



Residential Light Pollution

Railroad Off-Limits to the Public

Industrial Light Pollution

Paid Entry

Paid Entry

Tourism Light Pollution

Calm Waters

Paid Entry

Tourism Light Pollution

The Site

Eddies

Historic Ship Trajectory

Cruise Ship Line

Ferry Line

Ferry Line

Fast Flowing Water

Ferry Line

Eddies

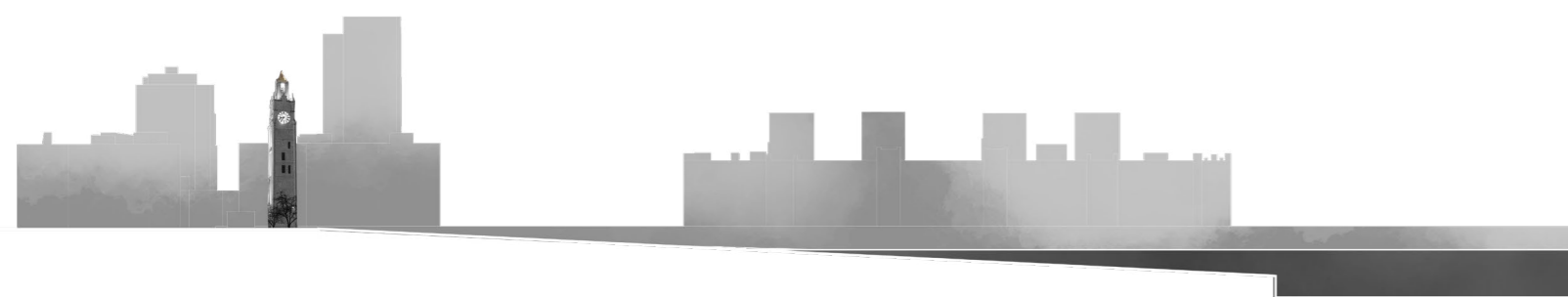
Tourist Excursions

Tourism Light Pollution

0 m 100 m 200 m 300 m



TRANSCRIBING MEMORIES AT THE PIER



section of structure

Water holds the memories of a city and its people. Arrivals, departures, and settlement all leave their marks in the tides. It is an ephemeral force that collects a plethora of remnants, creating its own language that has now become lost to the shoreline. Surrounding the lands of the Kanien'kehà:ka people is the St. Lawrence River, its waters transporting the earliest generations of arrivals. They travelled beneath where the Jacques Cartier Bridge now sits, stopping at what is now the Sailor's Memorial Clocktower on the Victoria Pier. Once a grand point of arrival, the pier has become secluded and forgotten, to be distantly viewed and fenced-off from the public.

To reconnect with the waters is to understand its language again. Creating a memorial site, we implement architecture as a translation device between people and the murmurs of the water. Visiting the pier at night, we gazed upon the eddies forming as water broke away from the fast-moving currents of the river. The waves slowed as they collided with the shore, creating patches of uneven patterns across the dark surface. We mapped these patterns to recognize the mark of industrialization upon natural unpredictability. Additionally, we captured temporal scales of arrival and human movement, marking historical and current boat paths. In the multisensory cartography, we marked the greatest sources of light visible from the pier to note their effect at night and resultant light pollution.

The architecture consists of a long gradual ramp disappearing into the distant waters, a gentle invitation flanked by two sloping walls. Fast-moving currents pass over the walls into our pier extension, calming the water and allowing people to wade down the sloped surface. Eventually, one can become fully submerged if they travel far enough. The memorial site comes to life in the cover of darkness: informalities become freed, and the shoreline is abstracted to shapes and misty lights in the distance. Night reframes visitors for the uncertain conditions of arrival, as the cityscape becomes a foreign blur. Water and sky merge into a homogeneous medium, encouraging visitors to reflect in an introspective and intimate setting away from the surveillance of day. Ultimately, such perceptions relate to the historic narrative of arrivals diversifying the city's urban fabric today, where nocturnal waterscapes were not just temporal conditions but spatial tools intensifying knowledge and memory.