

communiqué /press release**For immediate release****LEARNING ARCHITECTURE**

5 July to 2 October 1994

Montréal, 24 May 1994 -- This exhibition was developed by students of architecture at the Université de Montréal working under the auspices of the Institut de recherche en histoire de l'architecture (IRHA), an organization founded jointly by McGill University, the Université de Montréal, and the Canadian Centre for Architecture for the purpose of promoting interdisciplinary research in the field of architectural history. *Learning Architecture* offers a fresh look at architectural education by exploring the activities that have continuously characterized the education of architects since the Renaissance. As architecture acquired its modern identity as both a liberal art and a regulated profession, and as architectural theories and forms underwent radical transformations, the training of architects did not fundamentally change. The core activities of architectural students remain "Authority," the study of treatises and theoretical works, "Observation," the study of the built environment and its transcription by drawing; and "Atelier," the learning process of design.

Learning Architecture weaves together some forty objects from the collections of the Université de Montréal, McGill University, Université du Québec à Montréal, and the CCA – sketches, drawings, notebooks, and treatises – from many countries, produced by students of architecture or consulted by them while being trained in different national traditions. While the exhibition is devoted first and foremost to shared qualities and methods, it simultaneously illuminates what we know of educational systems in several countries including France, Britain, and Germany. These educational systems include the "academic" or the "Beaux-Arts," seen here at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris; apprenticeship used in England; the polytechnic system, which taught engineering in concert with architecture – bringing the scientific dispositions of the former to the artistic predispositions of the latter -here represented by the École Polytechnique in France; and the Bauhaus method, product of an innovative institution opposed to both academic and craft training.

These threads are shown coming together in architectural education in Montréal, where, from the introduction of schools of architecture at the end of the nineteenth century, European systems of education have been adapted and transformed to meet the needs of a distinctive culture. Beginning with objects from the Italian Renaissance, and culminating with those that helped create Postmodernism of the 1970s, the exhibition celebrates the persistence of key ideas in the learning of architecture.

-30-

Information : Brigitte St-Laurent Taddeo
Press Relations Coordinator and Publicist
Canadian Centre for Architecture
(514) 939-7000