



Élévation sud/South Elevation

Shaughnessy House Begins New Life

by Don Lovell

May 13, 1985 witnessed a ground breaking ceremony in downtown Montreal for the new building of the Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA). As this project proceeds so does the vision of Phyllis Lambert, founder and director of the CCA, to make Montreal "a world centre of architecture."

The CCA was founded in 1979, with the aim of becoming an international architectural museum and research centre. The organization is unique in its combination of books, drawings, photographs and archives related to architecture. With a collection numbering more than 100,000 works including some 20,000 master drawings and prints, 30,000 vintage photographs and 50,000 volumes, the need for a permanent facility was long recognized. Indeed an event in 1974, provided a foundation for a new major museum. It was in that year that the Shaughnessy House (designed by architect William Thomas) threatened with demolition after being up for sale for a year was purchased by Phyllis Lambert to ensure its preservation.

Shaughnessy House provides the nucleus for the new museum which enfolds the 1874 mansion on three sides. Architect Peter Rose has employed a similar residential scale for the projecting museum wings and utilized grey stone to relate the edifice to traditional Montreal architecture. The main body of the new building provides a sympathetic backdrop for the Shaughnessy Mansion through understatement and lower profile. Entrance to the Centre will be from the Baile

Street facade of the new structure. A public park of 1.3 acres is provided to relate the entire complex to the neighbourhood setting.

The new building combines three principle elements, a public level and curatorial level both consisting of 30,000 square feet and thirdly, collection storage vaults of 60,000 square feet.

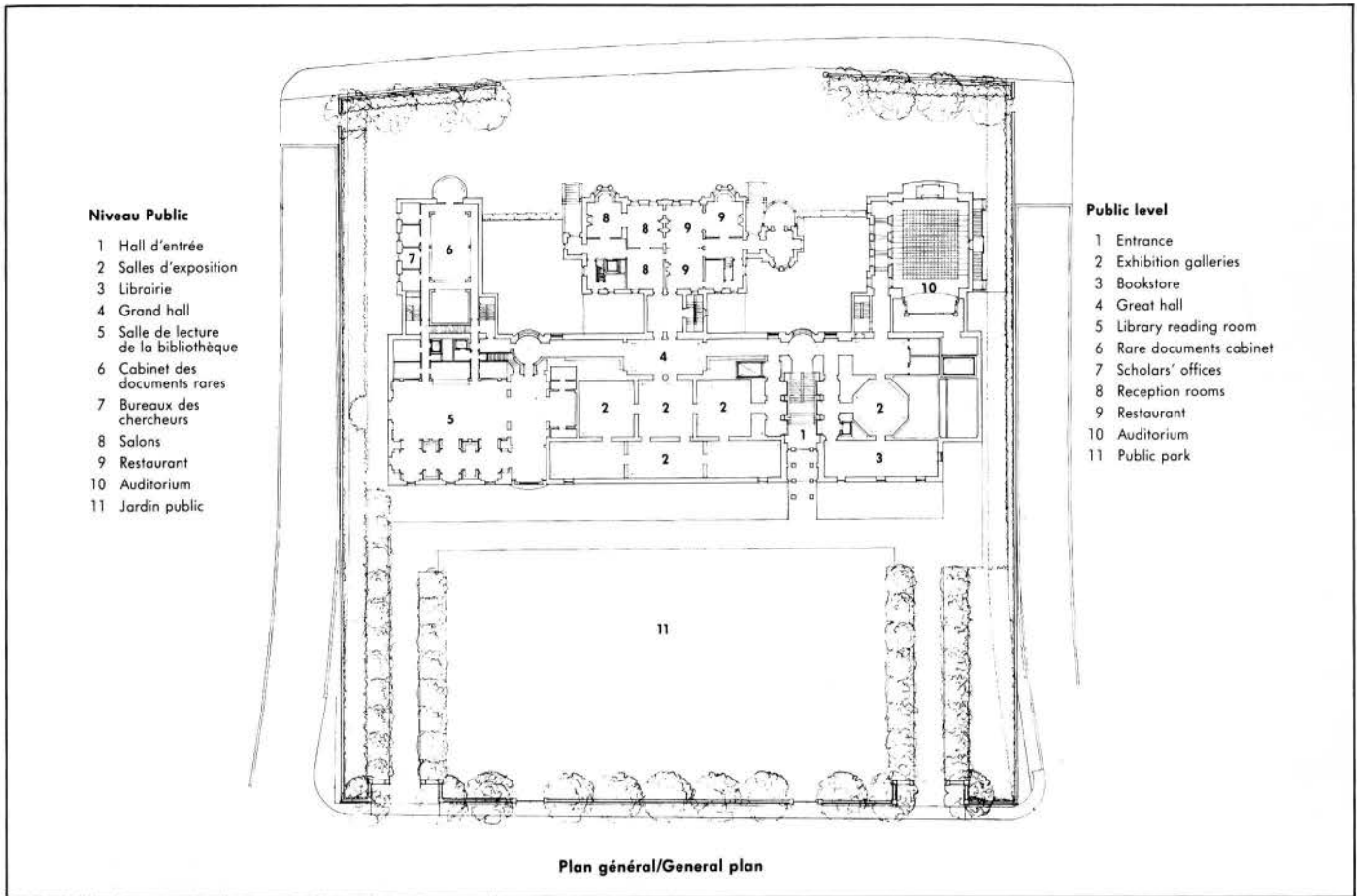
The public level will house exhibition galleries, library reading rooms, rare document cabinets, scholar's offices, bookstore and auditorium. Shaughnessy Mansion will be connected directly to the public level. Its restored Victorian interiors will provide public reception and dining facilities near the public galleries. Upper floors will house staff offices.

Federal and Provincial coffers will provide grants totalling \$8,000,000 while \$10,600,000 from the CCA and 5,000,000 private sector dollars bring the project cost to \$23,600,000. When completed the CCA headquarters will occupy the city block bounded by Dorchester Blvd. and Baile, St. Marc and Fort Streets.

The CCA is without question a dynamic exciting resource. The book collection alone is growing by 5,000 volumes a year. With construction of the museum scheduled to be completed in December, 1986 those interested in the study of architecture would be well advised to mark their calendars for the opening.



Élévation nord/North Elevation



Biographical Sketch of C.C.A. Founder

Phyllis Lambert is internationally renowned for her accomplishments in contemporary architecture, her active interest in urban renewal and concern for heritage.

After graduating from Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, Phyllis Lambert obtained her Masters degree in architecture from the Illinois Institute of Technology and holds a doctorate honoris causa from the Technical University of Nova Scotia.

Phyllis Lambert has been involved in a wide range of activities related to her long-standing interest in the *building's urban context*. She has published extensively and gives conferences in many North American and European universities; she is founding president of Heritage Montreal and is President of the Société de patrimoine urbain de Montréal, Canada's largest non-profit cooperative working in the field of home renovation.

As founder and director of the Canadian Centre for Architecture in Montreal, she has set up an impressive international museum and research center which holds a large collection of books, drawings, photographs and archives on architecture. Phyllis Lambert is also active on the international level both as President of the International Confederation of Architectural Museums and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture. She also sits on the Board of Directors of the Society of Architectural Historians and the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University, and on the advisory board of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In Canada, she sits on the advisory board of the *National Art Gallery*, the Board of Directors of the *Forces* magazine, and is president of the Quebec branch of the

Canadian Conference of the Arts.

Phyllis Lambert is a Fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, a member of the Royal Canadian Academy of the Arts and the Ordre des architectes du Québec.

Recently appointed to the Academy of Great Montrealers, Phyllis Lambert has received several awards, most notably for 25 years of excellence from the Seagram Building in New York, for the Saidye Bronfman Centre in Montreal, for the renovation of the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles and for her publication: *Court-House: A Photographic Document and Photography and Architecture: 1839-1939*.



Phyllis Lambert, F.R.A.I.C., founder and director of the Canadian Centre for Architecture was awarded an honorary Ph.D. on May 29, 1985 by the Université de Montréal.