

Cégep Marie-Victorin: Creating a vibrant living environment



Photography: Patrick St-Arnaud

Located in Montreal, Cégep Marie-Victorin is a public college that specialises in graphic design, interior design, fashion, and visual arts. Modernizing its campus to include spaces for focus, connection and socialization, the college has created an enriching educational setting and a vibrant environment for its community of students and staff.

Cégep Marie-Victorin’s mission is to provide innovative educational programs that meet the diverse needs of its students and community—whether they are continuing to university, entering the job market, or attaining new skills. Originally built in 1965, the building needed modernization to incorporate cutting-edge technology

and spaces for specialized study programs in addition to its common areas. “Our goal is for our community to feel deeply connected to their environment, to see themselves reflected in it, and to recognize their belonging within the community,” explains Annie Sauvageau, Coordinator of Procurement and Printing, Directorate of Financial Services, Cégep Marie-Victorin.

Created By and For Staff and Students

With a culture based on innovation, creativity and a human touch, the college drew upon the skills found within their own walls—seasoned professionals, instructors and creative students—to design and plan the new space. Beyond simply showcasing talent, the goal of the renovation projects was to create an engaging and dynamic environment for both students, staff and the surrounding community that engages with the Cégep.



“I believe in the power of beauty to elevate spirits.”

Louise Gélinas, Interior Designer, Material Resources, Cégep Marie-Victorin

“As the interior designer, my goal was to craft spaces that are clean, modern, and inviting. We wanted to reflect the values of the school: humanism, commitment, creativity and solidarity,” explains Louise Gélinas, Interior Designer, Material Resources, Cégep Marie-Victorin.

A Vibrant Living Environment

The new design envisions the school as a “living” environment, an ecosystem of spaces that work individually and in consort to support engaging experiences for students and staff. “I believe in the power of beauty to elevate spirits—beauty makes people happy. It was important to create comfortable and inviting areas for focus work, collaboration, and connection. Selecting appropriate furniture for a space is crucial—like soft lounge chairs to relax, or supportive task chairs that allow students to focus on the work at hand,” says Gélinas. The former chapel has been transformed into a light and airy cafeteria that provides places to socialize and connect. Small seating areas strategically placed throughout the building with benches and lounge seating offer spaces for students to comfortably study alone or come together in small groups. In addition to accommodating technology, classrooms also include flexible furniture options that can support different ways of learning, as they happen.

The project underscores the value of art and empowers the school’s artists, serving as an inspiration for younger generations and fostering a sense of pride. “We now have

an average staff engagement rate consistently over 85%. Students are drawn to us, attracted by our facilities and the high calibre of teaching. Not only have we significantly improved the campus environment and experience, but we have established the school as a beacon of learning and creativity,” concludes Sauvageau.



FEATURED PRODUCTS:

Bakhita seating, Swap tables, Drift lounge seating, Venture booths, Sas seating, River+ seating, Stream seating, Junction tables, Citi Square lounge seating, Bridges systems and tables

DESIGNER: Cégep Marie-Victorin

DEALER: Staples

