

Fall 2013 ARCH 541 Selected Topics in Architecture Section 002

**Reading the city: Montreal and its neighbourhoods**

3 credits

Mondays 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Room 420, Macdonald-Harrington Building

except for walking tours – departure points listed in schedule

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all course information is also available on *MyCourses*

**Course Content**

To intervene, an architect has to understand; to understand one has to know how to read the city. This course is intended to develop both the capacity to read and an understanding of the architecture of Montreal and its context at the level of the neighbourhood. The emphasis will be on the evolution of Montreal architecture as seen from the sidewalk – seven of the thirteen sessions are walking tours.

The class is a lecture-based course - both in class and in situ - that will seek to make the city real for a generation more comfortable in the virtual. The intent is that the history of the city reveals itself over the course of the lectures and visits. Maps from every era will serve as the thread that binds in the course – they will demonstrate the successive layers of construction of the city. Images will help the student understand the form, volume and materials used in each period as well as changes to the character and nature of neighbourhoods.

Significant emphasis will be placed on buildings of the last twenty-five years in the course so as to stress the importance of intervention in the practice of Montreal architects. The course is intended to make students aware of the 'Montrealness' of the city.

**Learning Outcomes**

Having completed the course, the student should:

- understand how Montreal has evolved over the course of its history
- understand the architectural intentions, the forms and materials that characterise the different eras; the socio-cultural context of those eras and how they manifest themselves in different neighbourhoods
- be aware of the post-1945 era and the changes in Montreal architecture in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century – most particularly the relationship between contemporary architecture and its environment

**Instructional method**

Each session will present one or more neighbourhoods either in class in a lecture format or in a walking tour which will start from a designated metro station or intersection.

**Schedule**

<b>week</b>	<b>location</b>	
9 Sept.	room 420	Introduction / <b>McGill Campus</b>
16 Sept.	<b>métro Champ-de-mars</b>	<b>Old Montreal</b> <i>La ville fortifiée</i>
23 Sept.	<b>métro Place d'Armes</b> exit Saint-Urbain	<b>The faubourgs: St. Laurent and des Récollets</b> The first suburbs
30 Sept.	room 420 and <b>How to research Montreal neighbourhoods</b>	<b>Quartier Latin</b> The institutional city
7 Oct.	<b>métro Sherbrooke</b> exit rue de Rigaud	<b>Plateau Mont-Royal</b> The dense city
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>15 Oct.</b>	<b>assignment 1 due</b>	
21 Oct.	<b>métro Pie-IX</b> exit boul. Pie-IX ouest	<b>Maisonneuve</b> The deliberate gesture
28 Oct.	room 420 and <b>How to research neighbourhoods post-1945</b>	<b>St. Jacques / Ste. Marie</b> Workers' neighbourhood
4 Nov.	<b>Peel and René-Lévesque</b> north-west corner	<b>Downtown</b> Icons and their roles
11 Nov.	Crit Room 1 <i>TBC</i>	<b>presentations in class – assignment 2</b>
18 Nov.	<b>métro Côte-des-Neiges</b> exit Côte-des-Neiges est	<b>Côte des Neiges</b> The village
25 Nov.	room 420	<b>Westmount / Outremont</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> century suburbs
2 Dec.	room 420	<b>Rosemont</b> The post-war neighbourhood
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>3 Dec.</b>	<b>métro Lionel-Groulx</b> <b>assignment 3 due</b>	<b>St. Henri</b> 'the city below the hill'

### Required Readings

The following articles and essays will be sent as pdfs by e-mail to the class on the Friday before the weekly Monday meeting. Links to useful websites will also be sent.

- 9 Sept. Charney, Melvin, 1980, "The Montrealness of Montreal, Formations and formalities in urban architecture", *The Architectural Review* 167.
- 16 Sept. Clay, Grady, "Crossing the American grain with Vesalius, Geddes and Jackson: the cross Section as a learning tool", in *Everyday America: cultural landscape studies after JB Jackson*, Berkeley, University of California Press, 2003.
- 23 Sept Linteau, Paul-André, "Factors in the Development of Montreal" in *Montreal Metropolis, 1880-1930*, Montreal, Boréal, 1994.
- 30 Sept. Fournier, Marcel and Véronique Rodriguez, "An Age Rich in Miracles" in *Montreal Metropolis, 1880-1930*, Montreal, Boréal, 1994.
- 7 Oct. Kennedy, Andrea, 2000. "Montreal's Duplexes and Triplexes", *The Fifth Column* v.10.
- 21 Oct. Linteau, Paul-André, "'The Garden of Montreal': Development by Beautification, 1910-1918", *The Promoter's City: Building the Industrial Town of Maisonneuve 1883-1918*, Montreal, Lorimer, 1985.
- 28 Oct. Vanlaethem, France, "The Ambivalence of Architectural Culture in Quebec and Canada: 1955-1975" in *The Sixties: Passion, Politics and Style*, Montreal, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2008.
- 4 Nov. Lortie, André, *The 60s: Montreal Thinks Big*, p. 95-102, Montreal, Canadian Centre for Architecture / Douglas & McIntyre, 2004.
- 18 Nov. Deschamps, Yves, 1999. "Montreal: A Landscape of Modern America", *JSSAC* 24:1.
- 25 Nov. van Nus, Walter, "A Community of Communities; Suburbs in the Development of "Greater Montreal" in *Montreal Metropolis, 1880-1930*, Montreal, Boréal, 1994.

### Assignments

Assignments will be evaluated according to comprehension of the question, quality of research and quality of analysis.

#### Assignment 1 – analysis of an ensemble of buildings

**due Tuesday 15 October 2013 – submit a pdf by e-mail no later than 2:00 pm**

Students will select one of a series of building sets – typically part or all of a city block– and will produce a two-page description and sidewalk analysis of the ensemble, as well as a separate one-page research summary. Descriptions should include a very succinct summary of the quartier for context and the sidewalk analysis should address when, how and why the buildings were built. Maps and images should be included within the two pages.

#### Assignment 2 – presentation in class Monday 11 November 2013

Pairs of students will be asked to identify, observe and analyze recent interventions in the area of the six to ten block neighbourhood around one of the building ensembles studied in Assignment 1. A maximum ten-minute long, 20-screen presentation should include observation, analysis and a reading of the intentions of two or three projects built post-1945 in that area.

**Assignment 3 – termpaper: analysis of a neighbourhood**

**due Tuesday 3 December 2013 – submit a pdf by e-mail no later than 2:00 pm**

Students will select a neighbourhood and will write a 2500-word illustrated in-depth analysis of the patterns and layers of that Montreal neighbourhood. This analysis should pay particular attention to public spaces, to the street patterns and to the influence and impact of recent projects on the character and nature of that area.

**Evaluation**

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1. attendance at all sessions – in class and walking tours                      | 10% |
| 2. a written analysis of an ensemble of buildings in a particular neighbourhood | 25% |
| 3. presentation of recent interventions to the same neighbourhood               | 25% |
| 4. termpaper  | 40% |

All assignments must be submitted to complete the course. Late submissions will be penalized.

*In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.*

*McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see [www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/](http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/)) for more information).*

Please refer to [www.mcgill.ca/integrity/studentguide/](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity/studentguide/) for guidelines on how to avoid plagiarism.

**Bibliography**

**History of Montreal, its architecture and its architects**

Castonguay, Stéphane and Michèle Dagenais, ed. *Metropolitan natures: Environmental Histories of Montreal*, Pittsburgh, University of Pittsburgh Press, 2011.

Choko, Marc H., *The Major Squares of Montreal*, Montreal, Meridian Press, 1990.

Demchinsky, Brian ed., *Grassroots, Greystones and Glass Towers: Montreal Urban Issues and Architecture*, Montreal, Véhicule Press, 1989.

Demchinsky, Bryan and Elaine Kalman Naves, *Storied Streets: Montreal in the Literary Imagination*, Toronto, McFarlane Walter & Ross, 2000.

Dunton, Nancy and Helen Malkin, *Guidebook to Contemporary Architecture in Montreal*, Vancouver, Douglas & McIntyre, 2008.

Forget, Madeleine and Gilles Lauzon, *Old Montreal: History through Heritage*, Montreal, Les Publications du Québec, 2004.

Germain, Annick and Damaris Rose, *Montréal The Quest for a Metropolis*, Chichester, Wiley, 2000.

Gournay, Isabelle, *Ernest Cormier and the Université de Montréal*, Montreal, Canadian Centre for Architecture, 1990.

Gournay, Isabelle and France Vanlaethem, *Montreal Metropolis, 1880-1930*, Montreal, Boréal, 1994.

Grénier, Cécile and Joshua Wolfe, *Discover Montreal*, Montreal, Libre Expression, 1990.

Gruft, Andrew, *Substance Over Spectacle*, Vancouver, Arsenal Pulp Press / Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery, 2005.

Hanna, David B., *Montreal, a city built by small builders, 1867-1880*. Montreal, McGill University, 1986.

Lambert, Phyllis and Alan Stewart, *Opening the Gates of Eighteenth-Century Montreal*, Montreal, Canadian Centre for Architecture, 1992.

Linteau, Paul-André, *The History of Montreal: the Story of a Great North American City*, Montreal, Baraka Books, 2013.

Lortie, André, *The 60s: Montreal Thinks Big*, Montreal, Canadian Centre for Architecture / Douglas & McIntyre, 2004.

Marsan, Jean-Claude, *Montreal in evolution: Historical analysis of the development of Montreal's architecture and urban environment*, Montreal, Méridien, 1990.

Vanlaethem, France and Danielle Doucet, Sophie Mankowski, Conrad Gallant *Discovering Modern Montreal and the Estérel Resort in Quebec*, Brussels, CIVA, 2007.

Wagg, Susan, *Percy Erskine Nobbs, Architect, Artist, Craftsman*, Montreal, McGill-Queen's University Press, 1982.

Wagg, Susan, *The Architecture of Sir Andrew Thomas Taylor, Montreal's Square Mile and Beyond*, Montreal, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2013.

Wolfe, Jeanne M. and Francois Dufaux, ed. *A Topographic Atlas of Montreal*, School of Urban Planning, McGill University, Montreal, 1992.

### **Periodicals**

for 1950s/1960s/1970s *Architecture Bâtiment Construction*

for 1980s to 2013 *ARQ*

*Canadian Architect*

*Azure, Formes, Esquisses*

*Continuité* [www.actionpatrimoine.ca/continuite/collection.htm](http://www.actionpatrimoine.ca/continuite/collection.htm)

### **Libraries**

Blackader-Lauterman

Canadian Centre for Architecture, 1920 rue Baile, open Wed. to Fri.  
(by appointment 514-939-7011 or e-mail [ref@cca.qc.ca](mailto:ref@cca.qc.ca))

Université de Montréal – Faculté de l'aménagement, 2940 Côte Ste. Catherine

Grande Bibliothèque, 475 de Maisonneuve East

Heritage Montreal documentation centre, 100 Sherbrooke East, Su. 0050  
(by appointment only 514-286-2662)

## Websites

### City of Montreal

[www.ville.montreal.qc.ca](http://www.ville.montreal.qc.ca)

### Old Montreal

[www.vieux.montreal.qc.ca/eng/accueila.htm](http://www.vieux.montreal.qc.ca/eng/accueila.htm)

### Master plans for Montreal boroughs

[www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/masterplan](http://www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/masterplan)

### Montreal archives

*Brève histoire de Montréal* by Paul-André Linteau is available online in both English and French - the best short history of Montreal illustrated with images and drawings from 20 different Montreal archives

[www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/montrealistes/500ans](http://www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/montrealistes/500ans) > select English

*Montréal Municipalité et Métropole : 1920-1960 301 photographies*

[www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/archives/seriez/](http://www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/archives/seriez/)

### Databases on Montreal's built heritage

[www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/patrimoineurbain](http://www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/patrimoineurbain) >select *bases de données*

includes:

*Grand répertoire du patrimoine bâti de Montréal* built heritage directory

*L'ensemble des propriétés municipales de Montréal*

*Le patrimoine du Vieux-Montréal*

*La toponymie*

### *L'histoire des grandes rues montréalaises*

[www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/grandesrues](http://www.ville.montreal.qc.ca/grandesrues)

### *Office de consultations publics de Montréal*

for information on projects currently in public consultation and archives of projects from 2002-2013:

[www.ocpm.qc.ca](http://www.ocpm.qc.ca)

### *Réalisons Montréal : Montréal ville UNESCO de design*

Design Montréal – particularly for *Cahiers des bonnes pratiques en design*

[www.realisonsmontreal.com/](http://www.realisonsmontreal.com/)

### *Site officiel du Mont-Royal*

See *Les inventaires* for information on buildings on the flanks of Mount Royal

[www1.ville.montreal.qc.ca/siteofficieldumontroyal/front](http://www1.ville.montreal.qc.ca/siteofficieldumontroyal/front)

## Québec

### *Repertoire du patrimoine culturel de Québec*

Province-wide repertory

[www.patrimoine-culturel.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.patrimoine-culturel.gouv.qc.ca)

## STM

Maps and information

[www.stm.info](http://www.stm.info)

and **Montreal by Metro**, the unofficial site – metro station architecture

[www.metrodemontreal.com](http://www.metrodemontreal.com)

### **McGill University**

Blackader Library: include (among others):

Expo 67 <http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/expo-67/>

Canadian Architect and Builder <http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/cab/>

Industrial Architecture of Montreal <http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/industrial/>

Hospital Architecture of Montreal <http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/hospitals/>

Walter Hirschfeld Geographic Information Centre

Montreal maps online

<http://www.mcgill.ca/library/find/maps/carto/>

Canadian Architecture Collection

for archives of Montreal architects including biographies

<http://cac.mcgill.ca/home/cover.htm>

Virtual McGill

for information on McGill buildings

<http://cac.mcgill.ca/campus/>

### **Université de Montréal**

[www.bib.umontreal.ca/AM/ressources/architecture.html](http://www.bib.umontreal.ca/AM/ressources/architecture.html)

### **Bibliothèque et archives nationales du Québec**

primary resource for online access to historic Montreal maps

[www.banq.qc.ca/collections/cartes\\_plans/ressources\\_BAnQ/doc\\_cartographiques/index.html](http://www.banq.qc.ca/collections/cartes_plans/ressources_BAnQ/doc_cartographiques/index.html)

direct link to list of insurance maps

[www.banq.qc.ca/collections/cartes\\_plans/ressources\\_BAnQ/doc\\_cartographiques/doc\\_assurance/](http://www.banq.qc.ca/collections/cartes_plans/ressources_BAnQ/doc_cartographiques/doc_assurance/)

### **Heritage Montreal**

<http://www.heritagemontreal.org/en/>

and website on 13 different neighbourhoods available in English

[www.memorablemontreal.com](http://www.memorablemontreal.com)

### **Canadian Centre for Architecture**

[www.cca.qc.ca](http://www.cca.qc.ca)

### **McCord Museum**

particularly: online version of *Montreal Points of View* permanent exhibition

Notman Collection

[www.mccord-museum.qc.ca](http://www.mccord-museum.qc.ca)

### **DOCOMOMO**

*Architecture moderne au Québec et ailleurs* – includes list of publications and downloadable audioguides on Expo 67 and Modernist Montreal

[www.docomomoquebec.ca/](http://www.docomomoquebec.ca/)

**The following are included for reference and are available in French only:**

Benoît, Michèle and Roger Gratton, *Pignon sur rue: Les quartiers de Montréal*, Montréal, Les éditions Guérin, 1991.

Bergeron, Claude, *Architectures du XX<sup>e</sup> siècle au Québec*, Québec, Musée de la civilisation / Les Éditions du Méridien, 1989.

Bergeron, Claude, *D'Astous*, Québec, Les Presses de l'Université Laval, 2001.

Communauté urbaine de Montréal, Service de la planification du territoire, *Répertoire d'architecture traditionnelle sur le territoire de la Communauté urbaine de Montréal*, in 10 volumes, Montréal, 1981-1990.

Drouin, Martin, *Le combat du patrimoine à Montréal (1973-2003)*, Québec, Les Presses de l'Université du Québec, 2007.

Forget, Madeleine, *Les Gratte-Ciel de Montréal*, Montréal, Les Éditions du Méridien, 1990.

Leduc, Maryse and Denys Marchand, *Les maisons de Montréal*, Ministère des Affaires culturelles et Ville de Montréal, 1992.

Lachapelle, Jacques, *Le Fantôme Métropolitain : L'architecture de Ross et Macdonald*, Montréal, Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal, 2001.

Legault, Réjean, 2004. "« Pour une définition de l'architecture... » : Melvin Charney et la modernité architecturale dans les années 1960", *Trames no. 15, Architecture et modernité* : 25-52.

Ordre des architectes du Québec, *Parcours littéraire d'une architecture gagnante : Prix d'excellence en architecture 2011*, OAQ, Montréal, 2011.

Ordre des architectes du Québec, *Parcours commenté d'une architecture gagnante : Prix d'excellence en architecture 2007*, OAQ, Montréal, 2007.

Pinard, Guy, *Montréal : Son histoire, son architecture*, Montréal, Les Éditions de La Presse and Les Éditions du Méridien, 1987-1995.

Robert, Jean-Claude, *Atlas Historique de Montréal*, Montréal, Éditions Libre Expression, 1994.

Vanlaethem, France, *Patrimoine en devenir: L'architecture moderne du Québec*, Les Publications du Québec, Québec, 2012.