Nouveau Théâtre pour le Cercle Molière

A symbolic anchor at the east end of Provencher Boulevard, the new theatre facility for the Cercle Molière will bring the street to life with light, colour and vitality. Located directly north of the existing Centre Culturel Franco-Manitobain, the building will be situated to provide maximum public exposure. The move from the modest and unassuming Théâtre de la Chapelle on St. Joseph will transform this community secret into a cultural icon for all of Winnipeg to enjoy.

The entrance to the new facility will be located immediately opposite the existing entrance to the CCFM. Patrons will be drawn in to the building through a corridor designed to resemble an actors' backstage entrance. Once they enter the lobby at the end of this corridor they find themselves "on stage" and there is a conceptual transformation from patron to actor. This dramatic gathering space, located immediately behind a louvered glass facade, will play an important role in establishing the character of the building. Here, audience members will mingle and "perform" for passers-by along Provencher, animating and bringing vitality to the east end of St. Boniface's most important promenade.

Passing through another threshold, patrons will enter the theatre house proper. Maintaining the intimacy of la Chapelle, the new theatre will be designed for small audiences of up to 125 people. With maximum flexibility in mind, non-fixed seating and platforms will be designed to allow unorthodox stage configurations as required by each production. State-of-the-art acoustic, lighting and sound systems will provide the infrastructure for a new era of exploration and artistic excellence.

The new 19,000 square foot facility is scheduled to open in the fall of 2009.

Several additional features include:

- LEED silver certification,
- a 2nd floor bridge link to the existing CCFM,
- a re-configurable 125 seat theatre house,
- 1,150 square foot rehearsal hall for full-scale stage mock-ups,
- 1,350 square foot workshop for set design and fabrication,
- storage space to accommodate sets and costumes.



Le Cercle Molière
view from Provencher Boulevard with the
Centre culturel franco-manitobain on the right

CIBINEL ARCHITECTS