



# National Arts Centre Rejuvenation

## Ottawa, ON

The National Arts Centre was rejuvenated in the lead up to the 150th anniversary of Canada’s Confederation, with the goal of creating a public building that was accessible and inviting. Over the years, the Brutalist-inspired venue had been renovated in pieces and lacked a cohesive design – its massive footprint meant revitalization would need a concerted effort and healthy budget. The scope for the project included three new connected wings, two new floors of lobby, cultural programming enclosed by a custom glass curtain wall, a grand staircase, and a hexagonal tower overlooking the Rideau Canal. Fast + Epp’s experiences with similarly high-profile projects meant the team was well prepared to take on a project of such scope, despite its challenging schedule. Working in close collaboration with the design-builder, StructureCraft,

Fast + Epp developed a heavy timber structure and a glass-and-steel curtain wall to wrap the structure’s north side, as well as triangular glulam coffer that would be prefabricated off-site with integrated mechanical, electrical and sprinkler systems. Integration significantly sped-up construction times and protected the timber from harsh weather – the roof was installed in just three weeks. Originally designed as a “fortress for culture”, the once monolithic and windowless National Arts Centre now shines as an iconic beacon for performing arts.

### Fast + Epp

Status  
Completed 2017

Project Cost  
\$80 million

Area  
60,000 ft² (5,574 m²)

Architect  
Diamond Schmitt Architects

Client  
National Arts Centre

