

Urban design competition For the revitalization of Décarie Boulevard

The members of the jury were impressed by all of the proposals they received, with each possessing undeniable qualities. It is interesting to note that all four projects shared certain themes, including increased vegetation and green spaces, the creation of gathering areas such as markets and squares, and the desire to prioritize pedestrians and more effectively structure vehicle traffic and parking. The choice of the winning project was unanimous among members of the selection jury, standing apart for its integrated approach to sustainable development.

Winning concept | Schème

"One of the strengths of the concept that was proposed by Schème is its comprehensive approach to sustainable development, which is based on increased vegetation, repairing the existing unistone paving instead of replacing it, and recycling urban furniture. As the person responsible for sustainable development for Montréal, I am naturally appreciative of this project, which is so respectful of the environment and so much in tune with key environmental issues that we are facing today. This project is also exceptionally well suited to the environmental commitment that Saint-Laurent adopted in 2004, and is in keeping with the three major development avenues that were identified in the Décarie branding study that was carried out in 2005," explained Saint-Laurent Mayor, Alan DeSousa.

Excerpts from the jury report

The Schème project was unanimously selected essentially for its **"sustainable development" positioning** (increased plant vegetation cover, with priority given to pedestrians, to recycling the existing urban furniture, and to repairing the unistone paving).

It fosters a very **"Community-based"** approach by creating public spaces (markets), setting up alleys and squares with themes, enhancing the adjacent parking to benefit the central vegetation strip.

The appeal of the concept lies in the fact that it is a simple, achievable solution that is respectful of the environment, and that offers its users a **better quality of life** while making the artery not just a thoroughfare, but an actual destination.