

# building abroad

colloque sur le montage et le développement de projets  
d'aménagement dans le contexte international

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conference-workshop, 23-25 October 2008

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**avec la collaboration de :**

CIB W92, CIB TG63, CIB W107  
Information et recherche pour la reconstruction, i-Rec  
PMI- Montréal  
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**about grif - The IF Research Group**



**grif** studies the process-related aspects of the development of construction projects in general - and architectural projects in particular. This mission is achieved through four main activities: Research, Supervision and training in graduate studies, Consulting and Networking. The grif provides the scientific base for the programs in project management for the built environment (mgpa) of the Faculty of the Built Environment of Université de Montréal. The grif works in three main areas of research: (i) Initiation, planning and management of construction and architectural projects; (ii) Procurement and organizational design; and (iii) Housing and habitat (including post-disaster reconstruction).

**about CIB - The International Council for research and innovation in building and construction**



CIB was established in 1953 to stimulate and facilitate international cooperation and information exchange between governmental research institutes in the building sector, with an emphasis on those institutes engaged in technical fields of research. CIB has since developed into a world wide network of over 5000 experts from about 500 member organizations active in the research community, in industry or in education, who cooperate and exchange information in over 50 CIB Commissions including:

- CIB W92 is the working commission on procurement issues
- CIB W107 is the working commission on construction in developing countries
- CIB TG63 is the task group on disasters and the built environment.

**about i-Rec – Information and research for reconstruction**



i-Rec is a web-based international network focused on the study of reconstruction after disasters. i-Rec deals with information exchange between its members in order to contribute with knowledge related to building activities in situations of crisis, particularly disasters in developing countries. Every two years, i-Rec organizes an international conference and an international students competition of architectural solutions for post-disaster situations.

i-Rec creates links between more than 200 specialists in the field of post-disaster reconstruction, particularly in the areas of: architecture, engineering and construction, humanitarian aid, international development and social sciences.

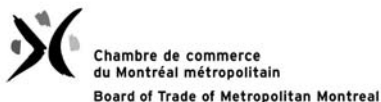
**about PMI-Montréal - The Project Management Institute, Chapitre Montréal**



PMI-Montréal is a chapter of the Project Management Institute (PMI). It brings together project management practitioners from Quebec who are members of PMI. Its mission:

- (i) Promote professionalism in project management and its recognition;
- (ii) Increase and disseminate project management knowledge;
- (iii) Establish forums for the exchange of information and training;
- (iv) Offer a slate of quality products to members and to the community;
- (v) Ensure a liaison with other organisations in project management and related fields;
- (vi) Increase regional and international visibility of local know-how.

**The Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal – Chambre de commerce du Montréal métropolitain**



The Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal has some 7,000 members. Its primary mission is to represent the interests of the business community of Greater Montreal and to provide individuals, merchants, and local businesses of all sizes with a variety of specialized services to help them achieve their full potential in terms of innovation, productivity and competitiveness. The Board of Trade is Quebec's leading private economic development organization.

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### importance of the subject

**Participate in an international competition for a project in China, design a project for Dubai, build a school in the favelas of Brazil. Those are some of the challenges that firms in the fields of architecture, urban planning and construction must now face in a globalizing construction sector. However, the international context of construction shows different faces, ranging from prestige buildings designed by foreign “star” architects in world-class cities, to emergency shelters produced by humanitarian international initiatives in rural areas in developing countries. For many, this context offers great commercial opportunities, but also risks and threats. Participants from different countries working in foreign contexts are confronted with major challenges that range from cultural adaptation to contractual know-how. A careful understanding of organizational design and procurement is crucial in this context. The procurement strategies - that is, the initial decisions made by the client(s) to create the temporary multi-organization in charge of the project – can determine the success or failure of the initiatives.**

**This 2008 conference-workshop discusses these challenges and seeks to clarify the scope of and opportunities for construction projects in the international context. It focuses on the procurement-related aspects of international construction projects, and it opens the door to a wide range of subjects related to the performance of these initiatives.**

### example

About 200 houses were recently built in Netreg, a township located in Cape Town, a coastal city of the 2010 soccer world cup host: South Africa. At first glance there is nothing important about this project. However, it is managed by an Irish NGO and funded by a multinational construction company. It is promoted by a local community-based organization. Roof trusses for the houses come from Durban, the architect is German, the urban planner is Indian, the construction inspectors are Cuban, the project evaluator is Canadian.

But this is not a special project. An increasing number of design and construction companies now work in a highly competitive international market, joining in multi-national teams. More than ever before, North American architects are building projects in Europe, Asia and in developing countries. Well-known architects from Europe have important commissions in the United States and Canada. Most large-scale construction companies are looking at the attractive markets of emerging economies such as China, India, Chile, South Africa and Brazil.

### issues to be addressed

The conference-workshop addresses the following issues:

- How to procure a building project abroad?
- How do architects participate in international construction?
- What are the main risks of international procurement? What are the main risks of working abroad?
- Is there such a thing as a real international supply chain?
- What are the differences between local procurement and international procurement?
- What are the main opportunities for construction companies interested in working abroad?
- How must the relations between foreign organizations and local actors be established?

- What are the opportunities for participation by international organizations in post-disaster reconstruction projects?

**the conference is intended for both academics and practitioners in the fields of:**

- Architecture,
- Project Management and construction management,
- Urban planning and regional studies,
- Engineering,
- Construction,
- Law (procurement and contractual arrangements for international construction),
- Humanitarian aid, reconstruction and international development,
- Public work and urban management.

le colloque en chiffres

some facts about the conference

Propositions d'intervention	<b>130</b>	Texts and proposals for intervention
Articles acceptés et présentés	<b>46</b>	Articles accepted and presented
Compagnies représentées	<b>17</b>	Companies represented
Universités représentées	<b>29</b>	Universities represented
Membres du comité scientifique	<b>29</b>	Members of the scientific committee
Pays représentés	<b>25</b>	Countries represented
Partenaires impliqués	<b>5</b>	Partners involved
Étudiants participant à l'organisation	<b>6</b>	Students involved in the organization
Coût réel par personne (en dollars canadiens) pour faire l'événement	<b>800</b>	Real cost per person (in Canadian dollars) of doing the event
Nombre de subventions et commandites	<b>5</b>	Number of sponsorships and grants
Nombre de conférences plénières	<b>6</b>	Number of keynote presentations
Nombre moyen d'évaluations pour chaque intervention académique (2 évaluations pour le résumé, 2 évaluations pour l'article, 1 révision du rédacteur)	<b>5</b>	Average number of reviews for academic presentations (2 reviews of the abstract, 2 reviews of the article, one review of edition)

