Character Area 24
Greene and Ste-Catherine

In the 1890's, the electric tramway lines on Greene Avenue and Ste-Catherine Street promoted the commercial development of this area. Already select about their housing types, Westmounters were even more uncompromising towards the type of business conducted within their city. Service-type shops, grocery stores, shoemakers, banks, etc., were the only kind of businesses permitted on these streets. This area has undergone tremendous change over the years due to the demolition of much of its older stock of buildings being replaced by newer and not always harmonious buildings. Greene Avenue has acquired the reputation of the fashionable shopping street while Ste-Catherine Street has taken on the big city atmosphere influenced by its proximity to downtown Montreal.
Defining characteristics of Character Area 24
Greene and Ste-Catherine

The following are some of the key defining characteristics applying to the whole area.

Use and typology: Almost all are attached buildings of commercial (mainly at street level) and office use.

Siting: With the exception of buildings on Sherbrooke Street, all buildings are sited parallel to the street. The facades are almost always set back less than 2.5 m from the streetline.

Heights and frontages: The buildings are generally two (40%) or three storeys (30%) high. Almost fifteen percent are greater than four floors high. Slightly more than half of the buildings have frontages 5.5 - 11.0 m wide. The frontages of the remaining buildings vary greatly.

Roofs: All roofs are flat, two thirds of which have straight parapets and the remainder have decorative sloped roofs with dormer window projections.

Facade materials: The street facades are generally in brick, the remainder are almost equally divided between stone and precast concrete.

Entrances conditions: All entrances are at the front of the buildings, generally 0.2 - 0.4 m from the sidewalk level.

Facade treatments: Modern glass storefronts and entrances along with retail signs just above are almost always present at street level of Greene and Ste-Catherine street facades. The facades above the storefronts are almost always flat, although slight wall recesses or projections are often found. Cornices generally project below parapet height, and stone accents and banding are sometimes (30%) present on the brick facades.

Windows: Window shapes are almost always vertical; however, they are generally larger, wider openings containing two or more windows.

Parking: Virtually all office buildings provide off street parking facilities either in indoor garages or in outdoor parking lots reached via the lanes. Parking for commercial/retail purposes is provided mainly on the street. There are also two municipal parking lots.

List of Building Addresses with Categories

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St-Catherine St., north side: a mix of old and new buildings of high density.

Sleepers like the ones at the corner of Greene and Ste-Catherine add ambience to a shopping street.