

Rigaud City Hall

Construction was recently completed on Rigaud City Hall, a new civic administration facility for a small Quebec community fifty kilometres west of Montreal. Located at the confluence of the Rigaud and Ottawa rivers, Rigaud is noted for its natural attractions and historic village center which dates back to New France.

Designed by Affleck de la Riva Architects, the project gives new meaning to public administration and municipal activities in Rigaud through an urban redevelopment plan that proposes both the reorganisation of a section of the historic village center and the new city hall building. A pedestrian promenade connects existing public amenities with new facilities, redevelops several vacant lots and links the heart of the village to the Rigaud River.

White on White: Democracy and Transparency

While Rigaud City Hall is a modest building respectful of the scale of its municipality, it projects a strong civic image. Accessible and close to the ground, in dialogue with both the citizen and its territory, the new city hall symbolizes community, pride and participation in collective life. The architecture of the new city hall alludes to the archetype of the classical temple whose form is associated with the birth of democracy. White on white, the building evokes clarity, honesty and freedom of expression - values essential to the proper functioning of civil society. Luminous and unadorned, the building blends into the northern landscape of the Ottawa Valley.

The council chamber is suspended above the plaza and main entrance to the city hall creating a signal highly visible from neighbouring streets. Fully glazed on three facades, the chamber presents the exercise of democracy as a transparent activity. Beneath this volume a generous outdoor area offers a protected space for meetings and gatherings. The east and north facades of the building are punctuated by a white aluminum colonnade. The columns give way to white masonry on the other facades. The integration of the logo of the City of Rigaud in the masonry of the north façade adds a touch of color and identifies the municipal function of the building. Passing through the colonnade, the main entry leads directly to a foyer illuminated by a skylight. Open on two floors, the foyer extends laterally towards a corridor along the colonnade. A nordic'stoa' that offers continuous contact with the landscape, this is a privileged meeting place for citizens and administrators.

Bioclimatic Architecture

While nordicity is an essential element of the image of the city hall, the building also responds to climatic realities and provides a high level of comfort to its users. The integration of the building into the site's topography creates three levels and buries the first level on the north side. Technical rooms are located in this buried area, while the offices on the south side are distributed over three floors with natural lighting and passive solar gains offered on each level.

Based in Montreal, Affleck de la Riva has been active in the design of cultural buildings and public spaces for more than twenty years. The work of the firm grows out of a belief that quality environmental design is an agent of social change and a key element in fostering citizenship, social equity and healthy lifestyles. Rigaud City Hall is one of a trio of municipal buildings recently designed by Affleck de la Riva, including Brossard City Hall and the restoration of Montreal City Hall, a national historic monument.

PROJECT DATA SHEET

Official name of the project:	Rigaud City Hall
Type of project:	Institutional
Location:	106 rue Saint-Viateur, Rigaud, Quebec, Canada
Client:	City of Rigaud
Architects:	Affleck de la Riva
Urban design and Landscape:	Affleck de la Riva
Project architect	Gavin Affleck
Project team:	Gavin Affleck, Richard de la Riva, Daniel Guenter, Sébastien Genest, Karyne Archambault, Jan-Bathyste Goudreau, Muhidin Kadrić, Serge Gascon, Mylène Moliner-Roy
Structure and MEP engineer:	MLC et associés
General contractor:	Construction Cogela
Photographer:	Adrien Williams
Budget:	5 100 000 \$CA
Area of project:	975 m ² / 10,500 sq.ft.
Project end date:	2018

IMAGE CREDITS

Photographs

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Plans and drawings

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- 19. 03_Site Plan.jpg © Affleck de la Riva
- 20. 04_Building Plan.jpg © Affleck de la Riva

ABOUT AFFLECK DE LA RIVA

Founded in 1995 by Gavin Affleck and Richard de la Riva and based in Montreal, Canada, Affleck de la Riva Architects believe that quality environmental design is an agent of social change and a key element in fostering

citizenship, social equity, and healthy lifestyles. The firm provides services for the design and construction of institutional, commercial and residential projects and has also developed specific expertise in urban design and the restoration of historic structures.

For more than twenty years, through a wide range and scale of projects including research, competitions, and built work, Affleck de la Riva has been exploring the potential of history and landscape to generate contemporary architecture. An interest in the craft-based traditions of noble materials has led to a number of building restoration commissions, including several important historic monuments. One cannot build contemporary architecture without having assimilating the lessons of the past.

The quality of Affleck de la Riva's work has been recognized by numerous international publications (France, England, United States, Spain, China, Romania, South Korea, Turkey, etc.) and invitations to lecture in Europe and across North America. The firm is the recipient of more than twenty professional distinctions including first prize awards in three open architectural competitions, a Governor General of Canada Award, three Awards of Excellence from the Order of Architects of Quebec, and an Award of Excellence from the Canadian Architect magazine.

Gavin Affleck and Richard de la Riva are active members of Canada's architectural community. They have taught at schools of architecture across the country and contributed to numerous publications, committees and organisations.

Contact information for the media

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