

Eskasoni Band Administration Building

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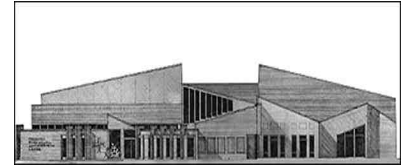
This project was proposed, in 1987, to the Eskasoni Reserve Band Council as a 15,000 square-foot administrative facility, aimed at enhancing the economic and ethnic standards of the community.

The architectural concept presented an image reflecting the spiritual values of the Community, as well as the political, social, and economic aspirations of this proud First Nations Mi'Kmaq Reserve.

The strong plan/form of the building was derived from the highly-articulated, geometric, root and quillwork patterns of the Mi'Kmaq handicraft culture. The shape and form of the structure attempted to silhouette the angular and varied forms of a community/village. When viewed from a passing vehicle and the promontory, a strong, unified, symmetrical form, in the shape of a winged eagle, clearly stands out (the eagle is the insignia of the Council).

The glazed main entry was on axis to the entrance plaza. An intimate processional corridor, with artifact display nooks, led into a central, high-volumed Hall. This Hall, abundant in light and decorative detail typical of Mi'Kmaq culture, was the centre or heart of the building. It was highlighted by mosaic tile work (8-pointed star); timber ceilings; and architectural, decorative woodwork.

From this focal point, one proceeded on axis to the Council Chamber, or down either of two (2) corridors leading to the various administration departments. The Great Hall not only provided convenience of access to various departments, but also acted as an ancillary gathering and meeting place. The roof forms and materials attempted to crisply define the silhouette edge



through the use of coloured metal, standing seam, and ribbed roofing material. The pointed edges and eave returns highlighted and levitated the roof, with a sense of soaring, winged loftiness. The exterior windows and doors were anodized aluminum, of a deep bronze colour, complimenting the warmth and texture of brick and wood veneers.

In essence, the design objective was to orchestrate the use of exterior and interior construction materials into an experiential environment, typifying Mi'Kmaq culture.

The project was cancelled until several years later, when a new Council elected to build a new administration building on a different site, with a different architect.

