

The Legibility of Montreal's Urban Landscapes Through Google Street View

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Legibility is the perceptual quality of remarkable and distinctive urban landscapes. A city made up of highly legible environments is more clearly imagined in the minds of those that live within it. In this project, I develop a survey tool for studying the legibility of urban environments by implementing existing image recognition survey approaches in a web-based environment. I present an online, gamified survey platform, titled Geo-MTL, to assess the spatial patterns of legibility across Montreal's urban landscapes. I also investigate the factors that contribute to differences in legibility throughout the city. I find that legibility arises from a mix of individual and environmental factors in Montreal. I conclude that Geo-MTL is an appropriate way to survey populations of citizens about their perceptions and understandings of urban landscapes.

Cartogram of Montreal, boroughs scaled by legibility

