



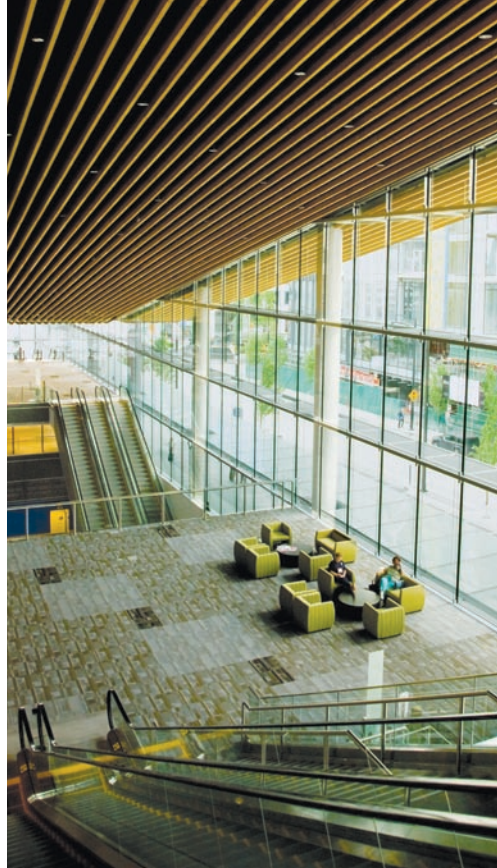
When you're located in one of the most beautiful cities on the planet, and you're about to welcome the world to the 2010 Winter Games, ordinary just won't do. The new west building (**pictured**) of the Vancouver Convention Centre is extraordinary in every way.

Approximately 40% of the building juts out over the ocean. Its interior walls, made from renewable Vancouver Island and Sunshine Coast hemlock, resemble artfully stacked BC lumber. The carpets' colours match the hues found in the ocean and mountain views. And with its 2.5-hectare (6-acre) living roof, complete with four beehives, a bee-keeper and 400,000 plants, the building also helps the environment.

The older east building was used to show off Vancouver to the world during the World's Fair Expo in 1986. Together, the east and west buildings now cover 111,500 sq m (1.2 million sq ft), or four city blocks, and will serve as the international media and broadcast centre for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

Truly Unconventional

The newly expanded Vancouver Convention Centre is ready to welcome the world **BY SHERI RADFORD // PHOTOS BY KK LAW**



(Above L) Sweeping floor-to-ceiling windows offer abundant natural light and spectacular views. (Above R) The building's central location means Vancouver's tall glass towers are easily visible nearby. (Below) To appreciate the full effect, examine the unique "stacked lumber" walls up close



The Vancouver Convention Centre's waterfront location, at 1055 Canada Place Way, affords stunning views. To find out more, visit www.vancouverconventioncentre.com. **w**