

Canada Pavilion

Reflecting the "discovery" theme of Expo '92, the Canada Pavilion highlights innovations in science and technology, the Canadian heritage, the people and the land. The 27.5 metre high building occupies 4,200 square metres in the international area of the Expo grounds, reserved to national pavilions.

Internationally-known architect Bing Thom of Vancouver designed the pavilion to inspire visitors to discover Canada and its people. Mr. Thom described the pavilion as a series of unfolding discoveries and surprises: from the exterior screen wall to the inner courtyard, pre-show, IMAX theatre, exhibit hall and restaurant. Each sequence of space reinforces a Canadian message, ushering visitors into new realms of Canadian discovery.

"The Canadian pavilion in terms of its exterior is inspired by a traditional Spanish solution. We have chosen to use the exterior wall as a screen to control the sun. By providing a large exterior, we create a dominant presence for Canada on the fairgrounds," said Mr. Thom.

As visitors approach the building, negative diamond cuts on the walls come into view. The wall is made of zinc, shimmering and softly glowing in the sunlight. At night, the diamond cuts are illuminated, and appear to sparkle.

The theme of the pavilion is "DISCOVER CANADA, DIS-

COVER A NEW WORLD". Inside, the pavilion is divided into five components: the courtyard space, the pre-show area, an IMAX theatre, an exhibition hall, a restaurant/bar/gift shop/art gallery.

After crossing the colonnade,

in the courtyard.

From the courtyard, a gradual climb of five storeys up a suspended ramp takes visitors to the summit of the pavilion. In a pre-show viewing on a shaded rooftop terrace, a short video presents some of the many faces of Canadians.

After, the visitors are ushered into a 500-seat IMAX theatre, the centrepiece of the pavilion. At 20-minute intervals, a stunning IMAX film is shown on a screen that is six storeys high.

Following the film, the visitors go on to the main exhibits area, on the courtyard level. The exhibits are arranged over an area of more than 1,000 square metres.

Highlighting participation by the provinces, as well as the Federal government, the exhibit hall will focus on technologies of the future, discoveries, inventions and innovations in different fields.

Special facilities of the pavilion include a VIP lounge and corporate boardroom, ideal for hosting industry, government and other leaders during visits to Expo '92.

For now, the priority is construction of the Canada Pavilion,

to be completed in December, 1991. Work is proceeding on schedule with a gentle assist from a mild winter.

Canada's was the first international pavilion to start construc-

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Pavilion Exhibits

Canadian recent discoveries, innovations and inventions in various fields of science and technology where Canada has centers of excellence are highlighted in the Federal exhibits at Expo '92. "Hands-on" exhibits encourage visitors to actively explore and learn about Canada and the achievements of Canadians. The exhibits, designed with a focus on youth, will appeal to visitors of all ages. A Montréal firm, Design + Communications Inc., won the competition for the design of this interactive and entertaining exhibit.

A dominant feature of the design concept is a large colourful "Exploration Wall" that projects a strong image of Canada, unifies the exhibit and creates a total environment. The "Exploration Wall" depicts the land, the regional and cultural characteristics of Canada and offers visitors the opportunity to begin exploring with all the senses of sight, sound, smell and touch.

Set against this background are science and technology exhibits representative of all regions of the country. A wide variety of exhibit techniques are used. For example, visitors can discover Canadian and European cities in a computer game which uses satellite imagery. They can also test a ship in a computer simulation of a wave tank, see a life-size nest of recently-discovered dinosaur eggs, and study 45-million-year-old specimens from an ancient tropical forest in the Arctic, to name only a few items of the exhibit.

The Ontario exhibit, designed by Reich + Petch Architects Inc., of Toronto, and the British Columbia exhibit, designed by D. Jensen and Associates of Vancouver are both well under way.

Quebec is in the process of selecting its own firm to conceive and fabricate its exhibit which will be integrated with the other three along the "Canada Way" unifying concept of the exhibit.

visitors enter a courtyard which is naturally lit and ventilated. Features include a shimmering waterfall and reflecting pool. A small stage will give Canadian performers the opportunity to entertain visitors queuing or simply resting