The Grand Overpass Community Garden Project:
A micro “High Line Park” for NDG?
Researcher: Jaimie Cudmore
Supervisor: Prof. Nik Luka
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Research Aims:

How do we make a large piece of infrastructure more appealing to pedestrians and cyclists?
This project proposes to change the Grand Pedestrian Bridge into a community garden project. The bridge connects Grand Boulevard over the rail line at Sylvia Smith Street and Maisonneuve Boulevard West in Southwestern NDG. The bridge adds significant length and time for the pedestrian to connect the neighbourhoods north and south of the rail line.
The community garden project hopes to:
• add significance to the structure as a community meeting place
• encourage user maintenance and ownership
• change the bridge function to have users enjoy the bridge as a place
• offer views and focal point for increased use
• capture energy for productive purposes like food
• soften the concrete infrastructure
• make a connection with Maisonneuve Boulevard West infill and the Upper Lachine revitalisation

Key inspirations:

Precedent I - Edible Campus, McGill

- Project: container gardens on underused space on campus, creating a productive and educational public space
- Management: collaboration McGill faculty, students, community organizers, Santropol Roulant and volunteers
- Output: small harvest for the Santropol Meals on Wheels Program

Precedent II - High Line, New York City

- Project: re-conceiving underused infrastructure as public space with ecological function
- Management: collaboration of volunteers, city, Friends of the High Line
- Output: additional public park in the city as ecological design