

Unveiling the Curtain

PROBLEMATIC

The Night is an obscure Scene. The actors partaking in the play are often ‘Invisible’ to the eyes of society. Marginalized or forgotten, this demographic constitutes the homeless, the insomniacs, the refugees and the citizens working night shifts. How can their narratives be shifted to surpass the social exclusion?

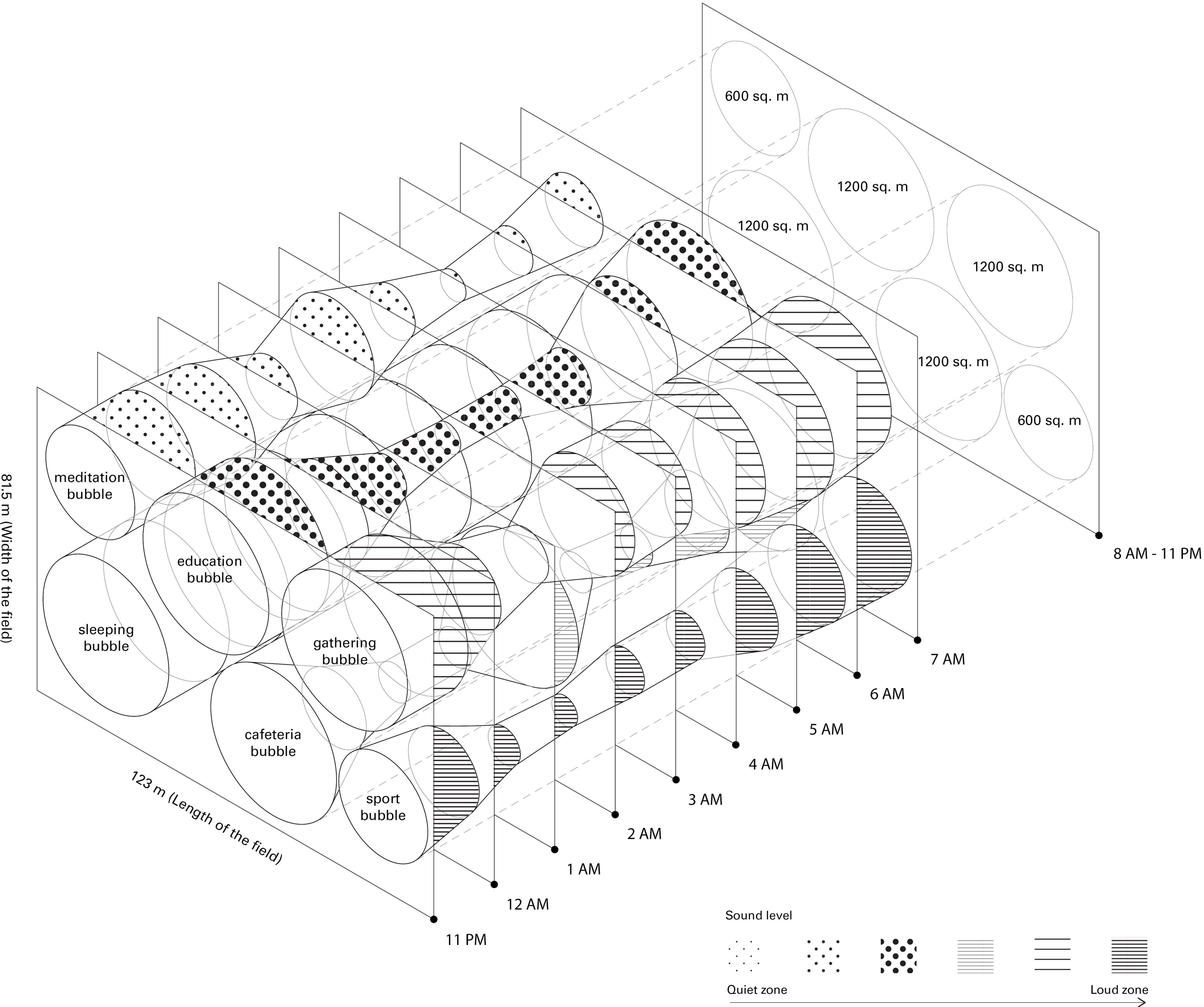
SITE CONTEXT

Standing high in the Hochelaga-Maisonneuve borough, the Olympic Stadium is an iconic symbol of Montreal’s culture and achievements. In fact, Hochelaga-Maisonneuve is an old industrial area which lost most of its economic activities in the industry, resulting in various job losses. As a result, the population is increasingly underprivileged. The properties of the stadium convey multiple spatial possibilities for night use. Indeed, the monumental building can host up to 60 000 people at once which enables the opportunity for a tremendous urban center. Furthermore, its concentric geometry, high ceiling and large spaces creates opportunities for social cohesion.

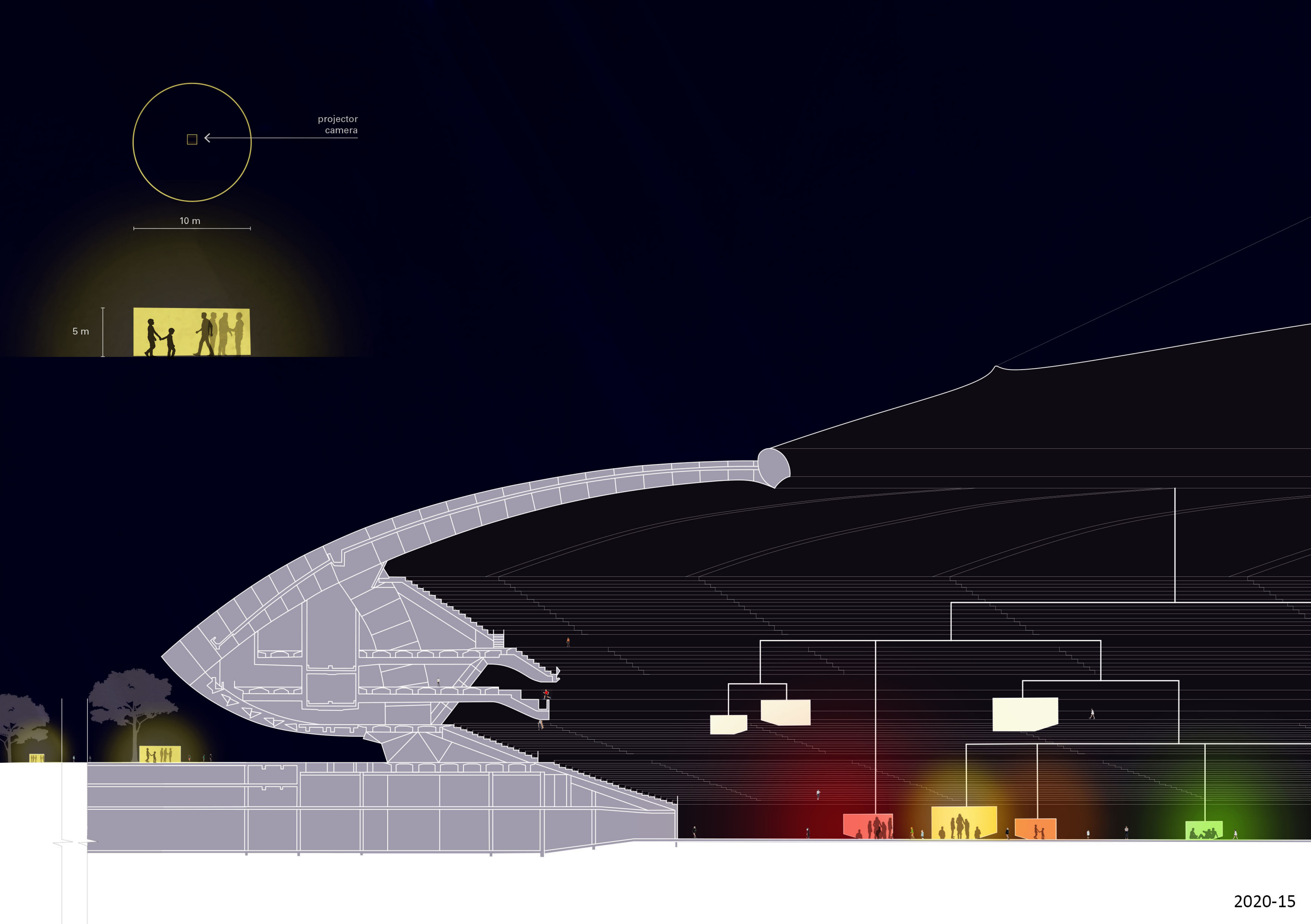
ARCHITECTURAL PROPOSITION

The concept of the theater relates the problematic of the ‘Invisible’ actors, while also feeding into the current narrative of the site context. Thereby, the following proposition is a more playful twist on the Night – Scene. Inside the stadium, a series of installations inspired by Alexander Calder’s masterpieces, an important contributor to Montreal’s Expo 67, are hanging from the ceiling. Hence, during the day, the installations are hung up and act as sculptures. In the Night-Scene, these installations become space-divider devices as a large variety of programs are offered to the visitors. The textile fabric of which they are constituted of has a dual purpose, namely acting as screen projectors that cast the Actors’ shadows. Moreover, in the public plaza adjacent to the stadium and in many other instances in the city, numerous cylinder-shaped textile installations cast the projected shadows of the Actors which act inside the stadium.

In sum, this proposition sees architecture as a medium for social reflections, and hopefully for narrative shift.



Spatiotemporal Diagram



projector
camera

10 m

5 m