



in Canada's Built Environment

Roadmaps to Equity, Social Value and Sustainability

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)

Partnership Grant Project #895-2022-1003

The 5th Annual Convention of partners and representatives of stakeholders across Canada

Winnipeg Convention 2026

***Re-Visioning Quality through Kinship:
FIRST DRAFTS OF THE BOOKS, TOOLKITS AND
ACTION PLANS FOR QUALITY***

28 May → 30 May

**University of Manitoba
Faculty of Architecture**

84 Curry Place
Winnipeg, MB
Canada

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Re-Visioning Quality through Kinship:

**FIRST DRAFTS OF THE BOOKS, TOOLKITS AND
ACTION PLANS FOR QUALITY**

Since 2022, 16 (and not only 14) partner teams across Canada have conducted activities to better understand the causes and impacts of quality barriers overlooked or poorly integrated into the planning, design and construction processes of the built environment. We have been working both locally and nationally around three key questions:

- How can we raise the bar of quality through a research partnership that brings together the experiences, expertise, and perspectives of citizens, cities, professionals, researchers, and students?
- What are the gray areas regarding quality that we must address, as they seem to fall outside the official procurement, design, and construction processes of our built environments in the Canadian context?
- In other words: how can we, together, reveal and enhance the human and social value of built environments?

We naturally adopted a bottom-up process, in that it brings together the reflections and experiences of user and citizen representatives, public and municipal procurement representatives, and representatives from professional circles, all coordinated by teams of academics and students. These “16 partnership tables” formulate strategies capable of bringing about effective and coordinated change. These strategies take the form of both “roadmaps to quality”—intended to be concrete and transferable in the short term to stakeholders in the built environment—and action plans, which are undoubtedly more general in scope as they target “national actions” in the medium and long term.

We must emphasize the bottom-up, human-centered, and socially oriented nature of our partnership-based approach. The path we follow differs profoundly from most strictly disciplinary approaches (which seek to balance Aesthetics, Durability, and Functionality) or strictly managerial approaches (which focus on the triad: Timeline x (Financial) Resources x Project Scope).

Without questioning the positive aspects of these approaches but deeply doubting that they are the only desirable professional ones, we instead place our faith in human listening and the sharing of lived experiences—particularly those complex, diverse experiences that point the way toward a more equitable, inclusive, accessible, and therefore more sustainable world. This complex experience of quality, which we view as an urgent and necessary goal, is, therefore, based on an ambitious conception of the social value of built environments.

Let us summarize the major milestones of our ongoing work, spearheaded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), since the summer of 2022:

In August 2022, the **Montreal Convention** was groundbreaking in that it laid the foundation for our work method and confirmed the principle of partnership roundtables. This first in-person meeting followed years marked by the preparation of our research project, but also by the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Montreal Convention allowed many partners to meet for the first time and enabled the initial 14 research sites to collectively conduct a first inventory of barriers: that is, all those obstacles to quality that make our built environments less equitable, less inclusive, less socially relevant, and neither truly sustainable nor truly resilient.

In 2023, the **Calgary Convention** drew not only on this initial inventory of barriers and obstacles to quality, but also on a first set of (positive) lived experiences of quality gathered as a testbed, initially, among the partners. This time, the aim was to approach quality through experience rather than conceptually, disciplinary, or managerially—in the sense that expertise might claim to replace a careful listening to needs and situations. Starting with the Calgary Convention, the search for the best methods to gather lived experiences of quality became a major feature—if not an obsession—of all partners.

We have not yet found the magic formula for encouraging the sharing of experiences beyond the confines of partnerships. It must be acknowledged that listening to and considering lived experiences is still far from being standard practice in the fields of commissioning, design, and production of built environments. And this observation applies equally to research and to education across all disciplines. Where are the users, where are the citizens in our definitions of quality, in our courses and design studios, in our research protocols?

In 2024, at the **Halifax Convention**, partners and participants were invited to report on a positive outcome based on their own experience with the project. After two years of meetings and analyses at the local and national levels, it was necessary to understand how the initiative had contributed to changing our understanding and definitions of quality. Since the built environment is a collective endeavor—and while acknowledging that professionals play a decisive role—it was important to open the black box of processes by reminding designers that they cannot consider themselves the sole reference points on a roadmap toward quality. Between the extremes—of a vague consultation or a process entirely controlled by citizens—we situated the partnership approach on a middle ground: that of the co-construction of expectations and evaluation criteria. However, as established very early in the project, our bottom-up approach, based on interdisciplinary and intersectoral methods, did not require that the premise of partnership for quality be reduced to co-design practices. For Halifax 2024, the 14 partner teams were, in fact, invited to present their roadmaps on a middle ground between action and knowledge.

A few months later, during the online convention in November 2024, the teams presented an initial list of actions designed to achieve specific objectives for raising the standard of quality. While some of these actions, meant at a national level, had already been tested locally—whether in educational, professional, or public

procurement contexts—at this stage, they all remained closely tied to research projects and their applications within specific contexts.

In 2025, at the **Toronto Convention**, two sets of requirements were considered by all teams of partners:

1. How do the updated roadmaps already provide strategies for intervention and quality improvement at the local level?
2. Which aspects of the roadmaps could be incorporated into a national strategy—or national policy—for quality?

We began the discussion by reviewing summaries of policies currently being developed, both in Canada and internationally, particularly in Quebec and in Europe. We refined the operational nature of the roadmaps. We did so to align professional and public expectations with a common understanding of quality as experienced by those who live it. This is a long-term ambition that will need to extend beyond the scope of our SSHRC project on quality. We also examined an initial set of quality measures by moving from what we previously called a “white paper,” but which we now wish to refer to as a “national action plan.”

During the November 2025 online conference, we tested our ability to present some of these national actions in a few words, as clearly and comprehensibly as possible, in a highly demanding public explanation exercise.

However, the very composition of our partnership has highlighted the need to identify two new teams, as these actions (nearly fifty) and roadmaps (more than fifteen) were formulated not by 14, but by **16 groups**. The national partners now constitute the 15th team, while, under the leadership of Trishtina Godoy-Contois, a member of the Métis Nation of Alberta (Red River Métis), a new group of Emerging Indigenous Leaders (EIL) now makes its voice heard at the heart of our shared adventure, they constitute the 16th team (and perhaps the first). Our shared showcase, the Living Atlas of Quality, now presents all the stakeholders, objectives, and proposals of these 16 teams of researchers and partners.

For this 5th National Convention, in Winnipeg, we are hosted by the University of Manitoba in the heart of the Canadian Federation, in the middle of Turtle Island.

This time, the program is based on three objectives:

1. Engaging with Indigenous Knowledges and researching in good ways.

Solving complex problems benefits from viewing them from different angles and cultural lenses. We will gain a unique perspective by delving deeper into the method developed by Mi'kmaw Elder Albert Marshall together with his late wife, Dr. Murdena Marshall: the Two-Eyed Seeing approach, or Etuaptmumk. This reconciliatory method advocates for the convergence of two perspectives: on the one hand, the strengths of Indigenous Knowledge, and on the other, Western scientific knowledge, for the benefit of all. This approach challenges us to reflect on existing relationships, policies, and procedures, and to be open to integrating different viewpoints and ways of doing things.

2. Listening to the expectations and perspectives of the many students who will be joining us for this conference.

Nearly half of the participants at the Winnipeg Convention will be students from all cycles. In this research partnership, students are, of course, the key players in the future of quality. It is not enough simply to listen to them; we must truly hear them. As we enter the final stretch of our program, it is essential to consider the outputs of this collaborative project in terms of their ability to support the immediate future of qualitative approaches.

3. Sharing the initial drafts and coordinate the structure of the chapters that will make up the “6 guides to a more equitable, inclusive, and therefore more sustainable quality.”

We have a shared framework that currently resembles a writing method rather than a specific format for publication and dissemination. Together, we must decide on the most

appropriate forms of dissemination—there cannot be just one—so that these texts, testimonials, podcasts, short videos, tool kits, educational proposals, and action plans meet the expectations of the 6 thematic clusters that we do not wish to separate: Spatial Justice, Integrated Resilience, Inclusive Design, Healthy Cities and Society, Processes and Policies, National Actions.

On behalf of the Governance Board and the Steering Committee, Dimitri Weibel joins me in extending our warmest thanks to Professors Shauna Mallory-Hill, Mercedes Garcia-Holguera and Shawn Bailey of the Faculty of Architecture, Doramy Ehling and Terrance Galvin for their special support in preparing this conference, as well as the students, staff, and administrators of the University of Manitoba for welcoming us to a setting that, even more so than any of our other previous meeting places, lies at the heart of Indigenous ancestral lands.

On behalf of the members of the Steering Committee, Jean-Pierre Chupin, Ph. D., Prof., Architect, FRSC, FRAIC Canada Research Chair in Architecture, Competition, and Quality (CRC-ACQUA), Université de Montréal
Director of the SSHRC Research Partnership on Quality

Dimitri Weibel, MSc, Political Science
Administrative Coordinator of the SSHRC Research Partnership on Quality

Re-Visioning Quality Through Kinship: Winipêk

Nigaan Sinclair's book *Winipêk – Visions of Canada from an Indigenous Centre* refers to Winnipeg as “ground zero” of Canada's most important project: reconciliation. It requires recognizing what needs to be reconciled and who must do the work. Winnipeg has a complex history, and it is here, in the place where Canada began, where the water, people and animals meet – that a path from the “centre” towards inclusivity and justice is happening.

The overarching theme of the Quality in the Built Environment (QBE) Winnipeg convention is Re-Visioning Quality through Kinship. Kinship involves adopting a holistic approach to the built environment that recognizes the interdependence that exists between humans and non-human beings.

Informed by Indigenous Knowledges and meaningful engagement with community partners, we aim to encourage designers and planners to reimagine their future relationships with place in favour of a stewardship approach. That, in the spirit of reconciliation and climate action, to understand place as a relative rather than a resource. To make architecture an act of restoration, rather than destruction.

Throughout the three days of the QBE Winnipeg Convention, we will have the opportunity to learn more about Indigenous Knowledges, healthy community engagement, and land-based learning, and to reflect on how these can strengthen what each of us can do to co-create pathways to more equitable, accessible, and sustainable built environments.

Shauna Mallory-Hill, PhD. Professor, Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Architecture, University of Manitoba

On behalf of the Winnipeg QBE Organizing Committee:

Mercedes Garcia-Holguera, University of Manitoba

Shawn Bailey, University of Manitoba

Doramy Ehling, Rick Hansen Foundation

Terrance Galvin, Laurentian University

Trishtina Godoy-Contois (EIL), Athabasca University

Laura Hiebert (IDPSA), University of Manitoba

Leigh Karras, University of Manitoba

Day 1 | Thursday May 28, 2026

University of Manitoba

8:15 - 9:00 am

Welcoming Ceremony (*Centre Space - John A. Russell Building*)

Orientation to Métis land by Shirley Delorme (University of Manitoba) and Elder Mike Calder

9:00 - 9:30 am

PLENARY

Light Refreshments

Plenary Session 1: (*Centre Space - John A. Russell Building*)

Introduction

Land Acknowledgement, Dean Mimi Locher

Re-Visioning Quality through Kinship

Shauna Mallory-Hill (QBE Winnipeg Organizing Committee)

9:30 - 11:30 am

PLENARY

Plenary Session 2: (*Centre Space - John A. Russell Building*)

Design Quality and *Etuaptmumk*/ Two-Eyed-Seeing

Introduction by Terrance Galvin (Steering Committee)

Elder Albert Marshall, Richard Kroeker (facilitated by Kevin Kremer)

11:30 - 12:45 pm

Lunch (*Centre Space - John A. Russell Building*)

sponsored by

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12:45 - 1:00 pm

PLENARY

Instructions for the Roundtables (*Centre Space - John A. Russell Building*)

Jean-Pierre Chupin, Josie C. Auger (Steering Committee)

1:00 - 2:45 pm

ROUNDTABLE

Roundtable #1 (*6 breakout rooms*)

6 thematic groups coordinate the introduction to their approach to quality

2:45 - 3:00 pm

Wellness break (*Foyer-John A. Russell Building*)

3:00 - 4:30 pm

ROUNDTABLE

Roundtable #2 (*6 breakout rooms*)

6 thematic groups coordinate their final list of National Actions

4:30 - 5:15 pm

PLENARY

Students' Feedback + Open Discussion (*Centre Space - John A. Russell Building*)

Moderated by Sara Jacobs and Susan Speigel (Steering Committee)

5:15 - 5:30 pm

PLENARY

Instructions for Day 2 (*Centre Space - John A. Russell Building*)

Shauna Mallory-Hill, Trishtina Godoy-Contois (QBE Winnipeg Organizing Committee)

5:30 - 6:00 pm

Bus Departure

6:00 pm

Reception

at Buffalo Crossing, Fort Whyte

2505 McGillivray Blvd, Winnipeg, MB

Day 2 | Friday May 29, 2026

Off-campus Indigenous Experience

8:00 - 11:00 am

Departure to Makate Waagamichiwanang Gakinaa'amaatiwin (Youth and Family Wellness Camp)

Bus 1: *from Hotel Fort Gary - 7:30 am*

from Best Western Hotel - 7:45 am

Bus 2: *from University of Manitoba (dormitories) - 8:00 am*

Cultural Facilitation: Josie C. Auger, William Morin, Trishtina Godoy-Contois (QBE Indigenous Facilitators), Bernard Akuoko

11:00 - 12:00 pm

Opening Ceremony

with Elder Genette Skead and Evergreen Wolverine Singers

12:00 - 1:00 pm

Walleye Feast

sponsored by

ft3

Architecture
Landscape
Interior Design

1:00 - 1:45 pm

PLENARY

Panel - Land-based Teaching

Shawn Bailey (moderator), Kathleen Wilson, Alex Wilson, Darryl Wastesicoot

1:45 - 3:00 pm

WORKSHOP

Land-based Learning - Part 1

KCA Knowledge Keepers

3:00 - 3:20 pm

Wellness Break

3:20 - 4:30 pm

WORKSHOP

Land-based Learning - Part 2

KCA Knowledge Keepers

4:30 - 5:30 pm

ROUNDTABLE

Roundtable #3 (6 breakout groups)

Reflection on Land-based Design & Planning Processes

5:30 - 5:45 pm

Light Meal To Go

5:45 pm

Departure for Winnipeg

Day 3 | Saturday May 30, 2026

University of Manitoba

8:45 - 9:00 am

Light Refreshments (*Foyer - John A. Russell Building*)

9:00 - 9:45 am

PLENARY

Dialogue Session 3 (*Centre Space - John A. Russell Building*)

Emerging Indigenous Architects

Reanna McKay, Destiny Seymour, Nicole Luke and Danielle Desjarlais

Facilitated by Twylla Soosay

9:45 - 11:15 am

ROUNDTABLE

Roundtable #4 (*6 breakout rooms*)

Discussion on cross-cutting aspects of each thematic approach to quality according to 6 thematic groups

11:15 - 12:00 pm

PLENARY

Students' Feedback + Open Discussion (*Centre Space - John A. Russell Building*)

Moderated by Sara Jacobs and Susan Spiegel (Steering Committee)

12:00 - 12:15 pm

PLENARY

Closing Remarks (*Centre Space - John A. Russell Building*)

Jean-Pierre Chupin and Dimitri Weibel (Partnership Coordinators)

12:15 - 12:45 pm

Closing Ceremony

Elder Gramma Shingoose

12:45 - 1:45 pm

Lunch (*Centre Space - John A. Russell Building*)

sponsored by



1:45 pm

End of the Convention

Buses to mobile sessions

Optional Mobile Sessions(*registration required*):

- Boat Tour
- Bus Tour
- Walking Tour
- Canadian Museum of Human Rights

6:00 pm

Table for 1200 (*pre-registration required*)

Your Notes

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Speakers



Shirley Delorme Russell

Shirley is a proud Métis woman and humble Anisinaabekwe. Her momma is from Red River of Delormes and Ducharmes. Her dad is from southern Ontario from Saugeses and Russells. Her family and community sent her to school to be the first high school, college and university graduate. Everything she does is for her community, to honour her parents. Shirley has a Diploma of Aboriginal Languages (Cree)- Red River College 2007, Bachelor of Arts 2010, Bachelor of Education 2010- both from University of Winnipeg and a Master of Library & Information Studies 2026 from the University of Alberta. She has been an Indigenous Librarian Intern in UM Libraries since 2022.



Mira (Mimi) Locher

Mira (Mimi) Locher is an educator, author, and practicing architect. She joined the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Manitoba as Dean in 2021. After working for architecture firms in the U.S. and Japan, including seven years with Team Zoo Atelier Mobile in Tokyo, Mimi began a full-time academic career. She taught at Washington University in St. Louis and the University of Utah, where she served as Chair of the School of Architecture from 2015-2019. Mimi's award-winning teaching and research focus on design practices and processes, community engagement through architectural design, and on Japanese architecture, gardens, and design. An avid traveler, Mimi has a keen interest in traditional building crafts and Indigenous settlements worldwide and enjoys learning about new cultures and cuisines.



Shauna Mallory-Hill

Shauna has more than 25 years of experience teaching and researching building systems, universal and sustainable design, and building performance evaluation. The primary focus of her research is how designed environments affect human health, wellness, and productivity. Her current work is with Indigenous community-led initiatives that are exploring pathways to quality, affordable, sustainable housing. She also recently completed a study on ergonomic kitchen design for aging-in-place in collaboration with industry partners and the Faculty of Rehabilitation Sciences. Shauna has presented her building evaluation work across Canada, in the USA and Europe, and has been published in several journals and books. Her book, co-edited with Christopher Watson and Wolfgang Preiser, *Enhancing Building Performance*, examines the various aspects of building evaluation.



Shawn Bailey

Shawn Bailey is a Métis artist, architect, and researcher whose work explores how Indigenous knowledge can shape contemporary design and pedagogy. His teaching, research, and creative practice are deeply influenced by place, material, and story. He is a recipient of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ASCA) New Faculty Teaching Award and the Canadian Centre for Architecture Indigenous Design Fellowship. His work has also been recognized by the University of Manitoba's Indigenous community for its commitment to integrating Indigenous perspectives into education and design. Through his practice as an educator, architect, and maker, Bailey aims to honour Indigenous knowledge while fostering design futures that are innovative and deeply connected to place.



Mercedes Garcia Holguera

Mercedes Garcia Holguera is a registered architect from the Polytechnic University of Madrid in Spain and holds a LEED AP BD+C credential. She has worked at leading architecture firms in Canada, Mexico, and Chile before joining the Department of Architecture at the University of Manitoba in 2019. She earned her Ph.D. from McGill University in 2018, with a focus on biomimetic design for resource use optimization in buildings. Her research integrates disciplines such as science, technology, architecture, and environmental design, emphasizing biomimetic approaches and the development of biobased materials. She founded the BIOM_Lab at the Faculty of Architecture in 2021, and her research group is currently exploring biomaterials to improve access to local, high-performance materials for northern and remote communities and to promote resource self-sufficiency in these regions and globally.



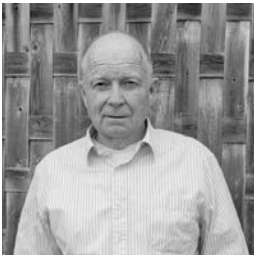
Terrance Galvin

Terrance Galvin, FRAIC, is a professor of architecture and founding director of the McEwen School of Architecture in Sudbury. He has taught at McGill and Dalhousie and holds degrees from TUNS, McGill, and the University of Pennsylvania. A recognized scholar and speaker, his work spans architectural theory, cultural sustainability, and design intuition.



Elder Albert Dennis Marshall, O.C.

Elder Dr. Albert Marshall is a revered member of the Moose Clan of Eskasoni First Nation, in Mi'kma'ki. With his beloved wife, the late Elder Murdena Marshall, he has shared Mi'kmaq culture, history and language through the wisdom of Etuaptmumk / Two-Eyed Seeing (E/TES), the harmonious interchange between Indigenous ways of knowing and other knowledge systems. Not only has this been profoundly meaningful for Indigenous peoples, it has also been important for non-Indigenous organizations who are endeavouring to become healthier, more welcoming spaces for Indigenous peoples. Elder Marshall's teachings have impacted changes in public policy, the environment and health care.



Richard Kroeker

Richard Kroeker is an Architect and a graduate of University of Manitoba and of the Architectural Association in London, UK. He is currently Professor Emeritus at Dalhousie University. Richard's project designs have been recognised with a number of Canadian and international awards. Richard was inducted to the Order of Canada for contributions to Canadian culture in 2023.

Richard and Dr. Albert Marshall have worked in close collaboration for many decades, exploring how indigenous ways of knowing and acting can offer critical insights into how we build, practice design, teach, conduct research, and live in harmony.

picture by Lena Kroeker



Kevin Kremer

Kevin Kremer is a recent graduate of the Master of Architecture program at the University of Calgary, an Intern Architect with Tawaw Architecture Collective, and a proud member of the Métis Nation of Alberta (District 6). His work is grounded in Indigenous design principles, with a focus on kinship, community collaboration, and creating sustainable, inclusive environments. Before pursuing architecture, Kevin worked as a Chartered Professional Accountant (CA, CPA) specializing in international tax. His transition into architecture began after the birth of his first child when he realized that if he wanted a better world for future generations, he would need to take part in creating it.



Jean-Pierre Chupin

Professor and architect, Jean-Pierre Chupin holds the Canada Research Chair in Architecture, Competitions and Quality (CRC-ACQUA) at Université de Montréal (www.crc.umontreal.ca). An expert on design competitions and systems of awards, he is chief editor of two online databases of contemporary projects and buildings: the Canadian Competitions Catalogue (CCC) (www.ccc.umontreal.ca) and the CFI funded open access platform ArchiQualiData.ca

Since 2022, he is the scientific director of the SSHRC research partnership: Quality in Canada's Built Environment: Roadmaps to Equity, Social Value and Sustainability.



Sara Jacobs

Sara Jacobs is Assistant Professor at the School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (SALA) at the University of British Columbia. Sara researches and teaches landscape through interconnected relations of environment, care, and infrastructures of race and coloniality. Her work examines socio-ecological care emerging in response to extractive systems that instrumentalize human, plant, and animal life, and explores alliances that resist such logics. Her current projects consider how power was spatialized in and through landscape professionalization in the early twentieth century, and how thinking with ideas of erosion, fracture, or rupture, through materials such as seeds, soil, or water, can unsettle landscape practices historically predicated on the harm, violence, or suppression of living systems.



Susan Speigel

Susan Speigel is an Architect with over 30 years of experience, and founder of SSA STUDIO, a design practice focused on 'Social Architecture in the Public Realm.' She was also Core Faculty in the Masters *Institute without Boundaries* program at GBC. Her work spans multiple disciplines, emphasizing community building and innovative solutions. Speigel is involved in a 5-year SSHRC project on Quality in the Built Environment and has taught at George Brown College for 15 years. A former President of the OAA, she advocates for design solutions that balance social impact with sustainable practices.



Josie C. Auger

Dr. Auger, from Bigstone Cree Nation was elected to lead in 2014 before returning to academia in 2018. Back then the TRC called for a National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Subsequently, Josie's research focused on Indigenous women's self-determination and sovereignty using Indigenous research methods. Josie has followed Cree ceremonial ways since the 1980s, and these bodies of knowledge informed her worldview, ways of knowing and ways of doing. For QBE, Dr. Auger has served to steer and govern the project in culturally informed ways.



William Morin

William Morin is a multi-media artist and an engaging educator, member of the Ojibways of Michipicoten First Nation. He has been teaching Indigenous Studies for thirty years at post-secondary institutes across Ontario and serving as the Indigenous Knowledge Carrier / Cultural Advisor for Laurentian University Dorian Planetarium, Science North, SnoLab, Ontario Science Centre, among others.



Bernard Akuoko

Ben is a passionate advocate for the intersection of race, culture, and disability. As a Black man of Ghanaian descent living with Retinitis Pigmentosa, he uses his personal experiences to amplify underrepresented voices. Holding degrees in Social Work from Sheridan College, Laurentian University, and the University of Waterloo, Ben actively serves on the Council of Canadians with Disabilities and is a founding member of CNIB's Black Voices United. He participates in coalitions promoting awareness around race and disability and hosts the podcast "The Lens: Living Diverse," highlighting stories from diverse communities with vision loss. Outside work, Ben explores his creative side through writing, music, acting, and comedy. He's achieved remarkable feats like skydiving and running a half marathon. Believing in the power of diversity, equity, and inclusion, Ben dedicates his efforts to fostering these values through workshops, speaking engagements, and media to inspire others to realize their potential.



Alex Wilson

Alex Wilson is an acclaimed educator, scholar, and researcher from and living in Opaskwayak Cree Nation. She is recognized for advancing land-based learning and Two-Spirit identity, history, and teachings. Wilson was the first Canadian First Nations woman to earn a doctorate from Harvard University, where her teaching contributed to foundational Indigenous governance courses. She co-developed and oversees the Indigenous Land-Based Education graduate program at the University of Saskatchewan. Her work also addresses Indigenous housing, Two-Spirit and LGBTQ2S+ rights and environmental protection, including contributions to Idle No More and the “One House, Many Nations” housing initiative.



Darryl Wastesicoot

Darryl Wastesicoot is a respected Indigenous leader, educator, and advocate for community-driven education and economic development in Northern Manitoba. The former Chief of York Factory First Nation, he has dedicated much of his career to advancing opportunities for First Nations youth through culturally grounded training, housing, and postsecondary education initiatives. Before serving in leadership, Wastesicoot worked as a homebuilding instructor with the Anokiwin Training Institute and partnered with the University of Manitoba on the Mino Bimaadiziwin program, helping Indigenous students gain practical construction and engineering skills. With more than 30 years of experience in construction engineering and community development, he has consistently advocated for Indigenous-led education systems rooted in traditional knowledge and “two-eyed seeing” approaches. His recent co-authored work emphasizes education as a pathway to healing, sovereignty, and long-term prosperity for Indigenous Nations.



Kathleen Frances Wilson

Kathleen Frances Wilson (they/she) is a Two-Spirit Métis educator and researcher living with their family on Treaty 1 territory. Kathleen began their career as a secondary school teacher in Winnipeg’s public system before teaching at the University of Manitoba in the Faculties of Education and Agricultural and Food Sciences. Alongside teaching, Kathleen has worked across faculties on interdisciplinary research and collaborated with The Working in Good Ways Project as a curriculum designer, facilitator, and consultant. They now serve as Director of the Researching in Good Ways Project at the University of Manitoba, in the Office of the Vice President (Indigenous), where their work is guided by equity, and relational accountability in community and education. Kathleen holds a Master’s in Peace and Conflict Studies and is pursuing a PhD in the same field. Kathleen’s work is rooted in community voice and systems change; they bring lived experience and academic learning together in the creation of just, relational spaces.



Danielle Desjarlais

Danielle is a proud member of Peguis First Nation, an Architectural Intern, and an artist and beadworker. She holds a Master of Architecture and a Bachelor of Environmental Design from the University of Manitoba. Her design approach is informed by regional context, cultural narratives, and historical understanding, with a strong emphasis on meaningful collaboration and client engagement throughout the design process. Guided by her identity as an Indigenous woman, Danielle is passionate about expressing and celebrating Indigenous culture through the built environment. Through her work, she strives to contribute to meaningful and lasting positive change.



Destiny Seymour

Destiny Seymour (Anishinaabe) is the founder and owner of Indigo Arrows, an Indigenous-led interior design and textile studio based in Treaty One Territory. A member of Peguis First Nation, Seymour holds a Master of Interior Design from the University of Manitoba and brings more than 15 years of design experience across Canada and the United States. Her work specializes in creating Indigenous spaces grounded in community consultation, cultural identity, and collaboration. Through Indigo Arrows, Seymour respectfully reintroduces ancestral Indigenous patterns and stories into contemporary interiors and textiles, connecting present-day spaces with generations of Indigenous knowledge and craftsmanship.



Nicole Luke

Nicole Luke is an emerging Inuk Architectural Intern whose practice bridges architecture and cultural narrative. With family ties to the Kivalliq region of Nunavut and experience navigating both northern and urban environments, she brings a unique understanding of the design and construction challenges faced by Inuit/Arctic communities. Her work is grounded in Indigenous values, emphasizing responsiveness, inclusivity, and sustainability, while exploring how the built environment can foster cultural expression, social resilience, and economic empowerment.



Reanna McKay

Reanna McKay is a Nihithaw artist, writer, mother, and architect from Barren Lands First Nation, based in Treaty 1 Territory. She is an Architect and Indigenous Design Co-Lead at Number Ten Architectural Group. Her work amplifies Indigenous voices, fosters community engagement, promotes land-based pedagogies, and enhances representation in architecture. She serves on several boards, including Royal Architectural Institute of Canada and Indspire. During her time at the University of Manitoba, Reanna co-founded the Indigenous Design & Planning Students Association (IDPSA). Her advocacy has earned recognition including the Indspire Youth First Nations Award, Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal, and CBC Manitoba Future 40 Award.



Trishtina Godoy-Contois

Trishtina Godoy-Contois is a political economics undergraduate and a steering committee member of the Quality in the Built Environment project. With over five years of experience, she supports systemic change through research, education, and policy. Her work includes Indigenous anti-racism curriculum, rural housing consultations, and AI-integrated qualitative research. Trishtina champions culturally informed, collaborative solutions for sustainable housing.



Elder “Gramma” Shingoose

“Gramma Shingoose” is a respected Saulteaux/Anishinaabe Elder and activist from Winnipeg, Manitoba. Her spirit names, Sky Woman and Northern Lights Woman, reflect her deep connection with her Bear Clan and her home community, Tootinaowaziibeeng First Nation. As a “Grassroots Grandmother,” she is a guiding force in movements for Indigenous rights and justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people (MMIWG2S+). Gramma Shingoose is a steadfast advocate for families seeking justice, notably supporting the search of Winnipeg’s Prairie Green Landfill for Morgan Harris, Mercedes Myran, and Buffalo Woman. A survivor of Muscowequan Residential School (1962–1971), her activism is rooted in lived truth. She has spent over a decade sharing her story with students and has testified before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Recently challenging residential school denialism and urging acknowledgment of Residential School Survivors truth. She is involved in Health Research as a Knowledge Keeper to bring change in the Health Care system for Indigenous peoples. She teaches as an Elder at the University of Manitoba, Health Care for First Nations, Metis and Inuit. Today she continues to guide the community with compassion and care.



Nathalie Dion

Nathalie Dion is a seasoned architect with over 30 years of experience and a partner at Provencher_Roy since 2021. She served as President of the Ordre des architectes du Québec from 2013 to 2019 and played a key role in the adoption of Québec's first National Policy for Architecture in 2022. A Fellow of the RAIC, she is a strong advocate for the democratization of architecture and its role in public life.



Doramy Ehling

Doramy Ehling is the CEO of the Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF), leading its mission to create an inclusive world for people with disabilities. She served as RHF's Chief Operating Officer for 11 years before becoming CEO in 2018. Prior to RHF, Doramy worked at Canadian Heritage, including roles within Sport Canada. She is a member of several advisory boards, including the Diversity Institute at Ryerson University, the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade's Diversity and Inclusion Leadership Council, and the Disability in Work Canada Steering Committee.



Honoure Black

Dr. Honoure Black is a white settler woman, mother, partner, and university instructor. She began teaching for the University of Manitoba in 2012 at the School of Art, in 2016, she joined the Faculty of Architecture until 2025. Honoure completed her PhD in Design and Planning in 2025 and was hired by the Department of Indigenous Studies as a Faculty Instructor. She now teaches courses relating to Indigenous and settler histories on Turtle Island and special topics courses related to her research on Winnipeg, Treaty One Territory, and public art. Honoure has previously instructed courses relating landscape histories and theory, art and architecture.



Raymond Sokalski

Raymond Sokalski is a Winnipeg-based educator, historian, and uninvited guest on Treaty 1 territory, who dedicated three decades to teaching history en immersion française in Manitoba public schools. He applied his historical expertise to local community engagement as a member of the municipal Welcoming Winnipeg Committee, which reviewed and guided the re-establishment of Indigenous names, stories, and markers in public spaces. He also shares local history directly with the public by leading guided bicycle tours through historic city neighbourhoods. He currently works as an educational interpreter at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Additionally, Sokalski contributes to the local arts scene as a vocalist with various groups. In 2025, he was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal in recognition of his service to the community.

Committee Composition

Steering Committee

Members

Josie C. Auger, University of Alberta
Jean-Pierre Chupin, Université de Montréal
Doramy Ehling, Rick Hansen Foundation
Terrance Galvin, Laurentian University
Sandrine Thibault, PSPC
Susan Speigel, OAA
Sara Jacobs, UBC
Nathalie Dion, Provencher Roy
Robert Wright, University of Toronto
Trishtina Godoy-Contois, Athabasca University
Samantha Biglieri, Toronto Metropolitan University

Dissemination and Outreach Committee

Co-Chair

Grace Coulter Sherlock, AAA
Laura McBride, Rick Hansen Foundation
Danielle Catley, IRAC

Academic Representatives

Michel DeBlois, Université Laval
Federica Goffi, Carleton University
Brian R. Sinclair, University of Calgary
Mercedes Garcia-Holguera, University of Manitoba

Representative from Cities and Public Procurement

Jeanne Leblanc-Trudeau, City of Montreal

Representatives from Community Groups

Michelle James, Vibrant Calgary
William Morin, Coalition Liveable Sudbury

Governance Board Committee

Co-Chair

Mike Brennan, IRAC

Susan Speigel, OAA

Academic Representatives

Kees Lokman, UBC

Ursula Eicker, Concordia University

Enrica Dall'Ara, University of Calgary

Henry Tsang, Athabasca University

Shauna Mallory-Hill, University of Manitoba

Thomas Strickland, Laurentian University

Fatih Sekercioglu, Toronto Metropolitan University

Fadi Masoud, University of Toronto

Adrian Blackwell, University of Waterloo

Mariana Esponda, Carleton University

Izabel Amaral, Université de Montréal

Alanna Thain, McGill University

Stéphane Roche, Université Laval

Susan Fitzgerald, Dalhousie University

Representatives from Cities and Public Procurement

Patrick Marmen, City of Montreal

Christopher Dziwinski, PSPC

Dawn Clarke, City of Calgary

Representatives from Community Groups

Doramy Ehling, Rick Hansen Foundation

Afrah Rayes, Federation of Calgary Communities

Indigenous Research Expert

Josie C. Auger, University of Alberta

EDI Expert

Robert Wright, University of Toronto

Representative from Professional Organisations

Grant Fahlgren, CSLA



Roadmaps to Quality

Emerging indigenous leaders and national partners work along with the project director and steering committee to ensure a transversal coordination toward a national action plan for raising the bar to quality. Our approach to research and partnership-based consultation is above all a bottom-up approach. We believe it is essential to think about and design the built environment by listening to individual lived experiences and taking into account the needs of communities.

Room 210 16 participants

Name	Organisation	Research Site
Jean-Pierre Chupin	Université de Montréal	SSHRC Partnership Coordination
Dimitri Weibel	Université de Montréal	SSHRC Partnership Coordination
Laura McBride	Rick Hansen Foundation	National Partners
Doramy Ehling	Rick Hansen Foundation	National Partners
Kevin Ng	Rick Hansen Foundation	National Partners
Mike Brennan	Royal Architectural Institute of Canada	National Partners
Danielle Catley	Royal Architectural Institute of Canada	National Partners
Giovanna Boniface	Royal Architectural Institute of Canada	National Partners
Susan Spiegel	Ontario Association of Architects	National Partners
Jonathan Bisson	Royal Architectural Institute of Canada	National Partners
Grant Fahlgren	CSLA	National Partners
Christopher Dziwinski	Public Services Procurement Canada	National Partners
Trishtina Godoy-Contois	Athabasca University	Emerging Indigenous Leaders
Maisie Berens	University of Manitoba	Emerging Indigenous Leaders
Kevin Kremer	Tawaw Architecture Collective	Emerging Indigenous Leaders

Recording: **Alice Fernex**, Université de Montréal



Spatial Justice

It is essential to address inequalities and injustices in access to quality buildings and public spaces. Design practices and consultation with marginalized communities must take injustices into account and care for vulnerable people.

Room 209 15 participants

Name	Organisation	Research Site
Sara Jacobs	University of British Columbia	University of British Columbia
Brian Lilley	Dalhousie University	Dalhousie University
Ipek Tureli	McGill University	McGill University
Leah Perrin	Halifax Regional Municipality	Dalhousie University
Xavier Bordeleau	MTL 24/24	McGill University
Michelle Gagnon-Creeley	Happy Cities	University of British Columbia
Narita Ico	University of British Columbia	University of British Columbia
Cynthia San	University of British Columbia	University of British Columbia
Thomas Emerson	Dalhousie University	Dalhousie University
Davis Skippon	Dalhousie University	Dalhousie University
Sonia Blank	McGill University	McGill University
Shayne Turner	McGill University	McGill University
Nooshin Esmaeili	University of Calgary	University of Calgary
Farhana Ally	University of Calgary	University of Calgary

Recording: **Félix Poulin**, Université de Montréal



Integrated Resilience

Material cultures must drive construction practices toward greater resilience, integration, and therefore sustainability. Adaptive reuse, repurposing, and all practices aimed at repairing, maintaining, and caring for existing structures should be prioritized with this in mind.

Room 211 20 participants

Name	Organisation	Research Site
Mariana Esponda	Carleton University	Carleton University
Fadi Masoud	University of Toronto	University of Toronto
Robert Wright	University of Toronto	University of Toronto
Carly Ziter	Concordia University	Concordia University
Ursula Eicker	Concordia University	Concordia University
Josie C. Auger	University of Alberta	National Partners
Liz Corson	City of Toronto	University of Toronto
Taylor Quibell	City of Ottawa	Carleton University
Adrien Kazup	Vivre en Ville	Concordia University
Natalie Brown	Park People / Amies des Parcs	University of Toronto
Benjamin Dunn	University of Toronto	University of Toronto
Mika Magtanong	University of Toronto	University of Toronto
Mohammad Reza Seyedabadi	Concordia University	Concordia University
Negarsadat Rahimi	Concordia University	Concordia University
Fatemeh Izadi	Concordia University	Concordia University
Andrée-Ann Langevin	Carleton University	Carleton University
Kitt Man	Carleton University	Carleton University
Hosna Bahonar	University of Calgary	University of Calgary
Sheena Xu	University of Calgary	University of Calgary

Recording: **Cyrille Jérôme Tchango Ngamaleu**, Université de Montréal



Inclusive Design

Inclusive design promotes health and wellness, particularly for aging populations and individuals with special needs. Ensuring accessibility, and fostering a sense of belonging for all users highlights the designing spaces that cater to a wide range of people's necessities and life stages.

Room 214 23 participants

Name	Organisation	Research Site
Terrance Galvin	Laurentian University	Laurentian University
Thomas Strickland	Laurentian University	Laurentian University
Izabel Amaral	Université de Montréal	Université de Montréal
Bechara Helal	Université de Montréal	Université de Montréal
Anne Cormier	Université de Montréal	Université de Montréal
William Morin	Community Cultural Rep Sudbury	Laurentian University
Marveh Farhoodi	Open Architecture Collaborative Canada	Toronto Metropolitan University
Afsaneh Tafazzoli	Open Architecture Collaborative Canada	Toronto Metropolitan University
Nikoletta Erdelyi	Spinal Cord Injury Ontario	Laurentian University
Simon Tremblay	Perkins & Will	Laurentian University
Nathalie Dion	Provencher_Roy	Université de Montréal
Joëlle Tétreault	Chevalier Morales	Université de Montréal
Katarina Bursac	Toronto Metropolitan University	Toronto Metropolitan University
Yaxin Jiang	Toronto Metropolitan University	Toronto Metropolitan University
Samiha Hossain	Toronto Metropolitan University	Toronto Metropolitan University
Ife Olusegun	Toronto Metropolitan University	Toronto Metropolitan University
Ravleen Gill	Laurentian University	Laurentian University
Sara Khalid	Laurentian University	Laurentian University
Natasha Grégoire	Laurentian University	Laurentian University
Ifechukwu Elvis Kurume	Laurentian University	Laurentian University
Mikaela Lacsamana	University of Calgary	University of Calgary
Sneha Maliat Haque	University of Calgary	University of Calgary

Recording: **Juliane Alexandre Colmado**, Université de Montréal



Processes and Policies

Policies, standards, and processes govern the development and management of built environments. The emphasis on social value, equity, and sustainability highlights the need for more participatory decision-making processes in the planning and design of the built environment.

Room 301 26 participants

Name	Organisation	Research Site
Shirley Thompson	University of Manitoba	University of Manitoba
Shauna Mallory-Hill	University of Manitoba	University of Manitoba
Sylvia McAdam	University of Windsor	University of Manitoba
Mercedes Garcia Holguera	University of Manitoba	University of Manitoba
Kathleen Wilson	University of Manitoba	University of Manitoba
Adrian Blackwell	University of Waterloo	University of Waterloo
Alex Wilson	USASK	University of Manitoba
Michael Robertson	Manitoba Association of Architects	University of Manitoba
Shawn Bailey	University of Manitoba	University of Manitoba
Inge Donovan	University of Manitoba	University of Manitoba
Michel de Blois	Université Laval	Université Laval
Darryl Wastesicoot	York Factory First Nation	University of Manitoba
Rachelle Kirouac	Urban Systems Ltd.	University of Manitoba
Florence Bisson	Port de Québec	Université Laval
Aya Boussouf	Université Laval	Université Laval
Roxane Fotius-Hennemand	Université Laval	Université Laval
Siba Américain Bilivogui	Université Laval	Université Laval
Angel Wastesicoot	University of Manitoba	University of Manitoba
Laura Hiebert	University of Manitoba	University of Manitoba
Leigh Karras	University of Manitoba	University of Manitoba
Omar Oosthuizen	University of Waterloo	University of Waterloo
Joanna Rywak	University of Waterloo	University of Waterloo
Panos Polyzois	University of Manitoba	University of Manitoba
Christine Liang	University of Calgary	University of Calgary
Jacqueline Camino	University of Calgary	University of Calgary

Recording: **Yolene Handabaka Ames**, Université de Montréal



Healthy Cities & Society

Buildings and public spaces are also designed on an urban scale. The prosperity of societies depends on urban environments that promote the physical and mental health of populations, which requires practices that are both inclusive and sustainable.

Room 213 24 participants

Name	Organisation	Research Site
Henry Tsang	Athabasca University	Athabasca University
Trevor Butler	Athabasca University	Athabasca University
Caroline Buzanko	Athabasca University	Athabasca University
Douglas McLeod	Athabasca University	Athabasca University
Matt Patterson	University of Calgary	University of Calgary
Jonathan Jucker	University of Calgary	University of Calgary
Enrica Dall'Ara	University of Calgary	University of Calgary
Marie Cecile Kotyk	University of Calgary	University of Calgary
Robert Balay	Town of Athabasca	Athabasca University
Sinisa (Sonny) Tomic	City of Calgary	University of Calgary
David Woodruff	Alberta Association of Architects	University of Calgary
Samuel Oboh	Ensign +	University of Calgary
Grace Coulter Sherlock	Lemay	University of Calgary
Lindsay Andreas	Building Equality in Architecture Calgary	University of Calgary
Hannah Allawi	American Institute of Architects (Canada Society)	University of Calgary
Tessa Penich	Converge Mental Health Coalition	University of Calgary
Yunhao Yang	University of Calgary	University of Calgary
Paniz Mousavi Samimi	University of Calgary	University of Calgary
Veronica Zhong	University of Calgary	University of Calgary
Cara Shan	Athabasca University	Athabasca University
Kaiden Reding	Athabasca University	Athabasca University
Abdel Habaka	Athabasca University	Athabasca University
Twylla Soosay	Athabasca University	Athabasca University

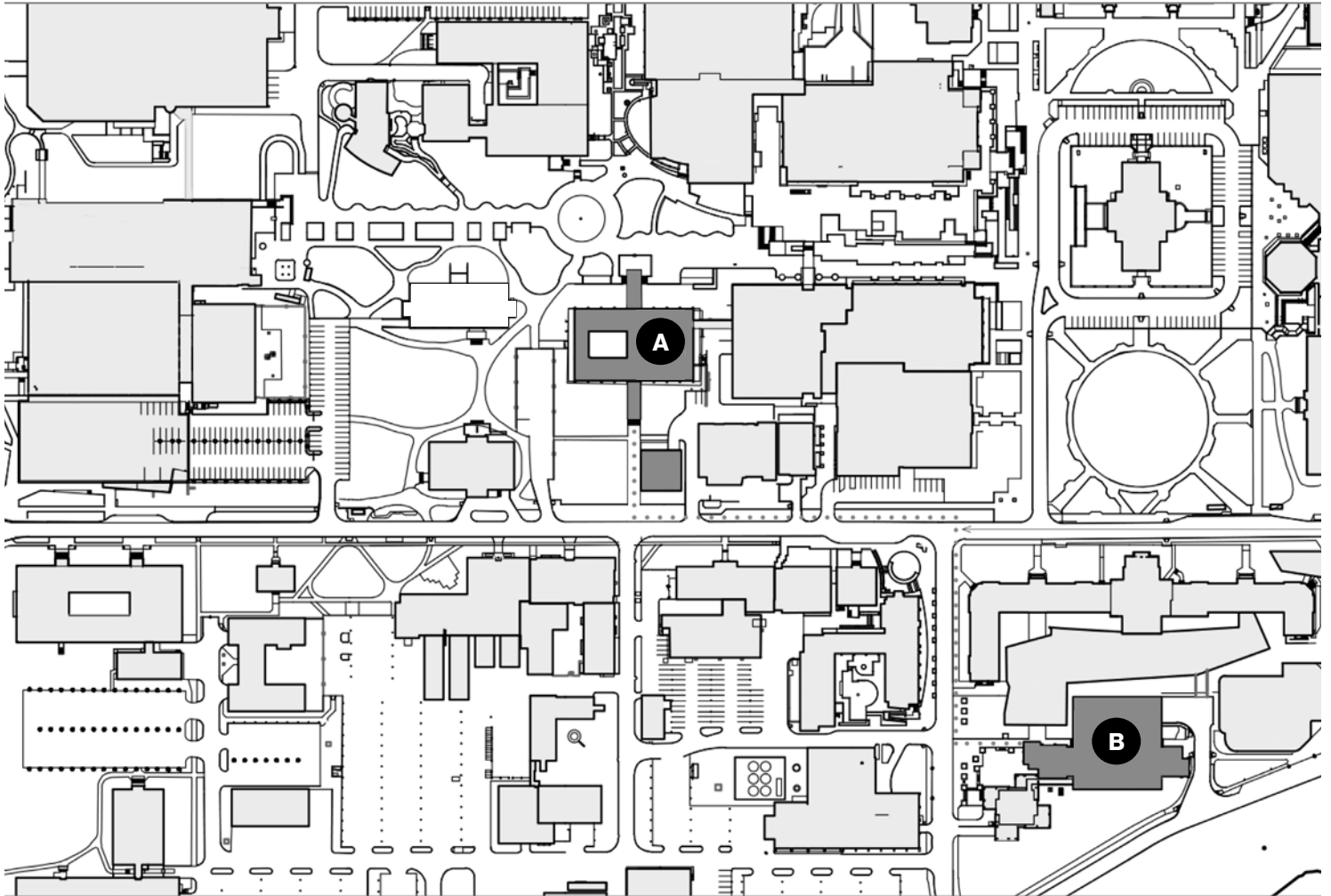
Recording: **Shantanu Biswa Linkon**, Université de Montréal



02 Accessible Washrooms

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Map



A John A. Russell Building (JAR)

B Pembina Hall Residence Building

5 minute walk

Organization Team and Funding

Project director

Jean-Pierre Chupin

QBE 2026 Winnipeg Convention Organizing Committee

Shauna Mallory-Hill, Mercedes Garcia Holguera, Shawn Bailey, Terrance Galvin, Doramy Ehling, Trishtina Godoy-Contois, Laura Hiebert

University of Manitoba

Dean Mimi Locher, Brandy O'Reilly, Johannah Javier

University of Manitoba Students

Leigh Karras, Maisie Berens

Partnership Administrative coordinator

Dimitri Weibel

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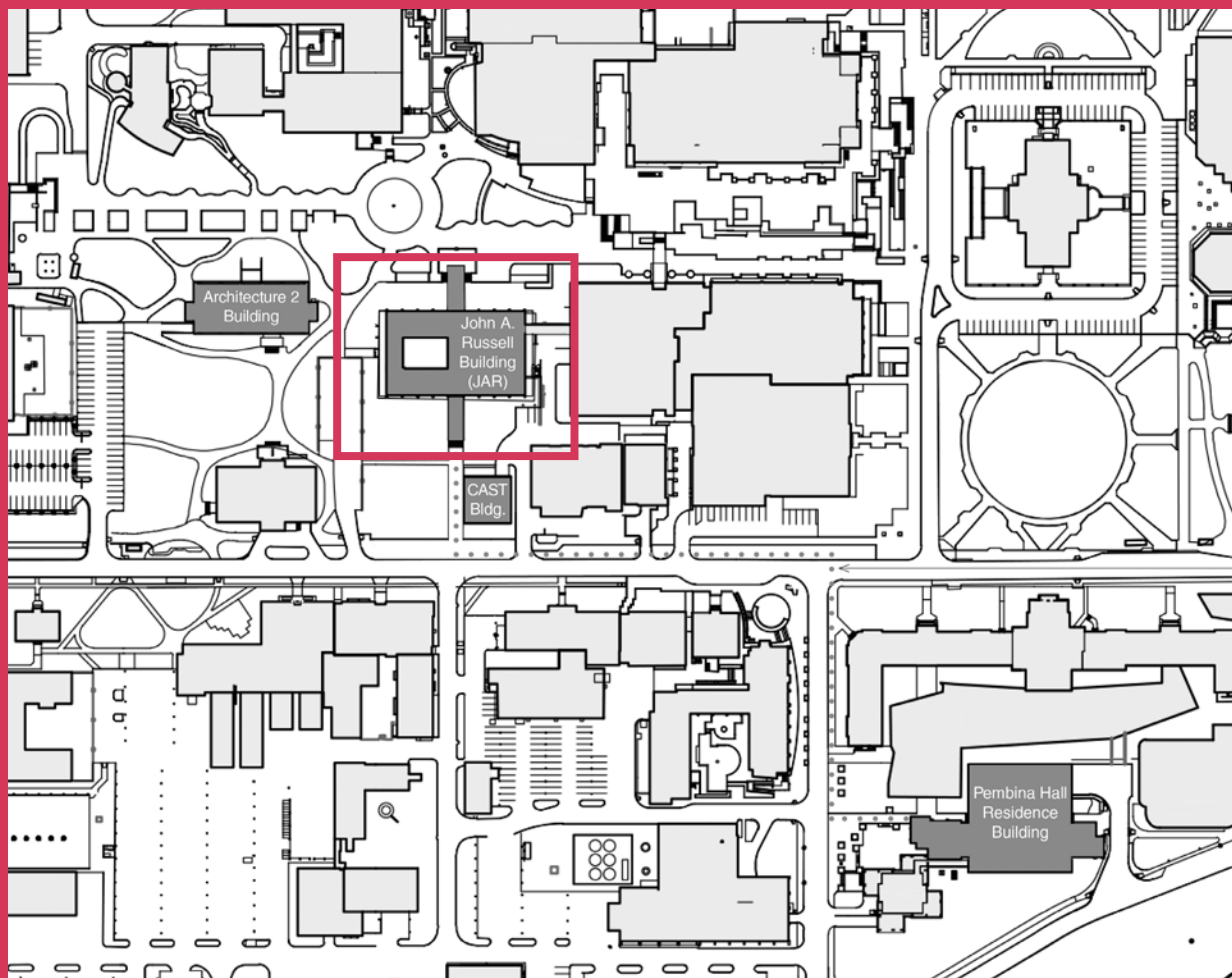
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- **ft3 Architecture, Landscape and Interior Design Services**
- **Architecture49**



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