



A post-war residence  
transformed into twin houses

## Description

# Maison Soeur, the expansion and refurbishing of a veterans' home in Verdun

Via **v2com**

An architect and her partner, parents of twins, called upon **APPAREIL Architecture** to design the expansion and refurbishing of a veterans' home in Verdun. The client, Catherine Gauthier, being an architect herself, the project was conceptualized through collaboration and communication among all parties.

The concept imagined by the firm developed around the theme of duality, recreating the existing volume through a 'sister house', or Maison Soeur, that stands out through its clean signature. The residence being a veterans' home, typical lodging of 1950s Montreal working-class neighbourhoods, it was important to respect its architectural heritage.



The stakes consisted of highlighting the volume characteristic to this type of building while giving it a second life that better responded to the new owners' need for space. The extension thus presents itself as a reinterpretation of the existing structure through its silhouette and its physicality. The roof's double-sloped archetype is reproduced, as is its masonry envelope.



In the new extension, openings and luminosity are emphasized

by generous windows. The interior spaces offer distinct layouts, favouring connexions between the rooms and the garden. The layout ensures abundant light throughout the interior spaces, whose pale hues contrast with the dark brick of the new facades.

Pragmatic, the plan maximizes liveable areas by reducing traffic and favouring interplays of transparency that reinforce the connection between interior and exterior. Between the old and new volumes, a glass and grating footbridge subtly emphasizes the passage between the two eras. At the heart of the extension, the kitchen stands out by its luminosity and its direct relationship with a large adjoining garden.

This project was designed to adapt to numerous construction constraints, all while maintaining a strong distinction between the volumes and an abundant entry of light. Born from a collaborative process, the Maison Soeur preserves its recent heritage through a sombre and pragmatic architecture.



Creator/architect: APPAREIL Architecture in collaboration with Catherine Gauthier  
General contractor: GCT Construction  
Ceramist: Marie?Ève Dompierre  
Photographer: Félix Michaud

*Feature image: Félix Michaud*

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## Date Created

April 2020