

- Home
- 2009 Product Guide
- Subscriber Services
- FREE News Alert
- Headline News
- Digital Edition
- Archives
- Press Release Wires
- Events
- Resources
- Advertisers Index
- Buyers' Guide
- Careers/Classifieds
- Best of Canada
- Competitions
- Media Kit
- About Us
- Contact Us
- Reprints

**Daily News Tuesday, March 31, 2009**

**Winners announced in Lighting Up the Gesù Contest**

Mathieu Koch, David-Alexandre Côté and Steve Blanchette, three Montreal designers, have won the first prize in the ideas competition for the illumination of the Gesù facade, for their sensitive proposal, entitled "Rencontre sur les marches de l'église." The setting for the lighting of the first "electric candle" in Canada, the Gesù is Montreal's only entirely baroque church and houses the oldest operating performance hall in Quebec. The competition invited creators to submit their ideas for architectural and scenographic lighting that express this building's living heritage.

As part of the contest organized by the Quartier des spectacles Partnership, the Gesù and the City of Montreal's Design Montréal agency, the jury chose from among 37 entries submitted by a wide array of creators (architects, designers, students, etc.) from three continents. The entry from BCK design, a firm founded by UQAM environmental design graduates Mathieu Koch, David-Alexandre Côté and Steve Blanchette, drew the attention of the jury with its evocation of the soft and fragile glow of candlelight. They were awarded the \$10,000 first prize in the contest.

The \$5,000 second prize went to Martin Labrecque and Jean Laurin, both Montreal-based lighting designers, for their submission "Deux mondes, un lieu". James Long and Athena N. Anders, architects from New York, won the \$3,000 third prize for "Light Shadow Dream". The members of the jury recognized the distinctive theatricality with which both of these submissions revealed the spirit of place present at the Gesù.

As a site of activity in both the artistic and the spiritual domains, the Gesù brings together a diverse public. So that this public could become a valued participant in the project, the Lighting Up the Gesù exhibition was open to visitors from January 20. An impressive number of people took the opportunity to vote for their favorite submission, with 1,000 of the 13,000 total visitors choosing to fill out a ballot and make their voice heard.

The results of the public vote were generally in accord with the choices of the jury. From the six submissions that received the most votes, the \$2,000 public's choice award went to Jonathan Barro and Stéphane Caissy of Montreal, the creators of "Gesù architectural."

"The City of Montreal and the Montreal, cultural metropolis – November 2007 Rendez-vous partners agreed to promote design and architectural excellence, and to make extensive use of competitions. Internationally, these processes have promoted the emulation of ideas and allowed stakeholders to compare various concepts and make a clear choice. The three partners in the ideas competition for the illumination of the Gesù façade made exemplary use of the competition approach, and succeeded in attracting interest from designers all over the world and the wider public" said André Lavallée, who is responsible for urban planning and development and public transport for the City of Montreal Executive Committee.

"This competition will allow the Gesù to reclaim its own history and identity, in all its artistic and spiritual complexity. The call went out, and creatives and citizens answered it! We felt how much the Gesù is a part of the living, collective memory of Quebec's people. The challenge is to keep this important place of creation and reflection from becoming just an architectural relic" declared Gabriel Côté, Gesù executive director.

[More Headlines](#) | [Personalized News Alerts](#) | [Top of Page](#)

-  [PRINTER VERSION](#)
-  [EMAIL ARTICLE TO A FRIEND](#)
-  [COMMENT ON THIS ARTICLE](#)
-  [PERSONAL NEWS ALERTS](#)

Related Items

**Articles**

[General News](#)

Photos In This Story



Winning proposal from Mathieu Koch, David-Alexandre CÔTÉ & Steve Blanchette.

[Full caption and actual photo size](#)