

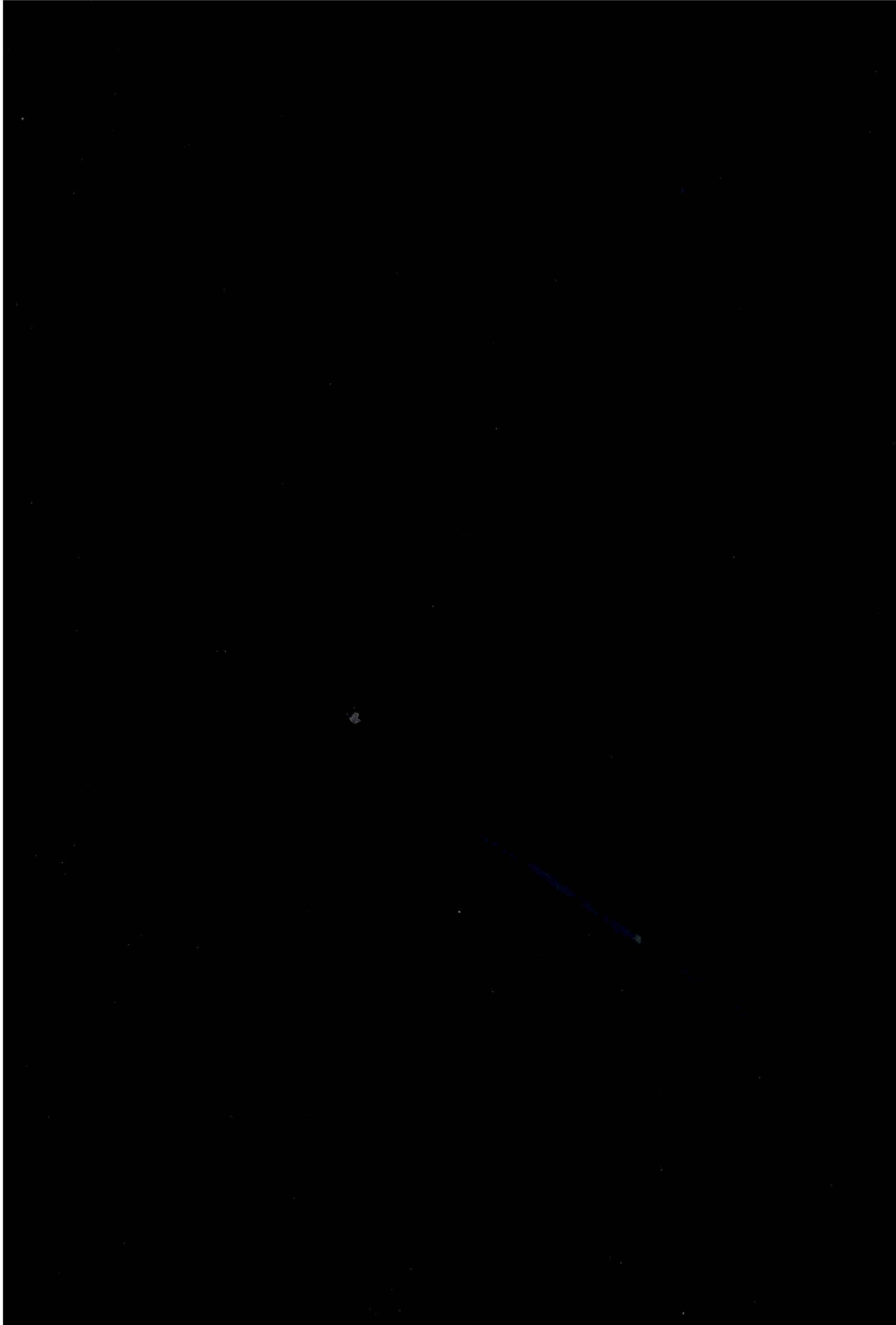
THE ALCUIN SOCIETY

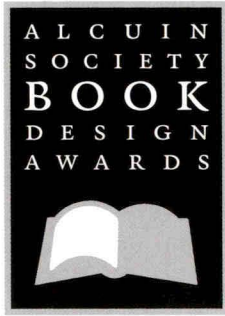
2003 AWARDS

FOR EXCELLENCE IN

BOOK

DESIGN IN CANADA





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PREFACE

THE BOOKS THAT WERE ENTERED in The Alcuin Society's 2003 Annual Awards for Excellence in Book Design in Canada represent what publishers and designers consider to be the best of their best, and they were very good indeed. The effort and skill that went into the production of these books demonstrates a real passion for the art of book design. This year, there were some very young participants among the winners, as well as some whose names you will recognize from earlier competitions. The participation of this new generation of designers is especially encouraging as we look to the future of the book industry in this country. It is the hope of the Society that these awards will serve to give much-needed recognition where it is so richly deserved.

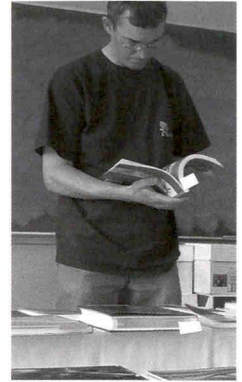
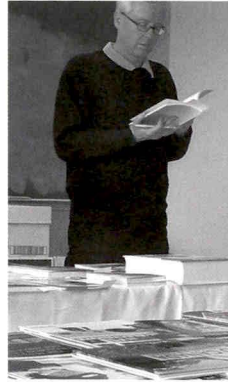
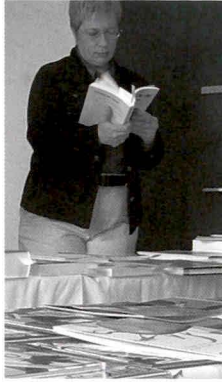
For the 2003 Competition, the twenty-second held by the Society, 264 books were submitted in eight different categories, close to the number sent in the previous year. These comprise the production of 104 Canadian publishers; each represents the work of an individual Canadian designer or a collaborative effort.

This year the judges, Sue Colberg, Randall Speller and Matt Warburton, met at Simon Fraser University, Harbour Centre on April 17, 2004, to select the winning entries. The fundamental principle of the judging process is that each book must be judged as a total entity. The judges examine every aspect of each book, including the dust jacket, binding, end papers, half-title page, copyright page, title page, page layout, typography, integration of illustrations, chapter openings, running heads, reproduction of illustrations, clarity of printing, choice of paper, footnotes, and bibliographical references.

The Alcuin Society is most grateful to all publishers and designers who have submitted books. Without their co-operation the competition would not occur. A copy of each winning book is donated to Simon Fraser University's Library, to support its programs at its Canadian Centre for Continuing Studies in Publishing. Special thanks also go to publishers of the winning entries, who provide extra copies to The Alcuin Society for use in exhibitions held in various Canadian cities throughout the coming year.

The judges volunteer their time and talent to the exacting task of examining all the books and eventually choosing winners. The Alcuin Society thanks them all, but particularly Randall Speller who has written the commentary for the winning entries included in this catalogue.

LEAH GORDON
Chair
The Alcuin Society
2003 Book Design
Competition Committee



SUSAN COLBERG is Assistant Professor of Visual Communication Design at the University of Alberta, in Edmonton, where she teaches beginning and advanced typography, information design and the practice of graphic design to graduate and undergraduate students. Her practice focuses on book and publication design and her clients include a variety of institutional and scholarly publishing houses in Canada and the USA. She has won numerous national and international awards for her work and is past-president of the Alberta Chapter of the Society of Graphic Designers of Canada.

RANDALL SPELLER is a librarian in the Art Gallery of Ontario in Toronto, where he has worked since 1980. He has combined a career in art librarianship with an interest in Canadian literature and book collecting to influence his research into the history of Canadian book illustration and design, especially in the years following WWII. Randall is a contributor to the *DA: A Journal of the Printing Arts*, where he has written several articles on book illustration and design.

MATTHEW WARBURTON is a print-based designer with over 20 years experience. He began his career in 1983 as a headline typographer at Type-settra in Toronto, followed by four years at Gottschalk+Ash. He moved to Vancouver in 1989, working with Herrainco Design Associates before founding Emdoubleyu Design in 1997. Matthew has been actively involved with the Society of Graphic Designers of Canada since 1990 (currently as GDC National President), and was President of the BC chapter from 1997 to 2000. His work with the GDC has enabled him to promote the economic benefits of a strong community of graphic designers. In 2003, he became the 53rd Fellow of the GDC, a recognition given to those who have made a major contribution to the graphic design profession in Canada.



CHILDREN

There are so many wonderful books in this category that it was very difficult to judge. Many of last year's winners submitted wonderful entries this year. And there were wonderful new books to look at. What to choose?

PROSE FICTION

Canadian prose fiction is consistently well-designed, and there were many wonderful examples from which to choose. Often it was only a minor detail that eliminated a book from the awards. The books that won displayed both high quality design and production.

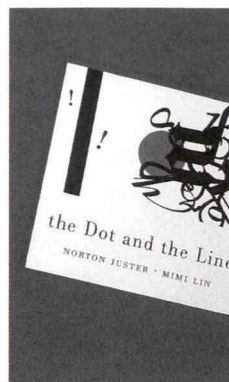
PROSE NON-FICTION

Many publishers do their best work for the categories of prose non-fiction and prose non-fiction illustrated. The books require the careful integration of text, images, illustrations, charts, footnotes and many design elements which other categories do not have to include. The publishers spend more money on production, so the designers have a great deal to do while at the same time more is expected of them. As a result, the quality here is consistently excellent. There were many books to choose from, and most were worthy candidates for an award. Books, nevertheless, can fall into difficulties when the design work is overdone.

PROSE NON-FICTION
ILLUSTRATED

The Judges awarded two first prizes in this category. We could not decide which one was the better design, and could find no better way to resolve our dilemma than to award a tie.

THE AWARD WINNERS



CHILDREN

First Prize	Le grand rêve de Passepoil
Second Prize	Sink or swim
Third Prize	Alice's adventures in Wonderland
Honourable Mention	Always run up the stairs
Honourable Mention	Émilie pleine de jouets
Honourable Mention	Sunny

LIMITED EDITION

First Prize	The gryphons of Paris : a reliquary of photographs and vignettes
Second Prize	The land beyond
Third Prize	The dot and the line
Honourable Mention	Mountain journal

PICTORIAL

First Prize	The Group of Seven and Tom Thomson
Second Prize	Le design au Québec
Third Prize	Alex Colville : return
Honourable Mention	Les documents de la chambre des cultures
Honourable Mention	Sylvia Safdie : the inventories of invention = Les inventaires de l'imaginaire

POETRY

First Prize	Ursa Major : a polyphonic masque for speakers & dancers
Second Prize	Small arguments
Third Prize	An ark of koans
Honourable Mention	Persuasion for a mathematician

THE AWARD WINNERS



PROSE FICTION

First Prize	Lightning
Second Prize	Mme. Proust and the kosher kitchen
Third Prize	Vaudeville!
Honourable Mention	Cat's crossing
Honourable Mention	Stevenson under the palm trees
Honourable Mention	Would you hide me?: stories

PROSE NON-FICTION

First Prize	Wisdom & metaphor
Second Prize	Village of the small houses : a memoir of sorts
Third Prize	Open house : Canada and the magic of curling
Honourable Mention	Dad alone : how to rebuild your life and remain an involved father after divorce
Honourable Mention	Scurvy : how a surgeon, a mariner, and a gentleman solved the greatest medical mystery of the age of sail

PROSE NON-FICTION ILLUSTRATED

First Prize / Tie	Temptress : from the original bad girls to women on top
First Prize / Tie	Traces of India = Empreintes de l'Inde
Second Prize	Godless at the workbench = Sans-dieu à l'atelier :
	Soviet illustrated humoristic antireligious propaganda
Honourable Mention	Remembering Phil Esposito : a celebration
Honourable Mention	The lands within me : expressions by Canadian artists of Arab origin

REFERENCE

First Prize	Le nouveau dictionnaire visuel multilingue : français, anglais, espagnol, allemand, italien
Second Prize	Historical atlas of the Arctic
Third Prize	What directors need to know : corporate governance 2003
Honourable Mention	Lumière light : recipes from the tasting bar
Honourable Mention	The Wood Design Awards 2003 : a North American program of architectural excellence

TITLE
Le grand rêve de Passepoil

AUTHOR
Elaine Arsenault

PUBLISHER
Dominique et compagnie

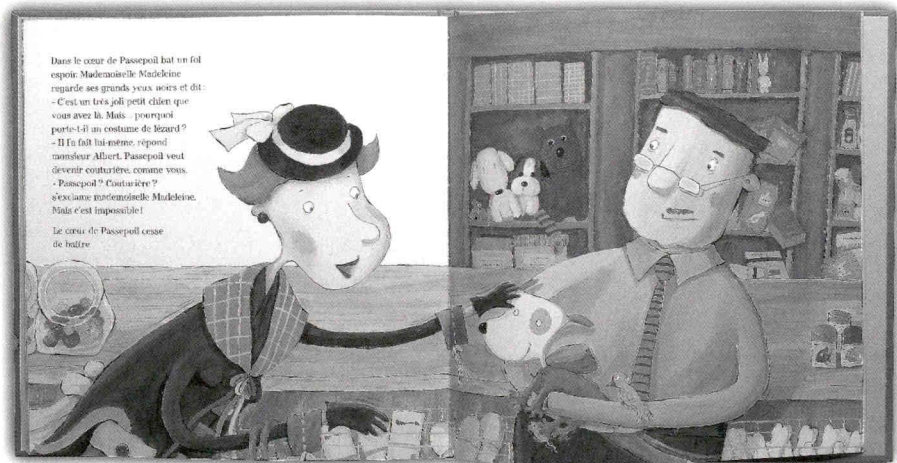
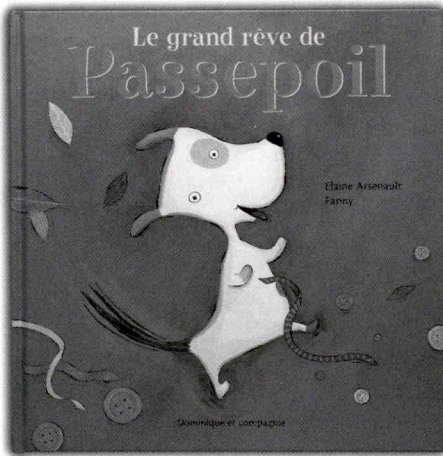
DESIGNER
Primeau & Barey

ILLUSTRATOR
Fanny

PRINTER
Imprimeries Transcontinental Inc.

SIZE
23 x 22.5 cm

The charming and delightful illustrations in *Le grand rêve du Passepoil*, combined with its spirited typography, delighted all the judges. What is so evident in a production such as this is how closely the designer and illustrator have worked together. Illustration and text are wonderfully well integrated, and all the book's various parts work in harmony. The result is a warm and humorous book.



CHILDREN

SECOND PRIZE

TITLE

Sink or swim

AUTHOR

Valerie Coulman

PUBLISHER

Lobster Press

DESIGNER

Tammy Desnoyers

ILLUSTRATOR

Rogé Girard

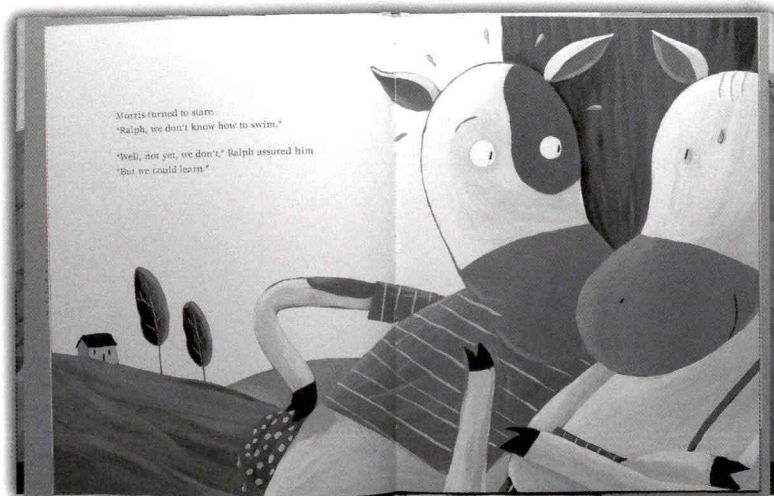
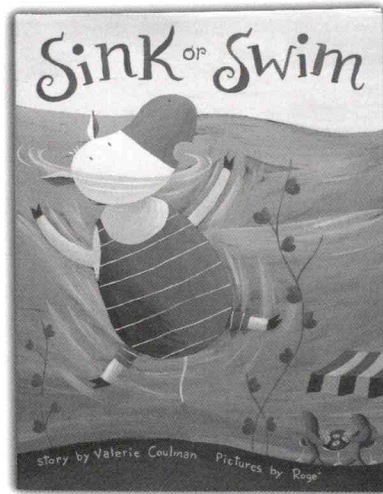
PRINTER

Shek Wah Tong (Hong Kong)

SIZE

27.5 x 21 cm

This warm, lively, and engaging book was a close runner up. The pictures on their own do a wonderful job of telling the story, nonetheless the text is carefully integrated into the images and both work extremely well together. We love this wonderfully fun book.



TITLE
Alice's adventures in Wonderland

AUTHOR
Lewis Carroll

PUBLISHER
Simply Read Books

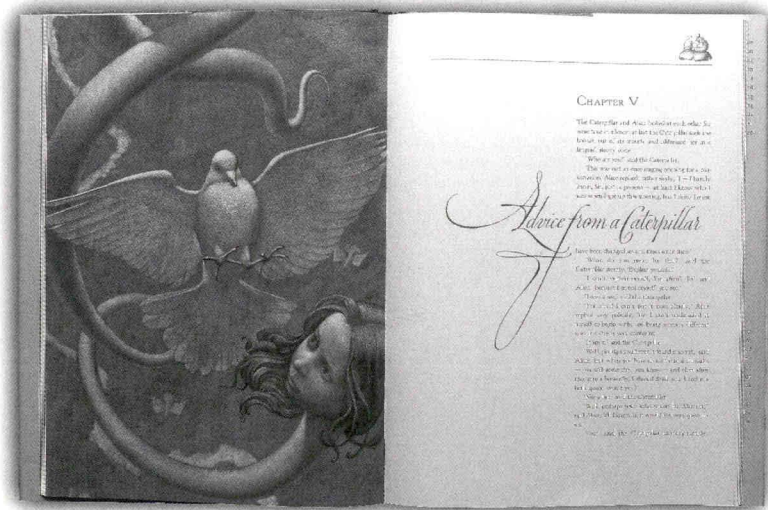
DESIGNER
Judith Steedman / Steedman Design

ILLUSTRATOR
Iassen Ghiuselev

PRINTER
Grafiche Az

SIZE
33x24 cm

The judges could not agree on where to place this book. Those who love its elegant traditional approach thought it deserved first place. Awarding it third place was a reluctant compromise. Nonetheless *Alice's Adventures* has many outstanding features to recommend it. The cover is outstanding, arguably the best in the show. The illustrations and calligraphy are as elegant as the typography, and the designer has made excellent use of the white space and the limited colour ranges. This book is a timeless design classic in the making.



CHILDREN

HONOURABLE MENTION

TITLE

Always run up the stairs

AUTHOR

Sean Moore

PUBLISHER

Simply Read Books

DESIGNER

Robin Mitchell

ILLUSTRATOR

Sean Moore

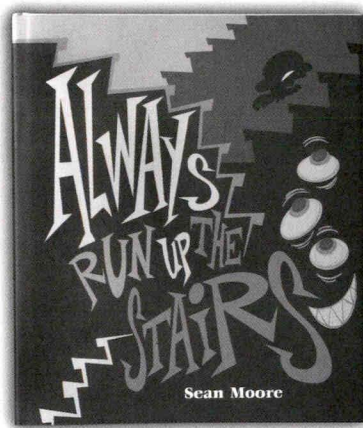
PRINTER

Grafiche az

SIZE

25 x 21 cm

The quirky offbeat style of *Always Run Up the Stairs* delighted the judges. The typography is fun and is well integrated with the delightful illustrations. The illustrator makes good use of the limited range of colours.



TITLE

Émilie pleine de jouets

AUTHOR

Gilles Tibo

PUBLISHER

Dominique et compagnie

DESIGNER

Primeau & Barey

ILLUSTRATOR

Marie Lafrance

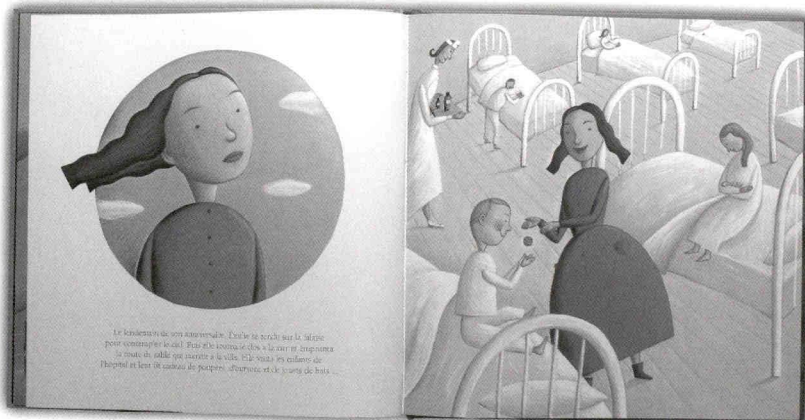
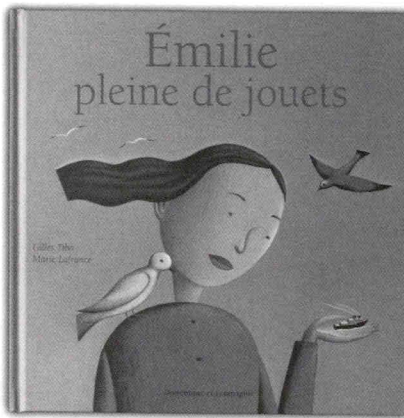
PRINTER

Everbest Printing Co. Ltd.

SIZE

26 x 26 cm

Strong entries by Robin Mitchell and Judith Steedman (*Sunny*) and Gilles Tibo (*Émilie pleine de jouets*) also delighted all the judges. There were so many wonderful books and too few prizes.



CHILDREN

HONOURABLE MENTION

TITLE

Sunny

AUTHOR

Robin Mitchell and Judith Steedman

PUBLISHER

Simply Read Books

DESIGNER

Robin Mitchell and Judith Steedman

ILLUSTRATOR

Robin Mitchell and Judith Steedman

PHOTOGRAPHER

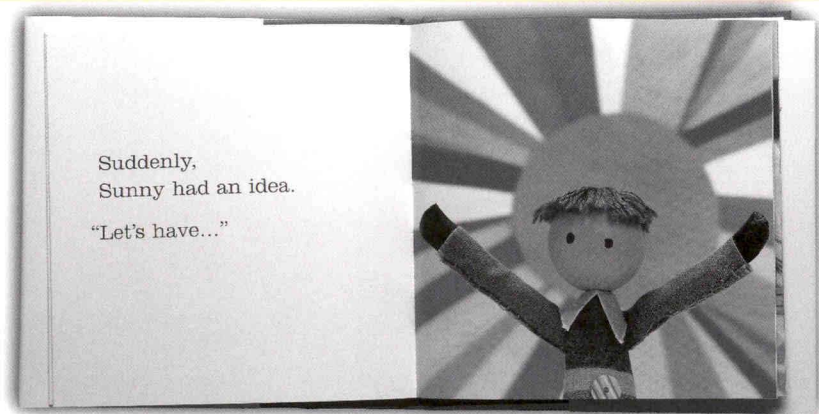
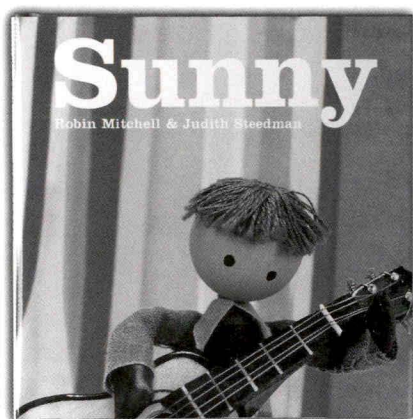
Mia Cunningham

PRINTER

Grafiche Az

SIZE

15.5 x 15.5 cm



TITLE

The gryphons of Paris : a reliquary
of photographs and vignettes

AUTHOR

Ronald Hurwitz

PUBLISHER

Voirin Editions

DESIGNER

Michael Torosian

PHOTOGRAPHER

Ronald Hurwitz

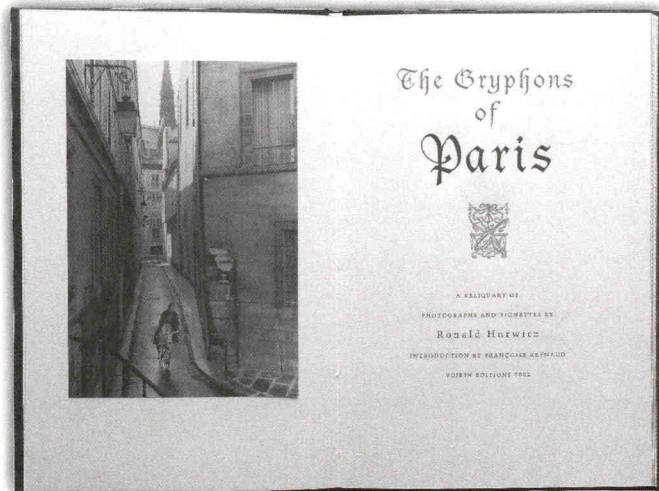
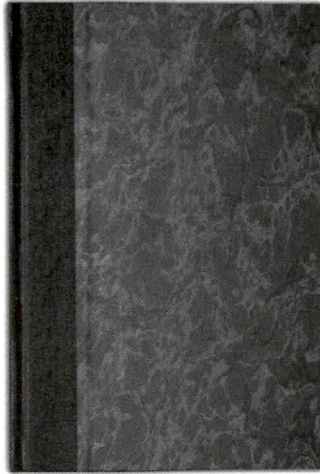
PRINTER

Michael Torosian/Lumiere Press

SIZE

23 x 15 cm

The Gryphons of Paris is, in this category, by far the superior production. From its elegant case binding and spine treatment and its beautifully toned paper, right down to its flawless letterpress and its exquisitely printed duotone stochastic lithographs, there is hardly a note out of place. Our only quibble, is with the head and tail bands. They are so white. A more subtle colour would be so much more elegant.



LIMITED EDITION

SECOND PRIZE

TITLE
The land beyond

AUTHOR
Matt Rader

PUBLISHER
Greenboathouse Books

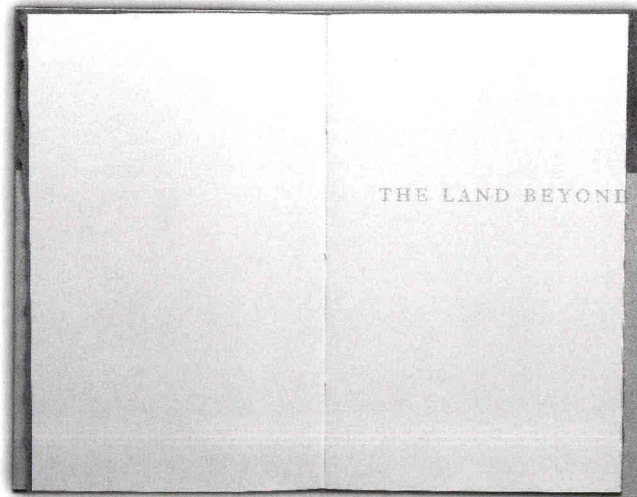
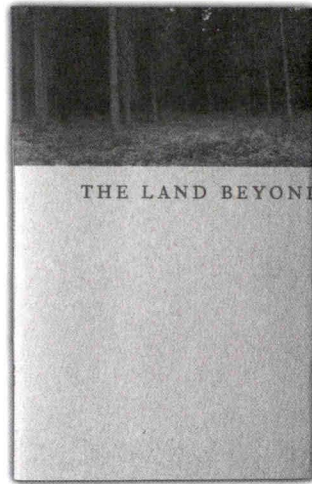
DESIGNER
Jason Dewinetz

PHOTOGRAPHER
Jason Dewinetz

PRINTER
Greenboathouse Books

SIZE
22 x 14 cm

The judges were intrigued by the simple but effective cover on *The Land Beyond*. The colour reproduction on the cover is of surprisingly good quality and it is a perfect match for the cover stock. The simple binding suits the subject to perfection, but it is the way the title bleeds off the page (a feature that is echoed on the half-title and title page) that we found so mysterious and intriguing. The effect is subtle but evocative. The letterpress and typography are themselves clean and elegant, and the format suits the content.



TITLE

The dot and the line

AUTHOR

Norton Juster

PUBLISHER

Mimi Lin / Centennial Bookbinding

DESIGNER

Mimi Lin

ILLUSTRATOR

Mimi Lin

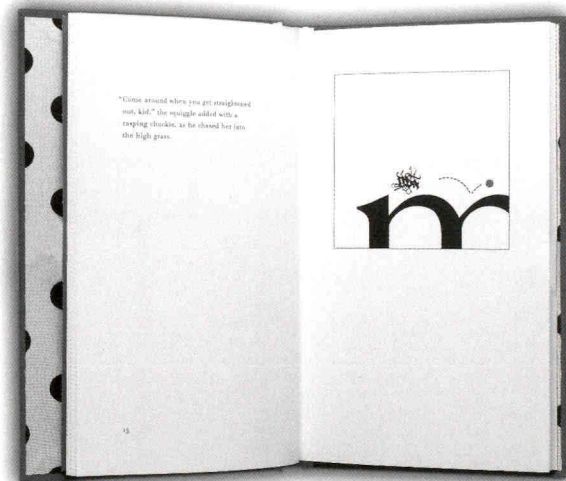
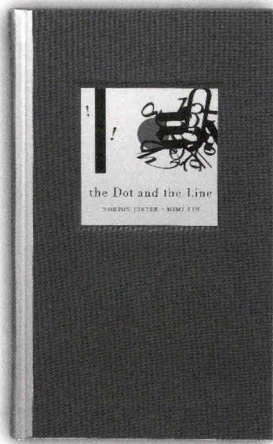
PRINTER

Mimi Lin

SIZE

25.5 × 15.5 cm

We were all delighted by the playful typographic images used to illustrate the hard-cover and the text. Enclosed in a box covered with eye-catching black and white polka-dot fabric (the same fabric was used on the endpapers [should it have been better quality cloth?]), this playful production features lots of nice design touches. There is much to amuse and entertain. Unfortunately the colour of the cloth used on the spine does not relate well to the decorative cloth case.



LIMITED EDITION

HONOURABLE MENTION

TITLE

Mountain journal

AUTHOR

Arnold Shives

PUBLISHER

Prospect Press

DESIGNER

Arnold Shives and Martin Hunt
Barbarian Press

ILLUSTRATOR

Arnold Shives

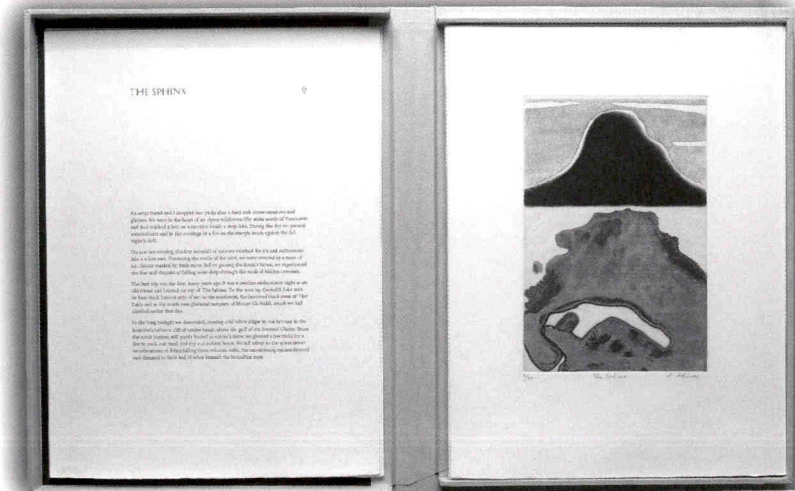
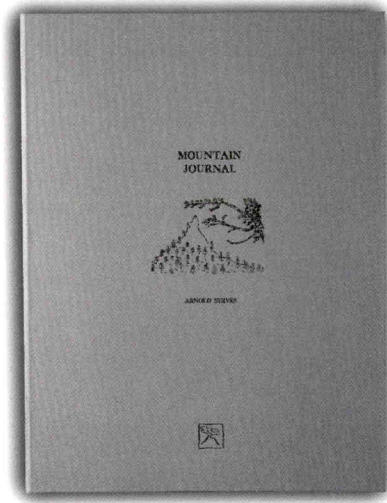
PRINTER

Barbarian Press / Blackstone Press

SIZE

36.5 x 27.5 cm

The outstanding feature of this production is the beautiful letterpress printing. It really is exceptional, as are the limited edition colour prints. Unfortunately the title page and cover are not composed with the same care. Neither the cover illustration nor the typography are handled as well as the text.



TITLE
**The Group of Seven and
 Tom Thomson**

AUTHOR
David P. Silcox

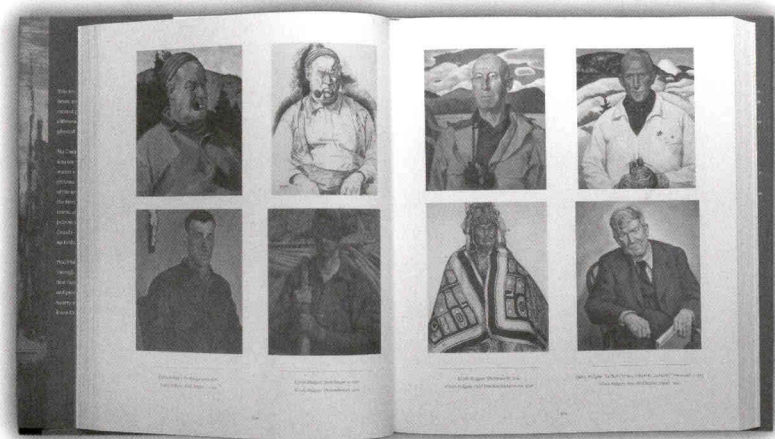
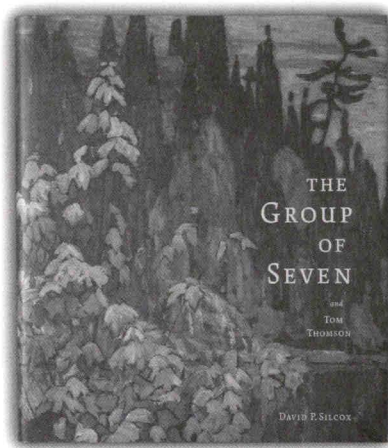
PUBLISHER
Firefly Books Ltd.

DESIGNER
Linda Gustafson

PRINTER
Friesens Book Division

SIZE
28.5 x 24.5 cm

This attractive book won for its elegant handling of every feature. The pacing of the images and text as well as the harmony of images on facing pages are superb. The designer has been very sensitive to subtle details, such as the paper tone (champagne for text and white for images), and the lovely sense of balance on the pages. The case design is excellent with its foil stamping and paper covering. The case is, in our estimation, better than the dust jacket.



PICTORIAL

SECOND PRIZE

TITLE

Le design au Québec

AUTHOR

Marc H. Choko, Paul Bourassa, and
Gérald Baril

PUBLISHER

Les éditions de l'homme

DESIGNER

Josée Amyotte

IMAGE TREATMENT

Mélanie Sabourin and
Jean Angrignon-Sirois

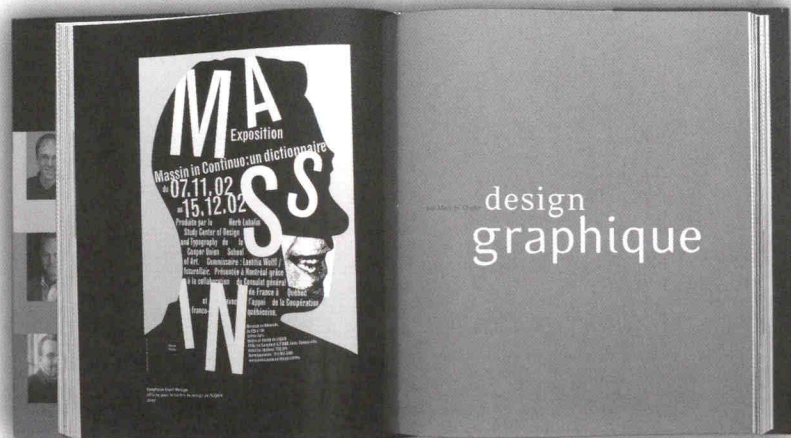
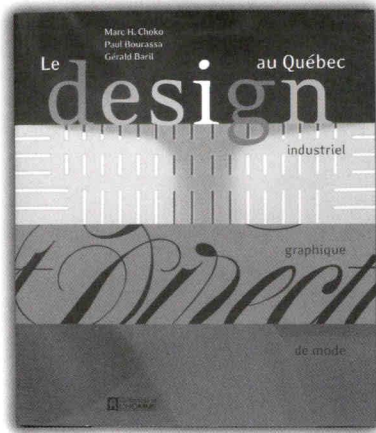
PRINTER

Imprimerie Interglobe /
Transcontinental

SIZE

28 x 24 cm

As one would expect, *Le Design au Québec* is a superbly-designed book. The production values are all exquisite. Its presentation of image and text, its balance and its pacing are all meticulously considered. What delighted the judges was the sensitive grouping of images, a feature that helps show every one of these photographs in their historical context, and to their best advantage. The use of colour fields to frame and highlight the grouped images is also highly effective. We feel the typography is not as good as it could have been. It feels a little heavy handed, especially when everything else has been done so beautifully.



TITLE
Alex Colville: return

AUTHOR
Tom Smart

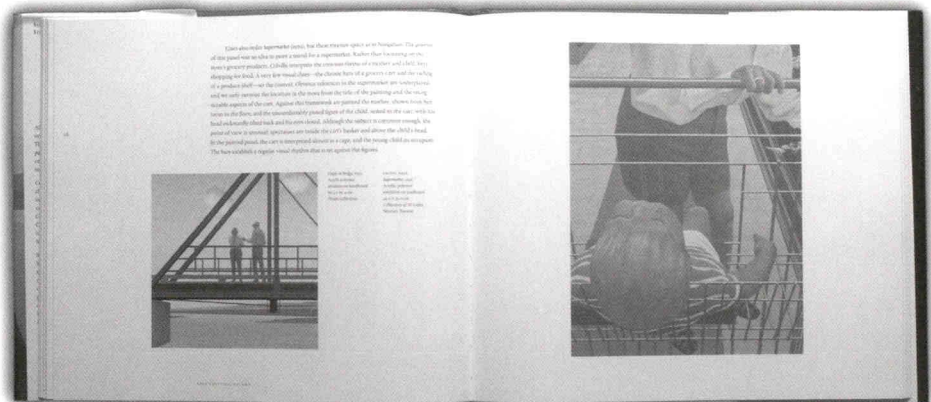
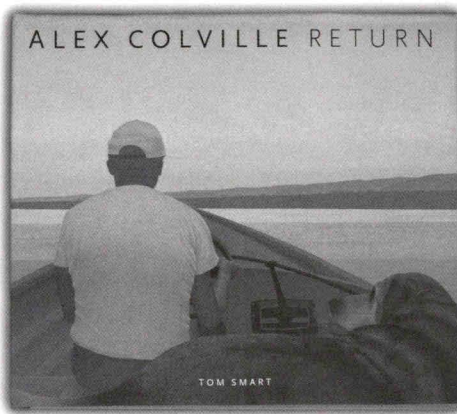
PUBLISHER
Douglas & McIntyre

DESIGNER
George Vaitkunas

PRINTER
Friesens Book Division

SIZE
24 x 27 cm

It was the perfectly-balanced spreads and sensitive image and text relationships that won this book an award. The design layout is intimately connected to the subject matter; the asymmetrical page composition show the same edge found in Colville's work. The typography is clean and perfectly suits the project. This book is a beautiful piece of design, but along its well-chosen path, no risks were taken.



TITLE

Les documents de la chambre
des cultures

AUTHOR

Annie Thibault and Anne Bénichou

PUBLISHER

Centre d'artistes anexo7

DESIGNER

Mike Teixeira

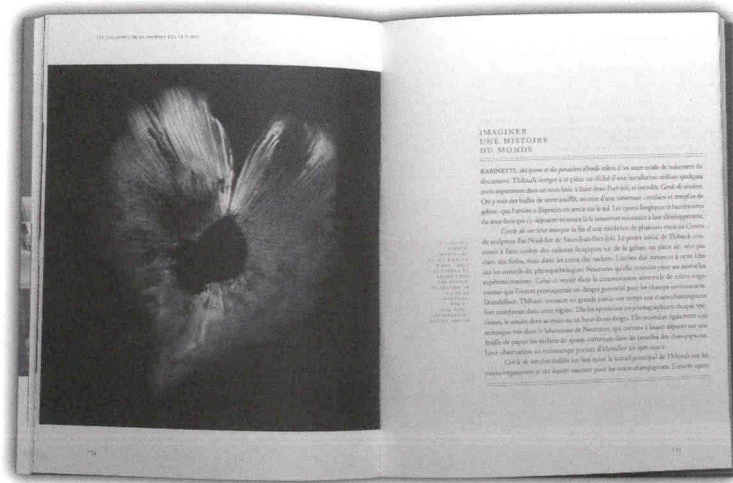
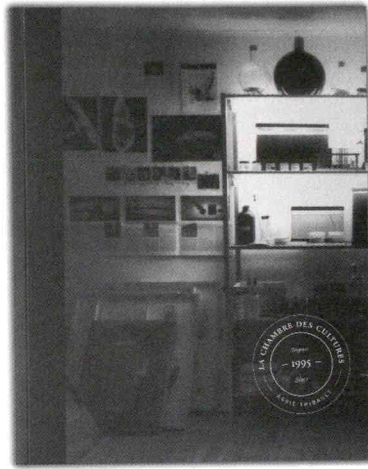
PRINTER

St. Joseph Corporation

SIZE

23,5 x 18,5 cm

This design combines an interesting mixture of images with adventuresome typography that still manages to remain understated and balanced. We love the use of different paper stocks and colours to define areas of the book (such as the blue paper for the index). There are some problems, we feel, with letter spacing that, had they been resolved, would result in a much better piece.



PICTORIAL

HONOURABLE MENTION

TITLE

Sylvia Safdie: the inventories of invention= Les inventaires de l'imaginaire

AUTHOR

Sylvia Safdie

TEXT

Irena Zantovská-Murray and Stuart Reid

PUBLISHER

Leonard & Bina Art Gallery

DESIGNER

Fugazi

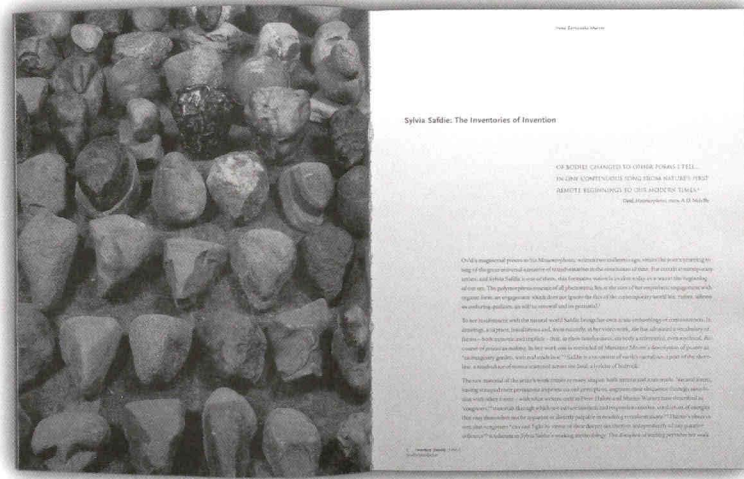
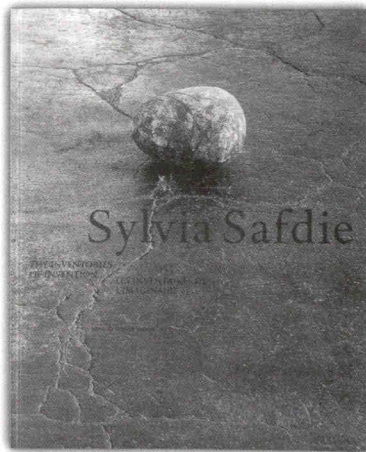
PRINTER

Integria

SIZE

28 x 23 cm

With its carefully-considered sequencing of differently-scaled images, its subtle typography and good use of white space, *Sylvia Safdie* is a design of understated elegance. It is a lovely book.



POETRY

TITLE

Ursa Major : a polyphonic masque
for speakers & dancers

AUTHOR

Robert Bringhurst

PUBLISHER

Gaspereau Press

FIRST PRIZE

DESIGNER

Andrew Steeves with
Robert Bringhurst

ILLUSTRATOR

Wesley Bates (wood engraving)

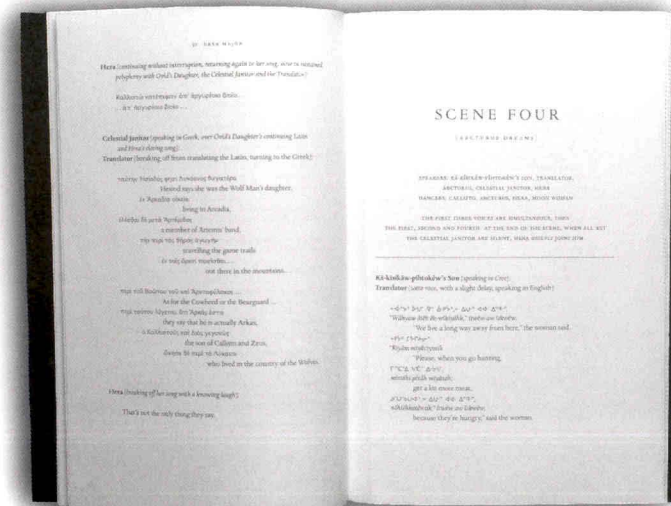
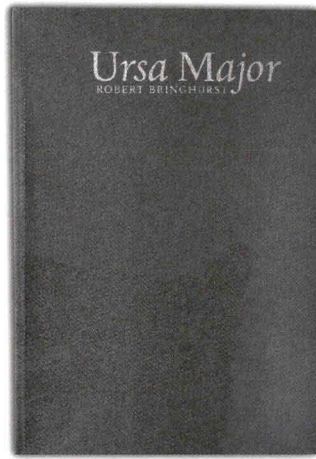
PRINTER

Gaspereau Press

SIZE

28 x 19 cm

This is an elegant production from top to bottom. All of its elements are well-considered, from the exquisite typography by Canada's master typographer right down to the lovely tone of paper. We were fascinated by the wonderful integration of the three languages on the page using type and different coloured inks. Truly an amazing book.



TITLE

Small arguments

AUTHOR

Souvankham Thammavongsa

PUBLISHER

Pedlar Press

DESIGNER

Zab Design & Typography

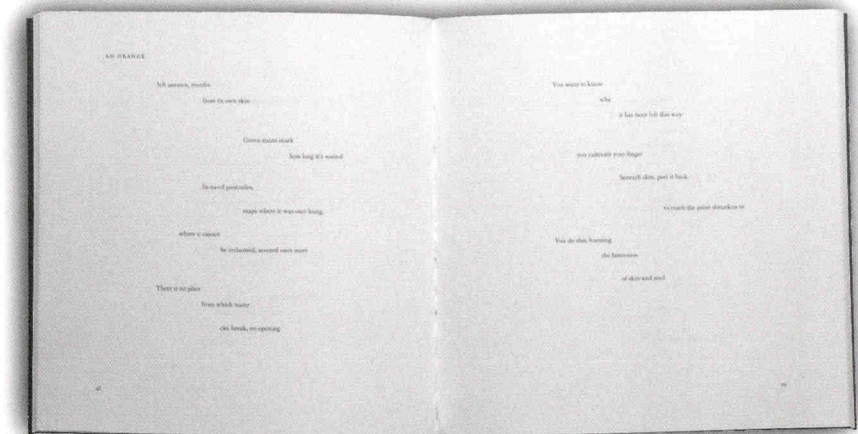
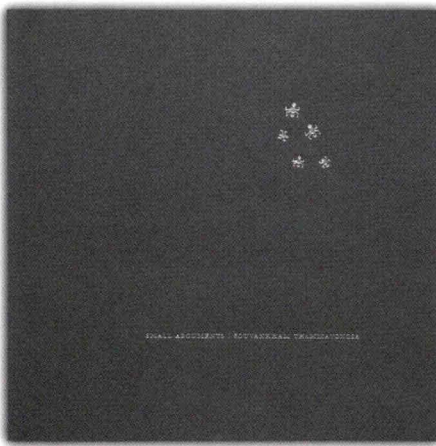
PRINTER

Coach House Printing

SIZE

17 x 17 cm

Small was the watchword for this designer; the small format and small-scale type are more than appropriate for the theme and content. The playful typography is wonderfully controlled by the carefully determined line breaks, the spacing, and the use of white space on the page. Enclosing it all is a simple, appealing cover.



POETRY

THIRD PRIZE

TITLE

An ark of koans

AUTHOR

E. D. Blodgett

PUBLISHER

The University of Alberta Press

DESIGNER

Alan Brownoff

ILLUSTRATOR

Jacques Brault

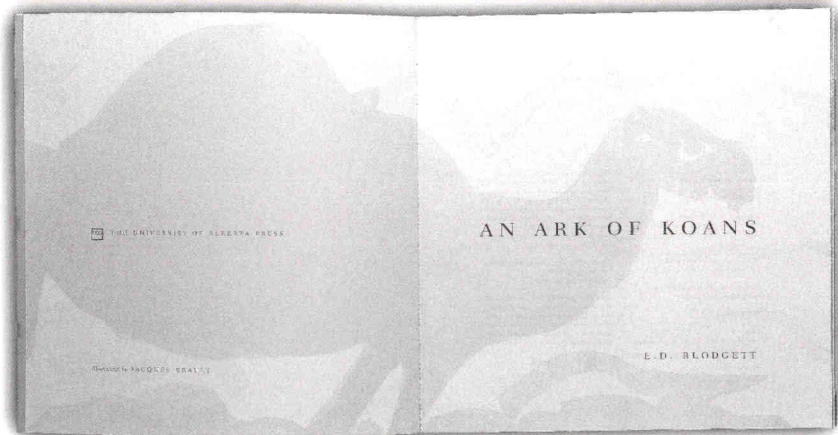
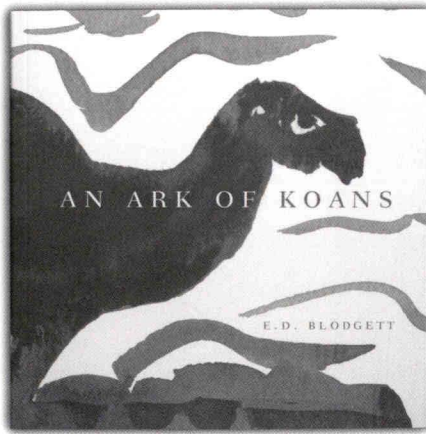
PRINTER

Kromar Printing

SIZE

16.5 x 16.5 cm

Blodgett's book is another small, intimate production, enhanced with delicate and sensitive illustrations that are beautifully integrated with the typography both on the cover and in the interior.



POETRY

HONOURABLE MENTION

TITLE
Persuasion for a mathematician

AUTHOR
Joanne Page

PUBLISHER
Pedlar Press

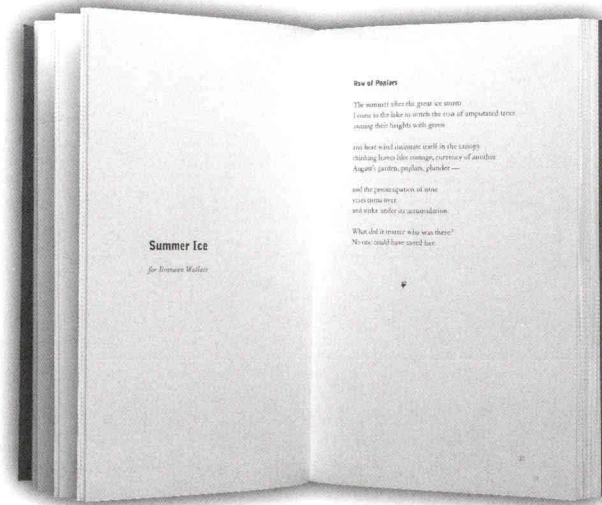
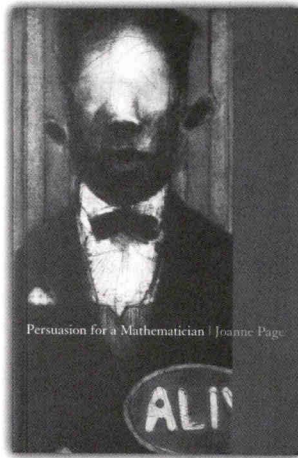
DESIGNER
Zab Design & Typography

ILLUSTRATOR
Ryan Price (cover)

PRINTER
Kromar Printing

SIZE
21.5 x 14 cm

The overall design is excellent, and all the elements work well together. We all thought the cover was intriguing. A delightful and fun book.



PROSE FICTION

FIRST PRIZE

TITLE

Lightning

AUTHOR

Fred Stenson

PUBLISHER

Douglas & McIntyre

DESIGNER

Peter Cocking

ILLUSTRATOR

Bettman
Corbis / Magma (cover)

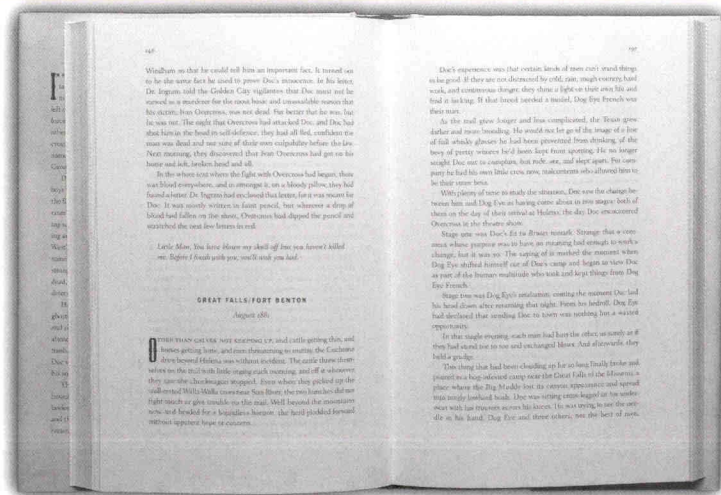
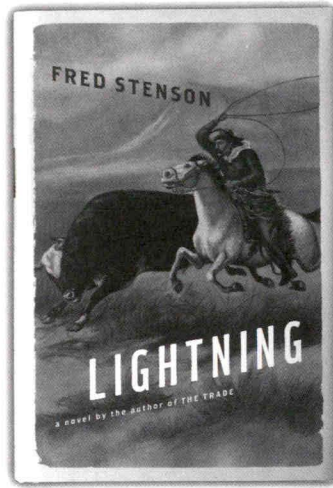
PRINTER

Friesens Book Division

SIZE

23 x 15 cm

Everything comes together in *Lightning*, from its cover right down to the smallest interior detail. The strong dust jacket is evocative and attractive, the case cover and endpapers harmonize beautifully, and we all admired the well-handled introductory and title pages. The interior proportions are good, and the text block is nicely balanced on the page. The paper has a lovely warm tone, and contrasts nicely with the well-chosen type. The dropped capitals are very well done.



PROSE FICTION

TITLE
Mme. Proust and the kosher kitchen

AUTHOR
Kate Taylor

PUBLISHER
Doubleday Canada

SECOND PRIZE

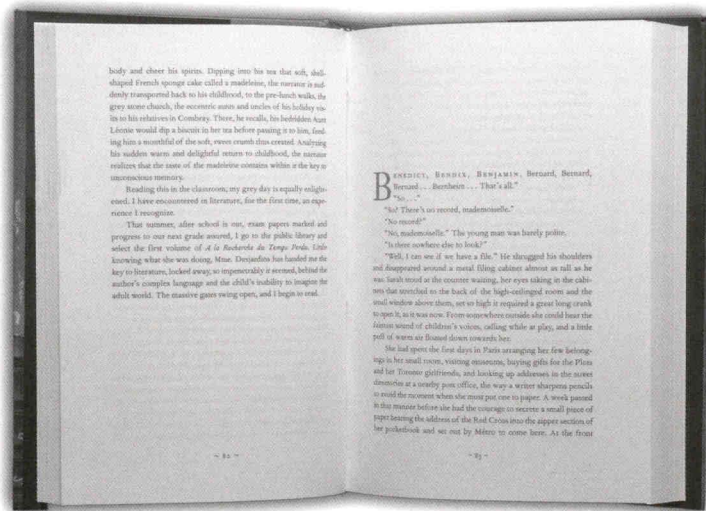
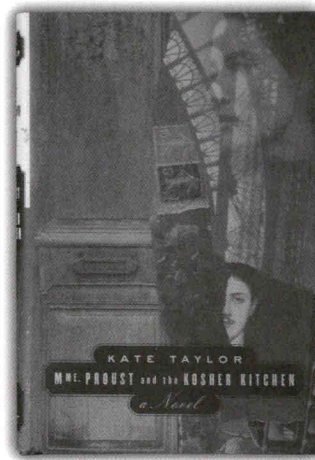
DESIGNER
C.S. Richardson

ILLUSTRATOR
Kara Kosaka (cover)

PRINTER
Berryville Graphics

SIZE
21 x 13.5 cm

We love the cover of this book, as well as many of its fine interior details. The text proportions are excellent, the paper has a warm tone, and the typography has a lovely open and subtle quality. As part of the story is told via a series of letters, the designer has done a wonderful job using different type to differentiate the correspondence from the text. The half-title and title pages are weaker than the first prize entry. The dropped capitals on the otherwise well-handled chapter entries are too far away from the words that follow. Nonetheless this is a fine production.



PROSE FICTION

TITLE

Vaudeville!

AUTHOR

Gaétan Soucy

TRANSLATOR

Sheila Fischman

PUBLISHER

House of Anansi Press

THIRD PRIZE

DESIGNER

Bill Douglas

PHOTOGRAPHER

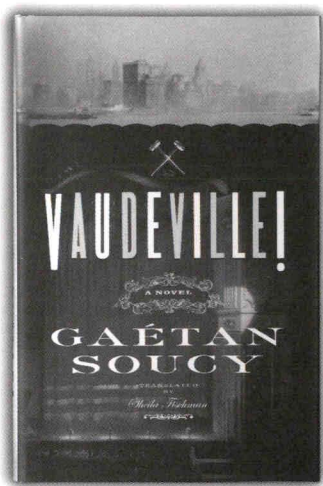
The Bang Archives and Photonica

PRINTER

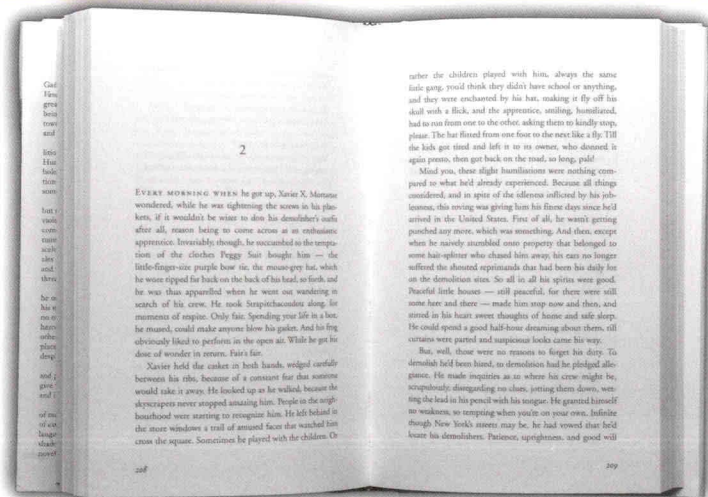
Friessens Book Division

SIZE

22 x 13.5 cm



Again, another strong and attractive cover caught our attention; the tight integration of type and illustration is handled very well by the designer. Unfortunately, the typeface on the cover is not used in any of the interior pages, and the judges feel a wonderful opportunity has been lost. The typography, nevertheless, is attractive and clearly set; it's subtle and doesn't try too hard, a feature that, in the end, impressed all of us. The introductory pages, especially the half-title and title pages, are also nicely done. Some details don't work well. The section heads don't relate well to the rest of the text, and the chapter numbers are centred while the page numbers aren't. We feel this is a bit awkward.



PROSE FICTION

HONOURABLE MENTION

TITLE

Cat's Crossing

AUTHOR

Bill Cameron

PUBLISHER

Random House Canada

DESIGNER

C.S. Richardson

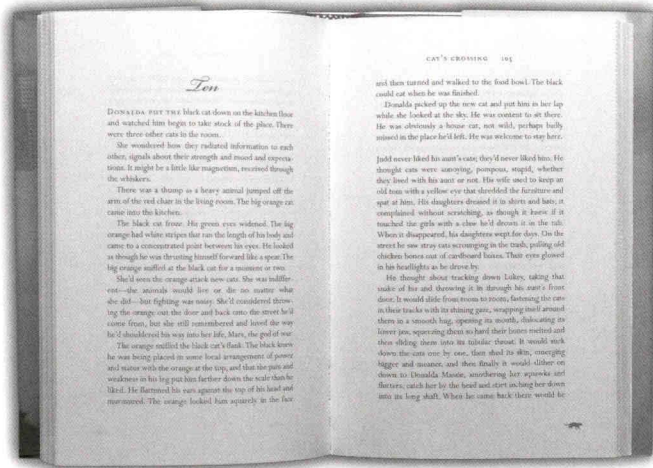
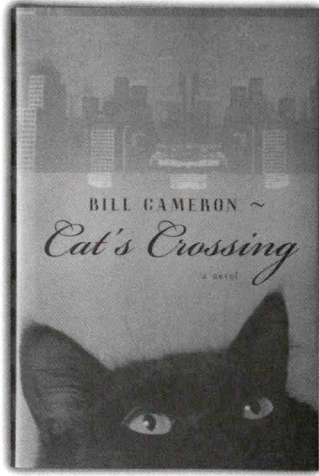
PRINTER

R.R. Donnelley (Indiana)

SIZE

21 x 13.5 cm

We love the running cat motif. If you flip the pages, the cat appears to run across the bottom of the page. This type of graphic element doesn't always work but here it manages to be subtle, witty and charming all at the same time.



PROSE FICTION

TITLE

Stevenson under the palm trees

AUTHOR

Alberto Manguel

PUBLISHER

Thomas Allen Publishers

HONOURABLE MENTION

DESIGNER

Gordon Robertson (text)

PHOTOGRAPHER

Minori Kawana / Photonica

ILLUSTRATOR

Robert Louis Stevenson

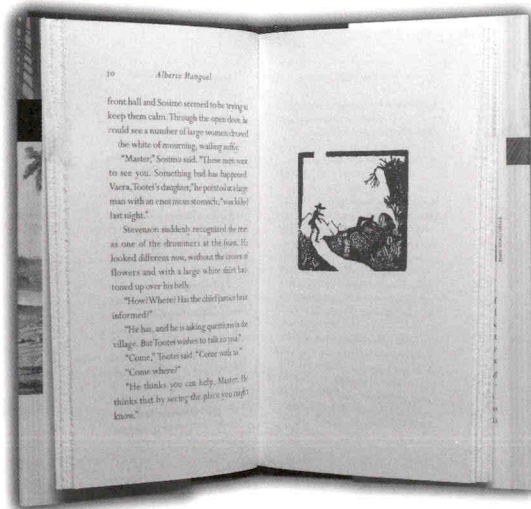
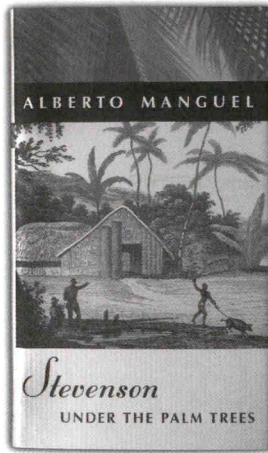
PRINTER

Friesens Book Division

TRIM SIZE

18 x 9,5 cm

The text interior of this book is excellent, its strong well-balanced design and the journal-like format are comfortable, easy to hold, and give an intimate feel to the book. There is also a very nice use of illustration. The dust jacket, on the other hand, is too stiff and doesn't feel like it belongs on such a small book. None of the various cover elements (the illustration, the typography and the colouring) work harmoniously together.



PROSE FICTION

TITLE
Would you hide me?: stories.

AUTHOR
J.J. Steinfeld

PUBLISHER
Gaspereau Press

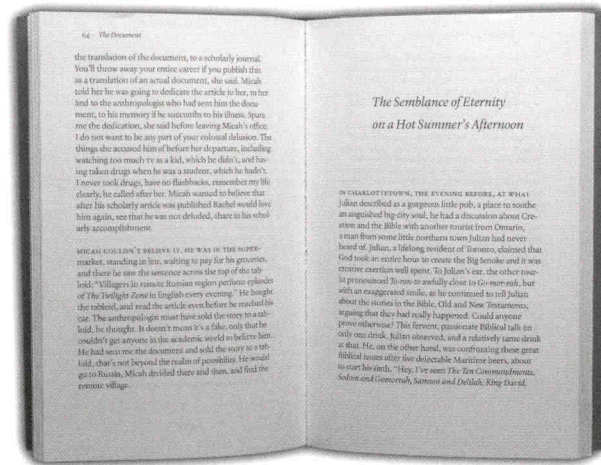
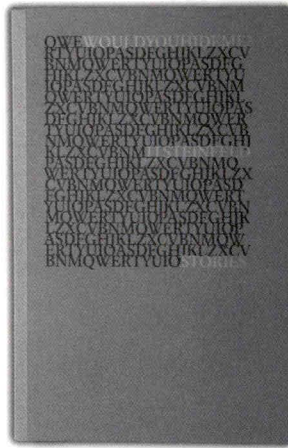
HONOURABLE MENTION

DESIGNER
Andrew Steeves / Gaspereau Press

PRINTER
Gaspereau Press

SIZE
21 x 13.5 cm

The cover is very attractive with strong typographic images on the dust jacket, the title page, and on the paper casing. The lead-in pages are excellent, but the text typography is too "loud", far too heavy, and would benefit from more generous leading.



TITLE
Wisdom & metaphor

AUTHOR
Jan Zwicky

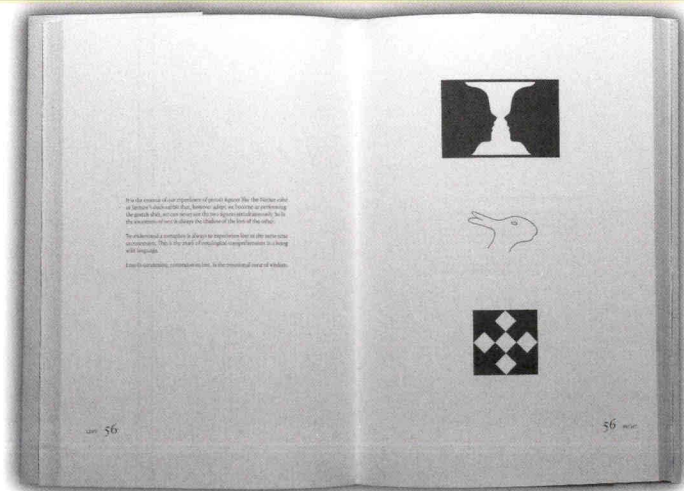
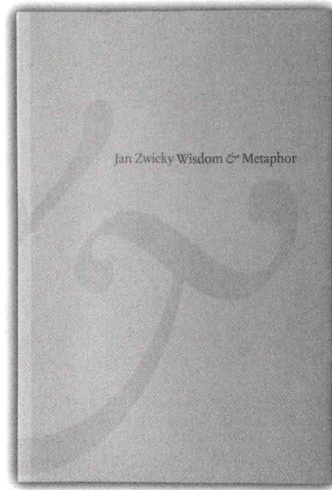
PUBLISHER
Gaspereau Press

DESIGNER
Andrew Steeves/Gaspereau Press

PRINTER
Gaspereau Press

SIZE
28 x 19 cm

This book is an aesthetic delight, and proves to be a wonderfully designed package. In every decision made, the designer was sensitive to the subject of the book. We love the large format, the elegant white-on-white dust jacket, and the tone-on-tone off-white paper case. The choice of paper for the text was remarkable; the bright white paper gives the type a lovely crisp appearance. Great use is made of the white space on the page. The diagrams are well-integrated, and the half-title and title pages are balanced and beautiful. The type is spare, but more open leading would make it absolutely perfect in the eyes of some judges. The vertical linear elements, too, are a bit heavy-handed, especially when the rest of the design work is so delicate. This is a small quibble about an otherwise impressive production.



TITLE
Village of the small houses :
 a memoir of sorts

AUTHOR
Ian Ferguson

PUBLISHER
Douglas & McIntyre

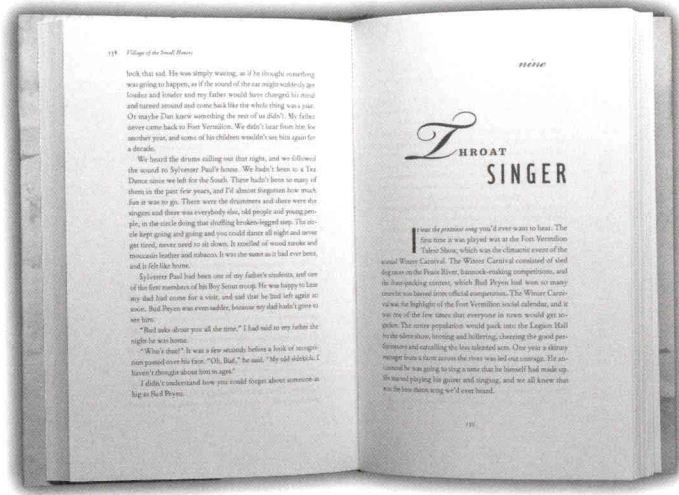
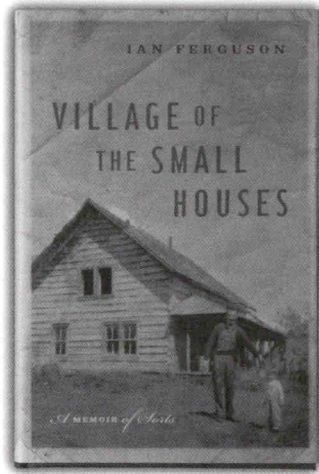
DESIGNER
Jessica Sullivan

PHOTOGRAPHER
Ian Ferguson

PRINTER
Friesens Book Division

SIZE
23 x 15 cm

Village of Small Houses was a very strong contender for first place. Almost all the design elements are well-composed. The cover is excellent and the cover image could not be more appropriate. The introduction is nicely done, and the text pages are all well-proportioned. The type size, colouring, and leading are all excellent, and there are some very interesting typographic contrasts. Some of us feel the chapter headings are slightly heavy, and the first letter too stylized and large. Otherwise this is a remarkably well-designed book.



TITLE

Open house : Canada and the magic of curling

AUTHOR

Scott Russell

PUBLISHER

Doubleday Canada

DESIGNER

C.S. Richardson

PHOTOGRAPHER

National Archives of Canada
Corbis / Magma

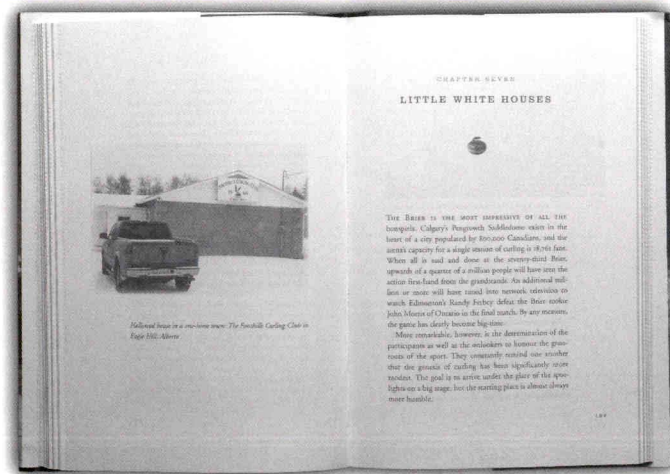
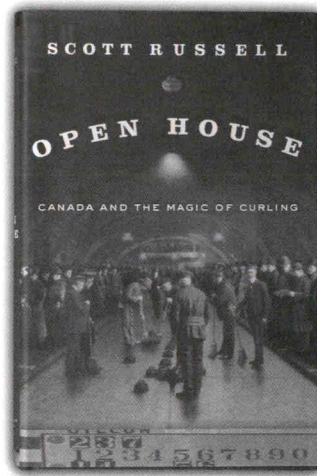
PRINTER

Berryville Graphics

SIZE

23,5 x 15,5 cm

We all feel *Open House* is engaging, accessible, and very well-designed. The cover is appropriate to the subject. We love the playful introductory pages with the curling rock shown moving across the pages. This could easily have descended into kitsch, but it adds warmth and humour to the page. The running chapter and title headings are beautifully done, in reduced tones, and the typography is sound. We feel the integration of the photographs is occasionally awkward and the reproduction quality of the photographs is not what it should be.



TITLE
 Dad alone : how to rebuild
 your life and remain an involved
 father after divorce

AUTHOR
 Phil Clavel

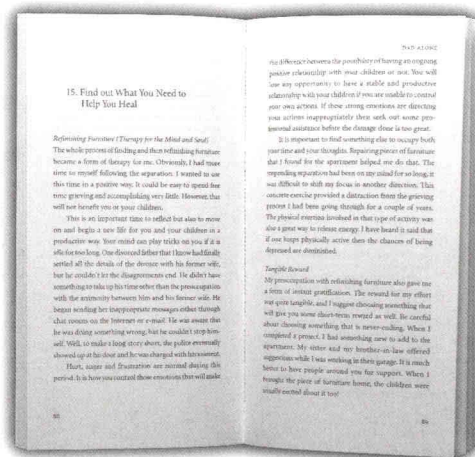
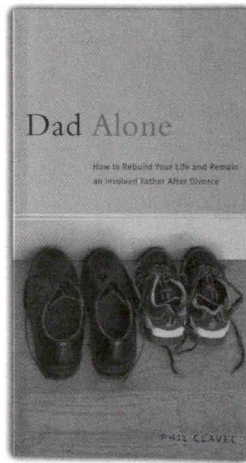
PUBLISHER
 Véhicule Press

DESIGNER
 David Drummond/
 Salamander Hill Design (cover)
 Simon Dardick (text)

PRINTER
 AGMV-Marquis Inc.

SIZE
 21.5 x 11.5 cm

The appealing cover of *Dad Alone* was created by a designer who understands the relationship between subject, content, typography and image. All work nicely together. We love its no-nonsense format, so appropriate for the time-short, harried father. The interior pages are well handled and the information well-structured.



PROSE NON-FICTION

TITLE

Scurvy: how a surgeon, a mariner, and a gentleman solved the greatest medical mystery of the age of sail

AUTHOR

Stephen R. Bown

PUBLISHER

Thomas Allen Publishers

HONOURABLE MENTION

DESIGNER

Gordon Robertson

ILLUSTRATOR

Alfredo Carmelo

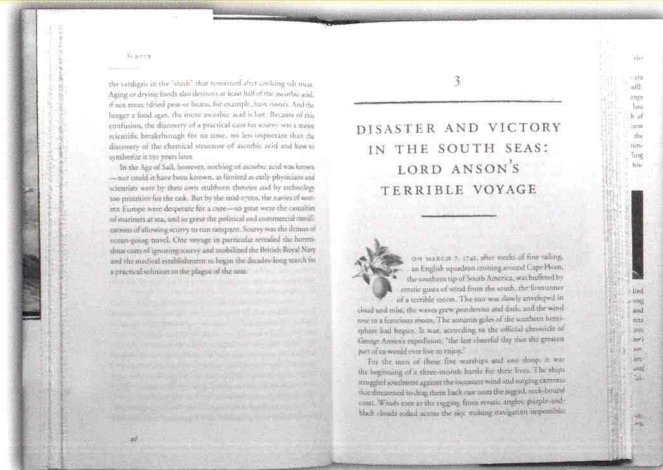
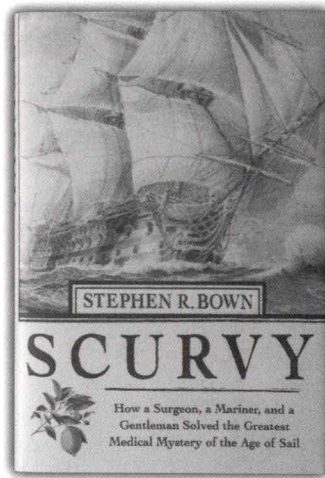
PRINTER

Friensens Book Division

SIZE

23 x 14.5 cm

Overall *Scurvy* shows great sensitivity to its contents and ideas. The cover is excellent, but some of us feel the typography is heavy-handed on the text pages and chapter headings. Overall, the book demonstrates remarkable design consistency.



TITLE
Temptress: from the original bad
girls to women on top

AUTHOR
Jane Billinghamurst

PUBLISHER
Douglas & McIntyre

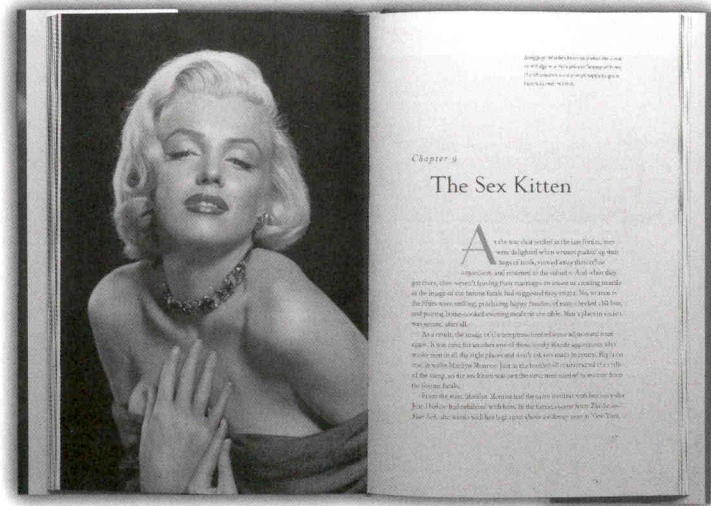
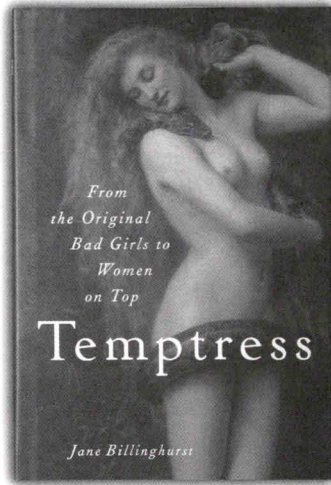
DESIGNER
Peter Cocking and Val Speidel

ILLUSTRATOR
John Collier

PRINTER
C.S. Graphics Pte. Ltd

SIZE
25 x 16.5 cm

This richly-illustrated and lavish production could easily have gone over the top, but the designer has embraced the inherent risks and has managed to hold everything together in a remarkable design. The pacing and balance in this book are superb; the relationship between image and text excellent, and the text type is nicely set and has an appropriate tone. The chapter headings are excellent. The designer must receive full credit here.



TITLE
Traces of India = Empreintes de l'Inde
English and French editions

EDITOR
Maria Antonella Pelizzari

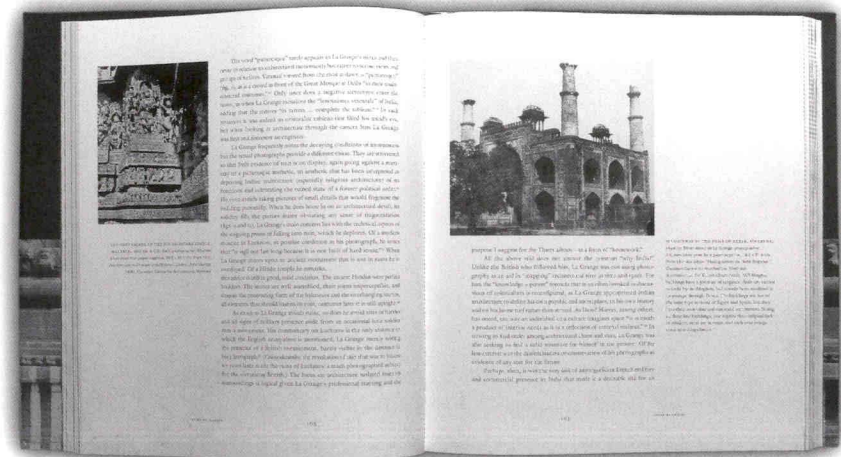
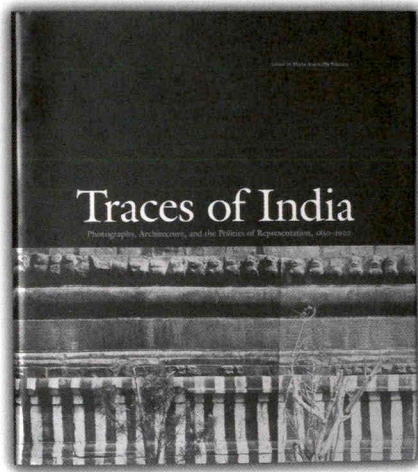
PUBLISHER
Canadian Centre for Architecture

DESIGNER
Zab Design & Typography

PRINTER
Litho Acme

SIZE
24 x 27.5 cm

The design works brilliantly in both language editions of *Traces of India*, where text block and line lengths can be so different in French and English. There is a nice, clean structure in both of these books. The balance of text and image is superb, and the changes of scale add visual interest. The beauty of these images is allowed to take centre stage. The remarkable pacing and layout draw the reader along and seldom falter. The choice of typography is excellent, and the type hierarchies are subtle yet functional. The divider pages make good use of second colours, but more care should have been taken with the colour and/or placement of the type on these colour fields; in some cases the text is difficult to read. Nonetheless this an outstanding production.



PROSE NON-FICTION
ILLUSTRATED

TITLE
Godless at the workbench =
Sans-dieu à l'atelier : Soviet illustrated
humoristic antireligious propaganda

AUTHOR
Annie Gérin

PUBLISHER
Dunlop Art Gallery

SECOND PRIZE

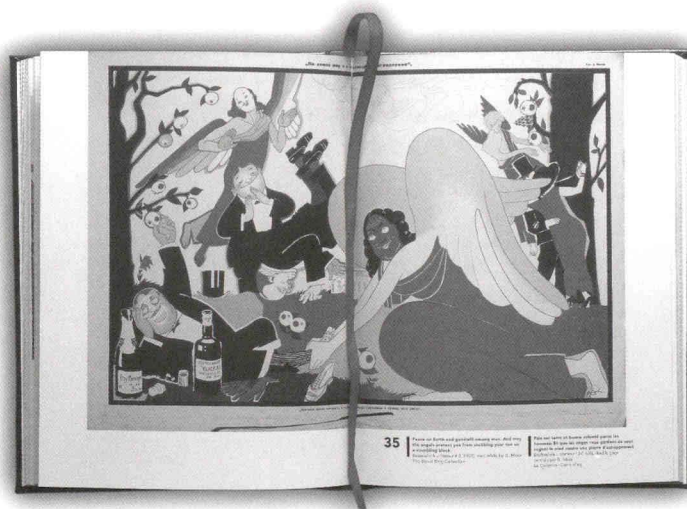
DESIGNER
Zab Design & Typography

PHOTOGRAPHER
Don Hall and David King

PRINTER
Kromar

SIZE
22 x 16,5 cm

The cover to *Godless at the Workbench* is indeed intriguing. Its appeal is immediate, but there are other parts of this book worth noting. The endpapers are beautiful. Using the subject to determine the design style of the book was a logical choice for this project. The typography, in a Russian constructivist/early 20th century style, is very well-done, as are the captions for the illustrations, and more remarkably, the footnotes.



PROSE NON-FICTION
ILLUSTRATED

THIRD PRIZE

TITLE

Remembering Phil Esposito:
a celebration

EDITOR

Craig MacInnis

PUBLISHER

Raincoast Books

DESIGNER

Bill Douglas

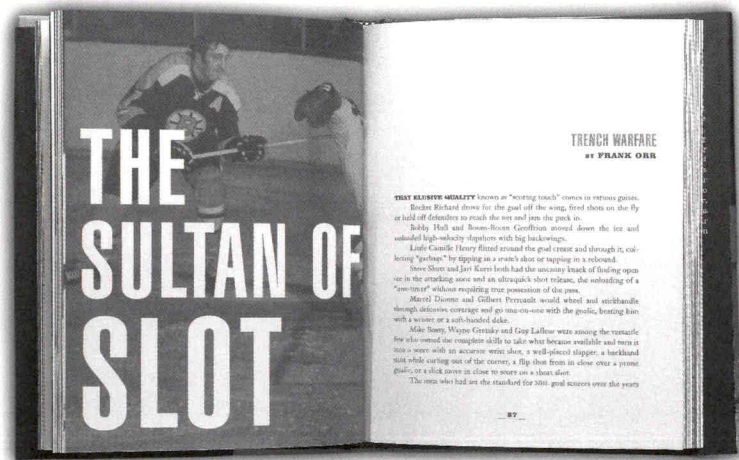
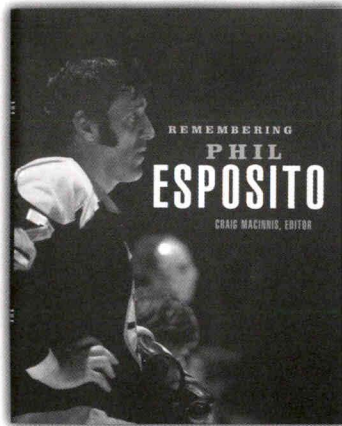
PRINTER

Friesens Book Division

SIZE

19 x 15 cm

This book is a great compilation of memorable images, text, quotes and stories. *Remembering Phil Esposito* is well presented in a highly suitable format that is appropriate for its audience. The strong dust jacket works well with the case, which is simply designed in appropriate colours. The reproductions are very good considering they have been printed on uncoated paper, which itself has a lovely tone. The typography we feel is a bit heavy-handed in some areas and this lost the book a higher place. The running heads also are too tightly spaced in our estimation. They have a "squeezed" look.



PROSE NON-FICTION

ILLUSTRATED

TITLE

The lands within me : expressions by Canadian artists of Arab origin

EDITOR

Aïda Kaouk and Dominique Bourque

PUBLISHER

Canadian Museum of Civilization

HONOURABLE MENTION

DESIGNER

Bleu Outremer
Communication/Design

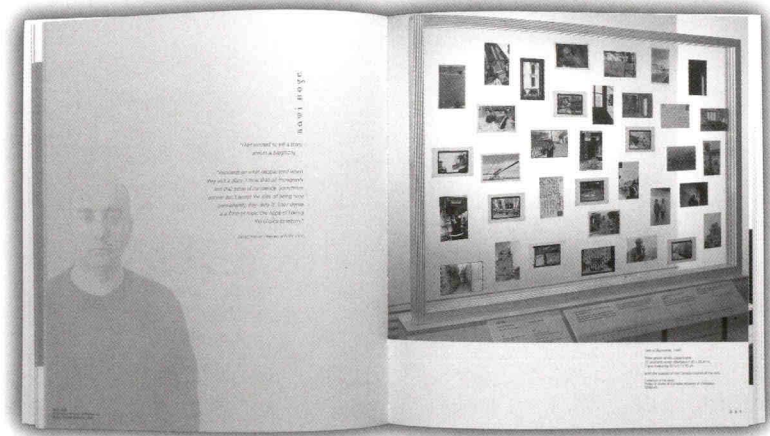
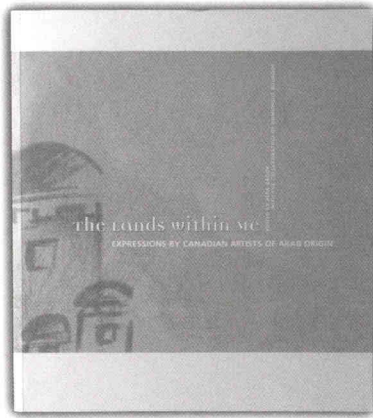
PRINTER

k2 Impressions

SIZE

25.5 x 23 cm

This exhibition catalogue is presented in a manner that is playful yet still maintains a contemporary feel in its design. The handling of the photographic illustrations and pictorial matter is lively and varied, and there is good use of colour. The introductory sections on each artist are also very well done. Some of the judges feel the columns are a bit tight, and that "Democrática" typeface is an odd choice for this project.



REFERENCE

TITLE

Le nouveau dictionnaire visuel multilingue : français, anglais, espagnol, allemand, italien

AUTHOR

Jean-Claude Corbeil and Ariane Archambault

PUBLISHER

Les éditions Québec Amérique, Inc

FIRST PRIZE

DESIGNER

Anne Tremblay

ILLUSTRATOR

QA Digital

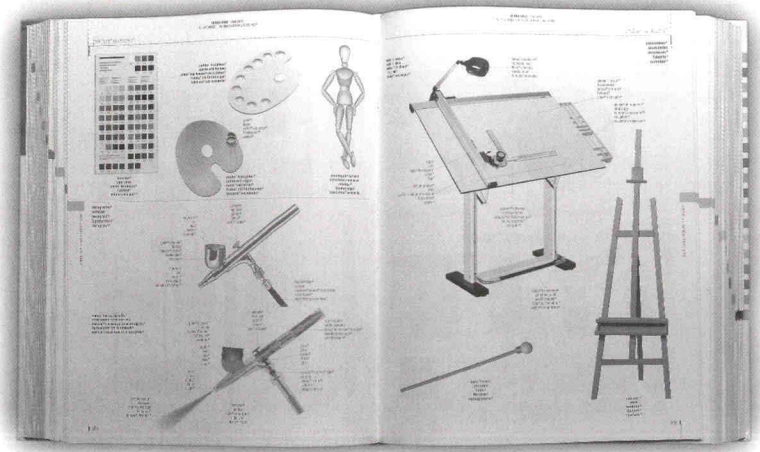
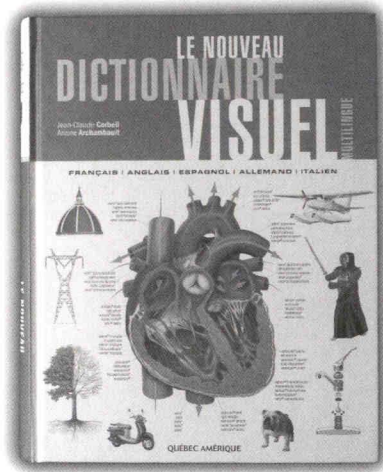
PRINTER

Neografia

SIZE

27,5 x 21,5 cm

This impressively comprehensive, multilingual dictionary of visual images is not only a pleasure to look at, but is clearly laid-out and easy to navigate. Such a clean and simple design could not have been an easy task considering the dictionary's size and weight. Nonetheless, the sections are not only colour-coded, but there is also a multilingual index in French, English, Spanish, German, and Italian. Here we have a complex project that has been transformed into an impressive, useable and pleasant reference book by a talented designer.



REFERENCE

TITLE
 Historical atlas of the Arctic

AUTHOR
 Derek Hayes

PUBLISHER
 Douglas & McIntyre

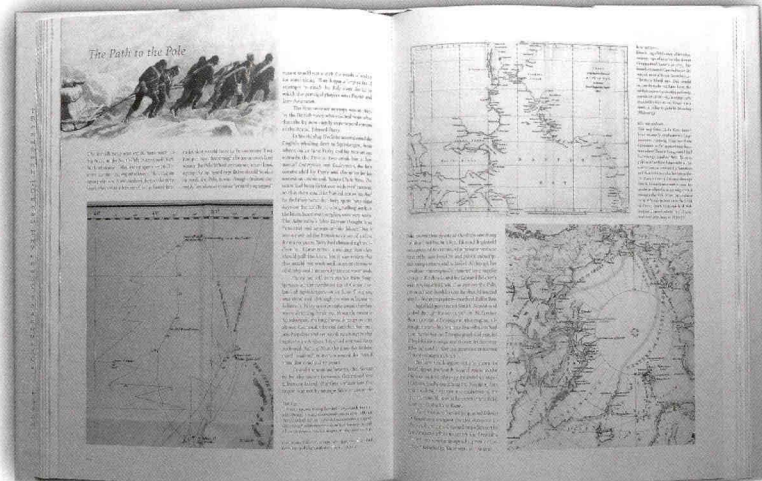
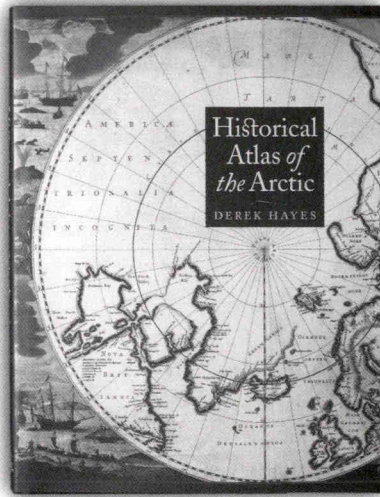
SECOND PRIZE

DESIGNER
 George Vaitkunas

PRINTER
 C&C Offset (Hong Kong)

SIZE
 31.5 x 23.5 cm

Douglas & McIntyre's "Historical Atlas" series continues to be a hallmark of design excellence. This new *Atlas of the Arctic* is a very beautiful book, and contains all the features one expects from the publisher. The contents are well laid-out, and the integration of text and images is excellent. The map reproductions are superb, the pacing is wonderful, and the exquisite typography is clear, clean and restrained. A well-designed and beautiful book.



REFERENCE

TITLE

What directors need to know: corporate governance 2003

AUTHOR

Carol Hansell

PUBLISHER

Carswell

THIRD PRIZE

DESIGNER

Bruce Mau with Barr Gilmore, Judith McKay, and Cathy Jonasson
Bruce Mau Design Inc.

PHOTOGRAPHER

Lorne Bridgman

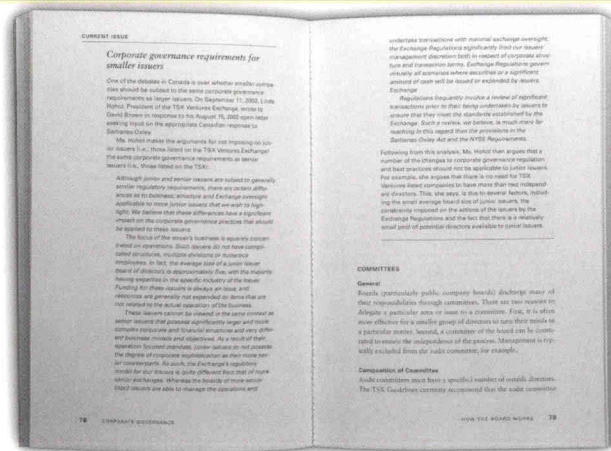
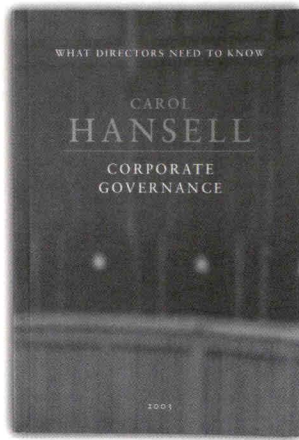
PRINTER

Transcontinental

SIZE

22.1 x 15.2 cm

If a reference book is not designed well, it does not work well. Corporate Governance structures its complex subject matter in an accessible and attractive package. Attention has been paid to all the details that count. The hierarchy of information, as defined by the typography, is cleanly and clearly laid-out on the page. The detailed diagrams and charts are well-integrated with the text. The design makes clear the function.



REFERENCE

TITLE

Lumière light: recipes from the tasting bar

AUTHOR

Rob Feenie and Marnie Coldham

PUBLISHER

Douglas & McIntyre

HONOURABLE MENTION

DESIGNER

Peter Cocking with Jessica Sullivan

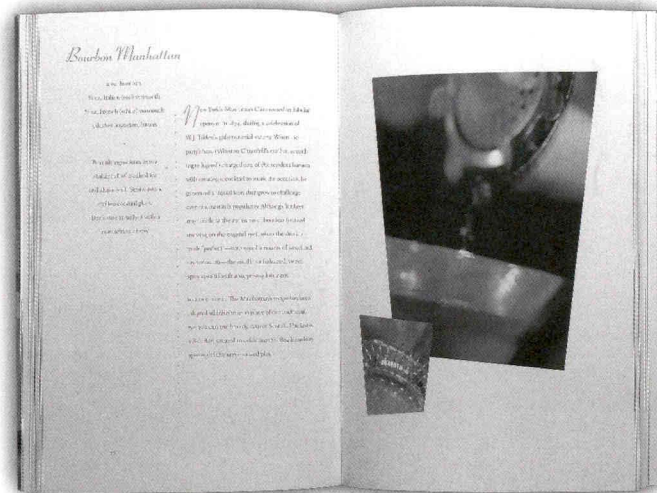
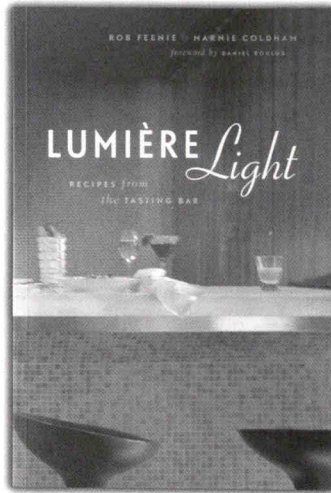
PRINTER

Friesens Book Division

SIZE

27 x 18 cm

Of all the cookbooks we saw *Lumière Light* is the one we liked the best. Everything we wanted to see was here; the book is aesthetically appealing, well-designed, and functional. The hierarchy of food preparation tasks is outlined clearly and logically, and the format is practical enough for use in the kitchen.



REFERENCE

TITLE

The Wood Design Awards 2003 :
a North American program
of architectural excellence

AUTHOR

Don Griffith / Editor

PUBLISHER

Tuns Press and Janam Publications

HONOURABLE MENTION

DESIGNER

Marie-Noëlle Massé

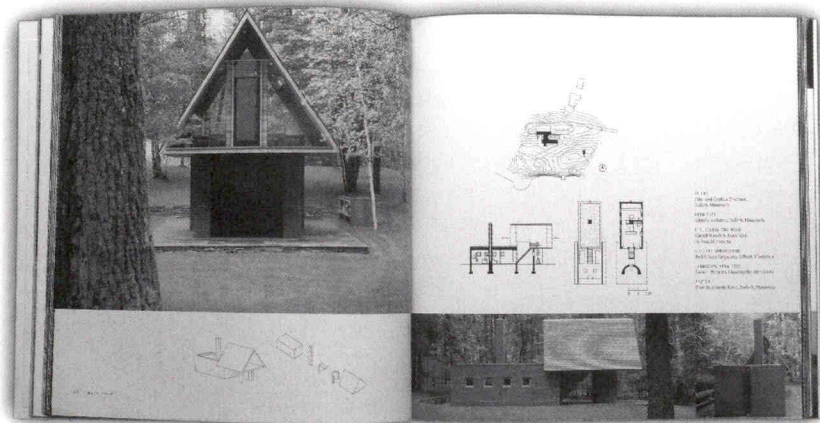
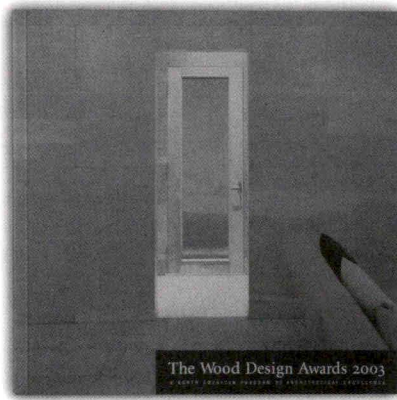
PRINTER

Friesens Book Division

SIZE

21.5 x 21.5 cm

Along with its clean layout and its clear black and white photographs, the sequencing and pacing of this catalogue are among its finest features. In addition, the integration of illustrated matter (architectural plans) with photographs is very well done. Unfortunately, the wonderfully rich colour cover promises more than it can deliver. It is perhaps, misleading as far as the representation of the content of the book is concerned, in that there are no colour illustrations within the text. We said the same thing about the 2002 edition.



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AUTHORS

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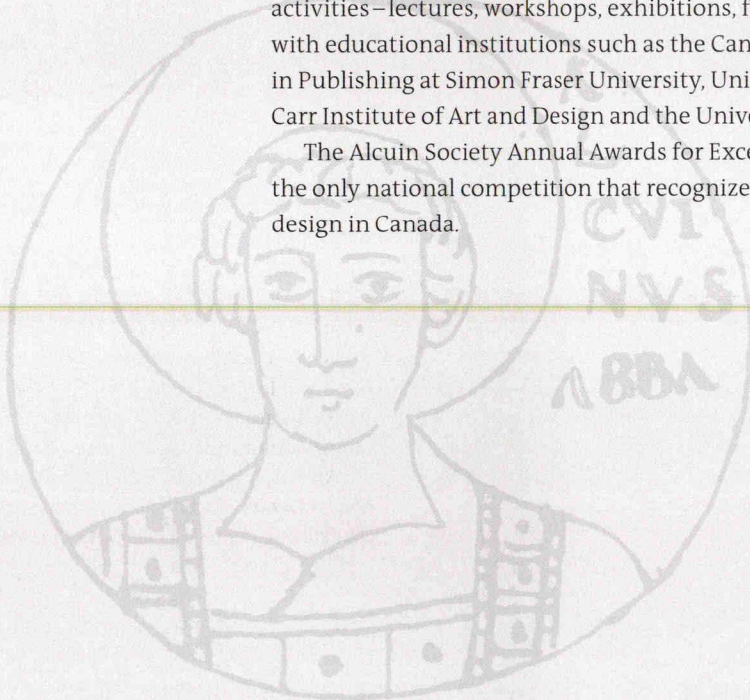
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THE ALCUIN SOCIETY was formed in 1965 in Vancouver. It was the idea of its founder, Geoffrey Spencer, and other founding members were Basil Stuart-Stubbs, Bill Duthie, Sam Black, Bill McConnell, Dale Smith and Sam Fogel. The initial aim of the Society was to promote a wider appreciation of finely wrought books among book lovers around the world. It is the only non-profit organization in Canada dedicated to the entire range of interests related to books and reading. Through *Amphora*, the Society's quarterly journal, topics covered include authorship, publishing, book design and production, the history of the book, libraries, ephemera, bookselling, book buying and collecting and the book arts of typography, type design, printing, binding, paper-making, marbling, calligraphy and illustration.

The name Alcuin was chosen to honour the memory of Alcuin of York (c. 735 to 804 A.D.). Alcuin was a man who cared deeply about books and literacy. As Charlemagne's "Minister of Culture" and a respected teacher, Alcuin encouraged the study and preservation of ancient texts and helped establish numerous schools and libraries. He also selected the most legible script of his day and gave it official blessing. Known as Caroline Miniscule, it ultimately led to our modern lower case alphabet.

To further its aims, The Alcuin Society engages in a wide range of educational activities – lectures, workshops, exhibitions, field visits, many in collaboration with educational institutions such as the Canadian Centre for Continuing Studies in Publishing at Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia, Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design and the University of Victoria.

The Alcuin Society Annual Awards for Excellence in Book Design in Canada is the only national competition that recognizes and celebrates the art of book design in Canada.



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