

Festival of Architecture and Forum to be held this June in Montréal

MONTREAL and OTTAWA, February 19, 2009 – The presidents of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC), the Ordre des architectes du Québec (OAQ) and the Association of Architects in Private Practice of Québec (AAPPQ) are very pleased to announce that the Festival of Architecture and Forum, organized jointly by these three associations, will be held in Montréal from **June 17 to 20, 2009**. For more information, please visit www.festival2009.raic.org.

More than 500 architects are expected to attend the event. Highlights include a speech by the winner of the RAIC 2009 Gold Medal. This recipient will then join in a panel discussion with Montréal-based architects and previous medal winners **Dan Hanganu, FRAIC** (2008), and **Mario Saia, FRAIC** (2007), focusing on the Festival's theme "Vision and Commitment."

The keynote speech will be given June 19 by **Jan Gehl, Hon. FRAIC** and Professor (Retired) of urban design with the School of Architecture at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen. He is also a founding partner of Gehl Architects – Urban Quality Consultants and has written many books, including *Life Between Buildings*, *Public Spaces – Public Life*, *New City Spaces* and *New City Life*.

Bernardo Gómez-Pimienta, Hon. FRAIC, is Dean of the School of Architecture at the Universidad Anahuac and a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor. Based in Mexico but with a reputation that extends worldwide, Mr. Gómez-Pimienta will speak at the RAIC Foundation Luncheon.

During the plenary sessions, various speakers will explore issues relating to the conference theme. **Larry Beasley** served as senior urban planner with the City of Vancouver for 28 years and chairs the National Capital Commission's National Advisory Committee on Planning, Design and Realty. He will discuss the concept of "experiential planning" as a complement to sustainable urban development.

Clément Demers, MRAIC, is an architect and urban planner who gained extensive experience in land-use planning and project management with the City of Montréal, and as head of the Société immobilière du patrimoine architectural de Montréal and Vice-President of Cadev. Mr. Demers will share his experiences orchestrating the Quartier international de Montréal, a major urban redevelopment project that has won numerous awards.

The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, the Ordre des architectes du Québec and the Association of Architects in Private Practice of Québec, would like to thank the ministère du Tourisme for their generous contribution towards the Festival of Architecture and Forum.

The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada is a national, voluntary organization established in 1907. As the leading voice for architecture in Canada, the Institute has some 3,800 member architects and provides a national forum for fostering and promoting architectural excellence.

The Ordre des architectes du Québec is a professional association with more than 2,700 member architects. Its main purpose is to protect the public by regulating the practice of the architectural profession in Québec.

The Association of Architects in Private Practice of Québec is a union representing the interests of architectural firms in Québec. It has a membership of some 385 architectural firms of all sizes.

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