



McGill

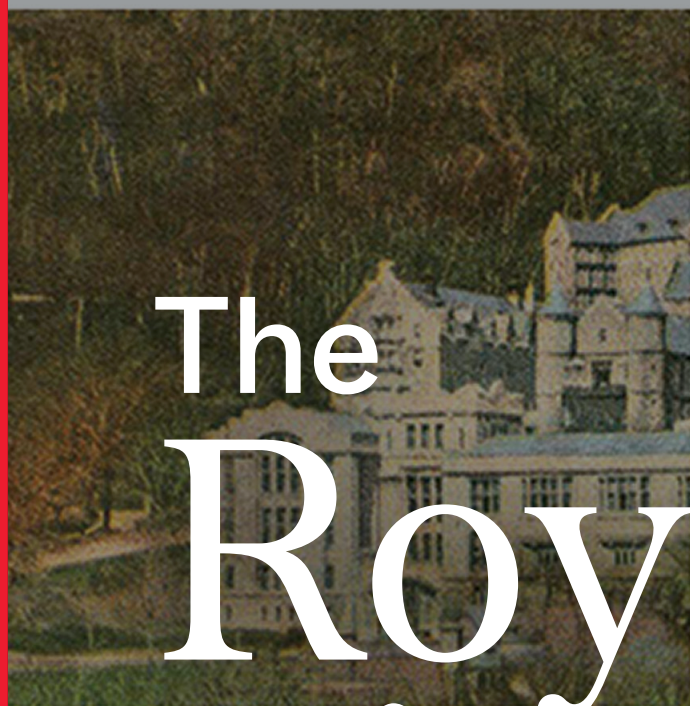
New Vic Project

DEDICATED TO SUSTAINABILITY
SYSTEMS, PUBLIC POLICY, AND
TEACHING & LEARNING

Fall 2021



McGill University is on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations.



The Royal Vic

: Past & Future





“The Royal Vic site is a unique opportunity to create new ways of addressing **the most significant issues of our time**. It will be a jewel in both Montreal’s and Quebec’s crowns and an important crossroads for learning, research and innovation for people from around the world.”

Suzanne Fortier,
Principal and Vice-Chancellor



McGILL AT THE ROYAL VIC

For more than a century, the Royal Victoria Hospital was a central part of the circle of life for thousands upon thousands of Montrealers and Quebecers. It was about healing and helping. Now, the historic site's vocation is changing in important ways.



Distinctive character of the pavilions in their layout, volume and architectural expression. Pavilions A, E and L of the RVH, circa 1900. Credits: Musée McCord

THE SITE'S HERITAGE

- The Royal Vic site rests at the foot of Mount Royal and is defined by the 1877 Frederick Law Olmsted plan.
- Its location on Mount Royal established a presence within the emerging social and cultural landscape of Montreal.
- To this day, with its forest paths, views, and belvederes overlooking the city, Mount Royal remains a destination of choice.
- Established in 1893, the original Royal Vic buildings were designed in the Scottish baronial style by London-based architect Henry Saxon Snell. The design was inspired by the Edinburgh Infirmary (1870).
- Pavilions A, E and L frame the public space along Pine Avenue, and were part of the original site.
- Over 120 years, the Royal Victoria Hospital expanded significantly with new buildings incrementally filling in vacant spaces in the original layout.
- The current condition of the site has lost the original intention of the pavilion plan. Open spaces have been infilled and connections to the Mountain obstructed.

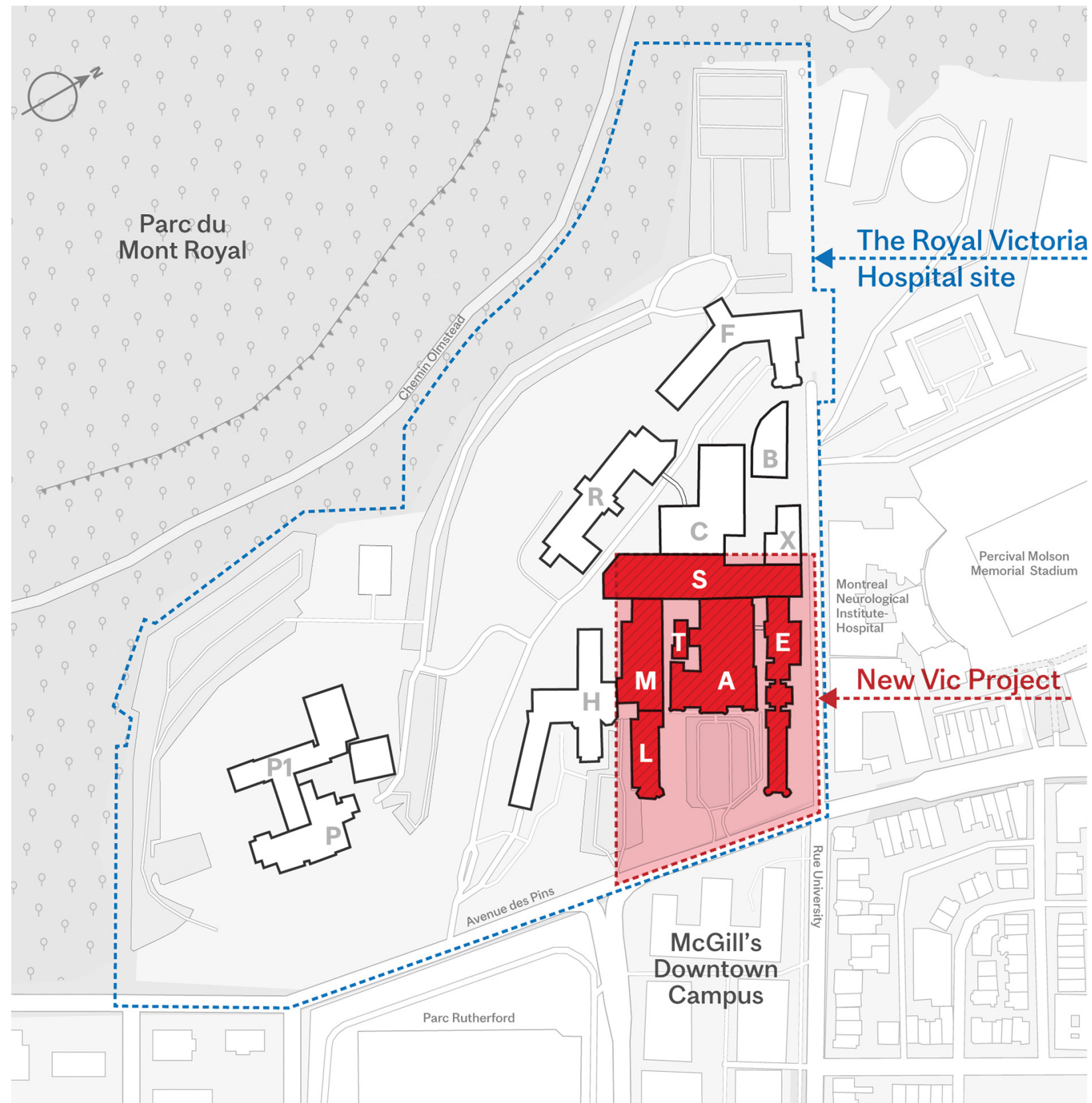
No university can **lead globally** in the 21st century without putting **sustainability** at the centre of its operations, research, and teaching.

McGill's Strategic Academic Plan
2017-2022

PURSUING
LEED
CERTIFICATION



PROJECT AIMS
FOR LEED GOLD® AND
WELL CERTIFICATION



THE NEW VIC

Under the guidance of, and in collaboration with, government authorities, McGill University is developing a proposal to reimagine a portion of the former Royal Victoria Hospital site as a state-of-the-art research, teaching, and learning hub dedicated to Sustainability Systems and Public Policy.

For this ambitious project to succeed, it must be anchored in the community through engagement and partnerships with McGillians, our neighbours and all citizens of Montreal, Quebec and Canada.

It is through an extensive consultation process, undertaken since 2015, that the vision and guiding principles for this project have emerged –and we will only deepen our engagement as we invest our every effort towards the project’s realization.



Photo credits: Diamond Schmitt Lemay Michaud Architects

INNOVATION IN ACTION

To tackle global challenges, we need to bring people together based on the problems they are working on, and not solely the disciplines they specialize in.

Across its campuses, McGill already has multidisciplinary teams working with research and industry partners, both locally and globally. The New Vic will significantly increase our capacity to put this talent and infrastructure together in one place—to give a physical home to this community of learning and practice.

The New Vic is a major piece of McGill's Master Plan, and will allow the entire University to continue evolving, enabling 21st-century research and teaching methods to be developed, tested and put into practice.

SUSTAINABILITY SYSTEMS

We will build on the interdisciplinary strengths that McGill has spent decades developing, providing a research and learning environment where new ideas grow and new partnerships flourish. The New Vic will house three research clusters that are central to sustainability: **Molecular/Materials Systems, Earth Systems and Urban Systems.**

These clusters will foster greater collaboration, share resources, and have access to wet, dry, and computational laboratory spaces.

PUBLIC POLICY

Driven by the **Max Bell School of Public Policy and select Institutes and Centres of the Faculty of Arts**, we will bring policy expertise into direct conversation with Sustainability Sciences. Scientists will learn from policy experts, so their work can be informed by the realities of governments, communities and citizens who will adopt them. Tomorrow’s policy leaders will be informed by a dynamic multidisciplinary environment, fueling evidence-based policy from the local to the national level.

MODERN TEACHING & ACTIVE LEARNING

We will create modern teaching and learning spaces and associated library facilities, including 1,100 lecture seats in active learning classrooms, event space, and a variety of informal learning and “collision” spaces to stimulate interaction.

3,000+

DAILY USERS INCLUDING STAFF, STUDENTS, PARTNERS AND VISITORS

+

1,100

GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS IN ACTIVE LEARNING CLASSROOMS

+

1,200

RESEARCHERS, STAFF, AND STUDENTS CONDUCTING STATE-OF-THE-ART RESEARCH



Photo credits: Diamond Schmitt Lemay Michaud Architects

INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION IS CENTRAL TO THE NEW VIC

RESEARCH CLUSTERS

The New Vic seeks to better link researchers who work on themes in common or in similar or related areas. This recognizes that solutions to today's global problems do not align well with traditional university organizational structures such as Faculties and departments.

The result will be a novel dynamic research community, with common services, spaces and, most importantly, common goals.

Our Project's Research Clusters:

1. Sustainability Systems
 - a. Earth Systems
 - b. Urban Systems
 - c. Molecular/Materials Systems
2. Public Policy
 - a. Max Bell School of Public Policy
 - b. Policy-associated research institutes and centers

DISCOVERY HUBS

Discovery Hubs are large core facilities in which state-of-the-art instrumentation, services, and personnel support research undertaken in Earth Systems, Molecular/Materials Systems, and Urban Systems.

These are designed to be shared facilities, ensuring that the multimillion-dollar instrument platforms are operated in the most effective manner possible and enabling access to many researchers, across all the research clusters.

Our four Discovery Hubs:

1. Alpha
 - a. Molecular Characterization
 - b. Materials/Surface Characterization and Testing
2. Beta - Geo Hub
3. Gamma - Computational and Data Sciences

COLLISION SPACES

These are large, informal, open spaces where people meet, connecting a multitude of distinct program areas and fostering innovation.

Collision spaces can be used for functions, including research displays and events.

Examples of collision spaces:

- Atriums
- Event space
- Informal seating distributed throughout the open spaces

The New Vic



Photo credits: Diamond Schmitt Lemay Michaud Architects

Seven guiding principles of the New Vic Project

- 01** Deliver a project for Montreal, Quebec and Canada.
- 02** Embrace the challenges of sustainability through research, policy development and collaboration.
- 03** Build an idea factory that attracts, connects and inspires.
- 04** Balance nature, heritage, functionality and sustainable architecture.
- 05** Recognize and honor the Indigenous history of the site.
- 06** Exemplify sustainable mobility and urban integration.
- 07** Enhance views and access to Mount Royal, and Olmsted's landscape vision for Montreal.



“McGill is committed to building respectful and reciprocal relationships with Indigenous communities, and to furthering Indigenous success. The engagement of Indigenous communities in the design of the New Vic—an academic complex dedicated to sustainability systems and public policy—is an expression of that commitment, and contributes to McGill’s vision to be open, connected and purposeful in all of our pursuits.”

Christopher Manfredi
Provost and Vice-Principal (Academic)

The New Vic will serve as a model for how a heritage site can be responsibly re-purposed and transformed.

- Heritage buildings will be revitalized, and a new building will feature advanced standards of sustainable design and construction.
- The design balances function with the natural landscape, the site's heritage, and recognition of the Indigenous history of the land.



Photo credits: Diamond Schmitt Lemay Michaud Architects

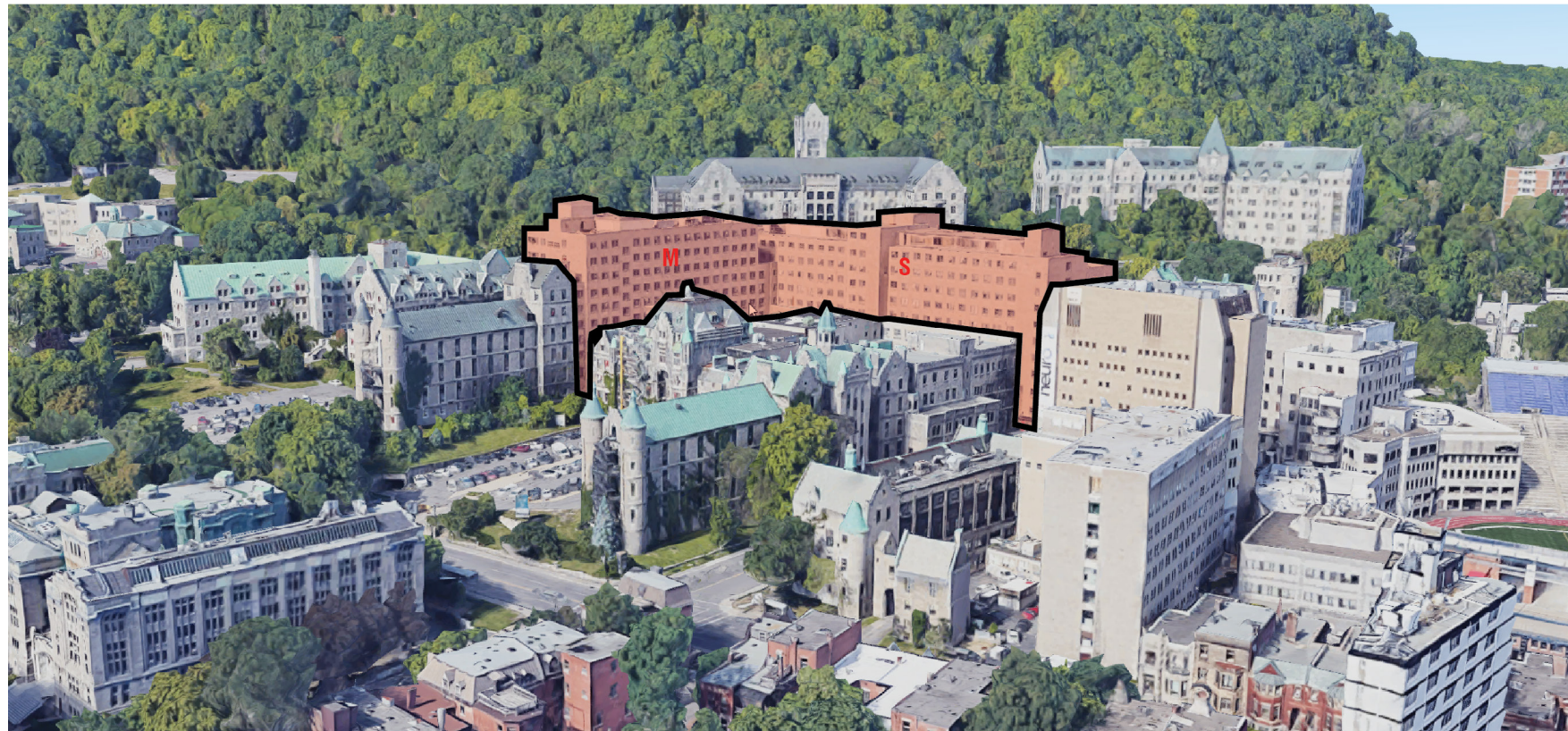


Photo credits: Google Earth / Diamond Schmitt Lemay Michaud Architects

RESTORING THE VIEW OF THE MOUNTAIN

The removal of buildings M & S will reduce the overall building height by 15m and:

- highlight the heritage buildings on the site and improve the skyline;
- reduce the floor area on the site by 5000 m²;
- connect the upper and lower plateaus, allowing public access to the Mountain;
- open up the site with a new public green roof and interior courtyards.

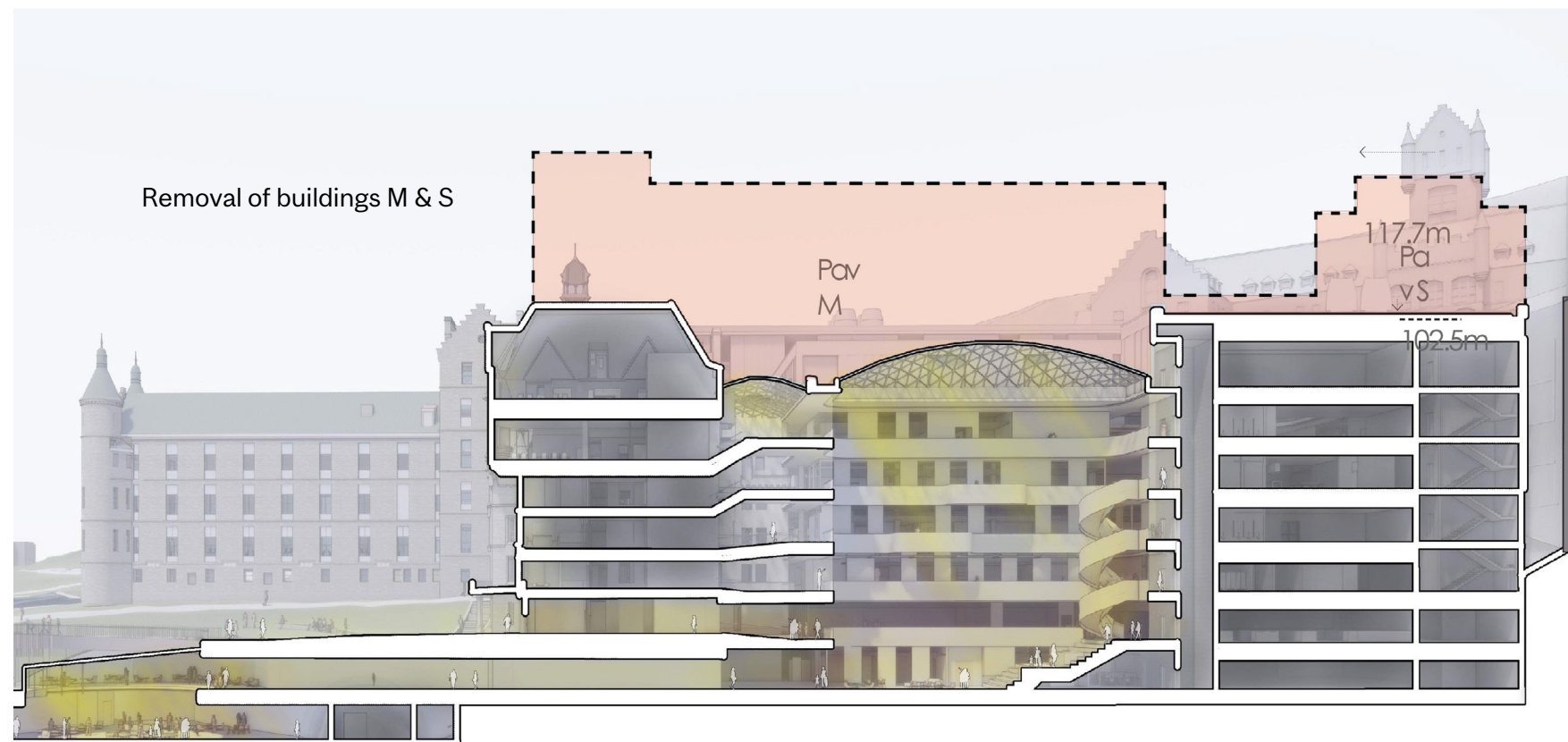


Photo credits: Diamond Schmitt Lemay Michaud Architects



GREATLY ENHANCING ACCESS

- The New Vic becomes an extension of the 1877 Olmsted plan and the Mountain.
- Allowing access to the site to all Montrealers.
- Reconnecting the New Vic site to Mount Royal Park through topography and vegetation.
- Restoring sight lines to existing heritage buildings.
- Creating new public belvederes and viewpoints.
- Providing universally accessible entries at all main levels.
- Inviting public access to the upper plateau and belvedere.



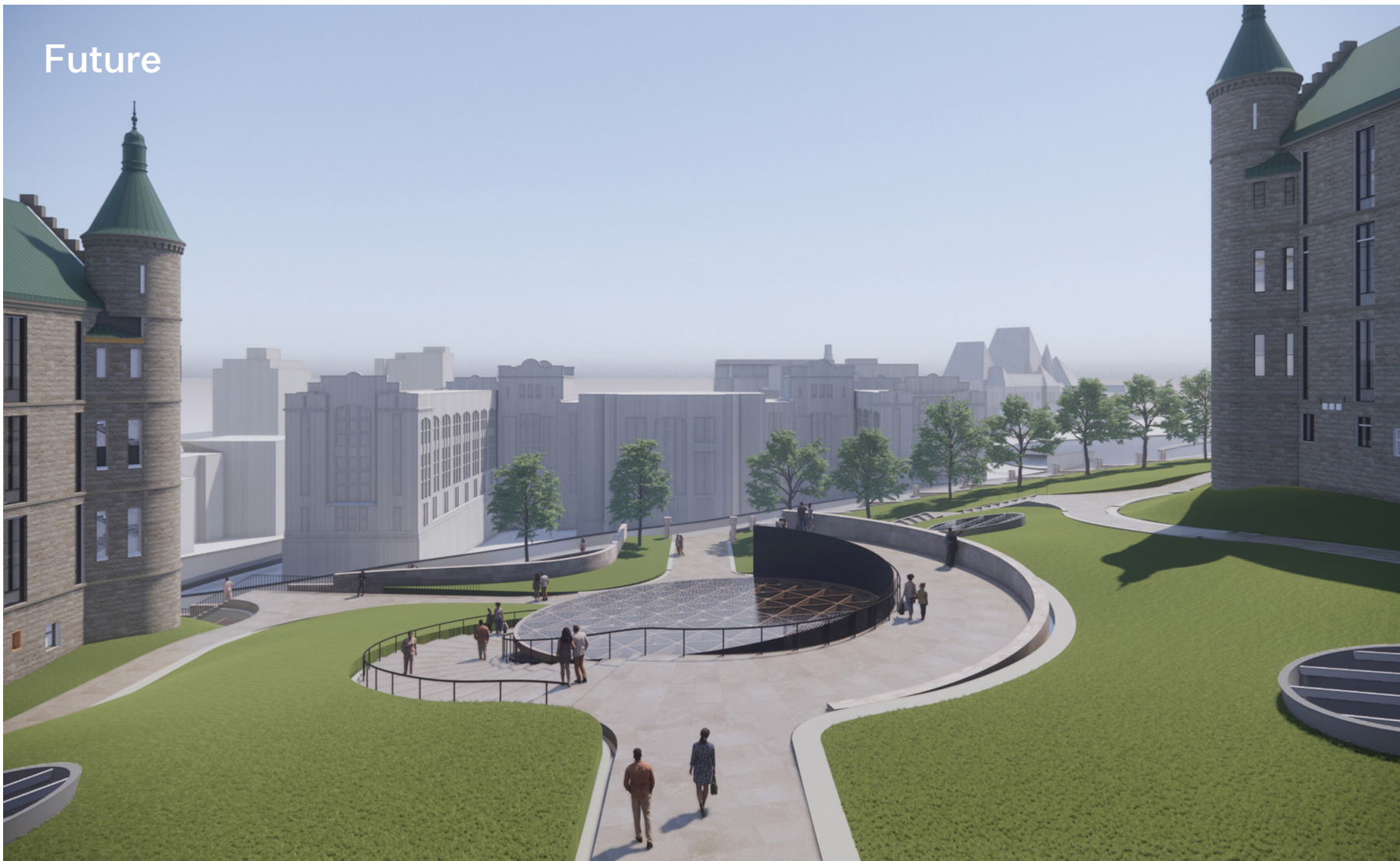
Past

Circa 1925 - Protecting important visual corridors: the Strathcona Medical Building seen from the balcony of RVH Pavilion A
Source: McGill University Archives



Present

2021 - Photo credits: Diamond Schmitt Lemay Michaud Architects

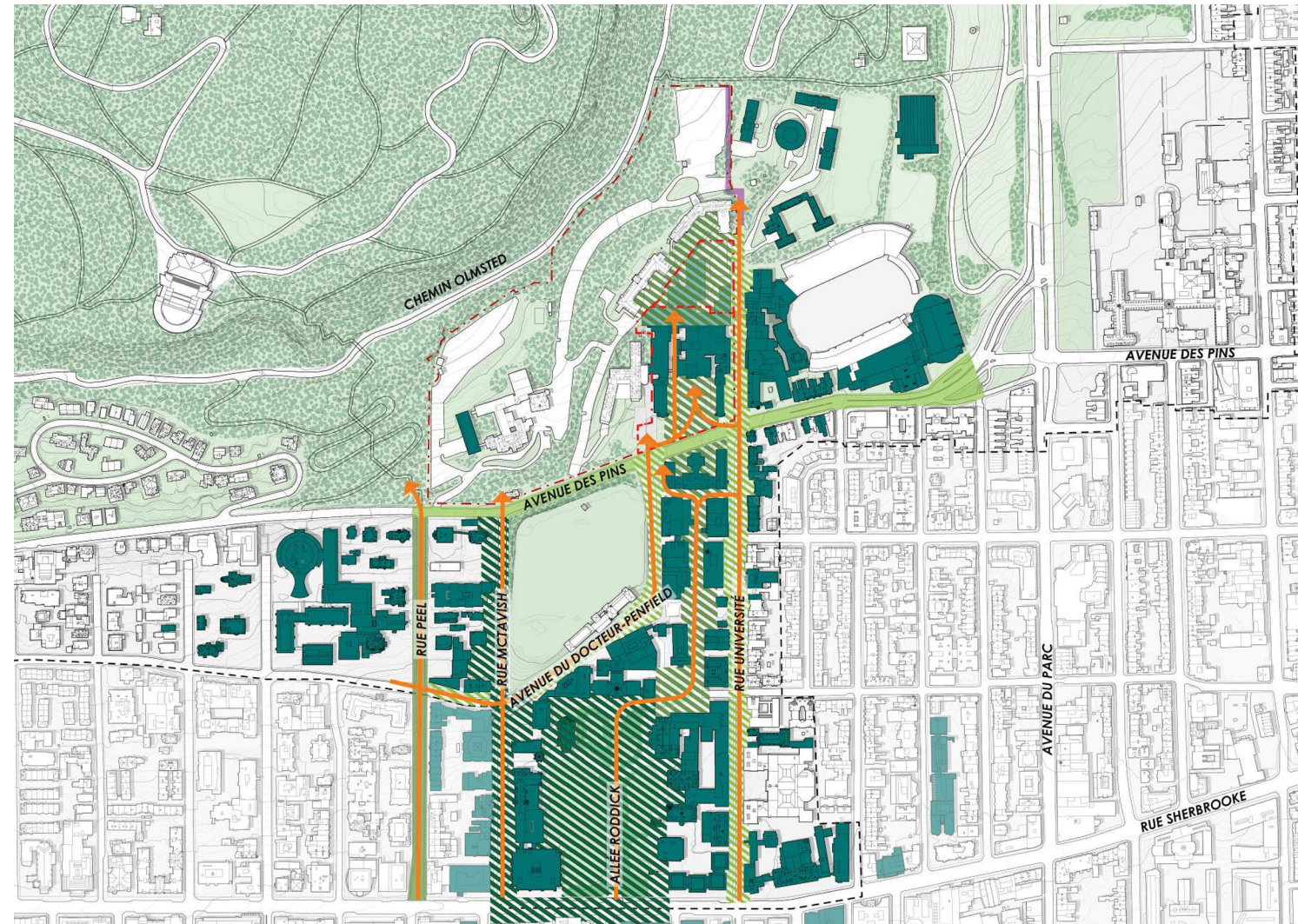


Future

Photo credits: Diamond Schmitt Lemay Michaud Architects

REINVENTING THE FORECOURT

- The parking structure will be removed.
- The character of the Olmsted design will be restored.
- The pavilion-like character of the buildings and the openness of the site will be reinstated.
- New teaching and gathering spaces will be built beneath the courtyard.



A NEW CONNECTION BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE MOUNTAIN

- Prioritizing pedestrian access: the new landscape extends the Mountain into the site via a terraced public green roof, providing new open green spaces and panoramic views of the city.
- Extending the *Promenade Fleuve-Montagne* through the site.
- Providing rooftop landscapes that re-naturalize the site.
- Providing cycling connections and bike parking.
- The roof terraces present an opportunity to acknowledge Indigenous People's connection to the land through, for example, medicinal or healing gardens.





Photo credits: Diamond Schmitt Lemay Michaud Architects



NEW WAYS TO MOVE

- A new exterior staircase to the Mountain creates a new entry point on the site, and connects the downtown campus to the Mountain and Mount Royal Park.
- A main entrance along University restores strong pedestrian pathways to the upper end of the site.
- A new exterior staircase to the public terrace and a universally accessible route via an interior elevator provides direct access to the Mountain.



Photo credits: Diamond Schmitt Lemay Michaud Architects

LETTING THE LIGHT IN

- The courtyards reveal existing facades previously hidden, exposing them for students and the public.
- A series of light-filled interior courtyards are crossroads for collaboration, exploration and exposition.
- Light is used as an organizational tool, illuminating spaces for gathering.
- The courtyards present an opportunity to engage with Indigenous communities to develop interior physical representation strategies.
- The spaces between the heritage buildings are re-established as links supporting the circulation and flow throughout the complex.



THE NEW VIC: INVESTING NOW FOR OUR FUTURE

Imagine an environment where a student or a researcher can participate in the design and fabrication of a novel biodegradable plastic, and see it move seamlessly from computer model, to prototype, to market—sharing spaces and ideas with green chemists, programmers, industry partners, alumni mentors, and policymakers at every step of the way.

Unique learning experiences will become commonplace at the New Vic thanks to dynamic learning spaces, courses, and programs that will stimulate a revolution in pedagogy and prepare students to tackle complex problems in new ways.

Young people already have their eyes on the impact they can make, such as rapid transitioning to low- or zero-carbon economies, and addressing climate change and its outcomes. McGill fuels this drive and the New Vic will accelerate this work. We will continue to take our future leaders beyond expertise alone, nurturing their capacity for collaboration, creativity, and resilience.



Photo credits: Diamond Schmitt Lemay Michaud Architects

In collaboration with our partners :

Diamond Schmitt / Lemay Michaud Architectes

**CLAUDE CORMIER
+ ASSOCIÉS**

E R A



For more information on the project or
to contact the project team, please visit our website:
mcgill.ca/newvic