

What is it?

An art installation designed to communicate the unsustainable habit of the use and subsequent disposal of single-use coffee cups within the Greater Montreal region. We have found that an effective way to communicate the data on coffee cups is by materialising the total amount into a concrete and static visualization. We explore the relationship between the material space the cups occupy in landfills and its implication on the environment, by bringing the issue to the community's attention.

Why is it needed?

To raise awareness to the residents of Montreal in regards to the issue of the waste generated by the consumption of single use coffee cups. In the greater Montreal area, there is an estimated 4 million cups sent to waste disposal per week, an average of 23,809 per hour. From Concordia University, non-reusable cup are the largest waste item sent to landfills, with a total of 60 tonnes sent every year. This installation aims to create a better understanding of the unsustainable habit of purchasing single-use cups in hopes to incite the public to make a better educated choice in their consumption.

The Installation:

Our project aims to bring these concerns into a tangible and tactile manifestation through an art installation that communicates the data. We would create a rectangular case structure to hold the average number of coffee cups sold by a specific time period in each borough. Stacked coffee cups would fully occupy the inside of the case. The case would be made out of acrylic as it is a durable and less expensive choice for transparent materials. The coffee cups will ideally be obtained post consumer. The overall dimensions to these installations would differ depending on the amount of single-use coffee cups disposed of per borough. We named the installations “The Space Occupied.”

Collecting the Data:

The data to be collected is a precise number of single use-coffee cups that are sold by the **main beverage sellers** [Fig.2] in greater Montreal. We propose the creation of an online portal in which the businesses can input their inventory during each restocking. For us to work with more accurate data, we would receive it directly from the stores. We would be able to assert the number of coffee cups, and also create a better understanding of the consumption by how quickly the cups have to be restocked. We would request the location of each of these businesses, and compile them by borough. Then the overall data of the consumption of each borough would be communicated by the art installations. An additional data set on foot traffic of each borough would be utilised to decide the location of the installations for the purpose of reaching the largest number of people.



Fig.2
The main beverage seller in Montreal



Fig. 3 UN Sustainable Development Goals that this project addresses



Fig. 1 Rendering of the installation The Space Occupied

OUR UNSUSTAINABLE
COFFEE HABITS —
Every week, 4 million cups are disposed
of in the Greater Montreal region.
NOS HABITUDES DE CAFÉ
INSOUTENABLE —
Chaque semaine, 4 millions de tasses
de café sont jetées dans la grande ré-
gion de Montréal.