

ADVERTORIAL

montreal rising

words and illustration

by Louisa Lau

Richard Milward was born in Middlesbrough, where he still lives today. His upbringing there is integral to his writing and two novels *Apples* and *Ten Storey Love Song*. For people outside of the UK, Middlesbrough is a lesser-known town compared to, say, Manchester. In the same way, Montreal is lesser-known to those outside of Canada. But lesser-known towns can provide a creative feast of inspiration for those visiting and living there. I visited Montreal on the weekend of its famous Design Open House weekend in May. Clusters of boutique hotels, eateries and clothing stores have made the city an artistic hub. Here are my highlights...

● **Reborn clothes boutique:** The store opened in 2005 and owner Brigitte Chartrand has been finding emerging designers and representing them ever since. Brigitte takes me around the corner to the Reborn sample sale to meet Clayton Evans, designer of Complex Geometries, who talks me through his SS10 collection Perpetual Leisure. The collection comes in a palette of pale pink, gold, silver.

reborn.ws . complexgeometries.com

● **Opus Hotel:** At the hotel two gentlemen greet me at the door wearing pink leather brogues. The hotel manager, Patrick Elbaz, tells me that the brogues are made especially for staff by Vancouver shoe designer, John Fluevog. At this modern boutique hotel, they leave handwritten notes and maple syrup lollies dotted around my room.

opushotel.com

● **Canadian Centre for Architecture:** I'm given a tour of the building, including the library room, which has endless walls packed with books. I then see the *Other Space Odysseys* exhibit featuring Greg Lynn, Michael Maltzan and Alessandro Poli. The exhibit questions the nature of space travel, and extraterrestrial realities. For me, the highlight is Alessandro Poli's cut-and-paste collages and storyboards depicting the birth of the earth and moon.

cca.qc.ca

● **Pullman:** Bruno Braen is an interior designer and the owner of this luxury wine bar where I sample a

selection of white wines and mini bison burgers. He designed the interior himself, which includes a dazzling chandelier made of 200 wine glasses, with a backdrop of exposed brick and brown leather seating.

pullman-mtl.com

● **Marche 27:** A tartare bar, which has a concept where you choose your meat then pick your marinade. I opt for beef Mediterranean style, which consists of roast red peppers, capers, Parmesan cheese, olives, basil and shallots. The most indulgent - and unusual - option on the menu is Russian style, with vodka and caviar.

marche27.com

● **La SAT:** The Design Open House draws to a close with the live event, called Regard 9, in which nine design studios compete to complete a project in three hours. I am pleasantly surprised to see one of my favourite graphic artists, Julien Vallee, making a stop-motion animation made from paper cut outs.

portesouvertesdesignmontreal.com

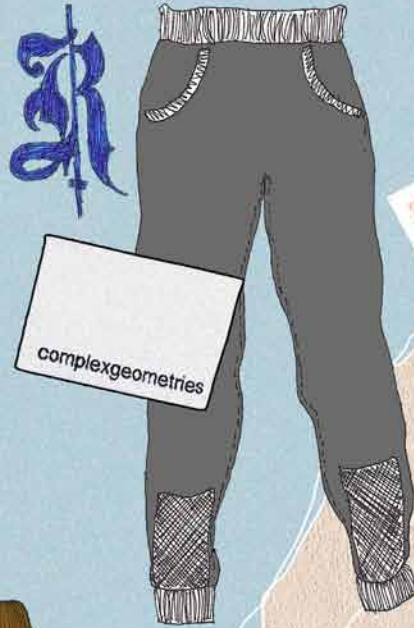
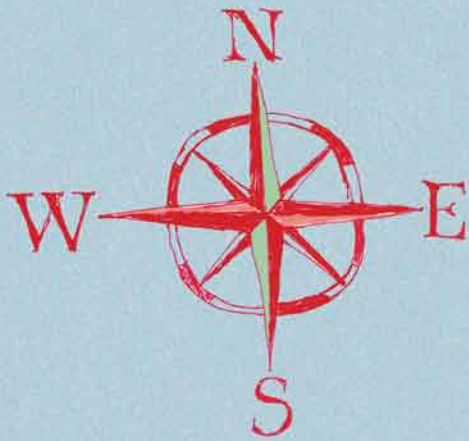
● **Scandinave Spa:** Designed by famous Canadian architect, Gilles Saucier, who wanted to create a traditional spa with a modernist aesthetic. By using concrete, Saucier wanted the spa to fit into the city's landscape. I decide to get a deep tissue massage, which is wonderful.

scandinave.com

with thanks to 'Tourisme Montreal

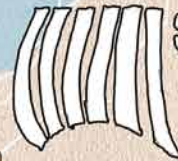
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