

**CULTURAL TRANSFERS WORKSHOP
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CONSTRUCTED ENGLISHNESS: EMPIRE AND ARCHITECTURE IN CANADA

Emma Lind

Exploring the English Heritage of Wychwood Park, Toronto

My paper explores the gated community of Wychwood Park in midtown Toronto. Designated a heritage conservation neighbourhood in the mid-1980s because of its collection of houses designed by Toronto architect Eden Smith, Wychwood Park is often showcased as an example of Canadian arts and crafts architecture. Further, Wychwood Park is mythologized as a former artist's colony whose inhabitants have included members of Toronto's artistic, intellectual and cultural elite (such as Smith, Marmaduke Matthews, George Reid, and Marshall McLuhan). My paper explores how the heritage designation granted to Wychwood Park continues a tradition of characterizing the neighbourhood and the residents of it as participants in Canada's nation-building narrative. In particular, I focus on the ways that the ideas of British aesthetic/social reformers like John Ruskin and William Morris are constructed as particularly 'English', and therefore attractive, to a colonial nationalism that situates its cultural identity as derivative of metropolitan centrality.

Peter Coffman

Architecture for a Nation: Gothic in Atlantic Canada

The Anglican Cathedral in St. John's, Newfoundland, begun in 1847 to designs by the architect George Gilbert Scott, is an unmistakably English Gothic cathedral of the thirteenth century, built six hundred years later and over two thousand miles from England. Moreover, it was built in what was considered one of the wildest and most inhospitable corners of the British Empire. The unavoidable question is, why would one build such a cathedral, in such a place?

Part of the answer lies in the broad consensus within the Church of England at the time that Gothic and only Gothic expressed the history and genius of the English nation and its Established Church. The rest of the answer lies in the specific circumstances in Newfoundland that made an affirmation of that Englishness urgent. Using the Newfoundland case as a starting point, this presentation will explore the nationalistic and historic meanings that were assigned to Gothic in the mid nineteenth century, and how these meanings were exported to and received by the Atlantic colonies of British North America.