

Press release

## Successful launch of the catalogue Architecture + Homelessness: Research on Living Environments and Their Design

*Montreal, September 11, 2025* — Architecture Without Borders Quebec (AWBQ) is delighted to announce the launch of its new research catalogue, *Architecture + Homelessness: Research on Living Environments and Their Design* (2025). The publication was the subject of an event last Tuesday that brought together roughly 100 participants from community, research, and municipal sectors at the Esplanade Tranquille in Montreal's Quartier des Spectacles.

It was an opportunity to hear Carolyne Grimard, professor at the School of Social Work at the University of Montreal, and Sonia Blank, architect and research officer at ASFQ, discuss several case studies (post-occupancy studies) conducted across Canada. Both shared the research process that drew on the experiences of residents of transitional and permanent housing, as well as those of architects and community workers.

A unique reference tool for in-depth analysis of the connections between urban planning and the well-being of homeless people, the book combines interviews, photo-voice workshops, and field observations, in addition to cross-analysis of data. It is a continuation of the activities of the catalogue of practices *Architecture + Homelessness: Inclusive Practices for a Supportive City* (2023) and is available online in [French](#) and [English](#).

It should be noted that this catalogue is the result of a collaboration between ASFQ and the School of Social Work at the University of Montreal that began in 2021, which led to a three-part research program (2023-2025) aimed at deepening knowledge about development practices that promote the well-being of people experiencing homelessness (PEH) or at risk of homelessness.

The ultimate goal of this initiative is to demonstrate that the quality of the built environment and of community support is a determining factor in the welfare of residents, in addition to serving as a lever for advocating for more suitable, better designed, and sustainable spaces.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This publication, edited by Professor Carolyne Grimard, was written by Sonia Blank, research officer at ASFQ, and Véronic Lapalme, Sarahlou Wagner-Lapierre, and Elizabeth Prince, research collaborators, with significant contributions from Maira Gonzalez and Olivia Daigneault-Deschênes, project managers at ASFQ, the Collectif Dehors de Dehors, and

Quan Thai, architect and emerging practitioner-researcher at the University of Waterloo. This publication was made possible thanks to funding from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) SNL Research and Planning Fund.

The team would like to express its deep gratitude to everyone who participated in this research—partner organizations, project managers, architects, and residents—for their generosity, time, and experiences.

To learn more about the project and find out about the next steps, visit: <https://www.asf-quebec.org/catalogue2025>

## ABOUT ARCHITECTURE WITHOUT BORDERS QUEBEC

Architecture Without Borders Quebec (AWBQ) is an organization that helps populations affected by crises, natural disasters, or social inequalities. It works with communities to strengthen their capacities through the involvement of various actors in the field of architecture. Created in 2008 by the Ordre des architectes du Québec (OAQ), AWBQ is the official humanitarian arm of the architectural profession. Its members include some 4,700 architects in the province, whose social responsibility and involvement in its activities it promotes.

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