

4TH EDITION: A LIBRARY FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

# MAQ YOUNG CRITIC IN ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS - DEADLINE 15 NOVEMBER 2015

The Maison de l'architecture du Québec is pleased to announce the fourth edition of the **MAQ Young Critic in Architecture Competition!**

Through an exciting association with the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC), this year the competition has expanded to include all of Canada and offers each of the two winners a **\$1,000 prize!** In addition, the winning English-language text will be published in *Canadian Architect*, while the French-language text will be featured in *Nouveau Projet*.



**RAIC | IRAC**  
Architecture Canada  
**Nouveau Projet**

**M A I S O N**  
**D E L'ARCHITECTURE**  
**D U Q U É B É C**

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The Maison de l'architecture du Québec (MAQ) is pleased to announce the fourth edition of the **MAQ Young Critic in Architecture Competition**.

The MAQ created this annual bilingual competition in 2011 in order to support and stimulate a new generation of high-calibre writing about architecture in Quebec. Through an exciting association with the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC), this year the competition has expanded to include all of Canada and offers each of the two winners a **\$1,000 prize!** In addition, the winning English-language text will be published in *Canadian Architect*, while the French-language text will be featured in *Nouveau Projet*.

This year's theme is **A Library for the Twenty-First Century**. The task is to visit and to write a critical analysis of one or more libraries built in the last five years. The competition guidelines include a list of libraries proposed by the jury as good candidates for analysis.

### Become a star of architectural criticism!

We encourage all aspiring writers aged 34 and under to participate. Participants must register online for the competition by **1 November 2015** (registration fee is \$15), and a text of 700 to 1,200 words must be submitted by email to the MAQ by **15 November 2015** at midnight (EST). The official gala presentation of the awards will take place in mid-February 2016, in Montreal.

For this fourth edition, the MAQ Young Architectural Critic Competition has the honour to welcome two new jury members, **Nicolas Langelier**, publisher and editor of Montreal's *Nouveau Projet* magazine, and Vancouver-based writer, curator, and critic **Adele Weder**. Returning jury members include **Roland Yves Carignan**, former managing editor and artistic director of *Le Devoir* (Montreal), **Sophie Gironnay**, architectural columnist and founding director of Montreal's MAQ (Montreal), **Elsa Lam**, editor of *Canadian Architect* (Toronto), and **David Theodore**, professor at McGill University and regular contributor to *Azure* and *Canadian Architect* (Montreal).

Don't delay! Check out all of the details and guidelines on the **MAQ website** in the **Competition (Concours)** section. ([maisondelarchitecture.ca/?cat=59](http://maisondelarchitecture.ca/?cat=59))

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### Guidelines

**Theme:** This year, the competition is asking entrants to write a critical analysis of one or more libraries built in the last five years, as part of a broader discussion on 21st-Century Libraries and how this new use translates architecturally. Critics should discuss issues such as constraints and challenges, and how the latter have been or should be addressed.

**Judging criteria** will include:

- Quality of the description of the object reviewed
- Research thoroughness and reference accuracy
- The ability to develop critical judgement and support the views expressed
- Stylistic clarity and quality

Participants must conduct their research and comport themselves in a professional manner throughout the process. Accurate citations and evidence of truly personal research will be considered advantages in scoring the texts.

*N.B. Participants' texts will be identified by number only to preserve the impartiality of jury members who might recognize one of their students, interns or freelancers.*

Participants should also try to tailor their texts to a non-specialized audience, as the requested piece is aimed at the general public. The text, which should ideally be around **700 words** for a media article, **must be no longer than 1,200 words**.

### Avoid these pitfalls

To help participants get off on the right foot, our jury of experts suggests trying to avoid these common pitfalls:

- Failing to provide readers with basic information or including it with errors
- Overlooking the duty to inform: who is behind this project, for whom was it created, what were its challenges, and what was the outcome?
- Merely providing information, without any critical analysis
- Confusing humour and analytical criticism
- Forgetting to describe and show what the text goes on to praise or critique
- Repeating what the architect or other sources say without doing your own research
- Discussing something else and going off topic
- Putting the readership to sleep!

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### Eligible Libraries

The jury suggests the following buildings:

- Millwood Library, Edmonton (HCMA Architecture + Design / Dub Architects Ltd.)
- Jasper Place Library, Edmonton (HCMA Architecture + Design / Dub Architects Ltd.)
- Scarborough Civic Centre Branch Library (LGA Architectural Partners)
- Kitchener Central Library (LGA Architectural Partners)
- Beaverbrook Branch Library, Ottawa (Moriyama & Teshima Architects)
- Mount Dennis Branch Library, Toronto (G. Bruce Stratton Architects)
- Bibliothèque Monique-Corriveau, Québec (Dan Hanganu Architectes)
- Bibliothèque du Boisé, Montréal (Cardinal Hardy Architectes / Labonté Marcil / Éric Pelletier Architecte)
- Bibliothèque Marc-Favreau, Montréal (Dan Hanganu Architectes)
- Bibliothèque Raymond-Lévesque, Longueuil (Manon Asselin / Jodoin Lamarre Pratte Architectes)
- Bibliothèque Saul-Bellow, Montréal (Chevalier Moralès Architectes)
- Halifax Central Library (schmidt hammer lassen architects)
- Surrey City Centre Library (Bing Thom Architects)
- Mississauga Library (RDH Architects)
- Bibliothèque Guy-Bélisle, Saint-Eustache (ACDF\* Architecture)



Bibliothèque Raymond-Lévesque,  
Manon Asselin / Jodoin Lamarre Pratte Architectes  
© Julien Perron-Gagné



Bibliothèque Monique-Corriveau  
Dan Hanganu Architectes  
© Stéphane Groleau

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### Reading List

The jury of experts also proposes that participants read leading examples in the field (list below of English texts provided by David Theodore, who also suggests reading Tim Abrahams in *Blueprint* and Blair Kamin of the *Chicago Tribune*):

Paul Goldberger, *New Yorker*  
[www.newyorker.com/magazine/2011/03/07/gracious-living-paul-goldberger](http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2011/03/07/gracious-living-paul-goldberger)

Christopher Hawthorne, *LA Times*  
[articles.latimes.com/2013/mar/26/entertainment/la-et-cm-perot-museum-20130326](http://articles.latimes.com/2013/mar/26/entertainment/la-et-cm-perot-museum-20130326)

Alexandra Lange, *Design Observer*, *New York Times*  
[www.architectmagazine.com/design/bruce-c-bolling-municipal-building-designed-by-mecanoo-and-sasaki\\_o](http://www.architectmagazine.com/design/bruce-c-bolling-municipal-building-designed-by-mecanoo-and-sasaki_o)  
(see also Alexandra Lange's *Writing About Architecture*, Princeton Architectural Press, New York, 2012)

Douglas Murphy, *Icon*  
[www.iconeye.com/architecture/features/item/11441-frank-gehry-s-louis-vuitton-foundation](http://www.iconeye.com/architecture/features/item/11441-frank-gehry-s-louis-vuitton-foundation)

Lee Rosenbaum, *The Wall Street Journal*  
[www.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303653004579209780961751384](http://www.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303653004579209780961751384)

Witold Rybczynski, *The Walrus*  
[thewalrus.ca/a-humble-architect/](http://thewalrus.ca/a-humble-architect/)

Herbert Muschamp, *New York Times*  
[www.nytimes.com/2004/05/16/arts/architecture-the-library-that-puts-on-fishnets-and-hits-the-disco.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2004/05/16/arts/architecture-the-library-that-puts-on-fishnets-and-hits-the-disco.html)

Adele Weder, *The Walrus*  
[thewalrus.ca/faulty-tower/](http://thewalrus.ca/faulty-tower/)



Bibliothèque Guy-Bélisle  
ACDF\* Architecture  
© James Brittain

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