

Paul Laurendeau lives and works in Montreal, graduated from McGill University's School of Architecture in 1991, spent four years in Paris and London broadening his professional scope, and opened his practice in 1995. He has been busy since with small (under 60,000-sq.-ft.) residential, entertainment, office and interior design projects. But architects don't have to resign themselves to being locked into modestly scaled work.

Laurendeau, for example, won a competition in February to design the Dolbeau-Mistassini Theatre in Quebec City (in a consortium with Jodoin Lamarre Pratte et Associés Architectes), which for him means "having to define for the first time architectural volumes. It's an \$8-million, 500-seat theatre and performance space under construction and expected to open in two years.

"The building consists of a series of black symmetrically aligned spaces," he explains. Laurendeau was a finalist for the Order of Architects of Quebec (OAQ) 2005 Prize of Excellence, in the category event design, and won an OAQ 2003 Prize of Excellence in the restoration and conversion category for the project Fashionlab.

Laurendeau says he works with clients in the arts business or those having "close affinities with his design convictions of giving primacy to spatial organization with the use of symmetry, axes, repetition and vertigo, put in form with natural materials that age well."



Laurendeau earned a place as an OAQ Prize of Excellence 2005 finalist for this "Architecture-Sceneography" event/exhibition staged as part of the 2004 Desert festival, held by Montreal arts group Champ Libre.