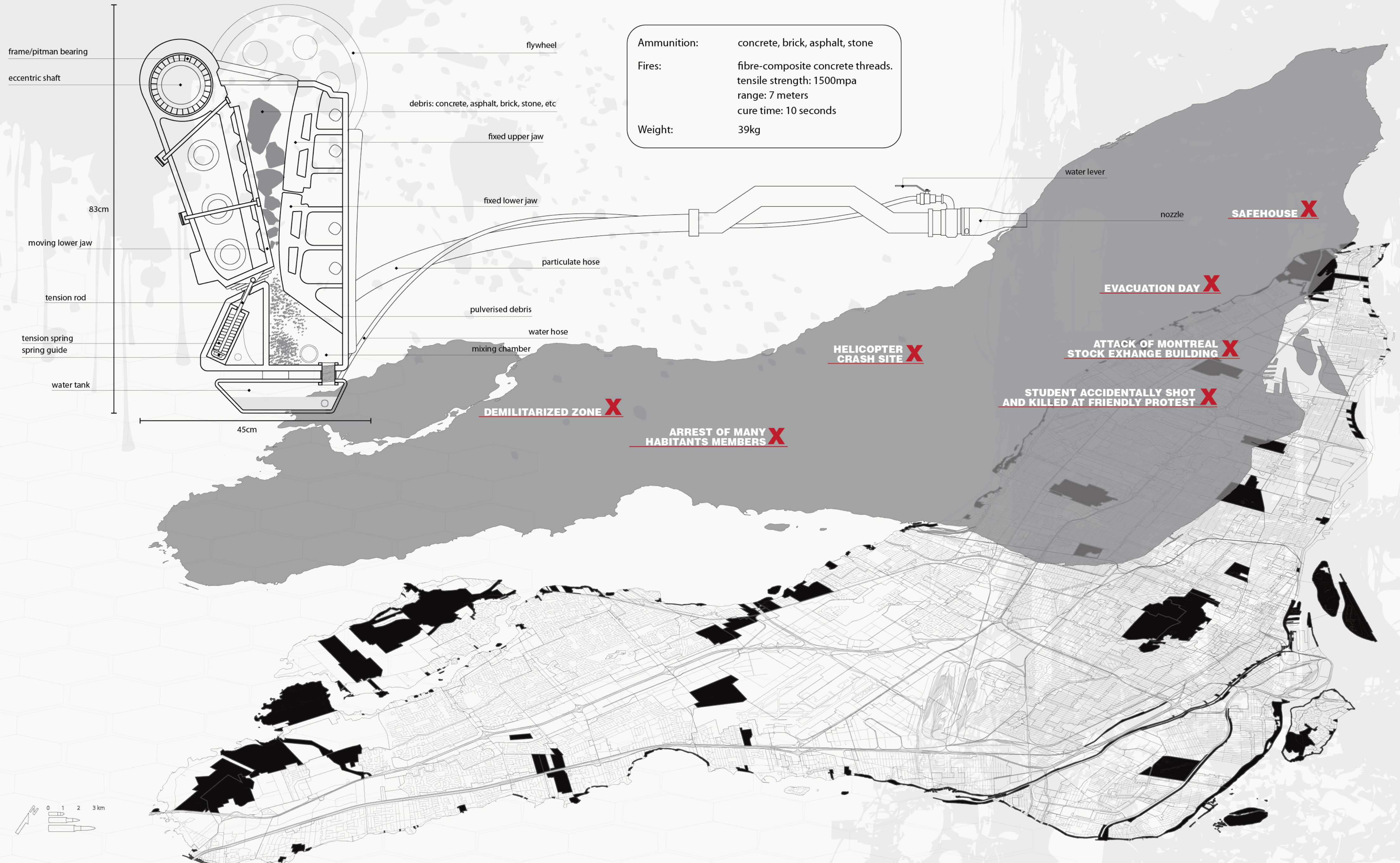


MONTREAL URBICIDE

Tensions had mounted all summer long as the demonstrations grew larger. The first shot rang out on September 17th, 2043. The first bomb exploded a week later. It was a poorly built home-made recipe that blew out the basement of the Montreal Stock Exchange. The Hotel de Ville fell with more conviction as few days later. As the peaceful demonstrators fled the city, a more militarized force remained. Disparate splinter cells inevitably formed into an organized, highly mobile rebel faction: Les Habitants. They began by systematically targeting government buildings and infrastructure. The city fell under martial law. Within a few months, it was a veritable civil war. It wasn't long before improvised explosive devices reduced the Villemarie, Decarie and the Autoroute 40 to rubble. Government forces took control of the major arteries and open grounds; parks, squares and plazas. The government forces controlled the air and their tanks patrolled the ground. Les Habitants were pushed into the cracks of the city. With the majority of the population gone, they were able to set up mobile headquarters in abandoned apartments, parking garages, metro tunnels. Movement was restricted to alleyways, rooftops and the underground network. For nearly a year it was a game of chess between both sides. Each move was predicated on the notion of aiding or restricting movement: collapsed bridges, blown out apartment walls, crumbled staircases, filled-in tunnels. But the rebels only had to hold them off for so long. In June of 2044 the first threads started to appear across the city. The sinuous fibres multiplied, criss-crossed, wrapped together, coalesced, densified. The violence would slow down and eventually stop all together. The smouldering ruins would provide all the ammunition they would need to rebuild a free Montreal.



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