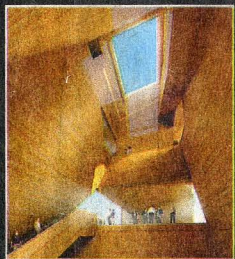


KING EDDY SET TO BECOME CITY'S CROWN JEWEL



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**\$100M PLAN
FOR NATIONAL
MUSIC CENTRE**
News & Opinion, Pages A15, A16



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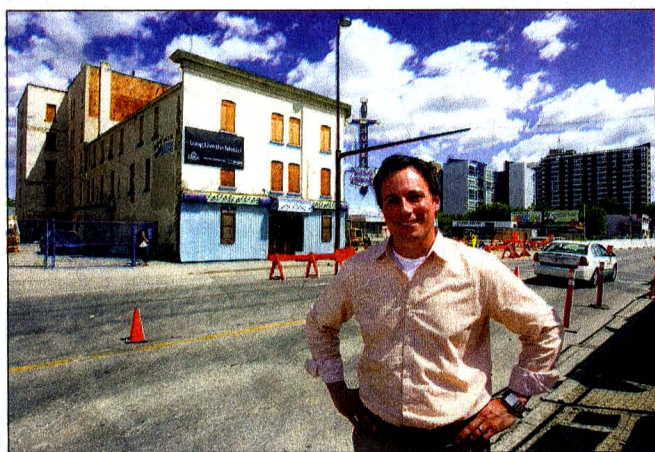
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NEWS & OPINION

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FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2009 A15

MUSIC CENTRE DREAMS



Grant Black, Calgary Herald

The Cantos Music Foundation and its executive director Andrew Mosker have big plans for the old King Eddy hotel which is currently vacant in the city's East Village.

Architects reveal plans for King Eddy project

NANCY TOUSLEY
CALGARY HERALD

The ambition and scale of the \$100-million project that will transform the Cantos Music Foundation into the National Music Centre at the King Eddy comes into sharp focus with the architects' visions of what Calgary's newest cultural centre could be like.

Call it the wow factor. It is present in a different way in each of the five dramatic designs by leading architects who are the finalists in an international design competition: Brad Cloepfil of Allied Works, Portland, Ore.; Bernard Beisell of Ateliers Jean Nouvel, Paris; Elizabeth Diller of Diller, Scofidio + Renfro, New York; Gilles Saucier and Andre Perrotte of Saucier + Perrotte, Montreal; and Zoltan Pali of SPF:a, Los Angeles.

The architects were asked to design a new home for Cantos which will be located on 9th Avenue S.E. and will straddle 4th Street S.E. to connect a renovated King Edward Hotel with a new building across the street. They presented their proposals Thursday to a sold-out audience at the Grand theatre.

The building has multiple aspects, including the preservation of a historic landmark, a collections display, presentation spaces for live music, two recording studios, a radio broadcast studio for CKUA, educational spaces and public spaces such as a restaurant and bar.

Adding to the attraction is the project's position as a gateway to the East Village and a catalyst in its redevelopment by the Calgary Municipal Land

Corp., as well as the creation of a music district.

"One amazing thing here is it's not only about one building," says Bernard Beisell.

"This is a fascinating process going on with Cantos and the CMLP as they are preparing to redevelop the East Village. The way they are going about this is a little bit unusual in the sense that if you say cities are about bringing people together, that's just what they do, what they are saying is that music can play an important role in doing that.

ALSO SEE

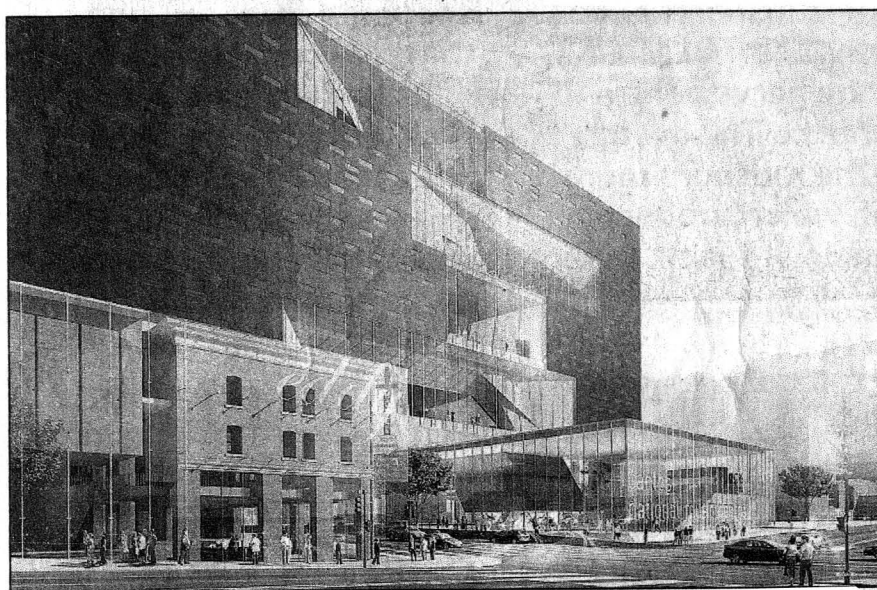
More proposals
Page A16

"You build an opera house, or you build a theatre, and it's an isolated monument, but here they are trying to do more than that. They're trying to build a concert hall and then a research centre and now you are beginning to get a density of institutions that defines a musical district for this neighbourhood. I think that could work. It's a very interesting approach that you use music as a theme and you use these institutions as an anchor for the character of this neighbourhood. I haven't seen that before and I find it very innovative and strong."

The total cost of the project includes \$75 million for a new building and \$25 million for an endowment fund. Fundraising is well underway, says communications manager Cami Leard. Cantos is seeking \$25-million contributions from the federal, provincial and municipal governments and \$25 million from a capital campaign. Confirmation of the city contribution is expected this fall. The winning architectural proposal will be announced in September.

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PROPOSAL: SPF:a



Zoltan Pali

SPF:a, Los Angeles, Calif.

"I want to call it the ear of Calgary," says Zoltan Pali of SPF:a. His building will feature sound everywhere and music on all five floors.

This music centre presents a high and wide, black, precast-concrete and glass facade with 4th Street running through the centre, although the bridge, which is 10 metres in the air, is a slender 18 metres deep.

The heart of the complex is the Soundscape, a vertical canted atrium that connects spaces aurally and physically and, Pali says, "creates a 'space where a new and larger community is formed around sound.'"

More images from
SPF:a's proposal
appear on Page A1
in today's Herald

"I really wanted that sense that you can feel at home," says Pali. He sees the building functioning as part gallery, part laboratory and part living room, an inviting setting that will make music accessible.

The King Eddy will be visible from the glass lobby of the new building and a large opening in the east wall of the Eddy will provide sightlines to the new building, and make the Eddy stage visible from the outside.

The two parts of the complex will be united by adding glass to the Eddy's brick facade and using bricks from the Eddy in the lobby floor and steps of the music centre.