

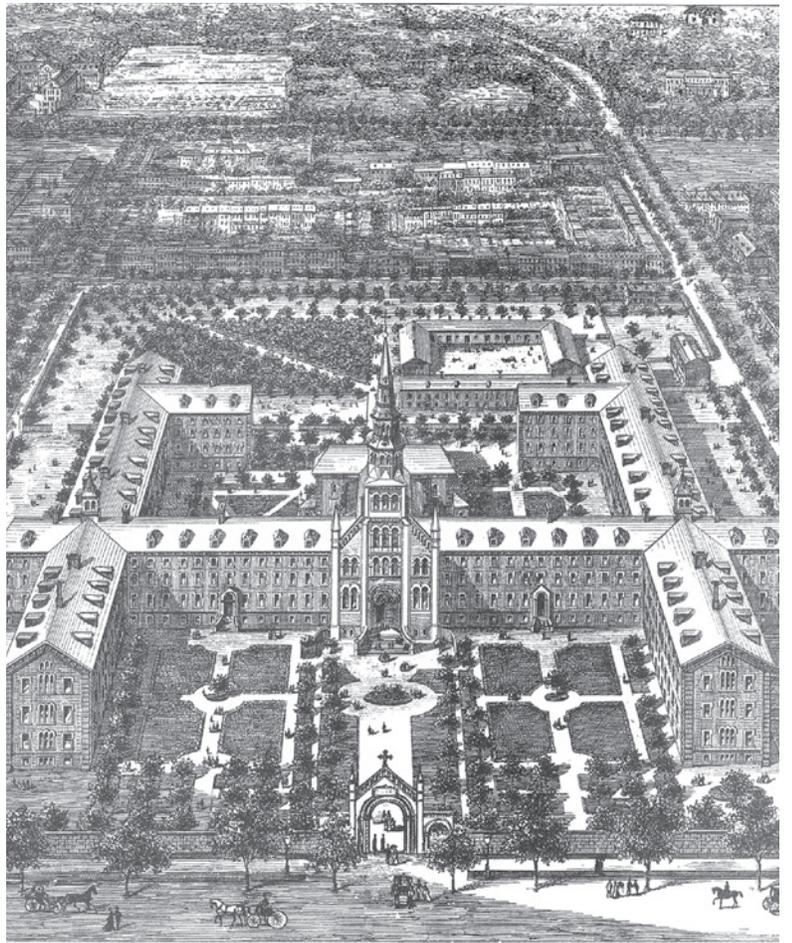


GRAND OPENING

GREY NUNS
STUDENT RESIDENCE
AND READING ROOM



SEPTEMBER 2014



IV. THE GENERAL HOSPITAL OF THE GREY NUNS, MONTREAL.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY: PROUD CUSTODIANS OF A MONTREAL MONUMENT

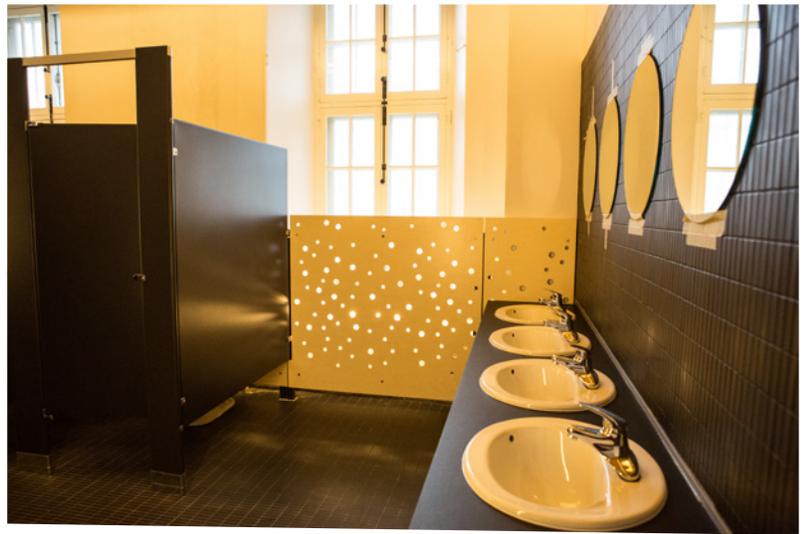
Nearly 150 years ago the Sisters of Charity began construction of the Motherhouse of the Grey Nuns of Montreal. Acquired by Concordia University, this landmark has a new purpose, all the while preserving its outstanding patrimonial character.

Our renovations and restorations have allowed for 355 new student residence beds (for a total of almost 600 residence beds) to help meet the need for quality student housing downtown. The magnificent former chapel space has been transformed into a quiet reading room for up to 234 students, another pressing need for our community. In addition, 14 group study rooms were redesigned and equipped with screens to foster collaborative work.

Concordia is honoured to be the custodian of this Montreal monument, and has ensured that all renovations reflect best practices in heritage preservation. This project is the culmination of years of collaboration with the Sisters and the Government of Quebec, in particular, the Ministère de la Culture et des Communications.

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RENOVATION HIGHLIGHTS

Major renovations to the Grey Nuns Building – which has served partially as a student residence since 2007, and also houses a daycare facility – have just wrapped up. The modernized space features much-needed individual and group study areas. The number and types of residence rooms on site have also increased.

A look at renovations:

- The residence section of the building now accommodates almost 600 beds.
- The former Grey Nuns chapel has been transformed into a 234-seat silent reading room.
- 14 group study rooms have been added just outside the reading room.
- There's a new cafeteria space which offers students in residence the option of preparing their own meals.
- Revitalized multipurpose rooms for students living in residence, complete with game tables and large screen televisions.
- The residence's main entrance was moved from St-Mathieu Street to Guy Street.

Throughout the entire renovation process, Concordia's commitment to heritage preservation was an integral part of the transformation project, carried out according to best practices in the field.



A LOOK BACK

In the heart of downtown Montreal, between René-Lévesque Boulevard and Ste-Catherine Street West, stands an important piece of the city's rich history: the Motherhouse of the Grey Nuns of Montreal. In 1861, it was settled by the Sisters of Charity, better known as the Grey Nuns.

The Grey Nuns were founded in 1737 by Marguerite d'Youville — a widow and mother of two — and three of her companions. They opened a home for the needy and dedicated themselves to serving the poor. Their mission to help and offer shelter and compassion to Montreal's infirm, disadvantaged, elderly and orphans took greater shape in the mid-19th century, when they acquired the land and built the Motherhouse.

Montreal Bishop Ignace Bourget hired the noted architect Victor Bourgeau, who planned and created more than 250 churches, cathedrals and other sites around Quebec. He designed the convent and its magnificent neo-Romanesque Chapel of the Invention of the Holy Cross.

The H-shaped convent was built with three wings. Only the original design's northwest section was not fully completed. Nestled in between is a peaceful green space — a reminder of the importance of the property's former gardens.

In today's crowded urban environment, the Grey Nuns Building is a vivid reminder of the dominant social and cultural roles religious institutions once played in our province.



GREY NUNS TODAY

This great symbol of Quebec culture has become a site where history meets inspiration and creativity. Its distinctive architecture and embellishments complement a contemporary, innovative vision.

Restoration work has been imperative to ensuring that the beauty of this edifice, parts of which date back more than 140 years, is maintained for future generations. As a custodian of this legacy, Concordia has preserved the building while repurposing the spaces for university use.

The Grey Nuns site provides students with extraordinary residences, study spaces and a state-of-the-art refectory.

Concordia is now the honoured custodian of this significant architectural, social and religious piece of Montreal and Quebec heritage.



QUARTIER CONCORDIA

This historic building gives new life and a renewed purpose within the heart of Quartier Concordia.

Concordia's stewardship of this important site is a considerable step in the university's remarkable expansion of recent years. The Grey Nuns Building is one of the cornerstones of Quartier Concordia, an urban renewal project that has transformed the university's downtown campus and revitalized the urban landscape.

