

# ARCHITECTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN ITALY AND QUEBEC

ICCC, AMRA AND ETS organize workshop on low-energy consumption construction that respects man and the environment – and involves industry and research



ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY DWELLINGS BUILT IN CESE DI PRETURO AND BAZZANO (L'AQUILA) FOLLOWING THE EARTHQUAKE IN APRIL 2009.

In recent years, concepts like bio-compatibility, eco-sustainability and technology aimed at energy saving have become key factors in the development of our cities and towns. This has given rise to the need for a broader discussion between the scientific and business worlds on the shared approaches and terms of assessment. The international workshop on “Sustainability of the Built Environment,” held in Montreal at the end of November, originated from these assumptions. It was organized by the ICCC in collaboration with AMRA, the Italian research center based in Naples specializing in the management of environmental risks, and ETS-École de Technologie Supérieure, a network set up by the Université du Québec, specializing in applied engineering and technologies.

Participants included **Paolo Gasparini**, an authority in the seismology field and also president of AMRA, **Gaetano Manfredi**, director of the Department of Structural Engineering, University of Naples Federico II, **Luigi Nicolais**, professor of Polymer Technology and Materials Science and Technology and **Andrea Prota**, researcher at the Department of Structural Engineering at the same university, **Mauro Dolce**, director of the Office for the Assessment, Prevention and Mitigation of Seismic Risk of the Civil Defence, **Umberto Arena**, of the Faculty of Environmental Sciences of the Second University of Naples, **Marco Savoia**, professor of the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Bologna. Attending on the Canadian side were **Johanne Gélinas**, Partner, Corporate Responsibility and Sustainability, Enterprise Risk, Samson Bélair/Deloitte & Touche, **Wayne B. Trusty**, president of the Athena Sustainable Materials Institute, **Guy Favreau**, architect vice-president of Aedifica, **Yves Beauchamp**, director-general of ETS, and **André Bourassa**, president of the Québec Order of Architects. Government representatives included **Nicola Mazzocca**, Councillor for

*Innovation and Research of Regione Campania and Line Beauchamp, Québec Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development.*

One of the points which emerged during the meetings is the need for a continuous relationship between the academic world and industry. Sustainable architecture arises from a necessary combination of materials and technologies to reduce the environmental impact of a building, limiting the risks for the occupants and the management costs. Italy and Canada can be two valid, yet different, examples in this sense. Italy is a high-seismic risk country; Canada, for its part, must face very extreme climates. Materials, construction, environmental and regional engineering make a fundamental contribution and, as a result of the collaboration with partners in the construction sector, play a primary role in the research work on sustainability.

Another point is the need for common criteria of judgement. “Economically advantageous” isn’t always a synonym for “eco-friendly,” as environmentally sustainable buildings often require greater initial investment but enable successive savings.

A permanent group consisting of members of the academic and industrial sectors, researchers and members of local Italian and North American bodies will now be called to follow up on the results of the two days of work in Canada. The first steps in this direction have already been taken. AMRA will be collaborating with the Technopôle Angus, a real estate development and management company in the city of Montreal, on projects of urban revitalization – concrete collaboration that will engage the Italian academic world and Canadian industry in working side by side.

Read the entire article at [www.italplanet.it](http://www.italplanet.it)



## Architettura per uno sviluppo sostenibile, tra Italia e Quebec

Due giornate di lavori per discutere di costruzioni a basso consumo energetico, in grado di rispettare l’uomo e l’ambiente in cui sorgono. Un impegno importante, impossibile senza la collaborazione tra industria e mondo della ricerca a Montreal per il workshop, “Sustainability of the Built Environment”

Negli ultimi anni, concetti come biocompatibilità, ecosostenibilità e tecnologia rivolta al risparmio energetico, sono diventati dei fattori-chiave nello sviluppo della nostra società, e, di conseguenza, delle nostre città. Da qui, la necessità di un maggiore confronto sul tema – tra diversi Paesi, ma anche tra mondo scientifico e mondo del business – così come di approcci e di termini di valutazione condivisi.

Da questi presupposti ha avuto origine il workshop internazionale sul tema “Sustainability of the Built Environment,” che si è svolto alla fine di novembre a Montreal, organizzato dalla Camera di Commercio Italiana in Canada (CCIC) in collaborazione con AMRA, centro di ricerca italiano, con sede a Napoli, specializzato nella gestione dei rischi ambientali, e ETS-Ecole de Technologie Supérieure, una rete costituita dall’Università del Quebec specializzata in ingegneria applicata ed in tecnologie.

Uno dei punti più importanti emersi nel corso della due-giorni di incontri, è la necessità di un rapporto continuo tra mondo accademico e mondo industriale. L’architettura sostenibile nasce infatti da un’inevitabile combinazione tra materiali e tecnologie.

Su quanto emerso durante le due giornate di lavori, sarà ora chiamato a lavorare un gruppo permanente composto da esponenti del mondo accademico e industriale, da ricercatori ed esponenti di enti locali, italiani e nordamericani, che saranno incaricati di promuovere attività comuni e scambi di esperienze.

Ma primi passi in questa direzione sono già stati compiuti: l’AMRA collaborerà infatti con la Technopole Angus, un ente immobiliare della città di Montreal, per la realizzazione di progetti di rivitalizzazione urbana – una collaborazione concreta, che porterà a lavorare fianco a fianco il mondo accademico italiano e l’industria canadese.

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