

World's Best: Québec

'06 – '08 Capolavori in corso

■ **Rimini.** „'06 – '08 Masterpieces in Progress“ ist das Übergangslogo des neuen Rimini Palacongressi conference centre, dessen Modelle zum ersten Mal auf der IMEX 2006 vorgestellt wurden. 2008 soll bereits Eröffnung des Kongresszentrums sein, designt von den deutschen Architekten GMP Hamburg. Auf einer Nettofläche von 29.000 qm sind 42 Säle untergebracht mit einer Sitzplatzkapazität von 9.300. Das Auditorium hat Raum für 4.700 Delegierte. „Mit den Namen für die Säle und Räume betonen wir den Bezug des Gebäudes zu Rimini“, sagt Stefania Agostini, Direktorin des CVB della Riviera di Rimini. Baukosten von „Piazza Cavour“, „Sismondo Castle“ und „Borgo San Giuliano“: 82,4 Mio. Euro.

www.riminiconvention.it



Photo: CVB della Riviera di Rimini

■ **AIPC-Award.** APEX-Gewinner 2006 ist das Centre des Congrès de Québec im kanadischen Québec City. Zur Versammlung der Association Internationale des Palais de Congrès (AIPC), bekam Interim CEO Michel Bureau für sein Haus die Auszeichnung „World's Best Congress Centre“ von AIPC-Präsidentin Barbara Maple verliehen. „Das Center hat sich einen Spitzenplatz verdient dank des Fachwissens und der exzellenten Soft-skills unseres Teams. Diese Ehre kommt er ganzen Region zu gute“, sagt Bureau erfreut. Der Award basiert auf Kundenzufriedenheit. Es waren 25 Events einzureichen, wenigstens 15 Kunden mussten den Online-Fragebogen beantworten. Im Fall Québec waren es 23.

www.convention.qc.ca

ExCeL phase 2

■ **London.** ExCeL London, the international exhibition and conference centre, is embarking on more expansion. By 2009 the centre will have increased in size by 36,000 sqm to 100,000 sqm. A forum on the development of London's Eastside recently drew 150 senior meeting industry managers to the ExCeL, focusing on the O2 Dome, which is to open in 2007, Silvertown Quays opposite the centre, which has Europe's largest aquarium, Biota!, hotel developments (24 per cent of the hotels to be built in London by 2010 will be in East London), the expansion of Canary Wharf and the City of London Airport and the Olympic Games in 2012. www.excel-london.co.uk

Best Congress Centre“ from International Association of Conference Centres (AIPC) President Barbara Maple at the AIPC's annual conference. The award is based on customer satisfaction. 25 events had to be submitted, and at least 15 customers had to complete the online questionnaire. www.convention.qc.ca

More space

■ **Hong Kong.** The Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC) is building an extension that will increase its size by 40 per cent – in one of the most densely populated places in the world. Built on an island in Victoria Harbour, the centre is extending Halls 1 to 3 to make them longer. The building is thus spreading out at the sides. www.hkcec.com

Atomic physics party

■ **Innsbruck.** The 20th International Conference on Atomic Physics (ICAP), attended by eight Nobel Prize winners and 812 researchers, was held at Congress Innsbruck from 16 to 21 July 2006. Organiser Prof. Rainer Blatt described his event as an “international atomic physics party”. US Nobel Prize winner William Phillips thought the convention centre “superb”. www.come-innsbruck.at

Capolavori in corso

■ **Rimini.** “'06 – '08 Masterpieces in Progress”: That's the interim logo of the new Rimini Palacongressi conference centre. It is due to open in 2008. With 29,000 sqm of net floorspace, there are 42 rooms with a

Clips

■ **Vienna.** Thomas Rupperti, CEO of the Austria Center Vienna, has reason to be pleased: Vienna is the ICCA's top-ranking city, and the ACV's average result has improved by 114.8 per cent since 2003 compared with 1995 to 2002. While 93 events were held in 2002, in 2005 there were 146. www.acv.at

■ **New York.** From autumn 2006, the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center will have 30,000 sqm of exhibition space, 17,000 sqm of meeting rooms and a 1,500-room hotel. 2.2 million people came to the Big Apple for meetings in 2005. 1bn dollars has been lost since 2000 due to capacity shortages. www.javitscenter.com

■ **Bregenz.** It took only 10 months to extend and renovate the Festspielhaus Bregenz and add the Saal Bodensee and Saal Panorama, which offer seating for 252 and 154, respectively. The budgeted construction costs of 40 million euros were undercut by 5 million. www.festspielhausbregenz.at

■ **Frankfurt.** Messe Frankfurt has increased its convention capacities: The Saal Europa in Hall 4 has been modernised at a cost of 4m euros and now offers seating for 500. www.messefrankfurt.com

■ **Durban.** The extension of the ICC Durban is already a success. Major events like the Southern African AIDS Conference 2007 are booked in. The new arena is expected to open in March 2007. www.icc.co.za

Porsche at the lake

■ **Convention centre.** The new Ferry Porsche Congress Center in Zell am See, Austria, is due to open in July 2007. The centre is named after Ferry Porsche, the son of the carmaker's founder, who died in 1998 in Zell am See. It will offer nine event rooms for 1,200 people, an auditorium for 742, 800 sqm of open space and an underground garage with 400 spaces. There are 1,770 4- and 5-star hotel rooms and 450 3-star rooms nearby. www.ferryporsche-congresscenter.at

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■ **Recognition.** The APEX Award winner in 2006 is the Centre des Congrès de Québec in Québec City, Canada. Interim CEO Michel Bureau received the award of “World's