



The new Faculty of Music brings a breath of freshness to Montreal's McGill University campus. This eight-stories building designed by Architects Saucier + Perrotte is located on a narrow strip of land at the South-East corner of McGill at the intersection of Sherbrooke and Aylmer streets. Design Principal Gilles Saucier did a careful reading of the urban context assimilating its components and deriving the conceptual guidelines for the building's exterior.

South of the McGill Campus lies the Montreal downtown area. All the way to Sherbrooke, the land is relatively flat. Then it starts ascending upward to the mountain of Mont-Royal. Gilles Saucier was inspired from these topographical conditions; "It's as if McGill acted like a geological plate that shifted the city grid, so the building design accentuates that fact." The architecture of building was imagined as exposed strata that were eroded from Mont-Royal.

The Elevation along Aylmer Street clearly expresses this concept. With the pronounced horizontality of its materials, it symbolizes the stratified geological layers of a weathered mountain. 20ft above ground level, the architects implemented a folded concrete plane that appears to support the main body of the building above. It evokes an eroded ground plane, which leads to the Mount Royal beyond. The wall above the concrete plane is covered in black and grey zinc cladding, with long strip windows that light the office corridors, dynamically located to accentuate the horizontality of the elevation and the concept of stratification.





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