Construction history of the Grande Bibliothèque

1998

Choice of the Palais du Commerce site, De Maisonneuve Blvd. East in Montréal

June 2000

Contract awarded to the architectural team of Patkau/ Croft-Pelletier/Gilles Guité of Vancouver and Québec City, winner of the international architectural competition

July-September 2001

Demolition and site preparation

October 2001

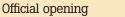
Excavation and foundations

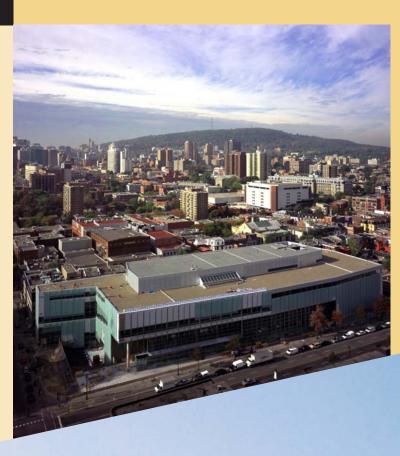
October 2002 to November 2004 Construction of building

November 2004 to April 2005

April 30, 2005

Fitting out of the interior, shelving of collections and arrival of staff





- > About 250 workers and over 100 suppliers were involved in building the Grande Bibliothèque over the past four years.
- > It took more than 20,000 hours to shelve the documents in the Grande Bibliothèque.
- > To bring the virtual library to life, about 100 people worked on setting up the Internet portal of the Bibliothèque nationale du Québec, including 54 writers, 22 content coordinators and 30 or so technical experts.









Openness, transparency and light

The Patkau/Croft-Pelletier/Gilles Guité group of Vancouver and Québec City was the grand winner of the Grande Bibliothèque architecture competition launched in January 2000. It won out over 36 other architectural firms from 11 countries, by presenting a design as elegant as it is functional, combining natural light and superb materials.

In October 2001, Menkès Shooner Dagenais
Architectes joined the team to serve as project manager
and to ensure the exceptional quality of the drawings and
the execution of the project. The construction work was
entrusted to Hervé Pomerleau Inc., in October 2002.

Light and airy, the exterior building envelope consists of some 6,000 plates of frosted, tempered glass with a glacier-green ceramic coating evoking landscapes of the Far North. It is the first time that this type of exterior finish, produced entirely in Québec, has been used in North America.

Inside, the architects created two spectacular rooms, in which wood plays a prominent role, filtering light and sound without closing off the areas. They were inspired by the famous novel *Les Chambres de bois (The Silent Rooms)* by Québec writer Anne Hébert, published in 1958. These rooms are home to the national collection and the universal lending and reference collection. The wood used, yellow birch, with its soft, warm tones, is one of Québec's three official emblems.

From the great hall, with its tall concrete columns, there are two main ways to get around the library. One focuses on efficiency, rising vertically via stairways and three panoramic elevators. The other, a promenade that leads to the reading areas, winds around the room that houses the universal lending and reference collection, affording many views of the interior as well as glimpses of the city.





A forum for culture, knowledge and exchange

The spacious layout of the Grande Bibliothèque meets the most varied of needs. There are meeting and activity areas, such as the auditorium, exhibition hall and children's section, as well as quiet areas for undisturbed reading. There are also a number of study rooms located throughout the building, available upon request to users looking for a quiet place to read or work.

The Grande Bibliothèque has 2,520 seats, including 1,300 armchairs for reading, 350 computer stations, 44 stations for listening to discs and cassettes, 50 stations for viewing films, four lecture rooms, four training rooms, and 21 meeting and research rooms. High-induction air conditioning and heating systems ensure users' comfort, while saving energy. The electrical and computer cables are built into the floor, which facilitates technical maintenance and preserves



L'architecture est le grand livre de l'humanité

Architecture is the Great Book of Humanity Victor Hugo

PATKAU CROFT PELLETIER MENKÈS SHOONER DAGENAIS Architectes

Mechanical and Electrical Engineers

BOUTHILLETTE PARIZEAU ET ASSOCIÉS / GROUPE HBA **EXPERTS-CONSEILS**

Structural Engineers

NICOLET CHARTRAND KNOLL / LES CONSULTANTS GÉNIPLUS

Landscape Architects

SCHÈME

are proud partners in the realization of the Grande Bibliothèque.



Furnishings by Dallaire

To create a comfortable setting for library users, 500 reading surfaces, 850 chairs and 500 lamps were manufactured based on designs by Michel Dallaire Design Industriel, winner of the furniture design competition launched in fall 2001. The beauty as well as the functional and ergonomic qualities of these creations are apparent in the inclined work surface, the footrest and the ingenious camouflage of cables. Michel Dallaire Design Industriel also designed the computer and microform stations, the multimedia listening modules, the conference tables and the original, colourful furniture for the children's section (Espace Jeunes).

