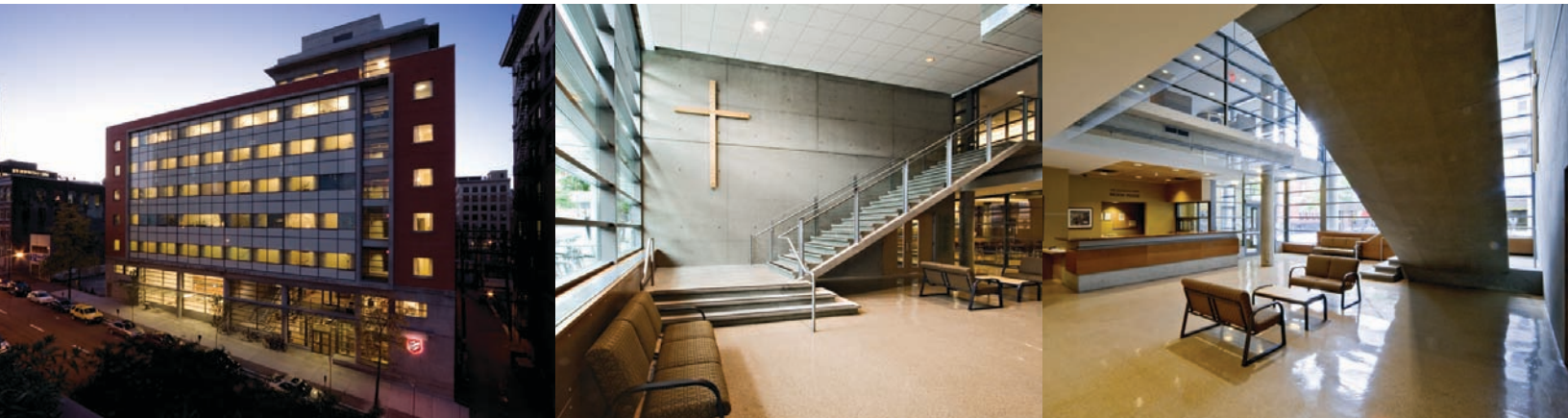


Trevor Boddy critiques The Salvation Army's Belkin House

The Globe and Mail's architectural critic Trevor Boddy recently reviewed The Salvation Army's Belkin House, a 216-bed transitional housing, emergency shelter and resource program located at 555 Homer Street.



Mr. Boddy's critique, while commenting on the social importance of such a facility, focuses on "The luxury of quality architecture for the poor". Mr. Boddy writes, "What is most apparent about Belkin House is the sense of dignity it imparts to the down-on-their-luck residents of the building, most of them disturbingly young, and including many women and families in an emergency shelter on the two top stories."

Surprised to find such "top drawer architecture" in a social housing project, Mr. Broddy praises The Salvation Army for being "a regular patron of leading edge architectural design..." and refers to Belkin House as "one of the best-designed Vancouver apartment buildings of any kind constructed this decade".

Mr. Boddy's critique compliments the design architect, Principal Jerry Doll, MAIBC and project architect, Associate Brian Dust, MAIBC in regard to the crafting of a paradigm project that "...demonstrates the power of architecture to brighten the lives of the poor..."

The new facility replaces the existing Dunsmuir House, and accommodates more clients at risk of homelessness. It is wheelchair accessible, has more classroom and communal space and has the space to provide both housing and special needs programs for women. The segregated co-ed facility allows secured access to designated living areas. It also offers life skills training to tenants and non-residents who are on income assistance and job skills training programs for tenants.