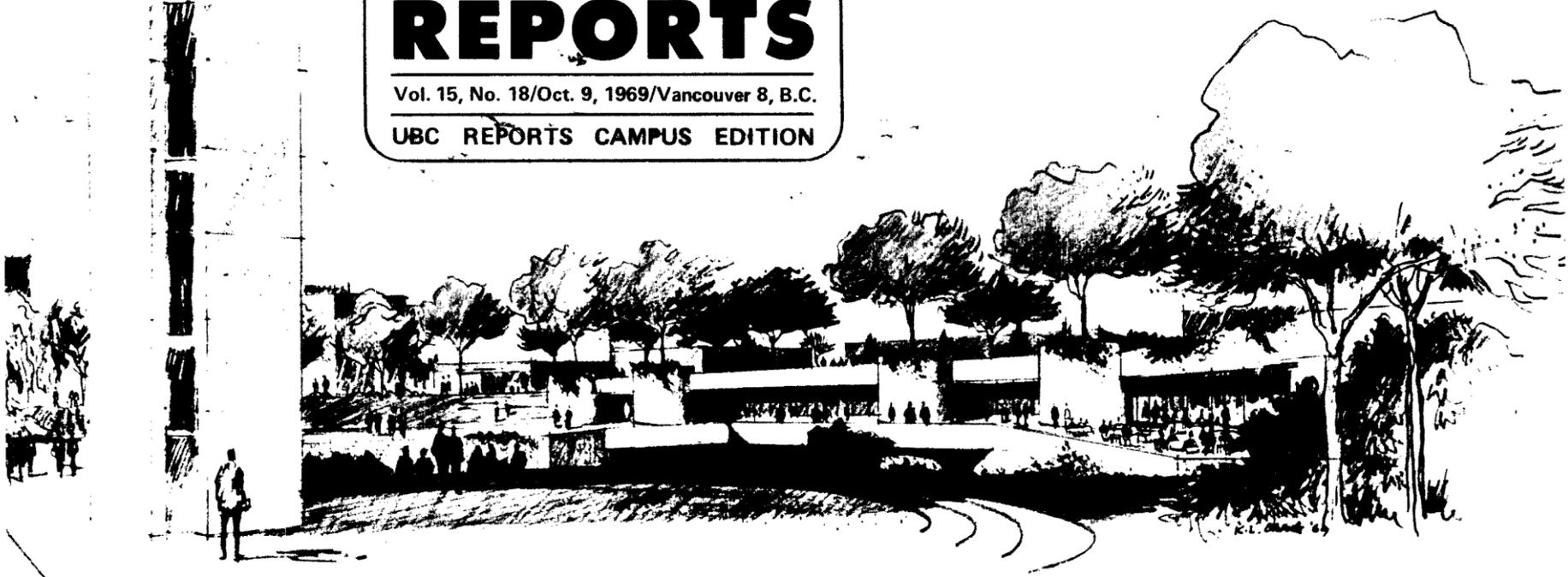


UBC REPORTS

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UBC REPORTS CAMPUS EDITION



ARCHITECT'S SKETCH shows the east face of the new Sedgewick Library as it will be seen from in front of UBC's existing Main Library. Area between the two buildings will be landscaped as a garden court

and trees and shrubs on the north and south sides of the lawn in front of the Main Library will be preserved. Eight concrete caissons (four are shown in the sketch above) will enclose the roots of the

existing trees on the Main Mall and will also form part of the interior and exterior design of the new two-storey Sedgewick Library. For other views of the Sedgewick development, see pages two, three and four.

BOARD APPROVES NEW LIBRARY PLAN

An exciting plan for a new Sedgewick Undergraduate Library under the Main Mall has been approved by the Board of Governors.

Architects Rhone & Iredale were given permission at a Board meeting Tuesday to prepare working drawings for the 112,000-square-foot building.

The structure will correct a critical lack of undergraduate library space.

INGENIOUS PLAN

The design proposed by the architects is an ingenious solution to a seemingly insoluble problem: how to create an attractive new library facility, located where studies show it ought to be—that is, immediately west of the existing library—without destroying the traditional character of the treed Main Mall and adjacent lawns.

The solution: construct the new library *under* the mall. This makes it possible to preserve all but one of the 40-year-old pin oaks and the vistas they frame along UBC's main street.

But the architects wanted to create a light, open environment for learning, not just an underground knowledge vault. They have accomplished this second objective by designing the new library in such a way that its east and west faces will open out onto landscaped courtyards in front of the Main Library and the mathematics building. Every room in the building will have an attractive view onto one or other of these garden courts.

Commented Dr. Robert M. Clark, director of academic planning:

"I think the plans, as amended to meet earlier criticisms, are the most imaginative building proposals I have seen presented on this campus since 1946."

Eight concrete caissons—each 30 feet in diameter—will be built around the tree roots and incorporated into the building. The trees will continue to dominate the open area above the library roof. The caissons will run down through the two floors providing visual anchors to the building.

On the east face of the building the caissons will be partially exposed and from ground level will appear as turrets thrusting up to the Main Mall. These towers will divide the glass curtain walls that will face out onto a landscaped court and the Main Library.

From the surface of Main Mall the caissons will appear as simple concrete rings around the eight oaks. But because of their integration into the structure of the library, the caissons will make the building a gigantic flower pot, perhaps the world's biggest. Library and trees will be rooted together, each dependent on the other.

The design magnifies the role of the Main Mall trees as the most traditional feature of the University's campus. Not only will the caissons make students using the library constantly aware of the trees' presence but they will reinforce the appreciation of the trees students now have on top of the Main Mall.

To add to visual orientation and empathy, a glass-topped caisson will extend down through the building, offering a view down from the mall into the two floor areas below or up into the tree branches above.

One of the pin oaks on the west side of the Main Mall will have to be removed in order to permit construction of the entry to the new Sedgewick Library.

The key to the project, say architectural representatives Bob Todd and Richard Henriquez, is the elevation contour between the Main Library and the mathematics building.

ENTRANCES LEVEL

The level of asphalt on the Main Mall is about 12 feet higher than the entrance to the present Sedgewick Library. Twelve feet is approximately the height of each of the two floors of the new building. This means that the entrance to the present Sedgewick Library will be on the same level as the entrance to the new building 12 feet beneath the Main Mall.

Earth on the east and west side of the Main Mall will be excavated to a depth of slightly more than 24 feet from the top of the asphalt so that the bottom of the new building will be about 12 feet or the equivalent of one storey lower than the entrance to the old Sedgewick Library.

REVERSE SLOPE

"The slope from the Main Library will be reversed," Todd said. "Instead of sloping up 12 feet to the Main Mall as it does now, it will slope down 12 feet to the lower floor of the new building."

Most people are not conscious of the slope from Main Mall to the Main Library now. The reverse slope will be just as unobtrusive. The slope of 12 feet along this length is hardly noticeable."

Mr. Henriquez said the mathematics building is about eight feet lower than the asphalt on Main Mall. Distance between the new library and the mathematics building will be approximately 100 feet. The building will be about 320 feet long across the Main Mall and 280 feet wide parallel to the roadway.

The slopes to the new building will be terraced and landscaped as garden courts. The Ladner Clock Tower and pool in front of the Main Library will be preserved as well as the trees and shrubs on the north and south sides of the Library lawn.

"The Main Mall area above the library will be filled in and landscaped," Mr. Todd said. "Paved walkways will be built. No provision is being made for vehicular traffic. We hope the area will become a meeting place with benches, a place to meet friends or have a chat."

Space in the old Sedgewick Library has been inadequate for years. The present library has only 12,867 square feet, less than 20 per cent of the floor space of the new library.

Stacks in the new library will have a capacity of 200,000 volumes compared with 80,000 in the present Sedgewick Library. The Committee on Academic Planning Needs reported to Senate last

Please turn to page four
See LIBRARY

THE REASONING

In the following interview UBC's librarian, Mr. Basil Stuart-Stubbs, discusses the current problems facing the Library and the new plan for the Sedgewick undergraduate library.

UBC REPORTS: What are the main problems for the library at present and what are the main problems that students face in trying to use the existing library facilities?

MR. STUART-STUBBS: The main problems for students are first, finding the materials they want when they want them and, second, finding a place to use those materials once they secure them. Practically all of the libraries on campus, with the exception of the smaller and newer branch libraries in academic buildings, are crowded for most of the year. We are simply short of space in all of the libraries, although the situation at the P.A. Woodward Biomedical Library will be much improved when the new extension is opened sometime next year.

UBC REPORTS: In your most recent reports to Senate, you point out that in recent years library utilization has increased enormously and seemingly out of proportion to the increase in student population.* This phenomenon seems to indicate the library in 1969 is serving different purposes for students than it was ten or so years ago. Can you comment on this?

MR. STUART-STUBBS: I think I can relate all this for you to developments that are taking place in knowledge itself. The library tends to reflect the state of human knowledge and what is taking place in its various parts. I think there are three characteristics that apply to knowledge. By knowledge I mean not just scientific information but knowledge in the broadest sense, including creative works of literature, art, music and so on.

The first aspect of knowledge is its vast increase in dimension. There's simply more of it than there was before and it continues to be produced and recorded at a greater and greater rate all the time.

The second characteristic of knowledge these days is its specialization. While there is more of it, it's also much more refined and detailed in its various parts.

And the third aspect of knowledge is its inter-disciplinary character, particularly at universities.

*In the past decade enrolment at the University of B.C. has increased 90 per cent, while recorded library use has increased 383 per cent.

The boundaries between the traditional disciplines are being dissolved. The university reacts to this by joint appointments in departments or by setting up institutes and so on.

Now these three elements of knowledge, the amount of it, the specialization of it and the fact that a variety of people will be making use of the same parts of knowledge but for different purposes, tend to create a problem for library users. How does a library handle this?

We have to consider this against a background of more than 22,000 students and faculty members and a large physical plant spread over a wide area.

The library's adjustment to this has been to develop a series of branch libraries, in contrast to the situation of ten or 15 years ago when a university of 5,000 or 6,000 students could get along quite well with one central library which held all the collections and offered all the services.

Because of the inter-disciplinary requirement, the needs of most users can be served by locating in the right parts of the campus fairly large multi-disciplinary libraries. The Woodward Biomedical Library is a good example and contains the collections relative to all the life sciences, ranging from medicine to zoology and biology.

Now you've pointed to the fact that there's been increased use of the library by students. We're aware that faculty members, in their adjustment to the fact of an increased amount of knowledge are recommending or actually requiring increased reading for their students. So the heat is on the library to make this material available.

I should point out that while the dimensions of the problem are increasing, people still expect, and I think they have a right to expect, that the library will be as easy as possible to use, that in fact it should be possible for a user to walk into a library, to have its resources self-evident at a glance and to be able to get what he wants. This despite the diversity of materials, despite the fact that some information could be in book form, some in periodicals, government documents, in microform and some in the form of recordings. Later on we will have the information on magnetic tapes, which will require the use of a computer before the user can benefit.

UBC REPORTS: So if we can summarize briefly, the problems that the library faces are a combination of many factors, chiefly the growth of knowledge and the



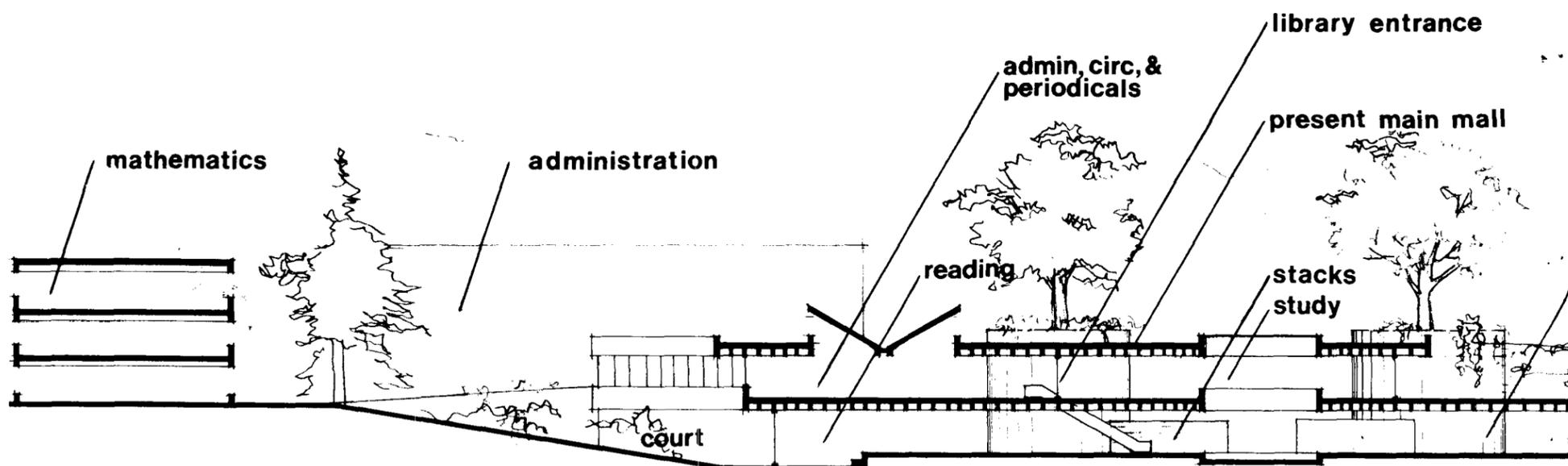
Librarian Basil Stuart-Stubbs points to area where new

response by faculty that requires students to use the library in a different way.

MR. STUART-STUBBS: That's correct. There's no question that it's a very much more difficult and demanding thing to be a student in 1969 than it was in 1950, and I can speak from some personal knowledge.

UBC REPORTS: I wonder now if you can tell us in more detail what the nature of the response on the part of the library has been to these problems in recent years? And could you put the plan for the new Sedgewick Library in the context of that response?

MR. STUART-STUBBS: I suppose one of the earliest responses was the construction of the Walter Koerner (south) Wing of the main library which was completed in 1960. At that time a number of specialized reference divisions were set up to replace a general reference division. So you see the library was acknowledging the fact that it couldn't really deal with all knowledge at one service point.



BEHIND THE NEW SEDGEWICK LIBRARY



Sedgewick Library will be built under Main Mall

This trend has continued. Today you can go to the library and find a division which specializes in nothing but maps and another which specializes in the fine arts and architecture, among others. Another response was the Woodward Biomedical Library, a gift to the university. And yet another response was the \$3,000,000 gift of Dr. H.R. MacMillan, which was expended over a period of three years for the purchase of specialized material for graduate studies.

Now this trend has continued and in the last few years we have opened special libraries for forestry, agriculture, mathematics, music, and social work and the existing libraries for law and education have been greatly improved and increased in size. This trend must continue, but unfortunately it is not continuing at a fast enough rate to keep abreast of the requirements of the faculty and students, with the result that we run out of space for books and people.

This, of course, is detrimental to the success of the academic program. Faculty members expect their

students to do their assignments and in order to do this they must have convenient access to the materials they need. I think even faculty members sometimes underestimate the amount of pressure under which students work and how much of their day is absorbed in reading assignments. The student has a very complex and busy life.

UBC REPORTS: You've spoken of the need for improving and expanding branch libraries. Can you now tell us how the new Sedgewick Library fits into this concept?

MR. STUART-STUBBS: Well, let's look at the history of the Sedgewick Library very briefly. It came into existence in the Walter Koerner Wing in 1960 as a kind of library within a library; it's a separate unit in the main library building.

It was designed for first- and second-year students in arts only. But it quickly became evident that this artificial distinction wasn't appropriate. In fact, students from third- and fourth-year arts and other faculties found the collections to be very useful to them. So we followed their lead by developing the collection and the services so that we could meet the needs of undergraduate students in the first four years of arts, commerce and education.

Now the effect of this has been that the Sedgewick Library lends almost as many books—almost half a million withdrawals a year—as are lent from the main library. The striking thing about this is that there are about 700,000 volumes in the main stacks, whereas there are only about 80,000 volumes in the Sedgewick Library.

What is it about these Sedgewick Library books that is so important? The collection has been developed from recommended reading lists provided by faculty, from basic bibliographies and also from the records that we've been keeping of the loans that people make. We've registered all these things on computer tape and we're able to determine which books borrowed from the Sedgewick Library collection and from other collections in other libraries on campus are of most interest to the students.

We've purchased copies of these books and put them in the Sedgewick Library, so that every year it becomes a better collection from the point of view of the students in arts, science and education. Now we've been told by the academic planner that these are the faculties which will attract the largest number of undergraduates

in the next few years. The Sedgewick facilities are past the point where they are adequate for the needs of the students. The best thing we can do for the students in the future is to build an expanded version of the Sedgewick Library which has been so successful to date.

UBC REPORTS: So it is by carefully reviewing the collection that you draw students to the library. So in a sense you're a victim of your own energies.

MR. STUART-STUBBS: I suppose you could put it that way, but I would say that all we're trying to do is satisfy the customer.

UBC REPORTS: At the same time, the customer, the students, becomes more demanding every year.

MR. STUART-STUBBS: That's correct. I might add that we're the only library that I know of in North America, or the world for that matter, which has taken this approach to the development of a collection. We're the only one that has the capacity to do it because our circulation system remains the largest one in North America of its type.

UBC REPORTS: When you say "of its type," what do you mean?

MR. STUART-STUBBS: I'm speaking about the computer-based system we use. There are other similar computer-based systems, but none is as large or as efficient as ours.

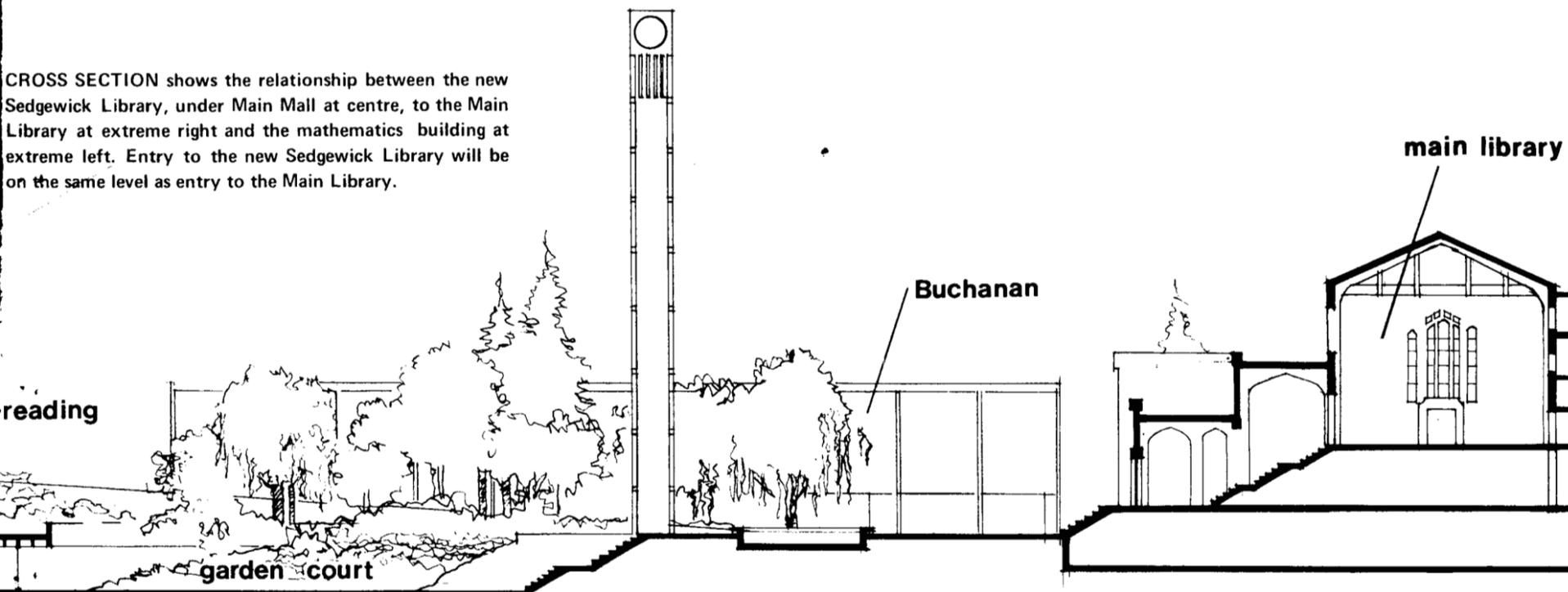
UBC REPORTS: Just one final question. Given the situation you've described, there must also be grave staffing problems for the library. Has the library had great difficulties in this area and how has it responded?

MR. STUART-STUBBS: We have succeeded in assembling a highly trained and well motivated staff of reference librarians who can assist the users of the library in finding their way around it. I mentioned earlier that people expect the purpose of any particular library to be self-evident. It isn't that simple. A person can use a library only with basic assistance or instruction.

The staff in the Sedgewick Library are all recent graduates of the university. They understand the student's situation and can help him.

In addition, we established two years ago a division of general information and orientation. The function of this division is to help a student to understand how the library functions. This year we are employing audio-visual techniques to help us get the message across and we've been able to give some elementary instruction on library techniques to the largest numbers ever.

CROSS SECTION shows the relationship between the new Sedgewick Library, under Main Mall at centre, to the Main Library at extreme right and the mathematics building at extreme left. Entry to the new Sedgewick Library will be on the same level as entry to the Main Library.



LIBRARY *Continued from page one*

summer that after 1971 some collections in the present library would have to go into storage if new facilities weren't provided.

The report added that 120 library staff members on the seventh floor of the main library are working in an overcrowded area with poor lighting and ventilation.

Nevertheless, after reviewing these facts, the committee concluded that the most critical problem was the shortage of study space for undergraduates.

Study space in the present Sedgewick Library can accommodate only 486 students. The Main Library has another 1,267 study seats. More than 2,400 study spaces will be provided in the new Sedgewick Library.

The top and smaller of the new library's two floors will have 18,000 square feet of study area without

direct access to the stacks. It will be used by students who simply want a place to work. Service facilities such as catalogues, periodicals, book sorting and staff offices will take up another 36,000 square feet on the top floor.

The lower floor will consist of 60,000 square feet of stacks and reading areas.

Architects will consult students before designing the study areas.

"We want to get away from the traditional rows of tables and stiff-backed chairs. We would like to use the latest ideas in what has become known as interior landscaping to give students a variety of study environments," Mr. Todd said.

Rhone & Iredale worked with the University's client's committee on the project as well as with the design and planning division of the physical plant department and the Office of Academic Planning.

The property committee of the Board of Governors, at a hearing in September, heard

expressions of opinions by representatives of the client's committees for the Sedgewick Library and for the proposed extension to the Buchanan Building, the Senate Liaison Committee on Planning Permanent Buildings, and the academic planner. Dr. Douglas Kenny, who represented the Buchanan committee, is also chairman of the Senate Committee on Academic Building Needs.

Out of this hearing came suggestions for a less formal landscaping treatment of the garden courts. This is now under study.

As a result of this hearing the property committee decided to recommend to the Board of Governors that the project proceed to working drawings.

Rhone & Iredale was commissioned in February to produce a design for the library. Members of the firm and the Sedgewick Library staff made traffic studies of students using the existing library, plotting where the students came from on campus and where they went.

"It was determined that the new library should be located west of the Main Library and approximately in the middle of what we designated as the arts—pure science precinct, which is the area bounded by East Mall, University Boulevard, West Mall and Crescent Road," Mr. Henriquez said.

ENHANCE QUALITY

Mr. K.L. Chang of Rhone & Iredale and Mr. Charles F. Forbes, assistant head of the Sedgewick Library, visited libraries throughout Canada and the United States to determine the best configuration for the new library.

"Both functionally and economically the best design was a two-storey building with large, flexible floor spaces and easy access to stacks from reading areas," Mr. Todd said.

The next step was to decide where the library should be built. Sites on the lawn in front of the Main Library and the site of the Women's Gymnasium were considered.

"We finally decided to put it under the Main Mall. Excavation and landscaping costs will be higher than normal," Mr. Todd said. "But if a value were given to maintaining open spaces on the campus under the present student population density, the extra costs would be a small price to pay."

Mr. Todd said that landscaping costs will be offset to a large extent by savings in the design of exterior walls. More than half the wall area will be covered with earth and will not require expensive facade treatment.

The scheme's respect for the traditional appearance of the Main Mall area conforms to observations made by the Senate Liaison Committee on Planning Permanent Buildings headed by Dr. H. Peter Oberlander, director of the School of Community and Regional Planning.

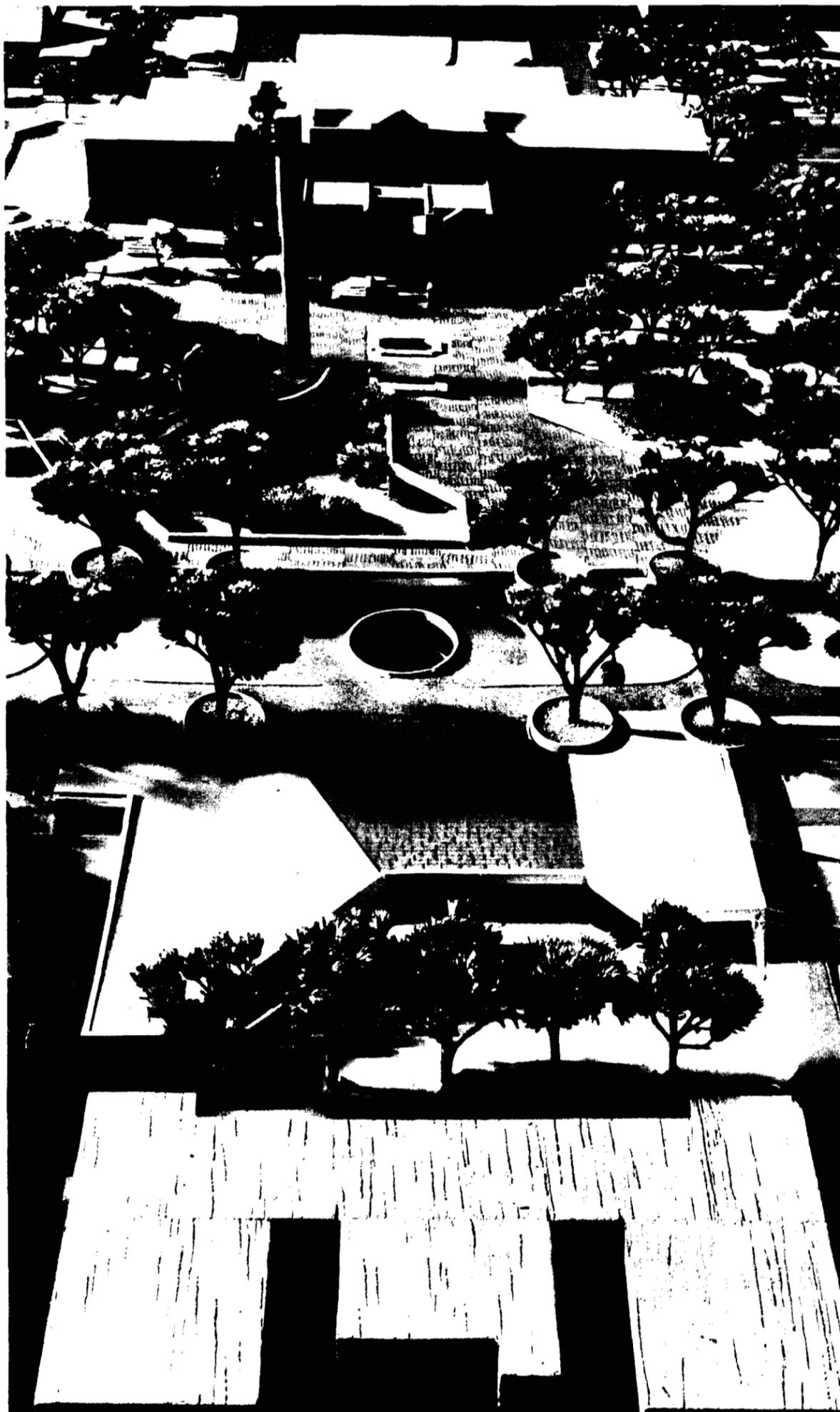
BEST DESIGN

In a report to Senate the committee maintained that the library should be located west of the Main Mall to service future buildings in the area.

"The prevailing academic environment and landscape of the central part of the campus has usually been identified with the very essence of UBC's character," the report said.

"It is the committee's recommendation that the existing form and quality should be preserved and enhanced as effectively as possible.

"The committee feels that the existing trees are particularly responsible for the character and setting of the space in front of the library and that every effort must be made to maintain the trees, the substantial grass areas and a number of other small landscape features."



MODEL shows how the new Sedgewick Library will be located between the Main Library, top, and the mathematics building, bottom. Eight concrete caissons, enclosing the roots of existing trees on the Main Mall, will travel down through the two-storey building. Students on both floors will be able to look

out both east and west onto landscaped courtyards in front of the Main Library and the mathematics building. The large circular opening in the Main Mall is an open cylinder which will allow passersby to look down into the two-storey Library and allow students in the Library to see the trees above.

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