

For immediate release

Amancio Williams, Out of the Box at the CCA
Three-part exhibition series and publication to produce new readings of the work of a key figure of modern architecture in Latin America

Press launch and Opening 22 June 2023

9.30am ET, Virtual press launch; 2pm ET, Press preview tour in the exhibition; 6pm ET, Opening and conversation.

Please RSVP to media@cca.qc.ca



Amancio Williams. Airport, Buenos Aires, perspective on the Rio de la Plata (ca. 1945).
Photomontage, 50.6 x 55.8 cm. ARCH287226. Amancio Williams fonds, CCA.
Gift of the children of Amancio Williams © CCA

Montréal, 2 June 2023 – The CCA announces the launch of its next Out of the Box research project, exhibition series, and publication, which is dedicated to the work of Argentinian architect Amancio Williams (1913–1989). The vast output of projects and proposals produced by Williams and his collaborators, including his wife Delfina Gálvez, is evidenced through an expansive archive of drawings, models, photographs, and correspondence.

Titled *Out of the Box: Amancio Williams selected by Studio Muoto, Claudia Schmidt, and Pezo von Ellrichshausen*, the project is structured as a study in three acts, each one conceived by invited curators who will put forward new readings of Williams's body of work within the Latin American context and beyond, and situate the social and environmental dimensions of his practice within the contemporary architecture scene.

The archive, which was donated by the Williams family to the CCA in 2020, consists of approximately 12 500 drawings, 360 publications, 15 700 photographic materials, 35 artefacts, 29 audio-visual materials, 9 models, and 9.5 linear meters of textual records, such as letters, contracts, etc. Prior to its arrival at the CCA, the Williams archive had been organized and directed by Amancio's son, the architect Claudio Williams, who collaborated with the architect Martín Huberman, Director of Monoambiente and curator of the CCA c/o Buenos Aires program, to create an online platform and living archive. This platform served as a space for the study, analysis, and exhibition of Williams's work.

To mark the transfer of the archive from Argentina to Montreal, the CCA organized a reading of letters addressed to Amancio Williams and specifically written for the occasion. The event "Querido Amancio" took place in Buenos Aires in February 2020 and included the participation of family members, scholars, and architects that reflected on the legacy and relevance of Williams's work, including Emilio Ambasz, Florencia Álvarez, Fernando Diez, Kenneth Frampton, Mario Gandelsonas, Juan Herreros, Martín Huberman, Cayetana Mercé, Inés Moisset, Ciro Najle, Ana Rascovsky, Claudio Vekstein, Claudio Williams, and Giovanna Borasi (Director, CCA).

"Going through your drawings, I was impressed by your ingenuity, the sharpness of the solutions you proposed, and the quality of the drawings and collages in themselves. I felt somehow that the digital world we live in right now just renders in more pixels what you were already drawing

fifty years ago. The work seemed fixed in a future that didn't happen—in spite of the fact that you imagined it, clearly and intensively, through projects like the airport on water for Buenos Aires, your many designs for modern hospitals, the multiple types of public buildings you conceived, or your concept of *viviendas en el espacio*, the striking form of a new urban and ecological mode of life... Really, this future was so far ahead that we still haven't caught up yet. As with the work of other visionary architects, your drawings do more than document your ideas—they provoke others to explore, to generate more ideas”

- Giovanna Borasi.

Curated by **Studio Muoto** (Gilles Delalex and Yves Moreau, Paris), the first chapter to be presented in the CCA's Octagonal Gallery from 23 June to 17 September 2023 investigates William's radical approach toward infrastructure and his belief that modernity would have the capacity to elevate humanity, both physically and spiritually. It will focus on Williams's unrealized projects for an airport in Buenos Aires (1945) and the Cruz en el Rio de la Plata (1978-1980), both of which were situated upon the river adjacent to Buenos Aires and exemplified his longstanding principles of suspending forms in space and leaving the ground free.

The following chapter (13 October 2023 to 21 January 2024) will focus on Williams's determination to disseminate and build his unconventional ideas by activating a network of clients and audiences, as **Claudia Schmidt** (Buenos Aires) looks into Williams's private correspondences.

Lastly, and coinciding with the release of the accompanying book titled *AP205 Amancio Williams: Readings of the archive* by **Studio Muoto**, **Claudia Schmidt**, and **Pezo von Ellrichshausen** (available Spring 2024), the third chapter (16 February 2024 to 5 May 2024) will examine how ideas of an architectural utopia can transform into a physical space, as **Pezo von Ellrichshausen** (Mauricio Pezo and Sofia von Ellrichshausen, Concepción) study the details of the making of the Bridge House in Mar del Plata that Williams designed in 1942.

As part of the CCA's broader strategy to use its archival holdings to challenge and redefine the role of architecture today, previous iterations in the *Out of the Box* exhibition and publication series include readings of the **Gordon Matta-Clark archive** with Yann Chateigné, Hila Peleg, and Kitty Scott (2019–2020), the **Ábalos&Herrerros fonds**

with OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen, Juan José Castellón, and SO-IL (2015), and the **Cedric Price, Aldo Rossi, and James Stirling/Michael Wilford fonds** with Anthony Vidler, Mark Wigley, Marco de Michelis, Philip Ursprung, and Hubertus von Amelnunxen (2003–2004).

Out of the Box: Amancio Williams selected by Studio Muoto
23 June 2023 to 17 September 2023

Design development: Sébastien Larivière and Anh Truong
Graphic Design: Matthias Kreuzer (Our Polite Society)

Press launch and Opening
22 June 2023

9.30am ET, Virtual press launch with the curators Gilles Delalex and Yves Moreau, joined by CCA Director Giovanna Borasi and Francesco Garutti, Associate Director, Programs (Zoom)

2pm ET, Press preview tour with the curators in the exhibition, CCA Octagonal Gallery

6pm ET, Opening and conversation with Studio Muoto and architect Martin Huberman, CCA Octagonal Gallery and Paul Desmarais Theatre. Galleries will be open between 5 and 9pm.

Please **RSVP** indicating which session you would prefer to attend.

To request an interview, or for further information and press resources, please contact Julia Albani at jalbani@cca.qc.ca. For press images and other press resources, please visit [our online press room](#).

About the curators

Studio Muoto

Founded by Gilles Delalex and Yves Moreau, Studio Muoto is a Paris-based office whose work ranges from architecture to urbanism, research, and teaching. Advocating for a minimalistic approach toward

architecture that can evolve with time, their projects are distinguished by structures that combine a multitude of activities and address economic and aesthetic issues.

Claudia Shmidt

Claudia Shmidt is an architect and Doctor in History and Theory of Arts of the University of Buenos Aires. She is a professor and researcher at the University Torcuato Di Tella (Argentina). Her main research topics are the history of public state architecture during the 19th and 20th centuries; the history of construction oriented to the study of the development policies of reinforced concrete technologies; and the historiography of modern architecture in Latin America, with a special interest in the intellectual biography of Francisco Bullrich.

Pezo von Ellrichshausen

Pezo von Ellrichshausen is an art and architecture studio founded in 2002 by Mauricio Pezo and Sofia von Ellrichshausen. They live and work in southern Chile, both in Concepción City and a farm at the foot of the Andes mountains. They share the position of Associate Professor of Practice at AAP Cornell University and have taught at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, and the Universidad Católica in Santiago de Chile. The work of the studio has been distinguished with the Mies Crown Hall Americas Emerge Prize by the IIT, the Rice Design Alliance Prize, the Iberoamerican Architecture Biennial Award, and the Chilean Architecture Biennial Award.

About the CCA

The Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA) is an international research institution and museum premised on the belief that architecture is a public concern. We produce exhibitions and publications, develop and share our collection as a resource, advance research, offer public programs, and host a range of other activities driven by a curiosity about how architecture shapes—and might reshape—contemporary life. We invite collaborators and the wider public to engage with our activities, giving new relevance to architectural thinking in light of current disciplinary and cultural issues.

Founded as a new type of cultural institution by Phyllis Lambert in 1979, the CCA is currently directed by Giovanna Borasi and steered by the CCA Board of Trustees.

To learn more about the CCA, please read about our history, refer to a timeline of our past activities, or explore the ways that we are working toward fostering affirmative relationships with Indigenous and other peoples across Tiohtià:ke/Mooniyang/Montréal through the process of creating a **living land acknowledgement**.

The CCA gratefully acknowledges the support of the ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec, the Canada Council for the Arts, Canadian Heritage, and the Conseil des arts de Montréal.

Media Contacts

To request an interview, or for further information and press resources, please contact Julia Albani at jalbani@cca.qc.ca.

For press images, please visit cca.qc.ca/press.

Canadian Centre for Architecture
1920, rue Baile
Montréal, Quebec
H3H 2S6
Canada

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