

The preview centre concept is a media newsroom with television broadcast capabilities, a mobile site studio, a resource centre, a multi-media show, and a home base for the Communications Division with VIP facilities. The Dick Strong site plan is adopted as the basis for development and Strong's involvement begins to lessen. The Expo Board delivers \$800-million-plus budget with projected deficit of \$311 million.

#### NOVEMBER 1983

Bruno Freschi and Bob McIlhargy are developing design guideline drawings, but too late to influence architectural packages. A design review procedure is also being developed. Ward Popenoe is preparing a construction cost reporting system. At the east end of the site, piling and decking go to tender, and the scope of work is being defined. Phil Knight sets a completion date target of December 31, 1984. Newco Investments planning 356-room hotel at east gate ALRT station.

The computer light show on the dome begins to prove too expensive. The first Omnimax script, with the working title The Leading Edge, is completed. The Imax Corporation agrees to produce the film in a package with the theatre and the projection equipment.

The first module is completed and Provincial Cabinet makes EXPO 86 a Special Economic Zone. Province on brink of general strike. Premier Bennett commissions Decima Research poll to determine level of support for project.

#### DECEMBER 1983

Michael Bartlett is appointed President and demands site plan sign-off for the fifteenth of the month. The zone architectural commissions are finally awarded and three weeks are given for presentation and sign-off of packages. An architectural design symposium is held the day after the sign-off of the architectural packages. Rich Battaglia is developing services and a floor-plan program. Programming for the Fields Building is underway.

Don McConachie pushing for "mini-corp" pavilions. Louis van Blankenstein of BC Place recommends Dominion Construction to build the "Gathering Place." Planning is underway for an "interfaith pavilion." Pile driving begins for the preview centre. The Leading Edge script is rejected by the Board of Directors as too technological.