



**SESSION BOOK**  
**WORKSHOP CERGY 2013**  
**From An Interspace to a territory**  
**of Greater Paris: The Plaine de**  
**Pierrelaye-Bessancourt**

**les ateliers**  
maîtrise d'œuvre urbaine

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP OF URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN  
31 AUGUST - 27 SEPTEMBER 2013

## LES ATELIERS INTERNATIONAUX DE MAITRISE D'OEUVRE URBAINE

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A non profit- organization since 1982, Les Ateliers – International workshops of planning and urban design – aims to develop the collective creation of ideas that tackle the challenges and processes of everyday city planning and design. by promoting a process of collective and multidisciplinary work that produces innovative and illustrative proposals relating to urban design and spatial development.

Whether it involves students or professionals, each “atelier” brings together people of diverse nationalities and disciplines: architecture and urban planning, but also geography, economy, landscape architecture, sociology, art, engineering, environment...

Year after year, Les Atelier international network has been growing: it includes more than two thousand former participants who are now professionnals, academics, and decision-makers in the urban field.

## OUR CONVICTIONS

Creating cities is by its very nature a collective process. As true as architecture enables an individual and identifiable creation of masterpieces, developing cities cannot be ascribed to a single person who would dominate all the aspects of urban creation: this process is collective in its essence.

Managing urban development should integrate in a ‘laboratory logic’ the different disciplines that take part in city planning its interfaces. Therefore, each atelier is a place of freedom of proposal, where the aspirations of collective and voluntary work enable the development of new ideas, innovative projects and proposals for the future of urban areas which are in perpetual transition.

## PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS

TOPIC DOCUMENT  
33 pages - Published in February 2012  
CONTEXT DOCUMENT  
100 pages - Published in July 2013  
SESSION BOOK  
90 pages - Published in September 2013

All these documents are available on [www.ateliers.org/replay](http://www.ateliers.org/replay)



# SESSION BOOK

## WORKSHOP CERGY 2013

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP OF URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN  
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There are so many unexplored possibilities, so much potential in a conurbation. Can that which already exists constitute the substance of the future city? That is the very question raised by the development of future possibilities for the Plaine de Pierrelaye-Bessancourt, which lies at the north-west of the Paris agglomeration – a second hand space par *excellence*<sup>1</sup>.

Unlike structured urban spaces, unlike even areas made up of tower blocks and other large buildings, which are now undergoing urban renovation and again even unlike industrial fallow land, which contains visible structures, buildings or infrastructure, the plaine de Pierrelaye-Bessancourt for all the world looks like a vast open area, almost freely available, in a space which has, by way of contrast, seen a lot of construction in the last few years. But this is nothing but an image, a delusion.

<sup>1</sup> Second Hand Spaces. Über das Recyclen von Orten im städtischen Wandel. M. Ziehl, S. Oswald, Jovis, 2012  
Junkspace, repenser l'espace urbain. R. Koolhaas

The plaine de Pierrelaye invites us to explore an urban archaeology and history of the underside of the conurbation. This is paradoxically an invitation to think far ahead. An invitation, because the existence of such an area in a growing agglomeration like that of Greater Paris leads to a desire to project onto the area new ideas, new projects, new functions, new approaches.

The scale of these issues is significant. This plain is at the intersection of an important wildlife corridor. The scale is also that of the large road infrastructures which extend towards Normandy and to the north, the territories and the specific infrastructures envisaged within the framework of Greater Paris, the confluence of the Seine and the Oise, the Seine-Nord Canal, the river port of Achères, seem as if they should open new opportunities, and lead to a total reshuffling of the area.

A paradoxical invitation, because the Plaine de Pierrelaye has, by way of total contrast, a patchwork of different functions and

## REPLAY\*

### From An Interspace to a territory of Greater Paris : The Plaine de Pierrelaye- Bessancourt

uses, regulated to a greater or lesser extent, some recreational, some not. Here, land is used for agriculture, which is greatly subsidised, and, sold one plot after another, for market gardening. Here, leases tend to be indeterminate or unstable. Yet we also find here horseriding clubs, activities in the outdoors. But when we look at the ground and the soil, it's another issue entirely. There is a high level of pollution, brought about both by organic matter and metals not absolutely everywhere, but wide-spread. This can be explained by how Paris made use of this area early on in its history, and by the disposal of sewage waste from Paris here in the second half of the 19th Century. So as to change the course of events, to build a new future, to give back to the Plaine de Pierrelaye-Bessancourt an impetus and a positive image again, there is a plan to plant a very large forest there. The announcements made by the French President in 2009 were a fitting response to the concerns of the local authorities and the project was launched.

However, several scientific studies, analyses of soil and phytosanitary studies, have shown just how complex the longterm management of the cycles of the transmission of polluting substances and the transformation of the chemical nature of the soil is, including in the case of the planting of a forest. The rapid progress which has been made in the evaluation of sources of renewable energy in the Ile de France region (SRCE 2012) also showed the limits of the use of a new forest for biomass energy. It would be possible to get rid of the polluted level of soil. But where would we then be able to dispose of the earth? And, above all, what uses of the area, what projects could possibly be important enough to justify the cost of this?

Will any solutions thus only be partial, minimal solutions? Or will all this ultimately result in an organised – rather than simply tolerated, as it is at the moment – deconstruction of the area or whittling away of its resources? Certainly not. Les Ateliers places itself within a

movement which is driven by deliberately positive, constructive thinking... without at all ignoring the constraints which could limit creativity. We must widen the scope of our perceptions, our ideas.

Other solutions are being explored in the Boucle de Chanteloup, and around Achères, on sites which are not too far away and which have experienced the same history as the Plaine de Pierrelaye. Could they serve as a model? And looking elsewhere too, examples of the reuse of polluted fallow land abound. But here, we are often talking about this happening on a much smaller scale, and often the pollution is industrial, often the pollution is much less complex than on the Plaine de Pierrelaye. Examples abound too of new urban policies, or urban projects created from both new social practices and apparently insurmountable constraints,

and this is the case in cities in developed countries, as much as it is in developing countries.

What is urgent, is the creation of a new history for the future, is the reopening of possibilities, is the widening of new horizons, without forgetting the constant pressure and needs of urbanisation – as is evident, for example, all along the B road 14 (RD14), which crosses the plain from east to west, with its continual string of commercial installations, or then again, as is apparent on the fringes of the different towns on the plain.

To achieve this goal, inflexible plans and easy, generic solutions should probably be excluded. We are at a crossroads of history, of the lives of a city, those of yesterday, those of today, those of people too, of each person, of those who use and those

who live next to the Plaine de Pierrelaye. How can the idea of Greater Paris really contribute to effecting change?

Creating a forest is a long term project – a project which takes decades, which takes centuries. How can this process bring about a coherent mobilisation, which will last, of the politicians and key players in the community, at the same time as bringing about, in the very near future, the engagement of those who live in the plain, or alongside it – people who would find it highly advantageous to use the Plain de Pierrelaye in a different way, to find there services, activities, and social possibilities and uses which are impossible to find in the old historical woods of Saint-Germain or of Montmorency? Can the creation of a forest also give rise to new forms of urbanisation? At the limits of urbanisation and of history, bridging the gap between the short term

and the long term, the Plaine de Pierrelaye-Bessancourt invites us to bring about new forms of consensus, to create new processes, new ideas for how the area can be transformed, in the long term, which fuse numerous different fields of expertise, encompassing social innovation, soil engineering, architecture, biotechnologies, small-scale and large-scale town planning, economics, both agriculture and also agronomy, and, above all, history.

Because that is really the heart of the matter. Stopping. Listening to the rhythms of the city. Not hurrying into any one thing, but rather finding out which strategies will allow us to give the Plaine de Pierrelaye-Bessancourt an inventive, subtle and local – as much as urban – future, and one which has been chosen by it.

The Pilots

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# SUMMARY

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# WORKSHOP PROGRESS

## MONDAY SEPTEMBER 2 DISCOVERING THE GREATER TERRITORY

The workshop took pace with an introduction of the staff team of Les Ateliers and the Associated Artists for this session. Afterwards, Patrice Berthé and Jimmy Leiser, the workshop pilots, made a brief presentation of the territory, the plain of Pierrelaye –Bessancourt, revealing the various problems and the actual condition of the site.

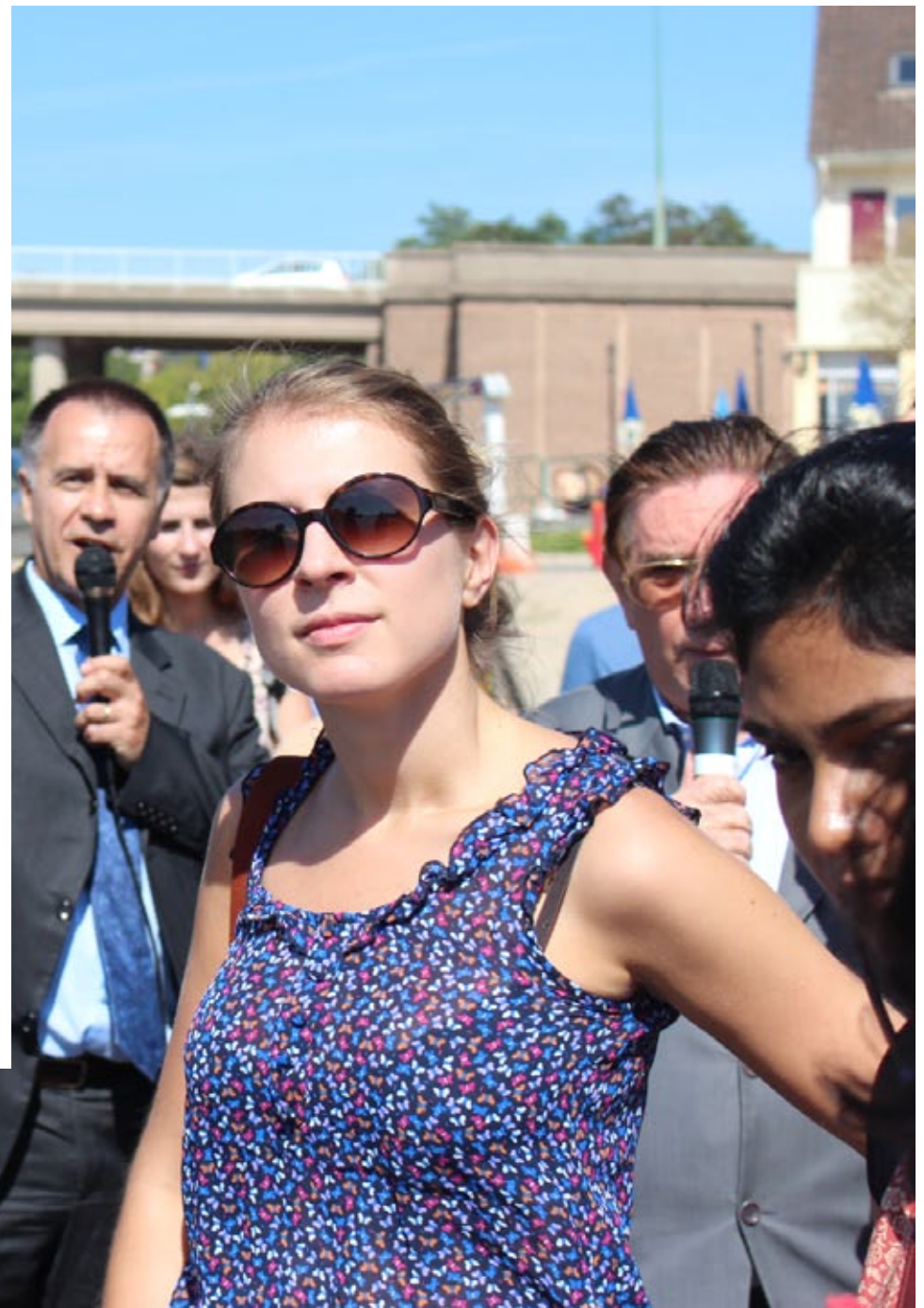
Afterwards, Marc Reimbold (manager of the projet Bozena Kluba) talked about the project of the new Seine-Metropole Port in Achères

On roof of EDF tower, the amazing panoramic view of Cergy-Pontoise and its span allowed the participants to get a better idea of the different types of surroundings. There, Bertrand Warnier (architect, urban planner, and founder of Cergy workshops), holding a panoramic sketch of the area, showed the participants how the Plain of Pierrelaye is integrated in the Regional landscape. where rivers, hills, housing, business areas, suburban fabric, and forests come together to create breathtaking image.

Afterwards the participants were able to see the plain in its natural context. An excursion guided by Chantal Ausseur-Dolléans (Urban Planner from CAUE of Val d'Oise), Jean-Yves Lacôte (photographer) and Bertrand Warnier. The journey continued through the “Axe Majeur” in Cergy, and Hautil Hill which overlooks Andrésy, then passing by the confluence of Seine and Oise Rivers.

The course consequently headed towards the plain passing by the factory of the Interdepartmental Union for Sanitation of Greater Paris (SIAAP) in Achères, a company that continues to play a fundamental role in sustaining the plain's water supply.

The next stop was the breathtaking “forest city” of Maison Lafitte, to finally stop at the city hall of Bessancourt where the participants were welcomed by Jean-Christophe Poulet (Mayor of Bessancourt, Chairman of the “Entente”, and Vice President in charge of the Environment in the “Communauté d'Agglomération Le Parisis”). An interesting discussion took place where Mr. Poulet explained the territorial dynamics of the Plain Pierrelaye, the governance issues, the hopes and uncertainties of the authorities as well as the inhabitants concerning the proposed forest of Greater Paris.







## TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 3 THE METROPOLITAN CHALLENGES

The second day began with the presentation of the personal projects of the participants, directed by Maria Basile (senior lecturer at the University of Cergy-Pontoise). The Themes were divided into three main sections (metropolitan issues, water, urban/rural studies). The projects revealed the participants' diversity of approaches and variety of expertise.

Everyone, then, headed to the Pavillon de l' Arsenal in Paris where the official opening ceremony was held. After an Introduction by Pierre- André Périssol (Chairman of Les Ateliers de Cergy), a first set of lectures addressed the metropolitan issues and the themes that will be the subject of further study and analysis by the teams.

Alain Amédéo (Vice -President in charge of development at the Regional Council of Ile -de- France) discussed the unique location of the Plain of Pierrelaye which forms an interface between urban and rural areas,

thus the need to consider and analyse the role of the landscape in redefining and revealing this territory, while keeping in mind the housing project planned for this area. He further stressed on the need to try and integrate the inhabitants in any project while safeguarding the plain's ecological qualities.

Caroline Le Poulter Helleisen (Departmental Director of the Val d'Oise Territories and François Dubois, Head of Planning Service at the Regional and Interdepartmental Directorate of Equipment and Facilities) evoked the issues of soil pollution and the Forest project which is part of the plan of the Greater Paris.

Arnaud Bazin (Chairman of the General Council of Val d'Oise) and Jean- Christophe Poulet (Mayor of Bessancourt representing Mayors of the "Entente") presented an analysis of the local issues of the Plain. They described Pierrelaye as an interface between Paris and the center of Cergy - Pontoise, which is unfortunately located in a department that has a growing phenomenon of youth unemployment. They further tackled the issues of settlement of Travellers in this territory.

Afterwards, Martin Vanier, with an atypical speech, urged the participants to think of the plain of Pierrelaye as an incongruous territory even with its interstitial, polluted and singular specificity, a territory that does not fit into the system, located in the backstage of the Greater Paris. And therefore insisted participants not to solve rush in solving the " dark side " of the territory.

Thierry Martin, Chairman of the EGIS Foundation, recalled the action taken by the foundation to promote innovation and then presented the prize Egis .

Pierre Mansat (Deputy Mayor of Paris, president of Atelier du Grand Paris, and representative the Mayor of Paris in Paris Métropole International) discussed the phases of the process of the construction of the Paris metropolitan area in 2001 and the role that the plain can play in this process.

Finally, everyone gathered around the amazing digital model of the greater Paris and listened to the explanation of the formation of this map. A compilation of over 2000 maps and images showing the architectural and urban characteristics and Features of Metropolitan Paris.

## WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 4 LIVING ON THE PLAINE DE PIERRELAYE-BESSANCOURT

The day took pace with the second group of participants presenting their personal projects. Afterwards, they had their first direct contact with the territory under study. This excursion was guided by Bertrand Warnier, Luke Daudet (from the consulting firm Dessein Urbain), Beatrice Cabedoce (from the Directorate of the Cultural Affairs of the General Council of Val d'Oise) and Rémi Dagherne (project Manager at the directorate of Grand Paris Ouest at the General Council of Val d'Oise).

The Excursion was pursued with a visit to the pumping station at Pierrelaye with Bruno Kembellec from SIAAP where the

nineteenth century wastewater spreading techniques were extensively explained.

In the afternoon, everyone hopped on their bikes following Luke Daudet crossing the agricultural paths and roads through the plain. An athletic excursion by excellence helped them to directly observe the visible irrigation network and reflect on the different practices and land uses (cultivation of corn, illegal dumping, traveller settlements etc.)

After a long day, the group went back to Cergy, where Luc Vilan of CERAPT (Collective for training and research on agri-urban planning and territorial projects), explained the forms of urban sprawl in France. Finally concluding with Beatrice Mariolle who presented her research on "Le Greater Paris of dispersed densities: the sub-agglomeration a prototype for the agglomeration".





## **THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 5 POLLUTED AREAS, HOW TO TRANSFORM THEM INTO AREAS OF PROJECTS?**

Nord Pas-de-Calais harbors several sites that form perfect examples of how polluted areas can undergo a transformation to become viable projects. There, the participants had the chance to visit a mining site at Argales in Rieulay-Pecquencourt. The charcoal heap spreading over a span of 140 ha has been transformed into natural and leisure reserve. This excursion was guided by Guillaume Lemoine (head of the ecological engineering mission at the public

department for real estate in Nord-Pas de Calais) who explained the process of transformation and the characteristics of the site.

The excursion was then resumed in Peru, an urban park in the town of Auby. In this park the “pelouse calaminaire”, a protected species of flora, was the natural indicator for soil pollution. Controversially the decision was to maintain the polluted soil in order for the flower to keep growing, hence transforming the polluted land into a park.

Finally, The day ended with a visit to 11/19 in Loos-en-Gohelle where the preserved buildings from the mine site have been converted into a cultural center), housing educational environmental and developmental events.



## **FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 6 WHAT TYPES OF AGRICULTURE AND FOREST FOR THE PLAIN?**

In the “Verger” amphitheater, Baptiste Sanson introduced the participants to studies made by the Villarceaux Eco-development Center. These studies dealt with agroforestry, its possibilities and its potentials on the plain. Then, Benoit Lelaure (in charge of agriculture in the Green Spaces Agency of Ile-de-France) and Juliette Faivre (head of the regional department of agricultural economics DRIAAF) displayed projects that target the development and preservation of agricultural practices in the Ile-de-France.

Jean-Marie Stephan, former Head of Mission “Territoires” in the DRIAAF, presented the methodology of functional analysis of open spaces. Finally, the morning session ended with discussions on the potential agricultural landscape on the plain of Pierrelaye.

Afterwards, the participants visited to the loop of Seine Chanteloup les Vignes where Elsa Borujerdi (project manager of “2 rives de Seine” at the “Communauté d’Agglomération”) explained the approach of “Cœur Vert”, notably the experimentation with miscanthus planting in a territory that has pollution characteristics quite similar to those of the plain Pierrelaye.

Later on, the excursion was resumed in the forest of Montmorency, led by Sylvain Ducroux (Project Manager “Periurban Forests” at the National Forestry Office),

Patrick Novello (Technician at the National Forestry Office of Val d’Oise), and Pierre-Emmanuel Savatte (Head of the Regional Department of The Forest, Wood, Biomass and Biodiversity in DRIAAF). In the forest, the guides explained the issues of forest management in Ile-de-France, a technique that aims at preserving the delicate balance between the growing population’s increasing “demand for forest” on one hand, and the management of species turnover on the other. The hike also revealed the unique and diverse spaces and atmospheres a forest can encompass.

A Poetic closure was the perfect ending for a long week of lectures. Landscape architect Marion Talagrand discussed the image of the dreamy forest in several literary works, finally summing up with commented excerpts from Rousseau and Robert Harrison.



## MONDAY 9 / TUESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

After a morning of work in teams, the participants made their way to the capital to go to the “Ecole des Mines-ParisTech”, where the geologist Médard Thiry discussed the results of various studies on soil quality in the Plain emphasizing on the nature of heavy metals present in Pierrelaye, their mobility through different layers of soil finally presenting possible solutions their uses and limitations (excavation, agriculture, real estate, forest, recreation). Afterwards, in the “Ygrec” gallery, Marcelline Delbecq and Stéphane Thidet, the associated artists, presented their work and their first impressions of the work site.

On Tuesday, a group of participants walk through The chaussée Jules César, a historical roman path which crosses the Plain and has deeply marked its history. Guided by Jacques Deval (architect and “Landscape” project manager in the

Department of Planning of the Regional and interdepartmental directorate of equipment and planning Ile-de-France) and Aurelien Lefeuvre (from the Archaeological Service of Val d'Oise and Chantal Ausseur-Dolléans), the trajectory started at Bessancourt all the way to the Maubuisson Abbey where the participants were amazed by the historic urban fabric, and the traces of the Cistercian water system management and of the spreading system. On the way to the Abbey the group went through the Green Alley of Saint-Ouen l'Aumône, a landscape project bounding the suburban housing.

The following day, Jean-Michel Vincent (chairman of Sustainable Development at the Regional and Interdepartmental Directorate of Public Works and Planning / Professor at ESTP and Arts et Metiers) discussed the theme of energy transition. He presented to the participants a program called «@d aménagement durable». This tool allows you to draw a portrait of territory through measurable and comparable indicators.

## TEAM FORMATION & TEAM WORK

After a week of lectures, presentations and excursions the participants had all the necessary tools and information allowing them to “dig in” the topic of the session.

Organizing themselves into four teams, varied in terms of nationalities disciplines and specialization; Urban Planners, architects, landscape designers, economists, engineers, and scientists, got together, eager to create their own vision of the plain of Pierrelaye – Bessancourt and contribute to the redefinition of its future.

Over the Following fifteen days the teams produced four very diverse and unique visions, focusing on various aspects such as water, heritage, bocage, fragmentation, counter effect etc...

Two weeks of work, two exchange forums, meetings with the pilots and visits from the experts; the projects rapidly evolved from an analysis of the zone to an understanding of the area and its driving forces, then reaching a vision of what the future of the plain might hold.

Through Schemes, sketches, presentations, and texts the four teams created their own image of the plain, an image that may one day turn the plain of Pierrelaye – Bessancourt from an interspace to a territory of the greater paris.

## EXCHANGE FORUMS

Exchange forums at the heart of the collective production method of “Les Ateliers”. Local partners, representatives of institutions responsible for regional planning, Specialists, Members of “Les Ateliers”, Professors and guests are all present to follow the Teams’ progress in addition to their, analysis and projects. Followed by lively discussions in the form of free interventions and exchange of opinions.

### FIRST EXCHANGE FORUM

The first exchange forum has uncovered directions of projects that are varied & diverse.

Team A develops the idea of a «counter-culture, or how I learned to stopped worrying about pollution»...

Team B aims at giving a strong value to the area through the valorization of “heritage” and «water» at the same time. Many ideas have emerged to promote this heritage linked to the existing irrigation network and the touristic potential of the territory. Team C has highlighted the importance of enhancing the existing in addition to revealing the unknown while allowing temporal and spatial connection on the different existing scales.

Team D, however, focuses on the

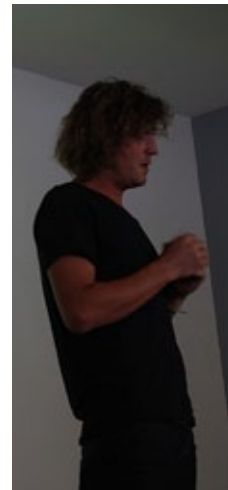
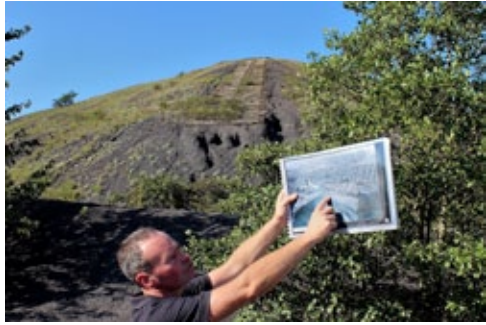
possibility of transforming the paradoxes and contradictions of the plain into opportunities, thus developing and exploring the «urban grove» as a potential solution.

The project of the Forest as a «constant» appeared in different approaches throughout all the presentations. It has been, both in form and substance, a subject of re-appropriation.

### SECOND EXCHANGE FORUM

During the second exchange forum , the teams presented their work in progress, in order to take the professional opinion of an enthusiastic audience. Their Advice and discussions allowed participants to deepen and sometimes redirect their approaches. The next goal: presenting their projects in form of 12 A4 pages and an A0 Pannel.











# TEAM PROPOSALS



# COUNTER CURRENT

# COUNTER CURRENT

## How I learned to stop worrying and love the plaine

The specification given for the future of La plaine was rather alluring - to grow a metropolitan forest.

Try to imagine a 'breathing space' for Le Grand Paris ... Just one small problem, the site chosen,

La plaine de Pierrelaye is a poisonous 'gift'.

The soil is contaminated with heavy metal.

The wastewater from the city of Paris discharged on to the plain since the Haussmann era has deteriorated the soil.

La Plaine has always been in the position of sacrificing its own good to serve the city.

In 2013 this territory is obsolete, abandoned and forgotten, squatted by illegal uses and becomes a disturbing problem.

La Plaine can no longer find its place in the expansion of Paris.

Pollution must be shown and properly treated. La plaine must not be a hidden misery under the disguised image of a forest. The forest project must be a real emancipation process of La Plaine.

The statement is to create an independent entity, an alternative model, which has unique characters and functions to offer to the bigger region; to endow La Plaine with new pulse, life and strength in itself, which would be strong enough to free La Plaine from the burden of being a slave of the high-speed development of Le Grand Paris.

We have long been displacing problems of the growth of the city to less 'significant' places. It ruined La plaine, as well as many others. Taking advantage of its locale, La plaine that we proposed offers innovative and creative solution to the waste material of forever-ongoing constructions: treating instead of displacing and covering-up; recycling and reuse instead of mere disposal. It would be the new-born of what we regarded as waste; and new-born for La plaine.

# 01 Manifesto

CHALLENGING THE NOTION OF:

TOOLKIT

~~Closed forest~~



Exploded forest, encourage exploration, movement and interaction.

~~Waste and pollution~~



Recycle construction materials (waterway transportation as a logistic and environmental solution), reuse recycled materials on site, toolkit for polluted soil.

~~Fragmented landscape~~



Re-organizing the components through spatial organization, stitching the ecological sensitive areas, overlaying layers of landscape elements.

~~Traditional agriculture~~



On polluted land: agriculture for research purposes, biomass farms for both bio-energy and bio-material, agricultural platforms.  
On non-polluted fertile soil: food production for local consumption.

~~Bedroom suburb~~



Program new activities and create employment opportunities, reintegrating the existing activity zones and different municipalities.

~~Sprawl~~



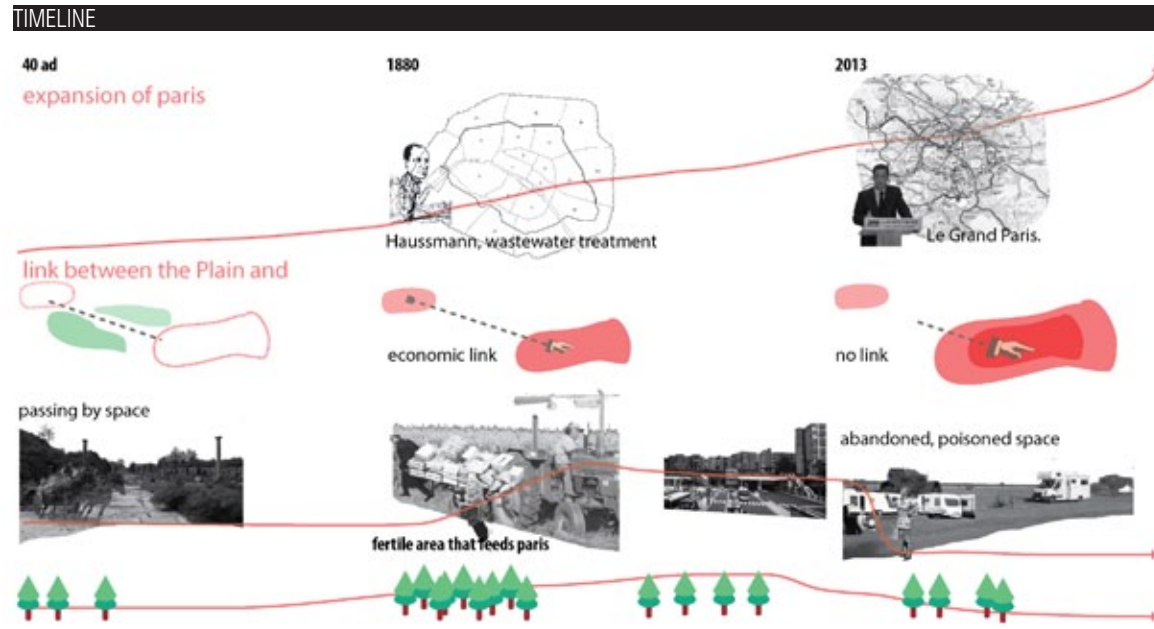
Prioritizing the densification of the urbanized area, promote transit-oriented development.

~~Machine-like infrastructure~~



Offer alternative mobility, greening the existing infrastructure.

# 02 Existing condition



**EXISTING LAND USE**



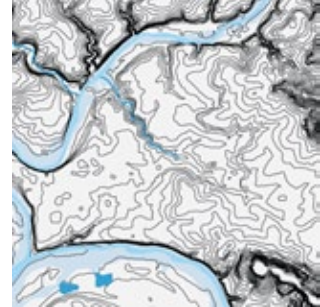
**BUILDING FOOTPRINT**



**CIRCULATION**



**CONTOUR**



**IRRIGATION BOUNDARY**



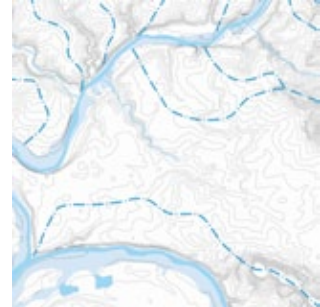
**MUNICIPALITIES**



**WATERSHED**



**WATERSHED**

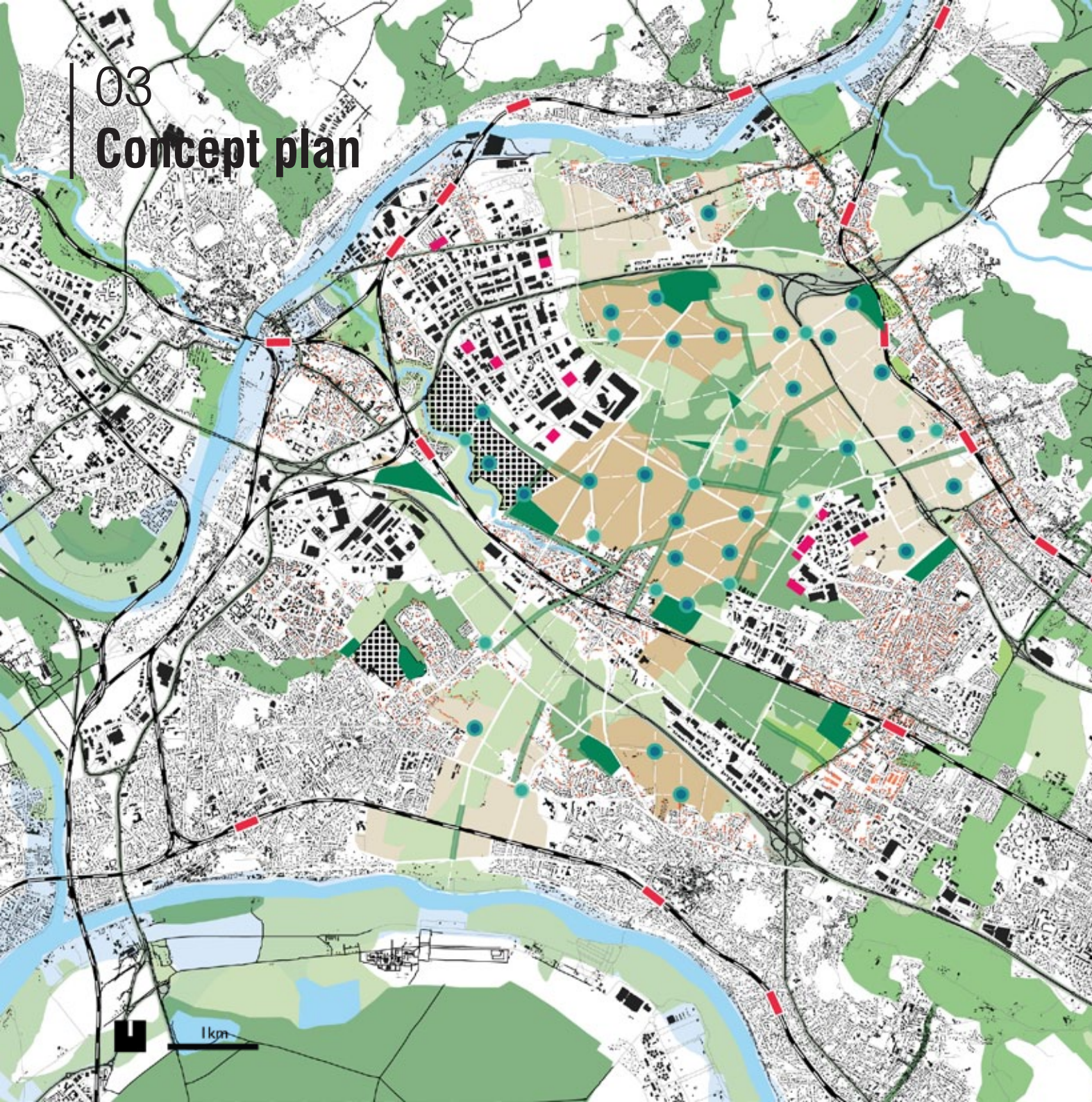


**TRAVELLERS**



03

# Concept plan



## LAYERS OF COMPONENTS

### EXPLODED FOREST

- proposed - Focal point
- proposed - Play space

### NETWORK

- proposed - Connections
- proposed - Green barrier and promenade
- existing - Railway
- existing - Highway and primary street network
- existing - Secondary and local street network

### FARMLAND

- proposed - Biomass farms
- proposed - Experiment and research area
- proposed - Food production

### GREEN SPACE

- proposed - Forest/groves
- proposed - Parks/Future development area
- existing - Forest
- existing - Urban open space
- existing - Infrastructure buffer

### DEVELOPMENTS

- proposed - Industrial building
- proposed - Residential building
- proposed - Residential development area
- existing - Industrial building
- existing - Residential building





SPATIAL ORGANIZATION

TOOLKITS INVOLVED



Nodes of Exploded forest

Network

Patches of farmland

Eco-Corridors

Housing + Activity zone

1 Exploded forest

2 Recycle and reuse  
+  
Tackling pollution

3 Reorganizing landscape

4 Rethinking agriculture

5 Economic engine and new activities

6 Smart urban growth

7 Soft infrastructure

# 04 -1

## Toolkit

### Exploded forest

Closed forest



Exploded forest, encourage exploration, movement and interaction.



### Forests as nodes

Encourages movement & interaction between nodes in the network.



radius 400m



image of example use

These points can be used as

- Huts for agriculture
- Rest Spaces
- Landscape Elements etc...



radius 600m



image of example use

These points can be used as

- Rental bicycle point
- Horse barn etc...



### Forests in Patches

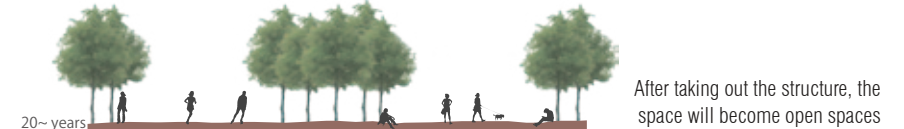
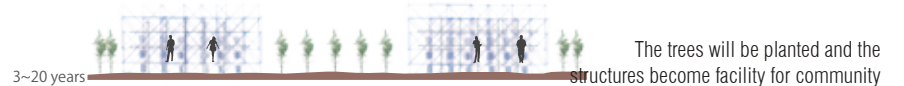
Forests as spaces for communities



Units of landscape

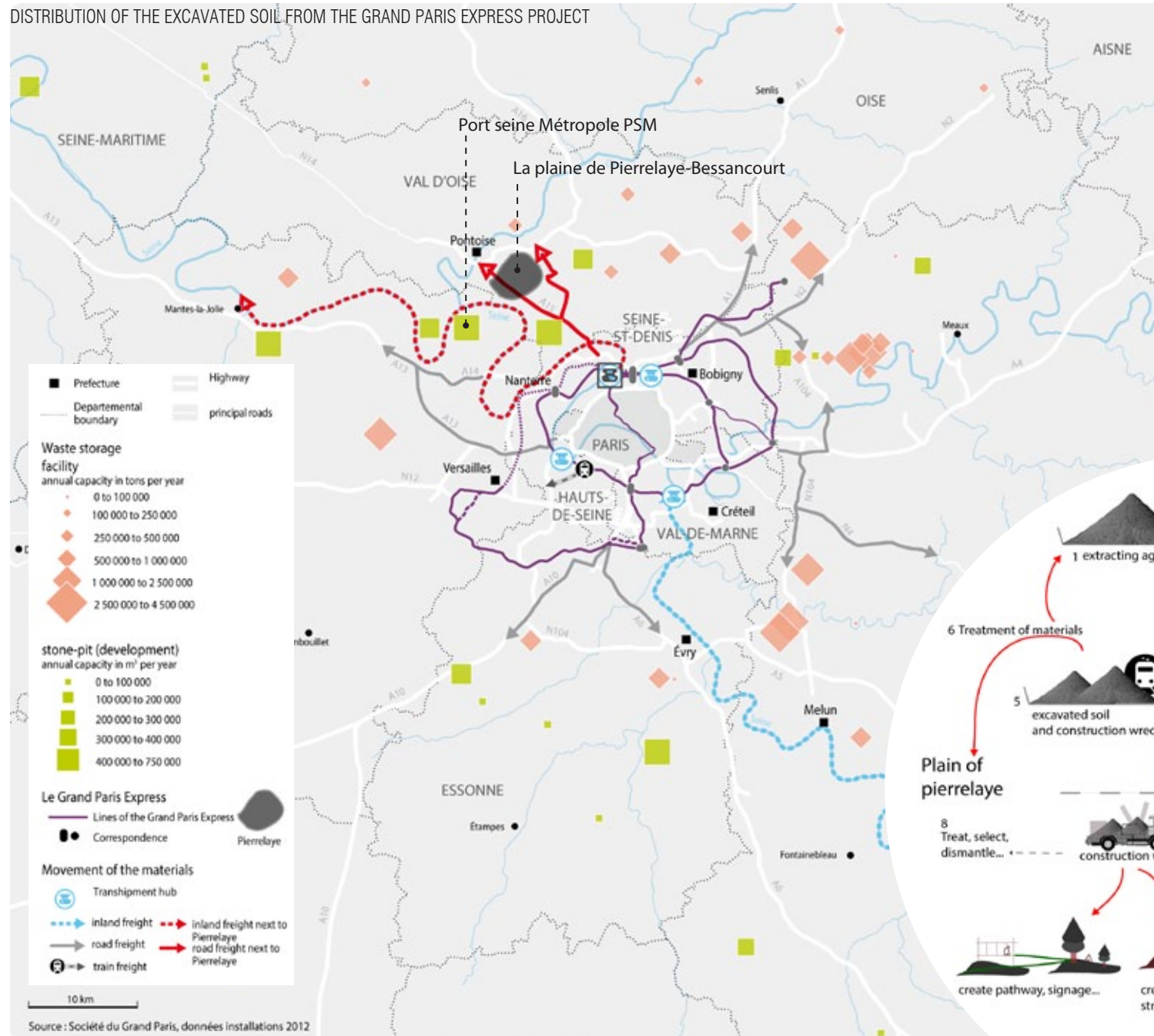


Each Forest act as buffer and entrance to the green corridor



Shift of void and filled space by the transition of forest

DISTRIBUTION OF THE EXCAVATED SOIL FROM THE GRAND PARIS EXPRESS PROJECT



04 -2

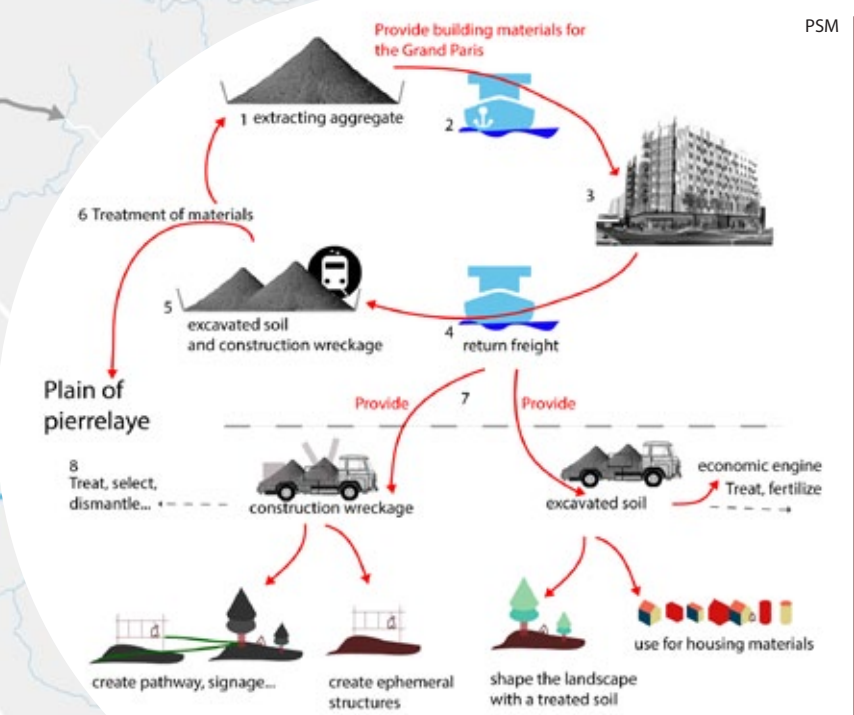
Toolkit

Recycle and reuse

Waste and pollution



Recycle construction materials (waterway transportation as a logistic and environmental solution), reuse recycled materials on site, toolkit for polluted soil.



PSM

life of the project

# 04 -2 Toolkit Tackling pollution

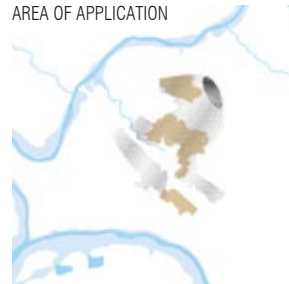
## Waste and pollution



Recycle construction materials (waterway transportation as a logistic and environmental solution), reuse recycled materials on site, toolkit for polluted soil.

### 1 PHYTOREMEDIATION + PLATFORM FOR PUBLIC ACCESS

AREA OF APPLICATION



biomass farms + phytoremediation

Phytoremediation refers to the natural ability of certain plants called hyperaccumulators to bioaccumulate, degrade, or render contaminants in soils, water, or air. We propose to couple phytoremediation with biomass production as groundcover or alternative rotation cycle.

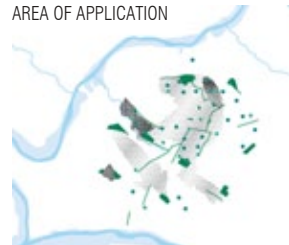


short rotation forestry short rotation coppice Thlaspi caerulescens



### 2 EXCAVATION + LAND ART

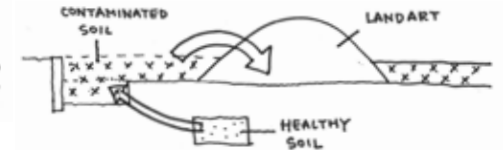
AREA OF APPLICATION



Soil From housing area  
New Landform exploded forest green partitions

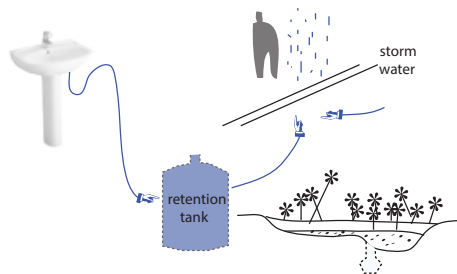


Since the heavy metal pollution is most concentrated in the top 40-50 cm of soil, we propose to excavate the highly contaminated top layer and use the soil to make new landform in the plain. Insulation membrane will be installed to cover the polluted soil and a layer of healthy soil will be covering the slightly elevated area for groundcover to grow on.

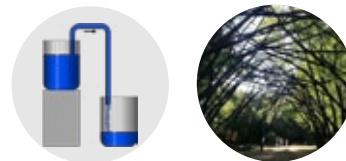


Within the excavated area, areas for planting should be excavated to a deeper depth, different depending on the type of plants that will be planted, in order to protect the healthy soil from erosion.

### 3 GREY WATER AND STORM WATER MANAGEMENT



Both the grey water and storm water on site will be collected, treated through bioswales and used for the irrigation of the forest and farmland. The reused water will also provide organic matter which is crucial to

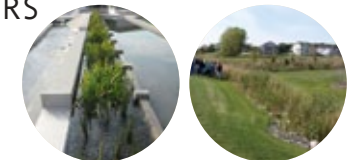
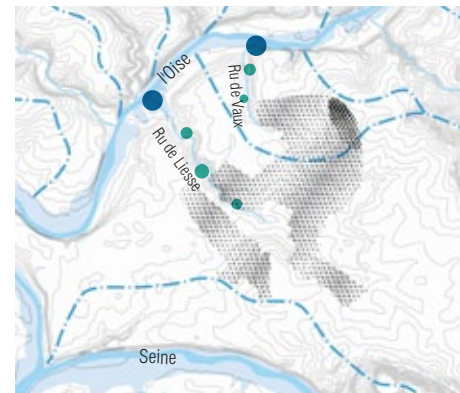


siphon reference for siphon bridges over highway

stabilizing the heavy metal in the soil. The new water recycling system will adaptively reuse the existing irrigation system. To bridge the irrigation system through the highways, siphon bridges can be one of options. Combined with landscape design it can also be a way to beautify the highway.

### 4 CLEANING CREEKS WITH BIOFILTERS

AREA OF APPLICATION



bioswale with hard edge/ soft edge

In order to prevent the heavy metal pollution that has already seeped into the water table from entering river l'Oise and Seine, water treatment and monitor stations are planned at the confluence of both Ru de Vaux and Ru de Liesse at l'Oise.

To treat the storm water runoff and the small amount of heavy metal soil carried by storm water, bio-swales of various sizes are planned along both creeks.

# 04 -3 Toolkit Reorganizing landscape

## LAYERS OF REFERENCE FOR ECOLOGICAL CORRIDOR



existing green space

ecological sensitive area

green buffer for ext. infrastructure

respect current parcelization

ecological corridor framework

## COMPONENTS OF NETWORK



circulation route based on ext. roads

pathway based on ext. paths and irrigation network

green partitions and promenades

conceptual network

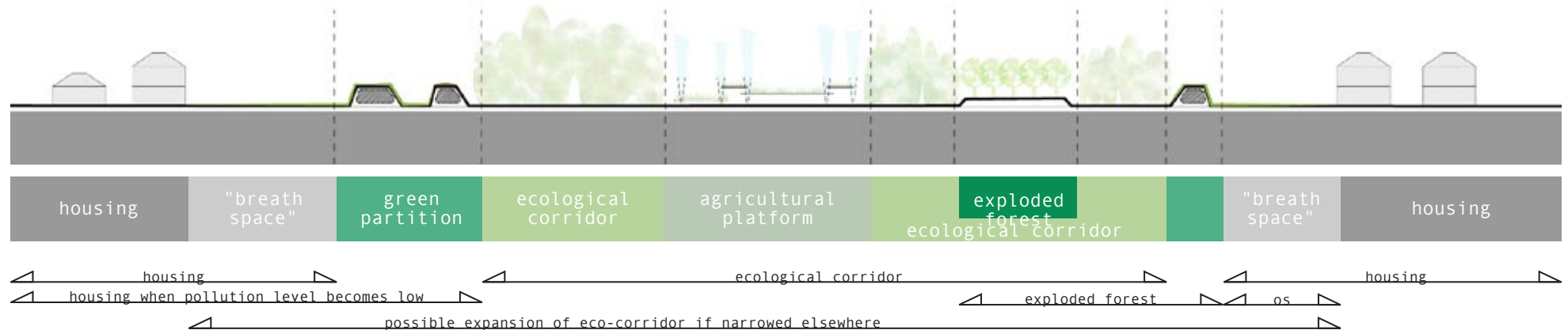
Fragmented landscape



Re-organizing the components through spatial organization, stitching the ecological sensitive areas, overlaying layers of landscape elements.

## CONCEPTUAL SECTION OF PATCHES AND GREEN PARTITIONS

## ENABLING PERMEABILITY AND PROGRAMMATIC CAPACITY



# 04 -4 Toolkit Rethinking agriculture

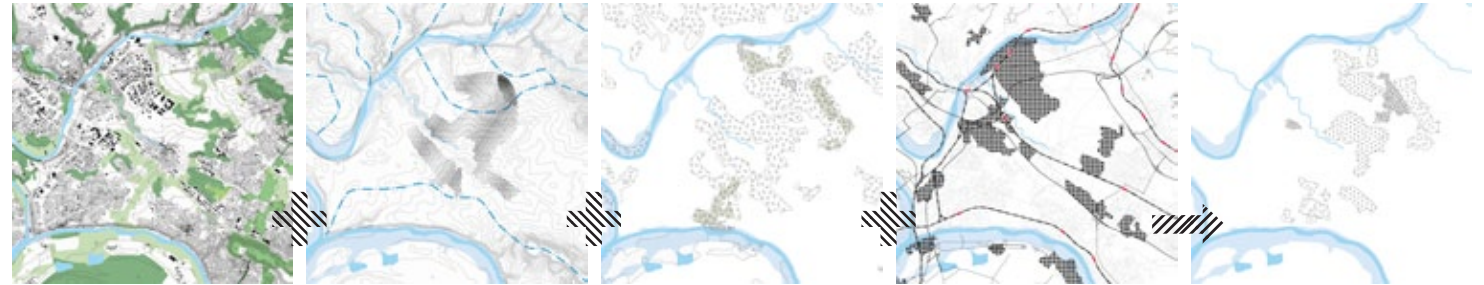
Traditional  
agriculture



On polluted land: agriculture for research purposes, biomass farms for both bio-energy and bio-material, agricultural platforms.

On non-polluted fertile soil: food production for local consumption.

LAYERS OF REFERENCE



AVAILABLE LAND

POLLUTED AREA + ZAR

ARABLE LAND + FERTILE SOIL

PROXIMITY TO ACTIVITY ZONES + URBAN POLLUTION

AGRICULTURAL ZONING CONCEPT

LAND SPECIFICATION

4 TYPES OF AGRICULTURE LAND

ECONOMIC FUNCTIONALITY

Non-polluted area + Fertile soil

Highly polluted/Proximity to activity zone

Polluted area + Poor soil

Polluted area + Flexible location

FOOD PRODUCTION



EXPERIMENT FIELD



BIOMASS+PHYTO



AGRICULTURAL PLATFORM

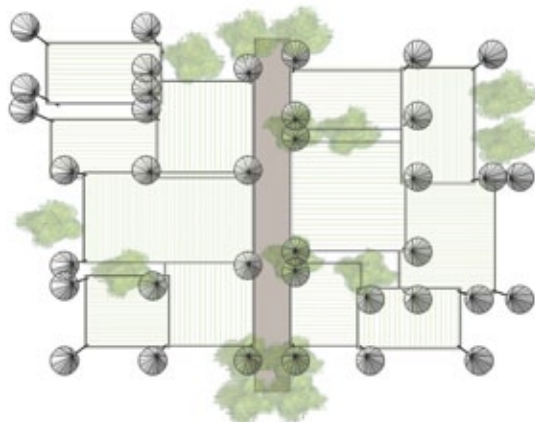
for local consumption

for research and development

for biomfuel/bio-material and phytomining

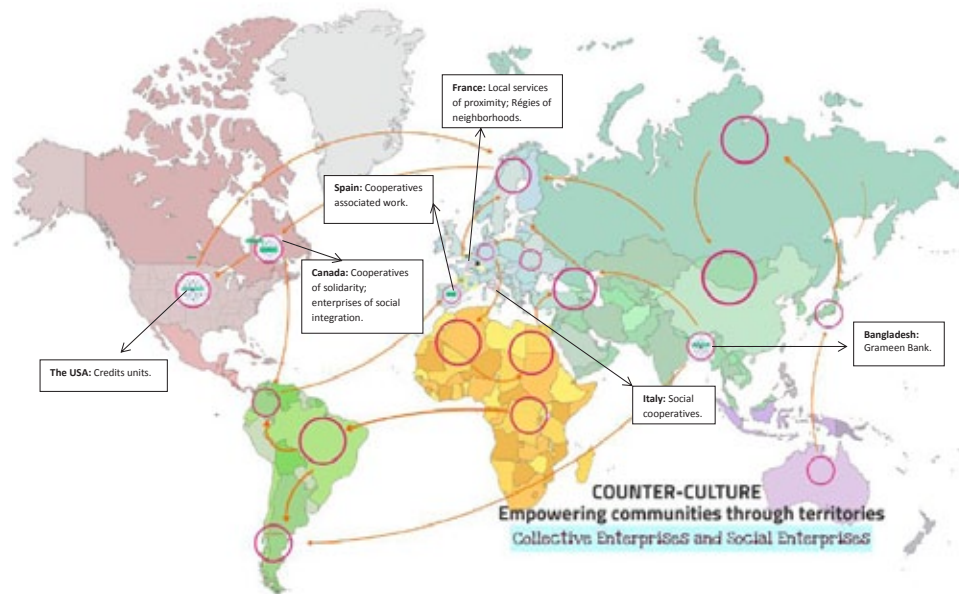
for horticulture

CONCEPT PERSPECTIVE OF AGRICULTURAL PLATFORMS



# 04 -5 Toolkit

## Economic engine and new activities



The world is immersing in a new politic, socio-cultural and economic dynamic based on the creation of value through collective and social enterprises. In the map it is presented some examples of another way to improve development and economic growth. The important elements to promote the power of communities are: networks (associations, syndicates, intercommunalités, régies, etc.); the innovation (technical and methodological), the creation of new enterprises (PME, ETI), digital and virtual work, practical use of resources of territory, Technology Surveillance and Intellectual Property.

In the same way, La Plain de Pierrelaye-Bessancourt has opportunity to show how the force of their organizations, in specifics projects, can play a role of creation of value in the local scale and to have impact in the international scale. This thanks to the systematic implementation of the concept of mix community.

Bedroom suburb



Program new activities and create employment opportunities, reintegrating the existing activity zones and different municipalities.

IFE Management Authority (IFEMA, State)

Territorial Organizing Committee of the Economy (TOCE)

**ORGANIZATION**

- Dashboard Activities and Needs (DAN)
- Accessibility to population
- Collection of citizens' initiatives
- Partnerships with schools and universities
- Development of exchanges partnerships
- Development of strategic partnerships
- Partnerships with the region for land
- Encouraging a heavy base of economic sectors at the scale of the department
- Partnerships for an international network in all economic sectors
- Export support steps

**TECHNICAL**

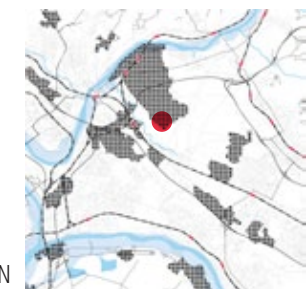
- Professional guides
- Business guides
- Vocational training
- Training enterprises
- CSR awareness
- Office rental

**FINANCE**

- Clarification aids + tax
- No refund of investments
- Call for investment banks
- Public pooled investment funds
- Surplus dividends to the State

**ADMINISTRATION**

- Accompanying procedures
- Proposals for uniform standards



PROPOSED LOCATION

« Developing the fairest possible the territorial fabric, for better human development »

IFE (Installations For the Enterprises) are shelters and strategic meeting of all public institutions for the economy and where may be present private and joint bodies (companies, associations, unions, etc.). The role of IFE is to organize and facilitate all technical, financial and administrative matters, in order to have a competitive local development and better.

# 04 -6

## Toolkit

### Smart urban growth

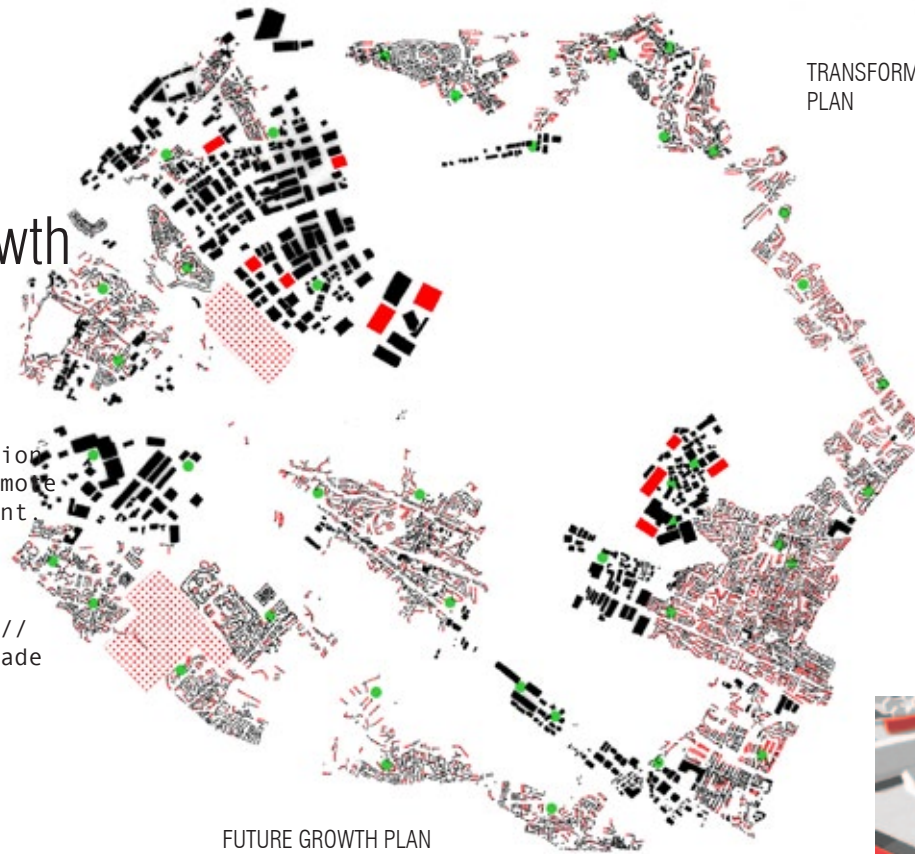
Sprawl



Prioritizing the densification of the urbanized area, promote transit-oriented development

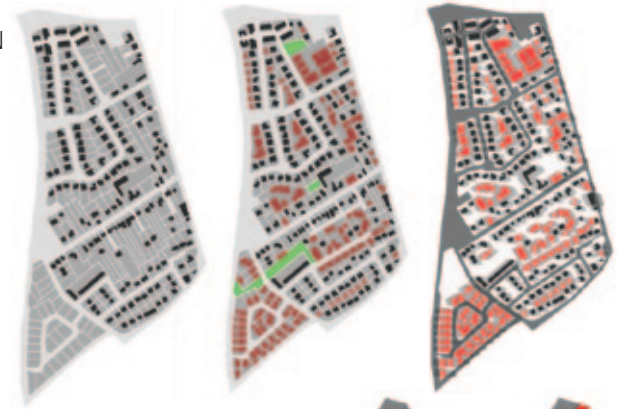
Densification Strategy:

- 1-Reduce gaps in the city // continuity of the road facade
- 2-Collective Buildings // collective spaces
- 3- Topping-up // In-Fill
- 4-Do-it-Yourself // Pop-Up activities

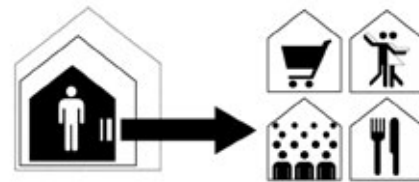
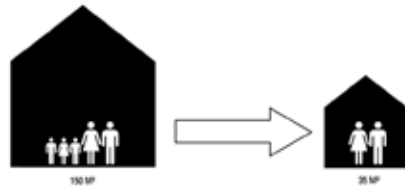
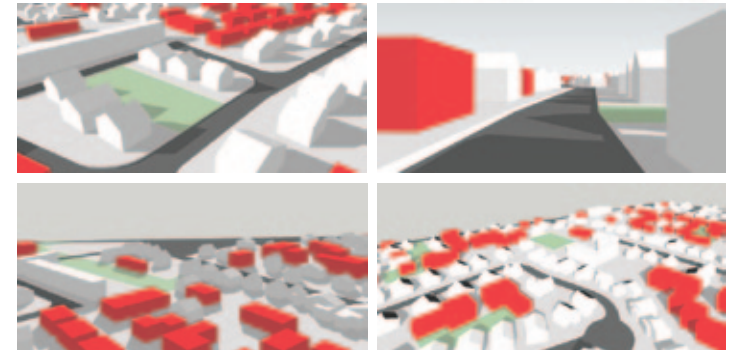
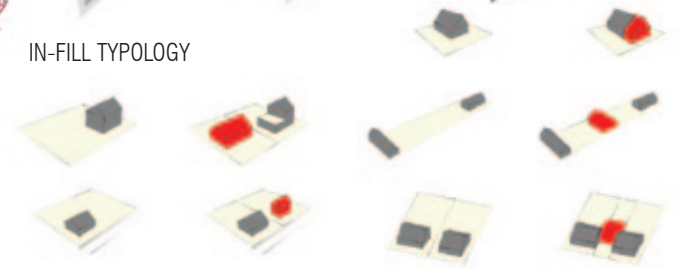


FUTURE GROWTH PLAN

TRANSFORMATION PLAN

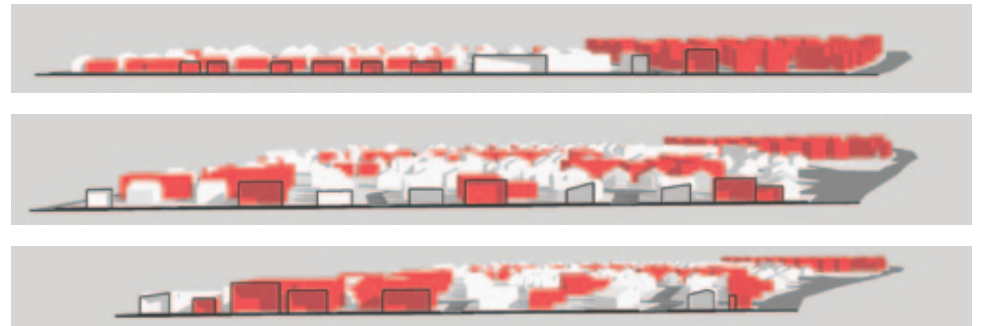


IN-FILL TYPOLOGY







- Introduce bus public transit
- Improve cycling infrastructure
- Upgrade metros to cope with higher demand
- More efficient energy supply systems
- Improve efficiency of energy distribution
- Grey water and storm water management

- Retrofit existing buildings to increase energy efficiency
- Increase recycling
- Improve connectivity and access to information







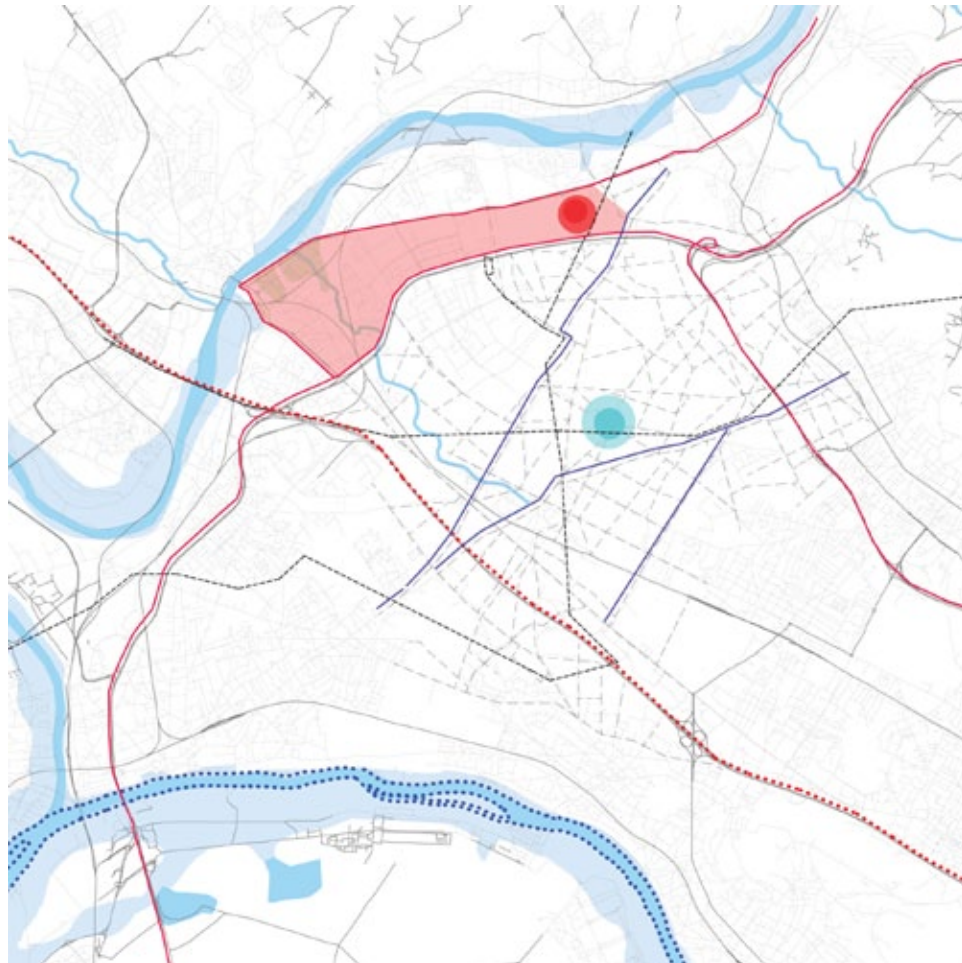


CIRCULATION ROUTE OF THE MATERIAL

-  Waterway transport of freight
-  Road transport of freight
-  Loop of heavy traffic for freight dropoff
-  Point depot / transit of materials inside the Plain.

MOVEMENT INSIDE THE PLAIN

-  Pedestrian path
-  Throughway of faster movement
-  Center for 'slow' movement (pedestrian/bicycles)
-  Cable car



REPLAY\*  
From An Interspace to a territory of Greater Paris : The Plaine de Pierre-relaye-Bessancourt

Toolkit

Soft infrastructure

Machine-like infrastructure



Offer alternative mobility, greening the existing infrastructure.



TEAM A

**TEAM B**





Heritage to Water



Heritage to Water

## Greater Paris Forest ?

Greater Paris is both a reality, and a territorial project that is already underway. It is presented as a transportation project to link future centers of excellence, and to enable people to travel between suburbs without passing through the capital. But this presentation is unfortunate, since it masks many major issues. Housing, governance, energy strategy, culture, the representation of territories, and how these projects are conducted are also at the heart of the development process of the Parisian metropolis – and all of which seeks to achieve competitiveness, and human solidarity.

*“We want a forest! “*

One of the Grand Paris projects is to create a forest of a million trees in the Plain of Pierrelaye. The relative importance of urban, agricultural and wooded areas - which share this territory - sits at the heart of questions about a future metropolitan forest. Surrounded by the city, fragmented by infrastructures, the plain must find its link with the Seine, Oise, the Regional Natural Park of Vexin, and the forests of Saint-Germain and Montmorency.

Ultimately, the goal is to maintain and strengthen the green continuities of the city, and to reconcile agriculture and biodiversity with urbanity. But the differences between these areas - the rural world, and the peri-urban world - results in constant conflict. Knowing how to highlight their wealth and reveal these landscapes' edges is the first requirement for building the city of tomorrow.

Today, we have the opportunity to reflect on the definition of the Greater Paris forest, and the territorial project for the Plain of Pierrelaye.

**What kind of forest should it be? For whom, and why? What form should it take? For what purposes? What changes should be made? What is the identity for this area?**



Bois brûlé of Pierrelaye Plain

## Local and metropolitan context

Since the work of Haussmann, the Plain of Pierrelaye has been a territorial “servant” for the City of Paris. These farmlands were created by receiving wastewater from the capital. But today, soil pollution caused by decades of spreading greatly reduces the possibility of efficient agriculture (the production of human food purposes has also been prohibited since 2000). And yet the plain - declining, fragmented and ignored by the city - is a necessary organ for the operation of the Greater Paris.

**How can we revitalize and integrate this territory into a metropolitan project?**

## Reveal heritage in order to build the future

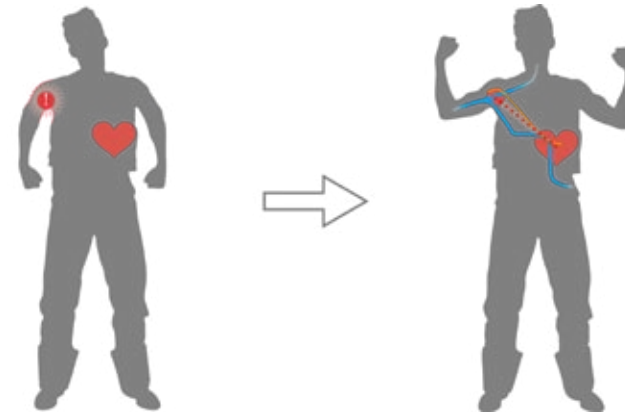
This unloved territory, by virtue of its history, possesses a strong identity. The pavement of Julius Caesar which crosses the site, the hydraulic system laid down by Cistercian monks, and the wastewater irrigation pipes all serve as part of this area’s heritage. The soil pollution caused by many years of wastewater spreading from Paris, the irrigation network structuring the field, the equalization columns, and the farms and factory of Pierrelaye are all elements that form the landscape of the plain. Today, the irrigation system is still partially used, and its activity helps to contain pollution in the upper levels of soil. However, in 2017, the “Syndicat Interdépartemental pour l’assainissement de l’agglomération parisienne” (SIAAP) have decided to cut the water supply to the plain. Without irrigation, which future can be envisioned for this area and its heritage?

We believe that this heritage, which has shaped the identity of the plain, must be developed and used for the construction of a regional project. The area’s heritage is essential in our approach. This irrigation network buried in the ground must be “revealed.” We choose to use this heritage in order to show that memories related to the waste water spreading - although sometimes negative - can nevertheless result in a positive “(re)construction” of the territory.

How to use the irrigation network to contribute to the development of the plain and ensure the sustainability of heritage? How can heritage serve as the foundation of a regional project?

While the irrigation network is important, we are also well aware that it can not be reused in its entirety. But this structuring underground landscape can generate a relationship between fragmented components/elements of the territory. This reflection led us to the question of water.

When irrigation stops in less than five years, what will happen to the plain?



Réseau d'irrigation sous-terrain et l'axe de la chaussée Jules César

## Role of water in the territory

Water is life! It is the lifeblood of our ecosystem and linked to the history of mankind. The search for water has always been a constant concern. A water source, be it a lake, stream or river, was one of the predominant factors for human settlement. Today, in the public life of a city, spaces are very often organized around a source of water (a public fountain, a river bank, a park...). Water is essential to our survival and to the natural environment that surrounds us. It is also becoming an increasingly important priority for governments worldwide. As limited and indispensable a resource as it is, water will serve as a powerful engine of growth over the next twenty-five years; to take it into account now is to reap the benefits later.

## Why focus on water in the Plain of Pierrelaye?

Water surrounds the plain. The Oise and Seine are structural elements that mark the territory, geographically and historically. Many activities related to water coexist in the plain: the batellerie in Conflans-Sainte-Honorine, the wastewater treatment plant of Paris in Fromainville, or the future harbor, Paris Seine Métropole, in Achères.

The water is naturally a major element in the territory, both physically and culturally. But it is also our responsibility to future generations to continue to irrigate the plain, to prevent pollution from retreating further into the soil.

### 4 determining factors :

**Pollution:** Land irrigation keeps heavy metals in the upper level of soil, and prevents it from infiltrating into the groundwater.

**Heritage:** The existing irrigation system can not only reduce the capital cost of a new network, but can particularly highlight the historical legacy linked to agriculture..



Epuraton des eaux de la ville de Paris



Equalizing Tower



Irrigation system



La Batellerie à Conflant sur Seine

**Irrigation and ecosystem:** Nature - whether in the form of forests, gardens, agriculture or public space - needs water. The irrigation of the plain in 2017 is therefore a major issue.

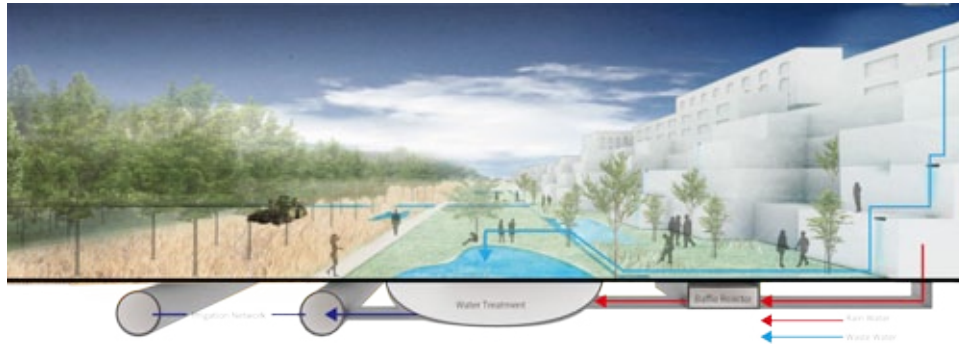
**Social and festive aspects of water:** Water is a part of life. It is also a unifying element, a catalyst of public life and social interaction. A popular area is a lively and attractive space. Enhancement of water = enhancement of landscape = increasing attractiveness of the area.

# « L'Aqua Planning » of the Plain of Pierrelaye

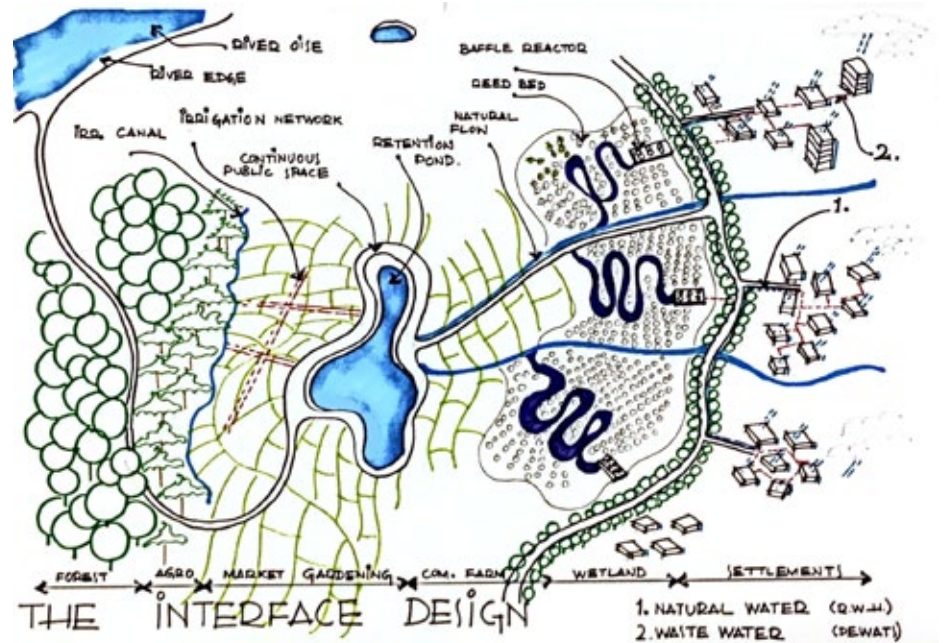
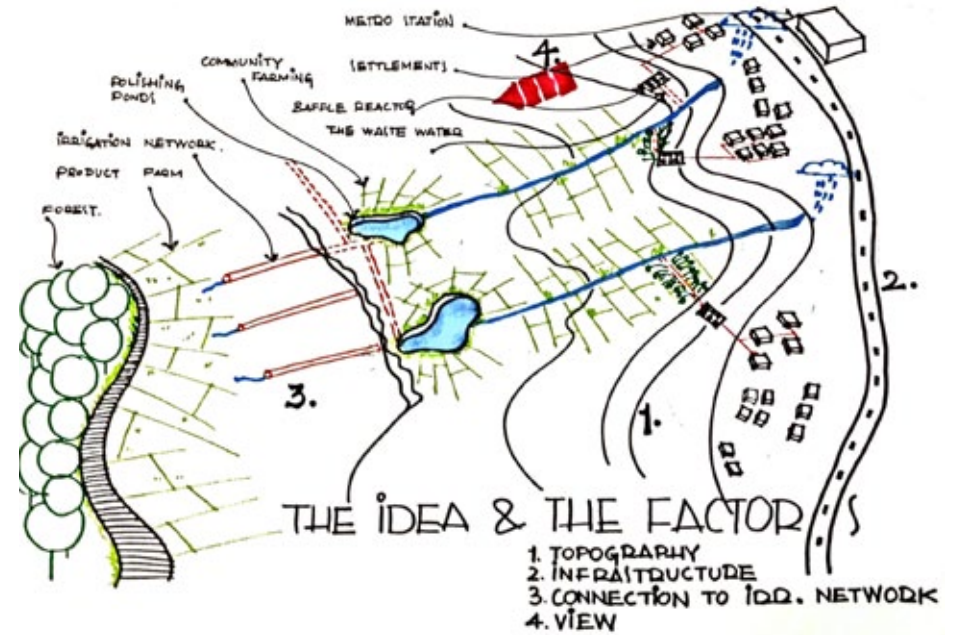
Water is the central element of the relationship between the city and the forest. It offers to users a different experience in the territory. The character of a place refers to water to forge its identity. Across the territory, it creates an attraction out of its social nature and playfulness.

## How to collect water ?

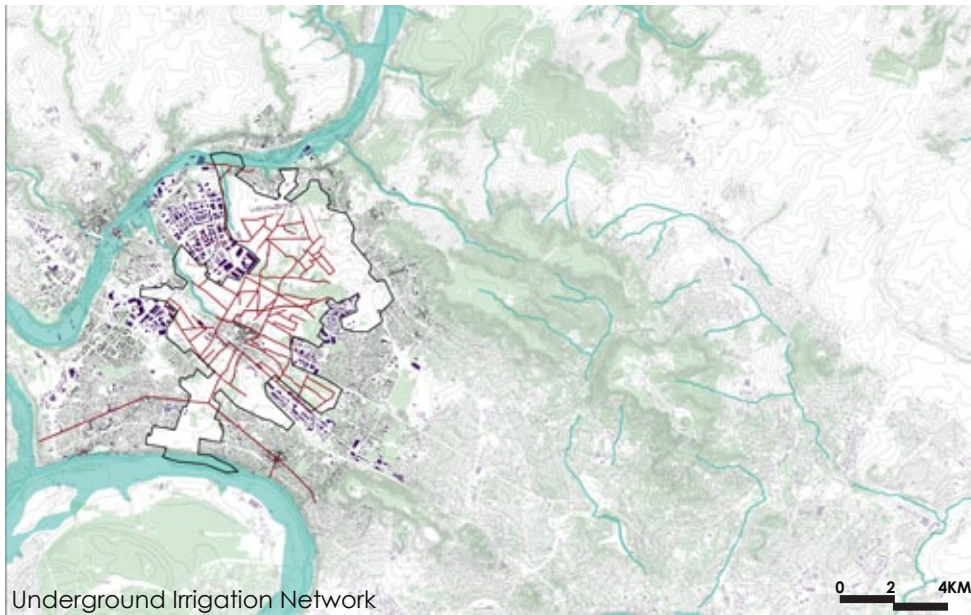
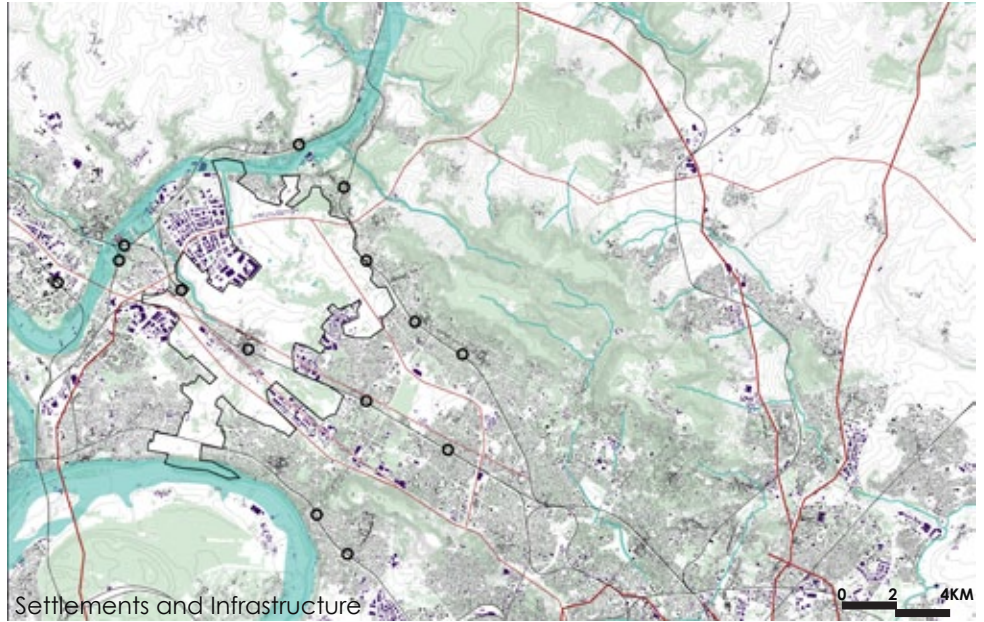
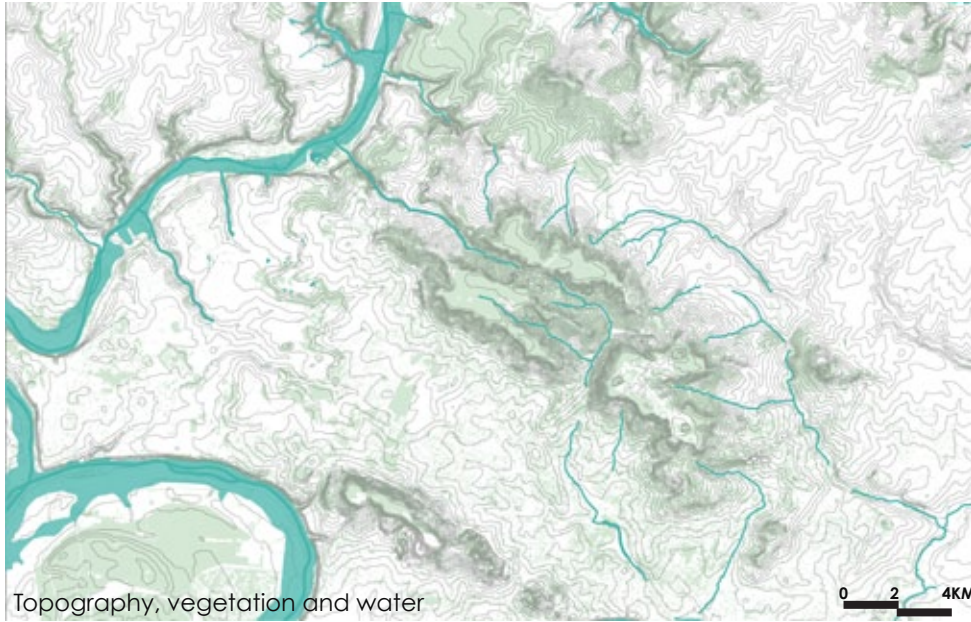
The first source of water on the plain is the Seine and the Oise. Pumping river water can initially help to supply sufficient water to continue irrigation. Wastewater from the planned 8000 dwellings on the territory's edge could then contribute to the supply network. They also contribute to the construction of the infrastructure required to carry and clean water. New interfaces between the city and the forest are ideal places to then collect runoff from cities located upstream. One must also make use of the area's significant commercial infrastructure; their large footprints allow for easy implementation, and for the recovery of rainwater in large quantities.



Decentralised wastewater treatment system

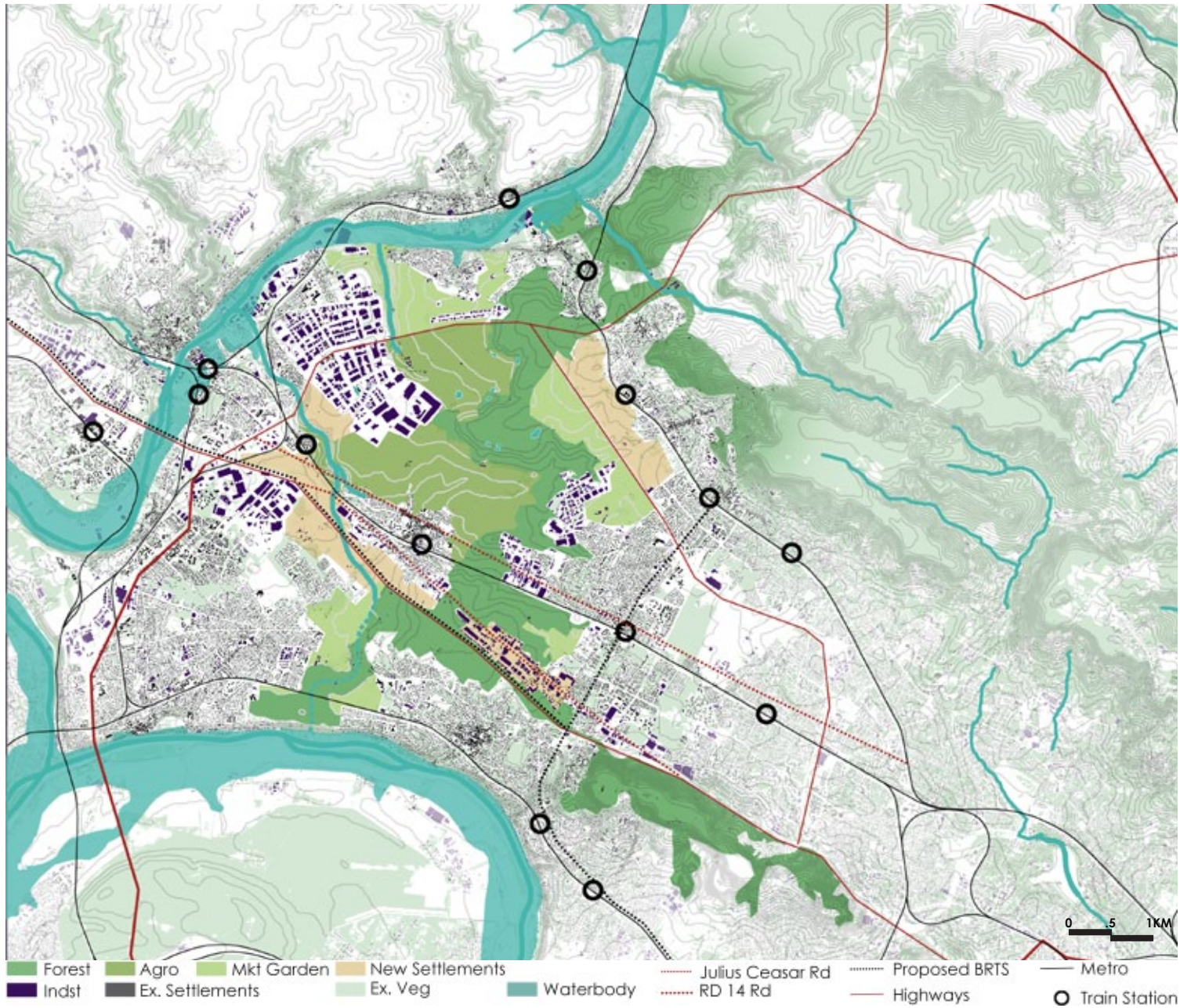


# Existing layers





# Orientation Schema



# “Running water at all floors”

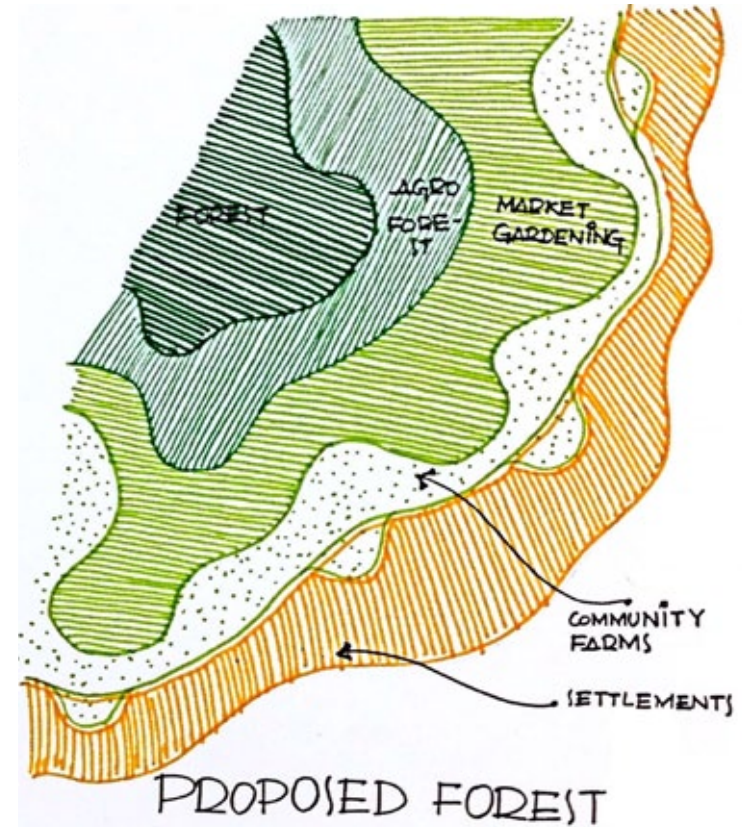
## New fringes

- The aim is to overthrow the traditional appearance of urbanism. The city should not turn its back on the plain, but open itself up to it. These fringes must provide recreational facilities related to both agricultural and urban activities.

- They need to be redesigned around the collection and processing of water, to create a public landscape of continuous, quality spaces that take advantage of cities and forest alike

## The greater Paris forest : productive landscape

The forest of the Grand Paris can't be imagined without a relationship with its territory. More than a recreational haven for plant and animal biodiversity, it meets the social and economic problems of the metropolitan context. The recovery of urban water is the first condition of its existence. The productive landscape is made up of grassland and dense woods, agroforest activities and development of the agricultural heritage and water infrastructure. Species resistant to soil pollution – such as the black locust, the alder, willow, oak, and maple, miscanthus and hemp – can be used for the production of biomaterials, firewood and construction.



Canal entre pavillonnaire et maraichage



Chemin de lisière entre forêt et agroforesterie



Entrée de ville et agroforesterie



## Two kind of urban / nature interfaces

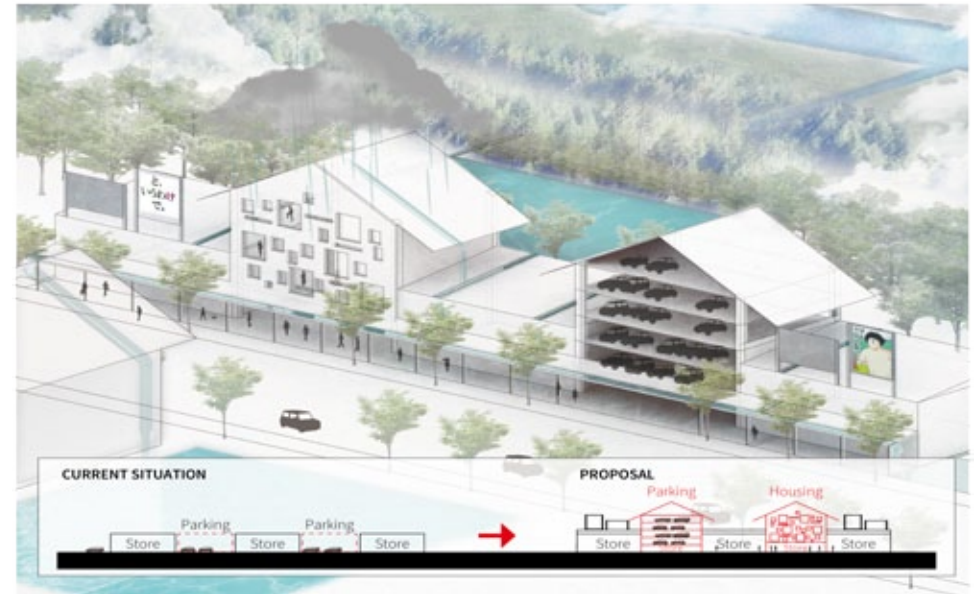
**Built the fringe** : New habitats at the edge of cities are interfaces between urban and natural environments, and the architecture manifests in those in-between spaces. The facades show the alignment of the street on one side, and fade into the landscape on the other. Large terraces, incorporated into the topology and slope of the plain, open themselves to nature and provide the maximum surface area for the recovery of rainwater. The challenge is to maintain the flow of water, in order to enhance open spaces which utilize the water's natural character.

Northeast of the plain, where the soil is not contaminated, this habitat is accompanied by community gardens. This type of activity encourages people to meet one another, and to resume a relationship with their environment.



Built the fringes

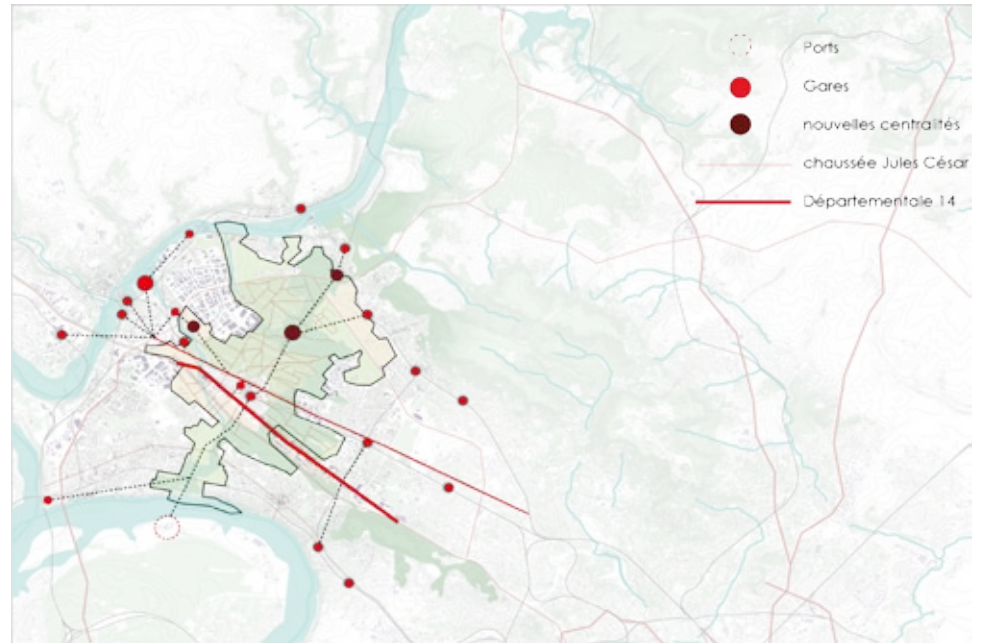
**Densify activities zones** : Densification of housing in the economic zone of the RD 14 zone allows for the avoidance of urban sprawl, and installs a water-recovery network of surface runoff on these large footprints. By reassessing some space allocated to commercial centers, and mutualising parking, it is possible to recover the land and densify. In addition, it provides a better flow between shops, and helps to decrease traffic on the RD 14 through a side lane system (réf., Atelier national « territoires économiques » 2012).



Densify economical activities zones

# Strategies

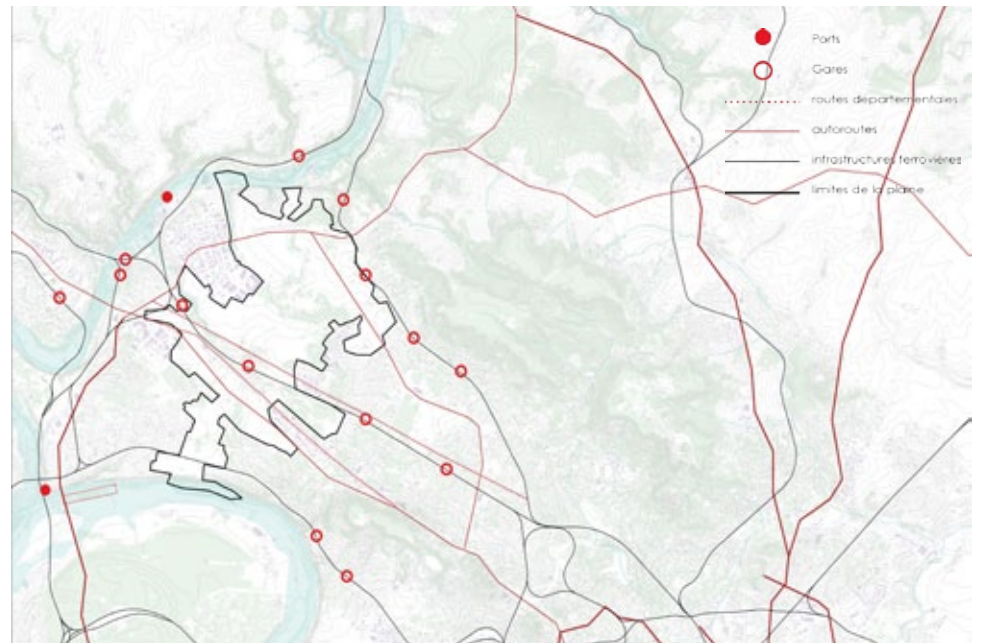
- 1) Connect areas of interest (housing, landscaping, around town, ...)
- 2) Integrate natural resources and enhance the use of water in the landscape
- 3) Integrate stations and ports into local infrastructure, so as to improve the connections and attractiveness of the plain.



1) Connecter les différents lieux publics



2) Connecter les espaces ouverts



3) Les infrastructures comme générateur de connexions

# Temporalités



2017: SIAAP stops providing water



2017: pumped water from Seine and Oise to irrigate the plain



2-5 years vision : starting construction of dwellings, wastewater treatment and rainwater system



5 years vision : Fringes establishment to contain urban sprawl and densification of woods



10 years vision : Get rainwater from activities zones and transition to agro forestry + growing forest



25 years vision : collect rainwater from cities around and realization of the green corridor

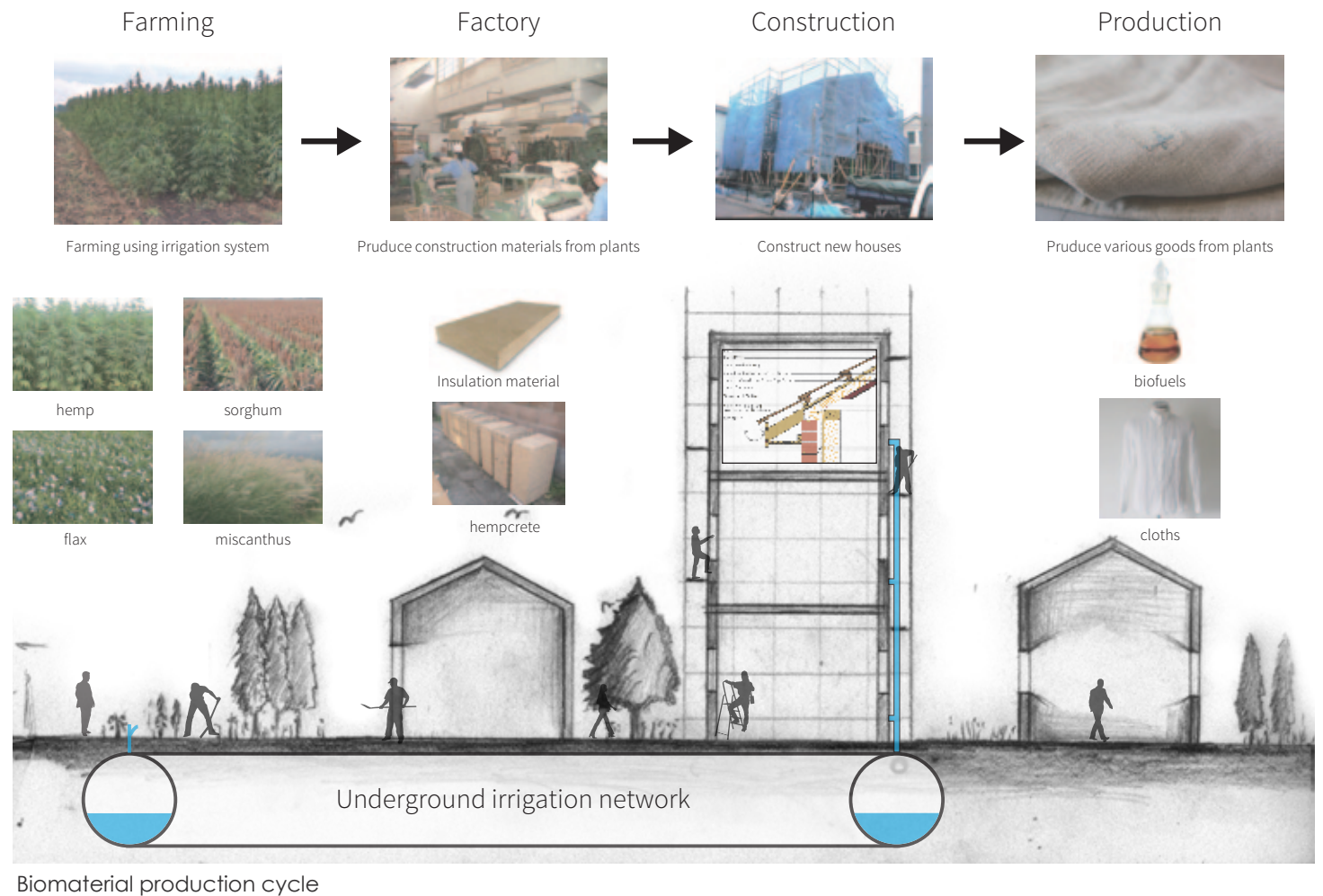
# An economical network

More than ever, the balance between nature and urbanization is necessary for the economic development of cities. The forest of the Greater Paris will bring together environmental, societal, agricultural and recreational functions, and come into its own as a future territory, the Plain of Pierrelaye.

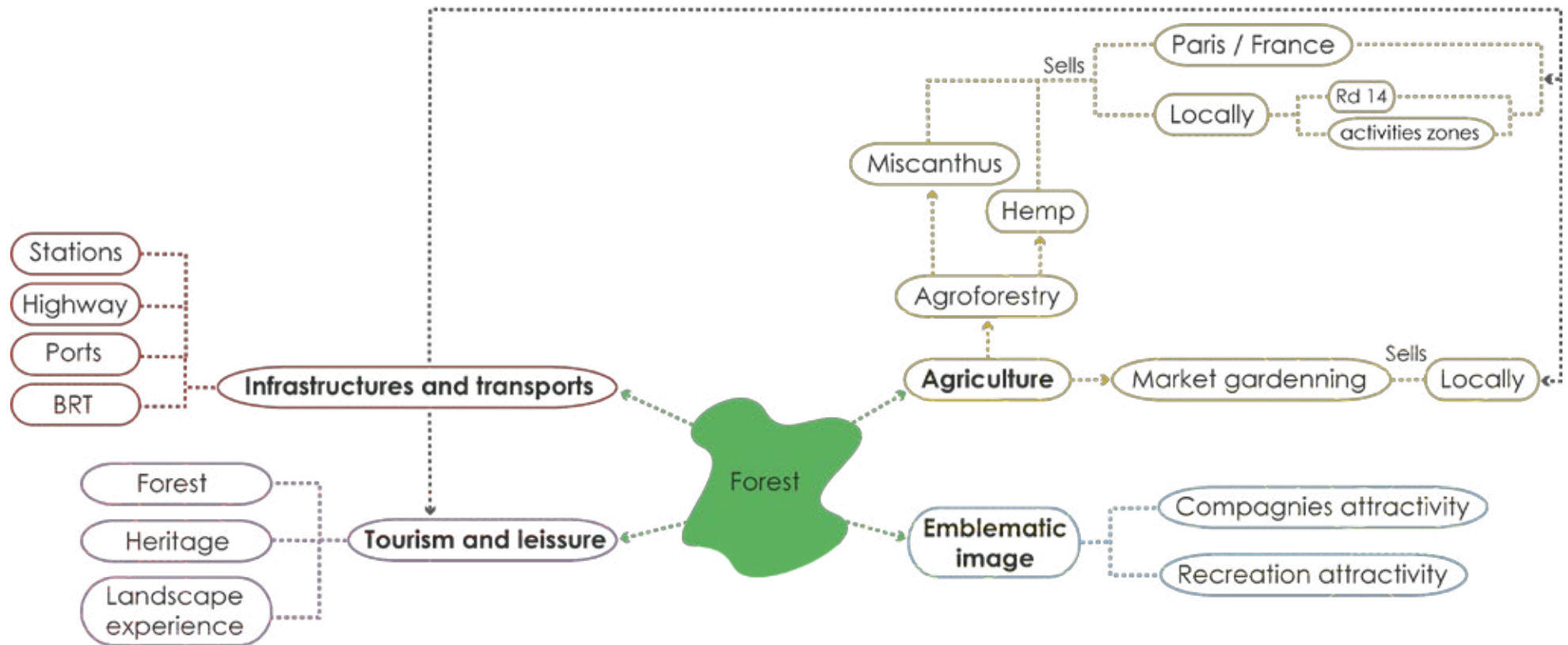
The harvest of miscanthus can be used for environmental purposes, by using its insulation capacity for the construction of low-energy habitats (cement, bricks, lightweight concrete, plaster, etc..).

The hemp industry has garnered renewed interest in the wake of rising oil prices and environmental awareness. It can serve multiple purposes, such as use in construction, sound and heat insulation, the manufacturing of oils or biofuels, or as raw material for plastic-hemp composites.

Iconic image : A unique landscape can become more attractive economically, amongst companies who wish to be associated with this type of project.



# Integration in metropolitan “ecosystem”



## Governance

We are aware that each municipality has its own organization for public water policy. The forest of the Greater Paris is the opportunity to realize a territorial project around a story of common heritage. The management of water is a major problem for the future of cities. This is an opportunity for the Plain of Pierrelaye to reveal itself as an innovator in local resource management. By basing its future around water, the plain can become an exemplary territory for the Greater Paris.

## Innovations

The plain has the potential to become a generator of innovations. An introduction of ecological spaces and green connections will consequently facilitate the access to the agriculture, publics spaces, and forest. Furthermore, the agricultural usage mixity renders the site remarkable even at the metropolitan level. The valorization of the territory by the landscape makes it economically attractive.



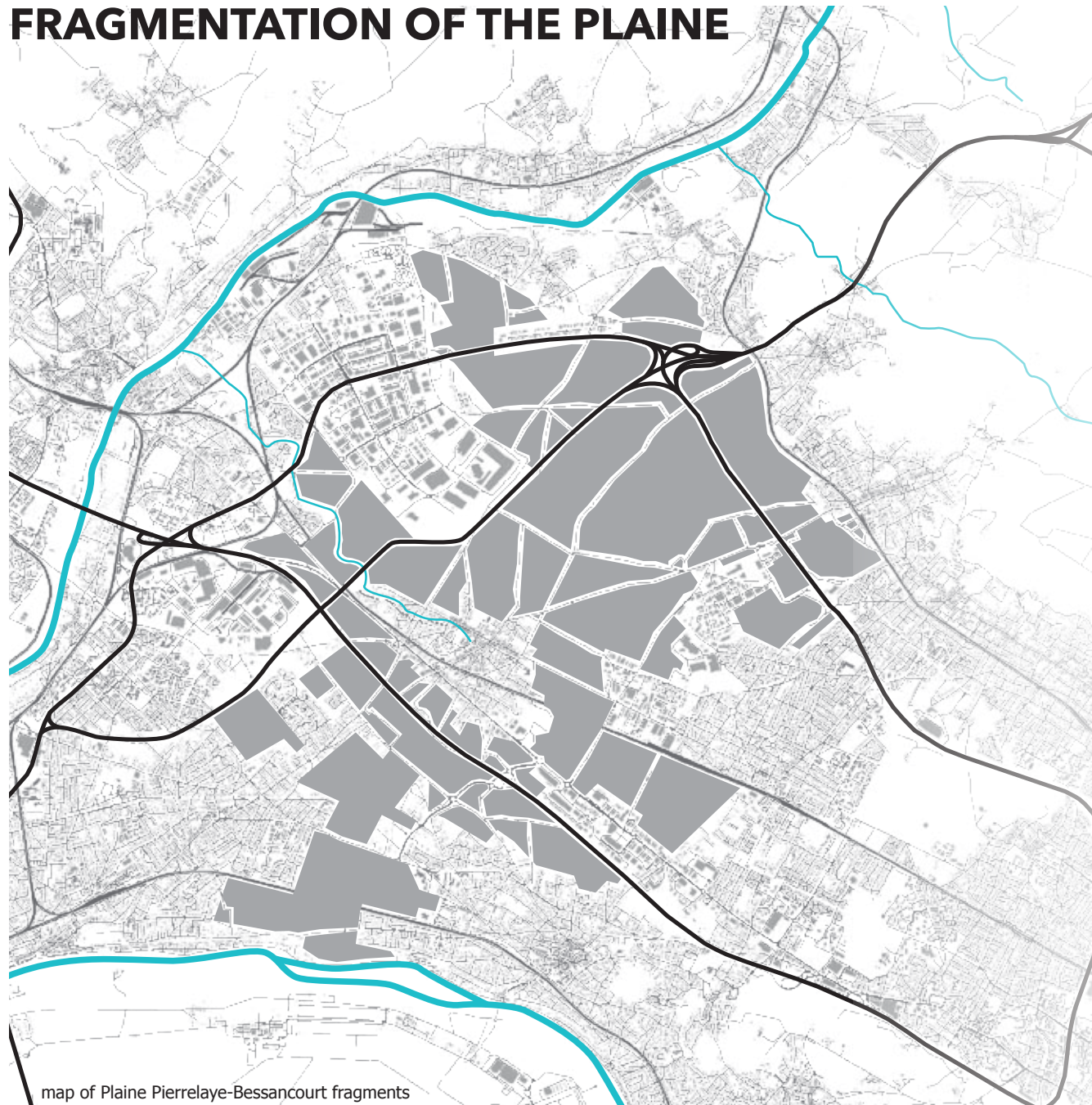




# TESSELLATE

establishing identity through the articulation of the fragmented landscape

# FRAGMENTATION OF THE PLAINE

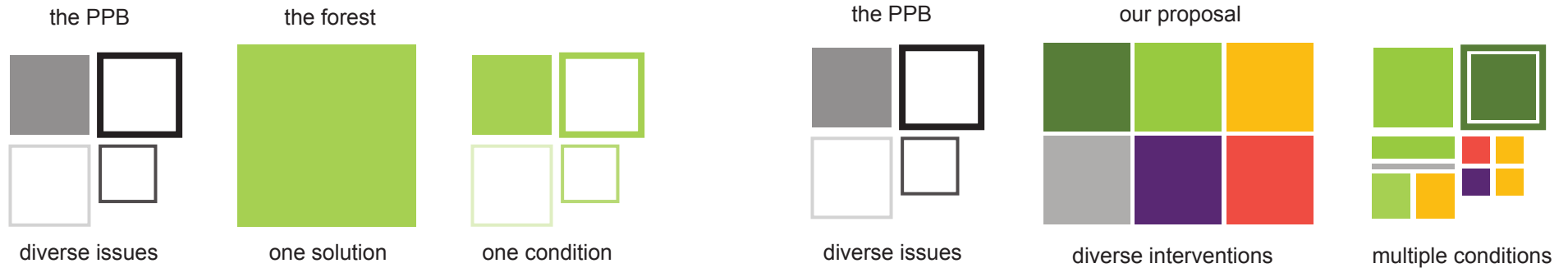


map of Plaine Pierrelaye-Bessancourt fragments

How can we give appropriate readability to a territory where its uses, functions, and representations are structurally fragmented?

These are the issues that we have to deal with while concerning the Plain of Pierrelaye Bessancourt. This territory has been a backstage for the expansion of Paris since the beginning of the twentieth century and became the recipient of its effluents. Today, this large open space is fragmented between some remaining woodlands in its heart, monocultures of corn, and business and housing zones built around transportation infrastructure.

Regarding this fragmentation, shouldn't we ask the question whether there are not several plains within what is unified under the name of Plaine Pierrelaye-Bessancourt? This fragmentation is not only spatial and functional it also concerns the temporal dimensions and consequently the governance handling it. Let's pose the challenge to consider the fragmentation as existing and here. It is forming the principal stratum of the Plaine's dispersed landscape. Instead of re-stitch and rearticulate, maybe we have to accept the results and deal with the existing rather than collude different entities with the mere will to link them.



Thus, the challenge of the present project is to create a mosaic from a mix of ceramics. Although a mere metaphor, the current state of fragmentation can be tessellated in order to build a more coherent mosaic - without infringing the identities inherent to its parts. Building a mosaic requests a change of scale in order to make readable what before was invisible. Zooming out is not enough to recognize, especially when the suburban space remains blurry and hardly identifiable. The comprehension of such a fragmented space has to be charged with a signification able to build an identity from in between.

The present project seeks to provide the ground for a piece by piece construction of such a signification, both in material and immaterial terms. The aim is to transform this fragmented space into a valued lever for a better understanding of the existing landscape. The principal aim is to make the Plaine of Pierrelaye Bessancourt a place able to find and develop its own potentials for the future. Therefore we chose the title of the project as a verb, tessellate, in order to express the processual intention of the project, the will to build it in time rather than proposing a simplistic master plan.



# THE INTERVENTIONS

The first part of this restructuring project of the Plaine is based on the creation of a forêt des délaissés (left woodlands) linked to the creation of new settlements of housing on its fringes. The second part seeks to replay the social representations of the Plaine and to develop a tool of cultural mediation. The

emphasis here is on minimal territorial interventions seeking to create a suburban narration through different actions, such as the creation of a community center, a suburban hiking trail, temporary autonomous zones, etc.

WOODLAND	HOUSING	AGRICULTURE	INFRASTRUCTURE	RECREATION	PLACE MAKING
HARD	HARD	SOFT	SOFT	SOFT	SOFT
<b>WOODLAND EXTENSION</b>  connect fragmented woodlands	<b>DENSIFICATION</b>  introduce new housing into existing urban centers	<b>BIO-MASS PRODUCTION</b>  rotation of miscanthus, hemp, and flax crops to be processed and use within the PPB	<b>SOIL EXTRACTION</b>  polluted soil is extracted for highway and berm construction	<b>OPEN SPACE</b>  convertible open space attracting multiple functions and uses	<b>MEDIATION</b>  territorial lab as center for punctual and permanent interventions
<b>WOODLAND DENSIFICATION</b>  introduce woodland typologies into existing and extended woodlands	<b>EXTENSION</b>  introduce new housing adjacent to urban fringe	<b>MARKET GARDENING</b>  community, and private uses within PPB	<b>ACTIVITY ZONE DENSIFICATION</b>  densification of activity zones and integration of mixed use housing	<b>REFUGE SPACE</b>  refuge spaces throughout the plaine	<b>APPROPRIATION</b>  narration of place through suburban trail

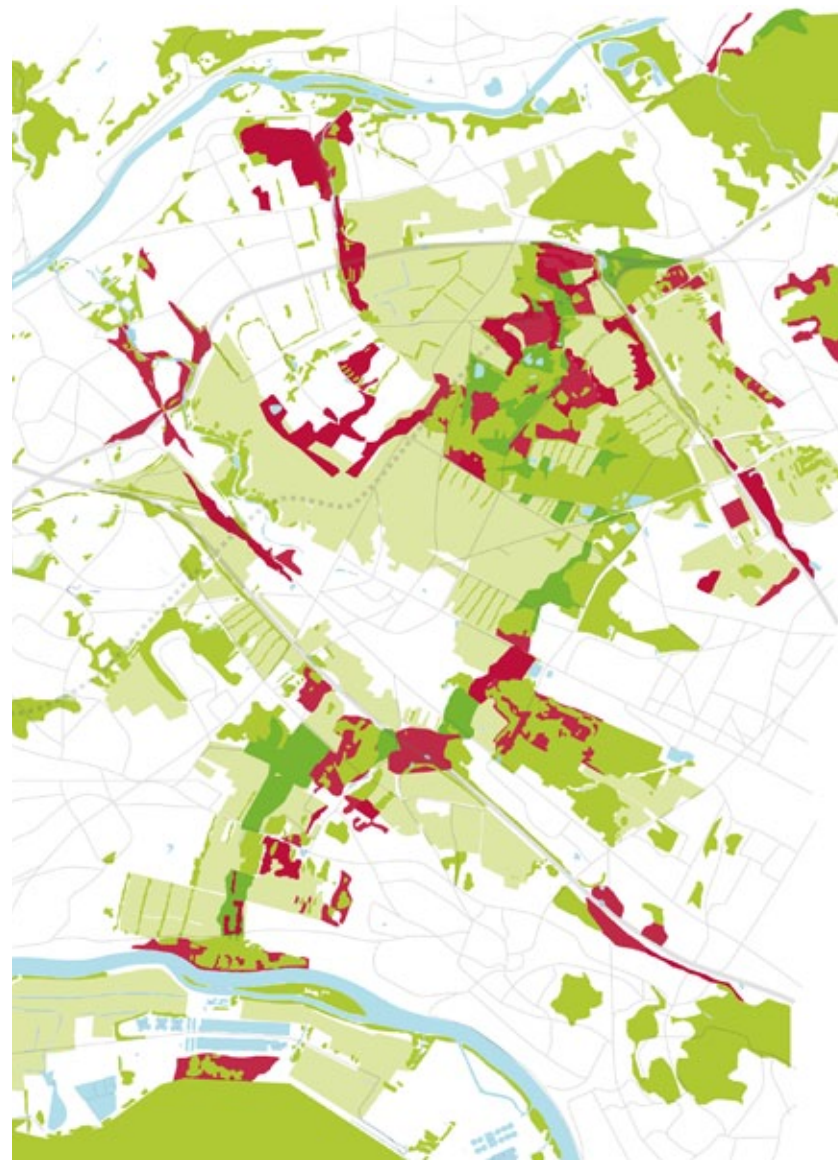
the interventions arranged by the topic they are addressing

# THE ABANDONED FOREST

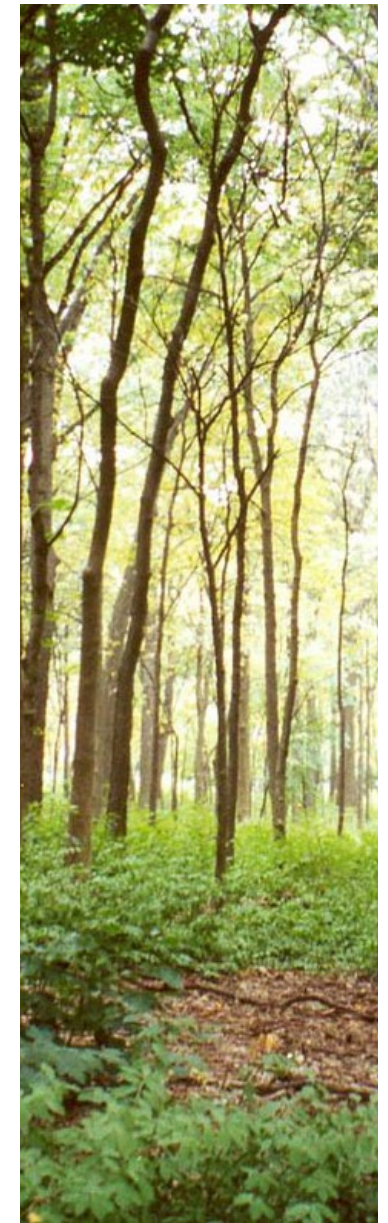
The imagination involved with woodlands is an idea that has evolved through many time periods and cultures. The forest was turn by turn a symbol of fantasy, of the unknown or a place where fears become reality. In the XIXth century, the Industrial Revolution gradually transformed the woodlands into an economic resource. Today, all that remains on the plain of Pierrelaye-Bessancourt is crumbled woodlands, eroded by agriculture.

The end of agricultural and market garden activities, for several years, gave to the plain a negative image of an empty, abandoned space. Then the idea of « la forêt des délaissés » (abandoned forest) found to make a particular amount of sense in the process of reappropriation of the plain.

The idea is to change the opinion concerning this area, by considering these « abandoned places » as already existing (ready made ?) and able to generate a forest. A space managed by natural techniques does not cost much, and it can also be a potential future means of cleaning polluted soils of the Plain and at the same time benefit the area. It can also have a social function reducing the mental burden produced on society by wasted lands. The plain would remain a marginal, wild area, one which the town needs (considering the population increase in the years to come). In terms of environment, a woodland plays a vital role in the ecological balance. However the stake is to avoid to create a project only about a green corridor and instead to work on the idea of a link integrated to the network/fabric of woodlands which already exist in Paris area.



Woodlands of the Plaine Pierrelaye Bessancourt  
existing woodlands abandoned forest



# THE WOODLAND

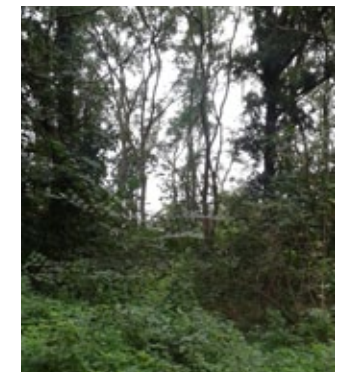
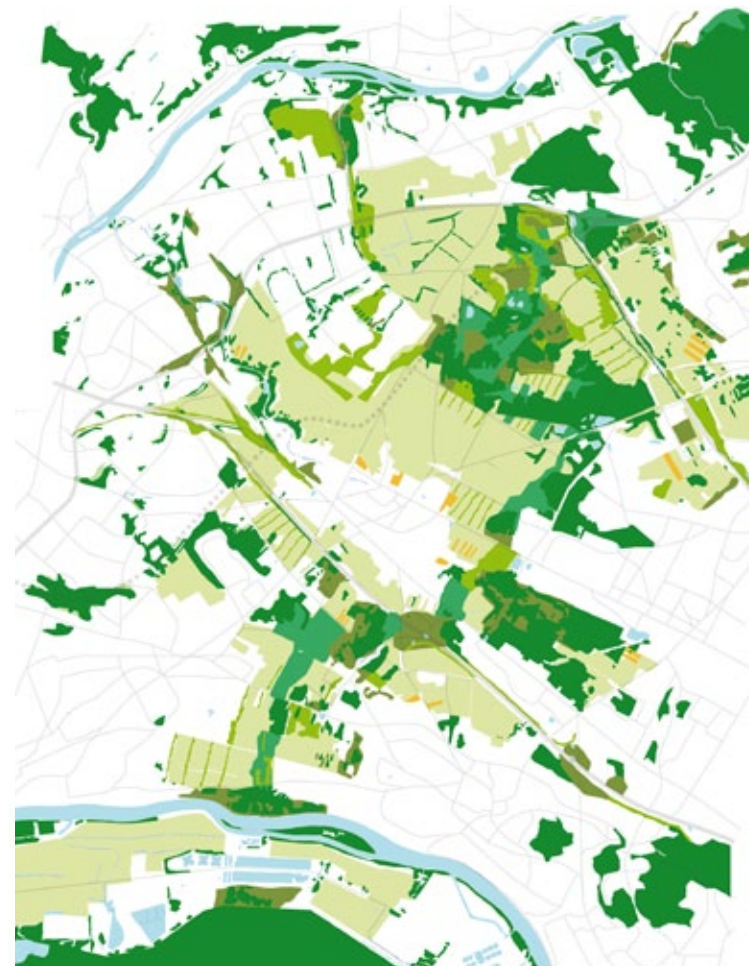
In this process of wild «winning back», existing woodlands are preserved, extended and densified.

Fallow woodlands and fallow bushes or grass should be identified as the first stage of the reconquest of the woodlands over the territory. They are located both in the existing woodlands at the heart of the Plain, around road and rail infrastructures, in housing fringes and around activity zones. These linked woodlands create a special ecologic system, going from open spaces to a bush frame, all becoming a forest framework for woodland growth over the next 40 years.

The management of the «forêt des délaissés» (abandoned woodlands), fluctuates from modest interventions, the observation of natural movement accompanied by several thinnings. Next the woodlands would be established step by step. Lastly through more regular interventions to help this natural progression by planting sowings or plantations.

The implementation of the «forêt des délaissés» requires revisiting traditional ways to create woodlands, accepting some uncertainty even after having tried to control everything the last sixty years. The task is to open the concept of «woodland» to all the natural forestation schemes and create new tools to identify the «abandoned/neglected» areas in order to provide a direction to enhance the site of the Plain on the basis of a dynamic fallow-wood. Then why couldn't we fantasize about the creation of a National Office for the Abandoned (NOA)?

To resume the work of Gilles Clément, the «empty space» becomes a «full organic space». The degraded ecosystem of the Pierrelaye Bessancourt Plain finds a new dynamism and opens itself to requests and needs of the many, in a spirit of moderation and subtle use of the site resources. Woodlands, bush fallow, countryside and horticultural hedges, pastures, meadows and wastelands agglomerate in order to create a global forest where nature reconquest would be leading to a social and political reconquest.



# WHEN THE FOREST SHOULD NOT HIDE THE TREE

The development of agro-forestry finds in this natural reconquest process a special role. After sixty years of desertification and reparcelling, the current farmer speech intend to put back trees in the landscape. As the soil does not support being naked (it causes erosion, runoff and loss of organic elements), trees plantation protects and produces at the same time. The tree which used to be an intruder becomes an input. Its reintroduction in agricultural practices resets the ecosystem in the Plain, but also resets a hedges network, riparian areas looking like pre-Norman orchards.

Development of crops production dedicated to biomass (miscanthus, hemp...), developed for a non-food use, is encouraged. It can be considered as a good alternative for the brownfield and heavy

metal polluted land revaluation. Opportunities for this agro-materials production concern for the moment the construction sector, although others opportunities are expected : use for heating systems, plastics, food bio-films... Some promising examples are also tested in the Paris area (as for instance the project of the association Planète Chanvre/Hemp Planet in which several farmers are participating). It creates a virtuous cycle of local dynamics with synergy between farmers, the construction sector, the development of processes of transformation while promoting production of goods which respect the nature...and made in Pierrelaye !



agro-forestry examples from other regions of France



# HOUSING IN THE PLAINE PIERRELAYE DE BESSANCOURT

Regarding its proximity and good accessibility by public transportation to the center of Paris and the considerable amount of non-urbanized land, the Plaine of Pierrelaye Bessancourt appears as a privileged place for future urbanization. Besides this, the SDIRF prescribes 6000 to 8000 housing units for the Plaine, which implies approximately 15000 new inhabitants (on the basis of an household composed of 2,5 people).

Densifying the existing urban fabric and a balanced extension along the fringes of the Plaine have to be taken into consideration. Thus, housing has preferentially to be located near public transportation nodes (regarding the acceptable distances of 800m for pedestrians and 3km for bicycles around a transportation hub). As in the last years the Build In My Back Yard process has become an integral part of french urban planning procedures in the city of short distances, it can provide a persuasive tool in the Plaine. Brownfields located in the existing urban fabric and activities zones in its vicinity will

be called to mutate in a long-term perspective and are keen to become entire parts of the city. Both functionally and in term of use they won't be referred to as relegated and marginalized zones.

Simultaneously, there is a need to identify available spaces for urban extension because mere densification in the existing fabric cannot meet the current demands for new housing. In order to preserve the identity of the different elements of the territory, these extensions will be located mainly on the edge of the urban fabric. In this case the heritage of the garden-city, but also new towns (villes nouvelles) can serve as fertile inspirations - especially in regard of the relation between the city and nature. This permits to maintain a certain territorial vocabulary: geographical boundaries (water bodies, natural features...) as well anthropogenic infrastructures (roads, built forms, landscape perspectives...) are defined as unvariant in the project. The municipal urban planning plans have already identified such zones, as for example the eco-district project in Bessancourt.



extension and densification of housing in the plain through the introduction of new and diverse typologies

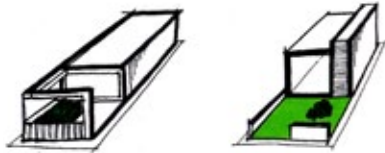


New settlements within the Plaine should create and open new horizons with the upcoming forêt des délaissés, and identify perennial urbanization fronts: either settlements can be oriented towards rural space (instead of turning their back to it), either more permeable borders can be imagined. The articulation of the new neighbourhoods and the growing forest form the projects' backbone: the latter one offers a public space whereas the housing extensions fix the limit of urban extension, thereby reinforcing the identity and function of forest and agricultural land.

Travellers are an important part of the habitat issue in the

Plaine Pierrelaye Bessancourt. In our proposal we distinguish several types of housing which take into account the different needs of the population: space of housing for sedentary people (the association ADVOG evaluates the need for caravans to 900 places in the Val d'Oise) and welcoming areas for non-sedentary travellers ( a need estimated to 700 place for caravans according to the same source). However, the layout of a decent housing is only a part of the issue of the integration of travellers in the territory. Land property, access to education and more globally the attachment to the Plaine as a habitat must be taken into account.

single detached homes



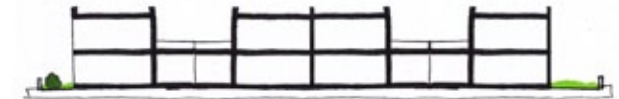
semi-detached homes



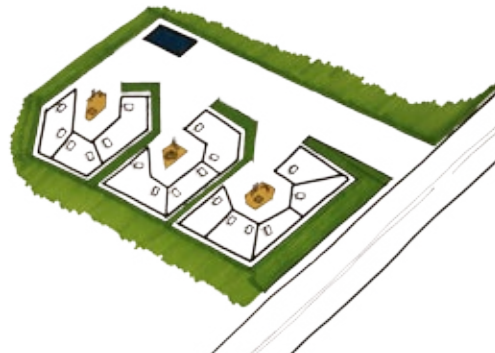
multi-family housing



row housing



sedentary traveller camp



traveller welcoming site



- sanitary amenities
- porter's house
- porter's lodge
- common room
- playground
- vegetated screen
- electrical / water outlets
- delineation boundaries

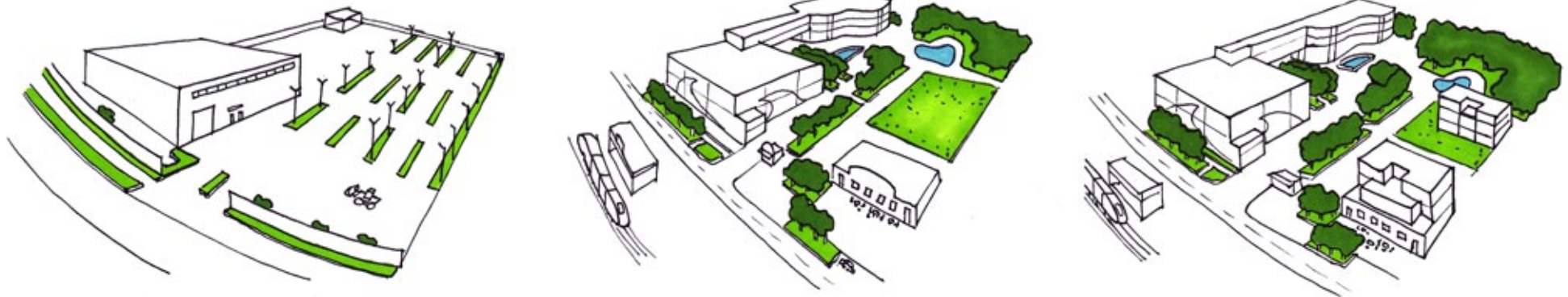
residential typologies

# INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE PLAINE

## Densification of Activity Zones

The activity zone of Saint Ouen l'Aumône is an interesting example illustrating the challenges these areas will face in terms of change. The idea is not to accuse the lack of aesthetics in such zone, but to see them as a potential laboratory of future cities. As they have not reached their maximum expansion stage yet, they are expected to develop further in the near future. Considering them as contemporary faubourgs, allows an opening up towards further requalifications and the introducing of new amenities such as housing and leisure. Well deserved by highways, we can imagine the creation of a multimodal transportation hub (public transportation, carpooling, cycling) combining both functions and density

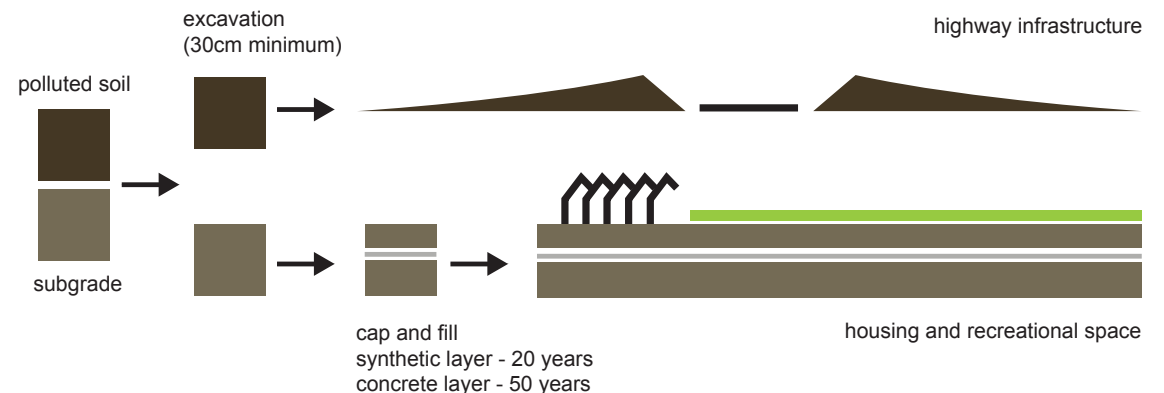
In this area the activity zones could be privileged receptacles for housing. Activity zones would then become secondary polarities and effective interfaces between the Plain and its surrounding territories. One of the motorway junctions of the future A104 highway will serve the Saint Ouen activity zone. This space can be seen as an opportunity to create a watchtower. This structure can be built in this strategic place as a way to ensure and understand the ongoing transformations of the Plaine.



progression of activity zone densification

## Pollution Management

To address the polluted soil when constructing for human spaces site specific excavation will be used to remove polluted soil and placed elsewhere on the plan. The soil will be used for infrastructure projects most notably the M104 project, a highway that cuts through the plain. Polluted soil will be excavated and used during the construction of the highway and landscape berms that will contribute to extension of woodlands and reduce the noise and visual pollution. Thus, this facility would shape a new self-regenerating landscape.



# MEDIATION OF THE PLAINE

How to build an identity in a space devoid of it and which struggles to find its place in the collective representation of the territory? As this questions demands for more than only technical and physical responses, it has to be addressed by more subtle interventions able to reveal the historical thickness and the contemporary diversity of the Plaine Pierrelaye-Bessancourt. Although far from being a non-site, the PPB is often considered as such. Changing the way we perceive this space thus requests tools that are able to build an identity through a more sensitive approach, such as, among others, artistic interventions, minimal urban acupuncture, social action or the development of local tourism. Therefore it is crucial to provide spaces, tools and means that trigger a new perception intrinsically relying on the existing structure of the territory.

## The Territorial Lab

The key for such a global reconnaissance of the Plaine Pierrelaye-Bessancourt should be epitomized in a physical place where the different actors, uses and functions of the Plaine come together can meet. This community board is also a territorial laboratory through which new practices can be introduced in its surroundings. It will give birth to a broader territorial cultural plan integrating both local and regional actors. In practice, this place will be host to pedagogical workshops, artists, debates, conferences and meetings, integration workshops etc. A music stage, a point of view, a café and a restaurant will make this place a local cultural center. The lab develops around local themes such as the forest, agriculture and pollution.

the territorial lab

This lab functions more through the impact it has on its surroundings than through its own presence. It is a tool for a better recognition and understanding of the highly fragmented suburbia. Such a recognition implies the contextualization of the different temporal and spatial elements underlying the suburban fabric. Contextualization means the creation of a shared narration that integrates the existing elements of the contemporary territorial fabric. By following André Malraux who stated that heritage is not transmitted but must rather be build by a community and by drawing on the Faro Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society, signed by the member states of the European Union in 2005, the project seeks to put in place tools able to build a collective memory in the territories of everyday life. The Faro Convention states that the knowledge and practice of cultural heritage are subject to the right of citizens to participate to cultural life, such as it is defined in the declaration of human rights. It fosters the role of citizens in the definition of the environment in which social communities evolve. More specifically, by reformulating the question “how to preserve heritage?” towards a more broader approach of “why and for whom value it?”, it provides the ground for the recognition of the existing (housing, paths, etc.) as a part of heritage. By integrating the changing nature of social communities, the convention supports so called “Faro walks”, a tool providing a more direct experience of the territory. It invites participants to rethink the role and the value of heritage. The creation of “heritage communities”, where locals and experts work together, can reinforce the creation of vernacular knowledge and thereby the recognition of the PPB as “integrated heritage”.

Moreover, the European Landscape Convention provides a fertile ground for the implication of inhabitants in such a process: the convention defines landscape as “a part of the territory such as it is perceived by its population and whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factor”. By putting forward the social utility of landscape, the convention makes possible the reinterpretation of material heritage: it shifts the comprehension of heritage as a monument embodying national history towards an understanding of heritage build through the content of everyday life and the perception of the population. The PPB is a heritage site and has diverse social utilities. It is a need to recognize, to contextualize and to value the Plaine by the use of the above mentioned available tools.

# THE CULTURAL INTERVENTIONS

## Spatial and Temporal Interventions

The above mentioned interventions will be coordinated by the Territorial lab and realized through a participatory approach. They will imply and make converge artistic, urban, landscape and economic approaches and result in different forms such as suburban point of views, new urban connections, territorial sculptures, tree huts, leisure places etc. Besides the more spatial interventions, it is possible to activate certain places in time. Thus, interesting places can be host to concerts, parties, open air cinemas or night walks. Open spaces such as we find them in the Plaine are rare in the metropolitan area of Paris and acquire high potential for outdoor activities, both in day and nighttime.

## A Suburban Hiking Trail

The creation of a suburban hiking trail will offer another way to discover the neglected diversity of the Plaine and its edges. Passing through activity zones, brownlands, highway knots, forests, agricultural lands etc. the path seeks to link the spatial and temporal contradictions inherent to the Plaine. Drawing on the concept of deep ecology, which defends the value of beings independently from its utility for humans, the path will reveal the interpenetration of the urban and nature. It offers a new approach towards the anthropogenic territory. The guide of the path will provide a new understanding of suburban forms and will give as much importance to highways, activity zones and current uses as to places privileged by classical hiking trails (natural spaces, monuments, churches etc.). Instead of going from monument to monument, this trail seeks to contextualize the existing.

## Local Tourism

The spatial interventions and the suburban hiking trail are keen to trigger a new form of local tourism in the PPB. Again, by taking the existing fabric as a fact and granting it its independent value, they provide a new vision and a new experience of the environment rather than a new environment for itself. The installations offer experiences a visitor rarely makes in daily life, such as sleeping on the river banks of the Oise or in a contemporary hut above a highway. Reinforcing the contradictions of the suburban space here becomes a fertile ground for sensitive bodily experiences and triggers a form of local tourism able to discover the exotic just next door. Thus, the PPB could become an area where the visitor can discover the contemporary vernacular landscape. Tours guided by local habitants can reinforce the participatory asset of this form of tourism (other initiatives of this kind are provided by Greeters or Accueil Banlieue in other parts of the Parisian metropolis). Thus, the PPB can become a place where time, people and improvisation matter.

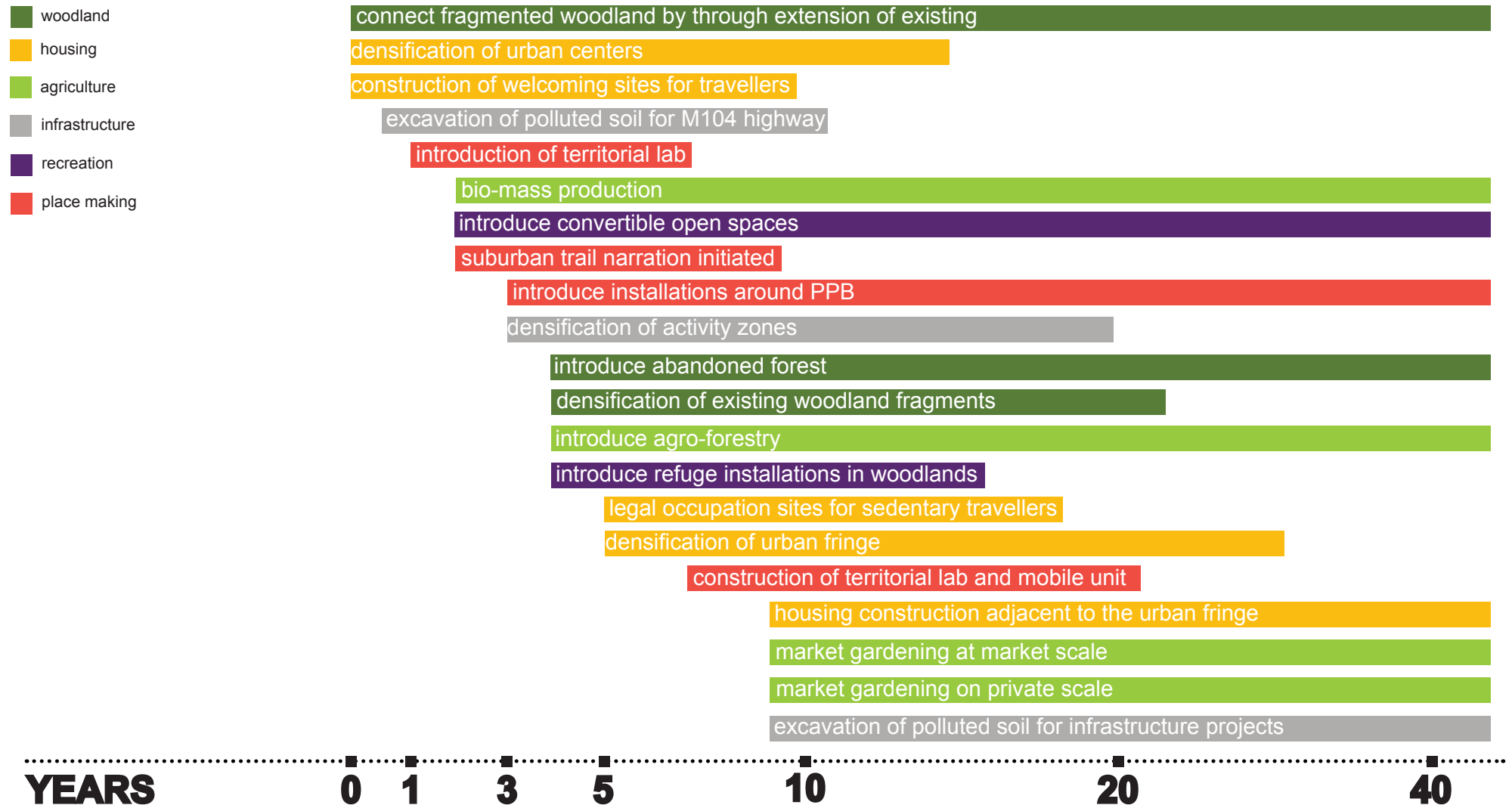
The presence of the café and the restaurant in the lab, other existing infrastructures such as equestrian centers, but also the possibility to sleep over in an unexpected environment, can create a unique set of experiences strongly linked to the territory. In quest of authenticity, the visitor will discover what is purely suburban!



interventions from around the plain

# BUILDING A LANDSCAPE IN TIME

This timeline addresses building a landscape in time through the implementation of a diverse set of interventions. The interventions can happen simultaneously or singularly. The phasing allows the plain to develop according to need and allows time for the plain to mature through time creating a better connection to the existing context and culture of the place.





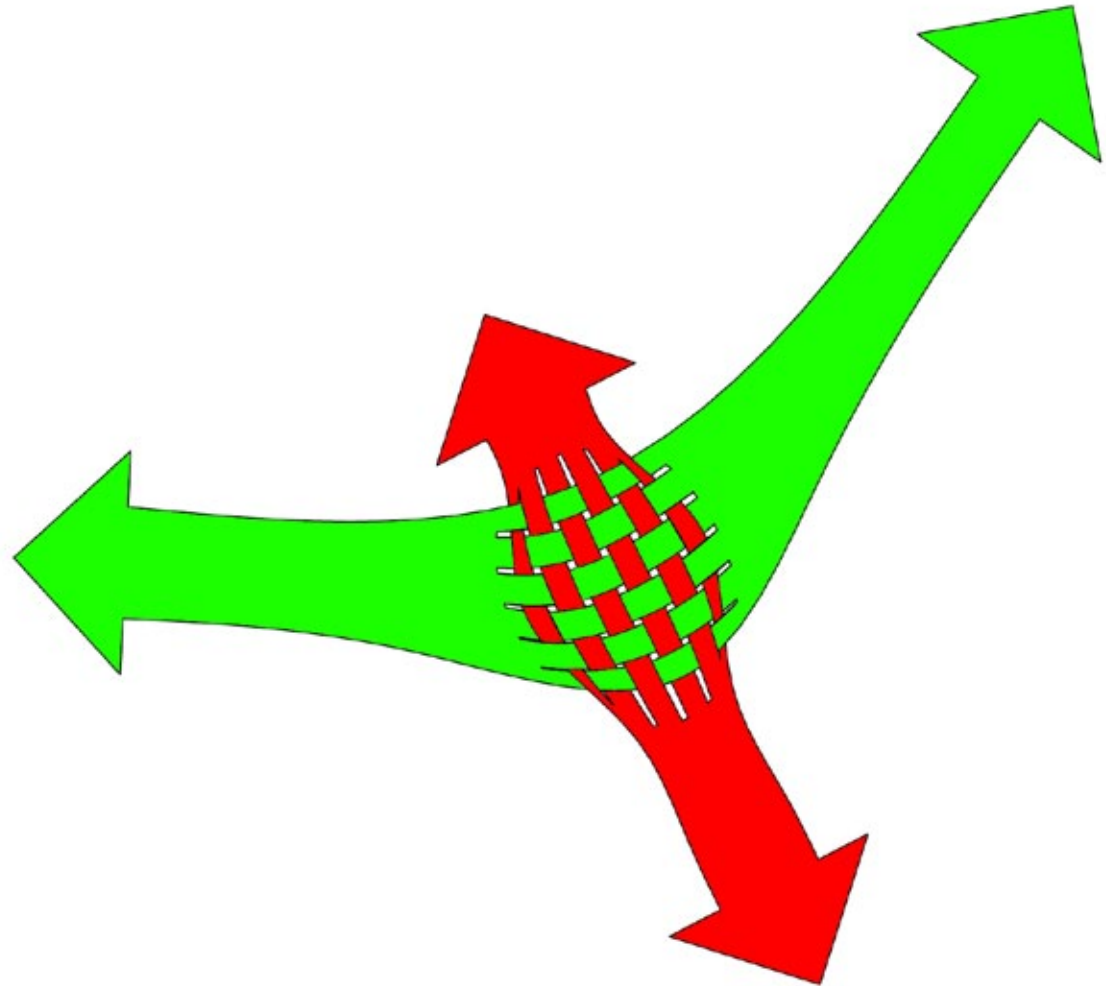
# WOVEN MILIEUS

# WOVEN MILIEUX - MILIEUX ENTREMÊLÉS

## INTRODUCTION

The history of the Plaine de Pierrelaye-Bessancourt is woven with paradoxes. The site 'served' the needs of nearby and distant territories in the Paris Region. The plain has long consisted of a large spreading zone for dirty waters. Linked with water treatment plant the water was used for market production to feed the inhabitants of the constantly agglomerating Paris Region. The site regarded as infertile was fragmented into agricultural parcels... most of which are now polluted with heavy metals (lead, zinc, cadmium). Despite its landscape qualities, this area of almost 2000 hectares became the backyard of the Paris Region and yet it has taken farming activities as one of the primary field for the development of the plain.

Today, this site is waiting for a new structuring at both the local and the metropolitan scale. We propose to reinsert the Plaine de Pierrelaye-Bessancourt on the metropolitan stage, reconnecting the dynamics of urban and regional economic growth whilst maintaining ecological continuity. The bocage pattern will be our tool to interweave these conflicting dynamics. As we do so, our strategy is to convert this in-between plain into a hyphenated territory, increasing the attractiveness of the plain at the local level while integrating the plain into the larger scheme of Greater Paris.





## THE BOCAGE, A CONCEPT EMBODIED IN THE DESIGN

Shaped in the middle ages, the bocage is a rural landscape typology typical of French regions such as Brittany or Normandy. It refers to a terrain of mixed woodland pastures, with fields and winding country lanes sunken between narrow low ridges and banks surmounted by tall thick hedge grows that break the wind. The bocage is thus materialized by a linear forest; it is an embedded network of meadows, hedges, embankments and ditches forming as many 'green corridors' to facilitate the movement of wildlife and flora between the existing forests of the region.

In addition to its ecological importance, the bocage is also a renewable source of timber and fuelwood contributing to generating power. Finally, the natural heritage of the bocage is conducive to the development of an attractive "green tourism", based on 'soft' modes of transport, such as hiking trails, equestrian and biking trails. The bocage serves as an inspiration to weave environmental and economic dynamics on the site of the plain. Within the fragmented Green Belt of the Region of Paris, the Plain de Pierrelaye-Bessancourt is a strategic link of continuity between the forests of Saint-Germain-en-Laye and Montmorency. It also forms a part of a larger ecological corridor.

In addition, we intend to overlay the bocage as a mesh on the plain referring metaphorically to the Grand Paris Seine axis project directed by architect Antoine Grumbach, reviving the maritime and port economy and making Paris a 'global city'; giving it an access to the sea via the Normand cities Rouen and Le Havre.

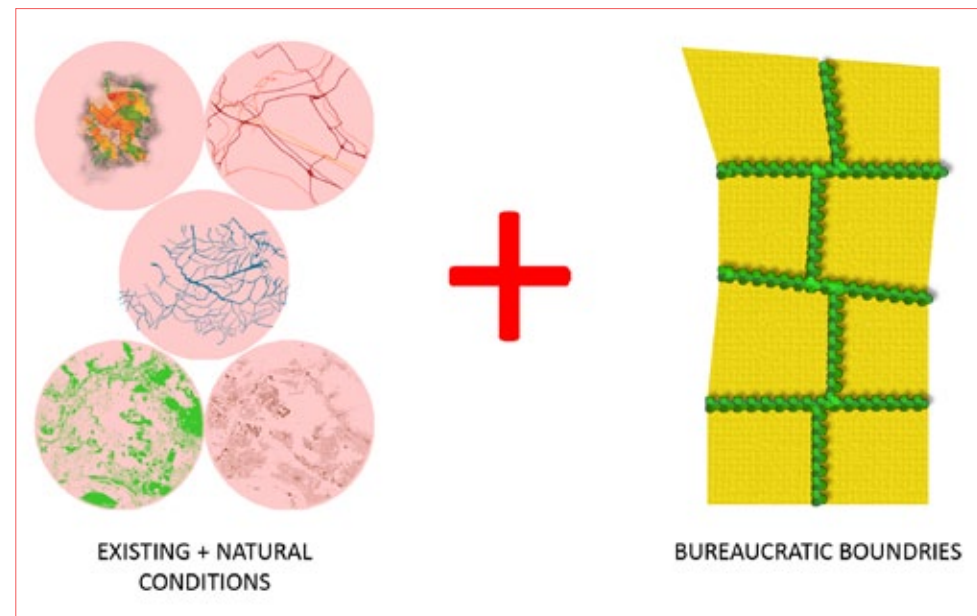
The plain is situated at the crossroads of economic structural axes of the Parisian metropolis. It is part of the eighteen Metropolitan Territories of Interest identified by the Direction Shett for Ile-de-France Region (SDRIF). In our project, bocage is a tool to re-imagine a landscape harmoniously intertwining with agriculture, fragmented forests and the inevitable urbanization of the plain at various scales (local, county, regional and inter-regional).

### POLLUTION AS OPPORTUNITY

We consider the issue of pollution as a lever for development of new uses for the plain. By reversing the perspective, the issue of pollution does not appear as an obstacle but as an opportunity.



A traditional bocage



The bocage pattern on the plain



## INTERWEAVING MILIEUS

The delimitation of areas (agriculture, forest, urban milieus) that we propose in our schematic plan is based on invisible layers, corresponding to the existing conditions (distribution of polluted areas, installation of infrastructure, housing areas and industries) and natural conditions (location of wooded areas, run-off lines).

### LEGEND

-  BOCACHE
-  FOREST
-  WOODLAND
-  AGRICULTURE
-  FLORICULTURE
-  URBAN GROWTH AREA
-  INDUSTRIAL GROWTH AREA
-  EXISTING URBAN CENTRES
-  EXISTING RAILWAY STATIONS

## AGRICULTURE

One of the primary issues of the project is to preserve the agricultural heritage of the site. We imagine innovative and non-consumable agro-farming which could be a link to some of the existing projects within the metropolitan region. Preserving agriculture on the site is also a way to keep some open spaces in the plain, a rare commodity in the Parisian region. We propose to focus on the culture of flowers 'metallophyte', which means flowers that can tolerate high levels of heavy metals.

Floriculture would re-introduce agriculture of the plain into new industries, including the pharmaceutical industry (as biocatalysts) and the cosmetics industry (see below). Synergies could be created between actors of these innovative sectors and laboratories of research and higher education institutes in Grand West Paris



Flowers metallophyte: *cardaminopsis halleri*, *armeria maritima*, *arabidopsis halleri*, *viola calaminaria*, *agrostis capillaris*, *arrhenatherum elatius*, *holcus lanatus*, *thlaspi caerulescens*, *calaminae*, *silene vulgaris*, *minuartia verna*, *festuca valesiaca*, *festuca ovina*.

University (PRES), which signed the Framework Agreement of Territorial Development Contract (TDC) of Confluence<sup>1</sup>.

The future port d'Achère Seine Métropole, in Andresy, Conflans Saint Honorine and Achère will be an opportunity to facilitate the logistics of the production. The port will be a complement to the road and rail network in the area.

<sup>1</sup> France's 20 PRES are clusters of universities, specialized schools, and research organizations. The cluster structure enables members of the cluster to combine their activities and resources. The PRES University Grand Ouest was created in 2012 by Cergy-Pontoise University and Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines university. It counts 10 universities and research laboratories located in the western part of the Region of Paris.

## FLORICULTURE

The first option we propose is the floriculture in farming parcels. The advantage of flowers is they permit to combine several functions:

- o Planted along pathways or in ornamental gardens, sometimes in glasshouses in some agricultural parcel, flowers offer a sensory experience of the landscape.
- o In denser forest area, wild flowers will diversify the landscape and rebuild the ecosystem.
- o For some parcels in the North of the plain, where there no pollution, flowers can become a source of recreation for visitors who could make their own bouquet on site. It could also generate revenue for the site.
- o As we have a polluted soil, we will plant metallophyte flowers. These flowers could insert the plain in a new economic dynamics as the plain is located in the Cosmetic Valley. It comprises a competitive cluster group of 300 companies in cosmetic sector on six departments of three regions (Centre, Paris region and Haute Normandie) and seven universities. Sisley implanted its research center at Saint-Ouen l'Aumône and Clarins has a laboratory in Pontoise.
- o In contrary to the history of the plain, the Plaine de Pierrelaye-Bessancourt could be a paradox to its past by promoting floriculture and departing away from its pollution concerns.

## MISCANTHUS

Miscanthus is a perennial plant (up to 20 years), which produces a lot of biomass (15-20 t / ha) but which keeps the pollutants to the ground.

The main utilization of the miscanthus is in generating the biomass energy, coir and mulch. Some research centers are working also on new utilizations like plant-based plastic and agro-materials for construction.

The urban community 2 Rives de Seine would like to preserve a 150 hectares for the project 'Green-Heart' in the middle of the Chanteloup les Vignes loop – a project that was started in 2009. The aim is to rehabilitate the polluted soil and develop a new agriculture based on agro-materials and energy crops.

The first attempt on a 8 hectares parcel gave some positive results which encouraged the partners of this project to expand the farm.

In future, farmers on the plain could diverge from current production fodder the production of miscanthus combined with other non-consumable farming.

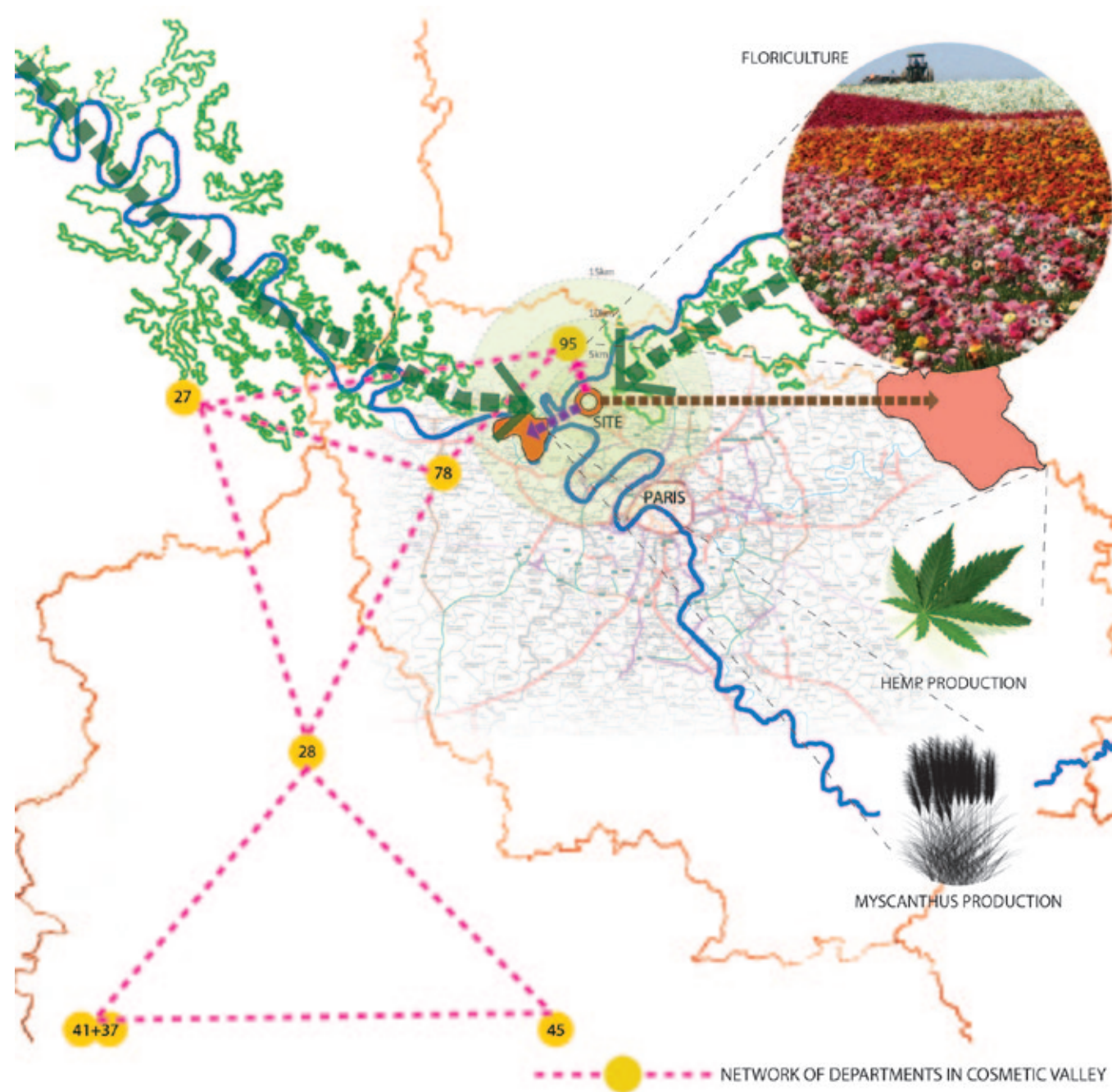
## HEMP

Hemp is a plant which has characteristics similar to miscanthus. The growth of hemp doesn't require phytosanitary treatments or irrigation.

Its main utilization are: hemp seed, fiber (insulating material) and boon (pulp used as mulch with good absorption capacity, or used in construction).

In Chanteloup-en-Brie, in Seine et Marne department, 10 farmers join the 'Planète Chanvre' association. Planète Chanvre produces and transform this promising material.

Through its involvement in hemp farming, the Plaine de Pierrelaye-Bessancourt will consequently become a part of the pioneering project of the bio-material production at the metropolitan scale



The plain in the middle of economics dynamics

## FOREST

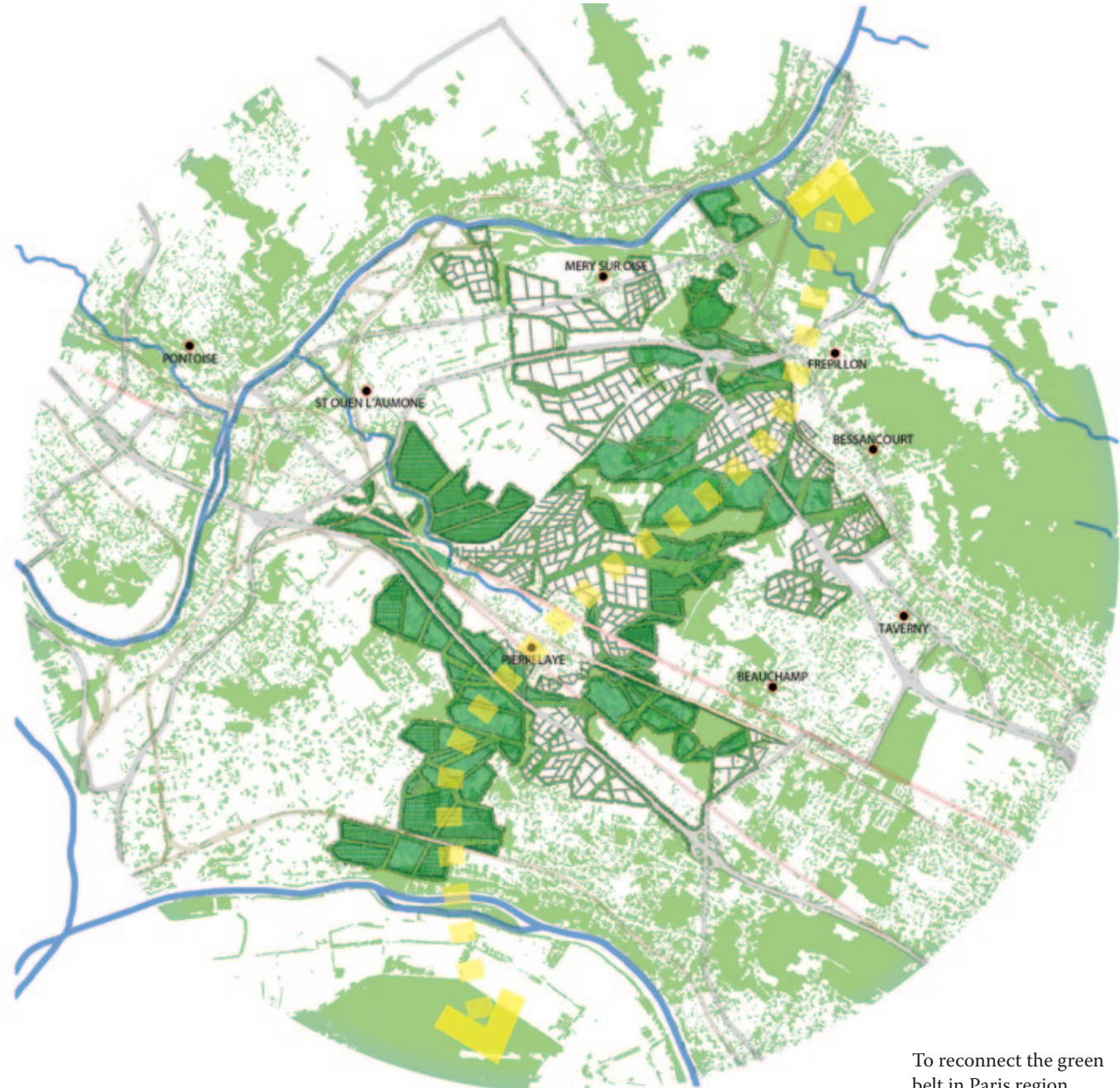
As we recreate the design links of a larger forest on the plain, which is currently divided between a natural wooded region and urban fringes (residential, commercial, industrial and skilled worker's areas), is disconnected by road and rail networks. Hemming agricultural plots, housing, existing and projected travel areas; the future forest aims to transform the currently 'in-between' into a constantly evolving plain.

The wooded structure has allowed us to imagine different types of afforestation strategies for the plain, creating diverse moods and uses:

- Compact forests created on certain parcels of the plain increase the existing forest thickness, and helps reconnect the forests of Saint Germain-en-Laye with Montmorency.
- From some key nodes sparse-linear forest offers visitors some dramatic views of the wooded structure of the plain. Through these sparse spaces play areas, picnic or camping sites etc. can be arranged.
- Hiking, biking and horse riding trails will meander through the bocage in the plain connecting diverse points within the territory.

The tree species that are best adapted to the contaminated soil are plain birch (*Betula*), the black locust (*Robinia Pseudoacacia*), white willow (*Salix Alba*) and black alder (*Alnus Glutinosa*).

Source: "Intérêt du phytomanagement dans la gestion durable des sols pollués - recherche des mécanismes biologiques de transfert et de localisation de Cd, Pb, Zn, dans les strates herbacées et arborées", Thèse de Géraldine Bidar soutenue à l'Université du Littoral - Côte d'Opale le 13.11.2007



To reconnect the green belt in Paris region

## URBAN

The expansion of urbanization is inevitable. By 2030 the population of Paris is expected to grow in the range of 800,000 to 1.8 million people (according to forecast by SDRIF). The demographics of the seven towns of the plain has continually incremented since 1975 until 2006<sup>1</sup>, and the urbanization of the fringes of the plain intends to contribute to the regional effort of housing by constructing 6,000 to 8,000 units in 2030. Our proposal of bocage is an alternative to the undesired consumption of natural territories by urban sprawl. Our project involves the urbanization of the plain, by creating a continuous interspersing of natural and urban spaces.

Concernant la question de l'habitat formel, On the issue of formal housing,

<sup>1</sup> Growth rate of 35% for municipalities, and 28% in the department over the same period, higher than that of the region (15%). Source: Context Document, p.45.

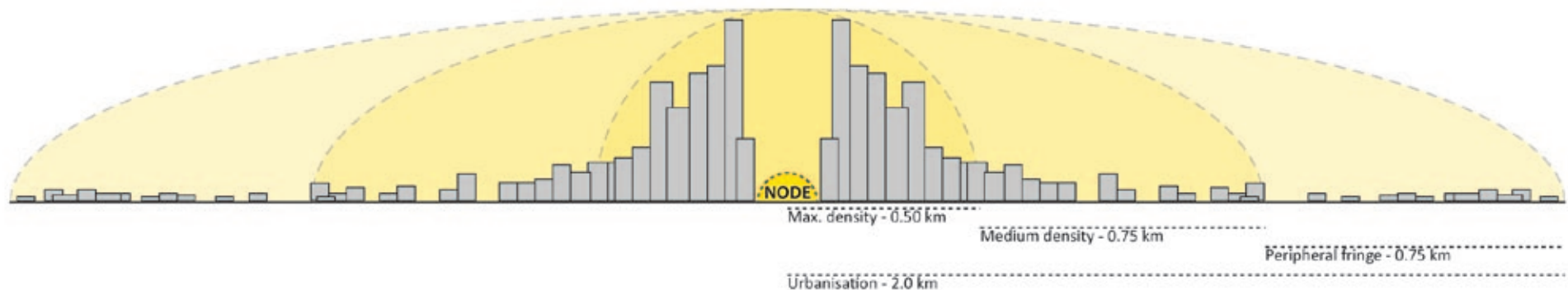
we encourage densification of urban fringe around the critical nodes like the stations surrounding municipalities and the commercial area of the RD-14. The intermediate belt comprises of smaller apartments – typically up to four storied. This typology consumes little space. It also helps to balance the privacy of each dwelling unit with the outdoor spaces, and qualitative proximity to urban facilities and services.

We also reflected on the landscape integration of halting sites for travelers, which municipalities with more than 5,000 inhabitants are required to create. These areas are often located close to road and rail infrastructure as they are aloof spaces. By having the bocage pattern through the urban, the project allows some privacy to the occupants of the residing areas, detaching from the the nuisance of traffic.

On volume, our proposal favours the development of larger areas and less in number over development of fragments of smaller spaces.

The industrial zone B ethunes is bound to develop eastward. Located in the most polluted area of the plain, this area could accommodate research labs related to agricultural activities. These could include research labs dedicated to analyse progression of soil contamination. Laboratories attached to the PRES Universit e Paris Grand West could also be asked to settle here.

Densify the existing nodes

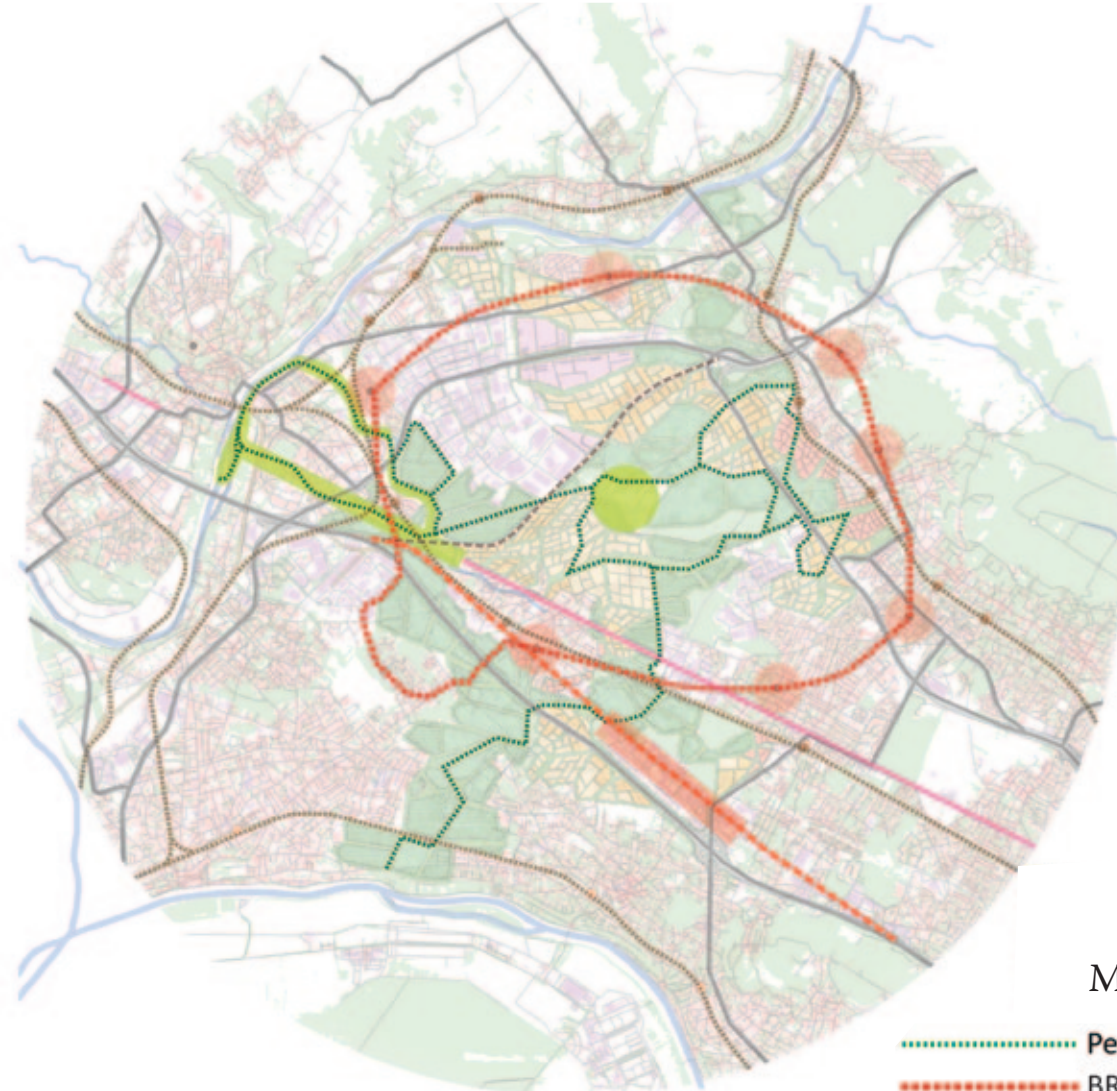


## INFRASTRUCTURES

Existing and planned infrastructures are integrated within the bocage landscape, they include:

- The A 115 in anticipation of future urbanisation of the north-eastern fringe of the plain, at the junction of the A 115 and D 409, forests are lined, and are designed to act as visual and sound barriers.
- A 104 addresses the integration of Paris in the future landscape of the plain in two ways - The Paris region is elevated to the west of the plain, thereby providing a view of the bocage. The linear density of the vegetation intensifies at the industrial zone in Béthunes while at times there would be openings through thick vegetation of the landscaped vistas in distance. The highway runs in between the farmlands, with framed views along the drive of proposed floriculture on the territory.
- As part of the National Economic driven MEDDTL Territories Workshop<sup>1</sup>, a BRT was proposed on the RD 14. Consisting 230,000sqm of retail space, the commercial area of the RD14 is easily accessible from A 15, and is well known across the Ile-de-France. We take advantage of our project to integrate the proposed BRT corridor and also create a loop to connect the seven municipalities of the plain. This would therefore encourage public commute around the plain.

<sup>1</sup> See MEDDTL website - [www.territoires.gouv.fr/spip.php?article3264](http://www.territoires.gouv.fr/spip.php?article3264)

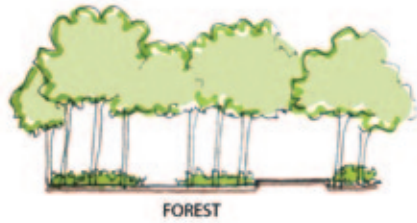


### Mobility

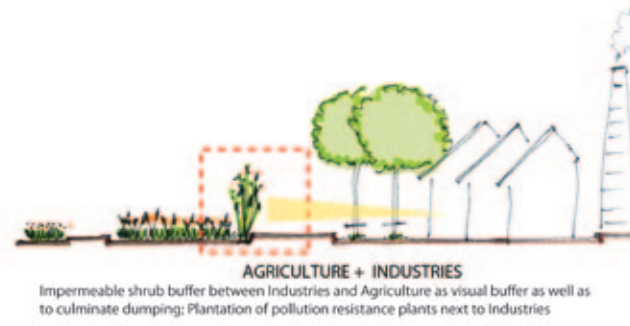
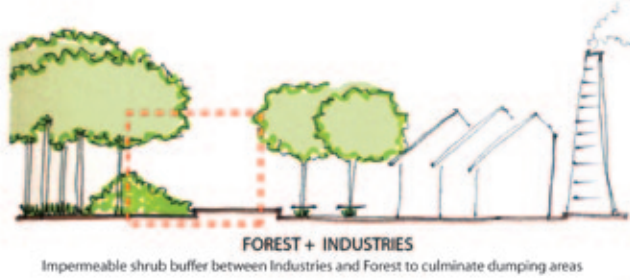
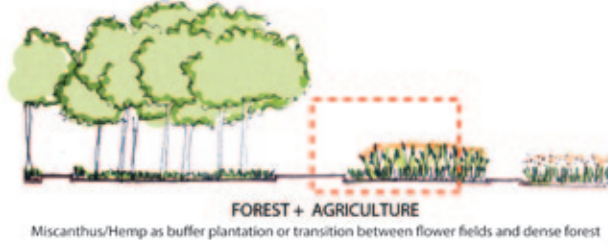
- ..... Pedestrian network
- BRT Loop
- Proposed BRT RD 14
- ..... Rail network
- Julius Ceasar Rd.
- A 104
- Highway network

# TYOLOGIES

## SCENARIOS



## TYOLOGIES







FOREST + HOUSING + INDUSTRIES



FOREST + HOUSING + AGRICULTURE



FOREST + INDUSTRIES + AGRICULTURE



FOREST + INDUSTRIES + HOUSING



INDUSTRIES + AGRICULTURE + HOUSING



INDUSTRIES + HOUSING + AGRICULTURE



INDUSTRIES + AGRICULTURE + FOREST

## TO REVEAL AN EVOLVING LANDSCAPE

Plain de Pierrelaye-Bessancourt project will promote the form of a linear forest intertwined with agriculture, inherited character of the plain and the urban infrastructure.

The landscapes change with seasons and time due to the diversification of agriculture, forest growth and harmonious densification of urban fringes within the plain. This constant mutation represents the integral core of this of this project.

A study by the FIFG on behalf of the National Agency of green spaces in 2011<sup>1</sup> indicates that the majority of Parisians opt for small forest close to home, a demand that is clearly an issue of improving quality of life by increasing urban green spaces in the area. The trails proposed are well developed along the agricultural parcels from the beginning of the project, allowing the development of a 'green' local tourism. Located off Pierrelaye the undeveloped portion of the carpeted Julius Caesar road can be recreated by a permanent work of

<sup>1</sup> Survey 'Les Franciliens et leurs forêts' (En: The Parisians and forests), published on 13.04.2011, available on the website of FIFG

art evoking the development of the plot of this historic Roman road. The foundations laid by surveyors to facilitate the path angles can be symbolically represented by elements like light fixtures, revealing a night vision the territory.

Floriculture changes the face of the plain which was primarily known for its fetid exhalations. Finally as part of the evolution of the project, a garden festival can be held every year, like the festival of Chaumont sur Loire garden festival or Métis in Canada. Ephemeral landscapes can transform this territory.

When the trees have reached maturity, the Plaine de Pierrelaye-Bessancourt will become a metropolitan destination, popular for its contrasting landscapes.





## CONCLUSION

The history of the Plaine de Pierrelaye-Bessancourt is of woven paradoxes, and so is the proposed future...

- The Plaine de Pierrelaye-Bessancourt was formerly known as a dumping area for sewage of the urbanized Paris region and the site would be labeled as a protected forest of Greater Paris .
- The primary purpose of agriculture is to meet the food needs of man. By adopting a non-consumable agriculture strategy, the plain retains its agricultural character while remaining in innovative sectors.
- The bocage typically is a landscape structure based on the segmentation of plots, which are fenced hedges. Reinvented in our territory, the bocage creates links between different environments, natural and urban, ensuring a seamless continuity in the proposed naturalistic landscape.

• The proposal focuses on floriculture, thus giving a new image and a new flavor to this ancient land known for spreading effluent. In this respect, the example site of Lake Xochimilco in Mexico District offers interesting perspectives. The site was heavily polluted by industrial and domestic sewage between 1970 until 1980. Joined in 1987 as World Heritage by UNESCO , this former agricultural plain is today renowned for its horticultural activity, the festival of hanging gardens and a tourist destination.

With these interspersing of media and paradoxes, our project restores balance in the Plaine de Pierrelaye-Bessancourt. More than a passing space, the plain is set to evolve into a metropolitan destination.



**TROMBINOSCOPE**

**MEMBERS OF THE JURY**

**THE WORKSHOP  
IN PICTURES**

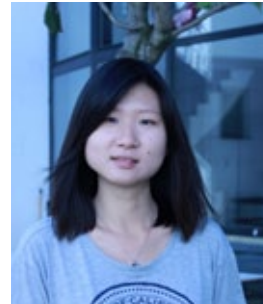
## TEAM A



### **NAWAL BEAUGUITTE**

26 \* FRANCE \* ARCHITECT \*  
N.BEAUGUITTE@GMAIL.COM

From Alsace, I like to walk, eat, make tea and read the dictionary. In search of harmony between man and nature, I am fascinated by the mixture of disciplines. Turn my head and my hands to infuse meaning to the territory with a hint of radical ideas to stir the minds day.



### **LINGYUE ANNE CHEN**

27 \* CHINA \* LANDSCAPE ARCH .  
URBAN DESIGN\* ANNECOCHAN@GMAIL.COM

I grew up in China and am currently a graduate student at UC Berkeley studying urban design. The complexity across all scales and layers of man-made environment fascinates me and brought me from the undergraduate study of architecture and landscape architecture to the field of urban design. One important motivation in both my study and professional experience is to make possible wild and playful imagination with the solid support of rationale and systematic tactics, and in the end communicating ideas by beautiful and effective visualization.



### **CLAUDIA CORDERO**

28 \* COLOMBIA \* BUSINESS ADMINIST. \*  
CLAUDIA.CORDERO@GMAIL.COM

With formation in Business Management and Electronics, I have enjoyed experiences that got me closer to the issues of innovation, R&D and high-growth enterprises. Those experiences have been in engineering projects, creation of new business unities, and contributions in academic activities related with innovation and entrepreneurship. I enjoy sharing time for developing new ideas to solve problems, and passionate about identifying business prospects connected with social responsibility..cordero@gmail.com



### **CHRISTOPHE KLUTH**

25 \* FRANCE \*ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES \*  
CHRISTOPHE.KLUTH@GMAIL.COM

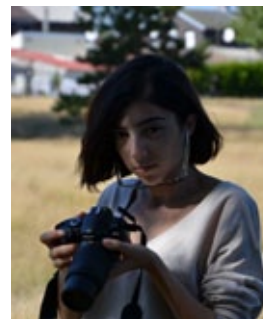
Young graduate (2012) of an Environmental Sciences Master at Cergy-Pontoise University, I want to work in the management for sustainable development. Also, as inhabitant of Parsis "Communauté d'Agglomération", I want to participate to a workshop dealing with an area, the Plaine de Pierrelaye, I go through everyday. This would provide me a real experience in urbanism that I would later use for sustainable and comfortable developments of other territories.



### **AKIRA NINOMIYA**

23 \* JAPAN \* ARCHITECT \*  
AKIRA.NINOMIYA1014@GMAIL.COM

After majoring architecture, I've started my master program in urban design and planning at Waseda University in Japan, and came to France this year as an exchange student at ENSAPLV. As I have lived in many influential cities, that experience started fascinating me in the urban affairs. Especially, the natural disaster and accident of nuclear plant in the North-East Japan in 2011 made me decide to work in this field. Citing my past works: the reconstruction planning of Namie city in Fukushima, the disaster prevention planning in Shinjuku Tokyo, research of traditional planning methodology of ancient asian cities etc...



### **RAAD ALINE**

27 \* LEBANON \* ARCHITECT . URBAN PLANNER \*  
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Holding a master of Architecture degree, my fascination with cities led me to study Urban Planning at the Lebanese Academy of fine Arts in Beirut. Having participated in several workshops & International competitions, I aspire to broaden my studies and further develop my education in urban theory; I am interested in particular with regeneration, preservation, and political and cultural geography. I draw influence from the works of Urban theorists such as Rem Koolhaas and Lebbeus Woods, as well as the Beat Generation writers particularly Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac.

## TEAM B



### TARŌ AWANO

22 \* JAPAN \* ARCHITECT \* AWTR.1205@GMAIL.COM

I'm studying architectural design in the Kyoto University in Japan. Nowadays, even if I work in a architectural design laboratory, I'm not only interested in architecture, but also in other fields such as art, landscape and urban planning. Indeed, I believe there are a lot of possibilities in collaborations with people from other fields or other countries. So I'm looking forward to working on this exciting subject and having discussions with the other participants coming from all over the world.



### SOFYA BERISHVILI

25 \* GEORGIA \* ARCHITECT \*  
SOPIOBERISHVILI@YAHOO.COM

My background to date has been centred around preparing myself to become a competent and informed architect, what means to be good not only in architecture and art, but in urban planning, sociology and ecology fields. From all my work experience, I want to emphasize my experience in urban planning, that is the most topical field of interests for me. At last, let me emphasize some of my personal qualities, which permit and help me in my profession, such as hardworking, integrity, analytics and optimism.



### MAXIME DORVILLE

27 \* FRANCE \* GEOGRAPHY. URBAN PLANNING \*  
MAXIME.DORVILLE@GMAIL.COM

Holding a Master in Urban Planning and a BA in geography and planning. I appreciate the dynamics of teamwork and the multi-disciplinary approaches that my profession generates. My academic and professional experiences have allowed me to acquire a variety of skills in the fields of urban planning and development especially in the field of territorial diagnosis, & problem highlighting, and project design. Along with my studies and my work, I am also interested in the themes of urban renewal, strategic planning, uses and production of public spaces.



### JONATHAN FEAKINS

30 \* USA \* GEOGRAPHY . URBAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
STUDIES \* J\_FEAKINS@YAHOO.COM

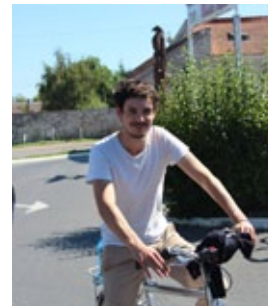
I'm a simple city kid, and have spent my life trying to do good deeds and learn amazing things. Thus far, this has entailed working in space camps, anatomy museums, oceanographic research vessels, insect labs, historical research, salvage yards, design studios, graduate schools, bookstores, and language cafes. I enjoy science, dancing, and ice cream.



### ESHA KUNDU

26 \* INDIA \* URBAN DESIGNER \*  
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Having born and brought up in Delhi, the city is like my «teacher», as my experiences and observations are what I have imbibed in me, the rich cultural traditions and values. Completed my undergraduate in Architecture from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Jammu and currently, pursuing Master's in Urban Design at CEPT University. The school has also helped me in instilling in me the critical thinking process, broaden my school of thought and skills; but still have a long way to go as I believe learning is an unending process.



### VICTOR MEESTERS

27 \* FRANCE \* LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT \*  
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I come from the Gâtinais (France), I like to walk, cook, prepare a coffee and read the newspaper. Looking for an echo between man and its environment, I have a passion on crossing disciplines, mix knowledge, and learn from all cultures. In gesture and in images, I try to recover simple things of communal life. Activate my hands, and my head farer from discourses, to instil poetry and desire into the social link with the idea of a shares active politics.

## TEAM C



### **SANGHAMITRA BARTHAKUR**

26 \* INDIA \* URBAN DESIGNER \*  
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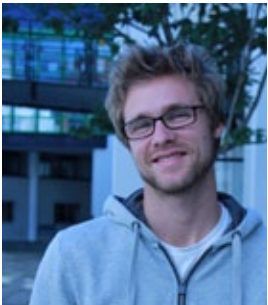
Being born in the north-eastern part of India which has been struggling over the years to see the light of development and traveling through cities pacing fast with the world in the race, It took me some time to understand the changes that were brought into with every city that I settled in. Somewhere I kept questioning myself, where are we heading to? Will there be a time when we would merge into one with no traces of distinction, no identity? And this really makes me wonder what could be the future.



### **ANASTASSIA BIZINA**

22 \* FRANCE \* GEOGRAPHY \*  
ANASTASSIA.BIZINA@ESSEC.EDU

Since the preparatory class, I have been interested in issues related to planning: I was already in khâgne specializing in geography. I chose to enter the Urban Economics Chair in order to acquire a more «economic» vision, & understand the complicated local governments' organisations. What fascinates me most is the influence of the development on the inhabitants of a territory. Les Ateliers is a great experience as I particularly appreciate to meet people and discover new cultures.



### **JENS DENISSEN**

25 \* GERMANY \* URBAN & REGIONAL STUDIES . THEORY  
OF LANDSCAPE ARCH \* DENISSENJENS@GMAIL.COM

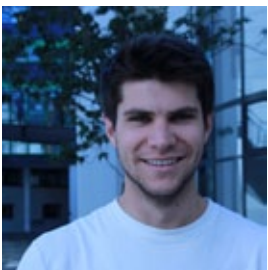
I grew up in a little german village, but I've been in France for 8 years. I studied political science & urban studies in Paris, and got an MA in Landscape Theory at the National Landscape School of Versailles. I give a lot of importance to a human approach of the territory. To the fertile link between practice and theory, space and time. I like to walk, to stop, to look, to wonder. I discover the metropolitan area of Paris by feet in order to get a better understanding of it before trying to transmit a new approach towards our environment.



### **MARION FRANQUET**

24 \* FRANCE \* URBAN DESIGNER \*  
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After an initial degree in geography I turned towards urban design and planning (Grenoble, France) where my interests were on prospective and territorial strategies. Recently graduated, I worked 6 months in a studio of urban design in Bangalore. I like discovering and I always looking for some new challenges.



### **JACOB KUCHARSKI**

23 \* USA \* LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT \*  
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A native of Phoenix, Arizona and graduate of the Landscape Architecture Program at the University of Oregon currently living & working in Seattle Washington, I am passionate about design that forms relationships between the human experience and context. I see design as a way to illustrate the story of place and believe in the power of graphic representation to tell that story. I am interested in the complexity of different functions that exist within the landscape and use design to enhance and emphasize these functions as a way to represent their context.



### **KONSTANTIN ZDYSHEV**

23 \* RUSSIA \* URBAN PLANNER . ARCHTECT \*  
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Architect, freshly graduated from ISTU. My passion for architecture appeared since my first studying course, when I took part in different contests and festivals in Irkutsk and Krasnoyarsk. The last semester of my education was at the Technical University of Vienna with an Erasmus Mundus scholarship. In Les Ateliers I want to share my skills with other participants, and I strongly believe, that they will give me their knowledge and experience to become a valuable specialist in the field of architecture. I'm pretty sure that teamwork and the exchange of skills between young specialists is the engine of progress.



## TEAM D



### **JULIETTE DELATTRE**

**27 \* FRANCE \* POLITICAL SCIENCES \*  
JULIETTEDELATTRE@GMAIL.COM**

Trained in social science research, it was while living in Brazil that I started to wonder about the “making of” of the city. After returning to France, I became interested about the urban issues, and started using tools for reflection on urban society to explore the problems that the urban planner faces. With a critical reading of the urban spaces in the operational approach of the project, my successive experiences have allowed me to consider urban issues in all their complexity. Crossing spaces facilitates the understanding of a territory; I am thus a tireless “urban walker”.



### **PRESSCILIA LANGEVIN**

**25 \* FRANCE \* SOCIOLOGY . URBAN PLANNER \*  
LANGEVIN.PRESCILIA@GMAIL.COM**

After my degrees in Sociology and urban planning, this two matters sustain the thinking about the improve cities living conditions for inhabitants. My master in Grenoble urban institute gave me the chance to participate at foreign workshops in Europe. As I would like to prolong in an international context, I choose to start my professional life in Montreal, Canada where I was working in local development. Today, I came back to France. This workshop is for me the possibility to stay in a multicultural situation ... without my plane ticket being too expansive.



### **JOSEPH NDI NDJALI**

**28 \* CAMEROUN \* ARCHITECT URBAN PLANNER \*  
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I am a final year student at the EAMAU. In nature sympathique and very involved in community networks I participated in Porto-novo workshop 2011 and 2012, and at the mission of les ateliers in Douala 2012. My participation in the Cergy 2013 workshop will be an opportunity for me to contribute to the reflection on one of the territories of the Grand Paris.



### **SHANTESH KELVEKAR**

**27 \* INDIA \* LANDSCAPE URBANIST \*  
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After studying architecture, I gained experience in ecological planning and further went on to study Landscape Urbanism from the Architectural Association, London. . My interest lies in studying society and communal behavior, and its impact on perception of physical space. I maintain a blog “readinggrounds”. I believe academic knowledge in diverse disciplines along with research and practice provides us an ability to delve holistically. Therefore I tend to approach projects from a philosophical as well as a rational stand.



### **LEILA MOKHTAR**

**25 \* FRANCE \* ENGINEER \*  
L.MOKHTARBENOUNANE@ISTOM.NET**

After a Bachelor’s degree in biology and geology, I tried to develop my studies and passions. Future engineer in agro-development, I have the opportunity today to participate to missions all over the world so different but aspiring all to the same purpose: share knowledge and skills to know better the world which surrounds us. Study of the edible insects’s sector in Thailand and in Laos, valuation of products and co-products of the coconut palm in Madagascar, evolution of the access to the drinking water and to the purification in Algeria... Every experience teaches me a little more about myself and on all of you.



### **PREETANSHI SINGH**

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My interest lies in landscape conservation and management, ecology restoration and environmental planning. As a designer I’m involved in creating artwork from recycling materials. My strong suit is strategy planning and analytical research work. I am an avid traveller and an architectural photographer. I am also involved in writing articles for Landscape journals in India. I constantly search for newer limits and ways to meet them. I am an active participant in various multidisciplinary works.

## STAFF MEMBERS



### CLAIRE VIGE HELIE

FRANCE \* DIRECTOR \* [CLAIRE.VIGEHHELIE@ATELIERS.ORG](mailto:CLAIRE.VIGEHHELIE@ATELIERS.ORG)

I studied the urban economy in a business school, ESSEC, and I worked in the field of transport and infrastructure management. Then I spent 2 years in Mexico working on projects of urban development and infrastructure for the French Development Agency. I discovered “Les Ateliers” in Cergy in 2008, participating in a workshop session on the crossing of cities by large infrastructure, then being an assistant in a workshop in Manchuria. I Rode for good with “Les Ateliers” in 2012 for new adventures, Benin, Mexico, India and Cameroon. I love discovering new cities, find my way, and finding breathtaking places.



### LÉA MORFOISSE

FRANCE \* DEPUTY DIRECTOR \*  
[LEA.MORFOISSE@ATELIERS.ORG](mailto:LEA.MORFOISSE@ATELIERS.ORG)

I discovered my interest in urban issues during my stay in Vietnam in 2009/2010. After completing a Masters in Political Science in June 2011, I joined “Les Ateliers” team to participate in the organization of the international seminar and the student workshop at Cergy on the theme «Revealing and staging the metropolitan landscape». I also participated in February 2012 in the student workshop in Irkutsk (Siberia). I love living abroad, learning new languages, experiencing new situations in life, and I’m always open to encounters and adventures.



### PATRICE BERTHE

FRANCE \* URBAN PLANNER \* WORKSHOP PILOT \*  
[PATRICE.BERTHE@ALICEADSL.FR](mailto:PATRICE.BERTHE@ALICEADSL.FR)

Trained as a Civil Engineer and Urban Planner at INSA Lyon, I started working in 1977 for the city of Montreuil and became Director of urban services in 1986. Having acquired a taste for planning, I decided to devote myself to it and became in 1999 the executive vice president of planning of the city of Saint Denis. In 2002, I became the director of the Association of Local Authorities of the Eastern Paris (ACTEP), with 21 municipalities, representing 730,000 people. In 2009, I joined the General Council of Seine-et-Marne. I have been involved with les Ateliers since 2010.



### JIMMY LEISER

BELGIUM \* ARCHITECT . URBAN PLANNER\* WORKSHOP  
PILOT \* [JIMMYLEISER@YAHOO.FR](mailto:JIMMYLEISER@YAHOO.FR)

With the association «Movement Chemineurs» we took part in an exhibition at the Pavillon de l’Arsenal (Paris). I worked on intermodality issues within AREP agency. Also within a public-private company (SEMAPA), which gave me an insight on operational mechanisms used to create development zones. My work in an agency dealt with public spaces planning. I define myself as being curious, dynamic and passionate by the world and by urban mechanisms. Before being a pilot, I have been with les Ateliers in the professional workshop in Thies, Senegal in October 2012.



### GEORGIA BAGAOUI-MEYER

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Geographer - urban planner, the choices made during my career and during various trips, led me to take interest in the existing and potential relationships between territories and their actors. Excited by the process of workshops, I hope to be able to continue on moving in this broad field of territorial development in a partnership and multidisciplinary approach. I am willing to give both my professional and personal life, participating in projects that accompany change.



### SAMER HAYEK

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I would say I’m a multidisciplinary person. I always like to experience new things and work in as many fields as possible. From architecture, my original profession, to Product design & scenic design, as well as urban planning and landscape design and many more to come. I also have a passion for discovering new cultures new people and learning new languages. A free soul, I like to spread my wings and let the wind carry me, just as it did with “les ateliers” starting from a participant in the Irkutsk (Siberia) workshop in 2010 to a head assistant in the same workshop in 2012 and now as an assistant in Cergy,

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### GABRIELE SOLAZZI

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I'm an urban planner and a PhD candidate in Planning and Public Policies at the IUAV University in Venice, Italy. I work for urban planning studios, research institutes and at the Polytechnic of Milan as assistant in different urban planning workshops. I worked on plans, projects, public spaces, metropolitan territories and disadvantaged neighbourhoods. I love walking around in cities and having unexpected encounters. Curious and passionate, I like to help out.



### PRISCILLA MALANDA

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I am currently studying event Planning after getting a BA in Cultural Mediation at the Sorbonne Nouvelle. Professionally, I aim to work in the cultural field of which I am particularly fond. I am also passionate about traveling and discovering other cultures. I also love photography and music which allow me to keep a free spirit in life. I practice swimming and Wii Fit in my spare time when I'm not with my friends.



### MARCELLINE DELBECQ

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After studying photography in Columbia College and New York (ICP), I received an MA in curatorial studies from Université de Paris X-Nanterre. I was in residency at Pavillon in Palais de Tokyo in 2005 and was the French resident at Triangle in Brooklyn in 2007-2008. I gradually moved away from photography to focus on the cinematic potential of writing. I uses both narrative and narrator to create an uncanny world where texts, turned into sound, generate mental images shifting from description to fiction. Voices act like voice-overs to cinematic narratives where words, transformed into visions, call the whole act of beholding into question.



### SAMEH ARFAOUI

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Born in 1987 in Tunis, Sameh studied English for International Relations and had a B.A. in Space Design. She is now completing a master degree on heritage and museography, at the Faculty of Letters, Arts and Humanities of Manouba. Passionate of photography, she is active within the cultural and associative scene. Sameh participated in several exhibitions and festivals, in Tunisia and cities such as Perpignan, Madrid, Maribor, Sao Paulo, Montreal, etc.



### PENELOPE BRUNETTI DAVIDSON

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Student at ESSEC, after an economic preparatory class, I am currently doing a pre-master internship. In fact, since I was born in Paris, I've always been intrigued and admiring the spectacle of the buzz of urban life. After numerous trips to Europe and a mission for several months in Latin America, I am particularly interested in the relationship between urban, economic and social development.



### STEPHANE THIDET

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Born Paris on 20 May 1974. Lives in Paris and works at Auber-villiers. Graduated from the Ecole nationale supérieure des beaux-arts, Paris in 2002 and the Ecole supérieure des beaux-arts, Rouen in 1996. Teacher in Ecole supérieure des beaux-arts, Clermont-Ferrand (space and volume).

## MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL JURY

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