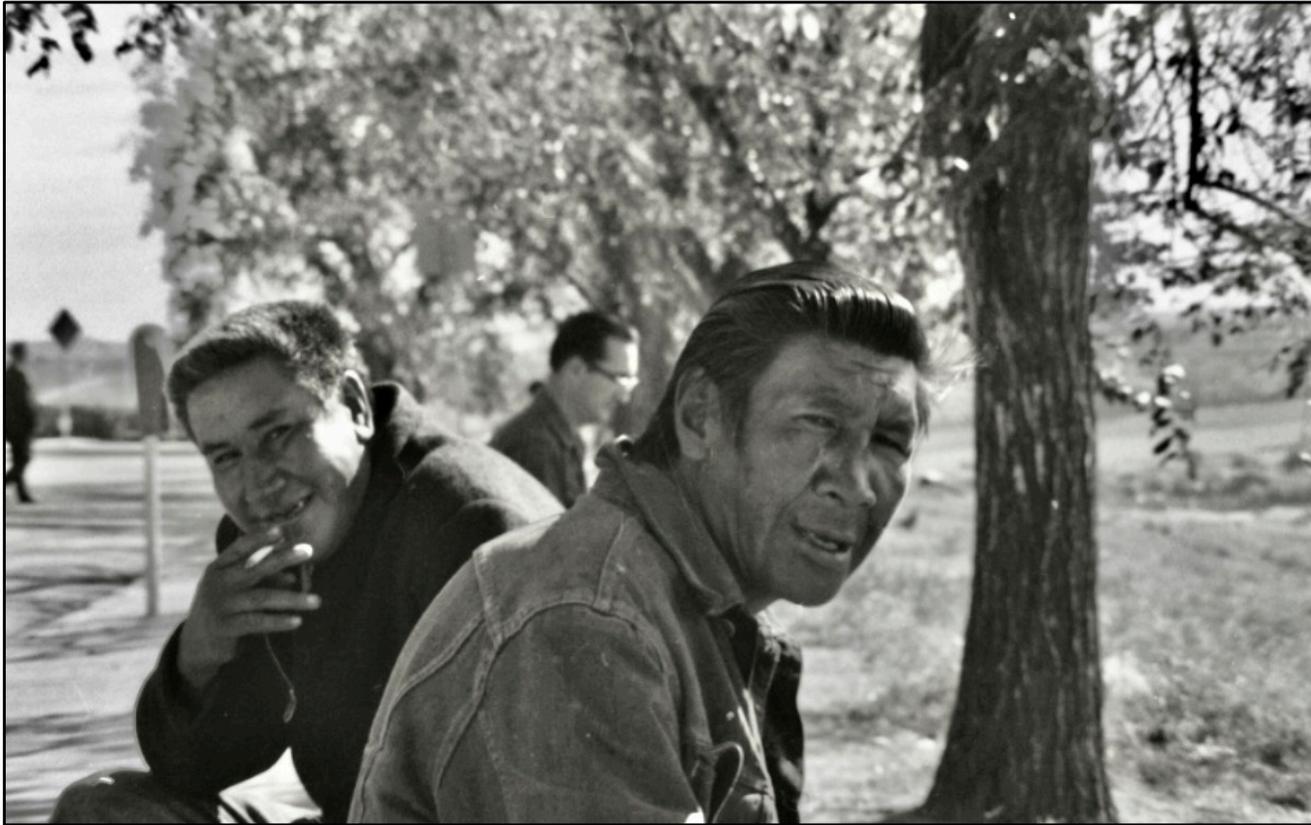
*The Royal Alberta Museum plaza in summer 1968. I spent many lunch hours here.*

## The People and the City



*The view, the North Saskatchewan and 2 iconic bridges. Across the river, the old Bohemian Maid Brewery and the new Kinsman Arena.*

## The People and the City



*Some friendly Edmontonians along McDonald Drive, overlooking the river valley*



## The People and the City

### **The Image of the City – Summer 1968**

*This might be one of the most moving images I took on my explorations around the city. The lookout along McDonald Drive was a great place to take in the views of the North Saskatchewan River valley. People gathered there because of the distant views, the sun and that sense of belonging to this beautiful place.*