

# ROUTE (ROOT) NETWORK

It all started with a mural – a mural so popular that it spawned a cultural movement. From there, the community of Greater Sudbury began to adopt a habit of claiming urban surfaces and improving them. While the city is now bathed in colour, it is desperately starved of organic matter – an issue that is failing to be addressed by the city's unadaptable concrete planters.

Drawing upon the same spirit of mural-making and public art, our proposal aims to recreate a habitable urban environment through the creation of 1m x 1m "crates" designed to house soil and greenery. The crate is made from five identical panels that are poured from a synthetic mixture that allows flexibility in terms of colouration, texture and perforations if desired. As the plates age and become subject to the harshness of the urban environment they will fade, chip, crack and break over time. The plates can be melted down by citizens, poured back into a simple framework kit that gives the material new life. The people-based manufacturing approach is essential for fostering a sense of ownership of the project and creating an environment of artistic freedom.

The chosen site is an abandoned parking garage in the core that has recently been partially allotted to the public for spray paint art. Surrounded by murals and street art, this is the ideal environment for a social movement such as Root (Route) Network to spawn. Unlike with "permanent" architecture, modular planters can readily expand to amalgamate into larger plots, allowing roots of trees to expand as needed and cultivating a condition that favours growth rather than restriction. The simplified planter typology will encourage expansion onto other developable areas of the city core, thus beginning to expand a network of reclaimed urban spaces, or routes, or roots.

The project is intended to give agency to the members of the community allowing them to shape an urban environment that is underperforming. It is important that the realm of urban, architectural, and landscape design is not only accessible to the public but is also encouraged. We believe that engagement is the key to designing the ideal habitable urban environment for citizens and it is of utmost importance to bring customization and adaptability to the forefront.

TEAM ID: 2018-22





CONNECTING TO URBAN TRANSPORTATION ROUTES (ROOTS)



TOWARDS A HABITABLE CITYSCAPE



MURALS

PERSPECTIVE  
TAKEN HERE

CITIZEN  
ENGAGEMENT

RECLAIMED  
SPACES

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