



## CANADA'S NEW EMBASSY IN BERLIN: OVERVIEW

*In April 2005, Canada will officially open a new building designed to house Canada's Embassy in Berlin, Germany. Located in the heart of the city, the Embassy has been designed and built to reflect Germany's importance to Canada as a G8 partner and a central player in the European Union.*

- The Embassy's site is rich in historic significance. Located on what was once "no-man's land" beside the Berlin wall (a remnant of which remains near the Embassy's entrance), the Embassy now literally offers a bridge between old East and West Berlin, with an internal pedestrian passage providing access from the busy, commercial Ebertstrasse to the historic Leipziger Platz.
- The Embassy's architectural design, created by the team of **Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg** (Toronto), **Gagnon Letellier Cyr** (Quebec City), and **Smith Carter** (Winnipeg) reflects Canadian creativity and qualities of openness, innovation and diversity. The Embassy's interior architectural design is by **HOK/Urbana** (Ottawa-Berlin).
- The building integrates five major pieces of artwork by distinguished Canadian artists. Works include a black granite floor inlaid with the shape of a river made from coloured granite and quartzite; weather patterns on glass fritted walls; a 6.4-metre suspended bronze canoe; a room-size metal and glass compass ring suspended from the ceiling of the magnificent Timber Hall; and a digital photographic image of autumn woodlands imprinted on vinyl and applied to 14-metre louvres.
- Cutting-edge, environmentally friendly technologies and materials, responding to German planning guidelines with Canadian ingenuity, minimize the building's energy costs and heat loss while maximizing users' access to natural light and air.
- A "green roof" was one of Berlin's environmental planning requirements. Designed by Berlin-born Canadian landscape architect Cornelia Oberlander with a stone "waterway" in the shape of the Mackenzie Delta running through it, the building is beginning to be known to Berliners as "the Embassy with the river on top."
- Canadian technological and intellectual creativity is on display for the German public in a multimedia centre incorporating interactive kiosks, wireless Internet access and exhibits where people can learn more about Canada.
- A lively program of public events on culture, politics and other topics is planned for the Embassy's new auditorium and conference facility, to further Canada's relationship with Germany and Berlin—one of the world's most important cultural centres.

- One of the highlights of the cultural program is the screening of films by award-winning young Canadian filmmakers in one of the busiest public passageways of the Embassy. The six films are the winners of a competition launched by the Embassy for film students across Canada to create films on the theme of “Canada: The Innovation Nation.”
- Built as a public-private partnership, and incorporating commercial and residential space into the total building envelope, the Embassy both fits into Berlin’s plans for revitalizing its city centre and meets Canada’s requirements for cost efficiency in constructing a new Embassy in one of the world’s most important capitals.

*Tours of the building and interviews can be arranged upon request. Additional background information is also available.*

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