

AES Downsview Building to Have Major New Annex

The first major new addition to the AES Downsview Headquarters Building since it opened in 1971 will shortly get underway. Senior management has approved plans for the construction of a three-story structure directly south of the main building and separated from it by a landscaped courtyard. A covered walkway, however, will link all three floors of the new building on the south side of the current building.

On two floors the new building, known as Downsview South, will house AES Ontario region, including the director's office, now located in midtown Toronto and both the Ontario Weather Centre and Toronto Weather Office, now located at Pearson International Airport. The third floor

will provide space for research laboratories which are now located in the Downsview AES building.

The architects, Moffat Kinoshita Associates of Toronto, hired by Public Works Canada, say they have tried to design a distinctive, separate building which, despite sharing certain characteristics with the original building (eg. concrete overlays and large windows) will have its own unique personality. In order to maintain harmony, Gene Kinoshita says he has consulted Boignon and Heinonen, architects of the Downsview AES building. The new building will be slightly less than a quarter of the size of the current structure.

Other features of the new building will be

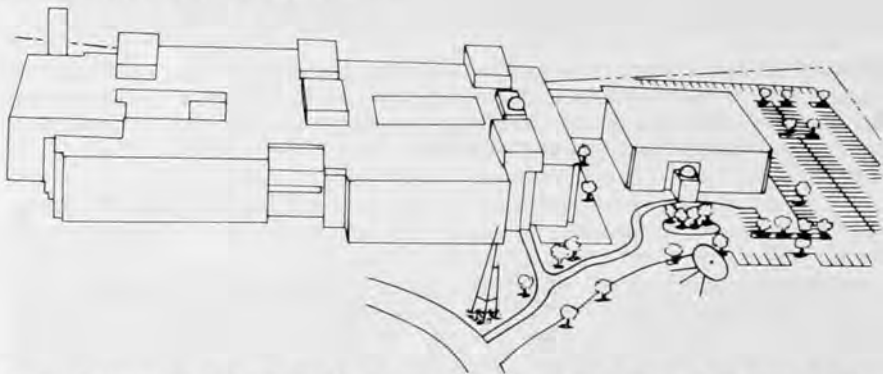
a two-storey entrance lobby, raised flooring throughout the first and second floors, two elevators off the main lobby and separate mechanical systems for the laboratories which will comply with the National Building Code.

The new building will require the construction of a new access road forking off from the main AES entrance road. It will also require construction of a new southside parking lot.

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Downsview South cont'd.



This is a drawing of the model of the new Downsview South building, showing its links with the AES Downsview Headquarters Building directly to the North. The "annex" is the compact, box-like structure, surrounded by trees, seen on the far right.

Downsview South will be given an "environmental look" through the planting of many new trees and shrubs. The new courtyard with its flowers and ornaments is intended to give the site a human dimension.

According to Paul Latremouille, AES chief of Facilities Management, construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in the summer of 1989 and, if all goes well, the building will be ready for occupancy near the beginning of 1991. He added that there will be provisions for further expansion of the building, especially the addition of a fourth floor, if required in the future.

The new building can house up to 150 employees, though not all of them will be there at the same time, since Weather Services employs many shift workers. The AES cafeteria which already caters to about 800 employees has recently been expanded to accommodate extra staff from the new building. Downsview South will also have its own lunch room to meet the needs of 24-hour operators.

Despite changes due to the new building, many things will remain the same. Ron Baird's giant weather sculpture will not be removed from its site in the south west corner and the weather satellite dishes in the same area will also remain. There will be no changes to the Day Care Centre, which also shares this busy corner, except that it will be possible for users to use the new access road.

No new land will be acquired for the project and the boundary between AES territory and the adjoining Ross Lord Conservation Park will not be changed. The instruments on the main building roof used by Experimental Studies, will remain operational and would only be at risk if a fourth floor were added to Downsview South. The only area to disappear would be the instrument compound in a field directly south east of the current building. It will subsequently be relocated in a scaled down version closer to Dufferin Street and possibly on to the roof of Downsview South.