

communiqué /press release**For immediate release*****Richard Pare – Tadao Ando: The Colours of Light***

From 26 March to 1 June 1997

In the Octagonal Gallery

"It is necessary to return to the point where the interplay of light and dark reveals forms, and in this way to bring richness back into architectural space.

Yet, the richness and depth of darkness has disappeared from our consciousness, and the subtle nuances that light and darkness engender, their spatial resonance – these are almost forgotten. Today, when all is cast in homogeneous light, I am committed to pursuing the interrelationship of light and darkness. Light, whose beauty within darkness is as of jewels that one might cup in one's hands; light that, hollowing out darkness and piercing our bodies, blows life into 'place'."

– Tadao Ando (1990, 1993)

Montréal, 21 March 1997 – The Canadian Centre for Architecture presents the exhibition ***Richard Pare – Tadao Ando: The Colours of Light*** in the Octagonal Gallery from 26 March to 1 June 1997. This is the second exhibition in the CCA's *Photography and Architecture* series. It explores the relationship between the work of Japanese architect Tadao Ando, one of the major protagonists of a new sense of poetry in the architecture of our time, and the photography of Richard Pare, pioneer in the study of the place of photography in the representation of architecture. The focus of this exhibition is to show images that reflect the shared vision that gradually developed between architect and photographer rather than to illustrate a number of notable buildings.

Richard Pare began photographing Tadao Ando's work in 1985, when he first visited Japan and met the architect in his studio in Osaka. Over the next ten years, Pare came to

feel an increasingly sympathetic relationship between Ando's idea of space and his own approach to representing it.

This affinity led Pare on an intimate journey through Ando's work. It enabled Pare to advance his ideas about "architectural representation through photography" and to refine his working methods. Due to the limited time available on each visit, Pare worked in all weather conditions, becoming aware of the subtle effects of light on architecture and taking advantage of the quickness and fluidity of a small-format camera.

Pare has concentrated on the spatial sequencing and the volumetric properties that are essential to Ando's poetry. "Only space has the power to intensify our emotions," Ando writes. Meditating on the peculiarly narrow space that defines traditional life of the Japanese, Ando finds "the richness that results lies in its ability to achieve a 'potential depth,' ... a space that consists of layers of images, a depth that forms a dialogue with our minds. Spatial sequence, after all, is a world of the imagination."

Entering this "world of the imagination," Pare found a way to describe an unexpected, involving, and complex spatial experience. His extraordinary sensitivity to the play of light reveals the ways in which illumination and colour, by their presence or absence, articulate form. "There is a dramatic display of brilliant sun and incisive shadow falling across a subtly articulated space," Pare notes of Ando's buildings. "The coloration of light seems, at each moment, to be shifting and modifying the surrounding mass. It is this sense of dissolving mass through the constant modification of light that is a distinguishing characteristic of the architecture of Ando. His architecture becomes a succession of spaces in which light dissolves the mass of the building and creates a heightened sense of the enclosed space."

These photographs constitute a silent dialogue in which Pare synchronizes his photographic vision with Ando's architectural poetry. But they also illuminate the tension in Ando's work – between a conscious and controlled approach to design and the unconscious emergence of an architecture that blends the traditional, the spiritual, and the modern in "a mysterious fusion," to quote Ando, of innate Japanese sensitivities and Western rationality.

The 41 photographs selected for this exhibition span the full range of Tadao Ando's work, from the smallest project (such as the Oyodo Tea House) to the largest (such as the Chikatsu-Asuka Historical Museum). Included are his seminal private houses (Noguchi House, Koshino House, Kidosaki House), his own studio in Oyodo, his celebrated museums (Children's Museum, Museum of Literature, Forest of Tombs Museum, Naoshima Contemporary Art Museum) and religious and wedding-chapel projects (Church of the Light, Chapel on Mount Rokko, Church on the Water, Water Temple), as well as his recently completed European buildings: the Vitra Seminar House near Basel, Fabrica (the Benetton Research Centre) near Treviso, and the Meditation Space for Unesco in Paris. All the photographs are by Richard Pare (b. Portsmouth, Great Britain 1948) and were taken between 1985 and 1996. They are all chromogenic colour prints from the CCA's photography collection and from Pare's collection.

Richard Pare – Tadao Ando: The Colours of Light is curated by Paolo Costantini, Curator of the CCA's Photographs Collection.

Traveling Schedule

The exhibition will be on view at the Vitra Design Museum, Switzerland, from September to October 1997 (dates to be determined). Other locations are under discussions.

**The CCA gratefully acknowledges the exhibition support of the
Museums Assistance Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage.**

**The CCA also thanks Royal Bank, Bell Canada and Teleglobe Canada Inc. for their
contributions in support of
this 1997 exhibition program.**

**The CCA benefits from the operating support of the Ministère de la Culture et des
Communications
du Québec and the Conseil des arts de la Communauté urbaine de Montréal.**