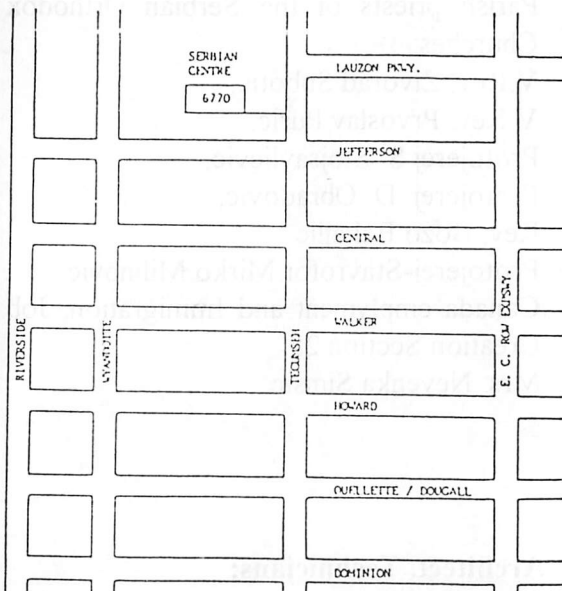


SERBIAN COMMUNITY CENTRE

6770 TECUMSEH ROAD EAST, WINDSOR, ONTARIO



Serbian Heritage Museum

6770 Tecumseh Road East

Windsor, Ontario

N8T 1E6

Tel: (519) 944-4884

MUSEUM HOURS

Monday-Friday: 10 a.m. - 4 a.m.

Sunday: 2 p. m. - 4 p.m.

Groups elcome by appointment.

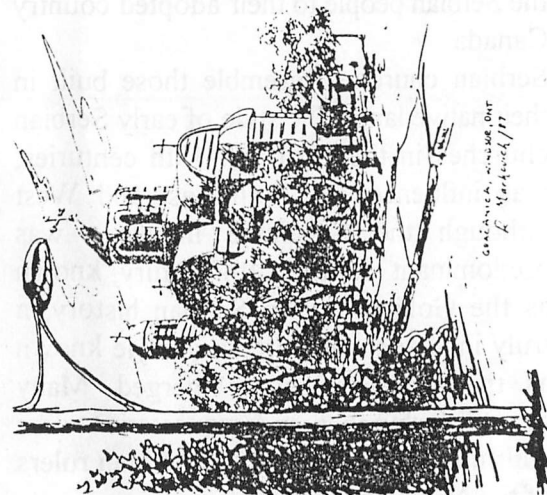
Visits may include viewing of fresco paintings at the Serbian Orthodox Church "Gracanica". Light lunches provided for groups of 15 or more people.

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ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF SERBIAN CHURCHES IN CANADA

Exhibit: April 30 - August 19, 1995

Serbian Heritage Museum



ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF SERBIAN CHURCHES IN CANADA

For Serbian immigrants, the church has always been a focal point around which the life of the community revolves. Building a church was the first thing Serbs did once they established a community in their adopted home. In some cases, Serbian architects donated their time free of charge to design a church, otherwise, the parishioners would join together to build the church themselves. Occasionally, an existing church built by another denomination would be purchased and adopted to suit the Orthodox faith. Every major city in Canada, has one more or more churches where Serbs congregate and worship.

This exhibit of seven church models and 18 illustrations of fresco paintings, represents some examples of the contribution made by the Serbian people to their adopted country Canada.

Serbian churches resemble those built in their native land. The style of early Serbian churches in the 12th and 13th centuries, was influenced by both East and West although the Byzantine influence was predominant. By the 14th century, known as the Golden Age in Serbian history, a truly indigenous architectural style known as the Morava School emerged. Many beautiful churches and monasteries were built during this time by the Serbian rulers of the Nemanjic Dynasty.

While Serbia proper was still under occupation by the Ottoman Turks, the Krajina Serbs who were able to escape into Austria-Hungary, began building churches as early as the 1400s. Many were built in the European Baroque style with lavish decor. Characteristics of both these styles can be found, on a smaller scale, in Serbian churches in Canada. Some examples are foundations built in the form of a cross, rounded domes and elaborate brick work. Traditionally, the interior of Serbian churches is adorned with frescoes painted on wet plaster. In Canada, Serbian churches have followed the same tradition. This intricate, liturgical art is an attempt to reach the divine, spiritual world. Serbian frescoes, developed in the Middle Ages, have gained recognition among scholars and artists around the world.

Illustrations of the frescoes in this exhibit will confirm that this specialized art form is alive and well in Serbian churches in Canada.



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Bibliography:

Bishop Georgije, Ed. SCHEMATISM OF THE CANADIAN SERBIAN DIOCESES. Istocnik press, Toronto, 1993.

Pribilslav Simic: CHURCH ART. Istocnik Press, Toronto, 1990