

LE PROGRAMME DES PRIX D'EXCELLENCE EN ARCHITECTURE SOULIGNE, DEPUIS 1978, LA CONTRIBUTION ESSENTIELLE DES ARCHITECTES QUÉBÉCOIS AU CADRE BÂTI. LES PRIX ACCORDÉS PAR L'ORDRE DES ARCHITECTES DU QUÉBEC PERMETTENT AINSI D'IDENTIFIER ET DE VALORISER LES MEILLEURES RÉALISATIONS ARCHITECTURALES AU QUÉBEC, AILLEURS AU CANADA ET DANS LE MONDE. LES PRIX ATTRIBUÉS NON SEULEMENT AUX ARCHITECTES, MAIS ÉGALEMENT À LEURS CLIENTS, CONTRIBUENT À METTRE EN VALEUR LA SYNERGIE NÉCESSAIRE À LA PRODUCTION D'ŒUVRES DE QUALITÉ.

NOVUS

PARTENAIRE MAJEUR ASSOCIÉ À
LA RÉALISATION DU PROGRAMME DES
PRIX D'EXCELLENCE EN ARCHITECTURE

CALL FOR ENTRIES FOR THE 24TH EDITION OF THE ORDRE DES ARCHITECTES DU QUÉBEC AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE IN ARCHITECTURE MAY THE BEST PROJECTS WIN!

Montreal, September 1, 2006 – Quebec architects and their clients have until December 8 to submit their architecture projects, in all categories, built in Quebec or elsewhere around the world in 2005 and 2006. Entries may be submitted on-line at www.oaq.com, in the "Prix d'excellence 2007" section, which also contains rules for entering and sending in supporting documentation. The entry fee is \$75 per project.

MORE THAN A COMPETITION

The program organized by the Ordre des architectes du Québec (OAQ) in recent years has been much more than just a competition. The formula, highly popular with both professionals and members of the public young and old, is aimed at saluting and showcasing top-quality architecture by publicizing a number of achievements, all carefully selected by three juries of experts. A grand jury chooses the winners of awards of excellence, and two other juries select projects to receive a special mention for sustainable development and universal accessibility. All these projects testify to the excellent work done by Quebec architects and show the important synergy – a guarantee of success – between professionals and their clients.

The three juries will convene from January 15 to 17, 2007, and the finalists will be announced on January 18 during a lecture to be given at the Canadian Centre for Architecture by Mexican architect **Bernardo Gómez-Pimienta**, chair of the grand jury for this year's edition. Mr. Gómez-Pimienta is widely acclaimed both in Mexico and internationally. In addition to receiving the Latin American Mies Van der Rohe award in 1998, he has won some forty other prizes for his work (profile and photographs available on the Awards site).

PROGRAM

From February 1 to April 30, 2007, all the finalist projects will be presented on the Internet. Next, they will be featured in an exhibition and an *Architecture marathon*, first in Montreal, on March 1, and then in Quebec City, on April 5. During these *Architecture marathons*, which will be intellectual rather than sports challenges, architects representing the some 30 projects in the running will have a chance to explain and sell their projects... in 10 minutes each! Granted, that's not much time, it is enough to offer keen audiences some exclusive insight. At the same time, members of the public will be invited to vote for their favourite projects (on-line, at www.oaq.com), to determine the winner of the **Loto-Québec People's Choice** award.

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GIVING YOUNG PEOPLE A SAY

A unique *Children's Choice* program, initiated by the Order as a way of introducing young people to architecture, is being launched this month in five public schools across Quebec. The program, aimed at elementary cycle 3 students (ages 11 and 12), is fully integrated into the school curriculum. It is being organized by the OAQ in co-operation with various architects and private and public partners, and in conjunction with the following schools: Nouvelle Querbes, in Montreal, Saint-Roch, in Quebec City, Saint-Sacrement, in Trois-Rivières, Grand-Boisé, in Chelsea, and Marguerite-Belley, in Jonquière. Some of these are "alternative," "green" schools, with a "guidance-oriented" approach. They were chosen for their staff's enthusiasm and willingness to include this new project in their programs.

Students at these schools will enjoy a unique learning experience as they develop their ability to critically assess the architecture around them. They will come away with not only a new awareness of the values and goals of sustainable development and universal accessibility, but also insight into the importance of the quality of the urban environment.

Program activities will include a cultural visit, a half-day in an architect's office, a site visit (architecture project), workshops on sustainable development and universal accessibility and a chance to sit on the jury to select the *Children's Choice* award-winning project and to create a model from recycled materials, to be displayed in an end-of-year exhibition. To link up these students from across Quebec and reach out to all young people who are interested in architecture, a zone for budding architects will soon be available on-line on the Awards of Excellence Website. It will be updated each month with quizzes on various topics, suggested reading material, links to other Websites, etc.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE WINNERS

The winners (Awards of Excellence, Special Mentions, Loto-Québec People's Choice and Children's Choice) will be announced in June 2007. A brochure on the winning projects will also be published at that time. This year, 40,000 copies of the brochure will be produced, with colour photos, illustrations, descriptions and a summary of the jury's comments.

CLOSING CEREMONIES

Celebrations will be held in fall 2007 at each of the award winners' locations, to present their trophies. The formula for each event will depend on the nature of the location and the wishes of the architects and their clients: public or more intimate celebrations, formal ceremonies, cocktails, friendly meetings or "open-house" days, along with guided tours, etc.

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KEY PARTNERS

The Awards of Excellence in Architecture program is organized by the **Ordre des architectes du Québec** and produced in partnership with architectural lighting firm **NOVUS**, and with the participation of **TD Meloche Monnex, insurance for professionals and alumni**.

VARIOUS PARTNERS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS OF THE PROGRAM
Partners for public and cultural events: TD Meloche Monnex; Murox; Sico; Sun Life Financial. **Official media partner:** *Les Affaires*. **People's Choice Award partners:** Loto-Québec, with the co-operation of TD Meloche Monnex. **Partners for the special mentions for sustainable development and universal accessibility:** Hydro-Québec, Office des personnes handicapées du Québec. **Children's Choice Award partners:** TD Meloche Monnex; Sun Life Financial; Hydro-Québec; Nylene Canada; Recyc-Québec. **Partners for the trophy award ceremonies:** TD Meloche Monnex; Groupe ameublement Focus, Les avocats Joli-Cœur, Lacasse, Geoffrion, Jetté, St-Pierre; Les Consultants SM; Murox; Soprema. **Other supporters:** Canadian Centre for Architecture; Hôtel Gault; MP Reproductions.

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Source and
information

Sylvie Champeau, consultant
Overall management of the
Awards for Excellence in Architecture Program
T. 514-983-6547
F. 514-543-3549
E-mail scpgr@videotron.ca