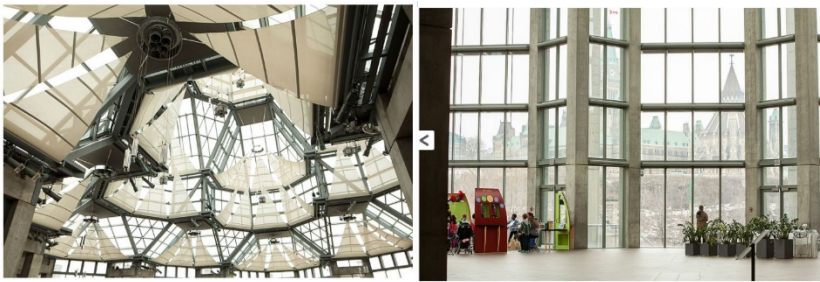


## Emma's Top Five Architectural Features at the National Gallery of Canada

### 1. The Cupola

"You unburden yourself of all your weights at the checkroom. And then you ascend," declared Moshe Safdie, the architect who built the National Gallery in 1988. From pyramids to the Vatican, many of Safdie's influences in envisioning the National Gallery were religious; he wanted the National Gallery of Canada to be a true temple of art. In fact, Safdie even thought of the ramp that leads up from the Admissions Desks to the vaulting prism of the Cupola as a Jacob's ladder! Once you've attained the Cupola, with its extraordinary glass ceiling and marvellous views (including the Gallery's own Taiga Garden by Cornelia Oberlander), you are in one of the most serene and most spectacular spaces in Ottawa.



### 2. Level 1: The Water Court

This shallow rectangular pool of water is surrounded with a changing set of statues. Look out for the innovative Canadian sculptor Elizabeth Wyn Wood, who took the unusual decision to make landscapes the subject of her sculpture. You can look down through the glass floor of the pool into the foyer, and look up to the storey above. This contemplative space, with its shimmering light and reflections, unites all three levels of the Gallery.



### 3. Level 1: The Garden Court and the Rideau Chapel

The garden court feels tranquil, orderly, and timeless, even before you step into the Rideau Chapel. Georges Bouillon designed the interior of the Chapel of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Convent (aka the Rideau Street Convent) in 1887-1888. When the convent was demolished in 1972, the chapel was scrupulously preserved, and remained in storage for years until it could be reassembled at the heart of the National Gallery! The fan-vaulted ceiling is a sight to behold.



#### 4. Level 1: The Croscups' Painted Parlour

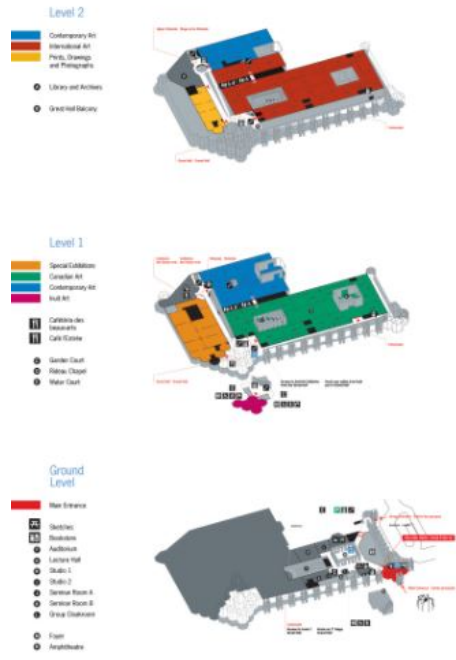
The Croscups' painted parlour lets us step back into Canada before its Confederation in 1867. In Nova Scotia, from 1846-1848, an itinerant painter decorated the front parlour of William and Hannah Amelia Croscup's home. Scenes from illustrated newspapers, maritime scenes, Canadian and European scenes (including the Victorian Royal Family in *their* parlour), and racehorses all ornament the walls. In 1972, the National Gallery purchased the painted room, and had it transported to Ontario and extensively cleaned and conserved. The Gallery also preserved the floor, fireplace, windows, and trim, so we are seeing the room as nearly as possible like the Croscup family did.



#### 5. Level 1: The McCallum Cottage

Dr. James MacCallum, an eye surgeon and professor at the University of Toronto, was one of the first to appreciate the Group of Seven. He invited several of the artists to his cottage on Georgian Bay – so this small, woodsy building was decorated by some of Canada's most famous and influential painters, including Tom Thomson, J.E.H. Macdonald, and Arthur Lismer. Their paint tubes, palettes for painting outdoors, and other tools of the trade are on display, alongside the small oil sketches that they could easily complete and transport as they canoed from place to place, giving Canadians and the world a new vision of our northern landscape.

See <https://www.gallery.ca/en/visit/floorplan.php> for the National Gallery of Canada floor plan!



All images courtesy of <https://www.gallery.ca/>