

NEWS RELEASE

Come on in, we're open!
DESIGN MONTRÉAL OPEN HOUSE: MAY 3 AND 4, 2008
An invitation to meet designers and discover inspiring spaces

For immediate release

Montréal, April 17, 2008 – Catherine Sévigny, City Councillor Responsible for Culture and the Downtown area, accompanied by Danielle-Claude Chartré, Québec's Assistant Deputy Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women, and Marie-Claire Dumas, General Director of the Conférence régionale des élus de Montréal, today announced the program for the second annual Design Montréal Open House. On Saturday and Sunday, May 3 and 4, members of the public are invited to visit, free of charge, more than 70 Montréal design offices and sites that have won national and international design honours.

Montréal 

Culture,
Communications et
Condition féminine

Québec 

Creators and sites to discover

Once again this year, Montrealers will have an opportunity to meet the designers of winning Montréal projects: architects, landscape architects, interior designers, industrial designers, graphic designers, fashion designers and urban planners. All will be on hand at their places of work to talk about their achievements and answer visitors' questions.

The public is also invited to visit prize-winning Montréal projects, accompanied by the architects and designers who created them, and to tour key venues dedicated to design. A free shuttle service will be available between 12:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. to transport visitors to offices located outside the city's downtown core.

"This open house event will provide a chance for the public to appreciate the powerful creative inspiration of artists who channel their talents and drive into improving the quality of life in our city," said Christine St-Pierre, Québec Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women. "I invite the public to come and take part in these two days of discovery, during which they can admire a wealth of made-in-Québec expertise in design, planning and architecture."

For her part, Ms. Sévigny said: "Montréal was awarded the status of *UNESCO City of Design* thanks to the strong concentration of talent found here, and our collective willingness to take advantage of this outstanding creative talent pool to enhance the quality of the living environment for all Montrealers. The Design Montréal Open House is a chance for citizens to get to know our designers and see the extent to which their work helps make our city a more pleasant place to live."

And Ms. Dumas added: “The principal quality of a metropolis like Montréal is its capacity to change and to stand apart by drawing on the diversity, dynamism and talent of creators of all disciplines. The Design Montréal Open House event provides an opportunity for all Montrealers to discover the emerging designers who will influence tomorrow’s innovations.”

Spotlight on emerging designers

Visitors will be able to view exhibitions by graduating classes in the design and architecture programs of the city’s various universities. The Open House will also give pride of place to emerging designers and new design practices at a Pecha Kucha evening devoted to creation, taking place Saturday, May 3, at 8 p.m. at the Society for Arts and Technology (SAT) – another new addition to the program this year.

In the words of the event’s spokespersons, actress Macha Limonchik and the President of the Association des designers industriels du Québec, Mario Gagnon: “This event is a singular opportunity for members of the public to get out and meet our finest designers and architects, to better understand their creative process, to chat with them, to admire their latest projects and, in so doing, to discover our city from another perspective. We invite all Montrealers to take part in this Open House and see for themselves why Montréal is a UNESCO City of Design.”

The event features a diverse program, including highly original activities that will spotlight all the richness, diversity and talent that Montréal’s design professionals have to offer. For detailed program information, including a list of sites to visit and designers to meet, visit the website designmontreal.com.

The Design Montréal Open House is an initiative of the Ville de Montréal in partnership with the Ministère de la Culture, des Communications et de la Condition féminine du Québec, pursuant to the Agreement on the Cultural Development of Montréal, with support from the Conférence régionale des élus de Montréal. The Design Montréal office was created in January 2006 by the Ville de Montréal. Its mission is to implement the municipal action plan aimed at improving design throughout the city and positioning Montréal as a city of design.

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