

One

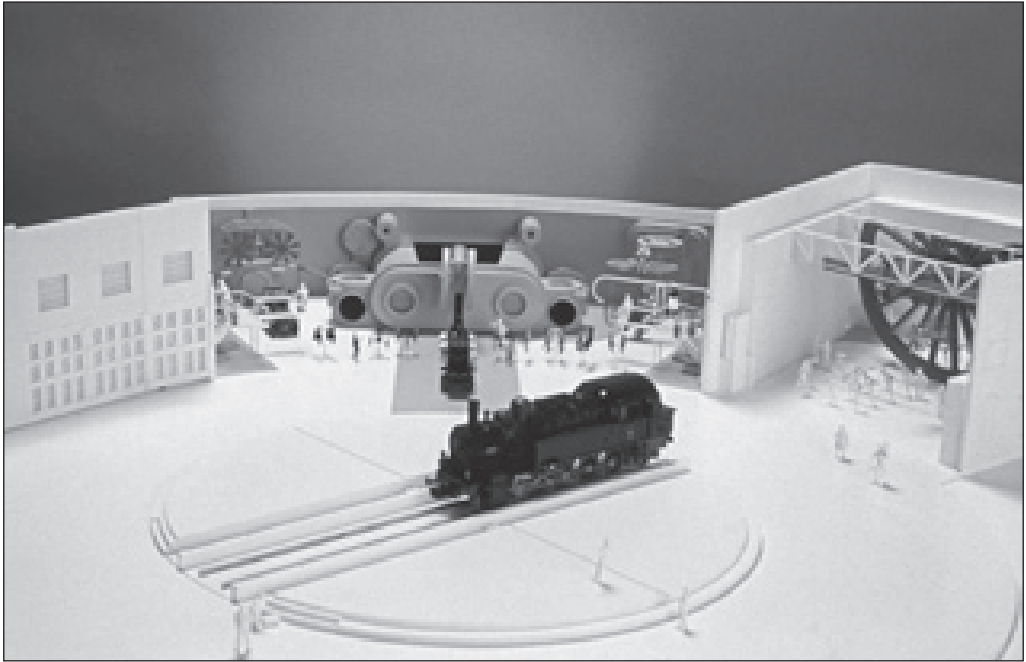
THE CREATION OF EXPO '86

Expo '86 will display the latest in transportation and communications technology on its 70-hectare site in the heart of downtown Vancouver.

—November 1985 press release



Bringing Expo '86 to life would take eight years, special legislation, \$800 million, and countless hours of effort by many different teams. All of the pavilions began with concept sketches like this early one for the Yukon Territories pavilion. Although design elements might change, such as the airplane over the entrance, this early artwork was invaluable for securing funding and generating early interest in the expo.



Scale models of the pavilions were important tools for preparing the detailed designs of the buildings and exhibits. The models helped in determining lines of sight, crowd control, colour schemes, and many other aspects of the design process. This model shows a potential layout for exhibits inside the Roundhouse building.



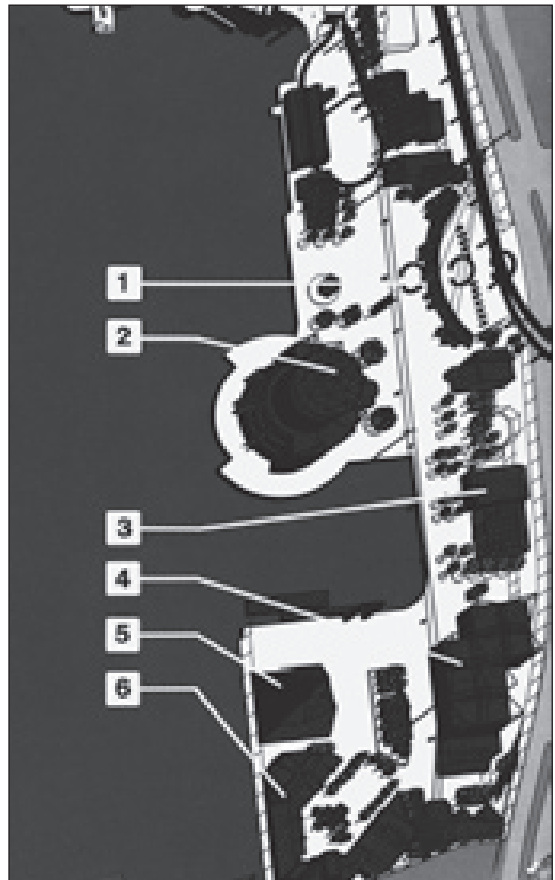
Several large-scale models of the entire Expo '86 site were built during the construction process. This early version was used for site planning and publicity purposes, such as this tour for His Royal Highness Prince Philip. Relatively small and nondetailed copies of the pavilions were used because many of the designs had not yet been finalized.

Two

THE PURPLE ZONE

Paris inherited the Eiffel Tower from the 1900 World Exposition. Vancouver's gift from Expo '86 will be the glittering Expo Centre.

—Official Souvenir Guide Expo '86



This is a key to the major attractions in the Purple Zone: East Gate (1), Expo Centre (2), Yukon Territories (3), People's Republic of China (4), Northwest Territories (5), and Folklife Festival (6).



Although there were several different entrances to Expo, the East Gate was perhaps the busiest due to its proximity to the SkyTrain rail station. This was the first view many visitors saw, with the dome-shaped Expo Centre theme structure rising off to the left. Colourful flags and artwork set a festive mood for the walk to the entrance gates.



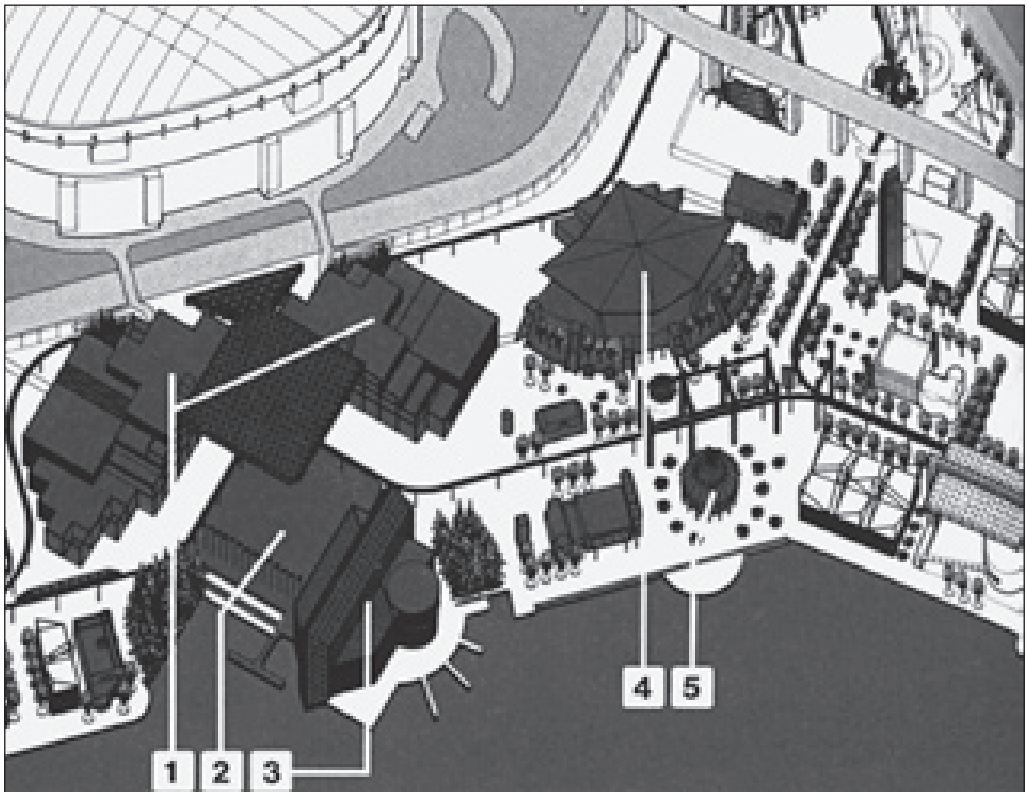
Expo's theme, "World in Motion, World in Touch," was symbolized by this display at the East Gate entrance complex. The over-sized figures of 8 and 6, formed by three circles representing transportation by land, sea, and air, were suspended by cables from three circular rings. Passing through the rings, visitors came first to the ticket booths and then to the entrance turnstiles.

Four

THE BLUE ZONE

Chock-a-block full of activity, the Blue Zone is the night-owl area of the site, with “Expo After Hours” in full swing until the wee hours.

—Official Souvenir Guide Expo '86



This is a key to the major attractions in the Blue Zone: British Columbia Complex (1), Plaza of Nations (2), Discovery BC (3), Expo Theatre (4), and the 1907 Philadelphia Toboggan Company carousel (5).



Located directly across Pacific Boulevard from the BC Place Stadium, the appropriately named Stadium Gate was the major entry point to the Blue Zone. Guests could arrive by car or bus or take the SkyTrain to the stadium station, which was linked to the entrance area by pedestrian bridges.



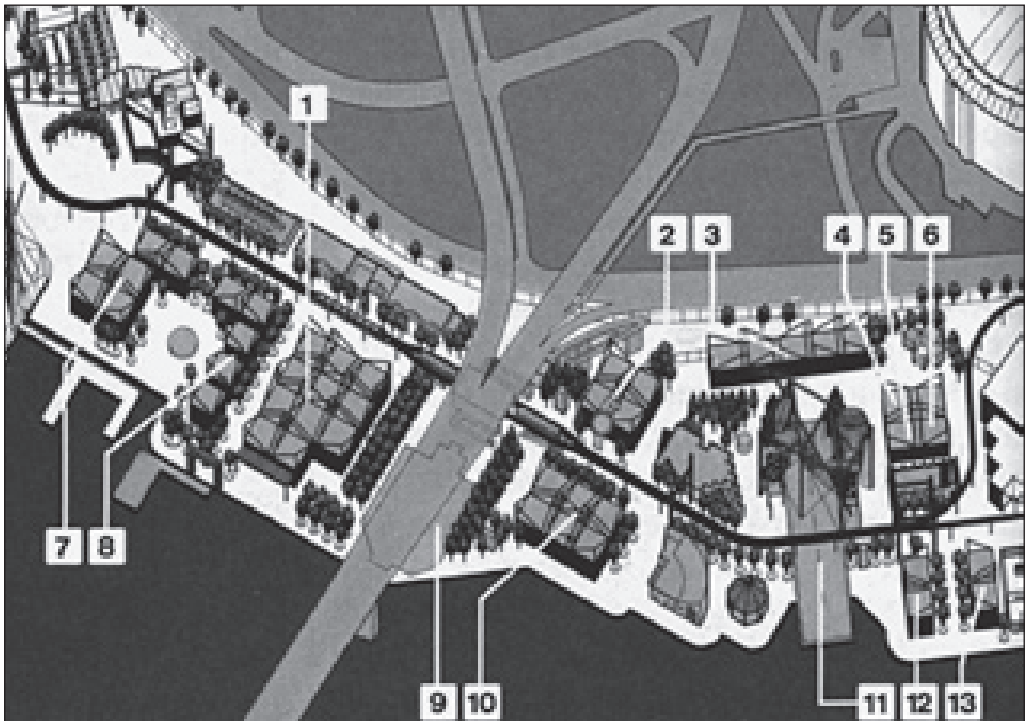
At both sides of the entrance gates were the buildings of the British Columbia Complex, which were built as permanent structures and intended for post-Expo use. To the left of the entrances was the Showcase BC building, with Discovery BC on the right. The buildings contained a mixture of shops, restaurants, and exhibits about British Columbia. A business centre and the offices of the Expo '86 Corporation were also located here.

Five

THE PINK ZONE

A visit to the Pink Zone transports visitors to South and Central America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

—Official Souvenir Guide Expo '86



This is the key to the major attractions in the Pink Zone: Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (1), Switzerland (2), Czechoslovakia (3), Peru (4), Sri Lanka (5), Norwegian Explorers (6), Indonesia and Singapore (7), Philippines, Brunei, and Thailand (8), children's play attraction (9), Saudi Arabia (10), Air Plaza (11), Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (12), and Mexico (13).



The Pink Zone was located in the middle of the Expo site, with the new Cambie Street Bridge across False Creek passing through the middle of the zone. The Centre Port dock area, pictured here, was another stop on the ferry route between the various zones.



The multilane bridge and approach ramps were hard to disguise, but the Expo designers did their best. They largely succeeded, using large flower beds and colourful flags to draw the eye away from the overhead distractions. The space underneath the bridge was also used for the zone's monorail station.

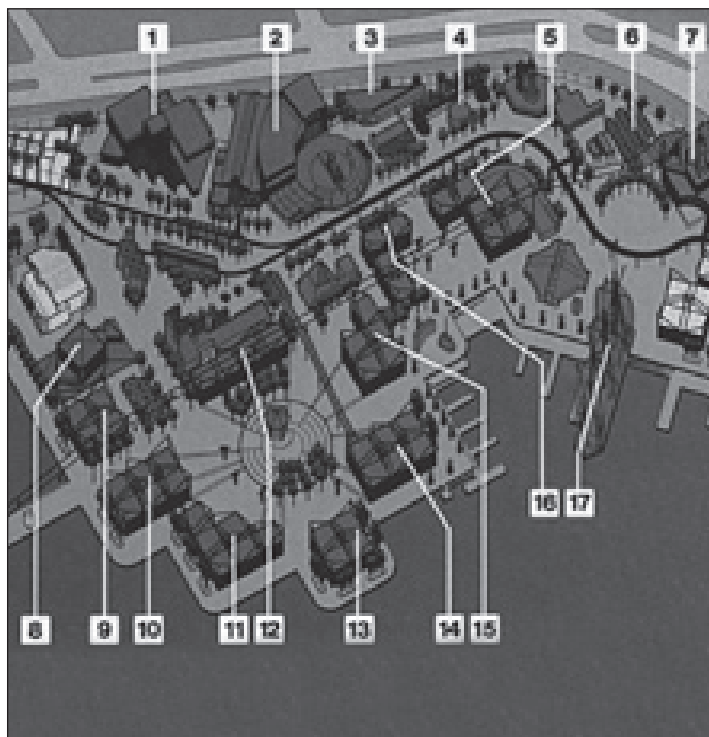
Six

THE GREEN ZONE

Travel to Canada's Maritime Provinces, visit European nations and experience the exotic allure of faraway lands in the Green Zone.

—Official Souvenir Guide Expo '86

This is a key to the major attractions in the Green Zone: Canadian Pacific (1), Roundhouse (2), first aid and security (3), American Express (4), Hong Kong, Hungary, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island (5), Air Canada (6), Alberta (7), Quebec (8), United Nations (9), Italy (10), Britain (11), Spain and Belgium (12), European Community (13), France (14), Germany (15), Barbados, Norway, and Costa Rica (16), and Marine Plaza (17).





Would-be admirals could sail remote-controlled model boats in this pond outside the Air Canada pavilion. While best remembered for the aerial Skyride seen rising to the left, the main pavilion building contained exhibits celebrating Air Canada's 50th anniversary. The company's first flight had been from Vancouver to Seattle, and as part of the celebration, Air Canada used the airplane from that inaugural flight in a coast-to-coast promotion.



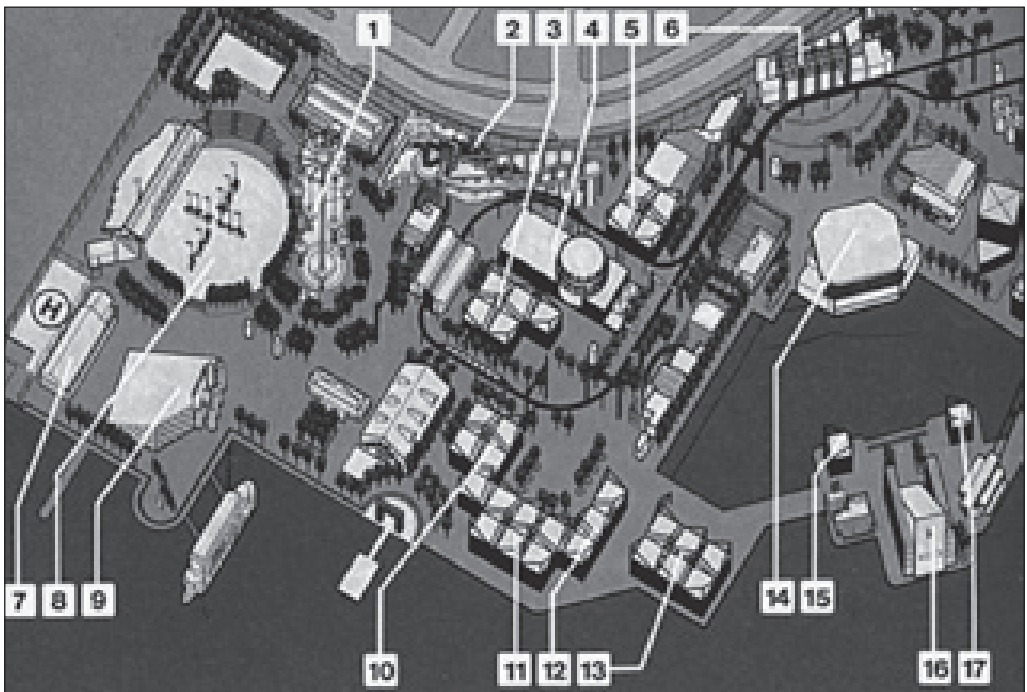
The Air Canada Skyride station in the Green Zone was linked to a sister station near the General Motors pavilion in the Yellow Zone. The five-minute ride was very popular for it afforded clear views of the western side of the Expo site. Both the Air Canada and Canadian Pacific Skyrides were included in the Expo admission price.

Seven

THE YELLOW ZONE

A visit to the Yellow Zone is one more colourful experience in the Expo 86 spectrum.

—Official Souvenir Guide Expo '86



Seen here is the key to the major attractions in the Yellow Zone: Space Tower (1), Cariboo Log Chute (2), Republic of Korea (3), Telecom Canada (4), BCTV (5), West Gate (6), Old Salts Shipyards (7), Kodak Pacific Bowl (8), Great Hall of Ramses II (9), California (10), Oregon (11), Washington (12), United States of America (13), Xerox International Theatre (14), Ivory Coast (15), General Motors (16), and Cuba (17).



The West Gate, another of the entrances to the site, led directly into the Yellow Zone. Towering overhead was one of the largest sculptures at Expo, *Rowingbridge* by Geoffrey Smedley. The unusual structure helped many a guest find their way back to their car after a long day at the fair.



Anyone unsure of their whereabouts could orientate themselves using large “You are here” maps that were located under towers capped by large Expo '86 logos. The displays also included information on the day's live performances, upcoming special events, and nearby restaurants and shops. There were also hundreds of volunteers throughout the grounds available to answer questions.