



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Living differently, without compromise

Montreal, April 8th, 2026 — In Montréal, ADHOC is transforming a century-old Outremont into a fully accessible home, a bespoke project that demonstrates how architecture can adapt to its users without compromising quality or the integrity of the site's historic character.

The project stems from a life-altering event: a spinal cord injury in 2016 left Cait partially paralyzed, turning the stairs in her Montreal apartment into a daily challenge; one that would ultimately reshape the way she inhabits her home.

With her partner, Mikkell, she began searching for suitable housing. It soon became clear that, even in buildings equipped with elevators, accessible units in urban settings are scarce. For them, moving to the suburb was never an option—their life and routines were firmly rooted in the city.

Faced with these limitations, they made a bold decision: to purchase a house and reimagine it entirely around their needs without ever compromising the way they choose to live.

A custom project, between constraint and freedom

Built in 1907, the residence they chose reflects the essence of Montréal homes of the period, characterized by an elevated entrance, a strong vertical rhythm, and a rich heritage.

The architects completely reimaged its accessibility while preserving this historic identity. The main intervention takes place at the back of the house where an elevator connects all floors of a three-storey extension. A new staircase wraps around it, allowing Mikkell and able-bodied visitors to move through the building alongside Cait.

This strategy allowed the original façade to be preserved while integrating the necessary elements for Cait to use her home. An adapted garage also replaces the former parking space, facilitating access from the outside.

Inside, each room is redefined based on actual use. The kitchen is organized around widened circulation paths and dual-height work surfaces adapted to both occupants. Extended handles improve grip, while the oven is installed at a height that allows for use from a seated position.

“The bathrooms include curbless walk-in showers equipped with benches, while the vanities provide the necessary knee-space for use with a wheelchair. The grab bars, selected in a gold finish, blend elegantly into the overall design,” explains interior designer Sarah Lord.

These adjustments, far from being secondary, structure the project. “It required rigorous technical coordination, particularly in reinforcing partitions to support equipment without compromising spatial clarity,” adds project manager Anna Rocki.

Interior atmospheres between heritage and contemporaneity

One of the project’s key challenges lies in balancing transformation and preservation. Original elements—brickwork, stained glass, moldings, and woodwork—were carefully restored and serve as anchors for the contemporary intervention.

Building on this existing material, the project unfolds through a sensitive approach to interior design. Rich, deep tones paired with subtle gold accents echo the home’s Victorian character, wrapping the spaces in a calm, intimate atmosphere. These choices envelop the spaces in a subdued atmosphere, where light glides across surfaces and reveals texture. In the extension, slatted elements filter natural light and create a play of light and shadows while preserving privacy. More restrained tones and clean lines establish a measured contrast with the existing structure, distinguishing the contemporary intervention without distorting it.

Materials become the thread that weaves past and present together. Restored elements coexist with contemporary surfaces such as marble, wall panels and smooth finishes, that catch and reflect light in subtle, varied ways, enriching the spatial experience with depth and nuance. Each room unfolds with its own atmosphere, distinct yet harmoniously connected to the whole. Below, the basement reveals a different world altogether: transformed into a game room inspired by Dungeons & Dragons, it introduces a more playful, intimate layer to the home—one that speaks to imagination, gathering, and shared moments.

“Each architectural gesture reflects a commitment to making everyday life more fluid, more intuitive, and more attuned. We sought to create a warm atmosphere, where light, materials, and proportions contribute to a lasting sense of comfort.”

— Jean-François St-Onge, co-founder of ADHOC

The overall composition unfolds as a delicate dialogue between modernity and heritage. Each gesture and each detail contribute to a carefully balanced whole, where function and sensation are intimately intertwined. The result is not only a space that works, but one that is felt, an experience shaped as much by use as by atmosphere.

Beyond its technical resolution, the project elicits a broader reflection on accessibility in architecture. Here, accessibility is not treated as an addition, but as a guiding thread—quietly shaping every decision, from the overall layout to the finest detail. It becomes an integral way of thinking and designing, where inclusion is embedded within the very fabric of the project.

The designers show how complex constraints can be absorbed and transformed into opportunities for design. Rather than limiting the project, these conditions are woven seamlessly into the architectural language, without ever compromising its quality. The result is an approach where design precisely supports use—bringing together functionality, spatial richness, and a thoughtful continuity with the existing structure.

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Today, Mikkel & Cait's home unfolds as a fluid and welcoming living environment, shaped around its occupants' rhythms and their deep connection to urban life. It offers a home that is both warm and open—one that embraces everyday living while staying closely tied to the vitality of the city.

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About ADHOC

ADHOC is a creative firm founded in Montreal in 2014, bringing together 35 passionate professionals with complementary talents: architects, urban designers, landscape architects, and interior designers accredited in LEED, WELL, and PASSIVHAUS. ADHOC distinguishes itself by its ability to contextualize each project, highlighting the unique features of each site through innovative, identity-rich, contextual, and poetic architecture.

The firm's approach focuses on creating creative concepts that seamlessly integrate with the brand experience they support. Each project is an expression of the firm's collective identity, driven by the desire to design spaces that leave a lasting and personal imprint. It is this shared energy that unites ADHOC and defines their common passion: ÊTRE HABITÉ.

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