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THE ORDRE DES ARCHITECTES DU QUÉBEC ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF ITS 2004-2005 AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE IN ARCHITECTURE

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE AND CHILDREN'S CHOICE AWARDS ALSO ANNOUNCED

Montreal, August 30 2005 – Today, at a press conference held at the Galerie d'architecture MONOPOLI, the Ordre des architectes du Québec (OAQ) announced the 14 winners of the 23rd edition of its Awards of Excellence in Architecture. The awards included the Jury Grand Prizes, the Special Mentions for sustainable development and for universal accessibility, and the Marcel Parizeau, People's Choice and the Children's Choice awards.

Last year, the OAQ expanded its program of Awards of Excellence in Architecture to invite members of the public to pick their favourite of the 32 finalists announced in the spring, by casting their votes on the Order's Website (www.oaq.com). Close to 4,000 people had their say. Most of them chose the **Former Shawinigan Aluminum Smelting Complex**, a finalist in the architectural recycling and conversion category. The prestigious new Children's Choice award, now part of the program of Awards of Excellence in Architecture, went to the **Quartier International de Montréal**. The young jury consisted of a group of ten children ages 11 and 12, attending the Nouvelle Querbes alternative school. They had covered architectural topics in their studies last year, and put their new architectural expertise to use in analyzing the entries and selecting a winner for the trophy.

All the award winners, as well as the finalists in the 2004-2005 Awards of Excellence in Architecture, will be featured in an exhibition to be held at the Galerie d'architecture MONOPOLI from August 30 to September 3, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. (free admission).

The jury for the 2004-2005 Awards of Excellence in Architecture, chaired by French architect and urban planner Odile Decq, saluted the following projects with awards of excellence: the **Perimeter Institute** (institutional projects category); the **Châteauguay Municipal Library** (cultural projects); the **Aluminum Technology Centre** (industrial projects); the **École Nationale de l'Humour** (interior design projects); **Géométrie Bleue** (residential architecture - single-family dwelling); the **Cirque du Soleil artists' residences** (residential architecture – housing block); the **Quartier international de Montréal** (urban design); the **Jardins d'hiver** (event architecture); the **Theology library at**

Collège Jean-de-Brébeuf (architectural recycling and conversion projects); the **Domaine Joly-De Lotbinière** (heritage conservation and restoration projects); and the **Résidence Cantin-Collin** (Marcel Parizeau Award for a project under \$150,000 in any category). The specialized juries awarded the **Special Mention for universal accessibility** to the **Ambulatory care centre at the Hôpital Maisonneuve-Rosemont** and the **Special Mention for sustainable development** to the **new arts and science pavilion of the Collège de l'Ouest de l'île**.

All the details concerning the winning projects (architects, clients, contexts, architectural programs, jury comments, etc.) are available on the www.pea-oaq.com site, and in the new booklet describing the Awards of Excellence, available free of charge from the Ordre des architectes du Québec, at 1825 René-Lévesque Blvd. West, in Montreal or at the Galerie d'architecture MONOPOLI, at 181 St-Antoine Street West, in Montreal.

All in all, 40,000 copies of the booklet have been printed. Full of images, text and geographic references, it presents the finalists and winners. This year they come from an enlarged and eccentric territory ranging from Waterloo, Ontario, all the way to the Magdalen Islands, and including Montreal, Châteauguay, Quebec City, Saguenay and the Parc des Grands Jardins — quite a tour route for architecture enthusiasts!

In January 2005, nearly 120 projects were entered in 12 categories. Jury Chair Odile Decq emphasized *"the wider context of today's practice, allowing architects to create innovative projects in emerging sectors including urban design, event architecture, recycling and conversion."* She noted that the jury was impressed with the quality of all the projects entered in the 2005 edition.

The jury's selections were all unanimous. The other jury members were: Professor Georges Adamczyk, Director of the School of Architecture at the Université de Montréal, Dinu Bumbaru, Policy Director with Héritage Montréal, and architects Mark Poddubluk, Assistant Professor at the McGill University School of Architecture, and Serge Viau, Deputy Director General for sustainable development, Quebec City.

All kinds of celebrations will be held in fall 2005 at each of the award winners' location, to present their trophies at official ceremonies. Note that a new trophy, crafted by industrial designer Claude Mauffette, in the shape of a stylized aluminum drafting square, will be presented to the winning architects and clients. The Ordre des architectes hopes that this series of festivities on an architectural theme will help to convey an image of architecture as something accessible and open to all, across the province.

For 26 years now, the Ordre des architectes du Québec (OAQ) has been organizing its Awards of Excellence in Architecture, a competition intended to salute the top architectural achievements in Quebec and elsewhere that best represent the excellence of Quebec architects. The Awards are organized by the Ordre des architectes du Québec and carried out in collaboration with éclairages NOVUS, with support from the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec and the following private partners: Manulife Financial, Honeywell Nylon Canada, Loto-Québec, Sico, and TD Meloche Monnex (all partners associated with the promotion of winners, lectures and the public dimensions of the competition) - Agora, Armstrong Plafonds et Planchers Commerciaux division, Beaulieu Canada, Groupe SM, Joli-Coeur Lacasse Geoffrion Jetté St-Pierre Avocats, and TD Meloche Monnex (partners in the celebrations held to mark the announcement of winners) - Soprema (partner for the Children's Choice Award) – and the Office des personnes handicapées du Québec (partner for the Special mention for universal accessibility). Other supporters: Designlines Montréal, Canadian Centre for Architecture, Consulate General of France, École Nouvelle Querbes, École d'architecture de l'Université Laval, Galerie d'architecture MONOPOLI, Hotel Gault, *Le Devoir*, MP Reproductions.

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