

communiqué /press release**For immediate release****CZECH CUBISM: ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN, 1910-1925**
A first for North America
at the CCA from 10 June to 2 August 1992

Montréal, 10 June 1992 -- Czech Cubism: Architecture and Design, 1910-1925 is the first exhibition to bring to North America the work of a group of Czech artists, architects, and designers who – inspired by the cubist canvasses of Picasso, Braque, and others – attempted to extend the aesthetic and philosophical intentions of early twentieth-century avant-garde painting and sculpture into the three-dimensional space of architecture. Combining enthusiasm for the radically new world view of cubist art with a desire to establish an autonomous aesthetic as well as political presence, the Czech cubists produced not only powerful visionary work, but also went beyond theory to practice – in the realization of buildings, monuments, furniture, and applied art. Almost all of their buildings are still in existence.

The Canadian Centre for Architecture, the first venue on the North American tour, introduces **Czech Cubism: Architecture and Design, 1910-1925** to Canadian and American audiences. The exhibition, brought to North America at the initiative of the CCA, will present more than 150 drawings, 40 pieces of furniture, and 20 ceramic items drawn from the collections of the National Technical Museum and the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague.

Czech Cubism: Architecture and Design 1910-1925 was conceived by Milena Lamarová, Head of the Department of Design at the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague, and Vladimír Šlapeta, Director of Architectural Archives at the National Technical Museum in Prague, and was produced in association with the Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein. It first opened in Prague at the Museum of Decorative Arts, at the Vitra, and then travelled to the Rhineland and Westphalia Arts Society in Düsseldorf, and the Spanish Museum of Contemporary Art in Madrid. Its last European venue before coming to the

CCA was the Georges Pompidou Centre in Paris. After its presentation in Montréal, the exhibition will travel to the University of the Arts in Philadelphia (September 18–December 18, 1992) and then to its final North American venue, the Cooper-Hewitt Museum in New York City (April 6–August 15, 1993).

The North American tour was organized by the CCA in association with the Vitra Design Museum. Guest Curator Irena Žantovská Murray, Head Librarian of the Blackader-Lauterman Library, McGill University, adapted the original exhibition for the North American tour, together with Eve Blau, Adjunct Curator, CCA, and David McFadden, Curator of Decorative Arts, Cooper-Hewitt Museum, New York. A fully illustrated catalogue published by the Vitra Design Museum in separate Czech, German, and English editions accompanies the exhibition. The CCA has also published in separate French and English editions a fold-out containing an introductory text by Irena Žantovská Murray.

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Information: www.cca.qc.ca/press