

## BUILDING THEMSELVES UP:

Few buildings are older than B.C.'s Architecture Act, which was proclaimed in April 1920. But many professionals in the field are looking forward to new legislation, likely to be called the Architectural Professions Act, which may get on to Victoria's legislative calendar in 2011.

Much as the revised Forestry Act of 2003 brought technologists and technicians into professional step with foresters, the Architectural Professions Act would legally link interior designer, master builders — but seemingly not reluctant landscape architects — and other design-biz pros to architects. "It will make a place for everyone," Architectural Institute of B.C. president **David Wilkinson** said recently while conferring with Seeton Shinkewski Design Group principal **Keath Seeton** and the Rommel Design firm's chief, **Joe Rommel**.

"It's not sexy enough an issue for election year 2009," said Wilkinson, who is also vice-president at Cannon Design Architecture Inc. "And for 2010, everything is going to be about the Olympics. So, meanwhile, we're just going to do it."

By "do it" Wilkinson means that the groups likely to coalesce will continue to adapt their professional requirements to what he calls "the three e's: experience, examination and education."

The result for the AIBC would be 300 interior designers and 100 building designers joining its 1,500 architect, 500 interns and 70 architectural technologist members and becoming regulated as they are.

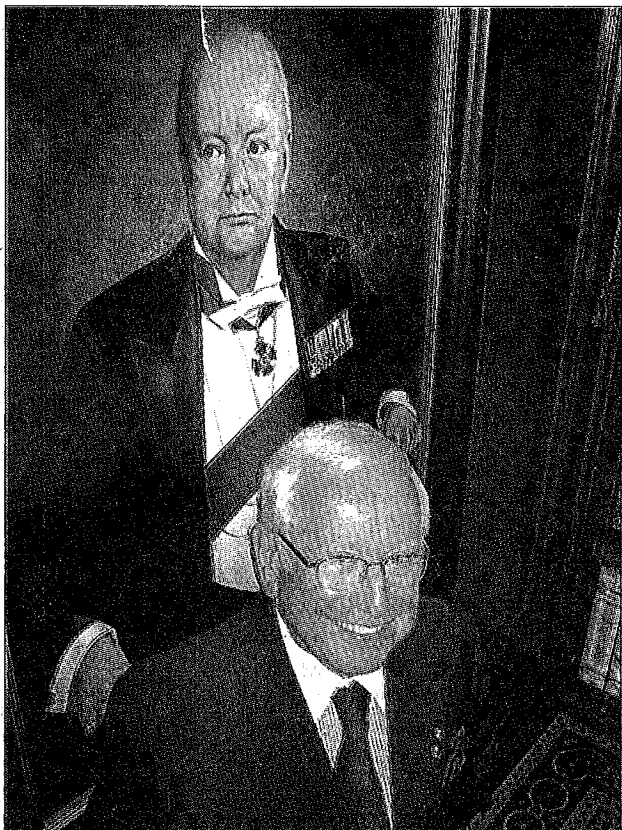
"Our responsibility is to protect the public," said Wilkinson, who appears to relish the scheme. "And it's good that this is taking place in boom times, not in tough ones, when professionals might battle more for scraps."

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Architectural Institute of B.C. president David Wilkinson hopes to see seated interior designer Keath Seeton and master builder Joe Rommel in an expanded AIBC.



The Four Seasons' Chartwell room has re-opened partially, but without Winston Churchill's portrait and with best lunch guest Joe Segal still at tables outside.