

The Quebec Order of Architects announces the finalists of its new Awards of Excellence in Architecture Program

A SERIES OF CULTURAL AND PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES ARE NOW OFFERED TO THE PUBLIC

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.

Montréal, February 23rd, 2005 - The Quebec Order of Architects is pleased to announce the 32 finalists of its 23rd edition of the Awards of Excellence in Architecture. The Order launched, in this year's edition, a new program of activities which invites the public to participate by voting online at www.oaq.com to select the Public's Choice Award from the 32 finalists. This public voting will run from April 1st to July 31 2005.

The activities surrounding the Awards of Excellence 2004-2005 will also include public presentations of the finalists' projects in Montreal and Québec City in April 2005. In addition, the Quebec Order of Architects has developed a new educational program devoted exclusively to children enrolled in the second level of elementary school. On August 30th 2005, the Order will reveal the names of the 11 projects awarded prizes by the members of the jury in each category, as well as the winner of the Public's Choice Award and the Children's Choice Award.

French architect and urban planner Odile Decq, from the renowned firm Decq-Cornette, lead the jury for the Awards of Excellence in Architecture 2004-2005. The jury also includes the following members: Georges Adamczyk - Professor and Director at the University of Montreal School of Architecture; Dinu Bumbaru - The Director of the politics at Héritage Montreal and General Secretary to the International Council of Monuments and Sites; Mark Poddubiuk - Architect, Adjunct professor at the McGill University School of Architecture; Serge Viau - Architect and Urban planner, Adjunct General Director of Sustainable Development for the City of Québec. The members of the jury presented a unanimous voice in their choices of finalists.

The president of the jury, Odile Decq, insisted upon the fact that "nowadays, the large scope in which architects work enable them to create innovative projects in rising sectors, for example: urban design, architecture of special events, recycling and the conversion of buildings ". She noted that the jury also observed the high quality of most participants, particularly the works within the categories of Institutional and Cultural Projects. The institutional projects category, highlighted educational facilities, universities and private institutes dedicated to research and development. These projects represent a fascinating window into this dynamic experimental architectural milieu.

Within the Cultural Projects category, the jury noted that the entries illustrated a multidisciplinary approach in architecture, which cleverly demonstrates a crossroad between spaces used for meetings and rituals. The jury was pleased to see projects from both famous architects as well as a promising new generation of architectural talent in Quebec.

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

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Between April 1 and July 31 2005, the general public is encouraged to participate in this Awards program by voting online at www.oaq.com. This will enable Internet users from all over the world to choose their favorite projects among the finalists. Members of the public are welcome to attend public presentations of the nominated projects, which will be presented by the architects, commencing on April 7th, at 6pm at the Canadian Center for Architecture. On April 21, at 7pm, there will be another session of presentations by finalists at the Laval University School of Architecture in Québec City. Attendance is free, however, reservations must be made in advance on the program's website, by entering the "Prix d'excellence 2004-2005/ Conférences sur l'architecture" section.

Another important facet of this year's award program includes "The Children's Choice Award". Initially a pilot project started in 2003, this award is now a permanent feature of the Awards of Excellence in Architecture program. Since September 2004, a group of 10 children aged 11 and 12 at Nouvelle Querbes elementary school, have enjoyed a unique and stimulating experience in their exposure to the architecture that surrounds them and have learned more about the profession of architects. The Quebec Order of Architects is confident that the principles and activities of this program will expand to other schools across the province. The goals are to include the principles of architecture in the everyday teaching both at elementary and secondary levels.

All of the award winners will be announced in a press conference on August 30, 2005. Many festivities will take place in the fall of 2005. To create a more personal atmosphere, the awards will be given to winners in each of the winning locations. The Order of Architects anticipates that these architecturally based festivities will accelerate the accessibility and democratization of architecture in the province of Quebec.

For 26 years, The Quebec Order of Architects has organized the Awards of Excellence in Architecture: a competition dedicated to showcasing Quebec's best architectural works, which represent the creative excellence of Quebec's architects. This program is made possible with the help of the Quebec Order of Architects in collaboration with **Éclairages NOVUS**. It also received generous contributions from the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec and the following enterprises: Financière Manuvie, Honeywell Nylon Canada, Loto-Québec, Sico, and TD Meloche Monnex (major partners associated in the promotion of finalists to the conferences and popular votes) - Agora, Armstrong division Plafonds et Planchers Commerciaux, Beaulieu Canada, Groupe SM, Joli-Coeur Lacasse Geoffrion Jetté St-Pierre Avocats and TD Meloche Monnex (partners in the success of the organization of the festivities surrounding the announcements of the winners) - Soprema (partners in The Children's Choice Award) - The Quebec Office of Handicapped Persons (partner supporting the award for Universal Accessibility), and finally, some collaborators including The Canadian Center of Architecture, l'École Nouvelle Querbes, l'École d'architecture de l'Université Laval, the newspaper Le Devoir and the magazine intérieurs.

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Program's website

www.pea-oaq.com

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