

**communiqué /press release****For immediate release****FRIEDRICH WEINBRENNER: ARCHITECT OF KARLSRUHE**  
AN EXHIBITION AT THE CCA 31 JANUARY TO 18 MARCH 1990

**Montréal, 16 January 1990** – In 1801 Friedrich Weinbrenner (1766-1826) was appointed Building Director of Baden in southwest Germany. For the remainder of his career, Weinbrenner had an almost unique opportunity to create in Karlsruhe, the capital and his native city, one of the most homogeneous architectural ensembles ever achieved by a single architect.

His patron, the Margrave Karl Friedrich epitomized the spirit of the Enlightenment. Through an alliance with Napoleon and a later diplomatic realignment with the Habsburgs, Karl Friedrich adeptly created the stability necessary for his reforms. Baden quadrupled in size during his reign and became a Grand Duchy in 1806. Of particular importance was his promotion of scientific agriculture, which was the foundation of a revitalized economy.

The new status of Baden and its ruler, now a Grand Duke, was reflected in the transformation of the capital. Before Weinbrenner's appointment, the late Baroque, radial city plan was largely unrealized and Karlsruhe was little more than a hunting retreat for the Margrave. But as Baden's fortunes rose under Napoleonic protection, the population of its capital soared. Weinbrenner provided Karlsruhe with every type of public, governmental, agricultural, and residential structure necessary to encompass this unprecedented growth.

This exhibition follows the CCA's recent exhibition **Le Panthéon: Symbol of Revolution** which explored the effects of political change on a national monument during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The Weinbrenner exhibition brings into focus the impact of scientific and administrative reform on the urban and agricultural architecture of a rapidly expanding regional centre during the period of the Napoleonic wars. It presents 83 drawings from the Architectural Archives of the University of Pennsylvania and is representative of the entire range of Weinbrenner's work.

Of particular interest is a series of sheets showing the projects and exercises undertaken by the students at the architectural school which Weinbrenner founded and directed. To these, the CCA has added a selection of rare books drawn from its own collection, chosen to reflect some of the formative influences in Weinbrenner's architectural career.

The exhibition was organized by the Architectural Archives of the University of Pennsylvania and supported by the National Endowment for the Arts of the United States.

The catalogue for the exhibition, *Friedrich Weinbrenner, Architect of Karlsruhe: A Catalogue of the Drawings in the Architectural Archives of the University of Pennsylvania*, edited by David Brownlee, and a bilingual brochure produced by the CCA are available at the CCA Bookstore.

The Centre Canadien d'Architecture/Canadian Centre for Architecture is a study centre and museum devoted to the art of architecture and its history. It is founded on the conviction that architecture, as part of the social and natural environment, is a public concern. The CCA's activities and the major research collections on which they are based are international in scope and document areas of the human environment including architecture, urban planning, and landscape design.