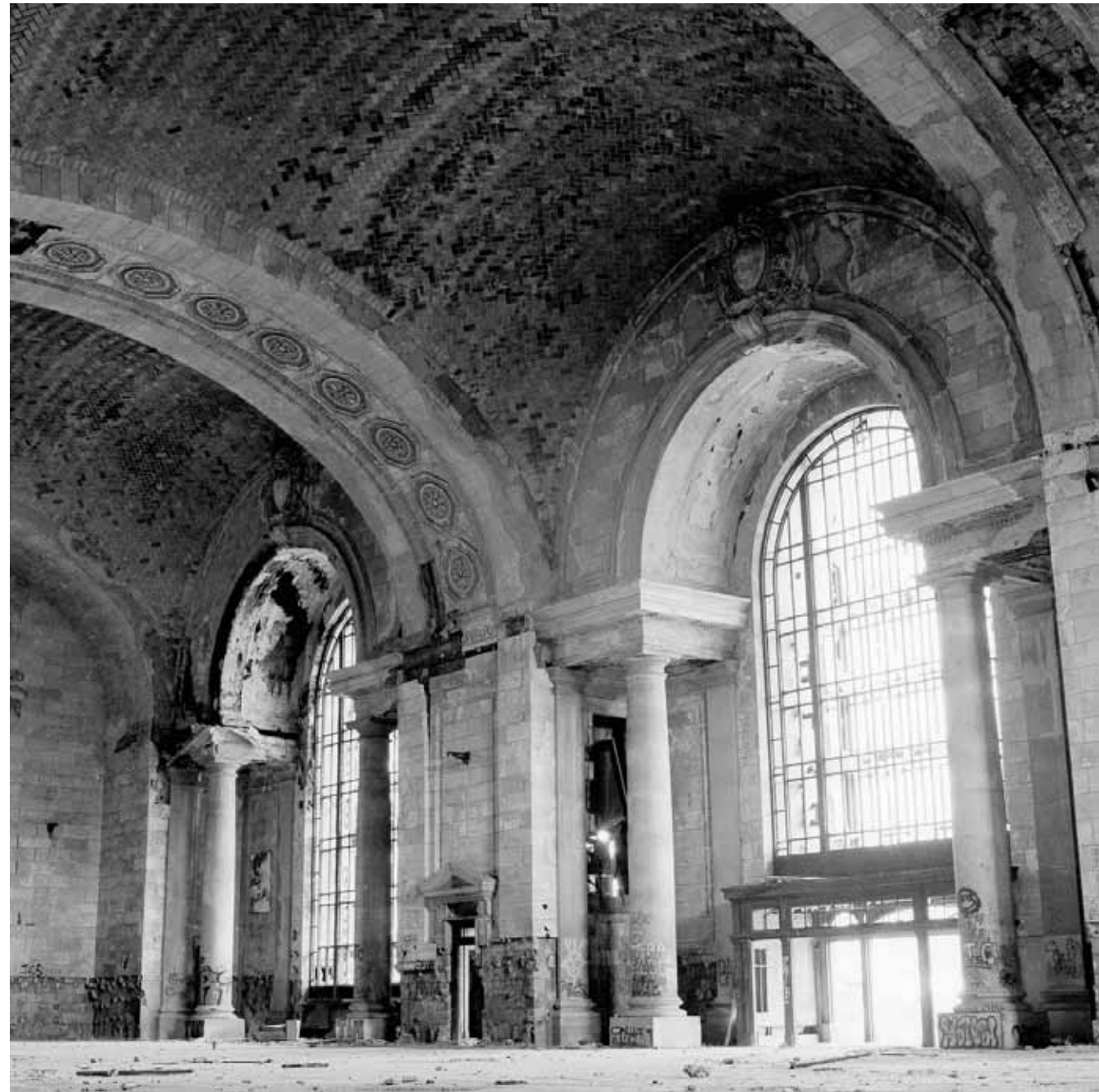


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**ARCHITECTURE & INTERIOR DESIGN**



DETROIT, MI -- Motor City was once called the "Paris of the West" and poised to become America's great eastern urban centre. But then the Great Depression preempted riots and ultimately the 1973 oil crisis ruined the local automotive industry, leaving the inner city in ruins. Downtown Detroit is home to some of the most impressive neo-gothic architecture in North America, left now to rot and decay as hopes of urban revitalization seem bleak at best.

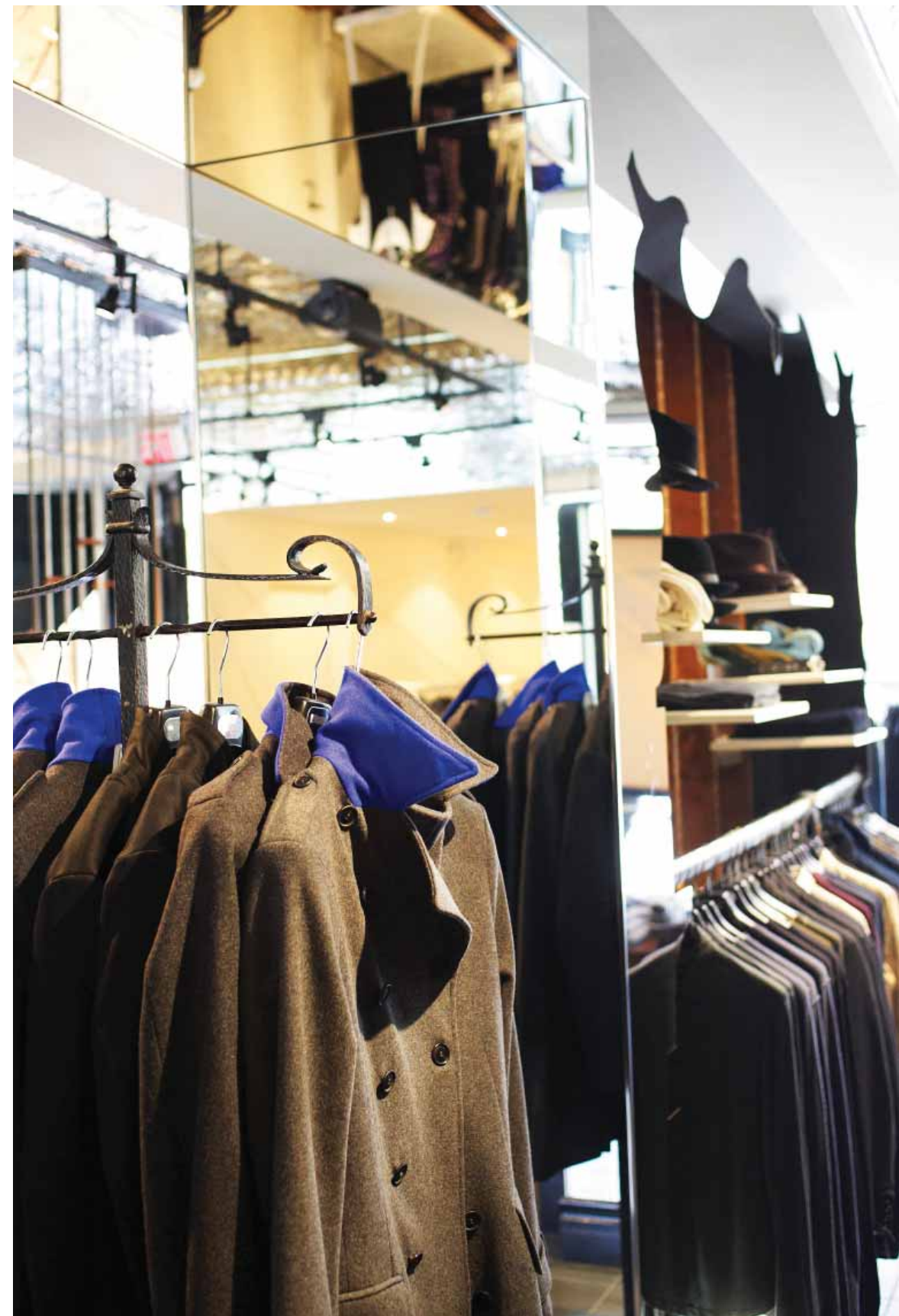
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QUEEN STREET WEST -- Toronto's trendy downtown shopping district features some of the biggest designer name stores but with a distinct punk rock edge. The local art scene features prominently in

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everything from interior decor to contemporary galleries to locally-run design shops to urban alleyway graffiti. Hipsters and homeless mingle seamlessly in this colourful, chaotic centre of the local fashion scene.

## ARCHITECTURE & INTERIOR DESIGN







OSSINGTON AND LITTLE PORTUGAL -- This formerly derelict district in west downtown Toronto has seen a recent surge of urban revival and hipster infiltration. Retaining the charm of the old Portugese neighborhood, many entrepreneurs have jumped on cheap rent prices to start new and adventurous business projects. Upscale designers have also started moving into the neighborhood as imminent condominium construction promises to bring in new markets. Despite this, most businesses have stayed loyal to the character of the neighborhood, often leaving exposed ceilings and brick foundations to highlight features of the classical Victorian architecture.





GRATEFUL HEAD -- This shop on Dundas Street West is a collective hair salon where four stylists each bring in their own customers under the same cooperative umbrella. It is a unique and attractive shop typical of this region of Toronto, fusing contemporary interior design with exposed brick interiors in a building over a hundred years old. True to the artistic character of this neighborhood, the salon doubles as an art gallery, and owner Lysa Tira also plays lead guitar in her own alternative rock band.





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KENSINGTON MARKET -- Perhaps the most eclectic neighborhood in downtown Toronto, Kensington Market (old Chinatown) brings together punk rock, fine food, urban hippies, designer clothing and meth addicts in the sketchiest and trendiest section of the downtown core. The architecture is as varied as the inhabitants, from incredibly-narrow Victorian housing (some properties only 13 feet wide) to massive Asian markets to upscale art-deco boutiques.





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ROSEDALE-YORKVILLE -- One of the of the oldest and most affluent neighborhoods in Canada. Rosedale originated as an upscale suburb during the 19th century. Yorkville is the neighboring district which hosts the annual Toronto International

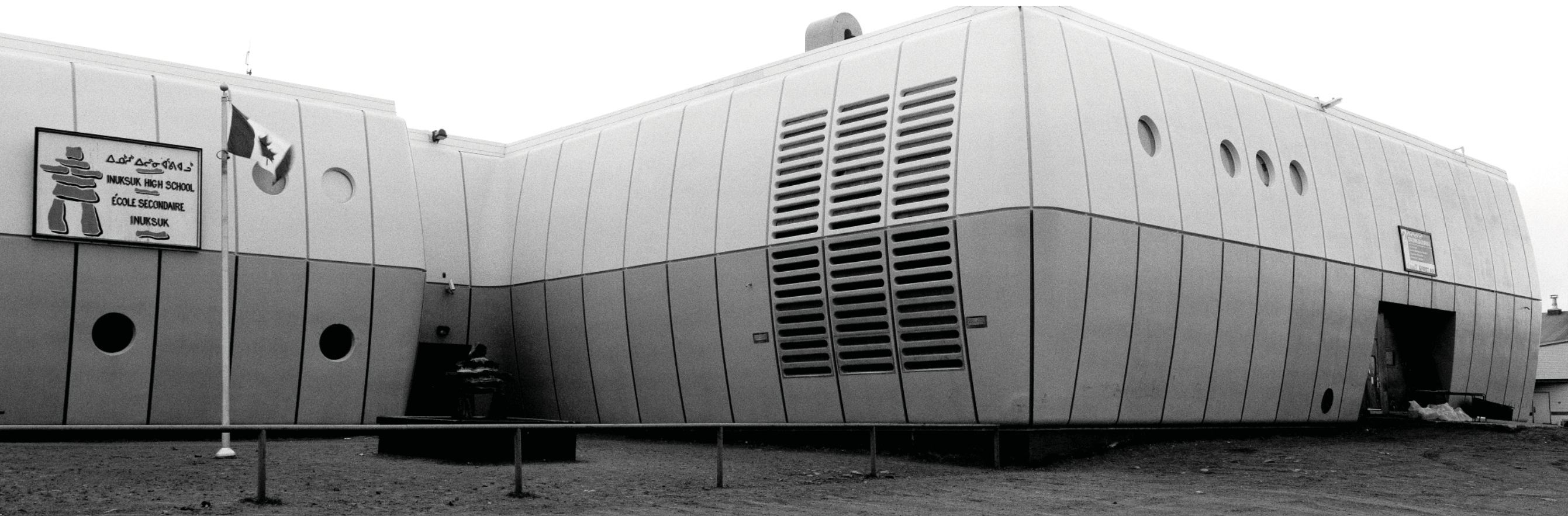
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Film Festival. Together, these neighborhoods are home to some of the country's most elite, and this is reflected in the architecture: some classical, some Victorian, some contemporary, but always beautiful, distinctly European, grandiose, and with the utmost attention to detail.

## ARCHITECTURE & INTERIOR DESIGN





NUNAVUT -- Traditional native igloos used the insulating power to snow to build long networks of ice homes that could reach 15-20 degrees Celsius despite outdoor temperatures colder than -40. Modern architecture in the Far North, however, poses many difficult problems. No trees grow here so building supplies must be barged up from the south. Materials must be light, transportable, resilient, and capable of withstanding extreme climate for ten months a year. All structures must be built upon heavy stilts to prevent them from sliding away when permafrost turns to mud in summer. Federal politics have also played a role in architectural development. As the Cold War escalated in the 1950s the Canadian government sought to reinforce sovereignty over the North by building homes and forcing nomadic Inuit into modern villages. The transition was rapid, poorly funded and not prepared for a massive population boom in the territory. The result is a heavily decayed infrastructure, substandard housing, and one of the worst homeless problems in the country.



## ARCHITECTURE IN THE FAR NORTH



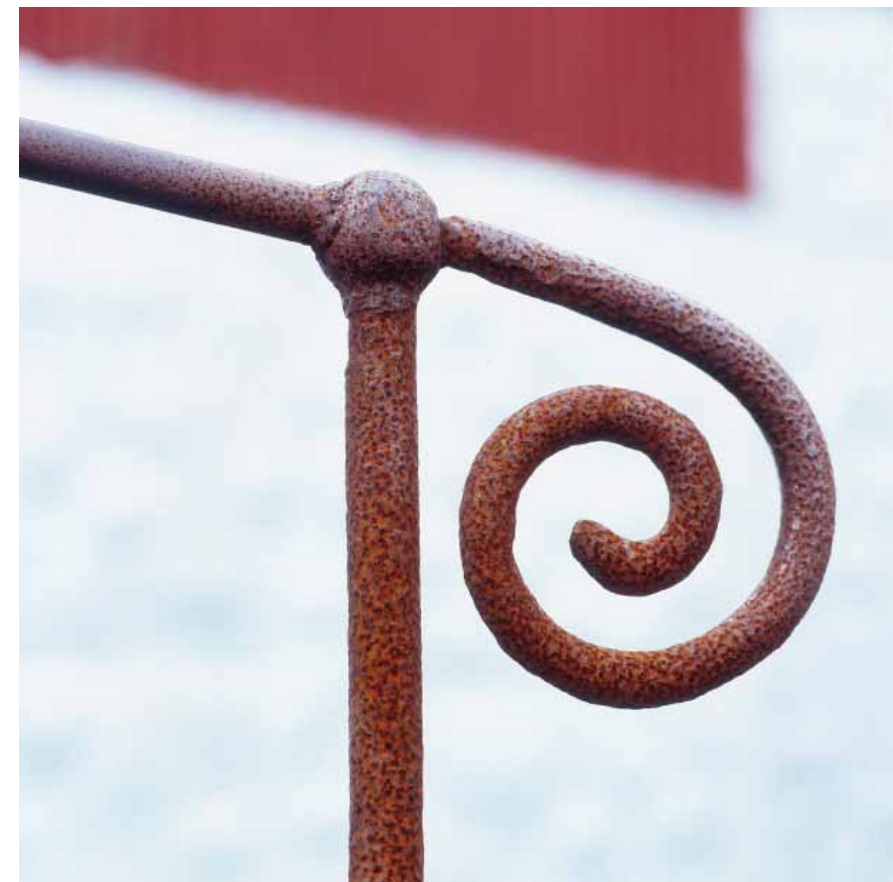


ARCHITECTURE IN THE FAR NORTH

COPENHAGEN -- Not technically a "northern" city; Copenhagen is still the home base of Norse-Scandinavian architecture all through the western hemisphere. Its influence spreads from the west coast of Greenland (as seen on previous pages) to Russia in the east and Morocco in the south. The urban landscape is colored by an eclectic mix of traditional Danish-Germanic architecture with grandiose classical influence and modern eco-friendly designs typical of Scandinavian countries.







FAROE ISLANDS -- These 18 little islands in the far North Atlantic are barely visible on most world maps. They are also the last bastion of Old Norse culture in the modern world. Settled by Vikings in the 9th century and isolated from the outside world, they have developed autonomously and retain strong cultural traditions. Many towns still have no gas stations and sheep wander freely in the capital city of Torshavn (opposite page). Grass roofs are commonly used for insulation against the cold and rain; cobbled roads are also still widely used due to lack of vehicle access.



ARCHITECTURE IN THE FAR NORTH



BARENTSBURG, SVALBARD -- This small Russian community is one of the most remote human settlements in the world. Located on the Svalbard archipelago some 1,300 km north of the Arctic Circle, Barentsburg is a coal mining town left to decay since the end of the Cold War. Largely constructed at the height of the Soviet Empire, communist architecture is prominent with classical Russian influence and amazing attention to small details, right down to the carved wooden trim along windowsills. Where most arctic settlements stress function over form, Barentsburg is an architectural marvel in the Far North -- truly remarkable for a town that does not see sunlight four months every year.

