

The phantom passage

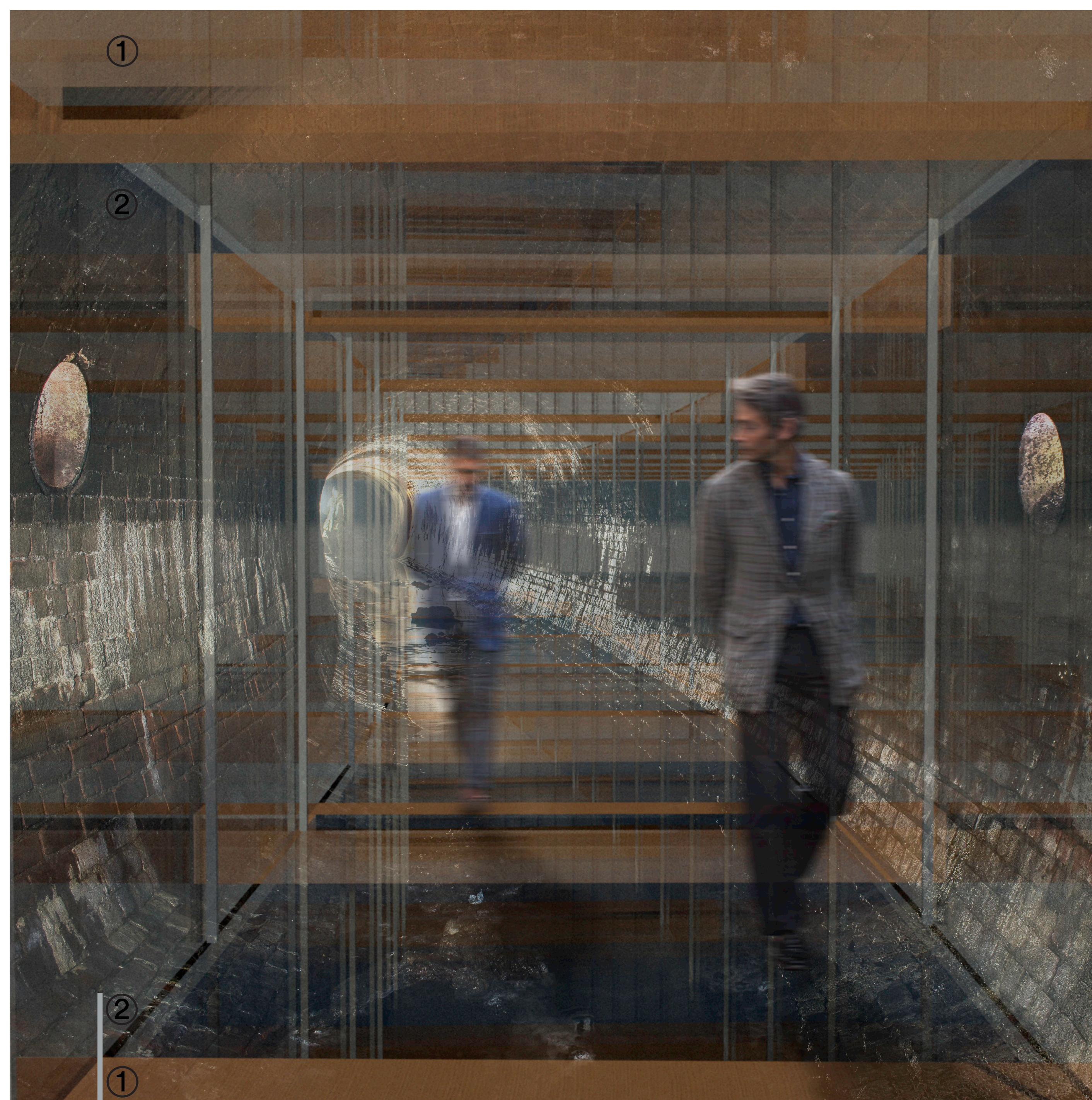
Transparency of the Identity

The Craig Pumping Station is one of the most vulnerable buildings in Montréal right now. The revitalization of the building should start soon to keep one of the city's iconic uniqueness protected for the present and future generations. We also need to consider the comfortability of the people for their commute and stay in the area for now and future. Likewise, the City needs to mention Montréal's underground history more precisely as there is a deep story behind the sewage system and underground water pathway. The underground maze can become an attraction for the city's residences and a magnet for the people from other cities. The potentials of the building are a museum in the main building, a gallery in the underground halls, a pavilion in the yard of the building, and a café-bar inside the transparent part of the building.

The Craig Pumping Station building demonstrated the connection between two different lives during its lifetime. The building on its own is a threshold between two lives; under and above the ground. Darkness and light are two of the most important elements that separate the two mentioned lives. The main intention of this proposal is to confront the light and dark by highlighting the elements in physical order and connect them. The best way is to encounter the old and new, dark and light, and solid and transparent by using different materials. At this point, the purpose was to find the best orientation that the building has with the view of Montréal. The western part of the building is the suitable point for that purpose as the building facing the city. To increase the transparency and natural light inside the building, we would place the glass volume in the area instead of the cut and removed the brick mass. The bricks will not be wasteful. We would use the remained bricks to redefine an entrance from the adjacent parking to the building from the underground as there is no access directly to the building and it is surrounded by street lanes. The new entrance will indicate a "preview" from the building for users and visitors to see what they will deal with inside the building. The main intention of the transparent area is to gather people inside a two-story café-bar to observe the beauty of the downtown from a distance. The other advantages of the glass part are decreasing the weight and also the maintenance cost of the building as it is surrounded by two fast lanes Rue Saint Antoine and Rue Notre-Dame from north and south of the building, and on the eastern side with base and foundation of the Jacque Cartier Bridge, which creates a lot of shock for the building foundation in long-term. Last but not least, the price of glass will be decreasing the final cost of the project and it makes the project more feasible.

Moreover, the best way to encourage people to get into underground tunnels is to provide a better place for walking with a safer and more comfortable area for them. The available situation cannot gather people as it is a messy condition and it needs some fundamental preparation and protection for becoming a better and safer area where society can use enjoy being in it. Also, people cannot get into tunnels without suitable clothing right now. If we create a transparent and safe area for people, they can appear without any special clothing, and anytime they want without a restriction. The glass passage can give the feeling of being in tunnels and seeing the place to people while they are in a safe walkway. The transparent passage is the best way for people to walk and see the underground maze while they are not facing any limitation. The other purpose of the tunnel is to create a permanent museum to show the underground life and path. The length of the museum is the length of the underground paths with a fully transparent view. The other advantage of this glass passage is the connection that it has with the glass system of the exterior walls of the building.

Interior

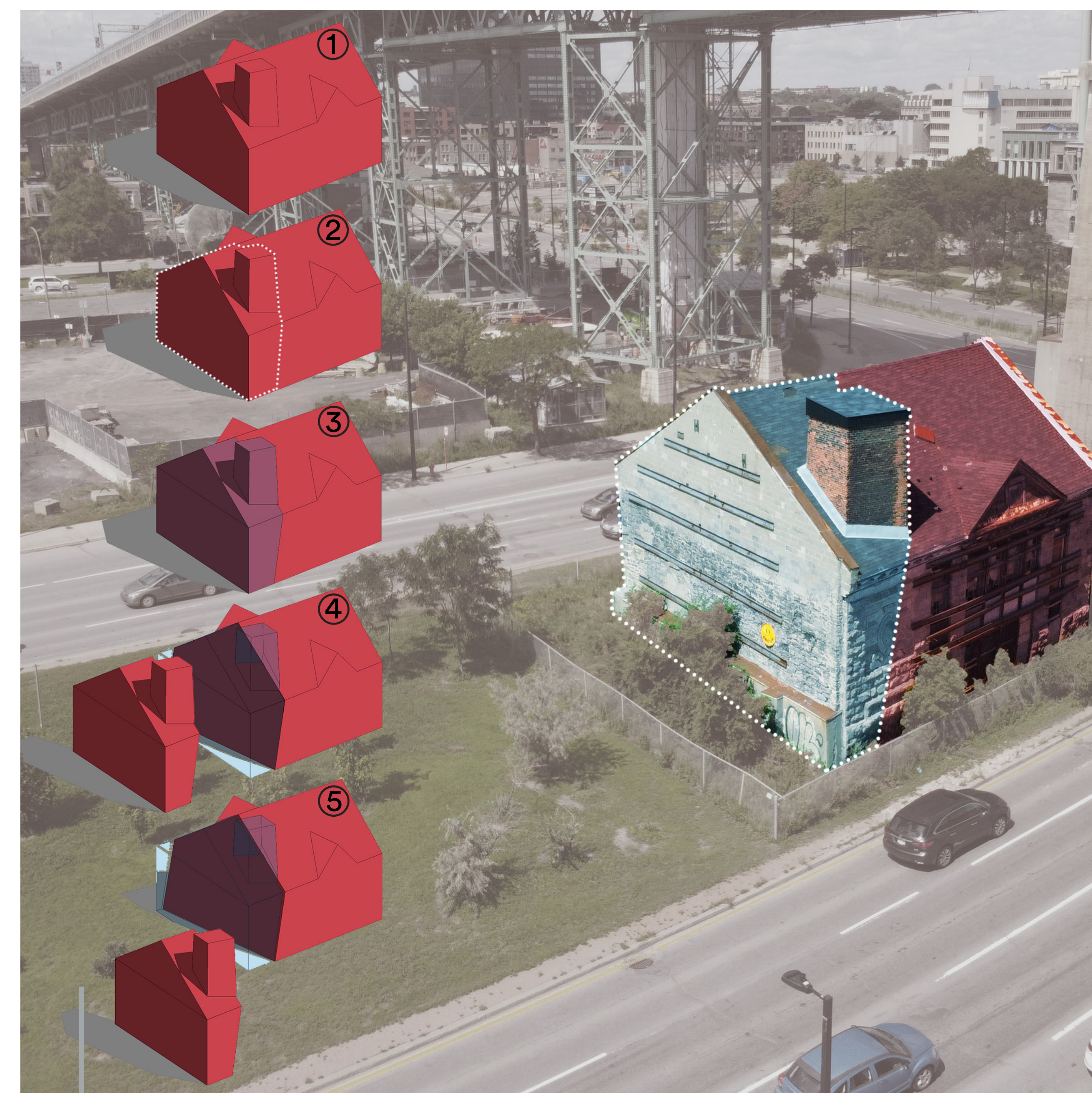


Legend

- 1- Wood Timber for Protection
- 2- Glass Walls for Transparency

Glass passage is the proposition for the new function of the underground tunnels. It would be a great way to teach people about life in the past by showing them the reality. In this case, people will feel life not completely but enough to learn the underground history of Montréal and different experience of being in it.

Exterior



Legend

- 1- Available Situation
- 2- Find the Cutting Point
- 3- Cut the Wall
- 4- Use the Glass Instead of Brick
- 5- Detach the Brick for the New Entry

The main intention of the site visit and aerial analysis was to find and recognize the interaction of the building with surrounding spaces. In the meantime, the building has a great view of downtown. A cut in the western wall and create a glass wall will provide a great opportunity to enjoy this view. Also, we can reuse the brick materials to redefine a new entrance.

Concours d'idéation pour la relève en aménagement
Requalifions l'ancienne station de pompage Craig

Organisé par le comité de la relève d'Héritage Montréal
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