

communiqué /press release**For immediate release****URBAN REVISIONS: CURRENT PROJECTS FOR THE PUBLIC REALM****19 October 1994 to 8 January 1995**

Montréal, 18 October 1994 -- The Canadian Centre for Architecture is proud to host the exhibition **Urban Revisions: Current Projects for the Public Realm**, from 19 October 1994 to 8 January 1995. Organized by the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), this travelling exhibition examines the physical and social space of the contemporary city, as seen by some of today's most innovative architects, urban designers, and planners, including Diana Balmori, Andres Duany, Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, Michael Sorkin, Diana Agrest and Mario Gandelsonas, Robert Mangurian and Mary-Ann Ray, Hani Rashid and Lise Anne Couture, Alex Krieger, Pierre-Luc Dumas, Peter Rose, Jacques Rousseau and Melvin Charney.

Through plans, drawings, models, and photographs, the exhibition focuses on projects embodying a wide range of social, cultural, economic, political, technological, and ecological concerns, while examining planning and urban design in North American cities such as Boston, New Haven, St. Louis, Des Moines, and Montréal, as well as the Swiss city of Esslingen.

The projects included in the exhibition are divided into three thematic sections highlighting fundamental issues of contemporary urban design and planning: *Transportation Corridors as Urban Fabrics: Creation and Reclamation*; *New Neighbourhoods in Urban and Exurban Contexts*; and *Rethinking the Master Plan*.

A Fresh Approach

Over the past ten years, the trend in urban design has shifted from the global planning approach – exemplified by the urban master plans of the 1950s and 1960s – to a sector-based approach favouring gradual change rather than the rebuilding of cities.

In the words of Phyllis Lambert, founder and director of the CCA, and member of the exhibition advisory committee "The exhibition **Urban Revisions: Current Projects for the Public Realm** at the CCA presents real strategies currently being implemented as

part of the enhancement of existing areas of cities – not schemes to replace extant buildings, or theoretical proposals that assume a *tabula rasa* (an attitude that has led to demolition of almost everything of value in towns and cities). The exhibition looks at what exists; at how values may be re-appropriated, re-invested, in parks and along once abandoned canals; at the removal of highways from the middle of the city; the revival of a theatre district; the issue of sustainable development; the building of new neighbourhoods on the edges of town or in town."

The implicit aim of the exhibition is to present projects currently on the drawing boards or under construction that represent a critical rethinking of traditional practices in urban design and planning. Rather than seeking to define a movement or to uphold a specific formal or ideological position, **Urban Revisions: Recent Projects for the Public Realm** offers a selection of new, sensitive approaches illustrating the diversity of contemporary thought on the city. The projects thus offer tentative solutions to a wide range of problems at a variety of geographical locations.

High Profile for Montréal Projects

The exhibition will be of particular interest to the Montréal public, given the importance it reserves for local projects. For the Montréal presentation of **Urban Revisions**, the CCA has invited the Société d'habitation et de développement de Montréal (SHDM) to expand the section devoted to the Faubourg Québec project, the first phase of which is currently under construction on the eastern fringe of Old Montréal. The project was developed under the direction of Pierre-Luc Dumas of the SHDM, in collaboration with Daniel Salomon, Herman Hertzberger, Peter Rose, Melvin Charney, and the firm Provencher, Roy et associés. It is interesting to note that the exhibition, which will travel to a number of cities in the United States, points to the Faubourg Québec design and development process as an example to follow for the setting of quality criteria for the rebuilding of urban neighbourhoods.

Also included in the exhibition at the CCA are plans for the Faubourg Saint-Laurent project designed by Melvin Charney for the Service de l'habitation et du développement urbain (SHDU); the Lachine Canal project, by David Hanna and a team headed by Alan Knight for the SHDU; and submissions to the Rosemère Garden City competition, headed by Gavin Affleck and John Dohan. In addition, the exhibition includes a study on the Park-Pine Interchange, carried out by the McGill University School of Urban Planning.

Finally, the exhibition features works by Montreal artist Harry Symons, which offer an artist's view of the multiple strata that make up the walls of the city, where memory meets desire.

A bilingual brochure is available to visitors.

The Canadian Centre for Architecture wishes to thank the Ville de Montréal for its support for the exhibition and related events.

The participation of guest speakers from France at the colloquium has been made possible by support from the Consulat général de France (Québec).

The traditional "charrette" and the "electronical charrette" has been made possible by support from Omer De Serres and Apple Canada.

The slide show presentation at the opening of the exhibition has been made possible thanks to the support of Telav.

-30-

Information: Manon Chevalier
Press Officer
or
Hélène Panaioti
Head of Communications
(514) 939-7000