



David Chipperfield Architects

Press release

16 May 2022

Zeidler and DCA scheme selected for Canadian Parliamentary Precinct redevelopment

Following an international design competition, the Canadian Ministry of Public Services and Procurement today announced the selection of Zeidler Architecture Inc. in association with David Chipperfield Architects as the competition Laureate for Block 2 of Canada's Parliamentary Precinct.

Block 2 is a prominent urban block located immediately south of Parliament Hill in downtown Ottawa, opposite Canada's main Parliament building. The site encompasses eleven buildings of varying size and condition with several layers of heritage designation.

The competition called for proposals to redevelop the block to provide office space for the Senate and the House of Commons and allow for the future consolidation of parliamentary accommodations, including space for the Library of Parliament.

As a site of national importance, the project carries a responsibility not only to provide the facilities for democratic government and urban infrastructure, but also to represent the values of a nation and a vision for its sustainable and inclusive future.

Inspired by indigenous values of respect and of good stewardship, David Chipperfield Architects and Zeidler's scheme embraces the challenges of sustainability and of a circular economy, retaining most of the existing structures and combining them with new low-carbon, efficient buildings to create a diverse, characterful, yet coherent whole.

The proposal was developed in collaboration with Atelier Ten, Bureau Bas Smets, Two Row Architect, EVOQ Architecture, Brian Boylan, Read Jones Christoffersen, Smith and Andersen Consulting Engineering, S+A Footprint and Senex Co.

Vaidila Banelis, Senior Partner, Zeidler Architecture, said: "As Canadians and as architects, we recognize the privilege of being able to craft a design on a site with national significance. This is a rare opportunity, and our entire team understand the responsibility of representing the Canadian government and the Canadian people. Our vision is purpose-led and people-led, uniquely Canadian and contemporary in style for a nation that is confident in itself and its future – a future that demonstrates the best that Canada can be: inclusive, accepting of difference, resilient and in harmony with nature."

David Chipperfield, Principal, David Chipperfield Architects, said: "Through this project we have sought to develop an urban and architectural response that is both respectful and radical, embracing the past and looking to the future, motivated by concerns for the environment and the ideals of community. We are grateful to the jury for recognising the values of our scheme. It has been a rigorous, stimulating and enjoyable competition and we look forward to working with the Government of Canada on the next stage of the process."

David Chipperfield Architects

Notes to editors

About the project

Block 2 is located immediately south of Parliament Hill in downtown Ottawa. It faces the grand Gothic Revival buildings of Canada's Parliament, defines the fourth side of the Parliamentary Lawn and marks the threshold between this symbolic civic space and the city. Bounded by Metcalfe, Wellington, O'Connor and Sparks streets, the site encompasses eleven buildings of varying size and condition with several layers of heritage designation.

The redesigned block will provide office space for the Senate and the House of Commons and will allow for the future consolidation of parliamentary accommodations, including space for the Library of Parliament. It will also include renovated retail space on the Sparks Street Mall. As a site of national importance, the project carries a responsibility not only to provide the facilities for democratic government and urban infrastructure, but also to represent the values of a nation and a vision for its sustainable and inclusive future.

The Indigenous Peoples' Space, a building not part of the redevelopment scheme, sits in the centre of the block. The project proposes a new public square adjacent to this building and on axis with the Peace Tower, an open space to promote dialogue between Parliamentarians, the Indigenous community and the wider public.

Stewardship of the land and resources is a concept embedded in Indigenous culture. It is also a tenet of good governance, sustainability and heritage conservation, and the basis for a design approach of minimal intervention and maximum retention for Block 2. Throughout the site, demolition is largely avoided, and new elements are designed for the circular economy, incorporating recycled materials such as reclaimed copper in the facade, with new materials designed for disassembly and future reuse. The development will be net zero for carbon emissions, incorporating a timber frame, highly insulated facades, and on-site renewable energy generation.

Across the block, historical structures are woven together with new low-carbon, efficient buildings to create a diverse, characterful, yet coherent whole. This is facilitated by a simple floorplan on both the east and west sides of the block. The six buildings of Block 2 East, containing offices for the Senate of Canada and two large committee rooms, are connected by communal spaces with wintergardens. The five buildings of Block 2 West, containing offices for Members of Parliament, are connected by the Garden Atrium – a covered courtyard that functions as a shared social space and acts as a thermal buffer to protect the existing buildings from the extreme Ottawa climate and provide a healthy working environment within.



David Chipperfield Architects

About Zeidler Architecture

Zeidler Architecture is a leading Canadian architectural practice with a portfolio of award-winning, inspiring work that fosters social engagement, facilitates excellence and delivers enduring value. For over 65 years, our team of architects, interior designers and planners have been creating exceptional spaces that bring people together.

With offices in Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver and Victoria, we collaborate nationally to deliver high-quality work with great design ambition. The diversity of our experience across both public and private sectors enables us to provide tailored approaches that are responsive to each project's needs.

We are passionate, curious designers. We create places that are economically and environmentally resilient, helping our clients build their legacy through impactful developments.

About David Chipperfield Architects

David Chipperfield Architects was founded in London by David Chipperfield in 1985. The practice's diverse international body of work includes cultural, residential, commercial and educational buildings and spaces for both the private and public sectors, as well as civic projects and urban masterplans.

Offices in London, Berlin, Milan and Shanghai, contribute to the wide range of projects and typologies. Together, the four offices drive common architectural ambitions and share a commitment to the collaborative aspect of creating architecture.

The practice's work is characterised by meticulous attention to the concept and details of every project, and a relentless focus on refining design ideas to arrive at a solution which is architecturally, socially, and intellectually coherent.

For further information, please contact

Olivia Lawrence Bright at David Chipperfield Architects media@davidchipperfield.co.uk

Natasha Basacchi at Zeidler nbasacchi@zeidler.com