

## The Stained Leaf Collective for Design and Visual Art



The redesign of the college building for the Design and Visual Arts Department expanded from one influential, organic, and wonderfully whimsical design movement: Art Nouveau. One quote from the Artland Magazine about the intention of Art Nouveau architects and designers perfectly encapsulated the design needed for a building that was to foster creativity, inspire, and house Design and Visual Art students, creating the future of innovative and curious artisans ready to shape the visual future of our world.

*“Art Nouveau artists believed that all arts should be united, resulting in a unifying movement that encompassed many different art forms and fields. With the aim to modernise art and design, artists took inspiration from organic and natural forms, resulting in elegant designs with sinuous, asymmetrical curves and lines”.*

(Artland Magazine, n.d., para. 1).

The design of this building encourages designers of all disciplines to think outside the box and lean into cross-disciplinary collaboration to create works of art that are the beyond the confines of modern art and architecture. From this idea, three main themes branch out to create the new building design: building in harmony with (and to reflect) the local natural environment,

establishing visual engagement to foster creativity, and curating a space that is conducive to both living and learning.

The design emphasizes harmony with the surrounding landscape, drawing inspiration from Lake Simcoe through both architectural features and materials. The building's exterior utilizes local natural materials such as stone and wood, reflecting the region's character while minimizing environmental impact. The waving, curved sides of the building reflect a gentle stream or waterfall, further connecting students to the beauty of the local landscape. The central tree motif at the front of the design is a symbol “of strength, individuality and expression, calmness, growth and the interconnectedness of everything” (Strathclyde, n.d., para.1), bringing students of different disciplines together and establishing a meaningful connection to the importance of nature. This biophilic approach not only enhances the aesthetic appeal but also promotes well-being, as exposure to natural elements can significantly reduce stress and enhance focus for students.

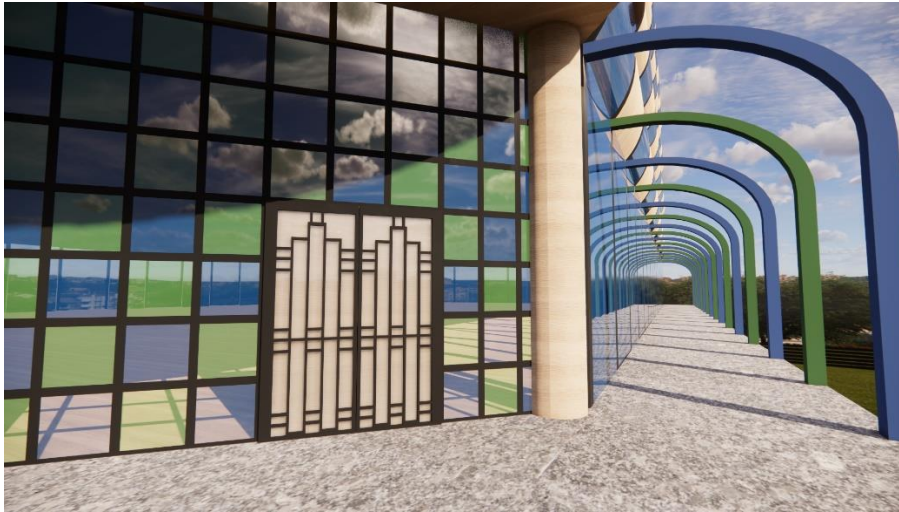


Visually, the building embodies bold colors that align with Georgian College's branding—green and blue—symbolizing both the

natural environment and creativity. These vibrant hues are strategically applied to the façade through the form of stained-glass windows, creating an inviting and stimulating presence that encourages exploration and engagement. The exterior incorporates large windows and glass panels, maximizing natural light and blurring the boundaries between indoor and outdoor spaces. This transparency fosters a sense of openness, inviting the community to witness the creative processes happening within.

Flowing lines characterize the building's exterior, promoting a dynamic and modern aesthetic. The archways surrounding two sides of the building encourage students to engage with the exterior of the space and to embark on walks to clear their head, aiding in the design development process. The design also features ample outdoor gathering areas in the form of rooftop space and a curved terrace, where students can collaborate, socialize, or work on projects amidst nature. These spaces

are essential for fostering a sense of community and collaboration, essential elements for design students.

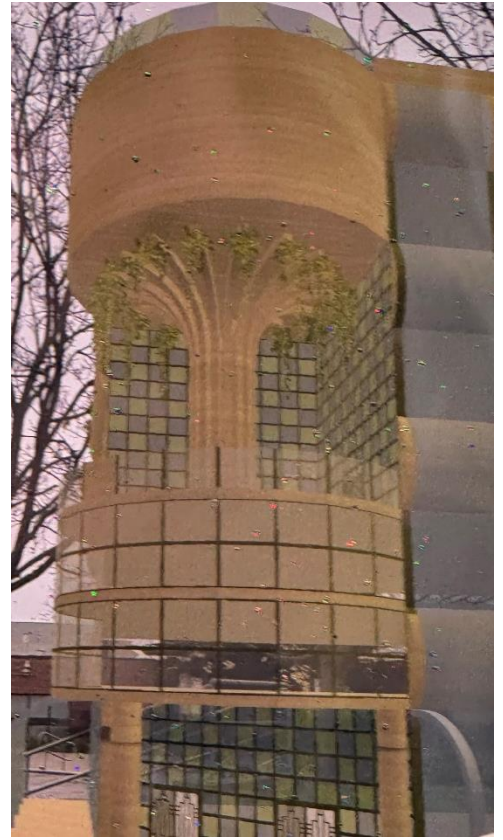


Moreover, the building's architectural design indicates the separation between floors for living and learning. Studio spaces take up the first four floors of the building, which is indicated by the full height windows and the

main terrace for all students to access. The top four floors of the building are designated as a residence for design and visual arts students. Communal spaces face the stained-glass windows, and the rooftop terrace allow students flexible outdoor space to use as they wish. Having 24h access to studios and learning spaces is immensely valuable to students of design and visual arts, as creativity can strike at any time. Having a residence incorporated into this building is a provided luxury and convenience for these students that enhances the learning environment.

In summary, the exterior redesign of the college building draws from the art nouveau movement, prioritizing harmony with the local landscape, visual stimulation through colour and curvature, and creating the perfect environment for both living and learning. By utilizing local materials, bold colors, and organic forms, the design aims to create an engaging environment that fosters creativity and innovation among design students. The dynamic flow of the building, combined with outdoor gathering spaces, ensures that students can thrive in a setting that reflects their creative spirit and connects them to the natural world.

## Images & AR Experience



Overall, I found this project very fascinating and am glad to have learned about how AR can be used in the interior design industry. While the building did not show up exactly how I wished it would, I am pleased with the way the building turned out, and love that I was able to have a picture standing next to my creation. The software had some issues and there were some bumps along the way, but I found this assignment very interesting, and it opened up my mind to the possibilities technology has in furthering the design profession.

## Bibliography

Artland Magazine. (n.d.). *Art Movement: Art Nouveau*. <https://magazine.artland.com/art-movement-art-nouveau/#:~:text=Art%20Nouveau%20artists%20believed%20that,sinuous%2C%20asymmetrical%20curves%20and%20lines>.

University of Strathclyde Glasgow. (n.d.). *Why our symbol is a tree*. <https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/ourcampus/whatsoncampus/faithspiritualitysupport/whyoursymbolisatree/#:~:text=Trees%20are%20symbols%20of%20strength,and%20the%20interconnectiveness%20of%20everything>.