



Oil on Canvas: François Vincent

CRCHUM

**UNIVERSITY OF MONTREAL
Hospital Research Center**
Montréal, Québec

In March 2013, Groupe Lacasse is awarded the biggest contract of its history to date: the University of Montreal Hospital Research Center (CRCHUM) project. With a net value of 3.4 M\$, this important project's objective was to furnish the new CRCHUM installations, comprised of two buildings cumulating 21 floors.

OBJECTIVE / As the University of Montreal Hospital Center is rebuilt and revamped, new installations for the Research Center are also planned. Located in the heart of Montreal, these will accommodate more than 360 researchers and 450 Masters and doctoral students, as well as post-doctorate interns. The contract awarded to Groupe Lacasse covers the entire Research Center. Needless to say that furnishing one of the biggest biomedical research centers in Canada was a major challenge.

The impressive construction complex includes two buildings linked by an aerial walkway. The administrative wing has a total of 6 floors, basement included, and is known as the Saint-Antoine tower. The Viger tower where the students and researchers workstations and common areas are located, counts 15 floors.



Reception Furniture:
Exclusive design by Groupe Lacasse.



For this project, Groupe Lacasse must provide thousands of products in a record-time. Signed in March 2013, the contract stipulates that the buildings ought to be ready for occupancy in October. The expectations are high as the solutions provided are to be innovative, flexible, audacious and creative. The CRCHUM's 48,000 m² (516,685 sq.ft.) will be furnished with a complete selection of highly-stylish products. Adapted to research work, this selection will answer to very specific criteria, including great durability and low maintenance.



Top: Researchers' executive workstation
Right: Smart area overview
Below: Smart area workstation



The design aspect is also an essential component for the project; dynamic aesthetics are expected. Moreover, the use of antibacterial materials is mandatory. Tables in different sizes are expected for the cafeteria and shared areas. In open spaces, the workstations need to encourage teamwork between users while still allowing privacy. In offices, as many functionalities as possible must be integrated while maximizing the available space.



Student workspaces inspired by the award-winning C.I.T.É. collection, with custom-made storage pedestals and colorful tackboards.



Left: Typical manager workstation in the open space area.

Below: Open space environment with custom-made bookcases and aesthetic tackboards contributing to divide the workspaces.

GRUPE LACASSE SOLUTION / In order to carry out this important project, Groupe Lacasse resorted to its talented design team members. They worked alongside the CRCHUM team, whom brought new ideas to the table all throughout the process. During this prodigious team effort, all showed ingenuity in order to provide custom-made solutions.

Indeed, all products were created specifically for the project. Their inspiration comes from various Lacasse collections including NEX, QUAD, QUORUM MULTICONFERENCE and C.I.T.É. All these cumulate honors such as Best of NeoCon's and Innovation Awards, which are prestigious prizes from the office furniture industry. By combining elements from these collections and thinking about new possibility avenues, Groupe Lacasse designed products perfectly suited for the CRCHUM. These modern custom solutions fulfill all the Research Center's needs and blend in beautifully with its contemporary look.



Modern healthcare installations require environments which users will enjoy using. More precisely, the Groupe Lacasse team's reflection evolved around space. Can lost spaces be used to add more storage, and vice-versa, can storage help divide space? The answer is quite simple: Yes. The flexible furniture created makes a brilliant use of space for a maximum of functionalities.

For example, the student desk includes an array of features: generous work surface, high storage cabinets, colorful tackboards, pedestal, LED lighting, electrical/communication connectivity and privacy. All offered in an impressively limited space of 4' by 4' with a high level of aesthetics.

Since medical researchers are required to work together, the collaboration area encourages communication between users while keeping a very open and aerial feel. As for the open office plans, these were designed based on a freestanding set-up recreating the upscale feel of a closed office space.



In addition to the numerous workstations and tables for shared areas, the Groupe Lacasse design team worked on a very special concept for the reception area. Located at the executive and management's floor, this splendid piece of furniture seduces with its asymmetrical angles, glass surface and high-gloss finish (see pages 2 & 3). A true work of art signed Groupe Lacasse!

SUMMARY

APPLICATION

University of Montreal Hospital
Research Center offices.

SCOPE

- 1860 workstations for researchers, graduate students and administrative staff
- 620 tables
- 620 lateral files
- 2860 accessories
- 48 000 m² (516,685 sq.ft.), 21 floors
- Project completed in October 2013

PRODUCTS

All products were created specifically for the project.

Inspirations:

- NEX collection for the wood executive workstations and the collaborative areas (AIR-03)
- QUAD collection for the hutches
- QUORUM MULTICONFERENCE collection for the conference tables and lecterns
- C.I.T.É. collection for the collaborative areas (AIR-01)
- RECEPTION collection
- OPTIONS collection for the modular storage modules and tables

TEAM

Groupe Lacasse Design Team

Dominic Aubry
Louis Drouin
Mélissa Houle Beausoleil
Steven Sdraulig

Project Supervisor

Chantale Dion

CLIENT QUOTES

"The call for tenders won by Groupe Lacasse to furnish the new Research Center (CRCHUM) as well as the CHUM's administrative wing has been obtained through a public tender process.

MICHEL LEBLANC
Project Director
CHUM Research Center (CRCHUM)

Everything regarding the project logistics represents a major importance on the activities including production, transport, delivery, inspection, installation, additions and modifications. Groupe Lacasse has fulfilled all these tasks with skills, professionalism and a great flexibility, and accounted for specific criteria related to a public-private partnership "PPP" context.

It is also important to state that Groupe Lacasse has met all requirements of the furniture's technical quotation. A budgetary provision was planned in said quotation for the furniture conception work at many strategic moments. The designers mandated by Groupe Lacasse did an outstanding job. The student spaces and the smart space areas are remarkable and eloquently testify of a great success.

We should also note that the big majority of users are satisfied with the new furniture thanks to its quality, functionalities and aesthetics.

We are therefore glad to have worked in partnership with Groupe Lacasse, a local business."

"Groupe Lacasse's customer-centric orientation, availability and open-mindedness were combined to great efficiency and impeccable craftsmanship to deliver, with class, a big-scale project of uncommon proportions."

JEAN-PIERRE FORTIN
Project Manager,
Project Director Assistant
CHUM Research Center (CRCHUM)

"Production flexibility and product development to accommodate customer expectations are undeniable strengths that were demonstrated by Groupe Lacasse all throughout the project."

MAGGY MORCOS
Technical-Project Coordinator
CHUM Research Center (CRCHUM)

"Groupe Lacasse: A formidable, attentive and competent team whom it was a great pleasure to work with towards the project success."

MICHEL NORMANDEAU
Senior Advisor
CHUM Research Center (CRCHUM)

"One of the keys to success consists in listening to the client's needs. During the CRCHUM project, demands were extremely varied: modern design, space optimization, respect to costs, etc. The project team resourced to ingenuity and outdid itself in multiple occasions to meet all of the project's objectives."

DOMINIC AUBRY
Product Manager
Groupe Lacasse

RESULTS / The CRCHUM's numerous floors are now furnished with custom-made products by Groupe Lacasse. Their design goes beyond aesthetics: from their well-thought storage spaces to their low maintenance cost, their array of features is sure to please users. Groupe Lacasse's high quality standards ensure these thousands of products an impressive durability. Moreover, they are manufactured with 100% post-industrial recycled particleboard and follow multiple environmental processes. Thanks to the team's flexibility and to the great value of Groupe Lacasse products, this prestigious challenge was met with great success.

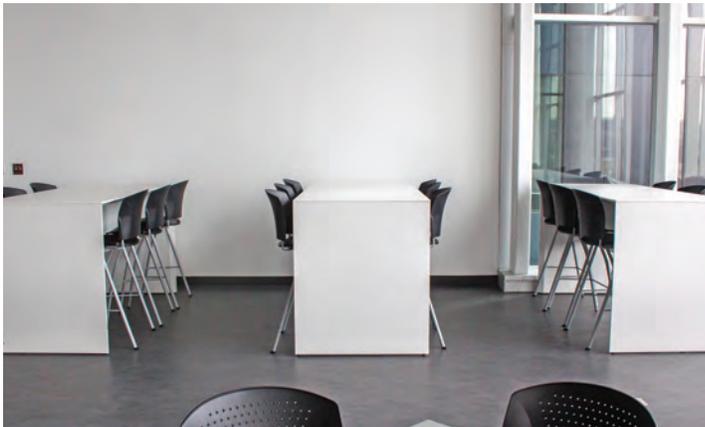


Top: Smart area workstation overview.
Below: Conference table with wood top - Exclusive design for the project.



Sculpture, view from the inside of the building:

Artist, Pierre Bourgault
www.pierrebourgault.org



Custom furniture for the lounge area (on left) and cafeteria tables (on right).

Cover:

Overlooking the entrance hall of the University of Montreal Hospital Research Center, this meditative painting was designed by artist François Vincent. The monumental work of art is composed of 15 canvasses and measures 23 ft. long by 17 ft. high.



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