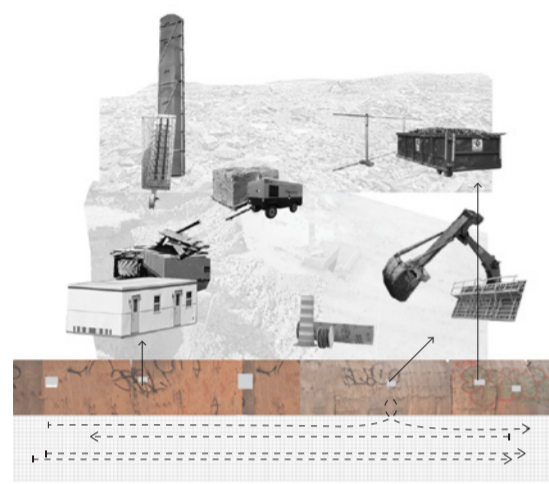


# Claiming liminal spaces – the construction site

Much of urban Montreal seems to be constantly under construction. Sites that are alive with machinery and production during the day prove to be a nuisance when noise, vibration and traffic disrupt life in the vicinity. The construction industry is almost universally active between the hours of 6 am and 5 pm, after which sites are left empty until the next day. One such place is the future site of Laurent & Clark Condominiums in the Quartier des Spectacles. At night, this vacant space can be reclaimed for people of all walks of life, where inflatable architecture animates the building under construction and its surrounding area. When the museums of the neighbourhood have closed their doors for the night, the construction site offers itself as an ephemeral setting for performance art, projections or mere contemplation. The public is invited into this liminal space that is usually off limits by an indulgent architecture that infiltrates the night.

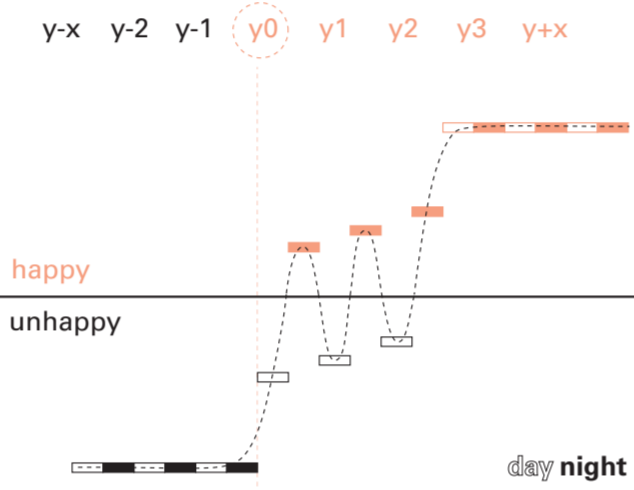
Each stage of the construction process offers a different opportunity for intervention. Scraps from demolition are salvaged and repurposed as the “initiating structure” where the inflatables are stored during the day. Voids and elevator shafts become apertures that shape these nocturnal structures. A facade under restoration overflows with tubes of light that mingle with pedestrians in the street.

By encouraging people to develop a relationship with a building in progress, the discontent felt during construction can be offset. Allowing people to appropriate the space inside the bubbles transforms a sleepy construction site into an active community space. Those who frequent the area will no longer dread the noise and disturbance of construction, but eagerly anticipate the nighttime activities that follow suit.

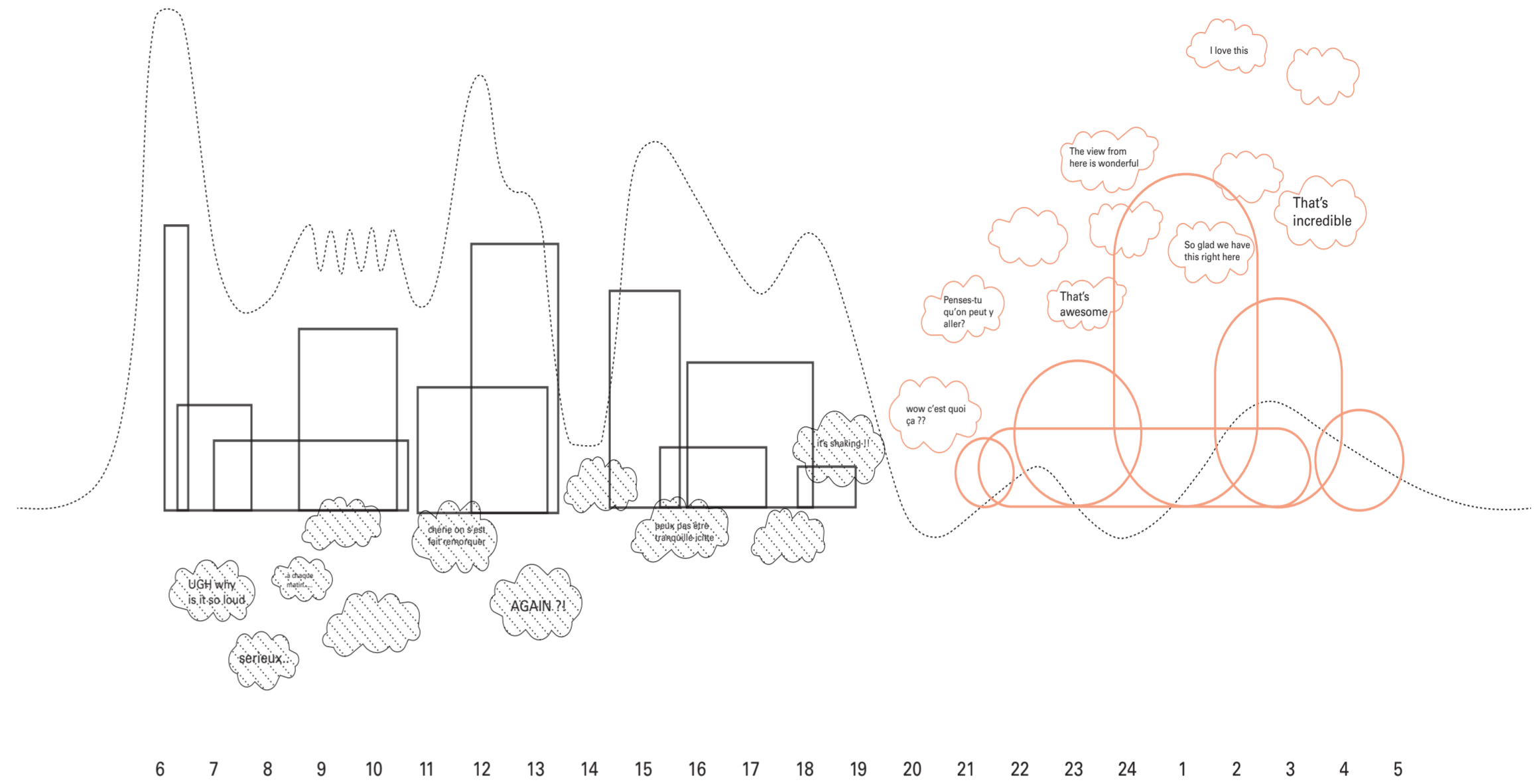


Things that happen at day

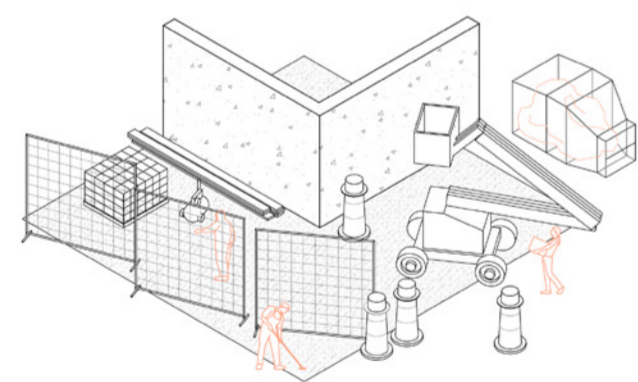
Things that happen at night



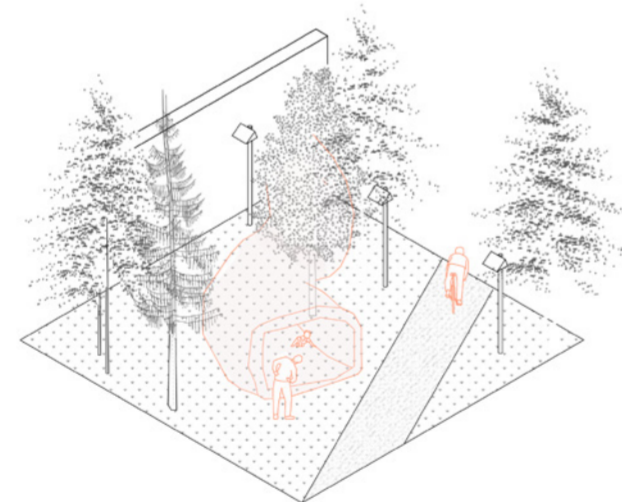
Level of happiness about the idea of having a construction site in the neighbourhood over the years



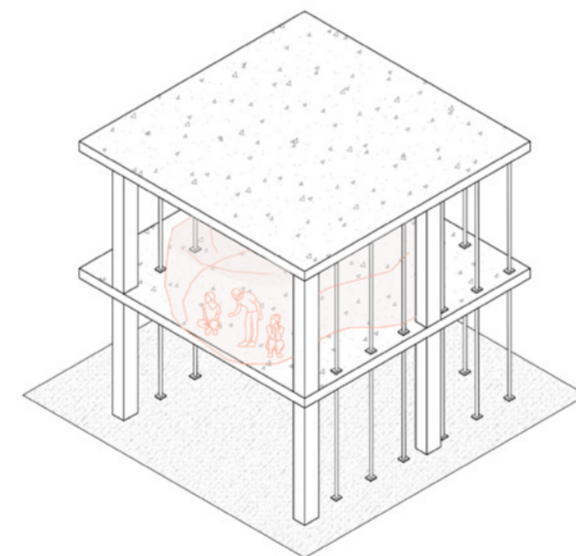
Spatiotemporal diagram of activity on site



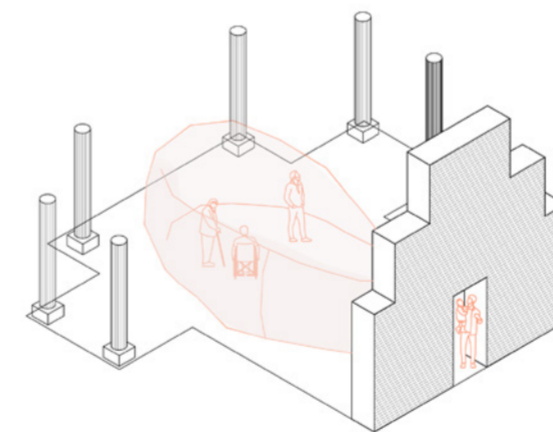
During the day, only the “initiating structure” - built from recycled material - can be found on site



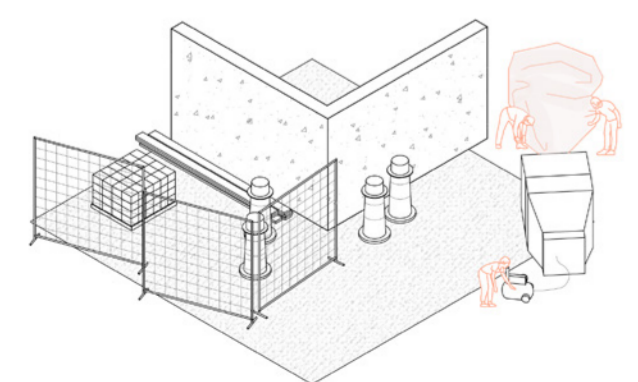
The inflatables encroach on neighbouring public space to manifest their presence and invite people in



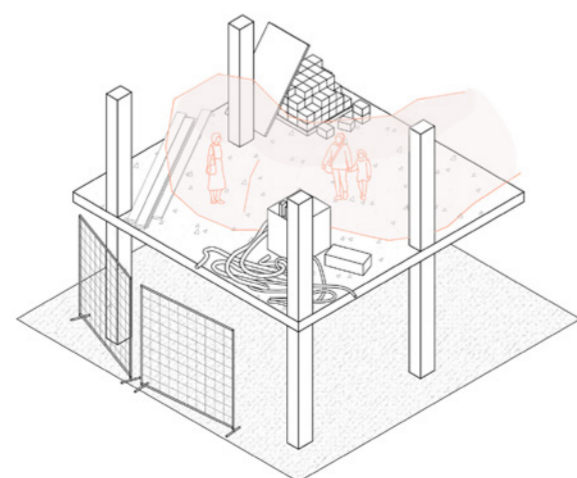
When the building's skeleton is up, structural bubbles offer a safe vantage point to the city



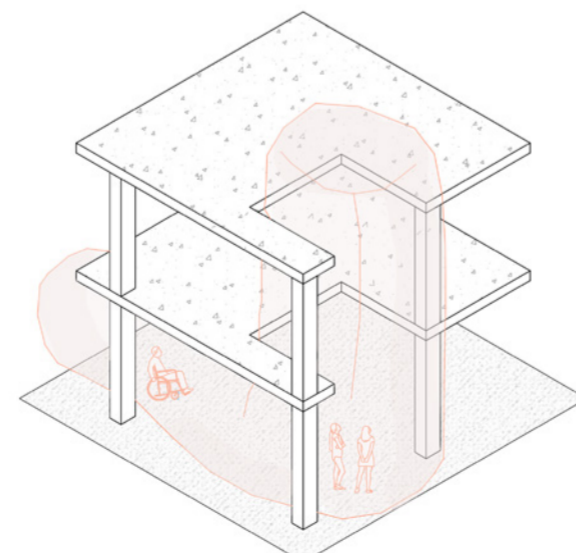
When a building is being restored, the inflatables allow people in without compromising the work



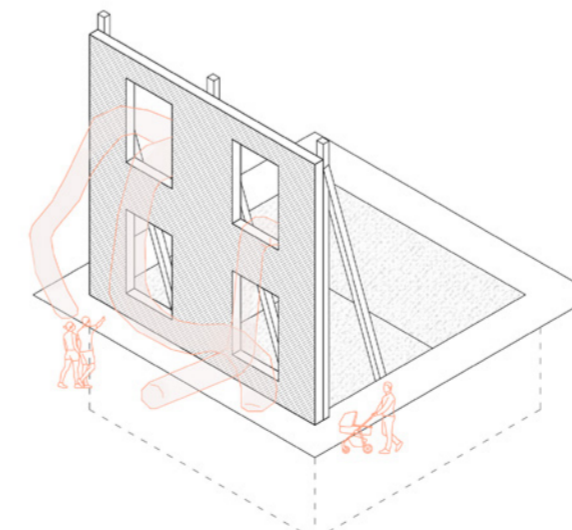
At night, air compressors are borrowed to inflate the intervention which inserts itself into the site



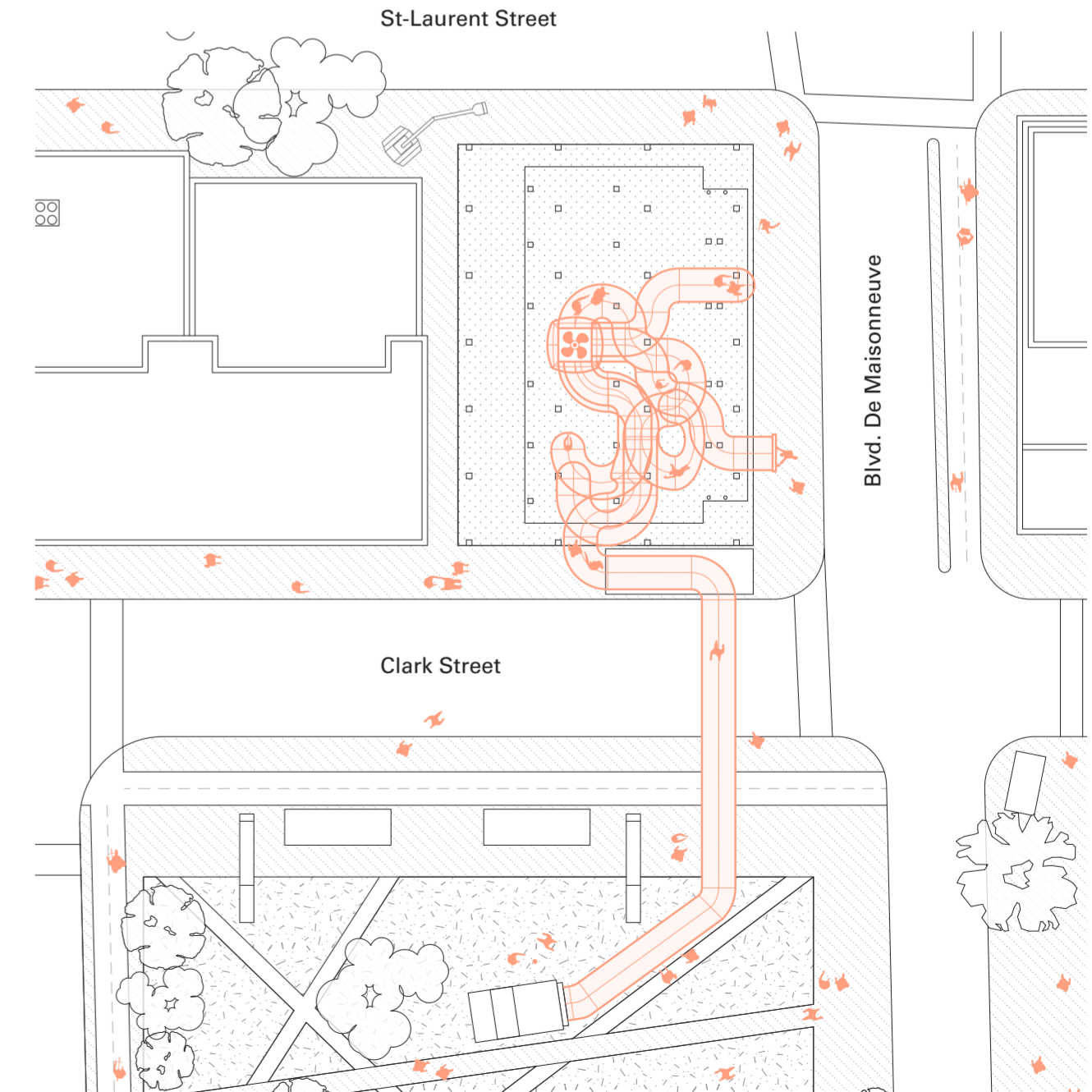
When a site contains potentially dangerous material, the bubbles guide users through the space



The inflatable structures can also infill spaces such as elevator shafts to prevent falls



Tendrils jump around to animate the streets while a facade is being preserved



Site plan of Laurent & Clark Condominiums work site

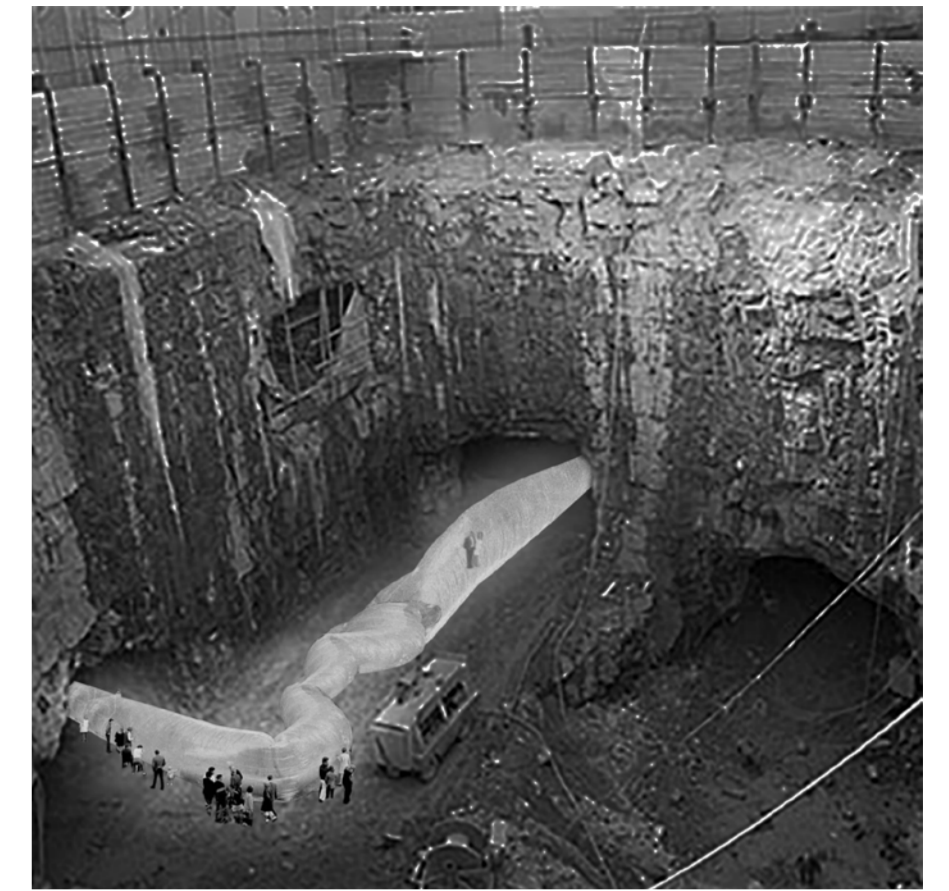




Inflatable architecture taking over the building skeleton at Clark and De Maisonneuve



Stargazing in excavated ground



Walking the Jean-Talon metro tunnel



Witnessing the underpinning of Christ Church



Gathering on future Baile park



Performing by the light of an inflatable



Dancing amongst the bubbles