CPCI is Pleased to Announce the Winners of the 2025-2026

Precast Concrete Bench Design Competition for Students

2025-2026
PRECAST CONCRETE BENCH STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION

Congratulations to the following winners of the 2025-2026 Precast Concrete Bench Design Competition. This year's submissions were innovative, adaptable, distinctive, and strongly connected to the theme of sustainability. On behalf of CPCI and the Jury Panel, thank you to all of the teams and universities who participated in this year's contest. Your projects were impressive!

1st Prize: The Angel Wing Bench, Western University/Fanshawe College
2nd Prize: Ladis Bench, Université de Montréal/Polytechnique Montréal
3rd Prize: UBC/Carleton Bench, UBC/Carleton University

THE JURY PANEL

Sarah Pugliese, Technical Resource Engineer, Amrize Canada
Clark Weber, Structural Engineer and Owner, Bluerock Engineering Ltd.
Val Sylaj, President and Director of Technical Services, CPCI

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FIRST PLACE

The Angel Wing Bench

Western University/ Fanshawe College

Submitted by:
Laura Kalab, Siya Manish Dalal, Alexis Cates, Arvin Hua Hua, Camilo Novoa Suaza

Supervisors:
Maged Youssef, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Western University
Joel Foster, Architectural Technology & Design, Fanshawe College
Adrian Dyer

"The Angel Wing Bench represents the best of architectural creativity and engineering practicality, with three core goals: creating a meaningful social space, pushing the creative boundaries of concrete, and reducing environmental impact. Planned to be constructed in front of Western University's new engineering building, it shows the marvels of engineering and the possibilities of precast concrete beyond standard elements. Inspired by the image of a fallen feather, the bench acts as a unique landmark while also providing a place for students to gather and socialize between stressful classes. By day, the unique curved form inspires curiosity and shows the potential of concrete. At night, the bench itself glows with integrated low-energy lighting and luminescent concrete. This improves visibility and feelings of safety while also provoking wonder. Four benches will be arranged in a circle, promoting conversation and a sense of community among students. Sustainability is prioritized with high supplementary cementitious material (SCM) usage, durable mix design, and integration of low-energy lighting. All these components come together to bring the Angel Wing Bench to life, showcasing sustainable construction, engineering design, and architectural innovation."

View the first place project poster here

SECOND PLACE

Ladis Bench

Université de Montréal/ Polytechnique Montréal

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Submitted by:
Lambert Dagenais, Carl Picard, Anna-Maria Amarandei, Louka Lortie-Van Woudenberg, Gilles Thiemele

Supervisors:
Georgia Cardosi, School of Architecture, Université de Montréal
Ange Sauvage, Arch, James Messo, Eng

"The concept of designing a bench that adapts to its context rather than requiring the context to adapt to it emerged through a series of discussions aimed at interrogating the fundamental nature of the urban bench. This reflective process led to the recognition that accessibility and functional efficiency are contingent upon adaptability.

Consequently, it was determined that a contemporary generation of benches should be conceived as highly responsive systems, capable of adjusting to diverse spatial, social, and environmental conditions. We explored how we could translate and reinterpret its language and ingenuity to the object scale. Drawing inspiration from its square-shaped concrete panels and transversal support beams, we saw an opportunity to develop a singular square unit capable of creating diverse modular compositions.

This modular system approach seeks to fragment the static nature of the traditional bench archetype by not being limited to a singular configuration, therefore introducing a dimension of movement that allows the units to be precisely choreographed and adapted to the spatial typology of any environment. Through this logic of flexibility and scalability, the design prioritizes adaptability over site specificity, positioning the bench as a versatile architectural component capable of responding to varying contexts."

View the second place project poster here

THIRD PLACE

UBC/Carleton University Bench

UBC/ Carleton University

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Submitted by:
Madelyn Adams, Oscar Werlich, Owen Kirk, Riley Siebert

Supervisors:
Sheryl Boyle, School of Architecture, Carleton University
Lisa Tobber, School of Engineering, UBC

"Everything we've been studying this semester kind of led us here. The Japanese joinery, the site work, and all the material exploration. This bench is where it all came together into one proposition. We wanted to design something where every joint has a reason behind it, where the whole thing doesn't just sit in Carlington Park but actually feels like it belongs. The kind of thing where someone walks by and wants to go sit down for a while.

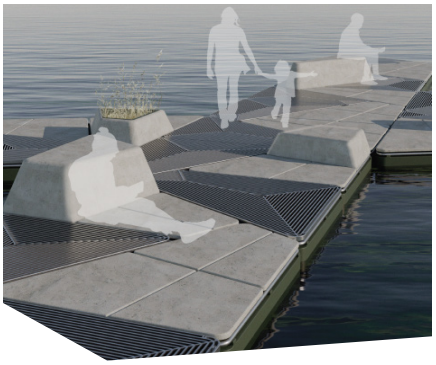
It took a lot of iterations to get here, and a lot of honest conversations about what wasn't working. We scrapped things we were attached to more than once, and there were moments where one small change to the form shifted the whole feeling of the piece. That process probably taught us more than the final result did, if we're being honest. But we're really proud of where we landed. This bench is more than somewhere to sit. It's a gathering point, it starts conversations, and we think it genuinely reflects the kind of community it's meant to serve."

View the third place project poster here

Honourable Mentions

The jury would like to recognize the following teams for their creative, efficient, and thoughtfully developed project submissions.

Entre-Deux Bench, Université de Montréal/Polytechnique Montréal



Submitted by:
Lambert Dagenais, Louka Lortie-Van Woudenberg, Charles Noreau

Supervisors:
Tatjana Leblanc, Design school, Université de Montréal
Jean-Philippe Charron, Eng.

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The Slope Bench, UBC/Carleton University

Submitted by:
Kianna Davis, Raina Arlesti, Oluwaseun Peters

Supervisors:
Sheryl Boyle, School of Architecture, Carleton University
Lisa Tobber, School of Engineering, UBC

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Sustainable Seating Solution, UBC/Carleton University

Submitted by:
Krisha Thaler, Noah Kaiser, Romaine Bennett

Supervisors:
Sheryl Boyle, School of Architecture, Carleton University
Lisa Tobber, School of Engineering, UBC

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Honourable Mentions

MTL50 Bench, Concordia University

Submitted by:
Donnel Biscette, Thi Thanh Thanh Pham, Emna Kadour, June Aldinucci, Natalia Arriola, Mohammad Almakhadmeh

Supervisors:
Ahmed Soliman, Engineering Department, Concordia University
Alice Jarry Girard, Concordia University

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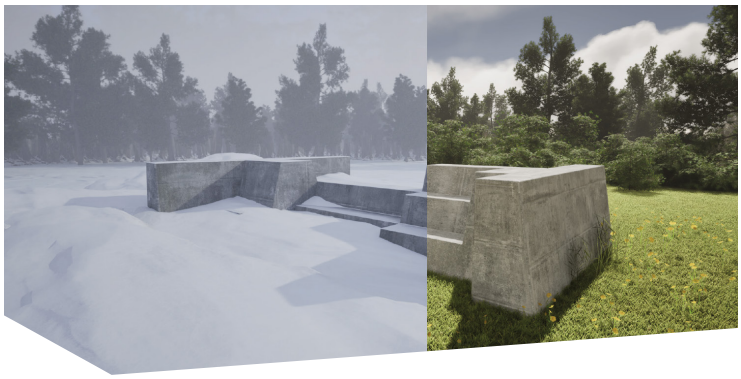
Snow Drifter Bench, Carleton University/ McGill University



Submitted by:
Etan Krivo, Kathryn Mcqueen, Aarnav Sachidanandan, Sean Szabo

Supervisors:
Sheryl Boyle, School of Architecture, Carleton University
Yi Shao, Civil Engineering Department, McGill University

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Congratulations to all of the teams on their diligent work, strong submissions and virtual presentations. Details on the 2026-2027 Design Competition will be announced this summer. Check our website for updates:

https://www.cpci.ca/en/education/students_professors#student_design_competition

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