

Born in Gaspé, Gauthier completed his studies at the University of Montréal before settling in Québec. In 1974, the first phase of a modern project of his won the Canadian Award for Residential Design. This sprawling terrace apartment complex, Les Jardins de Mérici, is adjacent to the Plains of Abraham and over 75 percent of the 500 dwellings have a view of the St. Lawrence. "The challenge was in the topography of the site. It was very hilly." When complete, there will be 1,500 units. Two other projects won Massey medals.

Each of the partners masterminds his own project, but each benefits from the input of the other two. Their firm designed the Auberge des Gouverneurs chain of hotels across the Province of Québec and several public buildings including parliament complexes, university and collegiate pavilions, and they collaborated on Montréal's huge Complexe Desjardins.

"All these new edifices are of a universal-type architecture influenced by modern technology and materials. They can hardly be claimed as distinctly Canadian in design. Canadian architects, on the other hand, are renowned for quality but if there is such a thing as an original, distinctively Canadian architecture, then it will be found in the dwellings of the early French settlers. They brought their European styles with them, but adapted them to our climate with the materials at hand. Typical are the old homes on the Isle of Orléans. Influenced by this heritage, our philosophy, as architects, is to build for the future on the richness of the past."