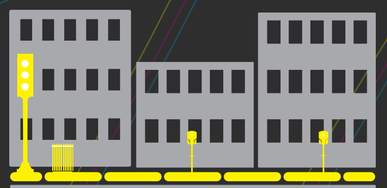
INFORMATION NOW!

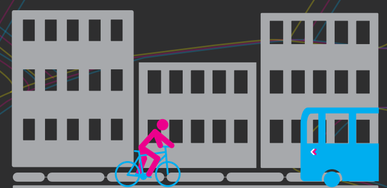
Technological advancements are becoming more involved and integrated in the urban-built environment. Billboards, GPS navigation systems and social networks are increasingly seen in city streets and recreating our daily perceptions. The Age of Information has caused an incessant need for data and the city must adapt to provide its citizens with these technologies.

In 50 years, there will be a shift in the urban fabric of Montreal from one that is supported by humans to a multi-dimensional network that operates through information technologies. The physical infrastructure of the city has merged with one that is virtual and technological. Technology is virtually inescapable, as even the simplest of objects have mutated and evolved into modes of information delivery and service. From street lights and parking metres to sidewalks and street facades, everything is instilled with data, feeding the citizens of Montreal.

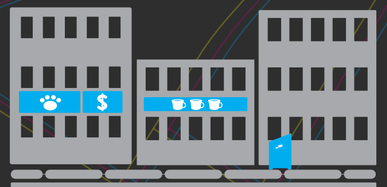
The city of Montreal has become virtual reality. With the ability to perform tasks at the tip of your finger, the city must respond to the demands en masse of its citizens. Information will be projected everywhere and obtained anywhere. Foremost, people are no longer bounded by location but by time. The ability to connect with others is no longer geographical but temporal. As we continue to invent new technologies, the urban environment will continue to adapt to us. It will only be a matter of time until before we are trapped by a technological embrace.



Infrastructures

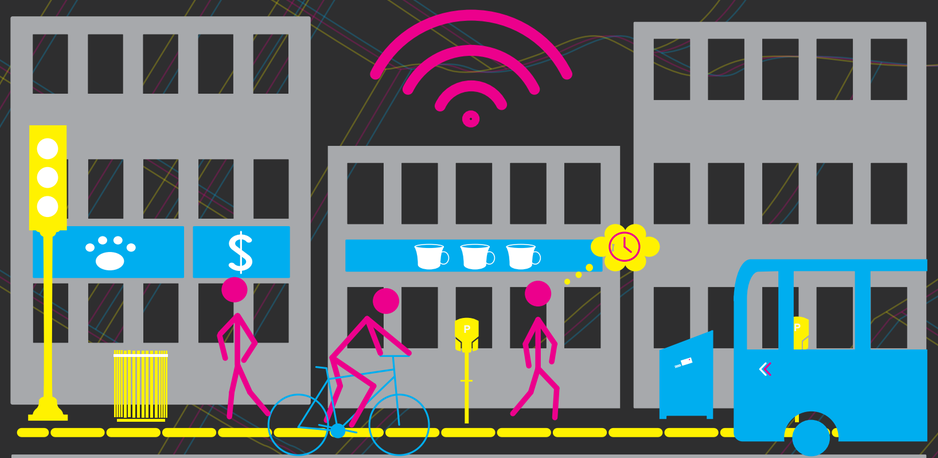


Transportation



Services

Citizens



One system

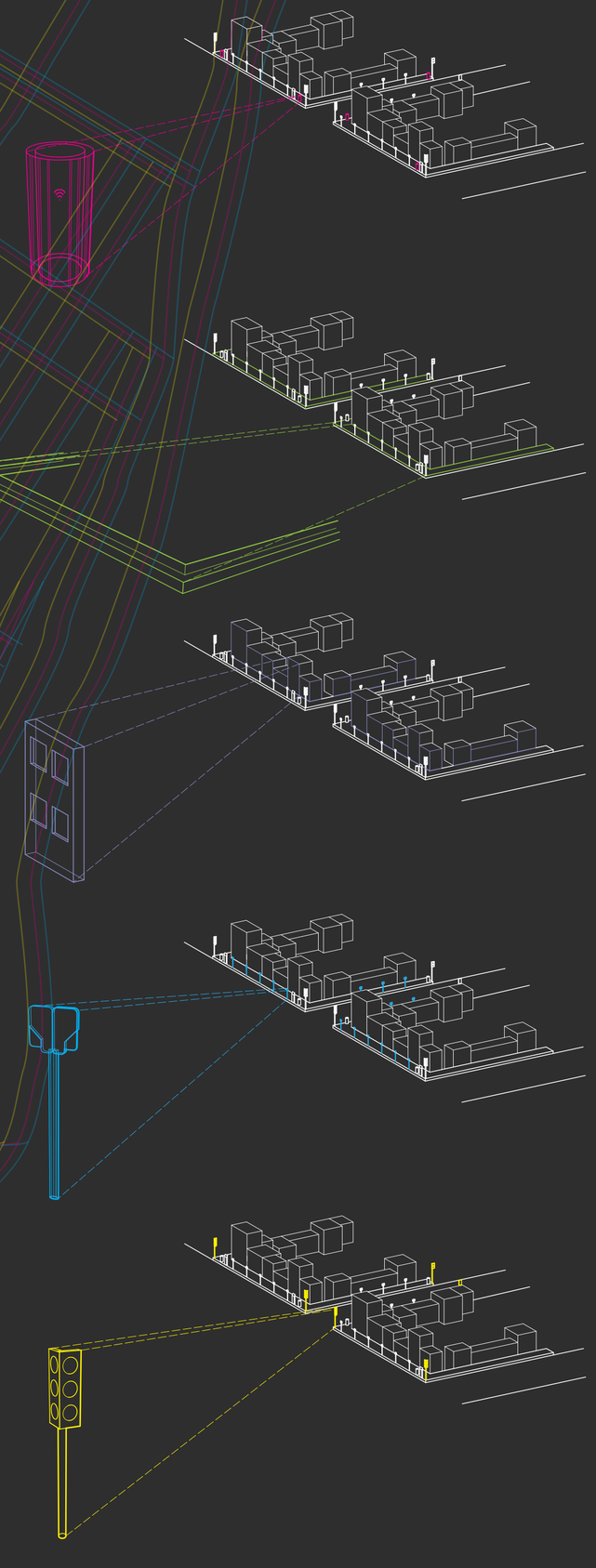


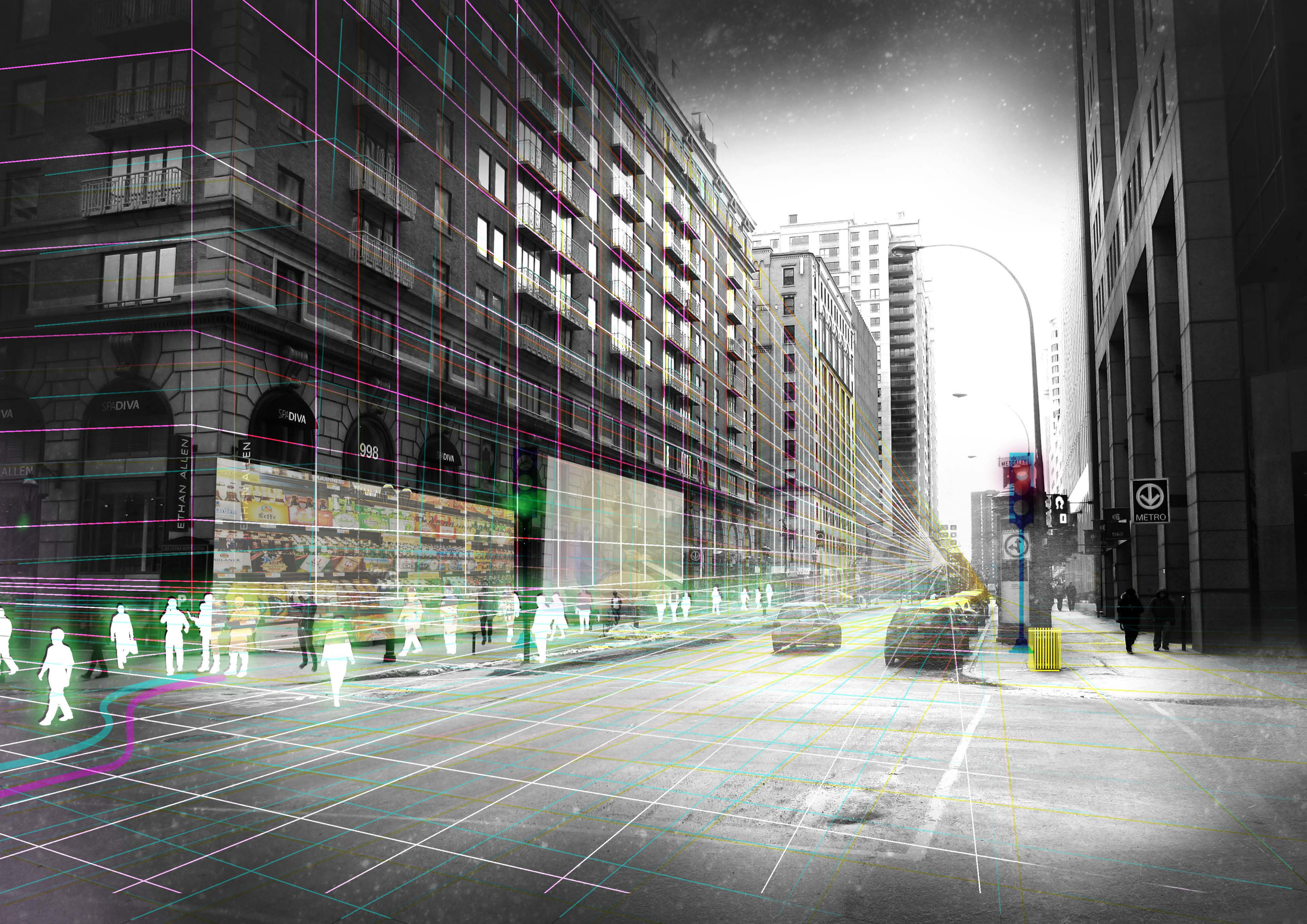
Figure.01 The Information Trash: The streets are constantly being littered with personal information. Therefore, a device is essential to safely dispose the data that is no longer needed. The Information Trash will play that role by scanning the network at regular intervals and by eliminating the unnecessary information.

Figure.02 The Street Map: Sidewalks are now linked to GPS systems which now assist in navigating your way through the city. Through fibre-optics, the sidewalks will light routes to people, places and objects. Friends will be able to find each other, tourists will no longer be lost and personal belongings can now be tracked down.

Figure.03 The Interactive Billboard: Facades will transform into interactive billboards to enhance the retail and shopping experience. of Montreal. At any given moment, people may use these screens to purchase groceries, to browse store merchandise and advertise their businesses.

Figure.04 Trend Metres: Parking metres and bike stands will mutate to assess the trends of the city. Headlining news, cultural events and popular hotspots throughout the city will be displayed on these metres, which will keep citizens updated of the ongoing trends of the city.

Figure.05 The WiFi Light: As society is more dependent on wireless connections and the internet, a city wide internet grid will be implemented. The WiFi light will indicate the level of congestion of the network and network statuses. Green lights will indicate that the city`s network is running smoothly, while red will indicated dead connections.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