

Press Release

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Old Montréal Lighting Plan and the Illuminating Engineering Society

The Architectural Lighting of the Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel Wins a Prestigious Award

Montréal –Éclairage public and the company's lighting designer, Gilles Arpin, architects Cardinal Hardy and the Environment, Roads and Infrastructure Department of the Ville de Montréal have won the award for the best architectural and prestige lighting in Quebec, for the exceptional way in which they showcased the Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel in Old Montréal. The award was presented by the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES), an international group of experts and firms specializing in the lighting of buildings and public places.

The Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel has always been an important pilgrimage site and a key part of Montréal's heritage. It was built of wood in 1655, at the urging of Marguerite Bourgeoys, and then of stone in 1675. After it was destroyed in the great fire in 1754, it was rebuilt in 1771.

A refined concept

The designers chose to take a nuanced approach to revealing the Chapel's presence for pedestrians, by illuminating the stained glass and the texture of the materials, while the bell tower, musician angels and the Virgin are all silhouetted against the night sky.

This tribute in light to the Chapel underscores the beauty of its Classical Revival northern façade and its Baroque southern façade. While the Chapel has been hemmed in by neighbouring buildings over the years, now the light and colour create a landmark and a welcoming sense of serenity.

The architectural lighting of the Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel is part of the Old Montréal Lighting Plan, produced jointly by the the Ville de Montréal and the ministère de la Culture et des Communications du Québec. The purpose of the investment is to showcase the architectural heritage and public places of Old Montréal using light. It also means greater safety for pedestrians and adds to the pleasure of strolling through the historic district in the evening, for Montrealers and the hundreds of thousands of tourists and visitors.

This is the second award from the IES for the Old Montréal Lighting Plan. The lighting of Montréal City Hall received an award in 2001. This year's winner, the lighting of the Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel, will soon be competing in the Canadian finals, in Toronto.

Source

Robert Perron
Société de développement de Montréal
(514) 872-1546

Colette Proulx
Ministère de la Culture
et des Communications du Québec
(514) 873-2979