

communiqué /press release**For immediate release*****Montréal Métropole, 1880–1930***

From 18 March to 24 May 1998

In the Main Galleries

Montréal, 18 March 1998 – The Canadian Centre for Architecture is pleased to present ***Montréal Métropole, 1880–1930*** from 18 March to 24 May 1998. This exhibition looks at the transformation of Montréal from a nineteenth century merchant city to the metropolis of Canada. It examines the elements that made Montréal a political, social, and economic center and explores the unique character of its architecture. The period from 1880 to 1930 in Montréal was characterized by phenomenal growth. This era was marked by a dramatic change in scale with the appearance of the first skyscrapers, of the new suburbs, and of new, multifunctional buildings. Through hundreds of vintage photographs, maps, and impressively large architectural drawings, many of which are on public view for the first time, this exhibition presents the elements that made Montréal a modern metropolis and laid the foundations of the city we know today.

As the 1880s came to an end, Montréal – by now an international port, a continental railway hub and the financial centre of Canada – entered a period of great prosperity with intense real-estate speculation and development. ***Montréal Métropole, 1880–1930*** traces the events behind a massive building phase that changed the scale of the city. The exhibition identifies the groups and individuals who contributed to Montréal's urban development. It highlights the economic, political, social, and cultural forces at play and clarifies the changes that architectural practice underwent as new stylistic typologies and construction techniques were adopted during the slow dawn of architectural modernity.

The exhibition brings together some 350 objects. Drawings from CCA's permanent collection by Montréal architects (Ernest Isbell Barott, Ernest Cormier, René Charbonneau, George Allan Ross, and Robert Macdonald) along with documents from McGill University's Canadian Architecture Collection (John S. Archibald, Edward and William

Maxwell, Percy E. Nobbs) as well as archives from Montréal, Outremont, Westmount, the Port of Montréal, and Canadian Pacific Railway will be shown. Drawings from the New York Historical Society and the Avery Library by George B. Post for the Stock Market Exchange (Bourse, 1904), by McKim Mead and White for the Bank of Montreal (1905), and by Thomas Lamb for Loew's Cinema (1917) have also been loaned to the CCA for the exhibition. Paintings, prints, posters, and photographs, as well as three-dimensional objects, notably from banks and department stores are also on view. These objects highlight Montréal architecture, its construction and social context from 1880 to 1930, and the transformation of the city's urban fabric.

Guest curators of **Montréal Métropole, 1880–1930**, Isabelle Gournay and France Vanlaethem, teach respectively at the School of Architecture of University of Maryland, and the Département de Design of the Université du Québec à Montréal.

Publication Accompanies the Exhibition

Drawn from academic research, an illustrated publication entitled **Montréal Métropole, 1880–1930** accompanies the exhibition. This publication includes an introduction by the CCA's Director, Phyllis Lambert as well as thematic essays by the curators of the exhibition and specialists in urban history, economy, and social culture: Marcel Fournier (Université de Montréal) and Véronique Rodriguez, David Hanna and Paul-André Linteau (Université du Québec à Montréal), Anthony Sutcliffe (University of Leicester, England) and Walter van Nus (Concordia University). The 224 page book is co-published with Les Éditions du Boréal in French and with Stoddart in English. It features 122 black and white illustrations and will retail for \$49.95 (Canadian). The French edition will be launched at the CCA Bookstore on Wednesday 29 April at 7:00 pm. Contributing authors will be present. The English edition will be available this summer.

A Wide Range of Public Programs

Given the importance of this exhibition for Montréal, the CCA has organized a full program of public activities in partnership with the Cinémathèque québécoise, L'autre Montréal, and Héritage Montréal. Programs designed for the general public, school groups and university students include: lectures, films, exhibition tours, walking tours of Montréal, as well as interactive educational programs. These programs were launched at the CCA in January with a series of Thursday evening lectures and films. The lecture series looks at the prominent figures and significant events that made Montréal a thriving centre at the turn of the century while the films – most of which were directed by Montrealers –

look at the city and its urban landscape as it appeared in different eras. For more information about these public programs, please call (514) 939-7026.

Concluding Exhibition in a Three-Part Series

Montréal Métropole, 1880–1930 concludes a three-part exhibition series devoted to the Canadian City. In the spring of 1996, the CCA presented **Power and Planning: Industrial Towns in Québec, 1890–1950**, which was also on view at the Musée de la gare, Témiscaming, summer 1996, and at the Centre national d'exposition, Jonquière, spring 1997; it will be displayed at the Cité de L'Énergie, Shawinigan, from 18 October 1998 to 9 January 1999. In spring 1997, the CCA opened the exhibition **The New Spirit: Modern Architecture in Vancouver, 1938–1963**, which travelled to the Vancouver Art Gallery (Fall 1998) and is currently at the Nickle Arts Museum of Calgary (15 February to 19 April 1998). **Montréal Métropole, 1880–1930** will be presented at the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, from 27 November 1998 to 24 January 1999.

This exhibition is presented with the support of the Ville de Montréal.

The CCA also thanks the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec, the Conseil des arts de la Communauté urbaine de Montréal, the Service de la culture de la Ville de Montréal as well as the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, Bank of Montreal, Bell Canada, Royal Bank, Teleglobe Canada Inc., Omni The Outdoor Company, and Liberty Yogourt for their support of the exhibition and the accompanying public programs.