



*Vancouver's impulse was to build up.*

## Montreal: Ingenious and Beautiful

Montreal is not just another big city. It is a historic metropolis and a great port, more complex than its population of three million suggests. It is also the site of what is probably North America's most successful effort at urban renewal. Urban renewal, invented in the United States to solve basic problems in old American cities, has often been misapplied in Canada, where the problems were different and usually less severe. It was, as it happens, well applied in Montreal.

In the early 1960s the city had twenty-two acres of ugly, open elevated railway tracks. Donald Gordon, president of Canadian Na-

tional Railways, invited New York developer William Zeckendorf to build something over them. Zeckendorf hired Vincent Ponte, who in turn hired I. M. Pei, Mies van der Rohe and other extraordinary architects. The complicated result is ingenious and beautiful. The trains still come right into the heart of Montreal, but they are now sandwiched between layers of activity above and below ground, and the central city is full of architectural grandeur, everyday excitement and people.



*The Hotel Europe in Vancouver has retained its old style.*