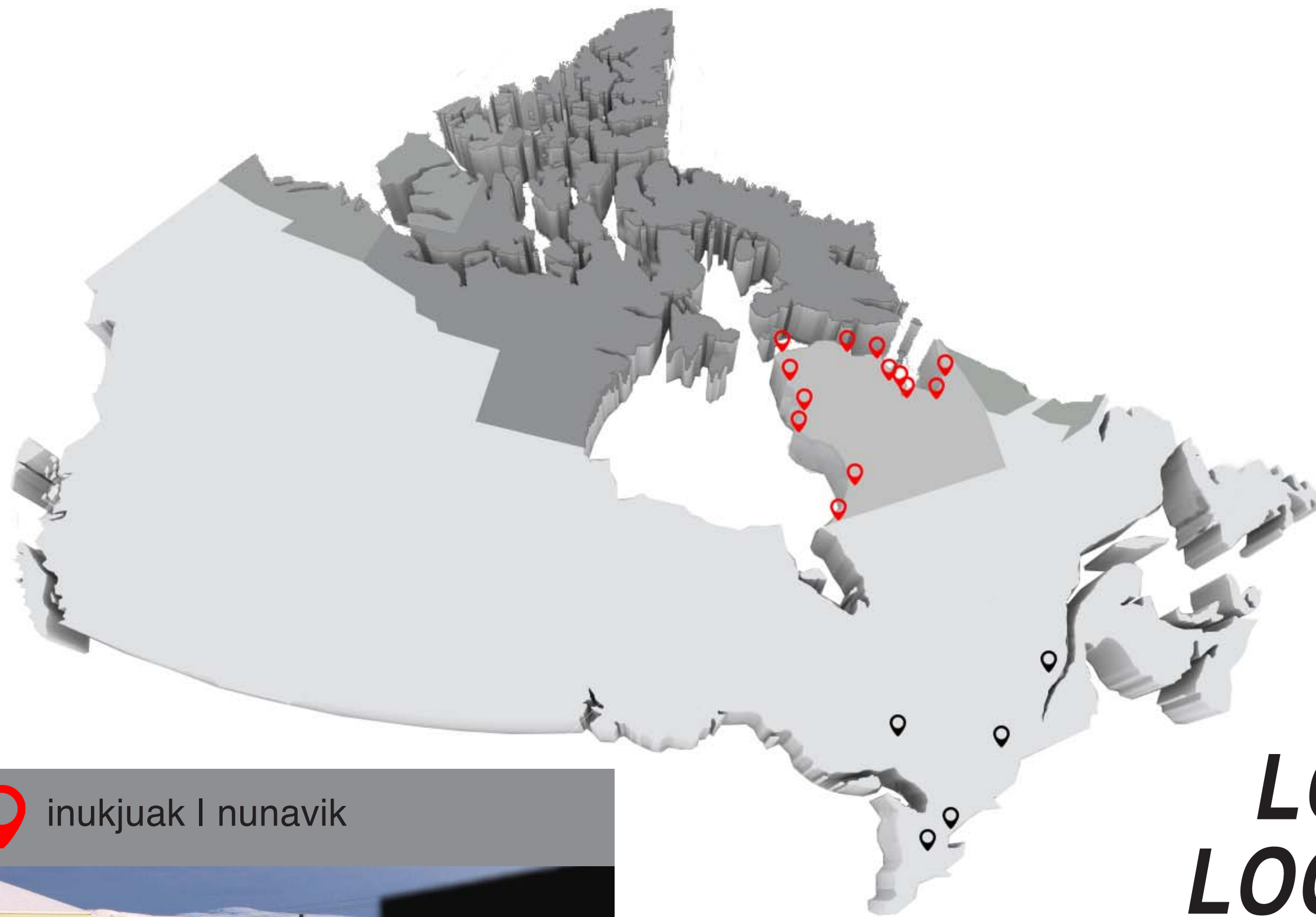


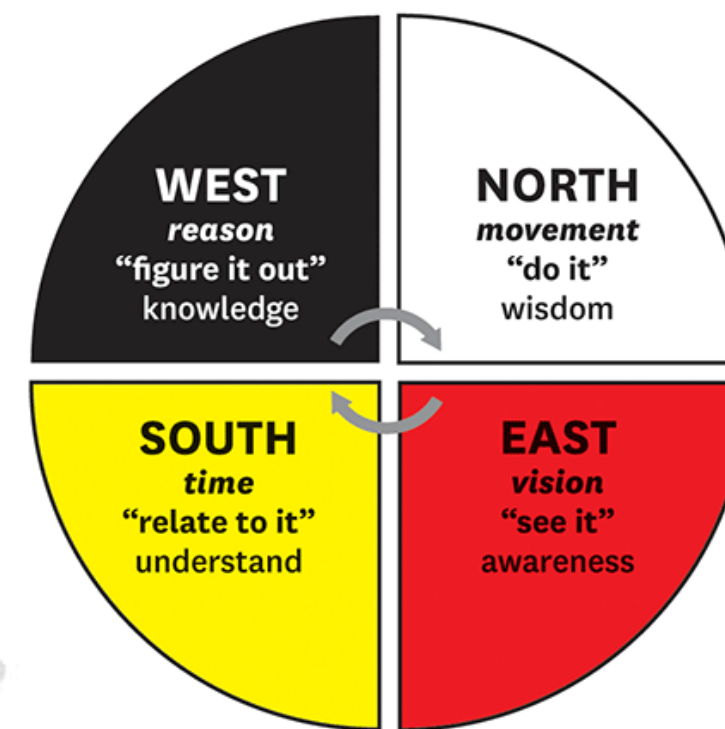
REASSEMBLING THE NORTH ~~NORTH~~ HOME

The 21st annual Interuniversity Charrette challenged students from Architecture schools from across Ontario and Quebec to reconsider Arctic villages and hack northern settlements to create livable communities in a simplistic and frugal manner. Reassembling Home is an alternative approach to Reassembling the North where participants are challenged to see life through an Inuit perspective that is educational to us.

The title "Reassembling Home" came from the analysis of the word North. When translated into Ojibwe (giiwedin), the word North also means home. This new understanding therefore requires students to view this project not as a place relative to their geographic position, but rather to view it as a place that these people depend on - home. Our project aims to reassemble home, not only in the context of northern Canada, but as home for all by developing an understanding that, since north is always relative, so is home. Therefore, through the exchange of knowledge, Reassembling Home attempts to address issues of connectivity as a nation and minimize cultural appropriation.



medicine wheel



**“RE SPECT
RE-SPECT
LOOK AGAIN
LOOK A-GAIN”**

This design charrette suggests that, in a matter of only three days, we are able to gain an understanding of the culture and offer these northern settlements a realistic solution through architectural intervention and design without establishing a thorough understanding of the needs of the community. This is not the case. Reassembling Home is an installation intended for the CCA as well as all educational institutions that specialize in architecture in Canada, to be used as a learning tool to gain a better understanding of the Inuit people, their culture and the challenges they face.

This will be accomplished through a real time one on one dialogue between people from the CCA and school's of architecture and people from the four capital Inuit regions where people can enter the "black boxes" and have an intimate conversation where questions can be asked and real thoughts and opinions can be heard. When someone is not available for discussion, students and members of the CCA can enter the Black Boxes where they can view previously filmed interviews with various members from Inuit communities or view footage from their traditional activities and practices. In doing so, individuals will attempt to gain a better understanding of the Inuit culture and come to the realization that the Inuit people are the only ones capable of educating us properly on their culture. From this one on one interaction, we hope that students and members of the CCA come to realize that we are in no position to offer solutions to the Inuit communities due to our severe lack of understanding.



inukjuak | nunavik

- nunavik communities
- architecture schools + c.c.a.

The black boxes represent the processes of cubism that dominate mainstream culture which is attempting to force the Inuit peoples and other Indigenous communities across Canada to assimilate to mainstream culture by disconnecting them from the rest of society and, most importantly, the cultural traditions. In addition, the undisturbed black facades on the exterior will also be reflected on the interior so that there is a sense of equality between the individuals engaging in this dialogue.

This social structure of cubism has compartmentalized not only Indigenous culture but mainstream society's culture as well. Those in mainstream society have no connection to the natural environment or one another. How can one help others if they have no connection to them. Members of society need to find harmony between the place in which they live and the people they share it with. The act of stepping into the cube installation will illuminate these issues. Upon entering one will gain insight and perspective which will open their eyes to the cube society has boxed them into. By connecting with this Inuit individual, who's culture has a great connection to the earth and the beings living on it, one will recognize the disconnect in their lives. When one then leaves the box, the hope is they will as well leave the cube of mainstream society and take action in their lives to address Indigenous issues and connect with the world. Not only does the installation collapse space, but it collapses the walls of compartmentalized society.



Reassembling Home is able to collapse time and space to enable students and members of the CCA to gain valuable knowledge about the Inuit people and their culture by enabling first person contact between members of both cultures. This will provide users with an experience that is very raw and very real which is necessary if we are to gain insight into their lives. Most importantly, the objective of Reassembling Home is to understand that the solution to the challenges that Inuits face is not simplistic or frugal and that we cannot make positive contributions to these communities until we understand them as a culture, an understanding that can only be provided through Inuit teachings.

Also, this installation would allow for the Inuit people to share their stories and voice their opinions and concerns more than would ever be physically possible, due to their suppression by the government and the immense cost of travel. Therefore, as future designers and project initiators, Reassembling Home is an important tool important in understanding this cultural context so that we can provide them with appropriate, accommodating and long-term solutions while connecting traditional and mainstream culture.

📍 mcgill school of architecture | montreal

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