

communiqué /press release**For immediate release****FIRST MAJOR PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF CANADIAN AND AMERICAN
BANK ARCHITECTURE AT THE CCA**

Montréal, 14 November 1990 – From 14 November 1990 to 24 February 1991, the Canadian Centre for Architecture presents **Money Matters: A Critical Look at Bank Architecture**, a major photographic exhibition surveying the history and cultural significance of bank architecture. The exhibition is the first to focus on bank architecture as a genre rather than in the context of a single architect or architectural firm.

The exhibition presents 170 contemporary photographs and 10 historical images of 36 bank buildings in the United States and 20 in Canada, and includes examples ranging from the earliest times to the present day. Some of the banks in the exhibition include First Bank of the United States, Philadelphia (1795-1797) designed by Samuel Blodgett, Bank of Louisville (1835) design by James Dakin, the Bank of Montréal, Montréal (1845-1847) designed by John Wells; Toronto-Dominion Bank, Toronto (1964) designed by Mies Van der Rohe; and the Bank of Canada, Ottawa (1937-1938) designed by Marani, Lawson & Morris and S.G. Davenport and its annex (1972-1979) designed by Arthur Erickson, Manami, Rounthwaite Dick.

The exhibition surveys buildings which have been selected for their outstanding design from each of the major architectural styles and periods of banking history. Bank buildings powerfully communicate the changing values associated with their evolving role in society. The exhibition explores a set of themes which belle the standard notion that bank buildings are repetitive, staid, and conservative. Rather, banks are frequently revealed as patrons of architectural innovation, whose buildings possess vital communicative power.

Eleven distinguished photographers from Canada and the United States were specially commissioned to give their interpretative points of view on these banking icons. The photographers include Robert Bourdeau, Edward Burtynsky, David Duchow and David Miller residing in Canada as well as Marilyn Bridges, James Iska, Len Jenshel, John Pfahl, George Tice, Catherine Wagner and Serge Hambourg from the United States. This will be the second time works by Serge Hambourg are presented at the CCA. His photographic record of Mills and Factories of New England drew critical acclaim in December 1989. Historical photographs by master photographers Berenice Abbott, Charles Pratt, Paul Strand, and John Szarkowski supplement the exhibition.

The exhibition is co-organized by The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and Parnassus Foundation. It is curated by Anne Tucker, Curator of Photography at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, in association with Susan Wagg.

Susan Wagg, M.F.A., F.R.S.A., is an independent architectural historian living in Montreal. She did the research on and chose the banks for the **Money Matters** exhibition and wrote the main text for the accompanying book. In 1985 she prepared an exhibition and catalogue for the Canadian Centre for Architecture, **Ernest Isbell Barott: An Introduction**, and in 1982 curated a major exhibition for the McCord Museum, **Percy Erskine Nobbs: Architect, Artist, Craftsman**, and wrote the accompanying monograph, published by McGill-Queen's Press. She has researched and written the architectural histories of two Montréal clubs, the Montréal Racket Club and the University Club of Montréal and served as an editor and advisor on the inventories and guides to the collections in the Canadian Architecture Collection at McGill University. Mrs. Wagg has a B.A. in Art History from Wellesley College (Wellesley, MA) and an M.F.A. in Canadian Art History from Concordia University (Montréal). In 1987 she was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (London).

This exhibition is highlighted in a 32 page CCA brochure entitled *Money Matters: A Critical Look at Bank Architecture* (ISBN 0-920785-36-0). It is available at the CCA Bookstore for \$7.95. The exhibition will subsequently travel to the Chicago Historical Society; Vancouver Museum; National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa; and the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto.

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