

MAY 1983

Freschi presents site plan to BIE but the revenue-oriented Strong-Battaglia influence has already been approved by the Board of Directors. The CADD system is introduced, allowing all architecture and other site elements to be moveable. Architects design only to footprint, without environmental content. Expo has maximum flexibility to respond to evolving situation. Integration of site difficult under this system. A preview centre based on a geodesic dome has been approved in principle. Radok is hired to develop "ball in a ball show". Non-union Kerkhoff Construction challenges BC Place closed-site policy. Premier Bill Bennett is reelected.

JUNE 1983

On June 3, BC Place leases the False Creek site to Expo until June 30, 1987.

Contract negotiation difficulties between Bruno Freschi and Michael Bartlett are resolved and architectural design development begins on preview centre. Initial concept features an elevator tower allowing sphere to be entered from top. Interior planning includes a media centre with a television studio, broadcast facilities, image bank, and integrated site model and audio-visual presentation. High initial budget estimate forces reductions in size of geodesic. Demolition of CPR complex begins. Ian Carter is hired to coordinate design program for food and merchandise buildings, international pavilions, gates, and various other ancillary Expo structures. A European Plaza concept is proposed. Intersite hovercraft ferry announced by Seaspeed.

Architect Arthur Erickson, in joint venture with Phillips-Barratt, is commissioned to design the BC complex around the Plaza of Nations. BC Place seeking zoning concessions from City Hall. BC Place Stadium opens officially on June 19 with "Expect the World" gala. The ALRT test track opens. The absence of Federal logo on car exteriors antagonizes Federal-Provincial negotiations.

JULY 1983

Mayor Harcourt in Europe "to sell Vancouver and Expo." New executive offices open in Scotia Tower. Bartlett questions development direction of preview centre, partly because Operations prefers pulsed theatres over free-flow concept. Bartlett also opposes elevator tower. Favours full-colour computerized light show on sphere. Carter is appointed Director of Planning and Design over both Strong and Freschi. The site is divided into manageable zones.