

Chevalier Morales, Formline Architecture and Architecture49 to design the New Central Library in Saskatoon

The Montreal architectural firm is part of the consortium mandated to realize this important cultural project for Saskatchewan building upon the momentum established by other Canadian central libraries erected in recent years.

Montreal, November 17th, 2020 – The Canadian consortium of architects Formline Architecture | Chevalier Morales | Architecture49 was selected to design the New Central Library in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Recognized for its expertise in 21st century library architecture, the Quebec firm Chevalier Morales will design the project in collaboration with Alfred Waugh of Formline Architecture, a 100% Indigenous owned firm from Vancouver that specializes in culturally sensitive and environmentally responsible design solutions, while Architecture49 of Winnipeg, a national practice with a depth of experience in large-scale projects, will be responsible for the overall management of the design team and project. The consortium won an international request for proposals launched this past September, where several notable names in the world of contemporary architecture responded.

This is the first major public commission located outside of Quebec for Chevalier Morales. The office has made a name for itself in recent years with the *Maison de la littérature* library project in Quebec City and the new public library in the city of Drummondville by winning the *Ordre des architectes du Québec (OAQ) Grand Prix d'excellence* in 2017 and 2019 as well as two Governor General's Medals awarded by the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC) and the Canada Council for the Arts in 2018 and 2020. The firm was also the recipient of the 2018 RAIC Emerging Architectural Practice Award, a prize awarded annually to a young architectural firm that consistently produces high-quality architecture. Founded in 2005, Chevalier Morales now has 30 employees and continues to grow as the Saskatoon New Central Library project is added to their portfolio of mandates.

The New Central Library of Saskatoon will be an anchor project, not only for the city and its already dynamic and frequented network of libraries, but equally for Canada, as the library's vision aligns with advocating for and advancing reconciliation with the First Nations and Métis peoples of Canada. The buildings of Saskatoon Public Library (SPL) reside on Treaty 6 territory and the homelands of the Métis, and as such the project hopes to reduce the inequalities and social isolation experienced by several groups of citizens. The project aims for excellence by incorporating among other things, the following elements:

- Integrating the perspectives of both First Nations and Métis culture into the design;
- Incorporating indoor and outdoor greenery;
- Designing spaces dedicated to learning and innovation;
- Including a significantly larger collection of physical library materials;
- Exceeding regulatory standards related to universal accessibility;
- Obtaining LEED Gold certification.

With an approximate construction budget of \$75 million, this culturally innovative project will span several years, with an opening slated for 2026.

Over the coming years, Chevalier Morales is excited to contribute to this iconic Canadian project through its expertise in the design and programming of unique cultural spaces. Moreover, Formline Architecture | Chevalier Morales | Architecture49 recognizes: "It is critical to capture the essence of people and place of Saskatoon and the broader region to make the new library an exemplarity model of reconciliation, sustainability and universal accessibility. "

For their part, Stephan Chevalier and Sergio Morale say they are up for the challenge thanks to the experience the firm has acquired over the years, and the skills and rigorous work of their entire team.

Chevalier Morales

About Chevalier Morales

Founded in 2005 by Stephan Chevalier and Sergio Morales, the firm strives to create a contemporary architecture that is both sensitive and responsible. They continually re-examine their understanding of the larger context, to give rise to an architecture that is rooted in its own cultural territory.

The firm is recognized for the exceptional quality of their projects; they have been selected as finalists in more than fifteen architectural competitions and have won several institutional and cultural mandates such as the Saul-Bellow Public Library (Montreal, 2015), the *Maison de la littérature* (Quebec, 2016), the Drummondville Public Library (2018), the Pierrefonds Public Library (Montreal, 2019) and more recently the Agora des Arts in Rouyn-Noranda. In recent years, the work of Chevalier Morales has been recognized through numerous prizes and distinctions, while the firm was awarded the 2018 Emerging Architectural Practice Award, a prize awarded annually by the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC). Chevalier Morales is also the recipient of two Canadian Architect Awards of Excellence, two Governor General's Medals in Architecture and two *Grands Prix d'excellence* from the *Ordre des architectes du Québec*. The Montreal-based firm is now well established and counts 30 architects and collaborators.

chevaliermorales.com

About Formline Architecture

Formline Architecture is an award-winning architecture firm located in West Vancouver with clients throughout the Northwest Pacific Region. The company is founded by Alfred Waugh one of the few registered First Nations Architects in Canada. The studio specializes in working on environmentally responsible and culturally sensitive projects that reflect and reinforce the values and visions of the client. Formline's specialty lies in building custom cultural and innovative wood buildings, structures and installations that celebrate and elevate the local values and ambitions of the individual client or greater community at large. When working with communities, Formline strives to include a diverse array of members in the design process to ensure that the building is cherished by, and functional for all.

formline.ca

About Architecture49

Architecture49 is a Winnipeg-based national practice with a depth of experience in the design and delivery of some of Canada's most important buildings. With ten offices and a staff of over 250 architects, interior designers, planners, landscape architects and sustainability experts, Architecture49 harnesses the strength of a multi-disciplinary view to influence design that is culturally, environmentally and geographically sensitive to the varied and unique characteristics of Canada and its clients. One of Architecture49's strengths is their ability to work with large teams to deliver practical, pragmatic solutions for challenging iconic projects using a well-developed delivery and quality control system. They have a strong portfolio of sustainable projects, including LEED Platinum Certifications

architecture49.com

About Saskatoon Public Library and the New Central Library

Saskatoon Public Library (SPL) is a publicly funded library system established in 1913 that has nine branches across Saskatoon. SPL promotes values of intellectual freedom, free and equitable access, innovation, and diversity and inclusion. SPL envisions the New Central Library to be infused with the spirit of their community, Treaty 6 territory and the homelands of the Métis, and become a source of inspiration and pride for those who call Saskatoon home. As this multi-year project continues there will be opportunities for the public to provide input and inspiration in the design of the new library.

saskatooncentrallibrary.ca

- 30 -

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