

Put the Core in Concordia

Connecting Concordia's Campus Through Flows of Activity

eam: SOFT SERVE | Carlos Bober, Chloe Bullen, Cinderella Omar, Dante Reda & Jessie Gagnon, Site: SWG Concordia Campus | URBS 333 - Final (2021.04.2)



FIGURE 2. EV Building on Sainte-Catherine St. | Summer representation of Le Nook converted to an aditional mobility node where everyone can park and repair bikes.

In the warmer months of the year, Le Nook becomes both a space of gathering and a mobility node for the campus. Concordia students and staff, pedestrians and commuters are drawn into the space by public art installations, modular urban furniture and music, through a public grand piano. The public piano becomes the central element of the space where planned or spontaneous concerts can occur. Le Nook also doubles as a blike parking and self-repair station and conveniently accessible to and from the Guy Metro and important bus stops.

WHAT IS IT?

Put the Core in Concordia is an effort to bring urban cohesion to the Sir George Williams Campus. The campus is located in an integral location within the downtown core as it converges with various transportation routes and major arterials. However, due to its lack of connectivity, the campus fails to properly utilize these assets, prohibiting it from being a key node within the city. By implementing various mobility nodes and spaces of interaction within the Saint-Catherines Sector, we intend to mitigate these issues by creating one holistic space for pedestrians and students alike.

WHAT IS NEW & DISTINCTIVE?

The purpose of this project is to reinvigorate a sector that currently underutilizes public space and holds the potential to strategically host mobility nodes for the SGW campus. This project intends to address these issues by envisioning a set of three unique, multifunctional, interrelated, and publicly accessible spaces that are harmoniously integrated into the surrounding urban landscape and intersect with diverse mobility flows of the city. The goal of this project is to create spaces of encounter, democracy, and convergence for all.



FIGURE 3. EV Building on Sainte-Catherine St. | Winter representation of Le Nook integrated to the EV building where people can come for a hot drink and meet around a public fire pit.

Le Nook draws upon seasonal and interactive elements that are versatile and adaptable to the ever-changing climate. The multifunctional node allows for individuals to enjoy a hot food or beverage, while taking shelter by the fire. The mural and luminous elements act as potential uses for activities to be held individually or in groups and illuminate the sector during the season. The mobility node also acts as storage and parking infrastructure for seasonal riders during the winter. Le Nook provides warmth and activity to an otherwise cold and grey crevice in the winter.

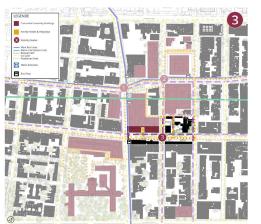


FIGURE 5. Sir George William Campus Map - SECTOR 3



FIGURE 4. Sainte-Catherine St. - St-Jax Church garden | Summer & Winter representation of cultural activities planned by the community engagement commitee.

The garden of the St Jax Church was incorporated into an interactive space for people throughout the year. The illustration of the summer compromises green spaces, a screen to enjoy watching movies as well as movable benches. We can observe the sculptures and tree decorations that are placed around the space to attract guests. The movable benches will remain available during the winter to enjoy and relax. The St Jax Garden presents a place of interactivity and safety for individuals during summer and winter.

HOW IT WORKS?

The lack of connection between the buildings of the SGW Concordia campus, the dangerous traffic zones and the lack of public squares and greenery are the matters that were contemplated. Several implementations will be applied to the project to produce an energetic and safer place for people. Essentially, installing mobility nodes around the campus to facilitate access to the existing network. Adding to that, creating deeds in some spaces that are neglected, like "Le nook" or "Le Bike Bar". All spaces will contain seasonal elements and interactive activities where individuals can enjoy and relax.

OUTCOMES:

Put The Core in Concordia plans to provide a strategic plan across spaces of interaction and modes of transportation to create a holistic sector of encounter. The approach used to emphasize the concept of the network of SGW campus was the philosophy of Placemaking (Project for Public Space, 2018). These elements can be measured by the number of individuals occupying the spaces, what modes of transportation are being used, and if the space is being used in each season. The sector not only links the institutional buildings of Concordia to the street, it pairs individuals together through Community.

