

**Architect vows war museum will be 'like no other'**

\$105M project will speak of war and hope, Raymond Moriyama says

**Michael Prentice**

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The renowned architect chosen to design the new \$105-million Canadian War Museum says the project is "the most important institutional and architectural project in Canada today."

Raymond Moriyama, 72, said his creation will have to be "powerful enough to capture the hearts and minds of Canadians" as well as international attention.

"It must speak of the horror of war, but it must also speak of hope and tolerance," said Mr. Moriyama.

The architect's past projects have included the Ontario Science Centre and the Bata Shoe Museum, which won the 1995 City of Toronto Urban Design Award.

He also designed the former Ottawa-Carleton regional headquarters on Lisgar Street, now Ottawa City Hall.

But if plans already exist for the new museum, they are in Mr. Moriyama's head.

He and his team were chosen on their reputation and their proven record to do projects on time and on budget, said Joe Geurts, chief executive officer of the Canadian War Museum.

Mr. Moriyama refused to say what the museum will look like, other than it will be unlike any museum that exists anywhere. Two years ago, he noted that he rejects the idea of a signature -- he tells his team they are like the moon, not the sun, throwing back the light of others.

The man who will head the creation of a memorial to Canada's military history was a 10-year-old boy living in British Columbia when the Second World War broke out in 1939.

As a Japanese-Canadian, he and his family were removed from their home in British Columbia, and detained in internment camps in central Ontario. The camps helped him develop a sense of sensitivity. "You can't hate your own," he recalled last year. "And besides, hating someone or something never works in your favour."

Mr. Moriyama's heritage has resonated in his work. The Japanese Cultural Centre commissioned in 1958 was a memorial to the Japanese-Canadians interred during the war. The building is now on Toronto's Inventory of Heritage Buildings.



**Ottawa architect Alex Rankin is part of the design team.**



**the Ottawa Citizen Raymond Moriyama says the new Canadian War Museum will have to be 'powerful enough to capture the hearts and minds of Canadians' as well as international attention.**

More recently, the office he designed for the Canadian ambassador in Tokyo has been called a "high-tech treehouse" tucked under sloping steel rafters.

Yesterday, Cliff Chadderton, chairman of the 37-member National Council of Veteran Associations, was among the first to congratulate Mr. Moriyama.

Mr. Chadderton expressed pleasure at the appointment.

"It draws attention to the fact that we have gotten over the hatred and racism towards Japanese-Canadians in the Second World War," he said. "I believe they have picked the best man for the job."

Mr. Moriyama, is one of only 21 people to have won the gold medal of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, the highest honour for architects in Canada. He also holds the Order of Canada.

Yesterday, he promised he and his team, including Ottawa architect Alex Rankin and his partners, would design a museum that will be "unique, like no other in the world, and that will improve Canada's image in the world."

Mr. Moriyama's sons, Jason and Ajon, are partners in his firm and both graduates of Carleton University's architecture program. The team will now prepare several designs. Three will be presented to the public next spring, and the public will help determine which one is chosen, Mr. Geurts said.

The museum is scheduled to open on May 8, 2005, on parkland beside the Ottawa River just west of Parliament Hill. It will cost a total of \$105 million, but \$15 million of that is being raised by public subscriptions.

Mr. Moriyama said he intends the museum to complement the Parliament Buildings, as well as the two existing national museums -- the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Hull and the National Gallery of Canada, just east of Parliament Hill.

There will be parkland beside the museum about the same size as the lawns in front of the Centre Block of Parliament.

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