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GRANT WANZEL AND NIALI SAVAGE

In addition to their busy teaching schedules and committee work both **Professors Grant Wanzel** and **Niall Savage (M.Arch.89)** have extensive commitments in research and practice: Niall as a successful sole practitioner and Grant as President of the Creighton/Gerrish Development Association (C/GDA). An ambitious project of the C/GDA has brought them together as 'developer/client' and architect.

Halifax's Old North End has long been the focus of renewal programmes. Despite some promising results, pockets of substandard housing and underutilized or vacant real estate threaten the completion of the neighbourhood's regeneration. For more than 15 years the block bounded by Creighton, Gottingen, Gerrish and Cunard Streets, has seriously compromised what has been accomplished.

The Creighton/Gerrish Development Association is a partnership of 4 community-based, non-profit societies experienced in human resource development, community social and economic development, and non-profit housing design, development and management. It was established in 1995 with the sole purpose of acquiring and developing a \$9 million mixed-use, infill and renewal scheme on this strategically important block. On completion, the development will include: a 19 unit apartment building for very low-income single persons; up to 52 units of affordable housing for purchase by neighbourhood residents; and a 20,000 square foot multi-purpose centre for the City's black community.

The first component of the Creighton/Gerrish Development is the handsome new building designed by Niall Savage at 2330 Gottingen Street. The finished building has a strong presence on the street. It is efficiently organized, carefully detailed and well constructed. The accommodations include 18 fully furnished, self-contained, radiant heated, bachelor apartments of approximately 320 square feet each, a 1-bedroom manager's apartment and an owner's office for the Metro Nonprofit Housing Association. All enjoy views of both street and garden, a laundry room, and a housing support centre. The south-facing garden court will be landscaped in the spring. The official opening was celebrated on 15 February 2002, one month after the tenants moved in.

As a whole, the Creighton/Gerrish Development involves the co-operation and financial support of all three levels of government, but will accomplish its objectives without continuing subsidies. It is at the leading edge of practice in affordable housing design and development and is acting as a model for similar initiatives across the country. The remaining components of the Creighton/ Gerrish Development will be realized over the next few years.

Both Grant and Niall can be reached by calling the Faculty of Architecture and Planning at 902 494 3973 or by e-mail: grant.wanzel@dal.ca; niall@nsarch.com.



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Creighton/Gerrish Development, Phase 1

1. Balcony design drawing.
2. Balcony as constructed.
3. Interior hearth element.
4. Streetscape on Gerrish