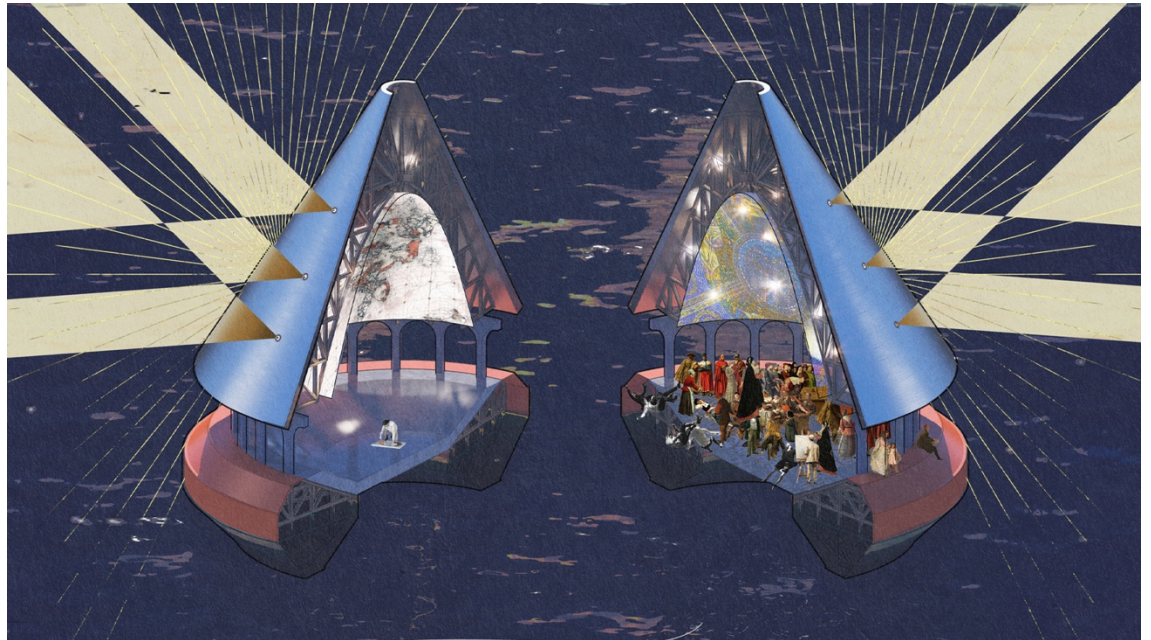


*For immediate release*

## Night Swimming

### Winners of the 2026 CCA Interuniversity Charrette announced



Winning proposal of the 2026 Interuniversity Charrette: *A Vessel of Night*, by Lauryn Marchand, Blake Klotz, and Thomas Emerson (Dalhousie University)

*Montréal, 19 March 2026* – The winners of the 2026 Interuniversity Charrette were announced tonight during the awards ceremony, held at the CCA. Initiated in 1995 by the CCA, the annual competition is open to students and recent graduates in architecture, landscape architecture, urbanism, environmental design, urban design, industrial design, and graphic design.

This year's edition, titled *Night Swimming*, was organized by the CCA in partnership with the **Université du Québec à Montréal**, the **Université de Montréal**, and **McGill University**, and challenged participants to design with water as a shaping force, attending to its agency and working through reciprocity, multispecies entanglement, and hydro-social justice.

Across ancient and contemporary rituals, immersion in water—swimming or bathing—has been communal, regenerative, and symbolically intimate. Under secular modernity, bathing has largely become a private, functional routine,

stripped of shared cultural meaning, while urban water has been abstracted into H<sub>2</sub>O: a technical resource governed by engineering, policy, and extraction. This “modern water” appears as a measurable unit, hidden in pipes, regulated in reservoirs, or commodified as leisure, while collective imaginaries remain saturated with catastrophic floods and survivalist scarcity. Yet water rituals endure as practices of continuity, care, and refusal, suggesting futures in which water is not a passive backdrop but an active participant shaping bodies, solidarities, and worlds.

This year’s charrette began from the premise that water is not only a chemical compound but also a medium of imagination, relation, and governance. Adopting a hydrological turn, it approaches water as collaborator, co-producing bodies, publics, and politics, and, drawing on Indigenous teachings and posthumanist scholarship that describe humans as “water walking”, recognizes that internal waterscapes are continuous with, and accountable to, the external environment.

Participants were asked to move beyond apocalyptic fatalism and design spatial and material interventions through the lens of night swimming, selecting a currently inaccessible water threshold in their city, a riverbank, canal, reservoir, waterfront, or seashore, as a communal site for new night rituals.

The jury carefully evaluated **76 submitted proposals**. A total of **101 teams** consisting of **306 students** from **15 different universities** registered for this edition: Université de Montréal (102), University of British Columbia (79), Université du Québec à Montréal (46), Université McGill (25), Université Laval (16), Dalhousie University (13), University of Waterloo (9), Carleton University (4), University of Manitoba (3), University of Calgary (2), University of Toronto (2), Columbia University (2), ENSA Paris-Malaquais (1), TUDelft (1), Université Concordia (1).

Members of the jury for this edition included **Jake Chakasim**, a Cree designer from Attawapiskat First Nation and cross-appointed assistant professor at Carleton University’s Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism and School of Indigenous & Canadian Studies; **Christie Pearson**, an artist, writer, educator, and architect, critically re-imagining urban infrastructures as utopian bathing environments for thermal delight, and the author of *The Architecture of Bathing: Body, Landscape, Art* (MIT Press, 2020); and **Jean Pelland**, an architect and urban designer, co-founder of NOMADE architecture and Sid Lee Architecture, whose work has transformed Montreal’s urban landscape

through major interventions such as Bota Bota, a floating spa created through the adaptive transformation of a former ferry moored in the Old Port.

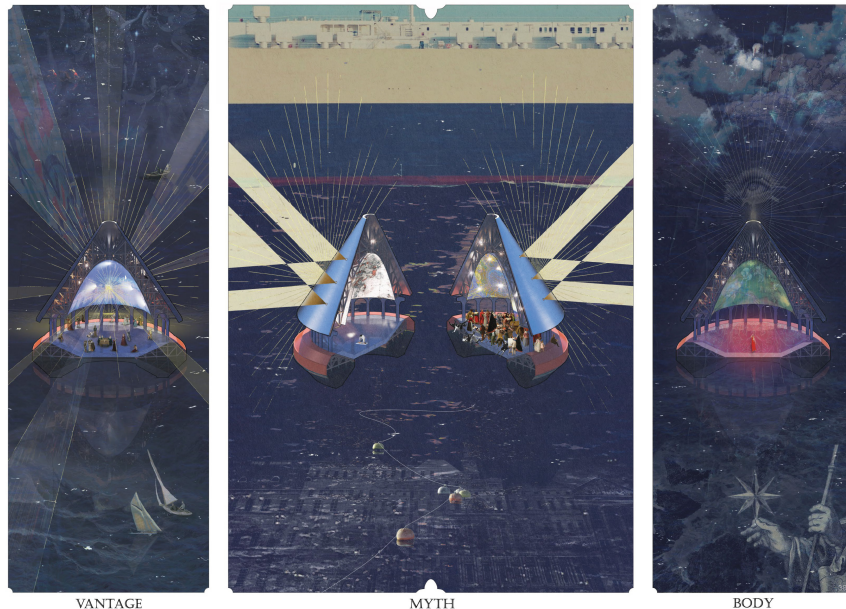
In today's award ceremony taking place at the CCA, the jury awarded first, second and third place prizes, and two special mentions. The selected winners of these prizes receive a selection of recent CCA publications as well as Friends of the CCA memberships with numerous benefits.

### The winners of the 2026 CCA Interuniversity Charrette

#### First place:

#### A Vessel of Night

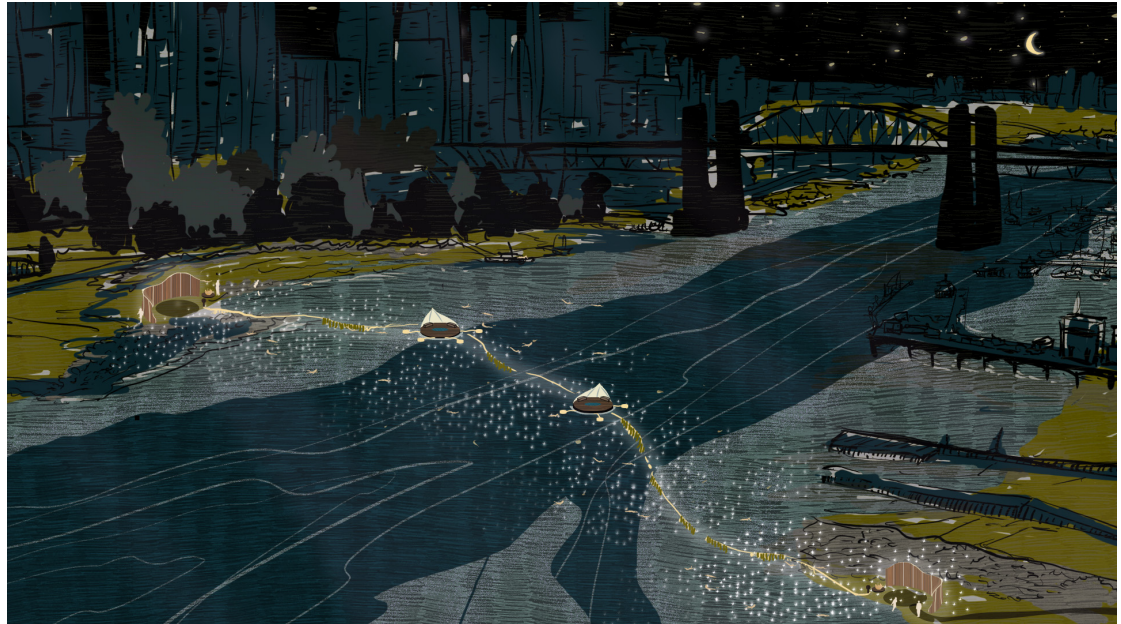
by Lauryn Marchand, Blake Klotz, and Thomas Emerson  
(Team 38), Dalhousie University



#### Jury's comment:

*The project successfully transforms the port into a collective nocturnal experience and brings the luminosity of nightlife into a cosmic setting, where collective regeneration happens in a momentarily infinite sea and sky.*

*The vessel functions as a strong architectural figure within the harbor, acting as a beacon that structures perception and movement at night. The floating camera obscura creates a truly immersive spatial condition that frames the harbor's nighttime activity, beautifully evoking an immersive ritual theatre that draws on the latent poetry of the cycles of the ocean harbour.*

**Second Place:****. the commute . the nightly passage .**by Hei Lam Kylie Ip and Hoi Ying Ng  
(Team 78), University of British Columbia**Jury's comment:**

*The project articulates a passage, using water and night as primary spatial materials. The guided crossing, defined by a "lifeline," is a clear and legible gesture that reinforces the site's relationship to water, its strength lying in the restraint and coherence of the architectural intent.*

*A subtle proposition of a journey possible only within temporal cycles, the project effectively responds to a rhythm-analysis of the site, with thoughtful attention brought to the body describing tactility, weight, friction and buoyancy in a clear and convincing way while proposing an extraordinary experience.*

**Third place:****Mémoire de l'eau**

Laura Sorya Bou, Jayden Terauds, Polina Terleeva, and Sarah Migos  
(Team 81), Université de Montréal

**Jury's comment:**

*This proposal stands out for its precise reading of the site's history, creating a public bath at an urban scale to reimagine underutilized part of the city and bring it back to life. By reactivating the place as a contemporary bath, the project introduces a simple yet highly effective architectural and natural intervention, offering an evocative view that shows ambition to create a civic amenity at an infrastructural scale while maintaining intimacy. The approach revitalizes an emblematic space through minimal means, grounding the project in memory, use, and water.*

## Two Special Mentions:

### Reflets

Amelia Dryburgh-Bouchard and Charles-Alexandre Toussaint  
(Team 82), Université de Montréal



#### Jury's comment:

*This vision proposes a transformative reappropriation of an old quarry, rooted in a biophilic approach that serves both the community and the city's ecology, offering a strong perspective on how abandoned sites can be repurposed to generate shared environmental and social value. Admirable for directly addressing the scarred post-industrial landscape in a creative, visionary proposition, the project is built upon geology and hydrology while maintaining urban intelligence, recognizing that a meaningful architectural intervention today must work with ecological impurity.*

## Echoes of a Stream

Tamara Kliuk, Nino Ramdani, Étienne Lachance, Tommaso Montanari  
(Team 03), Université de Montréal



### Jury's comment:

*This project seeks to reconnect with what lies beneath the city, revealing what has been constrained by human intervention. By allowing these forces to flow freely and extend deep into the earth, the proposal bears witness to an alternative relationship between the city and its hidden landscapes. This night swim is a collective renewal, diving simultaneously upwards and downwards, as the vertical dimension of the city reveals itself through the sectional cut. By asserting the right to the city and the right to water, this bath taps into the political, social and physical "beach which lies beneath the paving stones."*

Please find all further information about the CCA Interuniversity Charrette [here](#).

### Media Contacts

To request an interview or for further information, please contact Julia Albani at [jalbani@cca.qc.ca](mailto:jalbani@cca.qc.ca).

### About the CCA

The Canadian Centre for Architecture (CCA) is an international research institution and museum premised on the belief that architecture is a public concern. We produce exhibitions and publications, develop and share our collection as a resource, advance research, offer public programs, and host a range of other activities driven by a curiosity about how architecture shapes—and might reshape—contemporary life. We invite collaborators and the wider public to engage with our

activities, giving new relevance to architectural thinking in light of current disciplinary and cultural issues.

Founded as a new type of cultural institution by Phyllis Lambert in 1979, the CCA is currently directed by Giovanna Borasi and steered by the CCA Board of Trustees.

To learn more about the CCA, please read about our history, refer to a timeline of our past activities, or explore the ways that we are working toward fostering affirmative relationships with Indigenous and other peoples across Tiohtià:ke/Mooniyang/Montréal through the process of creating a living land acknowledgement.

[cca.qc.ca](http://cca.qc.ca)

facebook [@cca.conversation](#)

youtube [@CCAchannel](#)

instagram [@canadiancentreforarchitecture](#)

Online bookstore: [cca-bookstore.com](http://cca-bookstore.com)