

Montréal Space for Life Takes Another Step Toward Creating a Legacy for  
Montréal's 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary

***Winners of the Montréal Space for Life International Architecture  
Competition Announced  
A Symbiosis of Nature, Architecture and Museography***

**Montréal, November 21, 2014** – At the latest Executive Committee meeting, the Coderre administration recommended that City Council award a \$3.2 million professional services contract to AZPML + Kanva architecture + NEUF architect(e)s + Bouthillette Parizeau + NCK (Princeton / Montréal), the winning team in the Biodôme Migration component of the Montréal Space for Life architecture competition, so that they can start work quickly on this huge project that is intended to be an important legacy for Montréal's 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

“The Biodôme Migration is one of the key strategic projects that our administration is focusing on so that we can offer Montrealers and all the city’s visitors an innovative museum institution, one that stands as an example of biodiversity and environmental awareness. The project is a legacy that will last well beyond 2017, something of which we will all be very proud,” said Montréal Mayor Denis Coderre.

The jury for the international architecture competition, launched in February of this year, also chose the winners for the other two major Space for Life projects:

- **Insectarium Metamorphosis**  
Kuehn Malvezzi / Pelletier De Fontenay / Jodoin Lamarre Pratte / Dupras Ledoux / NCK | **Berlin / Montréal**
- **Glass Pavilion at the Botanical Garden**  
Lacaton & Vassal / Frédéric Druot / FABG / SNC Lavalin | Paris / Montréal

The winners for all three components of the competition grasped the essence of Canada's largest natural science complex and its “art, science and emotion” approach, aimed at reconnecting humans with nature and positioning Montréal as a flagship for the global biodiversity movement.

“The Space for Life architecture competition, organized in co-operation with the Bureau du design, has produced bold results solidly anchored in the community. The inspiring designs combine esthetics and high environmental standards, and are evidence of the administration’s efforts to support Montréal’s position as a UNESCO City of Design,” noted Manon Gauthier, Executive Committee member responsible for culture, heritage, design, Space for Life and the status of women.

### **Three major projects**

The **Biodôme Migration** features a series of delicate curved walls on which innovative, interactive and personalized scenes will be projected, reflecting the profiles of its many different visitors. A network of catwalks and a café overlooking the redesigned and enlarged sub-polar ecosystem complete this new museological ensemble appealing to the emotions.

The **Insectarium Metamorphosis** consists of an original underground, underwater and surface visitor route through a true house of insects. The bold and sensitive proposal calls for transparent openings allowing visitors to glimpse behind the scenes, and immersive spaces creating authentic encounters between humans and insects.

Like a huge display case, the **Glass Pavilion at the Botanical Garden** will include a trellised rose garden growing within its very walls. The multifunctional, modular space, in line with the Biodiversity Centre, the greenhouses and the rose garden, will have room for 350 guests. Its versatile, airy and light-filled spaces will add up to a unique experience where visitors can “enjoy nature to the fullest.”

To view all the proposals:

<http://mtlunescodesign.com/en/project/Space-for-Life-architecture-competition>  
[www.espacepouurlavie.ca/en](http://www.espacepouurlavie.ca/en)

### **About the Bureau du design**

The city's Bureau du design worked with Montréal Space for Life to prepare and run the competition. Such competitions are among the many commitments made by the city and the partners in the *2007-2017 Action Plan – Montréal, Cultural Metropolis*, which aims to promote excellence in design and architecture while helping to affirm Montreal's status as a UNESCO City of Design. Montréal is a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, consisting of 41 cities in 23 countries. The network helps creators in member cities share their experiences, while promoting the international exchange of best practices and knowledge.

### **About Montréal Space for Life**

Montréal Space for Life is made up of four attractions on the same site: the Biodôme, Botanical Garden, Insectarium and Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium. These four prestigious municipal institutions form Canada's largest natural science museum complex. Together, by rethinking the connection between humankind and nature and cultivating new ways of living, they are launching a daring, creative urban movement in support of biodiversity.

To view and download photos of the winning designs:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ulnbi2m6ky3oqml/AACCz-IIHYugWAxm50P9KHZna?dl=0>

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