

Direction des communications et du recrutement

News release For immediate release

Creation of a UNESCO Chair in Landscape and Environmental Design at Université de Montréal

Montréal, February 12, 2004 – Université of Montréal has announced the creation of a UNESCO Chair in Landscape and Environmental Design, thereby asserting its leadership in research into and teaching of landscape architecture. In an international context, this new Chair is the first university structure dedicated specifically to knowledge and promotion of landscape. The announcement was made today at a ceremony attended by Thomas Mulcair, Minister of the Environment for Québec, Université de Montréal Rector Robert Lacroix, Michèle Stanton-Jean, Vice-Chair of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and Brigitte Colin of the MOST-UNESCO Program in Paris.



For the Chair's incumbent, Philippe Poullaouec-Gonidec, a Full Professor in the School of Landscape Architecture, Faculty of Urban Development, the announcement has confirmed the importance of work being done at UdeM. "With the UNESCO partnership, we will be able to develop and initiate all our research in an international perspective, and support inter-university cooperation and knowledge transfer, especially toward developing countries." One of the UNESCO Chair's central projects is the creation of an "International Landscape Observatory" in cooperation with the Management of Social Transformation (MOST) program and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

With growing public concerns over quality of life, well-being and our natural habitat, environmental awareness of the is growing and becoming a veritable social force. The UNESCO Chair's work will focus on social development and cultural characterization of landscapes and territories, as well as improvement practices and plans (in landscape architecture, architecture, and urban planning and design). Research will target three areas: urban landscapes, rurality, and the environment. In addition, teaching activities will give priority to higher education in landscape architecture and international mobility of professors and students.

A number of partners have joined the Chair in its first biennial plan of action, including nine universities located in Morocco, Lebanon, Italy, Austria and Spain. Because it is affiliated with the Chair in Landscape and Environmental Design, the UNESCO Chair also enjoys the support of such partners as the Ministry of the Environment of Québec, Hydro-Québec, the Ministry of Transport of Québec, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Sports and Recreation of Québec, and Astral Media.

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About Université de Montréal

Founded in 1878, Université de Montréal currently has 13 faculties and, with its two affiliated schools, HEC Montréal and École Polytechnique, is the first centre of higher education and research in Québec, the second in Canada and one of the most important in North America. It boasts 2,300 teaching and research staff, 50,000 students and offers over 550 programs in all study cycles, awarding some 2,500 master's and doctoral degrees each year. Université de Montréal is resolutely dedicated to the advancement and transmission of knowledge

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