

# The Commercial Project

N°17

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Maison Perron blends the history of Quebec City with creativity, showcasing modern touches alongside the charm of the original architecture in the studio and residential units.

The transformation wasn't just about creating a functional office; it was about embodying the Perron spirit. With a team of 12 designers and coordinators, the design evolved continuously, and team members collaborated daily with contractors, refining ideas almost weekly. "It's always harder to make decisions when you're both the designer and the client," says Hébert. "But despite the fluidity of the design and the day-to-day challenges ... we were always on the same page and managed to maintain a clear and unified vision."

The ground floor features a reception area with original wood flooring and an archway leading to a corridor of formal offices, including that of owner and lead designer Nathalie Perron. A second small entrance opens to a shared meeting space, while a staircase descends to a basement, which houses more private offices, meeting rooms and a kitchen.

An exposed original brick wall, extending up from a natural stone foundation in the basement, adds character to the studio. Bringing everything together, thin brick and stone patterns have been incorporated into parts of the flooring, enhancing the redesign while also complementing original elements.

At street level, expansive storefront windows invite passers-by to witness Perron's creative process firsthand. All trimmed in baby blue, the new windows offer an opportunity to create boutique 'sneak peeks' from the bustling street. "As the project progressed, our vision was validated daily by curious pedestrians," says Maciagowski.

Inside, Maison Perron blends a commercial showroom with a cosy home environment, exhibiting a curated display of Perron's product lines, including pieces from international partners like Door, Sancal, Hubsch, Gropius and Sowden.

The two top-floor residential units became the living quarters of Perron and her family. These spaces, though different in function, mirror the design sensibility of the rest of Maison Perron, making them a natural extension of the work. "Despite being personal spaces," says Maciagowski, the units "incorporate the same style of objects, colours and textures as the boutique and office spaces below, so it was a very familiar approach for the team".

Since its opening in 2023, Maison Perron has become both a home and a vibrant showcase for the team at Perron, serving as a place where inspiration is found and bold ideas can come together. "Having a showroom to present our furniture and accessories is priceless," says Hébert. "We love that people can walk into Maison Perron to discover our world."





# Maison Perron Perron

**Location** Quebec City, Canada  
**Words** Sarah Webb **Photography** Paul Dussault



Maison Perron, the new headquarters of Quebec City-based interior design studio Perron, is a heritage building transformed into a vibrant space that blends creativity, history and community. Located at 212 Cremazie West, this three-storey structure reflects the practice's philosophy, where design, culture and the team's personalities come together in a strikingly fresh way.

When the Perron team began searching for a new office space, they focused on size and functionality, and when they discovered the building – originally built in 1915 – they saw a unique opportunity. "We recognised the potential to create something that embodies the way Perron works and designs," says Rebekha Maciagowski, interior designer at Perron. "We fell in love with the endless possibilities of what it could be."

After purchasing the building in 2023, Perron began an extensive redesign, stripping the interior down to its original structure. The team uncovered hidden architectural treasures, including original brick walls, wood flooring and previously concealed arches. "We discovered pleasant surprises in terms of colours and textures that fit quite naturally with our style, but also some contrasts between old and new that aligned in a balanced presentation," says Sarah Eve Hébert, partner and artistic director at Perron.





# Balnea Spa + Réserve Thermale

## MackKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects

**Location** Bromont, Canada  
**Words** Sarah Webb   **Photography** James Brittain and Maxime Brouillet



In the picturesque countryside of Bromont, Quebec, a transformation has taken place at Balnea Spa + Réserve Thermale, a sanctuary dedicated to relaxation and wellbeing. Part of an eco-friendly initiative that began in 2023 and supported by the Quebec Ministry of Tourism, the innovative expansion elevates the spa experience by immersing guests in nature and was designed in collaboration with MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects.

At the heart of the expansion is an infinity thermal bath that spans an impressive 62 square metres. With capacity for more than 25 people, this serene oasis offers panoramic views of Lake Gale, creating an environment that invites deep rest and reflection. One can soak in the warm, therapeutic waters while gazing at the shimmering surface of the lake, surrounded by the lush landscape of the Appalachian Mountains. The sensory experience is further enriched by the addition of a relaxation room, where guests can unwind in a beach-like atmosphere, sinking their feet into sand as they escape the daily bustle.

“Every detail has been designed to awaken the senses and enhance the wellbeing of our guests,” says Denis Laframboise, president of Balnea Spa + Réserve Thermale. This thought drove the design, which draws inspiration from the natural surroundings. The concrete structure of the spa intrinsically connects with the landscape, echoing the textures and forms found in the region. This careful consideration of materiality and form reinforces the vision of Balnea being

a “spa in nature”, allowing guests to fully immerse themselves in the environment.

As Balnea celebrates its 20th anniversary in October 2025, the project marks a significant milestone in its commitment to providing guests with a unique and authentic experience. Future developments include additional changing rooms and the renovation of the Beatnik Hotel, which will double its room capacity while maintaining the charm of the property.

As well as enhancing guest experiences, the new thermal bath and spa terraces incorporate heating solutions that recover warmth from mechanical rooms, while an optimised wastewater treatment system has been relocated away from guest areas. These sustainable practices illustrate Balnea’s commitment to minimising its ecological footprint while still offering a luxury experience.

As part of its broader goal, Balnea also features globally inspired treatments, healthy cuisine at its Lumami restaurant and access to nature trails that encourage guests to reconnect with the outdoors. The spa serves as a haven, promoting wellness through a variety of experiences designed to rejuvenate both body and mind.

Balnea and MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects’ vision isn’t just about luxury, however, it’s about creating a holistic experience that fosters a connection with nature. The blend of unique architecture, sustainable practices and natural beauty positions Balnea Spa + Réserve Thermale as a go-to destination for those seeking rejuvenation.