

The Building of the Canadian Centre for Architecture

The dream is to make and create a centre from which the most present and powerful expression of civilization can be explored and understood.

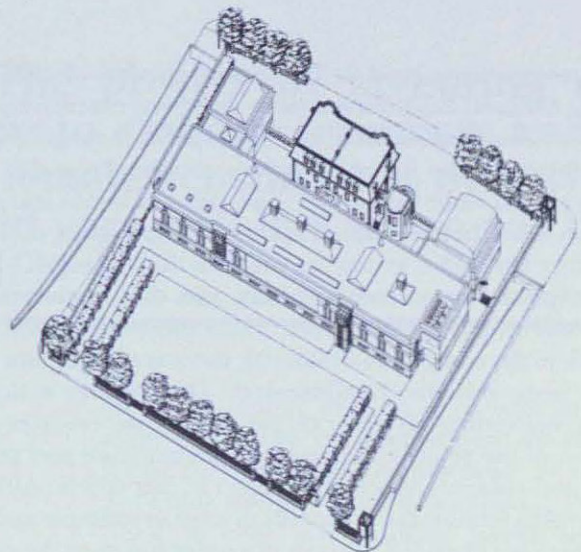
- Phyllis Lambert on May 13, 1985, at the ground-breaking ceremony for the new building of the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA) in Montreal.

The Canadian Centre for Architecture is a museum and study centre founded in 1979 by Phyllis Lambert to study and make known the significance of architecture in the unfolding history of our society.

Through its collections and activities it has come to be recognized as an institution of importance by both the local and international architectural communities. Its collections, which include drawings and prints, books, photographs and other important architectural archives, number approximately 100 000 items, thus providing a most important resource for study, research and exhibition. Since its founding in 1979, the CCA has sponsored a number of significant activities, including exhibitions of its collections, publications, seminars and lectures.

In its present location at 1440 St. Catherine Street West, the CCA's accessibility to all of the architectural community and the interested general public has been limited to the existing facilities available. It is therefore exciting news to learn that the centre is to be moved to a new building where its resources can be more fully exploited.

On May 13, 1985, the ground-breaking ceremony for this new building took place in the presence of a number of important government officials and representatives of the international architectural community. The project, which is located on the grounds of the Shaughnessy House in downtown Montreal, and is centred around renovations to this historic nineteenth century property, will increase the size of the facilities to 120,000 square feet. It will include exhibition galleries, a library, a 250-seat auditorium, studios and offices for architects and scholars in residence, a bookstore and a restaurant. In addition it will house the large areas required for the storage of the collections and the offices of the fifty permanent staff members re-



quired to administer and operate the centre. The construction is expected to take three years with the official opening planned for the spring of 1988. Funding for the project has come from both the federal and the provincial governments (each announced grants of four million dollars at the ground-breaking ceremony), while the CCA itself is investing 10.6 million dollars, and is campaigning to raise an additional five million from the private sector.

The noted Montreal architect Peter Rose is the architect for the renovations and extensions of the Shaughnessy properties. Erol Argun, another Montreal architect of considerable repute and involvement in many major projects in downtown Montreal, is the associate architect. Phyllis Lambert, who is founder of the CCA and internationally renowned for her involvement and interest in many aspects of contemporary architecture, urban renewal and cultural heritage, is the consulting architect.