

Design by

Ingberg

Color by

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Project Category: Exterior
Project Name: "Papa"
Location: Gatineau, Quebec
Glass Laminator: Prelco
Glass Supplier: Vitreco
Photographer Credit: Hal Ingberg



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Architect

Hal Ingberg
Hal Ingberg Architecte
4844, Avenue Henri-Julien Montreal, H2T 2E1
P: 514 843 6578

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"Papa"

Striking Colors, Bold Simplicity Welcome Visitors to Neighborhood

Situated in Gatineau, Québec, "Papa" is accessed from Ottawa (the nation's capital) via the Alexandra Bridge. The work is aligned with a neighboring apartment block of "modest" quality, anchoring it to its context and introducing a loose form of bilateral symmetry with respect to the centre of Boulevard des Allumettières. This creates a framework for a work that in the first instance intends to perform as a gateway to the city and to its park. At both points of entry into the site, the glass wall and a folded, linear bench draw inward in an embracing gesture that welcomes cyclists and pedestrians into an intimate neighborhood plaza.

Vertical stripes of transparent colored glass made with Vanceva® color technology accentuate the structure's height and form. Because of its south orientation, a dramatic wash of colored light is projected through its walls and on into the site on sunny days. The play of transparencies and reflections further accentuates a complex and palpable experience – a visual happening that if only momentarily, returns us to a child's capacity for wonder. In the winter, this wash is particularly striking given the starkness of the winter sun, coupled with snow's capacity to reflect light. In the autumn, the work blends with Gatineau's autumnal colors. In evenings, when lit, Papa glows like a lantern. At both points of entry into the site, the glass wall and a folded, linear bench draw inward in an embracing gesture that welcomes cyclists and pedestrians into an intimate neighborhood plaza.

A glass wall reaches a height of 14.4m at the southeast corner of the site. It then spirals downward until it reaches a height of 2.4m at the northwest interior of the site. In concert with its folded geometry, perspective is dramatized and spatial hierarchy is established. The front of the site is urban, the symbolic gateway to the city and to the park. It performs at the "fast" scale of a busy traffic intersection. The rear of the site is intimate, a response to the "slow", residential character of neighborhood life. The work seeks to engage its audience via intense perceptual experience in community. Its impressively scaled bench invites passers by to slow down and sit, so to generate public presence and therefore opportunities for chance encounters under which to view the ever-changing conditions that the passage of light works upon the space. In this sense, this work aspires to be a place where the contemporary tendency to privatize social relations is deterred - if only locally.

About Vanceva®

Producing a broad spectrum of colors and moods that are unachievable using stock selections of glass, Vanceva color by Saflex gives architects and designers more creative freedom with glass than ever before. Vanceva color interlayers can be combined to produce more than two thousand transparent, translucent, or opaque color options to help create the desired tone and intensity. When Vanceva color interlayers are combined with tinted or reflective glass, the design possibilities are nearly limitless. No other interlayer brand delivers the complete spectrum of colors for laminated glass like Vanceva colors by Saflex. Used in curtain walls, atriums, skylights, partitions and conference rooms, Vanceva color interlayers allow the most expressive designs with distinctive hues from the subtle to the dramatic, all using the advanced interlayer technology you have come to know and trust in the Saflex brand.

