



Vendôme Metro STATION

History of Architecture Exercise

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Location

The Vendôme Metro station is in NDG close to Westmount on 5160 Boulevard de Maisonneuve Ouest in Montreal. It is on the orange line between the stations Villa-Maria and station Saint-Henri, and it is also part of the ARTM zone A.



It is right by Boulevard Décarie, one of the main highways of Montreal.

History

The station opened on September 7, 1981. Station Vendôme is named as it is due to its proximity to Avenue Vendôme. Fun fact: During construction, the metro was referred to as station Maisonneuve.

The station was designed by the architectural firm of Desnoyers, Mercure, Leziy, Gagnon, Sheppard et Gélinas. The artist who made the stained-glass windows and the sculpture was Marcelle Ferron.

Another interesting fact is that the station was built instead of the stations Westmount and Northcliffe that were not built due to opposition from the Westmount borough residents and instability in the soil. This explains why Vendôme station and Place Saint-Henri station share the longest tunnel in the Montreal metro system.

In 2021, the third entrance of the Vendôme station was added, which linked the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) to the metro with a tunnel. With this addition, five elevators and wheelchair friendly turnstiles and ramps were also added, which increased the accessibility of the Vendôme station. This addition was designed by Provencher Roy and Bisson Fortin.

Architecture

The outside

Vendome Metro is primarily made of concrete and steel. Its architectural style is a mix of brutalist and streamline due to the monochromatic palette, the exposed concrete, and its aerodynamic elements such as the boat engine-like vents, the sleek interior metal walls, and the train-like shape of the building. This building has an exit on all four sides, although there is another exit in the newer building across the street on the east side, which we will get to later. These exits have concrete arches. As you can see in the photos, around the station there are concrete flower beds in which trees are planted. On the north and south side, we can observe a particular architectural aspect along its facade, the windows. The wall supporting the windows is not one straight surface, it is in fact cascading like the steps of a staircase. Each window section is accompanied by a blue line running along the top and a curved roof/top made of steel. Alongside this cascading wall, there are concrete benches to accommodate people waiting for their buses.

Now for the newest addition to the station.

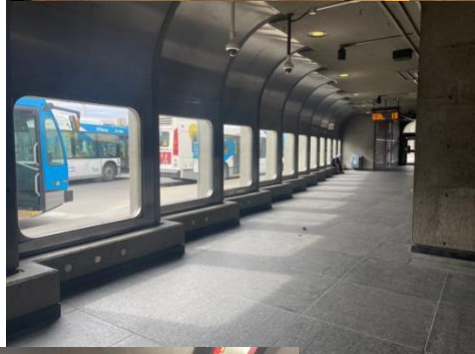
As stated before, this building was designed and added by Provencher Roy and Bisson Fortin in 2021. This building has access to Vendome metro station, Train station Vendome (EXO, another means of public transport) and McGill University Health Center. The building design is a lot more modern and uses glass as the envelope's main element. The flower beds at the front of the entrance are on ground level and are shaped like irregular forms and are lined with a concrete border, which can be used as seating. Its architectural style is a modernized version of the brutalist style due to the exposed concrete, the monochrome palette, and the tall glass windows.



The inside

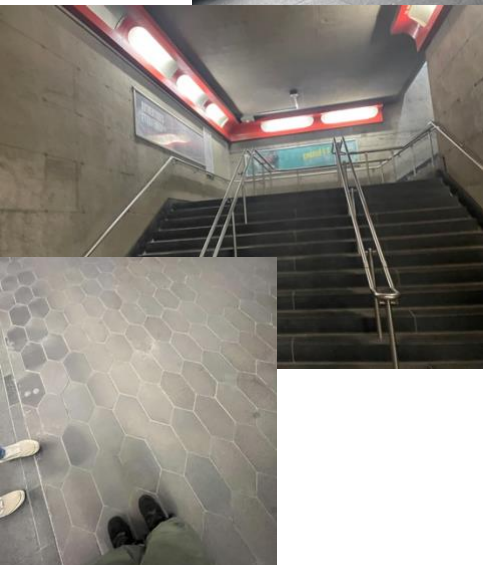


The interior is quite dim despite the fluorescent lights along the trim of the ceiling. From this angle (towards the west), you can observe that concrete has been used in the walls, ceilings and elements supporting the railing. Without considering the side wings, the room itself is symmetrical. There are two directions in which the metro separates, Montmorency and Cote-Vertu.



This is what it looks like inside the north and south sides. You can see the wall recedes and how reach window section is offset one after the other, creating this train-like appearance.

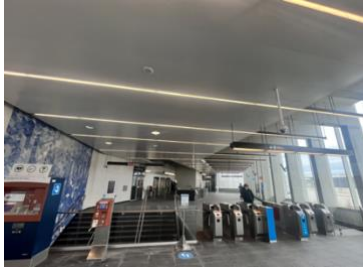
Both staircases going in each direction looks the same. To add lighting and follow the design, they added red trimmed lights along the ceiling, which can be found in the main part of the building.



The platform parallel to the trained tracks are finished with hexagon shaped tiles, using a monochrome color palette.

The new addition

This new addition makes the interior a lot brighter than the old building. The ceiling is a sleek white color, rather than dull concrete. There is no STM booth, only the gates and ticket machine.



This is the entrance to the Vendome Train STATION, which includes more entrance gates and the standard metro doors. There are some spanning elements visible in the ceiling which can be identified as concrete beams.



Here the concrete beams are a lot more visible and set upon concrete columns. Along these beams, long rectangular shaped lights are dangling while emitting warm lighting. The big windows allow more natural light to make its way into the building.

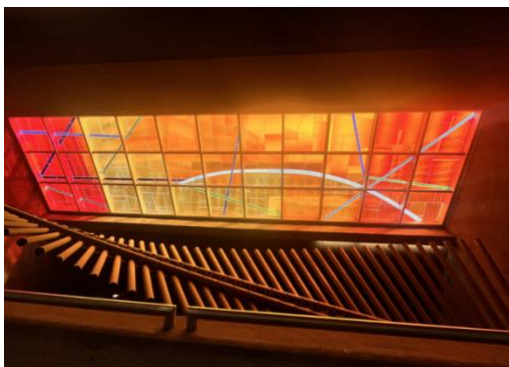


This is the staircase that brings you in the direction of Cote-Vertu. The railings along the edge are made of glass panes and steel handrails, which follow the main idea of the design (hence the= glass exterior). What we found interesting was the ceramic design on the wall to the right. They are cut into triangles and make use of different hues of blue.



Art

The stained-glass windows and the sculpture are on the ceiling in the main building above the railway tracks. They were designed by Marcelle Ferron. The sculpture looks like a musical instrument and was supposed to play the sound of a panpipe with the wind from the movement of the trains. The sculpture seems to be made of steel.

**Remarkable Points**

There is a commemorative plaque for Jean Descaris's eighth descendant, Alphonse E. Décarie, who owned the land where Vendôme station is located.

Vendôme is the deepest metro station in Montreal without escalators.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Vendôme station is a popular metro station due to its location and accessible amenities which makes it indispensable to the community. It has an interesting backstory and will continue to change due to its high traffic of commuters. It is an interesting station with its

own charm and reflected in the architecture. The station's train-like appearance is a unique aspect of it. To conclude, the Westmount borough nearby is very enjoyable to walk in, which makes Vendôme station the perfect spot for people who like strolling in a more peaceful and scenic side of the city.

Resources

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2. “Métro Vendôme.” *Www.metrodemontreal.com*, www.metrodemontreal.com/orange/vendome/index-f.html. Accessed 8 Apr. 2024.
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5. “Vendôme Metro.” *Www.metrodemontreal.com*, www.metrodemontreal.com/orange/vendome/history.html. Accessed 8 Apr. 2024.