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The Timber Hall, a 20-faceted conference space lined with Douglas fir and topped with a circular skylight, boasts leading-edge information and communications technology. In the multimedia centre on the ground level, visitors learn about Canada through interactive info-terminals known as "Canadian Smart Boards" and listening stations.

Environmental measures required by Berlin planning guidelines and intended to minimize energy costs and pollution include a "green" roof, an area of soil and hardy planting material designed in the form of the Mackenzie Delta by Canadian landscape architect Cornelia Oberlander.

Michael Blaschuk, Director of Professional and Technical Services at Foreign Affairs Canada, expects that visitors to the embassy will learn that Canada is much more than simply a nation of forests and lakes. "It's a two-part message," he explains. "We are green and environmentally aware, but at the same time we are about people, we are about technology, we're a cutting-edge nation."

For more information on Canada's new embassy in Berlin, visit [www.canada.de](http://www.canada.de).



▲ *River – Rivière – Fluss* by Barbara Steinman, one of the artworks integrated into the building, is a granite and quartzite inlaid floor in the embassy's main reception area that looks like an ice floe or a bathymetric map of water depths.

▼ *Canadian Weather Patterns* by Barbara Astman depicts cloud patterns, based on satellite pictures of Earth, that are etched into the curved glass wall around the Timber Hall.



▲ *The river as thread, the canoe as needle* by John McEwan is a bronze canoe suspended over the Northwest Passage. Its engravings illustrate the routes across Canada taken by explorer Alexander Mackenzie in 1789 and 1793.

▼ *North* by Adrian Göllner, a compass rim skylight that floats just below the top of the Timber Hall, changing colour throughout the day depending on the light.

