



PRESS RELEASE

Architectural competition finalists revealed for the construction of the interior dome of Saint Joseph's Oratory's Basilica

Montréal, February 21, 2018 – Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal announced today the four (4) finalists of its architectural competition launched last December. The final phase of the shrine's development project includes the interior design reconfiguration and upgrade of the Basilica's dome, as well as the renovation of its museum spaces. This will achieve the Basilica architects' vision by enabling visitors to discover the interior of its gigantic dome and adding an observatory at the very top, which will become Montréal's highest vista, with a panoramic view of the city and region.

A total of 18 candidates, each boasting multidisciplinary expertise, were submitted to the jury for initial selection. After the meetings held on February 13 and 14, the jury recommended that Saint Joseph's Oratory retain the following candidates:

- **Atelier TAG – Architecture 49 – SDK – Stantec**
- **Provencher Roy arch – Pageau Morel – SNC Lavalin**
- **Architecture EVOQ – Bouthillette Parizeau – NCK**
- **Affleck DeLaRiva – Henri Cleinge arch. - Martin Roy – Lateral/DWB**

Saint Joseph's Oratory is thrilled about the interest generated by its competition, an approach it chose to receive the most creative ideas, while making the best use of public funds invested in this unique landmark's future. The reconfiguration of the dome's interior design and the addition of an observatory at its summit will meet the expectations often expressed by sanctuary visitors and create a major tourist attraction for the city.

"It is essential that this unparalleled space's development design be in perfect alignment with Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal's historical mission and reflect its vision statement: *To be, in the heart of the city, a place of openness, gathering and reflection, where the heritage of Saint Brother André thrives,*" said Father Claude Grou, CSC, Rector of Saint Joseph's Oratory. "The jury paid particular attention to this aspect, and the four finalists clearly demonstrated their understanding of and sensitivity to this key element."

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The jury

The jury is composed of several renowned professionals, including Mr. John R. Porter (former director of the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec), Mr. Jason Long (architect and partner at OMA New York), Mr. Richard Fortin (architect, Bisson Fortin

Architecture), Mr. Carlo Carbone (architect and professor at UQÀM), Ms. Marie-Josée Deschênes (architect) and Mr. Jean Bundock (mechanical engineer).

Next steps

The four (4) finalists now move on to the next phase of the selection process, which consists in preparing their deliverables for analysis by a technical committee before their submission to the jury. The winner will be announced on May 28.

The competition's rules and detailed schedule are available through the Québec government's official bid system, the Système électronique d'appel d'offres (SEAO).

The project

The next phase of the shrine's major development project includes the construction of a new welcome centre, integrated into Mount Royal's topography, as well as the reconfiguration of the site's landscaping and improved lighting, which will begin in 2018 and last two years. The implementation of the project's final phase, the core component of this architectural contest, is slated to begin in 2020.

This major development project will require a total investment of nearly \$80 million, with the government of Canada contributing nearly \$22 million, and the government of Québec investing over \$30.8 million. Government contributions stem from the Fonds Chantier Canada-Québec, Grands Projets and the Programme d'infrastructures Québec-Municipalités. The City of Montréal also confirmed a \$10 million contribution. With the support of its Foundation, Saint Joseph's Oratory will assume the remaining costs, totalling over \$17.2 million.

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Source:

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