

## Increasing Urbanization

Montreal boasts a wealth of urban forms and architecture. The outcome of more than three centuries of human activity, these structures are enhanced by an exceptional natural setting. And for many, the Montreal that is most cherished is the one that was erected from 1880 to 1930.

Yet anyone taking in the panoramic view from the observation deck atop Mount Royal realizes how much the metropolis has changed since that time. An upsurge in the downtown core, particularly since the 1960s, has produced such achievements as the large multifunctional complexes of Place Ville-Marie (1963) and Place Bonaventure (1967). And lying beneath Montreal is an "underground city" that is one of the most original in the world. A network of some 10 km of underground passages leads to 800 000 m<sup>2</sup> of stores, boutiques, restaurants and other businesses.

## Culture, c'est ça!

Without a doubt, Montreal is French Canada's major focus of cultural activity. Theatre, jazz, modern dance, ballet, cinema, television, radio, classical music, opera, museums and publishing houses have all flourished in Montreal.

Today, the city counts more than 100 theatre troupes and each summer many of these, along with groups from other countries, participate in the city's Festival du théâtre des Amériques. And Montreal's international jazz festival, held annually since 1977, is on its way to becoming one of the most important music events of its kind.

A significant force in the world of classical ballet, Les Grands Ballets canadiens has received standing ovations all

over the world. Meanwhile other Montreal-based dance troupes such as La La La Human Steps are bringing new life to the form itself.

In recent years, the works of Montreal filmmakers have met with considerable acclaim both at home and abroad. Denys Arcand's *Le Déclin de l'empire américain*, Jean-Claude Lauzon's *Un Zoo la nuit* and Gilles Carles' *Maria Chapdelaine* are perhaps the most noteworthy. Montreal in fact has become a veritable motion picture mecca. The city is increasingly becoming the site of co-productions that employ Quebec technicians and camera operators whose

speaking — all of which are internationally recognized for the quality of their teaching and research in a variety of disciplines. Most noteworthy are the fields of biotechnology, telecommunications, aeronautics, engineering and medical technology.

The city of Montreal consists not only of a 50-km-long island but also of an archipelago of smaller islands, including those of Sainte-Hélène and Notre-Dame. These islands are the site of "Man and his World" — a permanent international exhibition that grew out of

Portuguese communities. In the 1980s, it has been further enriched by Vietnamese, Haitian, North African and Latin American cultures.

Montreal's ethnic diversity can be seen in open-air markets, at the city's numerous festivals, as well as in its various business associations. In addition, city streets are lined with grocery stores displaying foods from many cultures. With more than 3 000 restaurants — of which hundreds specialize in national dishes from countries around the world — Montreal is considered by many to be the gastronomic capital of North America.



Photo: Malak

Nestled along the shores of the St. Lawrence River, Montreal embraces the old and the new.

skills and abilities are continually acknowledged. Since 1977, Montreal has hosted one of the world's most prestigious annual international film festivals.

Under the talented directorship of Charles Dutoit, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra gives concerts the world over and every year adds to its collection of international prizes. Montreal also has an opera company and a youth orchestra that brings together the most talented graduates of Quebec's 10 music conservatories.

Montreal is home to four universities — two French-speaking and two English-

the 1967 World's Fair. The Olympic Park — an impressive sports complex of bold design — is located at the east end of the Island of Montreal. Built for the 1976 Summer Olympic Games, its swan-shaped stadium has a capacity of more than 75 000.

## An International Flair

The best way to get to know Montreal is to walk through its neighbourhoods and take in their unique flavour. In so doing one discovers a cosmopolitan city that comprises more than 100 ethnic communities.

Throughout its history, Montreal has benefited from British, Irish, Scottish, Jewish, Chinese, Eastern European, Italian, Greek and

## With a Cosmopolitan Charm

There is more to Montreal, however, than ethnic diversity. The city has many exciting shopping and dining spots and is known for its high-fashion boutiques, its antique and art dealers, its trendy bistros and its chic nightlife.

An ambiance of warmth and charm make Montreal a city like no other. And although it has become one of the world's major industrial, commercial and financial centres, Montreal has not lost its legendary appeal. Its joie de vivre, its vitality, its traditional hospitality and its modern and refined air continue to make the city both an exciting place to visit and wonderful place to live.