**LETTER FROM MERCER STREET**

**Further: English architect Will Alsop**

"I'm starting to understand why challenging architecture is good for the city.

City slowly changing for the better: Alsop

PETER KENNEDY

**Commentary**

When Will Alsop, the English architect, is in Toronto, he often steps out of the city for a breath of fresh air. Alsop is a bit of a late riser (and he's training cats from his London office, where he is based). He is essentially trapped in the third floor of a Victorian townhouse in his Fitzrovia neighborhood, but he can see the sky. Alsop is a kind of poet and philosopher, with a keen sense of the aesthetic and the beauty of life. He has a deep respect for architecture and the city's history.

Alsop's work is known for its boldness and innovation. His buildings are often described as "post-modern" and "deconstructivist," but Alsop prefers to call them "aesthetically complex" and "structurally innovative." He has been inspired by the work of such architects as Frank Gehry and Rem Koolhaas, and he has a reputation for being a bit of a maverick in the world of architecture.

Alsop's most famous work is the Royal Festival Hall in London, which he designed in the late 1960s. The building is now a symbol of modernist architecture and is considered a masterpiece of its time. Alsop has also worked on several other projects in London, including the South Bank Centre and the Centre Point building.

Alsop's work has been praised for its ability to challenge traditional ideas about what a building can be. He is known for his use of unusual materials, such as glass, metal, and concrete, and for his willingness to experiment with new forms and techniques. His buildings are often described as "edgy" and "controversial," but Alsop insists that they are meant to provoke thought and discussion.

Alsop believes that architecture is not just about building structures, but about creating spaces that are meaningful and relevant to the people who use them. He is particularly interested in how architecture can help to create more sustainable and livable communities.

For Alsop, the future of architecture is not about creating buildings that are simply beautiful, but about creating buildings that are meaningful and relevant to the people who use them. He believes that architecture has the power to shape the way we live and think, and that it is up to us to use that power wisely.

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