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## *RE-FABRICATE: redefining the factory model*

*The evolution of the factory model since the industrial revolution has been a major component in the development of cities, and it has been a marker of: revolution (technical and social), innovation, (process and design), and moment (politically and economically). As the mode of production shifted to an outsourced system, the influence of the factory in the urban context today has been diminished, while leaving behind relics of the once productive structures. So what of the factory in the post-industrial age? How can post-industrial sectors in cities today redefine the idea of the factory model based on production?*

### *The project:*

*On the north-east corner of Saint-Laurent Boulevard and East Saint-Viateur Street, an abandoned modernist industrial building, once a garage and textile factory, is situated in an urban post-industrial sector in transition. The corner today is the frontier between a thriving commercial/residential sector and an emerging creative working sector.*

*The site, in its context was an opportunity to further explore the concepts of the factory model not only as a programmatic response, but also as an urban and architectural one.*

*In using existing buildings for the base of the project, the notions of preservation, rehabilitation and transformation based on the Docomomo principles were used. The main issue surrounding the rehabilitation of existing buildings is how to respond to the built structure itself. Are ordinary modern industrial buildings worth preserving? If so, how can we readapt them to fit to today's and tomorrow's standards, while preserving its historical/structural integrity?*

*The intention of the program was to explore how the existing industrial building can reintroduce the notion of "production" that would be viable in its current urban context. The idea was to create synergies between two distinct vibrant sectors, to act as a platform where designers, individuals and families can develop their ideas and skills through fabrication and have access to resources, thus leading to the concept of the public factory.*

