



LA FIDUCIE DU PATRIMOINE CULTUREL DES AUGUSTINES UNVEILS THE ARCHITECTURAL CONCEPT BEHIND **LE MONASTÈRE DES AUGUSTINES**

**Quebec, August 19, 2013** – During a press conference held earlier today at the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec monastery, *La Fiducie du patrimoine culturel des Augustines* unveiled the architectural concept behind **Le Monastère des Augustines**, as well as new details about the restoration work that will make the site accessible to the general public in the spring of 2015.

Major restoration work on the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec monastery began early in the year in preparation for the grand opening. **Le Monastère des Augustines** will offer the public a true immersion experience of the restored historic site through *l'Hôtellerie, le Musée, les Archives* and programming that promotes both culture and the concept of total health. The architectural concept preserves and showcases the heritage buildings: the garden and noviciate wings (1695/1755), the vaults (1695), the church (1800), the choir (1931) and the Saint-Augustin wing (1958). It also includes redesigned landscaping and two new constructions: an entrance hall and a museum reserve.

**Contemporary architecture**

The new glassed-in hall creates a physical link between the two public entrances to the monastery (on rue des Remparts and rue Charlevoix). In addition to allowing for greater accessibility to the monastery, the contrasting design will highlight that this historic former cloister is open to the public for new purposes. The open and transparent linear form will act as a contemporary urban sign of the monastery's new life.

A museum reserve is currently being erected over the St-Augustin wing where the sisters reside. The new construction will make it possible to bring together in one location the collections and archives of the 12 monastery-hospitals founded by the Augustinian Sisters.

“The monastery is made up of several interconnected buildings that date back to different periods and that have been enriched by numerous transformations over the centuries. Certain minor annexes, added in recent years for reasons of functionality, have partially shrouded the major architectural components of the monastery. The deconstruction of these annexes that has begun already allows for greater intelligibility of the different structures, allowing them to stand out and making their architectural richness visible”, said Bernard-Serge Gagné, architect and project manager with ABCP architecture.

**Heritage spaces redesigned**

In the two older wings of the monastery, plans for the spaces that will form part of **Le Monastère des Augustines** include converting the Augustinian Sisters' former cells into 64 rooms of two different types. On the fourth floor, under the rafters, rooms will have

more of a simple, contemporary style, whereas, on the third floor, the original partitions and woodwork will be preserved in order to give the rooms a more authentic feel. More than a dozen rooms on the second floor will be renovated to create space for programming that will promote culture and the concept of total health: activities, seminars, conferences, training, etc. On the first floor, space for museum exhibits and archives round out the work to be completed in these wings. The vaults dating back to 1695 and a number of older vestiges will also be reinforced and restored and, for the first time in history, will be accessible to the public.

"We are aware that this is one of the most important heritage restoration projects in Canada and we have carefully considered the question of the compatibility between the historical and the contemporary. We are proud of the architectural concept that we present to you today because, without compromising their heritage value, we are preparing these valuable buildings to welcome visitors from around the world", said Mr. Bernard Cliche, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Fiducie.

Recall that the Government of Canada has offered up to 15 million dollars for completion of this innovative complex. This contribution comes from the Major Project Component of the Building Canada Fund which is aimed at large scale strategic projects of national and regional significance. The Government of Quebec will contribute an additional 15 million dollars and the city of Quebec has committed to contributing 6 million dollars.

*The mission of La Fiducie du patrimoine culturel des Augustines is to preserve and share the heritage and memory of the Augustinian Sisters of Quebec for the benefit of the entire population and for generations to come.*

*Le Monastère des Augustines grew out of the Augustinian Sisters' will to entrust their invaluable heritage that has accumulated since 1639 to the people of Quebec. More than 40 000 artefacts and 1 linear km of archives and old books will be gathered together at the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec monastery and will be accessible to the public in 2015. Cutting-edge, contemporary programming that promotes both culture and the concept of total health will respond to the needs of today's people for renewal on many levels. Designed in an integrative fashion, l'Hôtellerie, le Musée and les Archives will all reinforce the unique experience of the new facility.*

*The Centre Catherine-de-Saint-Augustin, for which the sisters continue to have responsibility, will be relocated in the church.*

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**SOURCE: La Fiducie du patrimoine culturel des Augustines**

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