

CURRENT RESEARCH ON ARCHITECTURE IN QUÉBEC | ÉTAT DE LA RECHERCHE EN ARCHITECTURE AU QUÉBEC

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This issue of the *Journal of the Society for the Study of Architecture in Canada* focuses on architecture in Québec. While I would like to take full credit for this idea, it came together somewhat unexpectedly. Of the six papers featured in this issue, three were sent independently, and three—the essays on churches in Québec—were a coordinated effort by the authors. Of these, three papers examine religious architecture, while the other three take on secular works. Three are in English, and three are in French. The result is a serendipitously balanced, special themed issue that spotlights a range of the architecture, architects, and concerns of *La Belle Province*.

First, John Osborne uncovers four nineteenth-century fire stations of Montréal by Québec architect John James Browne [1837-1893]. This study reveals these inventive, forgotten buildings and situates them within the scope of civic architecture more broadly. Emilie Banville then takes a critical look at the architect Luc Laporte [1942-2012] and specifically at an unbuilt large-scale theatre project. To do this, she methodically parses Laporte's archives to give this unrealized project its due. Next, Réjean Legault revisits the iconic Habitat 67, taking into account the role of the engineer on the project, August Komendant [1906-1992]. Ultimately, this thorough essay probes the relationship between various actors in a single architectural project and questions notions of authorship.

As we shift from the secular to the sacred, Agueda Iturbe-Kennedy takes us to Québec City to examine a cross-section of Catholic churches from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. This text brings to light (pun intended) a new approach to the study of these churches, by examining the use of interior lighting, and in particular the impact of the evolution from gas to electricity. Marc Grignon then examines parish churches in the province of Québec with guiding questions that link the churches to their communities. That is, shifting from a typological, stylistic, or iconographical approach, how were churches—as an integral part of public space and daily life—perceived and lived by their users? And, finally, Luc Noppen explores the church of Sainte-Brigide-de-Kildare in Montréal. While it is presently best known for its function as a community hub and as a