



The new CHUM,
vector of revitalization

Description

The largest healthcare construction project in North America, opens its doors

Via **v2com**

After nearly a decade of work, CannonDesign + NEUF architect(e)s are pleased to announce the completion of Phase 1 of the **Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM)**. Begun in 2009, the CHUM teaching institution is the largest healthcare construction project in North America and the largest public—private partnership project in Canadian history. Already, the building has ignited the revitalization of a neglected sector of Montreal's urban core.

The largest healthcare construction project in North America and the largest public—private partnership project in Canadian history.

“It's remarkably rewarding to see so many years of preparation, planning, design and intense effort come to life,” said Jose Silva, Principal for CannonDesign. “The CHUM has always been an extraordinary project—from the bold vision that set it in motion nearly a decade ago to the beautiful building it has now become. This is an exciting moment for both those who worked on the project and those who will benefit from this state-of-the-art facility.”



Accelerating public access

Initially structured as a two-phased project, the team reconfigured the indicative design of the campus arrangement and architecture in order to accelerate development significantly. As a result, Phase I, now complete, delivers the hospital's core healthcare capabilities, including all patient rooms, all operating theatres, diagnostic and therapeutics, as well as the Oncology program, leaving only offices, a conference center, a few ambulatory spaces, and additional parking for Phase 2. This allows the Quebec population to benefit from the much-needed state-of-the-art healthcare infrastructure years sooner than originally anticipated.

Human inspiration



With social infrastructure and urban renewal as integral components to its design, the 22-storey complex, spanning over 3 million square feet and encompassing two full city blocks, will play an important role in regenerating the neglected East-end of Montreal's downtown core, reconnecting the city's urban fabric and anchoring the Quartier de la Santé, Montreal's new healthcare district. In addressing the totality of that task, the design team approached the project from all scales, including the large-scale urban element, the local neighbourhood context, and the fine grain of a human component, central to its vocation as a place of healing.

"Walking through the completed spaces today, we feel a spatial quality that is in line with the ambitions of this great institution," explains Azad Chichmanian, partner and architect with NEUF architect(e)s. "As the public finally begins to discover the architectural moments that have been created, from the inviting, light-filled public spaces to the state-of-the-art clinical facilities, we believe the building will succeed in completely redefining Montrealers' image of what a hospital feels like."

Throughout the design process, the team continually pushed the envelope for quality of design, whether in its use of parametric design on the building envelope, the use of 3D-printed models in coordination, an innovative approach to the integration of heritage components, and an intense use of technology to facilitate communication between team members from across the globe.

From a healthcare delivery perspective, each of the 772 rooms includes ample space for family involvement, and



expansive windows offering some of the best views of the city. Importantly, the entire building is designed following universal design principles, and impressively, the vast majority of the 12,000+ rooms in the building were designed following a small number of standardized room templates. “The creation of such an incredible healthcare facility required our design team to look at the project from numerous perspectives, but we leveraged our health expertise to always keep patient experience at the forefront.” added Silva.

Art at the heart of the architecture



Requirement of dedicating a minimum of 1% of a public development's budget to public art will have 13 large-scale works of art incorporated into the city's public art program in Montreal since Expo 67.

“We have integrated the art directly into the architecture of the

complex in ways that blur the lines between the two and provides a more human experience to the visitor and staff”, explains Chichmanian. “In fact, many components of the buildings themselves can be considered as works of art, including the amphitheater, the reconstructed steeple, Maison Garth and the Space of Contemplation—forming a series of architectural objects animating Saint-Denis Street. Perhaps the best example is the passerelle, an aerial bridge now spanning across Sanguinet Street with its translucent arch emerging from the perforations of the copper shroud enveloping it.”



Global recognition

Ahead of the opening, the complexities and design of the CHUM project have already garnered significant international accolades. In 2016, the design team was honoured with an Architizer A+Award, as well as an A' Design Award presented during the European Healthcare Design Forum in London. In June 2017, the team won top prize categories for the CHUM Passerelle, presented at the annual meeting of members of international architecture and design communities



In July, both the World Architecture Festival (WAF) and the

INSIDE World Festival of Interiors, sister festival of WAF, added the CHUM project to its shortlist in four separate categories. CannonDesign + NEUF architect(e)s will present the project during the three-day festival this November in Berlin. Also in July, CannonDesign + NEUF architect(e)s received a Future Healthy Built Environment award from the Stockholm-based International Academy for Design & Health, and were shortlisted in the category of 'Facade Design & Engineering' by the ABB LEAF Awards in London.

About the Design Team



CannonDesign

CannonDesign is an integrated design firm that unites a dynamic team of architects, engineers, and industry specialists driven by a singular goal—to help solve clients’ and society’s greatest challenges. The firm’s defining strength is its ability to harness creative intelligence, from team members and clients, to identify and connect the best ideas across industries and geographies that advance successful design solutions. CannonDesign is recognized as the #16 design firm in the world by Architect Magazine, a top 10 global design firm in healthcare, education and science by numerous industry rankings, and one of the 10 most innovative architecture companies in the world per Fast Company.

NEUF architect(e)s

NEUF architect(e)s is a team of creative professionals that has been contributing to Montreal's urban landscape since 1971. With offices in Montreal and Ottawa, NEUF architect(e)s has grown into one of the most diversified architecture and design firms in Canada. Active in all sectors, including strategic planning, urban design, resorts and hotels, residential, commercial, industrial and office buildings, the firm is specialized in fast-track design projects. Over the years, they have designed numerous landmarks including the CBC Headquarters in Ottawa, Bombardier facilities in Dorval and Mirabel, the Mont Tremblant resort, and many of the towers animating Montreal's skyline, such as the recently completed AIMIA tower. Recipient of multiple design awards, NEUF architect(e)s is currently involved in projects across the Americas, Europe and Asia.

Sign-up to our newsletter
and get email notification
of our most recent articles



Photo credit: Adrien Williams

Read also: [The latest edition of 'Passages insolites'](#)



Category

- 1. Architecture | Design
- 2. Installation

Tags

- 1. interior design
- 2. public art
- 3. sustainable development
- 4. technology + science
- 5. urban design

Date Created

September 2017