

THE HOME TEAM'S NEW HOME SWEET HOME

Le Centre Molson is Montreal's new multi-functional sports and performing arts center and home of the National Hockey League's Montreal Canadiens.

by Louis-H. Couillard and Natasha Calandrino



Have you ever been to Montreal during a blizzard? It can get pretty scary, especially if you're not crazy about ice, snow, and howling Arctic winds. Canadians are used to all that, so it's not surprising that ice hockey is the

national sport. Picture the city in mid-blizzard, totally paralyzed under two feet of snow so far, the streets and highways impassable and even the famous Montreal Metro knocked out of service.

Do you think tonight's hockey game will be canceled because the public can't get there? ARE YOU KIDDING? Montrealers will snowmobile there, ski there, sled there, skate there or snowshoe there rather than miss seeing the Montreal Canadiens NHL hockey team! "Les Canadiens" have been many times winners of the Stanley Cup, ice-hockey's ultimate trophy.

The Canadiens are owned by Molson Breweries, Canada's oldest, which are located in Montreal. For decades the team's home base was the venerable Montreal Forum. But in 1988 Ronald Corey, the President of the team, had a vision: a new home for the Canadiens that would be more than just another hockey arena. For more than 300 years the Molson family has contributed to the

artistic, historic and economic development of both Montreal and the Province of Quebec as a whole. Continuing this tradition, Le Centre Molson would endow not only hockey fans but the entire city with a multi-functional sports and performing arts center that would be easily accessible and centrally located in the core of downtown Montreal.

In 1991, the first zoning and permit studies were initiated and an agreement was reached with Marathon Realities, the sister company of CP Rail and fully owned subsidiary of CP LTD, for the 189,000 square foot (17,600 m²) CP Rail land site immediately adjacent to the old Windsor Station heritage building, a subway and mass transit terminal.

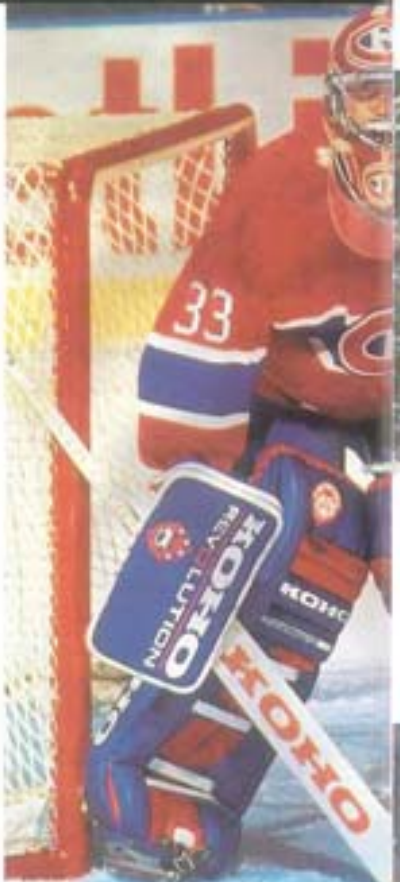
In 1993 plans were drawn up for the new 21,000 seat amphitheater hockey arena equipped with a fully automated retractable stage to accommodate such major musical and theatrical performances as the Rolling Stones, Pavarotti and Walt Disney Productions. All architectural services were provided by Les Architectes Lemay & Associés, a prominent local architectural firm with offices in Montreal and Quebec City.

PHOTO 1



Photo 1
Work begins on the new amphitheater

Photos 2 and 3
Some preliminary tests are performed on the damaged concrete floors before applying EPOBOND 30* (called EPORIP in Europe)





The main general contract, consisting of approximately 75% of the total cost, was awarded to

Magil Construction and the remaining 25% to Pomerleau, the two largest and most prominent construction firms in Montreal, for a global price of Can.\$172,000,000, not including the costs of demolition, excavation and other obligations which were contracted out separately for an additional \$28,000,000. Excavation and other preparatory work were started in October 1993.

During the winter of 1994-1995, just at the time when the concrete structural floors were being poured, an unfortunate and sudden severe cold spell hit the city, causing serious surface damage to some of the concrete floors. The damage was causing long delays, putting the already tight deadline for the completion date in serious jeopardy. They required the general contractor to call upon a specialized concrete flooring contractor, Les Planchers de Béton Candussi Ltée. of Montreal to come in and make the necessary repairs. While exploring the required corrective action,

Mike Candussi together with Alain Dion of Geroquip Inc, an important Mapei distributor, decided that the only solution to complete the work in time to meet the critical deadline was to use Mapei's EPOBOND 30 and PLANITOP 10 for thin surface repairs, and QUICKCEM TOP 102 and 202 where more important buildups up to 2" (50 mm) thick were required.

EPOBOND 30 (called EPORIP in Europe) is a two-part epoxy adhesive for new on old concrete and monolithic sealing of cracks and screeds.

PLANITOP 10 (called NIVORAPID in Europe) is a fast-drying cementitious leveling compound. QUICKCEM TOP 102 and 202 are cementitious mortars for surface repairs of damaged industrial floors. These products do not crack, even when they are not cured in moist environments.

Only when the contractors were sure that the floors were safe and reliable from a technical standpoint could the work proceed. The building is ten stories high and includes:

- 135 VIP boxes (Loggias) whose floors were clad with 6500 square feet ($\pm 600 \text{ m}^2$) of 6" x 12" (150 x 300 mm) Nero Impala natural granite supplied and installed by G. B. Ciot and Co. Ltd. using KERABOND + KERALASTIC



PHOTO 4



PHOTO 5



PHOTO 6



(called ISOLASTIC in Europe), a flexible adhesive for the installation of all types of ceramic tile and natural stone.

- 10,000 square feet ($\pm 930 \text{ m}^2$) of Dal-Tile's 1" x 1" (25 x 25 mm) mosaics and more than 25,000 square feet ($\pm 2,325 \text{ m}^2$) of Caesar's 8" x 8" (200 x 200 mm) and 12" x 12" (300 x 300 mm) porcelain tiles were installed throughout the building. All tiles, mosaics and granite were installed with Mapei products supplied by Ciot Imports, Ltd. KERABOND + KERALASTIC (called ISOLASTIC in



Europe) was used to set the mosaics which were then grouted with ULTRA/COLOR, a cementitious grout for joints 2 to 20 mm thick in ceramic and mosaic tile installations.

Photo 4
PLANITOP 10* (called NIVORAPID in Europe) is trowelled on to seal the surface cracks in the concrete

PHOTO 7



Photo 5
The surface is treated with EPOBOND 30* (called EPORIP in Europe) to improve bonding prior to repairing the cracks with QUICKCEM TOP 102*

PHOTO 8



Photo 6
QUICKCEM TOP 102* is applied to the concrete floor that was previously treated with EPOBOND 30 (called EPORIP in Europe)

Photo 7
Striking off the QUICKCEM TOP 102* and QUICKCEM TOP 202*



PHOTO 9

Photo 8
Float finishing the
cementitious mortar

Photo 9
Mosaic tiles in the
players' locker rooms
were grouted with
ULTRA/COLOR

Photo 10
Using a finishing
machine on the
concrete floors

Photo 11
6500 square feet (\pm
600 m²) of granite was
installed in the 135
VIP Loggias and
10,000 square feet of
porcelain tiles were set
in other areas of the
building using
KERABOND+
KERALASTIC (called
ISOLASTIC in
Europe)



PHOTO 10



Photo 12
ULTRA/BOND
ECO 185*,
ULTRA/BOND
ECO 200* and
ULTRA/BOND
ECO 500*, solvent-
free products with
virtually zero
TVOC content,
were used to install
carpeting

PHOTO 11

ULTRA/COLOR's special
formula gives you tile
joints that are perfectly
uniform in color without
the formation of surface
efflorescence.

- All the Peerless carpeting
and Vinyl cove base work
throughout the building
was done by Tapitec-
Solflex with Mapei's
ULTRA/BOND ECO 185*,
ULTRA/BOND ECO 200*
and ULTRA/BOND ECO
500*. The ULTRA/BOND
ECO line for the installation of textile
floor and wall coverings features
solvent-free synthetic polymer-based
products in water dispersion which
have virtually zero TVOC content.

Two years and five months after the
first shovel of soil was moved, Le Centre
Molson was officially opened on March
16, 1996, just in time for the Stanley Cup
playoffs of the 1995-1996 season. The
players found that their facilities had
more than doubled in their new home.
"Nothing's been neglected to provide
our Montreal Canadiens NHL team
absolute comfort, and it's normal, since
our boys spend most of the hockey
season here," declared Réjean Houle, the
team's general manager. And nothing



PHOTO 12





TECHNICAL DATA

Project: Le Centre Molson, Montreal, QC, Canada

Built: 1993 to 1996

Commissioned by: Montreal Canadiens Hockey Club, owned by Molson Breweries Ltd.

Architects: Lemay & Associés

Contractors: Magil Construction and Pomerleau, Inc., Montreal

Sub-contractors:

Concrete repair: Les Planchers de Béton Candussi Ltée., Montreal

Ceramic tile and mosaics: National Ceramic & Granite Ltd., Montreal

Natural stone: G.B. Clot & Co. Ltd., Montreal

Carpet: Tapitec Solflex, Montreal

Mapei products used:

For the concrete:

QUICKCEM TOP 102*

QUICKCEM TOP 202*

EPOBOND 30*

PLANITOP*

For the ceramic tile installations:

KERABOND + KERALASTIC* (called ISOLASTIC in Europe)

KERAPOXY

ULTRA/COLOR*

For the carpet installations:

ULTRA/BOND ECO 185*

ULTRA/BOND ECO 200*

ULTRA/BOND ECO 500*

*Manufactured in North America

was neglected in providing the City of Montreal with a spectacular Sports and Performing Arts Center. Mapei wishes to join all the citizens of Montreal and Quebec in thanking and congratulating the Board of Directors of Les Canadiens and Molson Breweries for their vision. □



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**These products are manufactured by Mapei Canada Inc. and Mapei Corp (USA). Equivalent Mapei products are available in Europe, sometimes under different names.*

Photo 13

A Montreal Canadiens game in their comfortable new home

