



Marchés d'Ottawa Market

McGill Studio III
2021/2022

PROJECT PARTNERS:

- **Ottawa Markets**
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INTRODUCTION TO THE MARKET

Before the Parliament buildings, there was the ByWard Market. The original iteration of “ByWard Market Square” was built in 1827, Parliament building officially opening in 1866, making the area arguably as one of the most historic places in the City. After 193 years where is the area today?

Colonel By decided to build a market building on George Street in Lower Town in 1829. This large timber structure held a weighing machine, a market space, and a public meeting hall. It was dismantled in 1842, but demands from the community convinced the city to build a new one. The second market officially opened on November 6, 1848.

Unfortunately, in 1862 the building was destroyed by a fire. The city council understood how important the market was and made plans to build the third Byward Market building, reopening in 1865 on four lots. A bell was purchased to mark the opening of business, which can still be heard today. Then in 1871 the market expanded into a new building. The new lot was between George and York. The fourth ByWard Market building, designed by James Mather, opened in April 1876. In 1926 a second fire caused the destruction of the market building. It's replacement

designed in 1927-1928 by architects Richards and Abra, is the fifth and current home to Ottawa's public market.

The ByWard Market Building is a 2-storey, gable-roofed brick structure in a Classical Revival style. Its most notable features are the regularly spaced square-headed windows along the second floor, the moulded sheet metal cornice encircling the building and the 2 ½ storey semi-circular receding arched entrances centred in the cross-gables and end gables. What most defines it as a market building is the broad metal canopy at ground level that wraps around the structure.

Renovations to the ByWard Market Building in 1949 included six new stores and an estimated 469 rental stalls. By the late 1960's the ByWard Market Building was suffering from deferred maintenance, an influx of non-market related offices, and the impact of traffic congestion due to lack of parking. Members of the Board of Control were not convinced the building was worth investing in, and the \$187,000 allocated for repairs and updates in 1969 were never spent.

It was the National Capital Commission that proposed significant alterations to the market building in 1971, in response to problems identified in a ByWard Market Study. The proposal included the removal of stores on the ground floor, replacement of the first storey with a modern arcaded brick structure, creation of a freestanding canopy for weather-protected stalls, and construction of a 4-storey parking garage with ground-level stores fronting onto York, ByWard and Clarence streets (Harvor & Menendez, Architects), which opened in 1975.¹

The ByWard Market Building continued to operate as a home to vendors, buskers, and store owners as the original home of "hyper-local" living. It was once again rehabilitated between 1996 and 1998 by Ottawa architect Barry Padolsky. The project introduced glazed overhead doors for seasonal use, doubled the ground floor rental area, and invested in ventilation and chimneys for artisanal ovens.

Over the following two decades the market was Finally, in 2018, the City of Ottawa transferred managements of ByWard and Parkdale Markets to Marchés d'Ottawa Markets.

CLIENT:

Based on a detailed review of various governance options, approval was given by Ottawa City Council in April 2017 to establish a new Municipal Services Corporation (MSC) for the **Marchés d'Ottawa Markets**. The MSC, led by a new Chair and volunteer board, assumed responsibility

¹ <https://heritageottawa.org/50years/byward-market-building>

for the strategic management and operations of the ByWard and Parkdale markets on January 1, 2018.

The MSC was established under legislative authority of the Ontario Municipal Act and exists as a Not for Profit organization under the control of City Council, the sole member of the corporation. A detailed Service and Asset Management Agreement is in place and all assets of the Marchés d'Ottawa Markets continue to be owned by the City of Ottawa. While the MSC is new, the ongoing operation of both the ByWard Market (Est. 1826) and Parkdale Market (Est. 1924) embodies a remarkable and unique heritage legacy to the City.

STUDY AREA:

The ByWard Market is located in the City of Ottawa and is a well-known destination for visitors from not only Canada but globally. The heritage public market building is at the ByWard Market's symbolic core, but the precinct accommodates a diverse collection of original shops, boutiques, retailers, restaurants and public spaces. Because of its economic and cultural contributions, the City of Ottawa plans to ensure that the Market remains a popular and successful destination in the future.

STUDY AIM & VISION:

To explore what potential and ideas exist to reinvigorate 55 ByWard Market Square (Building) in the context of the recently approved ByWard Market Public Realm Plan.

STUDIO III ACTIVITIES:

- Background study on previous City plans for the ByWard Precinct
- Summary review of recommendations dating back 2 decades
- Summary review of “grocery retail / market” proliferation over the past decade (Understanding market forces)
- Environmental scan of similar “Public Market Areas”
*Outside of North America
- Draft options for consideration:
 - Activation options of public space with a Citywide/tourism lens
 - Physical building layouts or alterations options based on research

STUDIO III DELIVERABLES

- Stakeholder / Consultation Report

- A final report detailing:
 - Historical Analysis
 - Emerging Trends and Themes
 - Exterior / Interior Activation Options
 - Interior Building Options

- Final Presentation or Video