



JURY REPORT

Shuko Montréal

Ideas competition for
redevelopment of the area
around Champ-de-Mars
métro station

Ville de Montréal
Division de l'urbanisme
and Design Montréal office

**RÉALISONS
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VILLE UNESCO DE DESIGN

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IDEAS COMPETITION FOR
REDEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA
AROUND CHAMP-DE-MARS
MÉTRO STATION

VILLE DE MONTRÉAL
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RECAPITULATION OF CONTEST INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE COMPETITION

To illustrate a variety of potential development concepts for the area around Champ-de-Mars métro station, including highlighting of the glassworks by artist Marcelle Ferron, based on the assumption that the nearby Ville-Marie expressway will eventually be covered over and its exit ramps reconfigured.

PROMOTERS OF THE COMPETITION

Ville de Montréal
Service de la mise en valeur du territoire et du patrimoine, Ville de Montréal

FORMAT OF THE COMPETITION

Anonymous single-stage ideas competition open to designers anywhere in Canada
Two entry categories: “Professional” and “Student”
Free but mandatory registration

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

The competition was jointly organized by the *Division de l’urbanisme* (for the program aspects) and the Design Montréal office (organizational and promotional aspects).

PRIZES

“Professional” category: total amount of \$40,000
“Student” category: total amount of \$10,000

DATE AND LOCATION OF JURY DELIBERATIONS

The jury met for deliberations on Monday, March 8, 2010, at the Lucien-Saulnier Building in Montréal. Each member had previously received copies of all of the proposals (two presentation panels plus CGI animation video file for each).

MEMBERS OF THE JURY

Co-chairs

Melvin Charney, architect and artist, Montréal

Odile Decq, architect and Director of the École Spéciale d’Architecture, Paris

Members

Jacques Des Rochers, Curator of Canadian Art, Montréal Museum of Fine Arts

Michel Dionne, architect, Cooper, Robertson & Partners, New York

Raphaël Fischler, urban planner and professor in the School of Urban Planning, McGill University, Montréal

Mario Masson, landscape architect and Division Manager, *Service du développement culturel, qualité du milieu de vie et diversité ethnoculturelle*, Ville de Montréal

Alessandra Ponte, architecture historian and associate professor, School of Architecture, Université de Montréal

Philippe Poullaouec-Gonidec, landscape architect, professor and holder of the UNESCO Chair in Landscape and Environmental Design at Université de Montréal

SUBMISSION OF REGISTRATIONS AND PROPOSALS

The mandatory registration period for the ideas competition began November 4, 2009, and ended January 15, 2010. Prospective entries were compiled from 216 registered individuals and teams. They were mainly from Québec, but applications were also received from five other provinces. At this stage, the breakdown of participants was as follows: 64% had registered in the professional category, while 36% had entered as students.

At 5 p.m. on February 10, 2010, the submission deadline, 91 proposals had been received; of this number, some were disqualified because of late delivery, and others because of missing elements or breach of the anonymous submissions requirement.

This left 78 proposals for study by the jury: 47 (60%) in the “Professional” category and 31 (40%) in the “Student” category.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

In evaluating each project, the jury members considered the following criteria:

- Enhancement of the architecture and glassworks of Champ-de-Mars métro station;
- Reinforcement of the pedestrian links and access routes from the métro station and all of the surrounding areas;
- The innovative and esthetic qualities of the project and the atmosphere created by the planned action.

GENERAL COMMENTS ABOUT THE IDEAS COMPETITION

The jury, which studied 78 proposals, noted the great interest generated by the competition in both entry categories (47 professional entries; 31 student entries) and the abundance of ideas. Consistent with the expectations for an ideas competition, all of the proposals studied were at a schematic stage only. They raised many questions regarding the use of the public spaces and the context of the covering of the Ville-Marie expressway. The main objective of the competition — to inform thinking by the public bodies, groups, citizens and professionals involved regarding the future of the district — was therefore achieved.

The jury’s deliberations were an occasion for considerable and animated debate about approaches to urban design. As such, taken together, the projects submitted also allowed for interesting discussions on what types of site-planning approaches should be advocated (densification, links, residential use, usage mix, public space, etc.).

DELIBERATIONS "PROFESSIONAL" CATEGORY

Following an onsite meeting near Champ-de-Mars métro station where the competition professional advisor outlined the urban-planning issues and challenges raised by redevelopment of the area, members returned to the jury room to begin deliberations.

The session began with screenings of all of the CGI animation video files. Members then continued studying the proposals by examining the presentation panels, conducted three elimination rounds, and selected three finalists. The final ranking of the three selected proposals was established by secret ballot.

The jury emphasized that the site's exceptional strategic importance is dictated especially by the perspectives and views onto it from the pedestrian axes connecting the public squares of Old Montréal and Champ-de-Mars, and from the civic buildings along its southern perimeter. It is therefore imperative that powerful, innovative action be taken on this site to make it a true asset for Montréal.

Members also noted that the majority of concepts submitted considered the entire unbuilt space along the expressway: few of them were restricted to the immediate vicinity of the métro entrance. Entrants therefore considered that the location of intervention is conditioned by the importance of the institutional façades to the south.

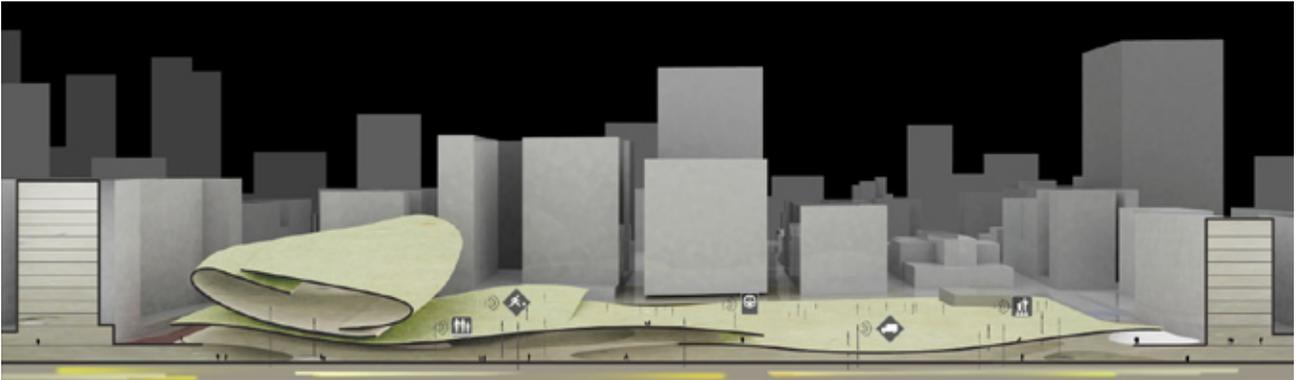
**SPECIFIC COMMENTS
REGARDING THE THREE WINNING PROJECTS
IN THE “PROFESSIONAL” CATEGORY**

1ST PRIZE (\$20,000)

P-929-PP: *LOOP*

**Dominic Poncelet, Kim Pariseau, Étienne Pelletier,
Master’s in Architecture graduates, Montréal**

The jury appreciates this proposal’s strongly affirmed idea to reveal and interpret the site’s underground portions, made up of transportation infrastructures: the métro and expressway. It is particularly conveyed by the plan to install lighting and a metaphorical soundscape in the square that would reflect underground vehicle flows. The proposed surface is made up of superimposed strata that would enable programmatic use — still to be determined — of the various street fronts. At this stage, the concept leaves room for other interventions on the adjacent heritage buildings. The strata unfurl to merge with an expansive building that would close off the square at the western end of the site, giving it an initial built façade that would be a striking contemporary architectural statement. The proposed structure, even though it is fairly imposing, is meant to create formal harmony with the comparatively high Palais de justice building — a balanced tower/bar relationship. The new construction would function as an extension of the west-to-east sequence of existing buildings: Place Bonaventure, the Caisse de dépôt and the Palais des congrès. The building, a powerful statement about this east-west (transverse) urban context, would frame a public space in front of Champ-de-Mars and offer significant usage potential — for example, for municipal or public services.

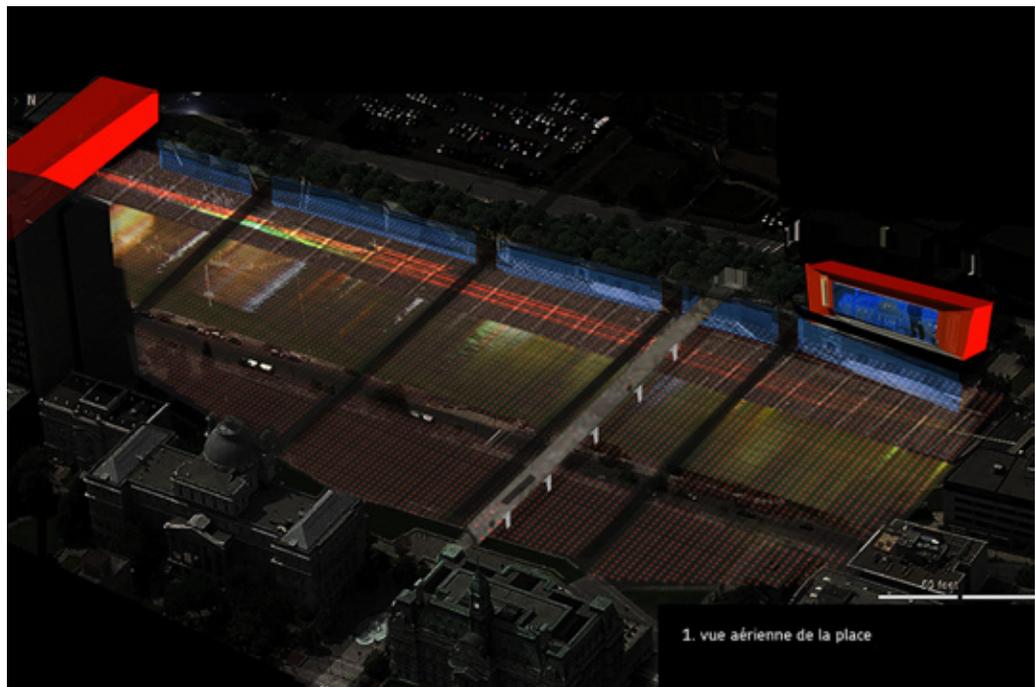


2ND PRIZE (\$12,500)

P-001-AA: *LE CHAMP DES CITOYENS LOOP*

**Jean Beaudoin, architect, Intégral Jean Beaudoin,
Christian Barré, artist and videographer,
Fabian Rendon and Viorel Indries, architectural technicians,
Studio Huma Design, Montréal**

The jury viewed this proposal for a vast, authentic civic square as a celebration of public space: a re-invention of Champ-de-Mars consistent with the institutional context of the buildings bordering its southern perimeter. The empty space allows for development of an area reserved for media and technology firms, a field of excellence in Montréal. The room afforded for citizen expression, manifest in the lighting design and a proposal for a voice-amplification structure, testifies to Montréal's democratic traditions and projects a renewed image of them. Note the treatment of the site's northern interface to the existing street grid through construction of a "citizens' reflecting wall." The proposal is the expression of an idea taken to its extreme, which need not necessarily be fully implemented in the final design. The project would also benefit from greater respect for existing components of interest, such as the métro entrance — i.e., juxtaposition rather than smothering.

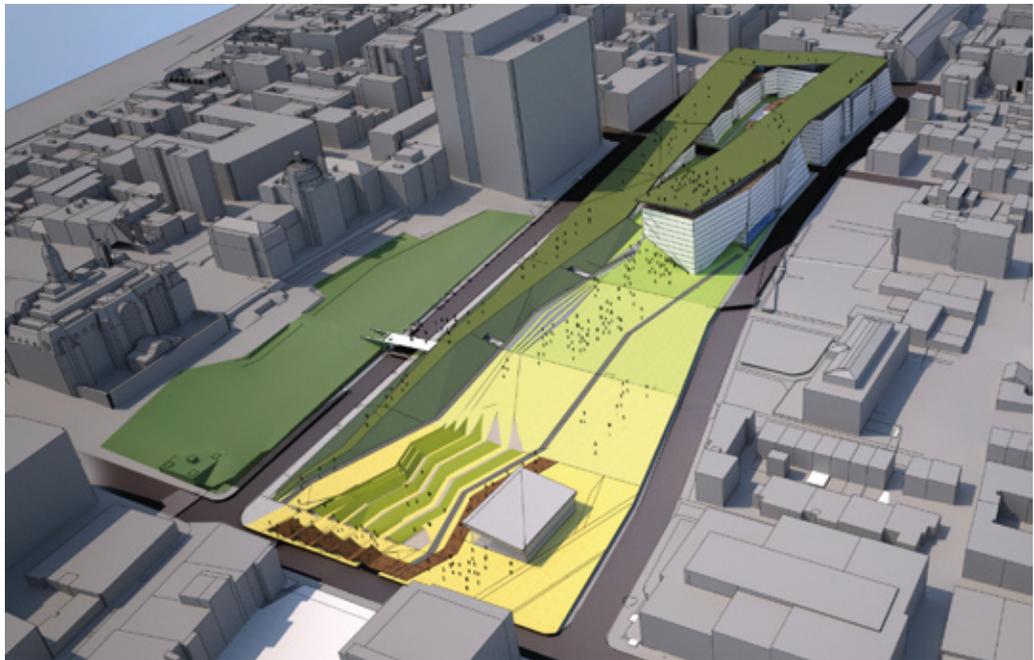


3RD PRIZE (\$7,500)

P-819-BB: *CINÉTIQUE TECTONIQUE*

**Rémi Morency, architect and urban planner,
David Paradis, urban planner, Québec City**

The jury chose this proposal because of its topographical explorations, which afford diverse experiences for visitors walking between the Champ-de-Mars and Place-d'Armes métro stations. Members also appreciated the intelligent implementation of buildings in the western end of the site, which would frame and redefine the city blocks. Assessment of the impact on sightlines toward Mount Royal would obviously have to be conducted, as the buildings along Avenue Viger seem somewhat high. Extension of the project beyond Boulevard Saint-Laurent all the way to the Palais des congrès, combined with the continuous roof layout, creates a new series of monumental gates to Boulevard Saint-Laurent. The possibility of accessing these roofs from the eastern extremity of the site, though quite hypothetical, has the merit of nurturing dreams of a spectacular urban promenade providing exceptional panoramic views of the city. This proposal, with its expansive roof terraces, would create a grandiose architectural and landscaped walkway. There is great cohesion to the overall design, and the métro entrance is well set off thanks to the adjacent layout of “folds” in the surface.



CONCLUSION

Each of the three winning proposals, through the designers' stance, forcefully affirms the presence of a specific place. They do not view the area around Champs-de-Mars métro station and the Ville-Marie expressway as a “non-space” or an “urban scar” that needs to be “sewn up” with the surrounding urban fabric. Rather, these spaces are seen as opportunities for meanings and expressions that can contribute to the planning of a new identity for Montréal. All three proposals constitute calls for an affirmation of place and for architectural expression. While fulfilling the competition criteria, they very clearly assert stances that break away from a classic urban-planning approach by proposing solutions that are innovative, imaginative and assertive in their voluntarily prospective nature.

DELIBERATIONS “STUDENT” CATEGORY

After viewing the animation videos, the jury members agreed that, generally speaking, the entrants in this category demonstrated more proficiency with the medium. There was greater use of atmospheric videos combined with CGI animation, which are effective aids to understanding each concept. As well, the soundtracks and pacing were better suited to the projects.

Following an initial examination of the presentation panels, nine projects presenting at least one conceptual aspect of interest were selected.

A second round led to a final selection of five proposals. Since none included ground plans resolution, but instead hinged on “urban objects” reflecting forceful ideas, they were deemed to constitute valid, equivalent samples in terms of urban exploration. The jury therefore decided to award three prizes of equivalent value.

The jury notes that the chosen proposals do not necessarily provide answers to the redevelopment challenges. They do, however, raise pertinent questions that clearly convey the concerns of future urban planning professionals and of young people in general. This may explain why the majority of entrants, including the winners, felt it was important to transcend the objectives stipulated in the competition regulations and, in so doing, challenge the authorities responsible for development of the site. The jury members appreciated that gambit and its inherent call for more upstream thinking about “humanity in the city.”

Members also observed that the student entrants were more likely to disregard the site's historical underpinnings. They seem to have broken free of them, which may be a sign of changing values. Rather, the concepts are bound up with concerns about the body in relation to space. The proposals are therefore multisensory spatial experiences, in many cases on a large scale. They go beyond urban planning into explorations of how we should “experience the city.”

The jury members decided that the total prize amount should be shared, and awarded five prizes of \$2,000 each.

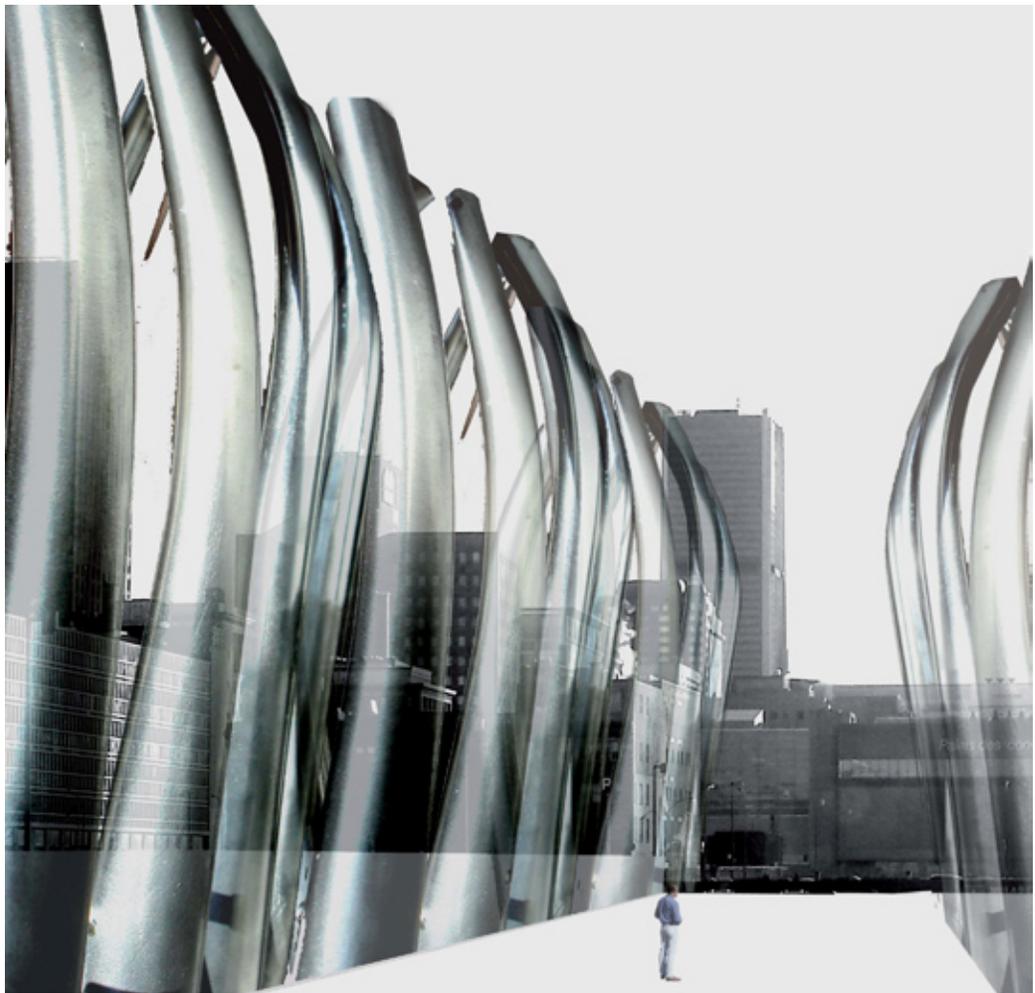
**SPECIFIC COMMENTS
REGARDING THE THREE WINNING PROJECTS
IN THE "STUDENT" CATEGORY**

EX ÆQUO PRIZE (\$2,000)

E-135-CP: *TEMPS MORTS*

**Christina Petkova, Master's in Architecture student,
Université de Montréal**

The jury opined that these gigantic, even out-of-scale structures arranged according to a rigid orthogonal grid would, paradoxically, generate a feeling of closeness. The project was likened to a massive vibrating sculpture, or perhaps an urban forest brought to life by the light and sounds from the expressway or the métro.



EX ÆQUO PRIZE (\$2,000)

E-320-PK: *SANS TITRE N°48*

**Patrick Blanchette, Master's in Architecture student,
Université de Montréal**

The mysterious aspect of this project appealed to the jury. An object lies on top of the expressway trench, lending itself to a diversity of functions. The structure is defined by shapes found in the glassworks by Marcelle Ferron. Its rounded forms define a public square that is organic, partially covered and highly versatile. The clear and inspired text drew members' attention.

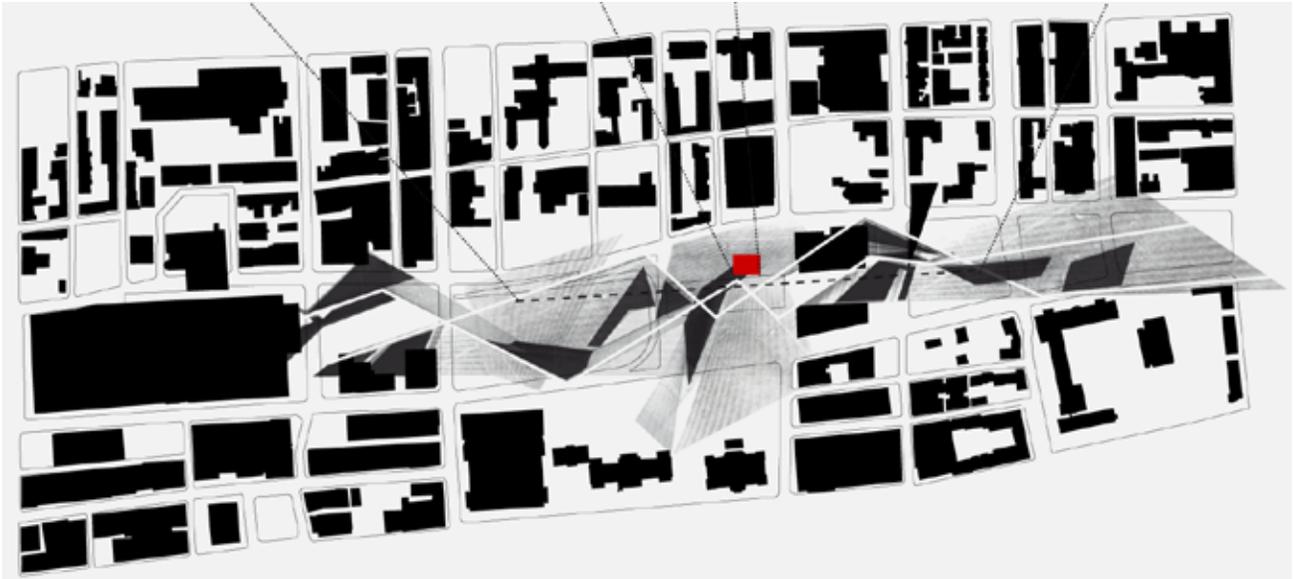


EX ÆQUO PRIZE (\$2,000)

E-419-DV: *ITÉRATION STOCHASTIQUE*

**Danny Aubin, Vincent Carrière Marleau,
Architecture students, Université de Montréal**

The jury hailed the eminently experimental and indefinable nature of this project. The métro entrance glassworks provided inspiration for mapping out a theorem on what movement might be applicable to the space. The theorem justifies a series of random iterations of transparent shapes arranged on top of the expressway, generative of multiple, shifting views.

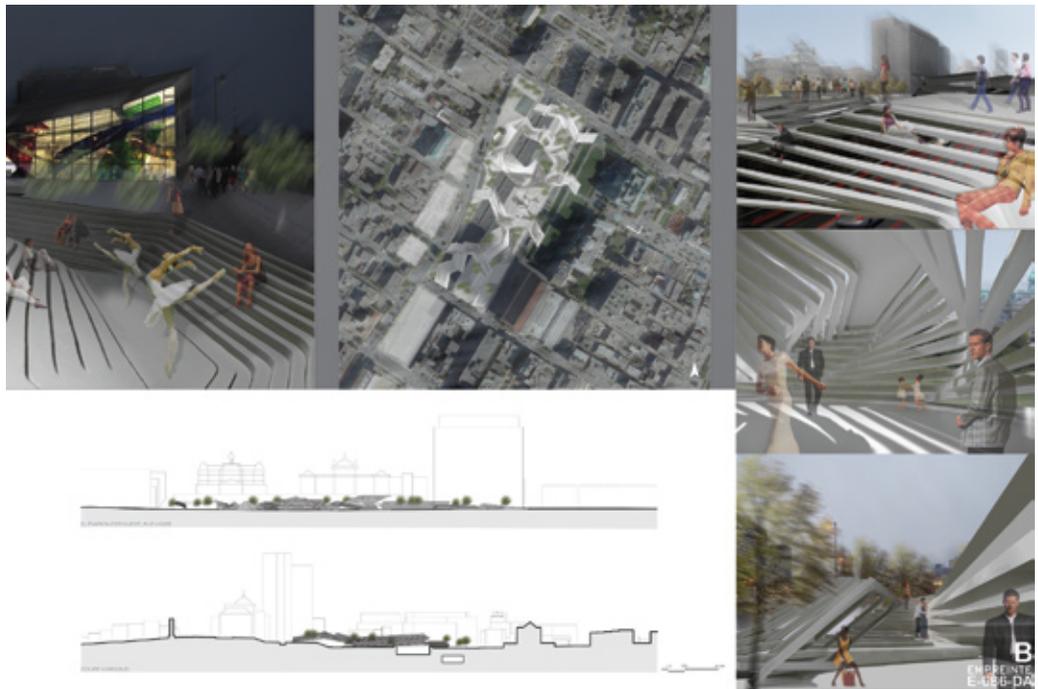


EX ÆQUO PRIZE (\$2,000)

E-686-DA: *EMPREINTE*

**Daisy Smith Therriault, Anik Malderis,
Master's in Architecture students, Université de Montréal**

The jury appreciated the designers' decision not to ignore the presence of vehicular traffic, and the relevance of maintaining transparency between the north-south links so as to exploit the embanked expressway. The suggested treatment for the walkways, with successive expanded or contracted geometric planes, would create covered areas suitable for a variety of activities.



EX ÆQUO PRIZE (\$2,000)

E-876-AF: IL FAUDRA ME PASSER SUR LE CORPS

**Annie Breton, Frédéric Boily,
Master's in Architecture students, Université de Montréal**

The jury was impressed by the relationship to the human body evoked in all aspects of the proposal. It speaks to a new type of city and a new way of inhabiting it. The tube-walkways, positioned randomly above the expressway trenches, consist of a “bone structure” covered in a flexible wall, partially folded inward, that suggests skin. The need for a private relationship to urban space, a response to the aggressivity of the city, is obvious. Members appreciated the quality and human scale of the tunnel objects.



RECOMMENDATIONS

The jury members unanimously endorse the selection and ranking of the winning proposals in the “Professional” category, and the selection of those in the “Student” category.

With an eye to raising awareness among the authorities responsible for construction of the interfaces to the site under study here, especially those of the CHUM superhospital, **the jury recommends that the Ville de Montréal officially notify them of the issues raised by the various winning proposals and by the jury’s comments.**

The quantity and diversity of projects submitted in the two categories are proof that the competition format is relevant. **The jury recommends that the Ville de Montréal adopt a policy (or examine the advisability of doing so) favouring the use of competitions for the awarding of public commissions, and that such competitions be open to international firms and consortiums.**

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