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## AREA MERCATI GENERALI

C. ATKINSON, D. SCHMITT

The site for this project is the Mercati Generali on Via Ostiense, an immense public market for meat, fruit and vegetables built in the 1920's. The Mercati is now somewhat derelict. It is located in a district of other marginal industrial activity and, as a whole, the district presents an important opportunity for urban development within the Roman City fabric and, as such, the correct alternative to uncontrolled suburban sprawl.

The project achieves three objectives for revitalizing the district; a complex mix of use and program which accommodates the true nature of metropolitan life, a sense of place and

quiet sanctuary and thirdly, clear order.

The site acts as both a focus for urban life and as a bridge between the diverse functions and neighbourhoods which surround it. The architecture proposes built configurations fully accepting major social and programmatic uncertainty and the unexpected.

The architecture and urban structure through a process of acceptance, engagement and transformation infuses the existing building with new meaning and utility. It becomes both part of the historic continuum and a signpost to a complex and contradictory future.

### CHERYL ATKINSON

Cheryl Atkinson is principal of the Toronto design firm Building. In the last two years the firm has executed twelve single family residential projects in Ontario and the island of Nevis in the Caribbean. Ms. Atkinson graduated with Honors from the University of Waterloo in 1984. Her thesis, *A Museum in A Landscape*, was a counter proposal to the new National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa. She was Adjunct Professor at the University of Toronto School of Architecture in 1988 and has been visiting critic to the Universities of Waterloo, Toronto and Teaching Assistant in the Rome Programme for Waterloo.

Ms. Atkinson's museum design for the Torlonia Collection was exhibited at the Canadian Academic Centre in Rome and at the Ballenford Gallery, Toronto. Her counter proposal for the Metro Convention Centre with Sandy McKee and Sandra Franke was exhibited at the Arts Resource Centre Gallery in Toronto.

### DONALD SCHMITT

Donald Schmitt is principal in the Toronto firm A.J. Diamond Donald Schmitt and Company. The firm's projects include the Metropolitan Central Y.M.C.A. in Toronto, winner of the Governor General's Medal in Architecture, the Earth Sciences Centre at the University of Toronto (1989), the National Ballet School Theatre (1988), the York University Student Centre (1990) and the New City Hall in Jerusalem (1990).

Mr. Schmitt graduated from the University of Toronto in 1978 and was awarded the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada medal. He is currently Adjunct Professor of Architecture at the Technical University of Nova Scotia. He has lectured and taught at the University of British Columbia, Texas at Arlington, Waterloo, and Toronto. He was Professional Advisor to the International Competition, Housing on Toronto's Main Streets which received 335 entries from around the world. He has also been Chairman of the Public Art Commission in the City of Toronto since 1986. Mr. Schmitt is responsible for Public Art policy formation, the Percent for Art program commissions within the public realm and has acted as juror in several public art competitions.

