

TOWARD AN ARCHITECTURE POLICY FOR QUEBEC

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1. WHAT IS AN ARCHITECTURE POLICY?



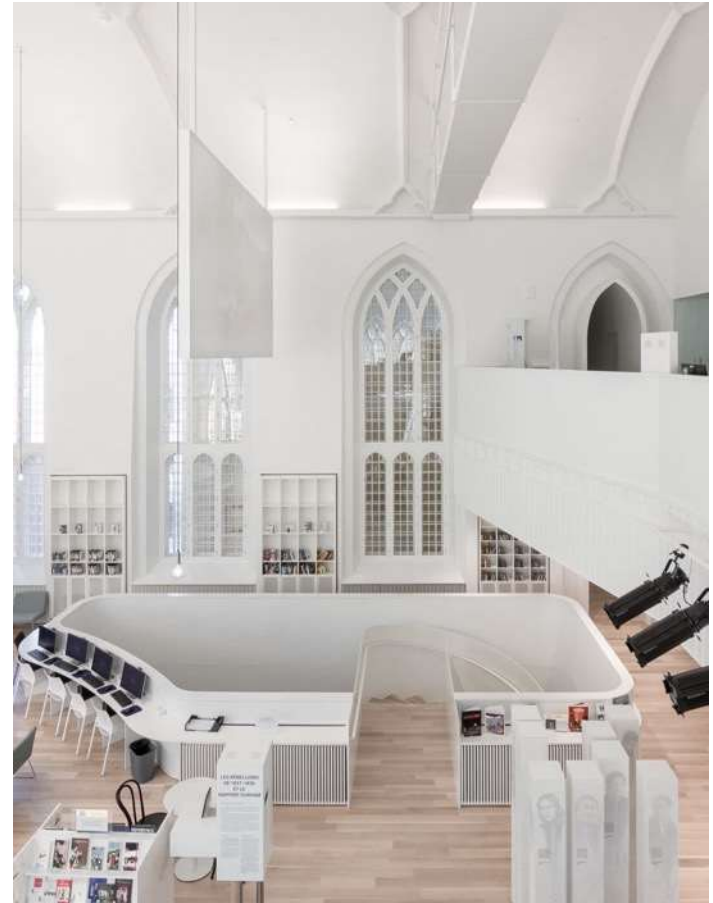
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An architecture policy:

Frames government orientations
and harmonizes actions on:

- planning
- design
- construction
- maintenance
- renovation

of buildings, infrastructures and
public spaces.



Maison de la littérature, Chevalier Morales.
Photo : Chevalier Morales



20 European countries and regions have architecture policies



- Legislation
- Comprehensive policy
- Sectoral policy
- Legislation + comprehensive policy

Source: "Architectural policies developments across Europe," presentation by Joao Ferreira Bento, European Union Conference on Architectural Policies, Tallinn, September 21, 2017.



2. WHY ADOPT AN ARCHITECTURE POLICY?



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Architecture is...

- everywhere
- part of culture



Anne-Marie Edward Building, John Abbott College,
Saucier Perrotte architectes. Photo: Marc Cramer



**Architectural quality
(and not just its cost)
is in the public interest.**



Quality architecture

- Functional
 - Long-lasting
 - Aesthetically pleasing
- + Embraced by users
+ Added value for society



Maison des étudiants de l'ÉTS, MSDL.
Photo: Stéphane Brugger



Quality architecture

Examples in Quebec:

- public libraries



Bibliothèque Raymond-Lévesque, Atelier TAG and Jodoin Lamarre Pratte.
Photo: Marc Cramer



Bibliothèque du Boisé, Cardinal Hardy* / Labonté Marcil / Éric Pelletier* architects in consortium (*Lemay).
Photo: Yien Chao



Quality architecture

Examples in Quebec:

- Promenade Samuel-de-Champlain
- Soccer Complex



Promenade Samuel-de-Champlain, Daoust Lestage.
Photo: Marc Cramer



Stade de soccer de Montreal, Saucier Perrotte
architectes. Photo: Olivier Blouin



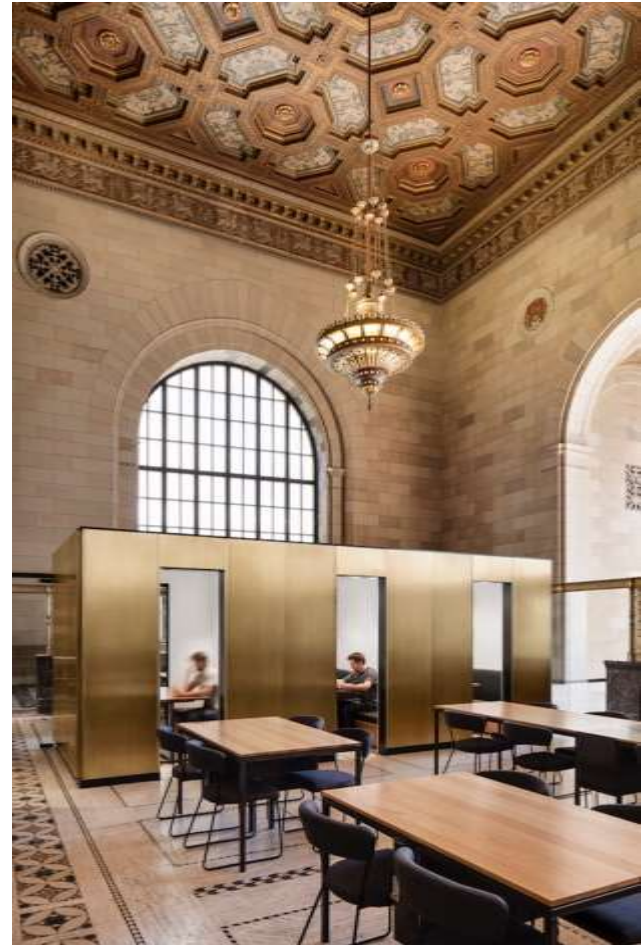
**Quality architecture
won't spring up out of nowhere.**

Government must establish standards.



Economic benefits

- Values cultural identity
- Values local expertise
- Contributes to attractiveness



Crew Collective & Café, Henri Cleinge architecte.
Photo: Adrien Williams



We must seize the moment.

Public infrastructure investments:

- \$100 G / 10 years in Quebec
- \$180 G / 12 years across Canada



3. REMOVING OBSTACLES TO QUALITY ARCHITECTURE



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Quality architecture is the exception.

- Regulations lack consistency
- Owners and the public lack awareness
- Concern for public space isn't always present
- Budgets and deadlines too tight



Boulevard des Laurentides, Laval. Photo: Jean Gagnon



10 ministries with a stake in the built environment

Sustainable Development and
the Environment

Municipal Affairs

Consumer Protection
and Housing

Treasury Board

Culture and Communications

Energy and Natural Resources

Economy, Science and Innovation

Health and Social Services

Education

Justice (*Architects Act*)



The case of energy efficiency

Construction Code	Ministry of Consumer Protection and Housing
Energy Policy	Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources
Climate Change Action Plan	Ministry of Sustainable Development and the Environment



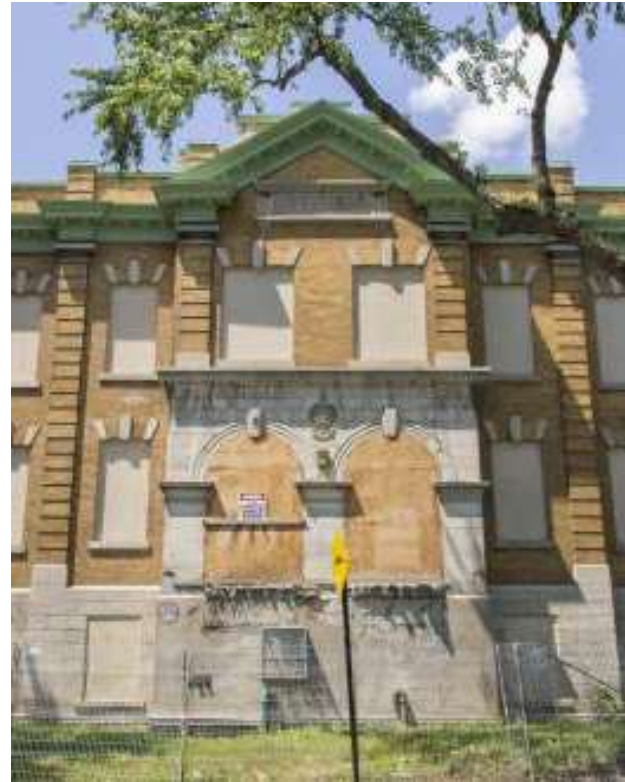
The case of architecture competitions

Competitions mandatory for any project over \$5 M subsidized by the MCC	Ministry of Culture and Communications
For municipal projects, competitions permitted only with a derogation	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Land Occupancy



The case of schools

- New neighbourhoods planned without schools
- Over-standardization of projects
- Paved, fenced-in schoolyards
- Asset maintenance deficit



École Baril, Montréal. Photo : Émilie Vézina-Doré



4. THE NEED FOR A SHARED VISION



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Complex challenges

- Aging population
- Aging infrastructures
- Intercultural cohabitation
- Urban sprawl
- Climate change
- Heritage preservation



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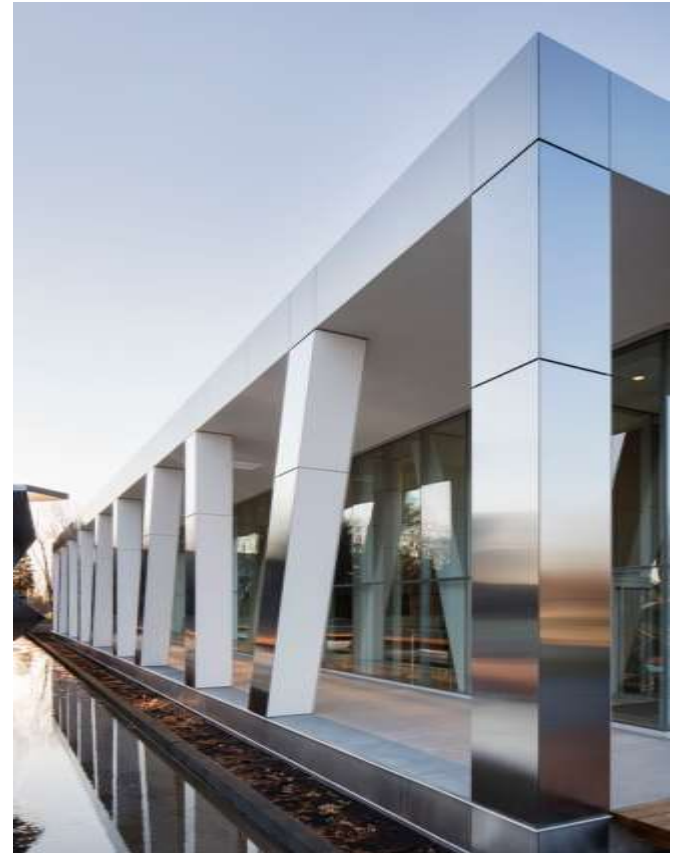
Built solutions

- Improving universal design
- Rethinking schools and libraries
- Making public spaces more welcoming
- Repurposing districts
- Improving energy efficiency
- Repurposing and preserving heritage buildings



Having quality projects depends on:

- Intent to leave a legacy for society
- Consideration of needs
- Consideration of context
- Ensuring sufficient means and time
- Aiming at the best value for money
- Continuously monitoring quality



Centre d'art Diane Dufresne, ACDF.
Photo: Adrien Williams



We need to engage and equip:

- Owners
- Regulatory authorities
- Other professionals
- Building contractors
- And of course citizens



Centre de transport Stinson de la Société de transport de Montréal, Lemay. Photo: Stéphane Groleau

Expected outcomes:

- Quality architecture across all living environments
- Affirmation of local cultural identity
- Attractive communities that generate prosperity
- Greater social inclusion: mixed-use, welcoming public spaces
- Sustainable, resilient built environments



5. THE OAQ'S INITIATIVE



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Timeline

- 2014** Requests for support from main political parties
- 2014–2015** Meetings with 9 city administrations and with the President of the Union of Quebec Municipalities
- 2015–2016** Meetings with the ministers of Culture and the Environment and with senior staff at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs
- June 2016** Brief on the cultural policy



Timeline (cont.)

- Spring 2017** Public conversation tour:
13 cities, 500 participants
- Fall 2017** 2nd brief on the cultural policy
Forum: 270 participants
Declaration: 4,000 signatures
- April 2018** White Paper



White Paper: 7 principles

1 . Awareness

- General public
- Young people
- Decision makers



Photo: Samuel Zeller on Unsplash



White Paper: 7 principles

2 . Citizen input

- Social acceptability = listening to citizens
- Right from the earliest stages



Photo : rawpixel on Unsplash



White Paper: 7 principles

3 . A heritage vision

- Proper maintenance
- Sharing of responsibility
- Bestowal to future generations



Vieux Québec. Photo : Florence Landry



White Paper: 7 principles

4 . Sustainability

- Ambitious objectives:
 - Buildings
 - Land-use planning



Bibliothèque de Varennes, Labbé – Laroche et Gagné – Leclerc et associés, en consortium. Photo: Maxime Gagné/CGA architectes inc.



White Paper: 7 principles

5 . Public commissions as an exemplary practice

- Encourage creativity, adaptability and innovation
- Do away with the lowest-bidder rule
- Broaden access to a diversity of firms
- Learn the value of architecture competitions



Centre de Services Le Bonnalie - Parc national du Mont-Orford, Anne Carrier architecture. Photo: Stéphane Groleau



White Paper: 7 principles

6 . Universal design

- Modernize regulations
- Incentives to go beyond minimum requirements
- Promote autonomy for all citizens



Grandir en santé - CHU Sainte-Justine, MSDL, Provencher Roy.
Photo: Stéphane Brugger



White Paper: 7 principles

7 . Recognizing the contributions of architecture

- A discipline that incorporates various aspects:
 - functional
 - technical
 - cultural
 - environmental
 - budgetary, etc.



Place des gens de la mer et le parcours insulaire,
Bougeois /Lechasseur architects. Photo: Adrien Williams



White Paper: recommendations

- Form a working group to:
 - Define architectural quality
 - Establish an inventory of exemplary practices
 - Propose necessary regulatory amendments
 - Define the terms of reference for the supporting organization



U, Atelier Big City. Photo: Alain Laforest



6. FINAL STEPS



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Outcome at the provincial level

June 2018: action plan for the new Quebec cultural policy:

- “Equip Quebec with a government policy on architecture”



Outcomes at the municipal level

June 2018: City of Montreal Action Plan for Design and Montreal Agenda for Design and Architecture

Adoption: Early 2019



We are hopeful...

**But we must also
be vigilant.**



Photo: Jose Ros in Unsplash

THANK YOU!

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