



Les Places such as the original one, Place Ville-Marie, have transformed Montreal's downtown.

Carré St-Louis

Montreal is a city of extensive working-class neighbourhoods, full of sturdy old houses, most of them in good repair and suitable for rehabilitation.

East of Mount Royal's pleasant park are endless blocks of lively, overlapping ethnic neighbourhoods — Greek, Italian, Portuguese and Caribbean. Rue St-Urbain, memorialized by Mordecai Richler in *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz*, was once Jewish. It is now more complex, though there still are a great many Hasidic Jews living along it and other tree-shaded streets.

The streets around Carré St-Louis, a bustling area of restaurants and cafés, are now in a period of swift, upgrading transition. Many are triplexes, 15 rooms, more or less, divided into three flats. Three years ago, when the renovation began, a typical rundown building sold for \$15,000. Now the same building brings \$23,000, and a refurbished one, up to \$100,000.

Louis Terry bought the one at 3695 Drolet for \$20,000 and has been doing all but the most demanding remodelling himself. He has spent an estimated \$10,000 to \$12,000 and plans to spend \$5,000 more before he is through. He has received an unsolicited offer of \$60,000 for it as it now stands, and he calculates that it will be worth at least \$90,000 when he is through.

His neighbour, Mark Levy, at 3670 Drolet, bought his house for \$15,000 and has spent an estimated \$6,000 to \$8,000 inside and out — painting walls and bricks and replacing plaster and much of the flooring.

There is a steady influx of affluent younger people who still find the solid turn-of-the-century houses great bargains, but a good many of the old landlords remain content to leave the houses as they pretty much were. Dominic Lasson, a tenant at 3701 Drolet, is interested in buying his, though the landlord is not particularly eager to sell. The house is in good condition, and its only conspicuous need is for additional electrical power — it is not possible to turn on all the lights in the house at the same time.

Les Places

Above the Métro are the core complexes — Place Ville Marie, Place Victoria, Place Bonaventure, Place du Canada. Each is colourful, efficient and busy. They include a mélange of hotels, offices, auditoriums, shops, restaurants, promenades, stores and places of entertainment, all connected and protected from the weather. It is possible to spend a full winter in the middle of the city — living, sleeping, swimming, eating, working, shopping and being entertained — without ever stepping out into the cold. The newest complex, La Cité, was designed by Eva Vecsei, above.



The Métro links the concentration in the centre of the city to the Place des Arts concert halls and theatres, and further to the east, to the Olympics sports complex.



Montreal's high rises are often surrounded by old churches, small, smart, inexpensive dining places and all kinds of shops and offices. This building which seems to have a thousand eyes is Château Champlain in Place du Canada.