



## General information

### Area

The building has **nearly 24,000m<sup>2</sup>** of space + parking

### Number of storeys

The building has 5 storeys on the Beaver Hall side, 6 on the René-Lévesque side and 8 on the De La Gauchetière side, so as to fit seamlessly into the built environment and follow the slope of the property.

### Classrooms and public spaces

- 27 classrooms
- A 296-seat amphitheatre
- A modular conference and event centre (210 guests seated or over 500 standing)

### Teaching and knowledge transfer

The building hosts MBA/EMBA programs, certificates, specialized graduate diplomas and microprograms. Executive Education programs, developed for managers and working professionals, as well as First Nations Executive Education programs all offer their courses here.

A centre for knowledge transfer and co-innovation bringing together several research and knowledge transfer units will be located at the new address, so as to forge stronger links with the business community.

### Opening

Fall term 2023

### Project cost: \$235.2 million

**Quebec government contribution:**  
\$108.5 million

**HEC Montréal contribution:**  
\$87.4 million

**HEC Montréal Foundation contribution:**  
\$39.3 million

### Partner firms

**Architects:**  
Provencher Roy Associés Architectes inc.

**General contractor:**  
Magil Construction

**Project managers:**  
WSP Canada inc.

**Structural/civil engineering:**  
SDK/MHA consortium

**Mechanical/electrical engineering:**  
Pageau Morel/Bouthillette Parizeau consortium

### Address

HEC Montréal – Hélène Desmarais Building  
501, Rue De La Gauchetière Ouest Montréal  
(Quebec) H2Z 1X6

**Metro:** Square-Victoria-OACI

The building is located on a site adjacent to St. Patrick's Basilica, between Côte du Beaver Hall and Rue Saint-Alexandre. This marks HEC Montréal's return to the downtown core, where it once occupied a building in Viger Square, from 1910 to 1970.





# Main features

## Architectural concept

Three overarching themes have guided the project's development:

- **Dynamic**
- **Light**
- **Respectful**

## Commemoration of the site

HEC Montréal will permanently commemorate the space occupied by St. Bridget's Refuge, which marked the history of Montréal's Irish community:

- **Retracing the foundations of St. Bridget's Refuge** on the ground, both inside and outside the building and partially rebuilding its exterior walls in their original location.
- Installation of **commemorative plaques** inside and outside the building.
- **Creation of the Maison de Rocheblave Esplanade** to remind us of the space occupied by the home of Pierre de Rastel de Rocheblave, a businessman and politician who played an important role in Montréal becoming a commercial metropolis in the 19th century.
- Designation of a **"Printer's Terrace"** on Rue De La Gauchetière Ouest to highlight the importance of the printing industry in the district in the early 20th century.



## Public space

Landscaping of the site will transform the block into a public space that is welcoming, safe, and open to the Montréal community.

The library, common areas, cafeteria and indoor garden will be accessible to all.

## Sustainable construction

The building has been registered with the Canada Green Building Council and is aiming for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certification. This certification enhances the well-being of occupants and the building's environmental and economic performance through proven and innovative practices, standards, and technologies.

- 3 green roofs, all other roofs being white
- 30 geothermal wells, each 150 metres deep
- 1 efficient building envelope leading to energy savings
- Use of light-coloured materials
- Access to natural light through smartly positioned windows
- Indirect lighting by prioritizing high-performance LED lighting
- Reduction of heat islands with the elimination of a 125-spot asphalted parking lot

## Why Hélène Desmarais?

Hélène Desmarais graduated from HEC Montréal in 1983 and since then, she has been leading a remarkable career in the world of entrepreneurship.

The School chose to name its building downtown the "Hélène Desmarais Building" in recognition of her unwavering commitment and a \$7 million donation from Paul and Hélène Desmarais. This is the largest donation from a family or individual in the School's history. It went towards the construction of the new building.

## Site web du projet

[hec.ca/en/downtown](http://hec.ca/en/downtown)



# Architecture and planning

The Hélène Desmarais Building combines **modernity, functionality and sustainability**. Its avant-garde facilities offer an environment that is conducive to learning and collaboration. The building has also been constructed in an **eco-friendly and timeless manner**.

## Contemporary architectural concept

The building is intended to fit seamlessly into its built and natural environment. Great care has been taken to create harmony between HEC Montréal's new sites and the Basilica. Three overarching themes have guided the project's development:

- **Dynamic** – a contemporary look in terms of its layout, dimensions, and materials.
- **Light** – a building that blends into the urban fabric, juxtaposing the lightness of the new structure and the bulk of the older surrounding buildings.
- **Respectful** – acknowledging the protected heritage areas and conversing with the surroundings through its façades and angles offering sightlines from Rue De La Gauchetière.

## Carefully planned architectural integration

- Dimensions planned to enhance the built and landscaped environment of the block where the Basilica is located, in compliance with the concerns expressed by the St. Patrick Parish Fabrique
- Archaeological inventory of the site and project to commemorate its history

## Landscaping to boost biodiversity

Additional landscaping with no barriers between the two properties helps transform the block into a public space that is welcoming, safe, and open to the Montréal community.

- Gradual restoration of the initial canopy over the first few years of the building's opening: new trees, shrubs, and perennials planted
- Green walkways, benches and outdoor terraces
- 3 green roofs

These features and the elimination of the outdoor parking lot help to reduce a large heat island.

## Sustainable materials

- **1 efficient building envelope** leading to energy savings
- **Fritted-glass windows** that help save energy by improving thermal insulation in the building
- Over a third of the wall surface area is **windows**, creating a pleasant environment that is in harmony with the outside world
- **30 geothermal wells**, each 150 metres deep
- Use of **light-coloured materials**

