

International Conference
October 7-11 2009

Religious Houses: A Legacy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Organized by:

Conseil du
patrimoine
religieux
du Québec

– International Conference –

Religious Houses: A Legacy

Montréal and Québec City, October 7-11, 2009

CHAIRE

de recherche du Canada
en patrimoine urbain
ESG UQAM

Montréal, July 13, 2009 – The Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec, the Canada Research Chair on Urban Heritage (ESG UQAM), Concordia University and the Institut du patrimoine (UQAM) have joined forces with several partners in organizing the conference Religious Houses: A Legacy. This event will take place in Montreal from October 7 to 9, 2009, and Quebec City on October 10 and 11, 2009.

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Université du Québec à Montréal

In this era of abandonment of historical religious traditions, the convents, monasteries and abbeys scattered across our rural and urban landscapes are in danger of becoming escheated properties. The communities who built them, lived in them and have thus far ensured their survival now lack the means to bear the burden of their heritage value, imposed by civil society's affection for these imposing buildings, and their gardens, so coveted by developers. What is to be done with this rich, weighty legacy?

Faced with a “heritage big bang,” requiring funds that governments are unable to provide, the Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec, the Canada Research Chair on Urban Heritage (UQAM), Concordia University and the Institut du patrimoine (UQAM) have joined forces with several partners to organize the international conference *Religious Houses: A Legacy*. The event will be held in Montréal from October 7 to 9, 2009, and in Québec City on October 10 and 11, 2009.

To this end, the conference will attempt to bring together researchers, professionals and decision-makers from North America and Europe, who have shown particular ability to assess or implement new and original solutions, or who, through historical or epistemological reflections on the problems arising in the secularization, conversion, or governance of former religious houses, are able to contribute to a discussion of the financial, legal, urban planning or memorial implications of changes in the vocation of religious houses and their redevelopment.

Organization

Revolving around three themes—*ownership*, *use* and *memory*—and the issues they raise, the conference will be an opportunity to assemble, confront, assess, and verify the theoretical and practical feasibility of our proposals, which, both historically and for today, break new ground regarding the conversion and management of religious houses. Because this involves confronting the experiences of researchers, decision makers and professionals, the work of the conference will be structured into **panels focused on one of the three themes, poster presentations and screenings of documentaries** about conversion of religious houses.

Partnership with the Belles Soirées de l'Université de Montréal

Université de Montréal's *Belles Soirées* lecture series, a partner in the international conference *Religious Houses: A Legacy*, will host a Major Lecture by Dr. Thomas Coomans (Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium), who will profile a number of international treasures for his audience. Tickets for the lecture, which takes place at Université de Montréal (3200 Jean-Brillant Street) on Thursday, October 8, 2009 (7:30–9:30 p.m.), are available to conference attendees at the special rate of \$10.

Invited speakers

Several speakers will address include:

- Catarina Almeida Marado (Universidade do Algarve, Portugal), *Former Convents in Algarve, Portugal: Location and Reuse*.
- Maria Angelica DaSilva et Ana Claudia Vasconcellos (Federal University of Alagoas, Brazil), *Religious Vocation and Secular Demands: New Perspectives for the Franciscan Convent of Saint Mary Magdalene, Northeastern Brazil*.
- Martin Drouin (Institut du patrimoine–UQAM, Canada), *The Struggles to Protect Religious Houses in the 1970s and the Development of Heritage Awareness in Québec*.
- Martin Dubois (Patri-Arch, Canada), *Knowledge of the Built Heritage of Québec City's Religious Orders as a Planning Tool*.
- Anne Fornerod (CNRS Strasbourg, France), *Building a Partnership for Cultural Presentation of Convent and Monastery Heritage*.
- Jeremy Gragert et Aaron Brewster (University of Wisconsin, USA), *A New Generation and a New Course for St. Bede Monastery*.
- Marc Lacasse (Univers culturel de Saint-Sulpice/Comité des archives du Conseil du patrimoine religieux du Québec, Canada), *The Heritage of Religious Archives in Québec: Issues and Perspectives*.
- Jean-Michel Leniaud (École pratique des hautes études, France), *Death and Rebirth of the Former Royal Abbey at Royaumont*.
- Marie Lessard (Conseil du patrimoine de Montréal, Canada), *The Interest and Limitations of the Urban Planning System in Preservation of Heritage Convents: Two Case Studies of Repurposing in Montreal*.
- Ana Magdalena Lozano Santín (Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes, Mexico), *The Mexican Experience in Reutilization and Adaptation of Religious Houses*.
- Pierre Lucier (INRS – Urbanisation, Culture et Société, Canada), *Spiritual Traditions and the Spirit of Place*.
- Tania Martin et François Dufaux (Université Laval, Canada), *Some Hypotheses on a Conventual Heritage Trust: The Physical, Social and Economic Development of the Pères de l'Assomption Monastery in Sillery*.
- Nico Nelissen (Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands), *Religious Houses: A Legacy with(out) a Future?*
- Laurier Turgeon et Louise Saint-Pierre (Canada Research Chair on Ethnological Heritage – Université Laval, Canada), *The Oral Memory of Québec's Convents: Preservation and Presentation*.

In keeping with the organizers' wish to reach a wider audience, the event will be held at Concordia University, Montréal (October 7 to 9, 2009) and at the École des Ursulines, Québec City (October 10 and 11, 2009). Different registration packages are available, at a cost ranging from \$45 to \$150 depending on attendees' choice of activities. Please note that simultaneous interpretation service will be offered in both official languages.

For more information, or to register online, please visit the conference website at:
www.colloquepatrimoinereligieux.qc.ca.