



UNESCO Chair in Landscape and Environmental Design

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UNESCO Chair in Landscape and Environmental Design (CUPEUM)

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University of Montreal
P.O. Box 6128,
Station Centre-ville,
Montreal (Québec)
H3C 3J7
T. 514-343-7500

www.unesco-paysage.umontreal.ca
philippe.poullauec-gonidec@umontreal.ca

Chairholder:

Philippe Poullauec-Gonidec

Created in 2003, the CUPEUM is a scientific body that applies research and higher education to the development of cities and their landscapes. To address issues relating to the preservation, enhancement and development of urban landscapes in various regions throughout the world, the CUPEUM is involved in a variety of scientific activities (research/education).

Given the complexity of urban development issues, the CUPEUM promotes platforms for international reflection to envision creative solutions most likely to promote quality urban environments, showcase cities' identities, and resolve environmental, social as well as economic problems. These solutions are contingent first and foremost on sharing, dialogue and co-operation among cultures.

The CUPEUM focuses all of its activities on the internationalization of knowledge in the areas of architecture, landscape architecture, urban design, urban planning, and ecology through academic solidarity, professor and student mobility and the commitment of local and national governments. All CUPEUM activities contribute to educating, awareness-building and guiding elected officials and municipal experts, governments and citizens for the future of their territory.

The CUPEUM thus promotes the sharing of knowledge, teaching experiences and bilateral and multilateral research (seminars and projects) with the active support of all its partners, particularly the countries of five global regions (North America, Europe, North Africa, Middle East, and Asia).

The CUPEUM works closely with the following UNESCO programs to extend its mission and organize its scientific activities: Management of Social Transformations (MOST), Man and the Biosphere (MAB), International Hydrological Program (IHP) and Creative Cities Network.

WAT_UNESCO

Supported by an international co operation network of more than 30 academic institutions, the CUPEUM hosts a Workshop_atelier/terrain (WAT) each year with students and professors, specialists in architecture, landscape architecture and urban design. This multi-lateral educational and research activity provides cities with creative solutions to complex urban problems (rehabilitation of neighbourhood, peri-urban or industrial areas) by fulfilling landscape visions in conjunction with local communities. The workshops are hosted in various regions throughout the world and provide a forum for transdisciplinary and intercultural reflection (http://www.unesco-paysage.umontreal.ca/recherches_et_projets/workshop-atelier-terrain-wat in French only).

Partners

The CUPEUM enjoys an open partnership with multiple entities depending on the scientific activities undertaken. It is supported primarily by the University of Montreal, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO (CCU), the Quebec Ministry of International Relations (MRI) and the Chair in Landscape and Environmental Design of the University of Montreal – CUPEUM (<http://www.paysage.umontreal.ca/> (in French only)).

Note also that the CUPEUM has partnered with the City of Montreal on the "Montreal UNESCO City of Design" initiative since 2008 to implement new processes for envisioning the city's future (<http://mtlunescodesign.com/en/>).