

communiqué /press release**For immediate release****A UNIQUE COLLECTION IS UNVEILED AT THE CCA!**

Montréal, 28 November 1990 – From 28 November 1990 until 31 March 1991, the exhibition *Buildings in Boxes: Architectural Toys* from the CCA, presented at the Canadian Centre for Architecture, will enable adults and youngsters to discover the fascinating world of architectural toys and games.

With the generous support of Bell Canada, the CCA has acquired a remarkable collection of over 300 architectural toys and games. To celebrate this acquisition, the exhibition *Buildings in Boxes: Architectural Toys* from the CCA will demonstrate how toys imitate the world around us. It presents a selection of 19 objects from the collection ranging from a wooden toy village of the early nineteenth century to "Plasticville, U.S.A.", a set of scalemodels of American building types of the 1960s, which represents a completely new and different view of the city.

Not only do toys provide evidence of the social and economic life of their period, but architectural toys from wooden building blocks to iron and steel construction sets, reflect distinct stylistic predilections and technological advances. New industrial and building techniques were used not only to create new building types which transformed our cities, but were also used in the manufacture and assembly of toys themselves. For example, the earliest toys in the CCA's collection are simple, handcrafted wooden building blocks and miniature villages. Mass production made possible a whole new range of complex shapes and systems of construction which were used in the real world as well as in the world in miniature created by a child's play with toys.

Among the toys and games in the exhibition are a German wooden village dating from 1820; "The American Toy Village" of about 1875, modelled after Springfield, Massachusetts, where the headquarters of Milton Bradley & Co. was located; "Lincoln Logs" designed and patented in 1920 by Frank Lloyd Wright's son John; "The Great East River Suspension Bridge" of 1884, a highly simplified version of the Brooklyn Bridge; a Greek Temple constructed with cast-stone Anchor Blocks; as well as American construction toys from the 1920s through the 1950s which may be seen as an overview of the development of the skyscraper.

Buildings in Boxes: Architectural Toys from the CCA will be the first of a series of holiday exhibitions. The collection of architectural toys and games was acquired thanks to the generous support of Bell Canada.

Curated by Brooke Hodge, Exhibition Coordinator at the CCA with the assistance of Rosemary Haddad, Head rare books - preservation, this exhibition is accompanied by a 32 page bilingual brochure entitled *L'Architecture en jeux: Jeux de construction du CCA/Buildings in Boxes: Architectural Toys from the CCA* (ISBN 0-920785-40-9). It is available at the CCA Bookstore for \$7.95.

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Information : www.cca.qc.ca/press