

Montreal to Host Summit of World's 25 Largest Cities



Michel Ponomareff

A jury representing eight world metropolises has selected Montreal as the site of the third Summit of the World's 25 Largest Cities. The first two conferences were held in Tokyo in 1985 and Istanbul in 1988.

Montreal Mayor Jean Doré is pleased to be hosting so prestigious a conference. "It is a rare opportunity to have in Montreal the mayors of the world's great cities, on the eve of our city's 350th anniversary," said Mayor Doré.

Montreal has gained an international reputation by hosting events such as the 1967 World's Fair, the 1976 Olympic Games and the Floral Festival of 1980, among other conferences and meetings. It is a cosmopolitan city where more than 100 communities of various backgrounds and

Jean Doré, Mayor of Montreal.

cultures co-exist with Montrealers of French and English origin.

The mayor sees the summit as another excellent opportunity to showcase his city to the world and to invite visitors to the 1992 celebrations marking the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in America.

These summits were instituted by Governor Shunichi Suzuki of Tokyo in 1985 in order to bring together representatives of the world's major cities. Problems faced by modern mega-cities are discussed, and solutions sought to the major challenges that cities will face in the twenty-first century.

The two-and-one-half-day conference will take place during the summer of 1991.

Mr. Ziedler, who specializes in designing buildings suited to colder climates, worked closely with a multidisciplinary medical team to better meet the needs of everyone concerned. His objective was to create an environment that would alleviate patients' fears and speed their recoveries. By offering a variety of services (hairdresser, shops, cafeteria, public telephones) he hoped to encourage people to move about more freely.

Visitors to the hospital are immediately struck by the monumental entrance leading to what appears to be the headquarters of a thriving commercial enterprise. To the right is a large, ultra-modern amphitheatre with the latest in audio-visual equipment — a reminder that this is a university facility.

A glass-enclosed, U-shaped, interior gallery provides an indoor view for half the patients, while the rest enjoy a view of the outdoors. Rooms are located on three floors, with no more than 2 beds per room, and with 18 beds in each medical unit.

Colourful walls, bright draperies and wall-to-wall carpeting raise patient morale and reduce the noise level.

The main floor and indoor terraces, however, are open to patients and visitors alike. A hair salon, post office, toy shop, card and souvenir shop, newsstand, bookstore, candy store, snack bar and tea room are among the services available. Glass elevators provide access to all floors without depriving users of the spectacular view.

On one of the terraces, a grand piano awaits a musician's touch. A covered walk links the hospital to a 125-bed hotel for people who simply need tests or for families of hospitalized patients.

As a university facility, the Walter C. Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre is involved in the latest medical research and technological developments. Kidney transplants have become a routine procedure, and more than 50 heart transplants and 3 heart-lung transplants have been performed over the last six months.

A Hospital Designed with Well-being in Mind

The Walter C. Mackenzie Health Sciences Centre in Edmonton, Alberta, looks and feels like a shopping mall, but is really a hospital. And although the Canadian medical centre may resemble the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, it is an entirely different institution.

Working on the principle that people recover more quickly in familiar and pleasant surroundings, Toronto architect Eberhard Ziedler created a hospital featuring a spectacular indoor garden. The concept was inspired in part by Toronto's massive Eaton Centre, one of his earlier designs.



Pat Marston