

Montréal Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium

Fact sheet

A highly creative and environmentally friendly architectural concept, with not one but two star theatres, interactive laboratories, an exhibition room and modern public spaces, the new Planetarium will offer an immersion environment that is sure to impress visitors with its realism and encourage them to discover the fascinating world of astronomy.

At the heart of this new science museum will be multimedia shows produced by a team of dedicated astronomers and experts and designed using the latest audio and video technology. Visitors will be surrounded by dazzling starry vistas, a moving starry sky, star clusters of all ages, incredibly colourful nebulae and as-yet unsolved astronomical mysteries.

The Montréal Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium will be located on the Olympic site next to the Montréal Biodôme, leading to tremendous synergy between the two institutions. Visitors will be able to enjoy unforgettable experiences in the Biodôme's ecosystems and under the starry sky at the Planetarium.

The new building will meet platinum LEED environmental criteria and will have a creative, environmentally friendly design thanks to a two-phase international architecture competition. It will feature aluminum as much as possible and is sure to foster new partnerships with the Montréal multimedia industry.

Along with the Biodôme, Botanical Garden and Insectarium, the Planetarium is one of Montréal's Nature Museums.

TIMETABLE

The major steps are as follows:

Phases

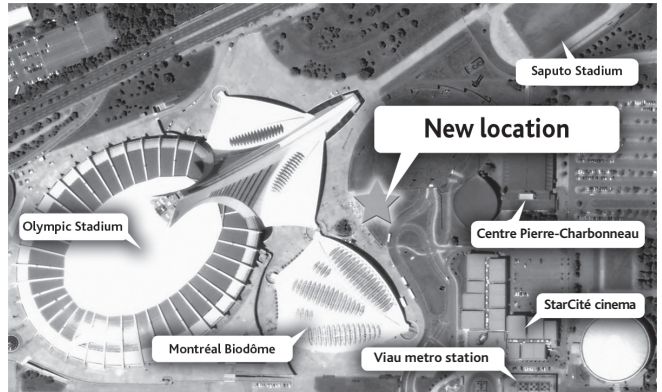
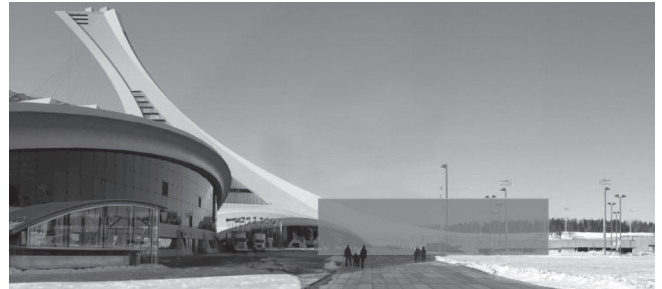
- Architectural competition
- Call for proposals – 1st phase in the competition
- 5 finalists selected by the jury
- 2nd phase in the competition – detailed concept
- Winner selected by the jury
- Plans and specifications
- Construction
- Official opening**

Preliminary schedule

- November 6, 2008
- January 2009
- February to April 2009
- May 2009
- June 2009 to May 2010
- August 2010 to March 2012
- March 2012**

PARTNERS

Rio Tinto Alcan – Ville de Montréal – Quebec government – Government of Canada



Site of the future Montréal Rio Tinto Alcan Planetarium

THE NEW PLANETARIUM IN A NUTSHELL

Size: ± 8000 m² (over three times the current size)

Expected attendance: 275,000 visitors
(more than double the current average attendance)

2 Star Theatres

- Traditional round room (diameter: 18 metres) **250**
- Inclined unidirectional room (diameter: 19 to 20 metres) **250**

Permanent exhibition room
(modules on astronomy) **400 m²**

Auditorium (multifunctional) **250**

Laboratories:

- Astronomy (activities and experimentation, 3 rooms) **180**
- Geology (meteorite collection) **35 m²**
- Computers **30**
- Multimedia (studio) **100 m²**

Documentation centre **100 m²**

Other spaces:

- Main lobby **300**
- Waiting area **500**
- Group lobby **250**
- Gift shop **150 m²**
- Three group eating areas **300**
- Restaurant **150**

Capacity:
(visitors or space)