

communiqué /press release**For immediate release****SIGHTING THE UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL:
PHOTOGRAPHS BY GABOR SZILASI**

Montreal, 2 May 1990 – *Why organize and mount an exhibition of photographs of a building, the Université de Montréal, one that can be seen and visited any day?*

Through **Sighting the Université de Montréal: Photographs by Gabor Szilasi** presented at the Canadian Centre for Architecture until 14 October 1990, visitors will be able to "rediscover" this Ernest Cormier masterpiece. In all, 22 colour photographs reveal the central pavilion as an integral part of the Montreal urban landscape and as a complex, varied spatial experience in itself.

This exhibition originated in a commission to Gabor Szilasi by the CCA when research into the Fonds Cormier at the Centre revealed a major gap in the photographic documentation of the Université de Montréal. There was extensive documentation of the construction of the university and views of it upon its immediate completion. While there was much useful information, there was no cohesive group of photographs that distilled not only particular aspects of the building its monumental character, its rich development of internal spaces, and the subtleties of the lighting and materials – but provided a sense of how these were related to a whole. Gabor Szilasi, who has photographed aspects of Montreal extensively over the past twenty years, was asked to interpret the building in a way that would both complement the existing photographic documentation, and provide a new, coherent "image" of it.

For David Harris, curator of this exhibition, **Sighting the Université de Montréal: Photographs by Gabor Szilasi** should create a complex and multi-layered reading of it. "While the photographs are ultimately based upon the original building, the resulting body of photographs acquires its own integrity through the subtlety with which the individual images extend and interact with one another. I believe that through these photographs, the central pavilion of the Université de Montréal will be a revelation to people."

David Harris is Associate Curator, Photographs Collection at the Canadian Centre for Architecture. Since his arrival at the CCA in September 1986, he curated the **Process as interpretation** exhibition and was in-house curator for Mills of New England. He will be the in-house curator for the exhibition **Money Matters: A Critical Look at Bank Architecture** (November 1990) and is completing his PH.D at the Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London with his thesis: "The origins and development of the tourist landscape in Great Britain, 1750-1850".

The exhibition is highlighted in 24 page bilingual brochure reproducing eight photographs by Gabor Szilasi. This brochure, entitled *Sighting the Université de Montréal: Photographs by Gabor Szilasi* (ISBN: 0-920785-32-8), is available for 2,50\$ at the CCA Bookstore.

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