

FOR IMMEDIATE DIFFUSION

The Haitian-Canadian Association of Engineers and Scientists (AIHC) honours three important personalities of the Haitian community.



• Ralph Gilles • Linda Marc • Weber Laurent

Montreal, on October 24, 2005 – During its 23rd Gala of Excellency held Saturday October 15th, 2005, the AIHC, under the theme “Preserve to Excel”, paid a vibrant tribute to **Doctor Linda Marc**, to **Architect Weber Laurent** and to **Designer Ralph Gilles**, three personalities who are models of success for all Haitian communities, both of Canada and of the United States.

DOCTOR LINDA MARC is synonym of determination and perseverance. After short studies in Montreal, Linda Marc obtains a bachelors degree in psychology from Saint-John University in New York and continues her university course with two masters, one in Epidemiologic Sciences at Harvard University and the other in Public health at Yale University. The taste for studies has also pushed her to complete a Ph.D in Public health at Harvard University. Specialist in her field, Linda Marc worked as pharmaceutical epidemiologist for companies such as Novartis, Wyeth-Ayerst and Astra-Mersk. Very recently, she obtained a scholarship of the National Institute of mental Health to lead researches at Cornell Medical School in New York. In 1997, she received the **Silver Medal** from the Association of Haitian-American Engineers (ADIHA- New York Chapter).

LAURENT WEBER is one of the principal associates of the Groupe Lauvac Architecture Inc. firm. He is one of the first people from the Black communities of Canada to become member of the Royal Architectural Institute Canada (RAIC) and of the *Ordre des Architectes du Québec* (OAQ). He holds a bachelors degree in Architecture from Laval University in Quebec and a master in project management from the School of Sciences of management from the University of Quebec in Montreal. He has carried out several projects in the residential, commercial and institutional areas. In 2004, he was responsible for the design of the “Library of the rare books and special collections”, at the Samuel Bronfman Pavilion of the University of Montreal. During the same year, he was the main architect of a project of social and ecological housing “Residence Project Chance II” set up on the Benny Farm site. The Benny Farm project was recently honoured the **First Price (Gold) of Holcim Awards 2005**. Another of his residential projects, still under construction in Montreal, the “*Terrasses Wellington Charlevoix*” is, according to SCHL, one of the best examples of construction in a matter of energy effectiveness and of durable development.

RALF GILLES is one of today’s most promising designers of is generation. In 2003, he obtained the **Young Leadership & Excellence Award** from the Automotive Hall off Fame. In 2005, he received the **President’s Award** of the “US Black Engineer Magazine”. According to the Detroit Free Press, the Ralph Gilles’ designs, the Dodge Magnum and the Chrysler 300, are directly responsible for a 27% growth of the Daimler Chrysler sales, an associated company since 1992. Ralph Gilles is holder of a fine-art bachelors degree from College for Creative Studies and an MBA of the Michigan State University. Younger, he lived in Quebec and attended the Malcolm Campbell College and the Vanier College. It is in 2001 that he became the Director of Design of luxury cars for Daimler Chrysler. That’s when he directed the design team of the Dodge Magnum, the Chrysler 300, Dodge Charger and Viper Coupe (version 2006). Ralph Gilles is now the person in charge for the next generation of the minivans Dodge and Chrysler.

Information - AIHC: (514) 327-7555 - ✉ www.aihc.ca

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