

# THE SEINE RIVER BASIN AS A GREAT PARK SYSTEM

Plaidoyer pour un grand Jardin Séquanien

Bertrand Warnier - Philip Enquist - Drew Wensley

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

5	FOREWORD BY ERIK ORSENNA
6	THE FLOW TO RECOVERY
10	THE ORIGINAL APPROACH
12	WHO IS THIS AN APPEAL TO?
14	A VISION FOR THE 21 <sup>ST</sup> CENTURY: A TREE OF LIFE
22	TECHNICAL EXPLOITS ARE NO LONGER SUFFICIENT
24	SMALL ACTIONS WITH A BIG IMPACT: <i>"LA GOUTTE D'EAU"</i>
28	A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE
35	FACING THE CHALLENGES AHEAD AND SENSITIVE ISSUES
37	THINK BIG AND SEE FAR AHEAD
43	LIVE BETTER
48	SPACE DOESN'T EQUAL SPRAWL
58	THE NEW GENERATIONS' FUTURE
62	CALL FOR ACTION
65	BIBLIOGRAPHY
66	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
68	THE AUTHORS

# FOREWORD



Litograph "l'Institut et la Cité" ("The Institute of France and the île de la Cité" from the series 'Paris Sceneries' by Henri Rivière' 1900 Eugène Verneau Editions)

At the risk of repeating myself, I must be getting old, but frankly I must say it again how very *small* the so-called Greater Paris is! It is just another concentric ring road encircling the former one in the hope that everything can be stuffed inside, from the inhabitants to the green areas, from jobs to leisure activities.

How insane, how lazy, how lacking of dream and reality it is to build in order to enclose when it is so obvious that openness is the answer.

The Main Street of Paris is the Seine River and clearly not the insignificant alley full of supermarkets that we dared name, actually just to show off, the Champs-Élysées.

And why be so narrow-minded and ignore the horizon when the sea is so close? I have nothing against the Grand Bassin in the Luxembourg Gardens, as a boy I used to navigate the model sailboats they rent there. But really, who is going to let us believe that Le Havre is not the real port of our capital city?

Have we now accepted our fate of being just an "average" power to the point of giving up all kinds of ambitions that in this case would only acknowledge Geography?

Then, yes indeed, let us plead for a great park system for the Seine River Basin that will at last, make us work on the right scale, one of the entire Basin, but with a new sense of time, knowing the urgency to fight climate change. And let us act and think in an inclusive way so that future major planning and development projects respect the basic commons we share: water, earth and air.

**Erik Orsenna**

Chairman of Initiatives for the Future of Great Rivers

Writer, member of the Académie française

# THE FLOW TO RECOVERY

## A PROPOSAL FOR A GREAT PARK SYSTEM OF THE SEINE RIVER

A 100 Year Vision | 25 Year Strategy | 5 Year Actions for the Seine River Basin

**Phil Enquist**  
**Drew Wensley**

This introduction is a "letter" to distant generations and a call to action to our peers. Why would two urbanists, a landscape architect from Toronto and a city planner from Chicago, see parallels between the Great Lakes Century Vision for its freshwater system and the **Plaidoyer pour un Grand Jardin Séquanien/ A Proposal for a Great Park System of the Seine River?**

These two regions are thousands of miles apart and represent dramatically different ecosystems, cultures, and city structures with far different histories and governance. Yet the parallels cannot be ignored. There is an urgent need for urbanized regions, across our planet, to partner with their natural watershed systems as a guide for ensuring resilient and sustainable futures. Both regions have been highly innovative for centuries and have adapted dramatically as technology, sciences and the arts have advanced. The two regions are also blessed with fresh water, remarkable cities, rich farmlands, and established educational and research institutions. These regions can advance our collective future in innovative ways.

**Plaidoyer pour un Grand Jardin Séquanien** is an example of innovative thinking. It is a transformational initiative to define the future of the region with this remarkable and famous river as the central asset. The vision is a **Flow to Recovery** that will center multiple voices within the Seine River Basin. It is a "Movement" rather than a "Plan" and could be structured as a 100 year vision, a 25 year strategy, and multiple 5 year actions. It is the beginning of identifying the challenges that threaten the immediate and long term health of the basin. It also begins to define the mechanisms of change needed to guide, repair, protect and strengthen the river's ecological performance.

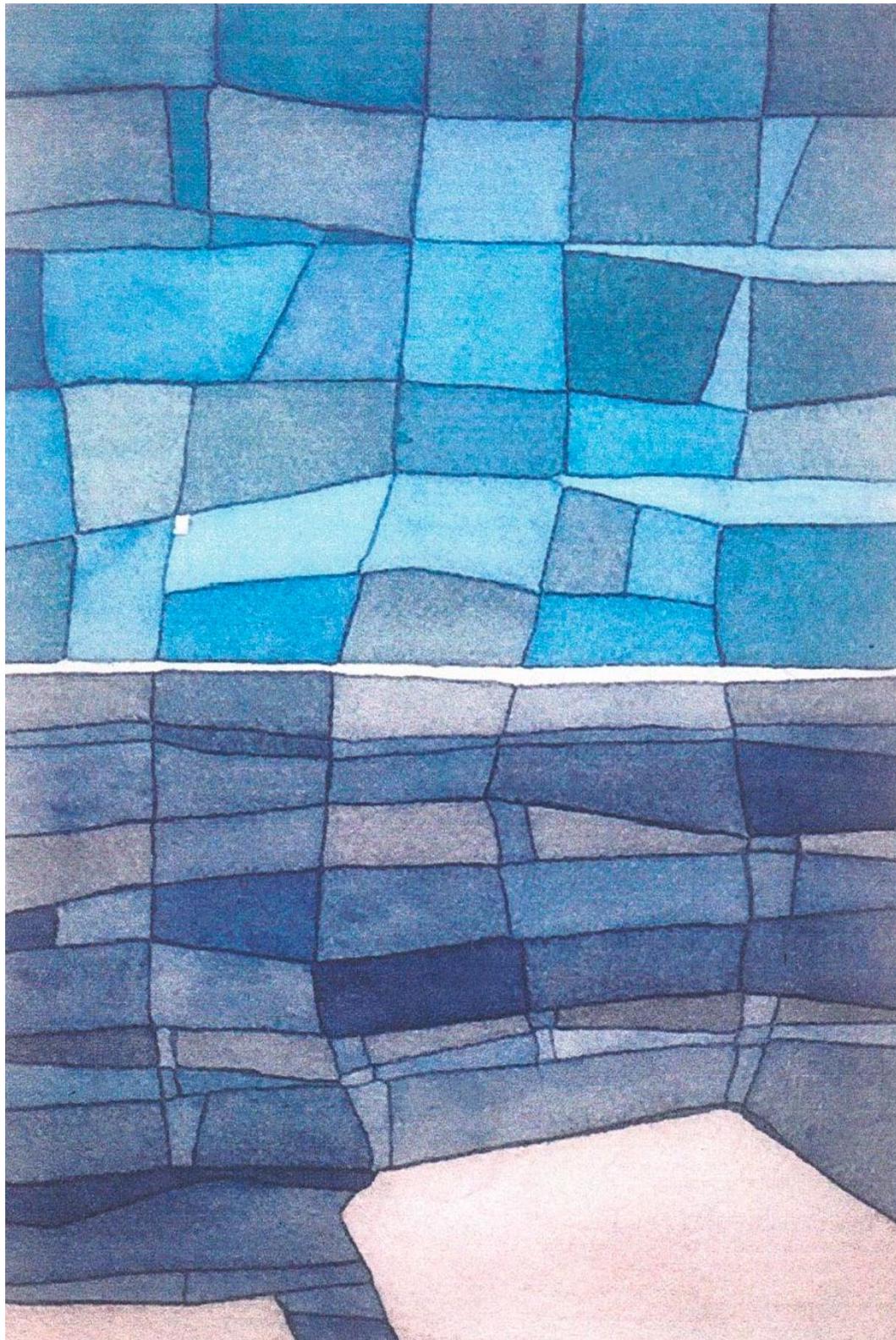
This vision is asking us to "think big" and proposes that the full Seine River Basin, from source to the sea, is the center of life, the center of the region's ecology and economy, the central guide for how France will embrace the future patterns of urban growth, tourism, the way food is grown, the lands protected for native habitat, the public's access to nature and the long term resiliency of a rapidly growing region of +15 million people which includes the world's most visited city.

Today, as with the Great Lakes region, many efforts exist to guide the future of the Seine River, but most are fragmented views, with jurisdictional boundaries and political borders preventing a broader holistic approach to the freshwater assets that have influenced the region for thousands of years. There is a need to think in terms of being "borderless" and redefine the balance between urban and the wild in this century.

Dozens of important efforts to protect and clean the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River currently exist, but there has yet to be a comprehensive vision for the entire watershed and its ecosystems. Inspired in 2009 by the centennial of Daniel Burnham's Plan of Chicago, the Great Lakes Century Vision discussion began that attempted to define broad measures to protect the watershed and promote sustainable development for the expanding 40-50 million inhabitants through the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The Great Lakes Century Vision included the St. Lawrence River region and stretched from Duluth, Minnesota to the cities of Chicago, Detroit, Toronto, Montreal, Quebec City, to the Atlantic Ocean, a watershed of over 2,000 miles. The vision aimed to create a shared set of principles and strategies among all the people who live and work within the Basin. The vision assessed the economic, public health, agricultural, urban, first nation and environmental challenges for the watershed that is framed by Canada and the United States.

The vision illustrated opportunities to tap into the next generation energy sources, improve regional transit choices, redefine living and working patterns, and create an international park with over 11,000 miles of lake and river waterfront shared between two nations. It offered a positive view of what is possible with collaboration, built on an awareness of the past, the desire to preserve and protect the region's economic future, and involve committed people making it happen.



Watercolor Phil Enquist, Lake Michigan, March 10, 2019

The North American, bi-national effort, like the Seine River Vision, asks for people to abandon the idea of borders as they call for regions to come together to solve the larger fresh water challenges in this century. Endorsed by 86 American and Canadian city mayors, honored by the American Institute of Architects, and presentations and exhibits at several international conferences, this volunteer initiative helped to catalyze a shared regional discussion among national, tribal, provincial, and local governments, environmentalists, economists, public policy leaders, the media, and the public.

The Great Park System for the Seine River Vision has parallel values and aspirations. It is an exploratory project for France and for the world. It is an effort to raise awareness to repair, reinvent, and renew the larger fresh water ecosystems and economies defined by the ancient Seine River, from its many sources in the hills to its meeting with the Atlantic Ocean at Le Havre. This broader appeal to think big, aims to define a region with a broad brush and many shades of color. It is not intended to be a “narrow-minded set of rules.”

**Plaidoyer pour un Grand Jardin Séquanien** is the beginning of a path to establish a new era of environmental, economic, and social resilience. Responding to the challenges of our century, this vision begins to answer the global call to action for us to think differently.

All of us understand the damage to our natural world over the past 200 years in the name of growth and progress, and now we seek to reverse the impacts through the integration of science, design, collaborative dialogue, and strategic planning.

**Plaidoyer pour un Grand Jardin Séquanien** rejects fragmented thinking and calls on all cities, villages, and communities to come together to enter the conversation and define a future that embraces a green and healthy region defined by its unique river basin.

Access to healthy, public open space is more important than ever as the world approaches 8-9 billion people on the planet with increased and challenging climate and health issues. People now and in the future need a healthy urban setting and a healthy natural environment. Both are achievable if we challenge ourselves to think big. **Plaidoyer pour un Grand Jardin Séquanien** is the beginning of our **Flow to Recovery**.

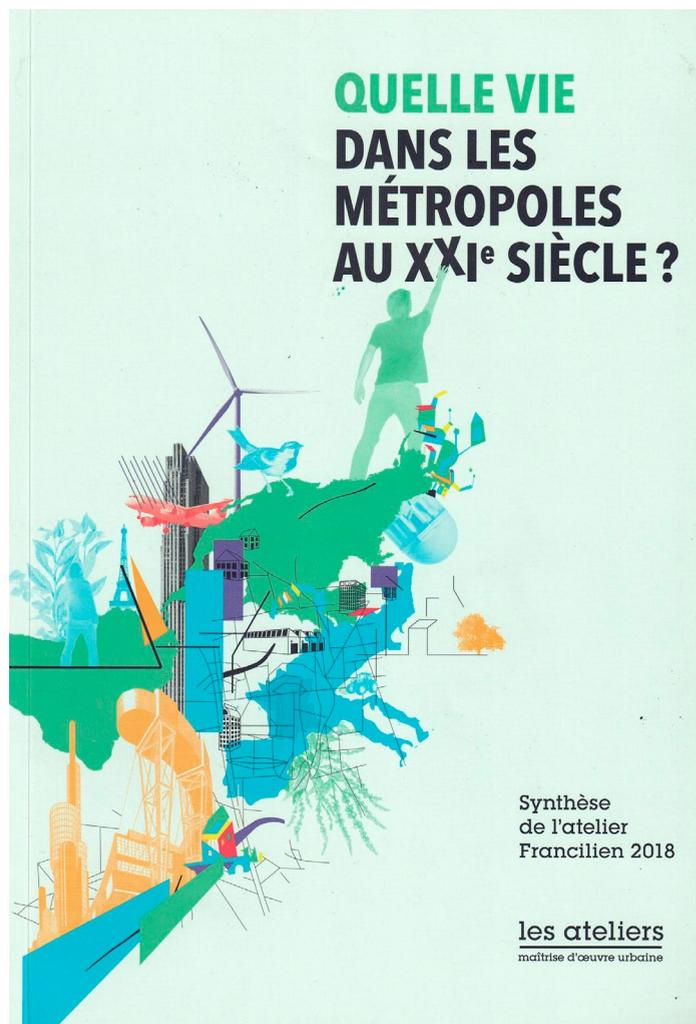
# THE ORIGINAL APPROACH

The very first clues of a broad view, which is not in line at all with the present policies concerning the expansion of Paris, were discussed by several scholars during three different meetings and are presented here.

## A Session of the Workshops of Planning and Urban Design "Life in METROPOLITAN AREAS in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"

In 2017-18 a great number of researchers, experts or simply curious-minded people reflected upon this topic. This was to prepare a work session for young professionals from all over the world in order for them to comment on their views of Paris and surrounding areas, also raising the issue of the WAY of LIFE of "METROPOLITAN CITY-DWELLERS" now and in the future.

These young professionals were from Kuala Lumpur, Moscow, Cairo, Montreal, Mumbai, Rotterdam, Milan, Shanghai and other countries like Lebanon, Syria or Bahrain... and even Paris. All of them agreed. The **quality of life** in metropolises has deteriorated significantly: the Art of Living, food, clean air, etc. and one issue was above all the others... life on planet Earth.



Poster of the Session of the Paris Region in 2018

## THE 40<sup>TH</sup> MEETING WITH THE FNAU\* AT THE INTITUT PARIS REGION

And it went on. There were events organised by the National Federation of Planning Agencies, and 'la Fabrique Écologique', working on scales that go far beyond the boundaries of Metropolises, such as:

- The Great Lakes in North America: the cities of Chicago, Milwaukee up to Toronto cannot exist much longer if they are not revitalised and more than 40 million inhabitants would be affected. A collaboration was launched at all government levels.

They followed the same approach for two other projects, one in Riyadh, the other on the Yellow River.

- The re-inventing of a natural cycle for the supply of drinking water in Riyadh, a metropolis with around 10 million inhabitants,
- The development policies of the 5.500 kms of the Yellow River course in China. It is the cradle of the Chinese Civilisation and around 100 million people live there.

All these events and exchanges led us to tackle the issue of a 'Metapolis Sequanienne' i.e. relating to the River Seine that includes the whole Seine Basin.

## A GROUP OF SEVEN SURVEYS THE SEINE RIVER VALLEY

A group of seven scholars travelled along the 777 kms of the river, from Le Havre to the source of the Seine, in order to grasp what is at stake here and suggest some ways with regards to the future of this extraordinary area of Europe where around 18 million people reside.

**The seven persons who followed the River Seine are\*:**

- Phil Enquist
- Michel Jaouën
- Louis Moutard
- Laurent Perrin
- Jean-Michel Vincent
- Bertrand Warnier
- Drew Wensley

\*See page 71

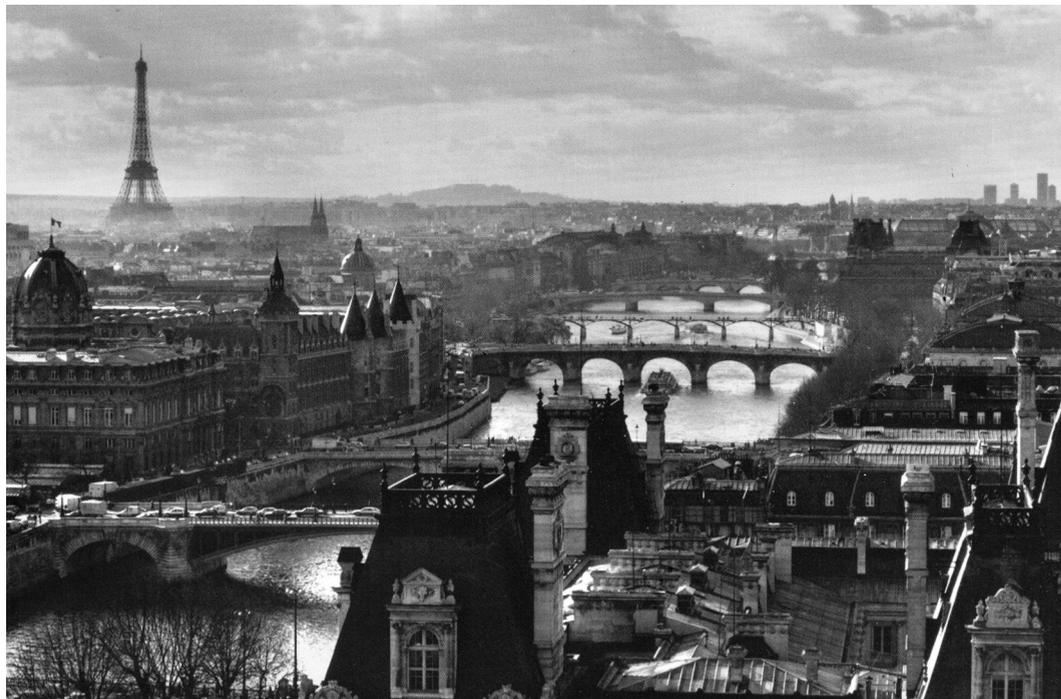
\*FNAU The French Network of Urban Planning Agencies

# WHO IS THIS AN APPEAL TO?

This is a **CALL** to those who are in a position of **RESPONSIBILITY** in these vast territories - small and large municipalities, agglomeration communities (a french body), départements (a french district) or regions. But also to ordinary and curious residents, researchers, and professionals who are keen to pass on a more sustainable world to future generations.

Today it seems essential to:

- think on the right scale (the Seine Basin area as a whole)
- bring new perspectives on our ways of life
- alter the schedule: climate issues press us to make real efficient plans for the future and act NOW



Postcard P. Turnley, the Bridges of Paris 1991

**THE SEINE RIVER REPRESENTS STANDARD WATER SYSTEMS AS WELL AS EXCEPTIONAL URBAN AND GREEN AREAS**

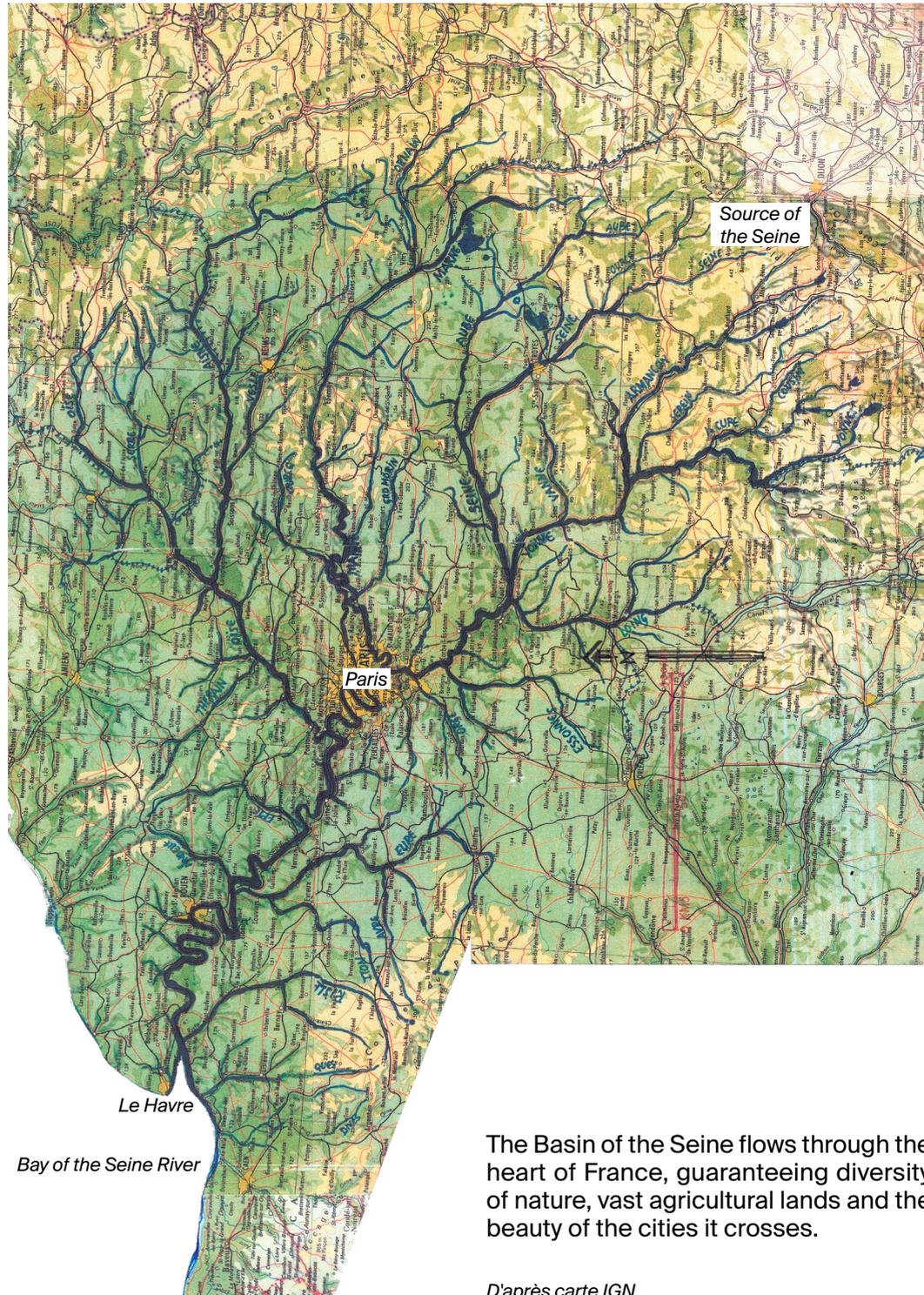


Source of the Seine River, Watercolor Phil Enquist, February 2019



# A FLOWING TREE

The Seine and its tributaries are the sap of Greater Paris. They form a single entity. It is truly a tree, but a flowing tree, with its branches in the hills, its trunk in the valleys and its roots in the ocean. It runs from Le Havre to Burgundy, bordering Dijon in the south and the Ardennes in the north, at the gates of Europe.



The Basin of the Seine flows through the heart of France, guaranteeing diversity of nature, vast agricultural lands and the beauty of the cities it crosses.

*D'après carte IGN*

# THE TREE OF LIFE IS THE REALITY OF THE GREATER PARIS



*Source of the Seine, Photos J.M. Vincent*

Every part of this tree is special. Streams are associated with spires and bell towers, with prestigious cathedrals, with all kinds of monuments and dwellings. The **STORIES** are intertwined but unique, as are the **LANDSCAPES**, which are both distinct but related.



*Bay of the Seine River*

*777km from the source to the sea*



# THE AMBITIONS OF THIS APPEAL REFLECT THE CONQUEST OF THE MOON



Photo NASA

3,000 tons to lift off  
Involved 20,000 companies  
and 400,000 people  
150 billion dollars  
a POLITICAL WILL  
a TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT  
An endeavour that mobilised the whole NATION

It started on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 1967 with a tragedy,  
which led to take a DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

## THINKING BIG IS A MUST (THE APOLLO PROGRAMME) BUT IT IS NOT ENOUGH

Poorly prepared details caused three men to lose their lives:

- a stripped electrical wire
  - piping prone to leaks
  - a door that's difficult to open quickly
- FAILURE was not an OPTION and yet...

All the elements of a disaster were there, but there were all forgettable details... Consequences are drawn

Reorientation of policies

The ACCUMULATION of SMALL INTERVENTIONS, a BRIDGE between the VERY SMALL and the VERY LARGE: that will make the difference.

This includes not only the electric wire but also the seamstress's thread (e.g. custom-made suits, etc.).

It took two more years to make a great vision come true out of ordinary elements and make Neil Armstrong's famous "ONE SMALL STEP" on the MOON possible on the 21st of July 1969.

### "KEEP A SENSE OF PROPORTION"

Aristotle

The lesson learned from the APOLLO programme  
What about the abilities of us humans to master the elements and the vulnerability of our arrogance when we do so?

# TECHNICAL EXPLOITS ARE NO LONGER SUFFICIENT

## THE REGULATION OF THE SEINE AND ITS TRIBUTARIES



The statue of the zouave (French soldier), a symbolic indicator in case of Seine floods



Seine floods 2018

In order to prevent a flood like the one in 1910, we would need to be able to hold more than three times the volume of water that we are currently capable of holding. In 2018 we managed to lower the flood by only 60cm.

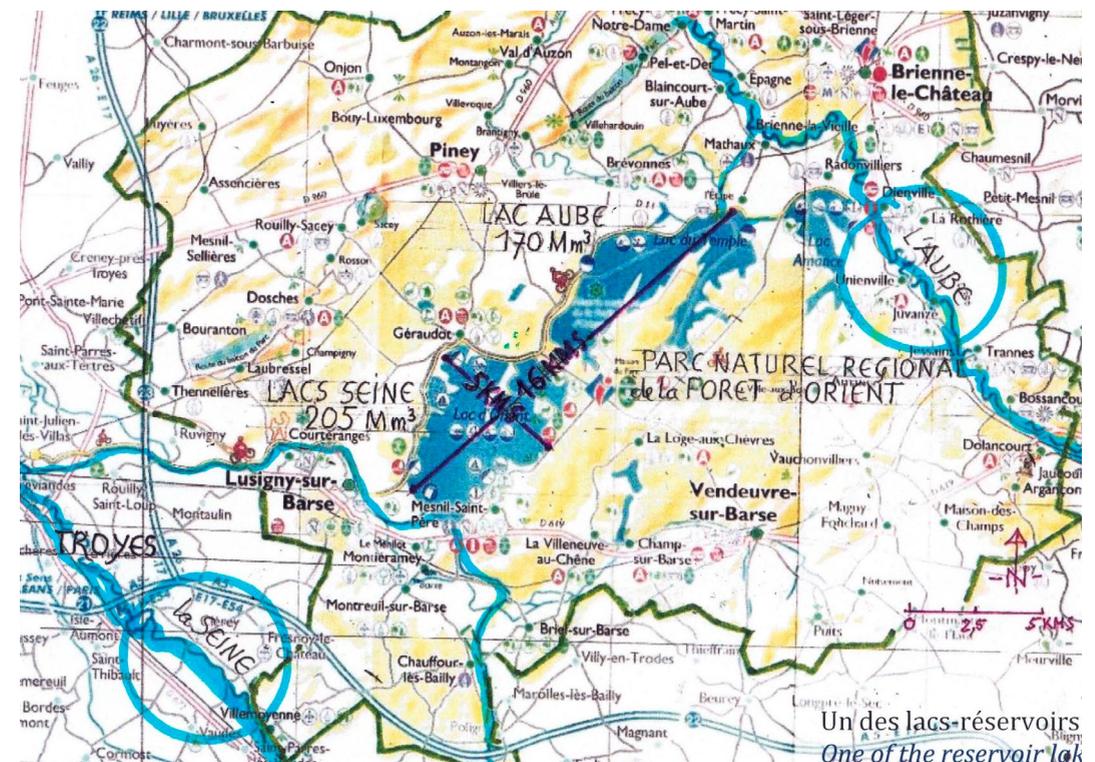
With the change in water regime (higher volumes of water, heavier precipitation) and the unknown future of climate change, it is necessary - in addition to engineering know-how - to develop other theories and new scenarios on how to control the situation.

# RESERVOIR LAKES

The infamous 1910 flood rose 8.62 metres above the normal water level of Paris. The metro lines were under water, 20,000 buildings were damaged, and the sewers were overflowing. Water levels on River Seine took 35 days to recede. The flood caused 400 million gold francs (the equivalent of 1.6 billion Euros in 2018) worth of damage, excluding collateral damage. In 1658, the Seine reached its record height of 8.96m.

## TODAY

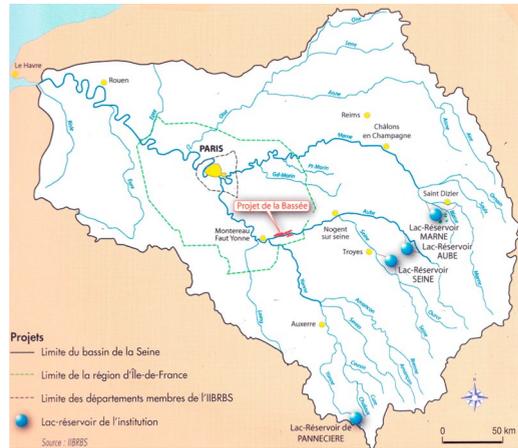
805 million cubic metres of water are held in large reservoir lakes, specially excavated to regulate low water flows and reduce the amount of flooding of the Seine and its tributaries. An inter-departmental institution has been specifically created for this purpose (Seine Grands Lacs). Considerable measures have been taken in order to deal with natural disasters and provide water to the nuclear power station of Nogent-sur-Seine in times of drought. They must be able to adapt to the huge risks of flooding in the Paris Region and in surrounding regional urban areas. As with the Apollo programme: "Failure is not an option".



From a Michelin map, one of the reservoir lake north-east from the city of Troyes

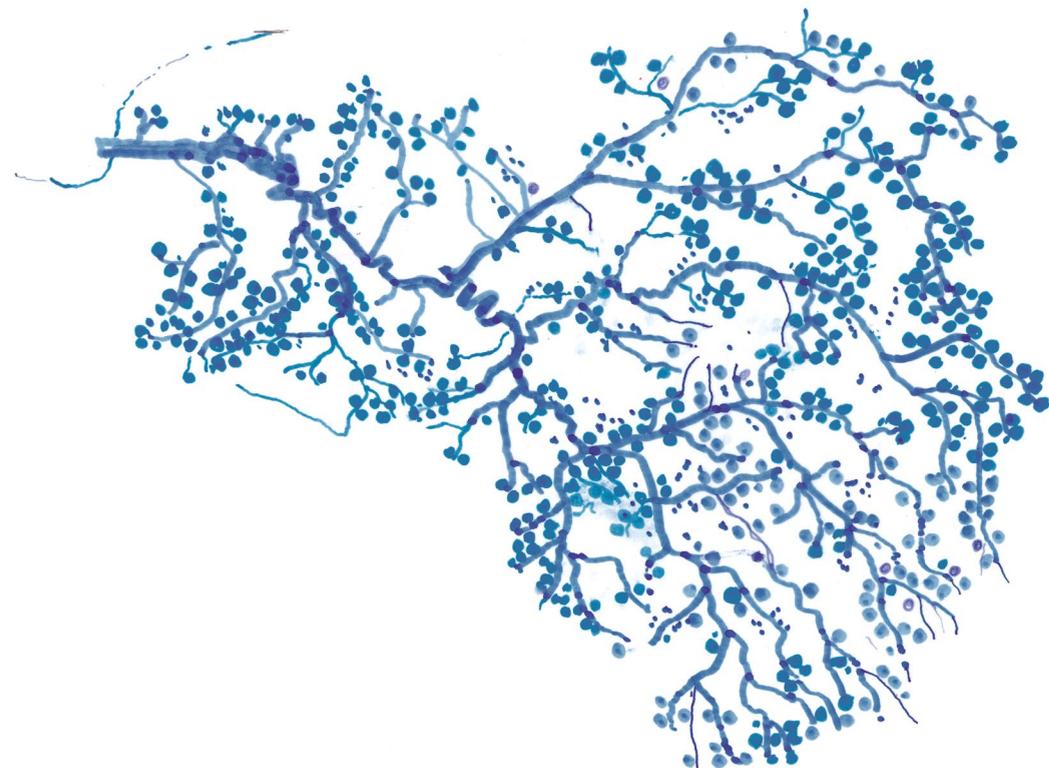
# SMALL ACTIONS WITH A BIG IMPACT: "LA GOUTTE D'EAU"

Just like the challenges of getting a man walking on the moon, it is important to combine all the different skills and not to ignore the minor aspects: in this case one drop at a time, water has shaped the plateau over time and carved the valleys.



[1]

On the scale of the entire valley and its tributaries, the large reservoir pools are only isolated dots. Every drop counts: "La goutte d'eau" is everywhere - it is a common good. It is taken care of by the WATER MANAGEMENT SERVICES in official bodies and their powers could be extended. It's the wealth of tomorrow... because it represents life on Earth.



[2]

# PLOUGHING

One drop at a time - *la goutte d'eau* - and how it is in the hands of all those who cultivate the land and especially those who perform daily and invisible tasks. Today's powerful tractors are not adapted to the natural slopes of the terrain. They risk losing their balance.



[3]

The road becomes a drain and the heavier the rainfall is, the more the road is invaded by water and the more the flow of water and silt accelerates. The overflowing river turns into a destructive torrent. This is compensated for by hastily digging holding ponds here and there, which very soon become insufficient.

We should allow RAINWATER to sink in where it falls:  
one drop at a time  
It isn't about technical prowess, it is about common sense.



[4]

Each furrow forms a dam, a minuscule reservoir, that allows the water to sink into groundwater instead of flowing down the slopes.

[1] Cahier de l'IAURIF n°141  
[2][3][4] Drawings by Bertrand Warnier

# LA GOUTTE D'EAU: IT'S ABOUT KEEPING THE WATER WHERE IT IS



[1]

[2]

Keeping water involves many different tasks.

- To maintain and plant forests. Rainwater can fall from the branches and seeps into permeable soil. Warm air cannot dry out the forest ground, which remains in the shade.
- Re-vegetate the banks of rivers and canals. This favours permeability and plant growth. It means removing concrete banks and adding vegetation.
- Even beyond the riverbanks, cities need to become like sponges, to be permeable enough for water to infiltrate the ground.



[3]



Swamps, marshes, ponds... all wetlands are essential to alleviate periods of drought and to boost biodiversity. (see Cahier de l'IAURIF n°141)

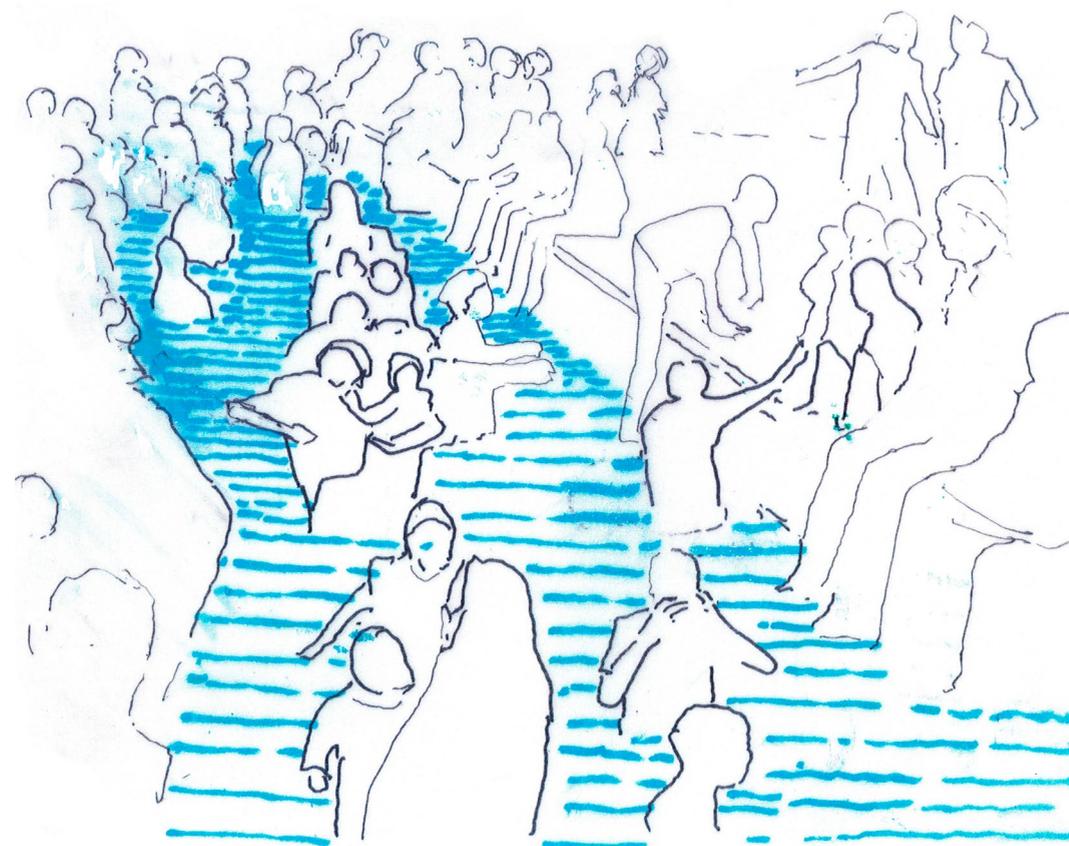
- [1] Watercolor Phil Enquist
- [2] Drawing Drew Wensley
- [3] Cahier de l'IAURIF n°141
- [4] Drawing Bertrand Warnier

# WATER CREATES LIFE OUR NEED FOR WATER

Droughts and heat waves spare no one.

According to a study carried out in 164 cities in 36 countries, the threat is aggravated by the fact that the population is concentrating in urban areas (see the journal Nature Climate Change of 19 June 2017, "Dying of Heat"). The study includes the higher rates of mortality associated with heat waves between 1980 and 2014. The most notable one is the 2003 heat wave (70,000 more deaths in Europe, around 20,000 of them in France and nearly 5,000 in Paris).

**WATER CREATES LIFE  
SOON THERE WILL BE LESS WATER IN THIS POOL  
BUT TWICE AS MANY BATHERS**



[4]

*Somewhere in the world*

# IT IS NOW TIME TO GET A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

## TAKING AN INTEREST IN THE INDIVIDUAL AND LESS IN NUMBERS

It is time for the future of mankind to look beyond political terms that only satisfy seemingly valid demands in the short term. This accumulation of short term solutions is destructive (pollution, noise, overcrowding, mental health, financial cost).

How can we turn a blind eye to the fact that many people living in urban agglomerations are deeply unsatisfied with the living conditions that are offered to them?

*"If we could create a humane city instead of cities where people are enslaved to their jobs, then the 'city or countryside' choice would become a choice between two excellent things, each of them invaluable and different, both complementary, both fulfilling".*

Ian Mc Harg, *Design With Nature*, 1969

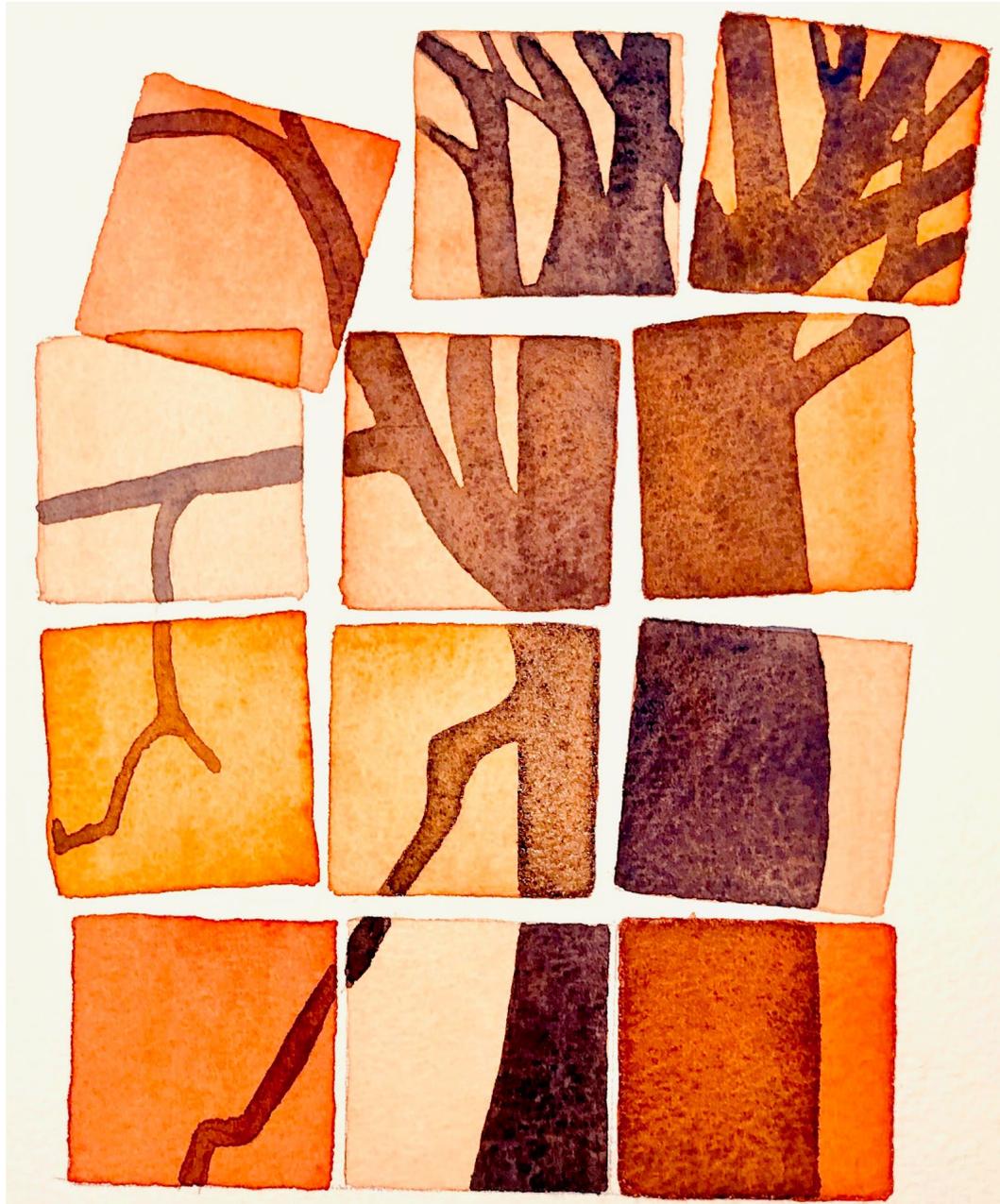


Watercolor Phil Enquist

# IT IS TIME FOR US TO KNOW IN WHAT WORLD WE LIVE IN

## AND TO KNOW WHERE OUR FOOD COMES FROM

Ecological systems are fractured and disrupted,  
the tree has been cut down into pieces

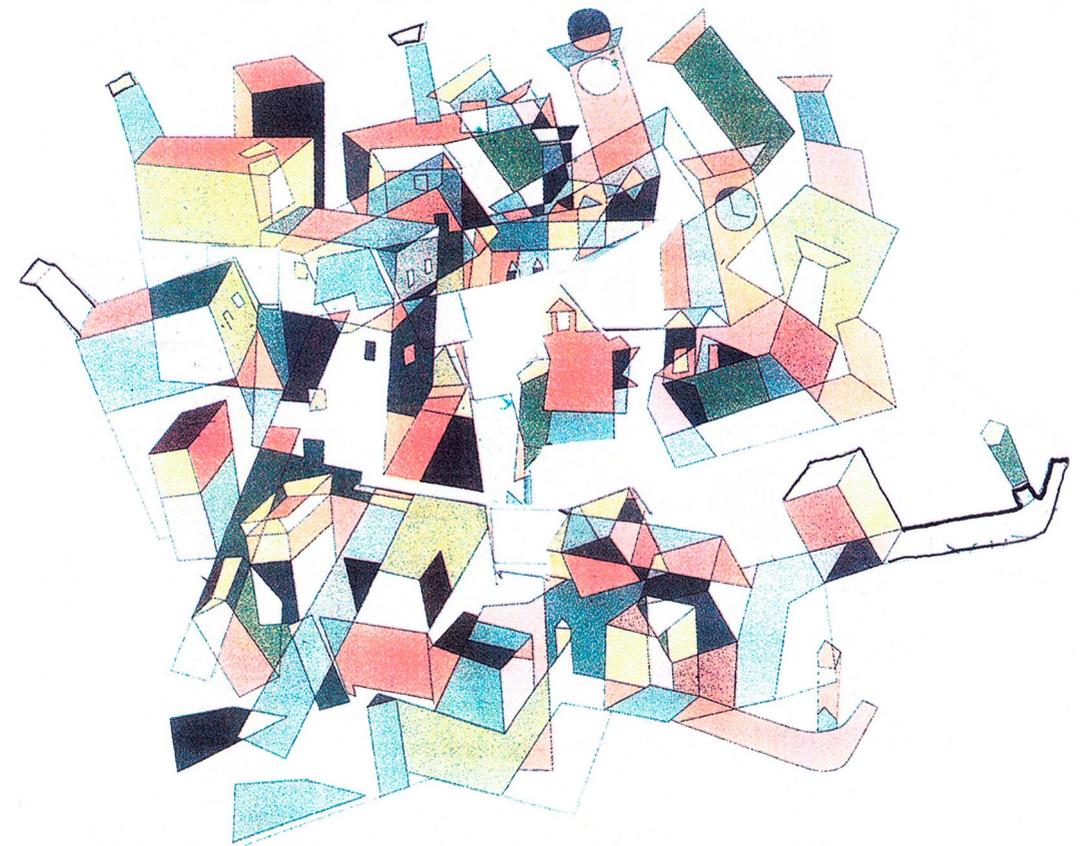


Watercolor Phil Enquist

# THE AVERAGE CITIZEN IS DISTRAUGHT

## THE CLASSIC DIVIDE BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE COUNTRYSIDE NO LONGER REPRESENTS REAL LIFE SITUATIONS

Urban lifestyles affect every inch of space.  
Inhabiting a space affects all scales and all speeds of life.  
Local scales means that of neighbourhood, daily life, access to public services,  
but it also includes the scale of the city and the metropolis.



Drawing Bertrand Warnier after Paul Klee

"Taking into account the architectural aspect (i.e. the material setting made up of countless objects out of individual and collective daily life) is the most urgent measure for social health if we want to avoid mankind admitting that it is incapable of raising the artificial world it creates to a level of quality and balance at least equal to that of the natural world. In fact, the natural world becomes all the more precious

as it is threatened and yet it is indeed the natural world that we risk destroying like the grasshoppers that devastate the field that feeds them."

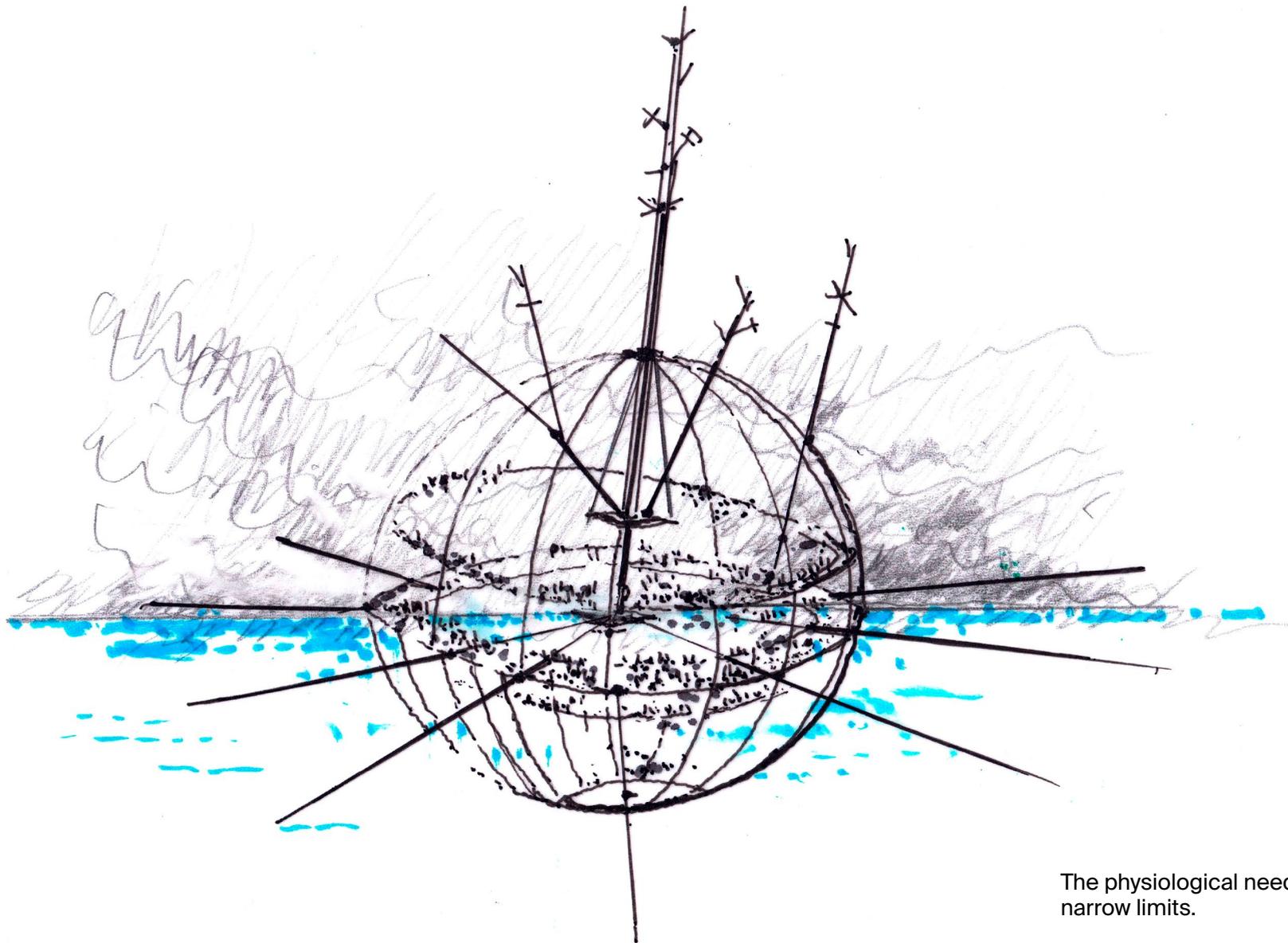
Excerpt by André Hermant written in 1962 for the Council of Europe ('Découvrir l'Architecture')

# NATURE HAS REACHED ITS LIMIT

Title of a book written in 1970 by Nicolas Skrotzky for the French Organising Committee of the European Year for Nature Conservation.

*"We are all locked up in a giant space shuttle: a completely enclosed space capsule. It contains complex machinery, piping, pumps, filters, all gathered in an environmental control centre. This machine has a wide array of features. Its air, humidity, water dispenses the astronauts' life rations: It also regulates the temperature and eliminates harmful emissions such as carbon dioxide and bad smells".*

**Michel Serres, 'Le Contrat naturel'**



*Drawing Bertrand Warnier*

The physiological needs of human beings also follow strict rules within very narrow limits.

Nature's abundance is not endless, the ecosystem that humans are a part of is under pressure.

The space capsule we call EARTH must return to a state of biological stability.

- to maintain a bond between humanity and nature
- and determine in this space capsule what a human habitat should be like.

*"The directors of the animal zoos got rid of their old monkey cages. They realised that the real solution was not to lay more hygienic tiles and improve drainage."*  
Desmond Morris, The Human Zoo

i.e. to be only interested in the superficial aspects of a "life ration".

# FACING THE CHALLENGES AHEAD AND SENSITIVE ISSUES

To think, write on or portray the city, nature, or our well-being means to go on an adventure and go astray in frightening times that we must face nonetheless. We are in our attire but in a fast-paced and constricted environment that is either too hot or flooded, but which despite everything, remains beautiful to look at... provided we are able to reduce and reverse the effects of climate change.



Newspaper 'Le Monde'

# THE AMBITIONS OF THIS APPEAL

Thirty years ago, these objectives were legitimate goals for all citizens and they remain today the aspirations of each of us.

## EXCERPTS DATAR 1994

(Land Development and Regional Action Delegation)

- Being able to choose to live in the city or in the countryside
- Finding a job close to home or vice versa
- Having a choice in housing, adapted to one's budget
- Being able to change jobs and place of dwelling according to the stages of one's life
- To have the facilities and services necessary for daily life available nearby: shops, education, health, leisure, transportation, etc.
- Living in a high-quality environment
- Understand the structure of public life (taxes, the role and power of administrative services, etc.) in order to better fulfil one's role as a citizen

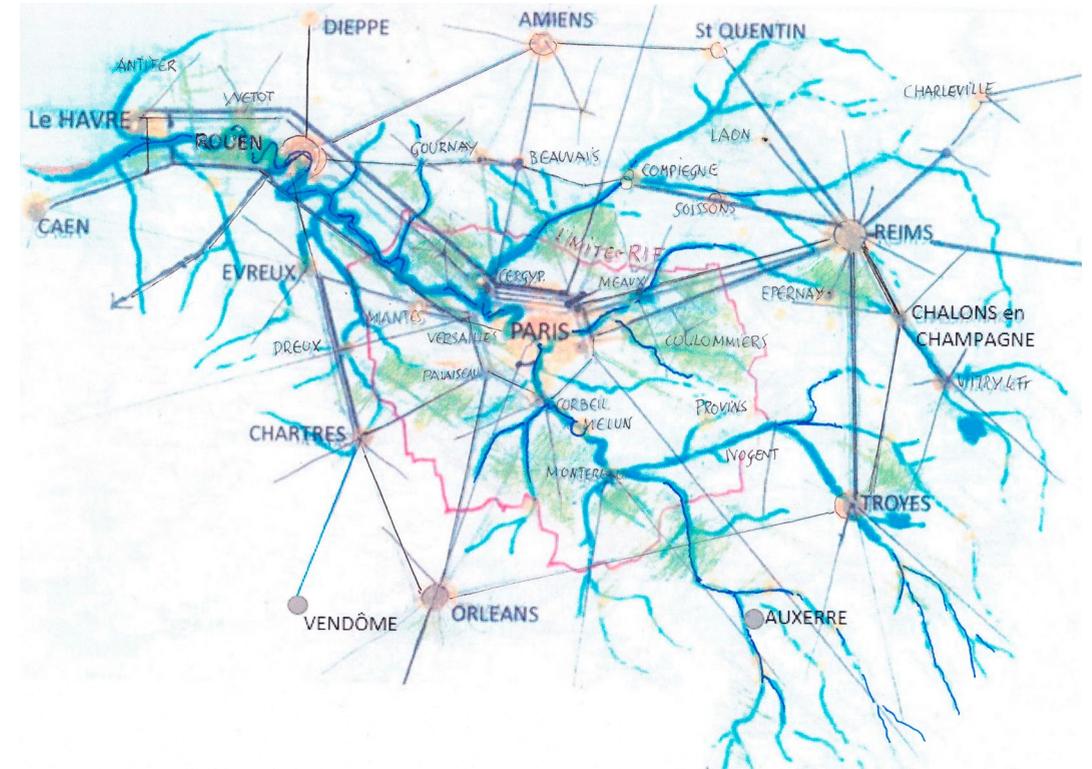
## WITH IDENTIFIED REQUIREMENTS THAT ARE STILL RELEVANT TODAY

- Develop better economic structures in order to better distribute wealth and jobs
- Avoid fracturing France in two worlds of two speeds, that of the ones dependent on welfare and that of the others
- Enable the whole country to benefit from European development and trade
- Eliminate the harmful effects of overconcentration
- Fighting the serious problems of some suburbs

This list would be incomplete without mentioning how urgent it is to have ecological adjustments in our regions to fight climate change.

# THINK BIG AND SEE FAR AHEAD

To think big is to ensure a normal life for the generations to come; perhaps ironically, it is to prevent an excessive and uncontrolled sprawl as there are choices that are contrasted but that can adapt at the same time to local and regional environment. There is a prevailing need for nature, peace and quiet and a healthy diet. To think big, to plan far ahead, is to be prepared to respond to those needs in order to live better.



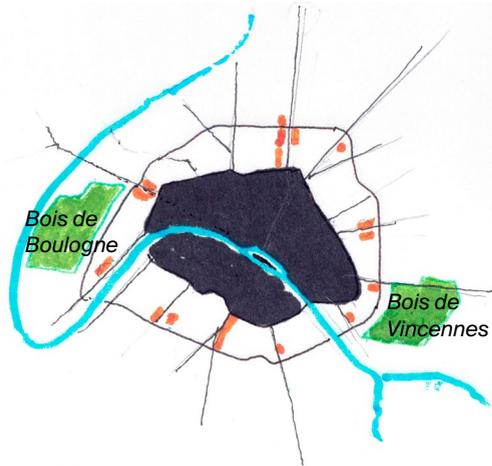
Map by the DATAR redrawn by Bertrand Warnier

There are many plans for the organisation of the territory around Paris, which are all based on the many characteristics of the cities and the countryside of the Paris Basin. But even if there have been local exemplary projects, we unfortunately haven't seen the outstanding bold achievements encompassing the whole Region on that scale.

# BOLDNESS AND RESOLUTE COURAGE IN PAST TIMES ARE TODAY'S STIMULATIONS

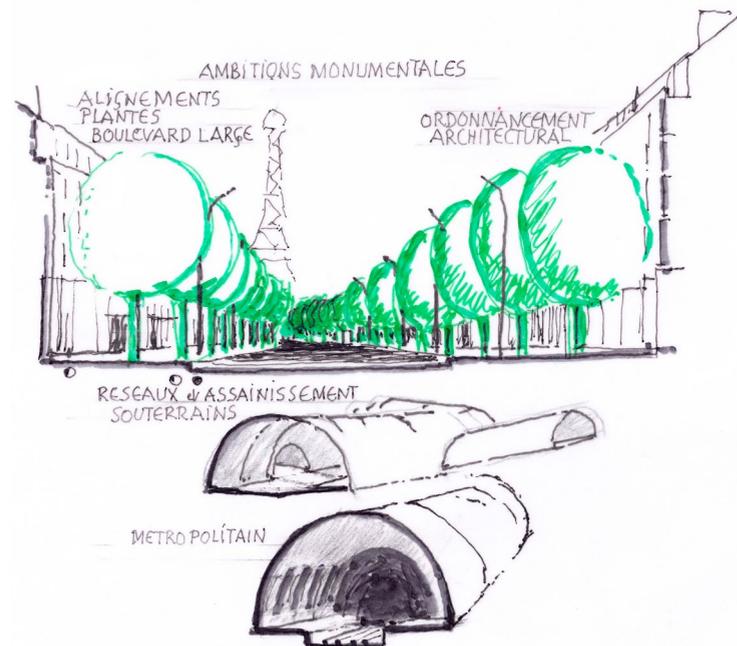
## And such was the case with Haussmann and the engineer A. Alphand

It started around 1855. The two go together because over 50 years of ongoing efforts, they shaped Paris as we know it today.



This is the Paris of the Eiffel Tower, of new public health policies, of the protection of historic monuments, of the Grands Boulevards, of the Opera, of the great parks of Montsouris, Buttes Chaumont and of the Bois de Boulogne and de Vincennes. Paris is under construction. It's also the time of the first metro line in the year 1900.

[1]



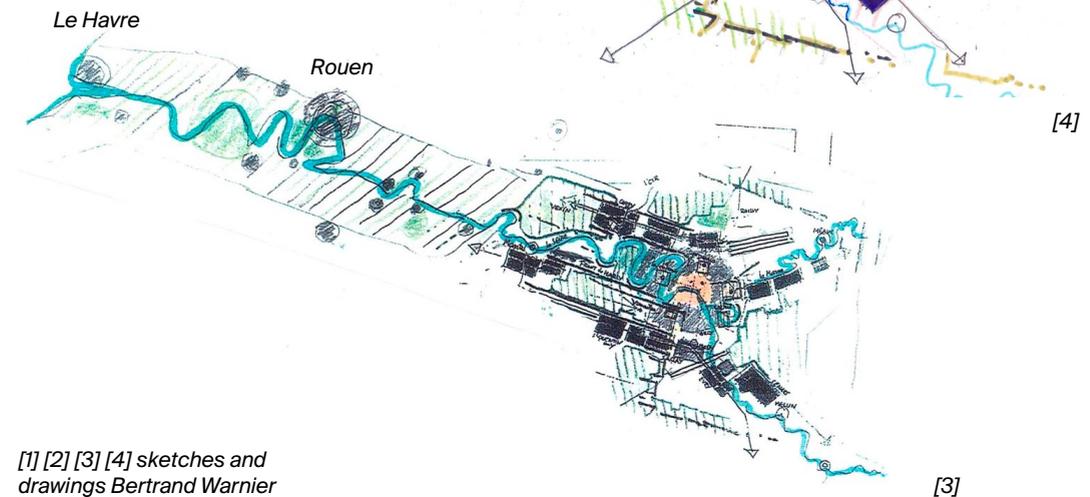
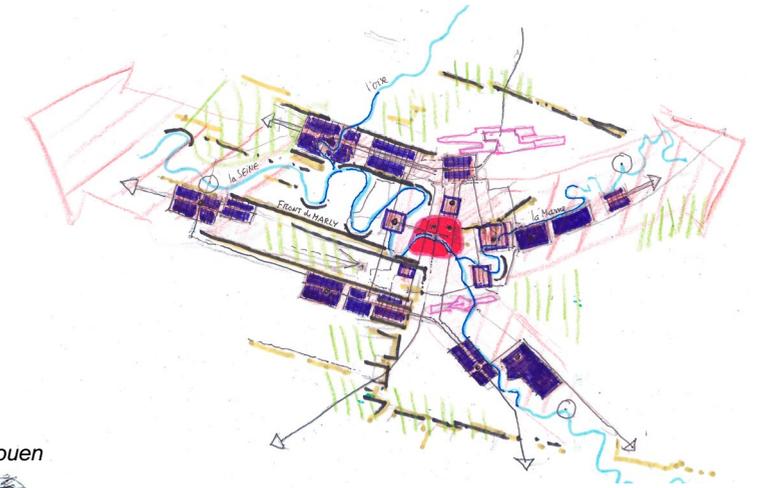
[2] It was not easy, it didn't even find public acceptance, it was even deprecated, but the strong will that prevailed for 50 years was possible because beyond political changes, Haussmann and then Alphand followed common objectives, even if some adaptations had to be made.

## and also for the Delouvrier Plan in 1965

Polarisation around a single centre was no longer sustainable. In 1965, it became necessary to prepare to accommodate an additional 3 to 5 million inhabitants who would work and move as close to home as possible.

Following that plan, it was essential to:

- project oneself into the future – 40 to 50 years ahead.
- break with the radio-concentric system
- base a plan on geography: by following the terrain's main features
- ensure connections between constructed areas and nature



[1] [2] [3] [4] sketches and drawings Bertrand Warnier

[3]

*"It is absolutely necessary to clear the suffocating centre of Paris. We must stop the never-ending circular expansion. Clearing the centre of the city means building more and faster in the outskirts, it means spreading life and wealth everywhere"*

Eugène Hénard, 1906

CREATE

- new centres
- major tangential axes
- **NEW TOWNS** built at the edges of urbanised areas that should offer as many jobs as there are working inhabitants

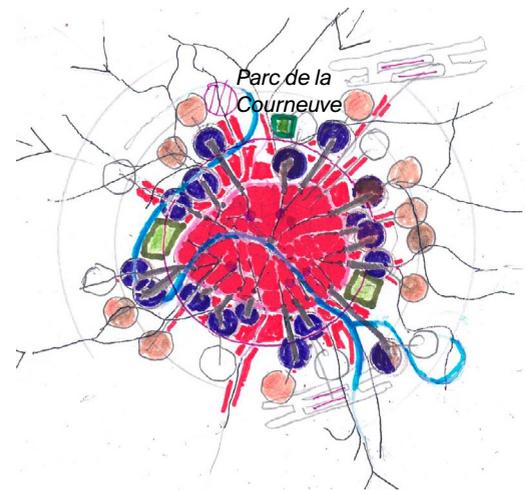
In fact, it was a **beautiful utopia**. New towns and their access routes were created - with few excessive (outstanding?) features - but meanwhile we've forgotten that they were the **KEYS** of a new **AMBITION: consider the Seine axis to Le Havre a preferential route for development**. 50 years later with the association of the ports of Le Havre, Rouen and Paris (HAROPA) a big step has been made.

# THE ISSUE OF GREATER PARIS

## HOW TO FREE THE CITY FROM FURTHER ENCIRCLEMENT

We have returned to a radio-concentric system...  
The Delouvrier Plan has only been partially implemented.  
Paris is now encased in a second, dense suburban ring, with a seemingly convincing slogan: building the city on top of the city.

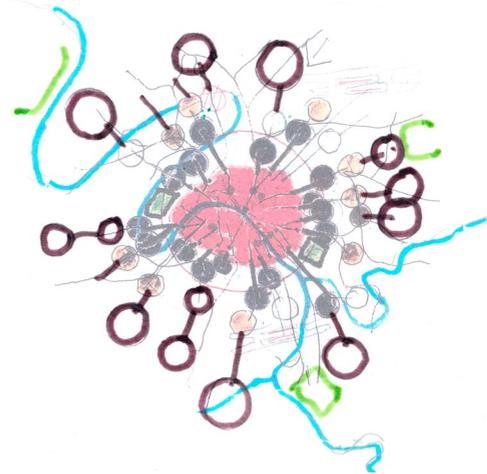
The situation in 2020



Schémas Bertrand Warnier

The spider's web was spread by extending all the metro lines one after the other. We are filling in the gaps – at that time, we had 7 million inhabitants – and we had a new 420 hectare park (at La Courneuve). During the days of Haussmann, there were 2,000 hectares of parks and forests that were open to the public for a population of 2 million inhabitants.

and in the future?



*"We remain in the same short-term logic. As the demand for housing always exceeds the supply, the quickest and easiest solution is to build as closely as possible to existing urban areas. Metro lines are extended one after the other. Spaces in between are being built, become denser whereas the Metropolis continues to spread out over an additional suburban ring."*



The current logo speaks for itself by enclosing Paris in a circular suburban ring.

Piecemeal urban extensions as close as possible to the existing urbanisation are very convenient because they respond to SHORT-TERM problems. The land is overbuilt, without paying too much attention to people's need of nature (which is reduced to occasional tiny spaces) and to the fact that the Paris Region inhabits over 12 million people.

# OVERCONCENTRATION AND SUFFOCATION

The Greater Paris Project is not appropriately scaled and doesn't meet the needs of the population of the Greater Paris (with 7 million inhabitants) and even less so of the Paris Metropolitan Area (with 12 million inhabitants now and soon 15 million).

- who are clustered together in homes that are too small, too expensive, far from the workplace,
- and who travel in not only unacceptable, but also exhausting conditions... despite the fact that the Region can rightly claim to have one of the best public transport network in the world.



Drawing Bertrand Warnier

**Today, everywhere, the excessive concentration of megacities has become a major issue and it is time to give it a NEW PERSPECTIVE.**

# WHAT QUALITY OF LIFE?

Everyone needs their own shell of space and the consequences of overpopulation cannot be ignored.

*"Humans and animals alike need a protected space to live in, overcrowding makes this impossible...()... It is easy to imagine that individuals are being forced into living spaces they can't escape, which leads to emotional outbursts, an obvious sign of excessive stress."*

E. Hall, *The Hidden Dimension*, 1966



Drawing Julien Revenu „Barres et Pavillons“, 2018

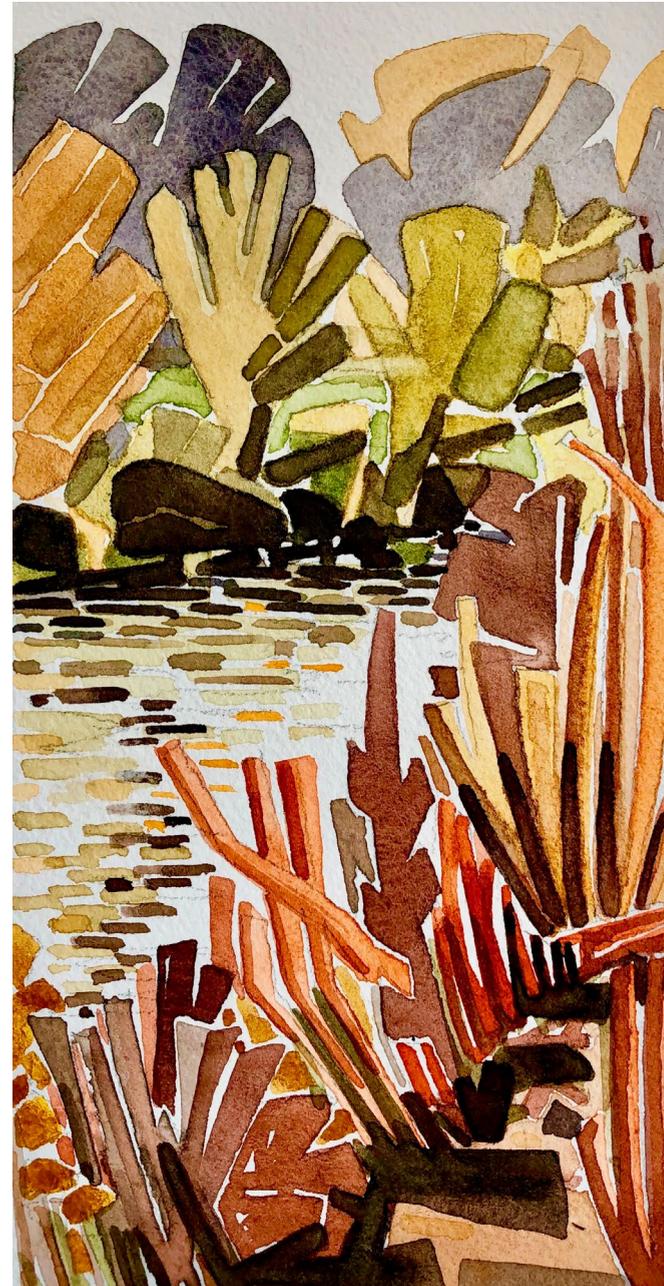
**Living space is not only an individual requirement but also a social and public health issue:**

Today's city is just an ever-ending increase of standards... a layering of "cells" that are identical, for standardised individuals. This is the direct effect of construction systems. And we relied on statistics (what would we do without numbers!): More specifically on those of a remarkable sociologist, Paul-Henry Chombart de Lauwe, who had calculated how many square metres were necessary for each person to have their own "bubble". Below 8 to 10m<sup>2</sup>, the number of pathological cases (physical and social illnesses, criminality) was twice as high.

# LIVE BETTER

*"For me, the city, all cities for that matter have always been artificial places in which you can only survive and work if you can catch your breath away from them."*

Axel Kahn, a French scientist, not long before the start of the pandemic:  
Sept. 2019



Watercolor Phil Enquist

**Catching one's breath** means going for a walk, immersing oneself somewhere in the countryside. The enforced lockdown is a good illustration. There are - officially - only 3.4 million second homes in France (80% of which are in natural areas) and it is safe to assume that they have served as a haven for all the families who own one. Adding to these (without having any numbers) all those who stayed with relatives in various remote corners of French provinces (many young people for example) who were able to "go green" even sometimes in unregistered cabins or heated trailers.

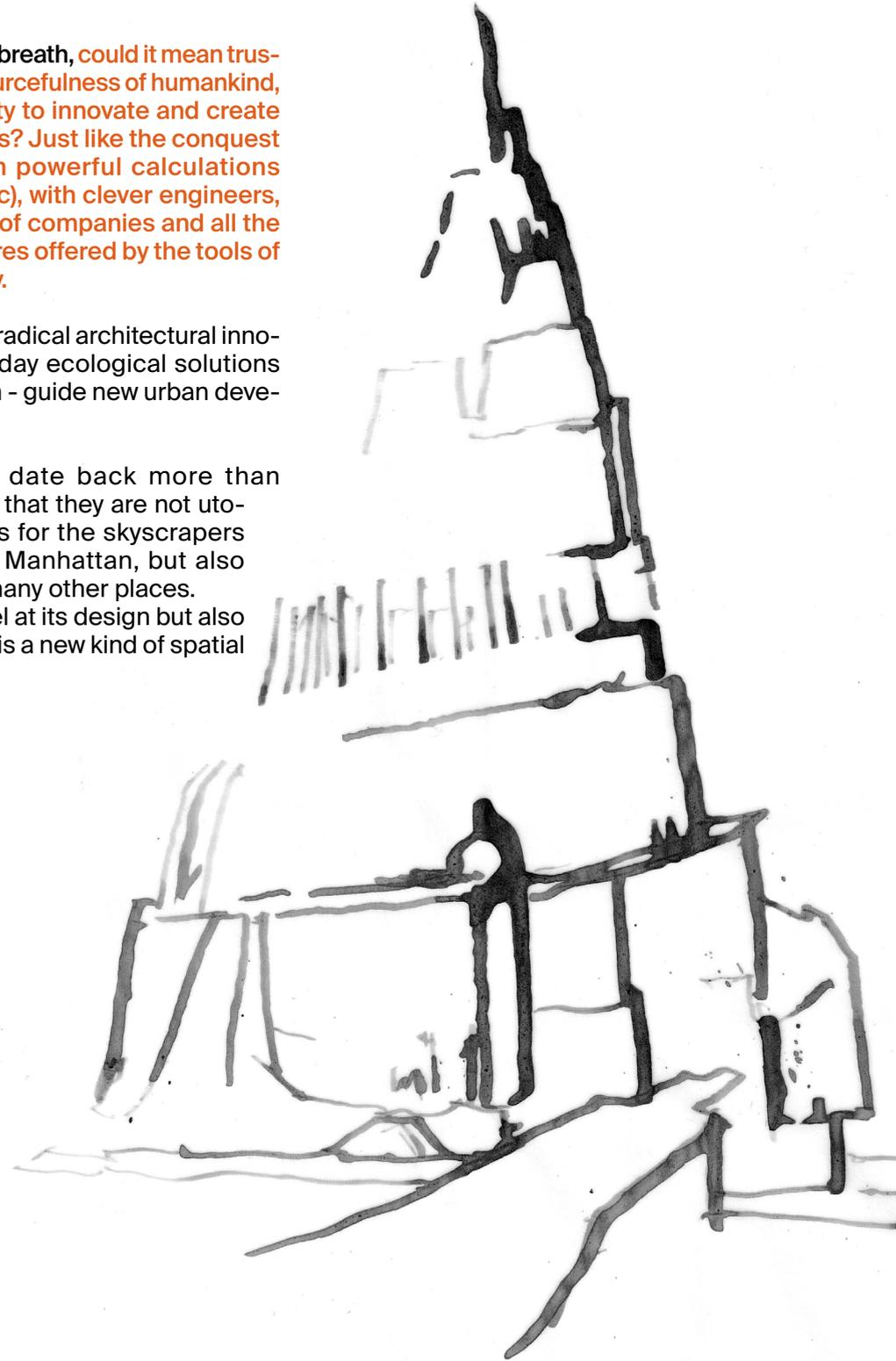
**Catching your breath** also means a change in lifestyle. Dual residency: the studio or room for 3 days a week in the city and the real home (a house, more or less 2 hours away). This type of arrangement is not limited to a well-off middle class, it is also the case for other population categories who, due to their employment, work differently, for 3 nights and 3.5 days (35 hours) (e.g. carers and nurses who have access to a break room). For many other professions, this means working differently, notably teleworking and therefore traveling differently too.

## A NEW "CITÉ RADIEUSE?" \*

Catching one's breath, could it mean trusting in the resourcefulness of humankind, in their capacity to innovate and create new challenges? Just like the conquest of space with powerful calculations (algorithms, etc), with clever engineers, the know-how of companies and all the possible features offered by the tools of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

This has led to radical architectural innovations and today ecological solutions must – and can – guide new urban developments.

Projects that date back more than 50 years show that they are not utopias. This goes for the skyscrapers of New York - Manhattan, but also Chicago and many other places. One can marvel at its design but also at its beauty: it is a new kind of spatial conception.



Drawing Bertrand Warnier

\*The radiant city is a concept popularized by architect le Corbusier for a new housing system; it gave its name to a building erected in Marseille between 1947 and 1952.

## SCRAPING THE SKY

The dream of extreme power has always been fascinating. Building magnificent cathedrals showed how high we could build and even beyond... until some collapsed... like the gothic choir of the Beauvais Cathedral that boasted to be the highest of the world in the 13<sup>th</sup> century.

We also have the example of Bologna (Italy), which was named the city of the hundred towers in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Today, there are only two left. This implies that the powerful are flattered by their own unreasonable architectural achievements and indeed the common man is not meant to live there. He can only admire. And Babel just managed to be a name, not a building.



New York Fifth Avenue – 1935/36 Cat. Dorotheum 68 W.T Höny/Löny

This painting expresses the attraction and the fascination of this extraordinary sight; the painter, probably unknowingly, highlights the divide between top and bottom, the colourful, cheerfulness in the summits, the dark, the filth on the ground... The moving air and the light are at the top; the pedestrians, the crowd, are not visible to us, they are caught in the chaos below... (the fast-paced urban life, the turmoil). These kind of cities are still a much sought-after living environment that is well adapted to a population who can afford it.

We definitely have the ability to build gigantic constructions like the ones in Manhattan - that are used as inspiration in the rest of the world – but these giant-sized structures do have shortcomings. They remain dependent on engineering, and we can't afford any failures or any unpredictable hazards.

# LIVE BETTER WITH A HOME OF ONE'S OWN – LIVING WITH NATURE

The densely populated city isn't compatible with the aspirations of most people. Living with crowds of people everywhere on pavements, in train stations, on public transport, in museums, on the beach...

*"Like many animals, humans need moments of solitude and can become erratic when stressed out by overcrowding"*

E.T. Hall, *The Hidden Dimension*, 1966

This can result in the need to live in a house: one's own home that fits one's lifestyle.



SAPh, Rob R. de Jong

*"At the start of the Renaissance, Italians made discoveries that had remained essential to modern civilisation. Faith in Mankind has never been more absolute than in those times. But they have also realised that if they tried to find the right balance between nature and humanity, the latter could no longer be considered the master of the universe: Nature would be dominant."*

Lionello Venturi, *La Peinture Italienne*, 1950

# THE SUBURBAN HOUSE DREAM

These two images are representative of the same aspirations: to have a "space" of one's own in a setting chosen by each one of us. You can create your own environment, here in both cases idyllic places.



Image tirée de la série *Immobilier* home/stephanielacombe.com

But here, one can find the freedom to inhabit. In a mega-machine city, one is shoved in a "residence locker" and the desire to escape from it creates, in turn, the suburban dream and its excesses. One of these consequences is giving a clear conscience to those who denounce this type of housing. The "allotments" has caused an unrestrained invasion of land that is unsuitable, but still has an army of detached houses which are built in the worst conditions. In this case, it is not the house that is the issue, but the fact that it has become a consumer product.

# SPACE DOESN'T EQUAL SPRAWL: WHY DO WE ASK?

**THE ART OF LIVING IS NOT JUST ABOUT HOUSING,  
IT'S ABOUT INVENTING, CREATING AND TRANSFORMING  
ONE'S INDIVIDUAL PLACE**

One shouldn't be blinded by numbers. They say that there are between 40,000 and 80,000 hectares of land per year in France that become new forests or wooded areas. Nature seems to be taking back its place: true or false? The figures also show that urbanisation consumes the equivalent of one French département every 10 years: true or false? And which département: French Guiana 83 500km<sup>2</sup> or les Hauts de Seine (near Paris) 176km<sup>2</sup>? Statistics say that 50% of the urbanisation consists of houses with gardens. Would gardens therefore be considered pure concrete and not a piece of nature? Let's not forget that biodiversity is often greater in this type of town than in industrially cultivated land.

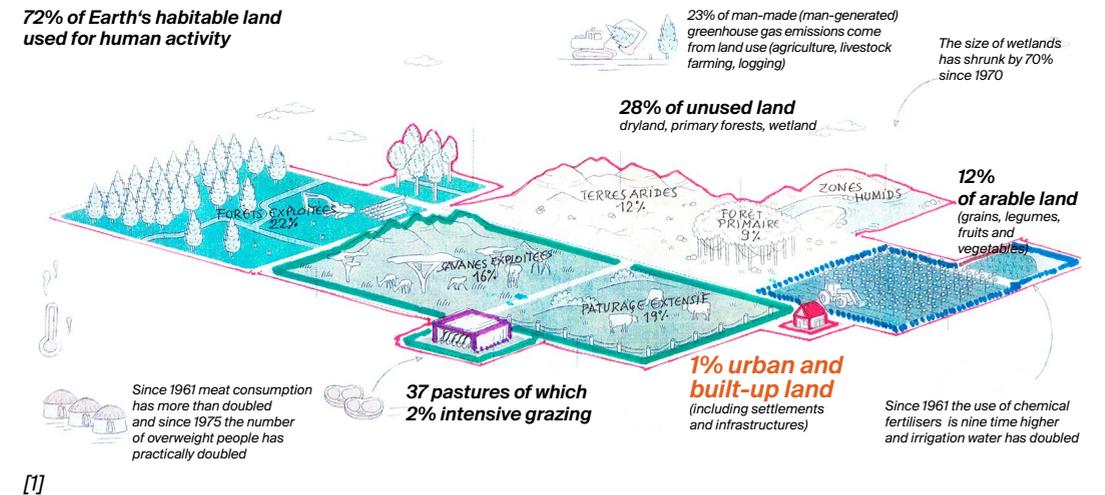
We also shouldn't ignore the fact that the industrial revolution led to a complete transformation of traditional housing and thus the way in which the territory is organised. With the technological revolution, the home reintroduces features that had previously neglected, like working from home, trainings through video conferencing courses, health or hospital stays that are reduced to a minimum, and entertainment through TV, computer and mobile phone.

*"When far from the head office, workplaces can be resized to a smaller scale. All these elements contribute in changing the way we consume space and help to design it as a large garden. A large park for humans, animals and plants can coexist with densities and diversity. This leads to a different way of looking at large cities and, by extension, at large urban areas, which are not qualified by the number of inhabitants they accommodate, but rather by the **QUALITY of LIFE** they offer."*

Anne Whiston Spirn, *The Granite Garden*, 1984

# THE REALITY OF THE SPACE USED FOR HOUSING

The increase in world population has led the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) to issue an alert on 8th August 2019 to stress the importance of sustainable soil management in order to slow down global warming and continue to feed humanity. What is there to say? Shall we give away even more grazing land for cattle, which already uses 37% of the world's habitable surface in comparison to the 1% used to live and inhabit?



« De la viande ? Non merci ! »  
"Meat? No thank you!"



Whether it happens very gradually or suddenly, you might hear: "I don't want to eat meat anymore!". How to understand this refusal: parents or grandparents are often taken aback, especially when they like meat, as it is synonymous to balance and good health. "More and more young people want to take the leap, or have already done so". This rejection may be based on animal well-being or the carbon footprint of meat production. As a connected and sensitive generation, they can be very determined.

[1] Infographie: Le Monde, samedi 17 août 2019  
[2] Extrait de « À l'écoute » les apprentis d'Auteuil, dessin Pricille Depinay

# DO WE HAVE TO MAKE CHOICES?

## WHERE LIES THE DISASTER?

Is single-family housing really what is the most worrying, or is it our meat consumption? And even if we were to double or even triple the urbanised surface area of the French territory, the ratio would still be highly disproportionate, if we consider the land used just to fatten up 60 billion animals every year that are destined for the slaughterhouse and our dinner table (yes, 60 BILLION animals... and that number is already dated). It doesn't take an activist to see that there is an obvious adjustment to be made.



Villas au Havre  
© Région Normandie - Inventaire général - Denis Couchaux

# THE GARDEN ATTACHED TO THE HOUSE



2018 drawing by Julien Revenu „Barres et Pavillons“

The vegetable garden is the new farm of the 21st century, it is today's modern farming with a direct relation between producers and consumers. Vegetable gardens, SPIN farming, permaculture, bicycle delivery, are the new wonders of modernism ("resilient" modernism). What is considered a waste of space by many, actually contributes to a healthy environment and the production of healthy food. It is also a real effort in reforestation and as a result the return of butterflies, poppies, insects, birds and other small animals - in other words, the return of biodiversity.



Drawing Bertrand Warnier

Additionally, all these small factors act against the degradation of landscapes which have become too large and uniform to allow gigantic and complicated agricultural machinery to function properly.

*"the smallest garden fights against global warming"*

J.P. Rioux

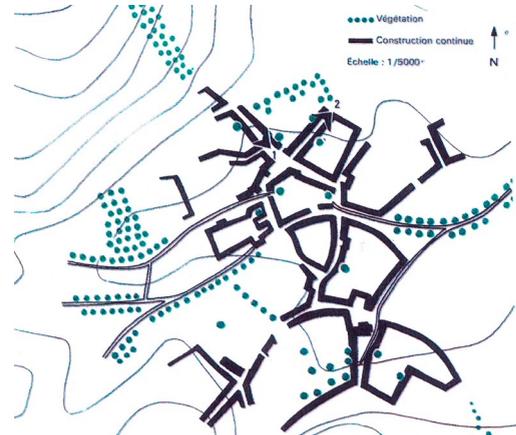
# SO, WHERE SHALL WE LIVE? IN THE COUNTRY?

## A KNOW-HOW TO BE REDISCOVERED

Around the Seine and its tributaries there are all kinds of different habitats:

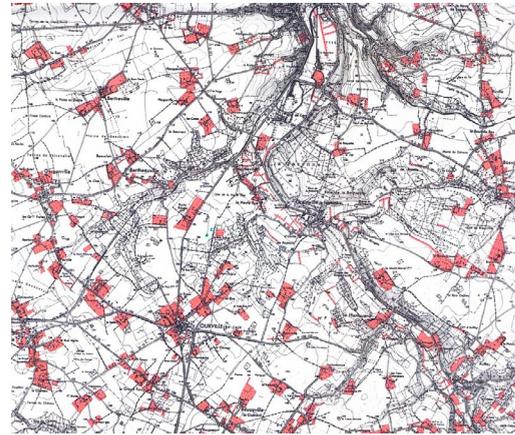
- gathered housing in towns and villages
- scattered dwellings surrounded by vegetation

A village with several buildings (grouped together) in the French Vexin region



[1]

The 'clos mesures' in the Pays de Caux (between Le Havre, Dieppe and Rouen)



[2]



[3]



[4]

In some villages, vegetation spreads over the walls, across and around the village. In others, the buildings are enclosed in high and dense vegetation and cannot be seen from the outside.

These two completely different but related types of landscapes are part of this unique context present in the Valley of the Seine and they contribute to the definition of an all-encompassing vision of a future that is yet to be designed.

[1] [3] [4] Drawings Bertrand Warnier – Yolande Garofalo

[2] The 'clos mesures' in the pays de Caux region

(between Le Havre – Dieppe – Rouen), from an IGN map

# OR IN THE CITY?

The tragedy of suburban single family houses is real.

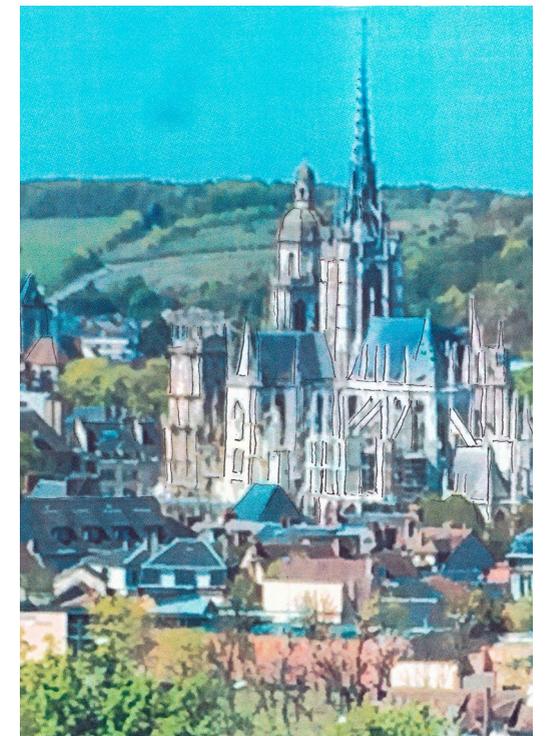
It isn't as much the result of the architecture - which can evolve - as of the division of the land, which is only a calculation of profitability and of the location in an environmental context. What must matter is the adaptation of a new building within the landscape (the terrain, its shape, the size, the neighbourhood, the relationship to the street). In old villages, the houses look alike, they were made with little money. The pattern is often similar but the results are diversified.

This is also the case for towns of all sizes, the development of which are both uncompromising policies that are necessary given the progress and technical capacities of the time and the existing architectural context.

**The urban fabric MUST allow an exact match between the “ENTIRETY” of the city and every element of the daily life of the inhabitants.**



Le Havre © Région Normandie  
- Inventaire général - Denis Couchaux



Évreux  
photo Bertrand Warnier



# SETTING UP A WORKING TOOL URGENTLY

## AN AGENCY FOR LANDMARKS AND LANDSCAPES

If we want to emphasise the numerous urban qualities and the comprehensibility of large landscapes that are the components of the Great Park System, it is essential to have the appropriate tools. Each one of them having specific tasks to perform under the impetus of a "head gardener" (that would be the work of the Agency for Landmarks and Landscapes).

The task of the "head gardener" is to outline and identify the main guidelines and to follow-up on them; connect the various scales with one another, encourage creative ideas and be able to coordinate the actions that must be undertaken in accordance with the trends and ways of life of the moment.

Beyond the guidelines for a Great Park System, there are the "little nothings" that are quite important because of their charm, pleasantness and balance.

All the local initiatives - revolving around this agency - answer for a healthy growth in this new world that is shaped by artificial as well as natural products.

## AGENCY FOR LANDMARKS

Does the association of the terms landmarks and landscapes seem somewhat mysterious? All the better. The landmarks are in line with the activities of a gardener who draws, plants and builds an environment, while imagining the result of nature's slow work, without seeing them. This contributes to the making of both natural and urban landscapes.

Landmarks are elements that lay the foundations of landscapes and punctuate them; they belong to the family of symbols and emblems. They enable recognition and identification.

They also are signals, that make it possible to foresee and plan for the long term.



Map Bertrand Warnier

## The highlights of permanent landscape structures

# THE NEW GENERATIONS' FUTURE

At a time when difficult issues of health and survival are at stake **WHY NOT START RIGHT AWAY** the process that would create **The GREAT PARK SYSTEM of the RIVER SEINE BASIN.**

The "GREAT PARK SYSTEM" is the label that leads to a territory management that includes all its intricacies and gives priority to a **healthy environment.** It is the foundation of everything else: the economy, the networks, the quality of life.

Facing a new reality: we are part of a unique world and the tree of life of the River Seine Basin is just a way to show how obvious the geographic elements are and that it is a realistic alternative to an excessive and distended "Paris-Region". Clearly, the River Seine Basin is an entity, a series of natural and built environments, of towns and villages, of meadows, woods and copses.

The existing balances are to be carefully kept and the planned developments shall not disrupt the present setting.



Watercolor Phil Enquist

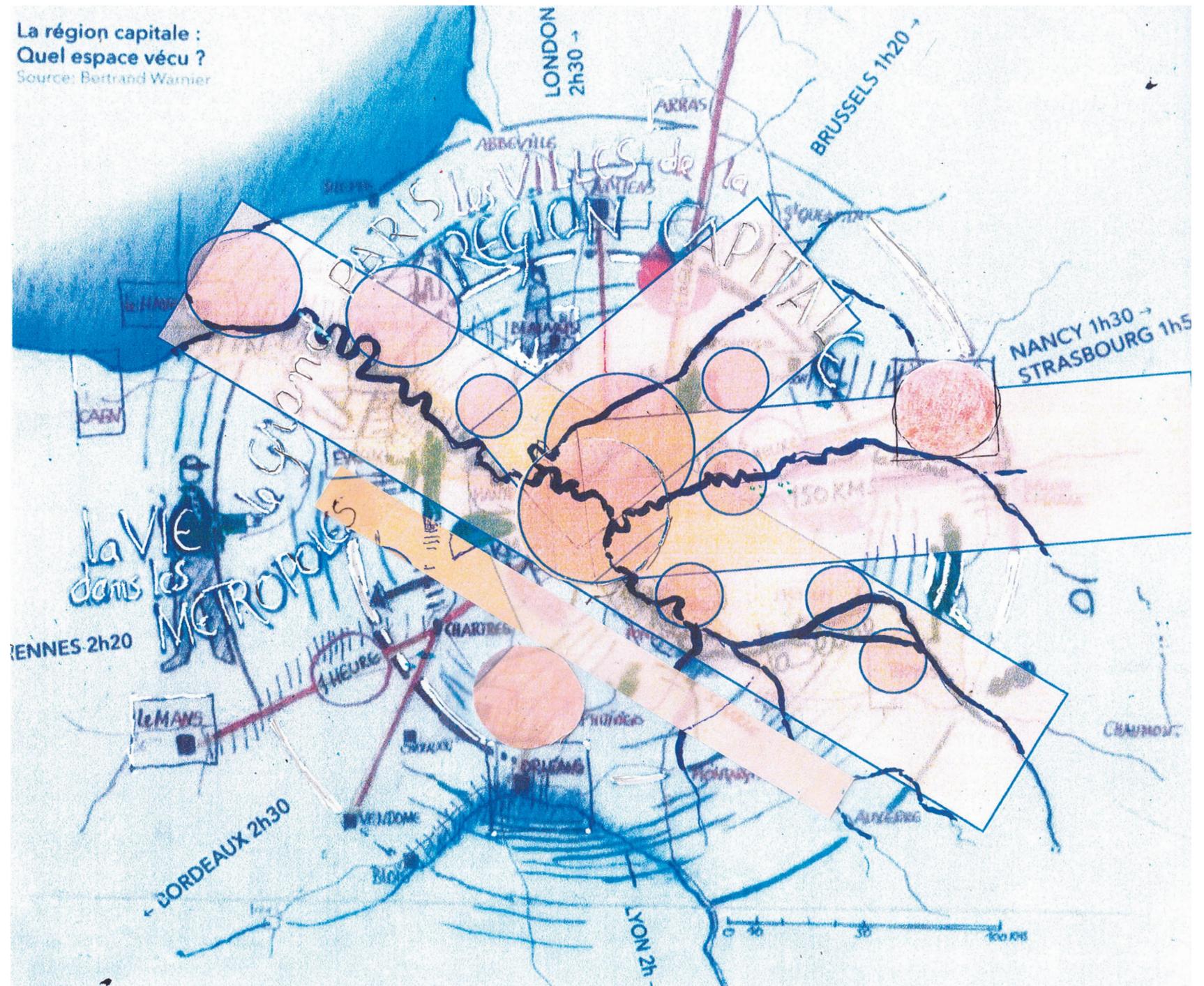
# PROMOTING LIVING SPACES

*"Without the new politics of an ecological humanism that puts an end to this dramatic crisis of societies, megacities will be the epicentre of tomorrow's revolution."*

Ph Saint Marc, L'Économie Barbare, 1993

## This means to:

- Promote an organic growth that is in harmony with the environment
- Allow further extension of large man-made facilities (ports, large city centres, large infrastructures – education: culture, sports, leisure), and a fair balance between what must be done (necessary infrastructure) and well-being
- Meet the challenge of protecting air: to have carbon-free and non-polluted air to breathe
- Meet the challenge of protecting water – rising water, floods, low-water and recycling,
- Develop transit strategies between housing and hubs, between high and low, between natural and man-made obstacles like waterways and infrastructures, among others
- Make the most of natural assets, landscapes, mild climate seasons, but also of extraordinary rich soils that can provide healthy food and trade it
- Benefit from centuries of history that is present in architecture and urban shapes and protect them
- Pursue ongoing efforts to create more sustainable environments
- Prepare growing communities to withstand external pressure.



Drawing Phil Enquist – Bertrand Warnier

# CALL FOR ACTION

## DEFINE A FRAMEWORK FOR A RIVER-WIDE REGULATION SYSTEM FOR THE SEINE BASIN AND AN INNOVATIVE BIO-GOVERNANCE STRATEGY TO IMPLEMENT CHANGES

This appeal, or Call for Action, aims to provide the basis for a holistic vision and innovative regulations for a healthy bio-region. For the sake of future generations that are not here yet to speak, we must protect our environmental heritage.

### REJECTING FRAGMENTATION

The "blue tree" that is the Seine River and its Basin, reflects the need for big thinking and innovative actions, for new governance systems, for collaboration across borders, for achieving ecological health and for sustaining a healthy region made up of millions of people.

### A survey in some of Europe's major cities provided specific findings that are worth repeating:

- Peace and quiet (quality of life) were given priority over transportation,
- The growing and urgent demand for nature,
- The implementation of physical development reflecting circular economies is proving to be too slow,
- The appeal, as well as the concerns, of new technologies
- The need to achieve a carbonless future

### And of course we must include:

- Urban temporalities, the rapid evolution of labour and lifestyles,
- New models for urbanizing regions that include food and agricultural production
- The cultural diversity of territories and the need to create better social linkages,
- The diversity and richness of the different territories,
- Directing future growth of the region as the whole.

In other words, let everyone choose their own way of life by promoting an economy that is close to the people, towns and villages in which they choose to live.

CALLING FOR NUMEROUS INITIATIVES WILL FLOW FROM THIS VISION, INVOLVING MANY VOICES, INCLUDING TO:

- Define the role of the Seine River and its tributaries historically and in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Continue to build a 100 year vision, 25 year strategies, 5 year actions
- Uncover the challenges of the Seine River Basin as a first step in defining its solutions and involve neighbouring communities
- Confirm the interrelated water, food, and urban systems and codependents
- Define what is at stake through all scales: National, regional, local, citizen
- Identify the near term actions throughout the Basin
- Explore innovative governance strategies and mechanisms
- Engage all river communities in the conversation
- Identify the targeted outcomes and performance gains
- List the partners, agencies, individuals, that will form the leadership
- Define what is at stake if no actions are taken

### A Common Will

We need to find ways to exercise good management for this idea of a Great River Park System, the components of which, all straddle different administrative regions, and to combine strengths to create a common will. These components are to be discovered and brought together to meet the reality as it is experienced by the region's inhabitants.

A change of perspective, of behaviour, of attitudes has never been easy, yet it is essential!

*"It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare, they are difficult because we do not dare."*

Seneca



Map Bertrand Warnier

Whether they know it or not, the following sources helped either positively or negatively make this appeal come to life.

- La FNAU (French network of urban planning agencies)
- L'IPR (Institut Paris Region)
- L'INSEE (National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies)
- La Documentation Francaise (French public publishing service)
- Agir Local (Association for climate-related local actions – food production)
- Ecotree (Association for planting trees)
- Terre de liens (civic organisation promoting land preservation and access to farmland for organic, peasant farmers in France)
- Seine Grands Lacs (Disaster Reduction Goal - flood prevention - drought management)
- Les PNR (Regional Nature Parks)
- Les CAUE (Council for Architecture, Town planning and the Environment)
- Le SIARP (Intercommunal Syndicate for Sanitation – Cergy-Pontoise and the Vexin Region)
- Agence de l'Eau Seine Normandie (Water Agency Seine Normandy region)
- Les Ateliers (Workshops of Planning and urban design)
- ADEME (L'Agence de l'environnement et de la maîtrise de l'énergie, French Environment and Energy Management Agency)
- Zadig (magazine)
- Les Apprentis d'Auteuil (Charity for young people at risk)
- GIEC (IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)
- EPF (State-owned public land-management corporation)
- GPA (Grand Paris Aménagement)
- ADEUS (Agence de Développement et d'Urbanisme de l'agglomération Strasbourgeoise)
- CNRS (French National Centre for Scientific Research)
- Interministerial Delegation for the Development of the Seine Valley

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<i>Relier les Connaissances</i>	1999	Edgar Morin
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<i>Stratégie d'Adaptation au Changement Climatique du Bassin Seine Normandie</i>	2016	Agence de l'Eau
<i>Composer avec la Nature</i>	1969 - 1980	Jan Mac Harg
<i>Barres et Pavillons</i>	2018	Julien Revenu
<i>Avernes Paysages et Développement</i>	1970	La Documentation Francaise
<i>Les Clos-Masures du Pays de Caux</i>	1968	Y. Garofalo
<i>L'Économie Barbare</i>	1993	Ph Saint Marc
<i>Yellow River Ecological Landscape</i>	2017	SOM
<i>Joining Nature and Cities</i>	2019	JNC International
<i>Quelle Vie dans les Métropoles au XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle</i>	2018	Les Ateliers
<i>The California tomorrow plan – first sketch</i>	1999	California tomorrow
<i>Territoires et villes durables</i>	2010	Jean-Michel Vincent

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- First of all, these companions, in the 'RICEYS', in the vineyards of the Côte d'Or, on which they roam with the group of seven: Pâquerette, Nénette and Bim



Photo Bertrand Warnier

- The PANDEMIC It has imposed itself and forced us to view the world in a different way
- The COLIBRI and all the small organisations that work effectively and discreetly on various topics useful to our LIFE
- The disciples of LEVI-STRAUSS who venture onto unknown land, not to steal or dominate, but to understand, discover and protect
- The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)
- Discussions between FRIENDS and COLLEAGUES who helped reaching a conclusion

And also some wise and valuable advisors:

Yolande Garofalo

Michel Mirandon

without forgetting Marie-Marie Penicaud, Christophe Bayle, Caroline Motta, Jean-Claude Ralite, Joséphine Billey et beaucoup d'autres / and many others...

Our gratitude also goes to the following artists for the use - free of charge - of their illustrations (photographs, drawings): Julien Revenu (p42 and 51), Rob R de Jong (p46), Stéphanie Lacombe (p47), Pricille Depinay (p49), le service de documentation de la région de Normandie, Denis Couchaux (p50 and 53).

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Syria - Research in Urban Planning

**ALBAIDLI Amina**  
Bahrain - Architecture and Urban Planning

**CHICHKAR Pooja**  
India - Architecture and Urban Design

**DE BLOCK Maxence**  
France/Canada - Architecture and Urban Design

**SANKARI Clara**  
France - Urban Economy

**KHALID Nurul Shakila**  
Malaysia - Research in Urban Planning

**KLIMA Estelle**  
France - Environmental Quality

**STEENHUIS Chris**  
The Netherlands - Urban Design

**VALITOV Karen**  
Russia - Urban Development

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**NIE Bowen**  
China - Urban Planning

**SAMAHA Layal**  
Lebanon - Social and Urban Development

**WABLE Marguerite**  
France - Architecture and Urban Planning

## Pilots of the session:

**SARI Solenne**  
Architect - Urban Planner

**VINCENT Jean-Michel**  
Engineer - Urban Planner

## With the support and assistance of:

**JORGE Priscillia**  
France - Architect Urban Planner

**PEZA Edna**  
Mexico - Urban Researcher

**BROCHARD Simon**  
France - Geographer Urban Planner

**KOFLER Paulina**  
France/Austria - European Affairs

**FARRELL Malachi**  
France/Ireland - Plastic Artist

**JOUILLEC Terric**  
France - Geographer Urban Planner

**PENATTI Mayara**  
Brazil - Architect Urban Planner

**VALENZUELA Véronique**  
Organisation of Ateliers sessions

# THE AUTHORS ARE AS FOLLOW:



**Phil Enquist**

Philip Enquist is a Fellow in the American Institute of Architects, an Honorary Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects and a consulting partner at Skidmore, Owings & Merrill.

Phil is the former Governor's Chair for the State of Tennessee researching Energy and Urbanism under a five-year grant (2014-2019) with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory and the School of Architecture and Design, University of Tennessee. For twelve years, beginning in 2009, Phil has led a pro bono initiative looking holistically at a vision for the international Great Lakes watershed, home to over 40 million people, 8 states and three Canadian Provinces, and the largest repository of surface fresh water in the world. This study, named "The Great Lakes Century" was a collaboration with the International Secretariat of Water, The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Mayor's Initiative, and the Chicago Architecture Foundation.

(see link to TEDx talk) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wn5R5uHVRO4>

Phil has been focused on ecological fragmentation caused by urban settlement patterns and has been assisting in the planning of many urban river corridors, including: the Chicago River, the Yellow River, the Yangtze River, the Seine River, the Tennessee River, and the Los Angeles River.

From 1995 to 2017, Phil defined and led the City Design Practice (CDP) internationally for the firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. During that time, Phil, as a partner in the firm, led and was responsible for the SOM urban planning studios in London, Chicago, San Francisco and Shanghai, focused on planning efforts within rapidly urbanizing regions. Phil has worked in over 100 cities in urban design efforts. In Chicago, Phil is currently serving on the Chicago River Governance Task Force.

Phil has taught urban design at the following Universities in the School of Architecture and School of Urban Planning: Harvard University Graduate School of Design, University of Michigan, University of California, Berkeley, University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, University of Tennessee.

Phil has also participated for many years with the Les Ateliers Internationaux de Maîtrise d'Œuvre Urbaine for the Paris Region.



**Bertrand Warnier**

Elected Member of the Academy of Architecture, Professor "Honoris Causa" of the Tbilisi University (Georgia). Assignment by the Archaeological Department of Pakistan: studies and surveys of monuments, Mughal period, in Thatta (Sindh) and Lahore (Penjab).

Town Planner at the I.A.U.R.P. (Town Planning Institute of the Paris Area), appointed by M.P. Delouvrier (1965) for the working out of the Master Plan between the Paris Area and the city of Le Havre (France).

Head of Town Planning Studies at the Public Corporation of the New Township of Cergy-Pontoise and Head of the Prospective Department (Master Plan of the Town and its evolution, structures and planning of the quarters, evolution of social behaviour and needs, quality of town planning and landscapes, etc.) Expert-evaluation for the Unesco (Afghanistan) Herat, Tashqurghan (Khoulm) and in Ispahan (Iran).

Expert-evaluation for cities in China ((Suzhou, Lijang), official representative of AREP in South Korea by the KRIHS (Korean Research Institute for Human Settlement) on the subject of "Town Planning in Korea".

- Feasibility studies in France:
- Paris: la porte Maillot, Austerlitz-Salpêtrière, Passerelle de Solferino
  - Plateau de Saclay, le Bourget, Contributions for the 'Grand Paris' (APUR), Le Havre, Natural Park of Brotonne, Nantes, la Part-Dieu Lyon, Antibes. etc
  - Abroad: Casablanca (Morocco); Benghazi, Sebha (Libya)

1982 Co-founder of the International Workshops of Planning and Urban Design\* organising a one-month session each year in France and abroad, each session followed by a symposium. Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh city, Mekong delta (Vietnam), Guangzhou, Shanghai (China), Tokyo (Japan), Bangkok, Doi Tung (Thailand), Vittoria (Brasil), Casablanca (Morocco) etc. Several sessions dealing with ways of life and landscapes, especially in 2012 "How to Reveal and Stage Metropolitan Landscapes" and in 2018 « Life in Metropolitan Areas in the 21st Century".

\*Conception of the programme, contacts and preparation of four weeks of non-stop work on a current issue in a given city. Leading young professionals and experts from the whole world and close contacts to the planning authorities of the studied city or region.



**Drew Wensley,**  
Principal and Chief Executive Officer, MT Planners, Toronto, Canada

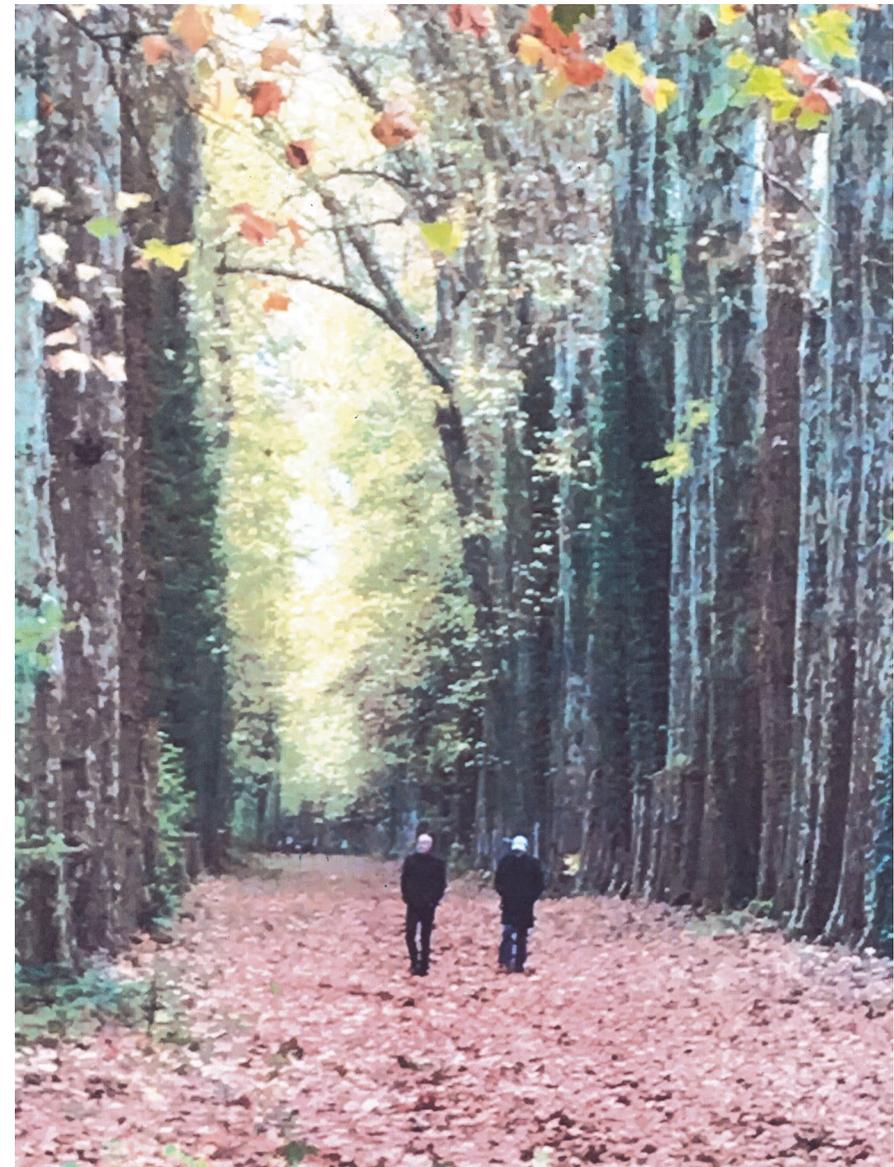
During the 20 years that Drew Wensley has been with MT Planners, he has transformed the landscape and planning group into an internationally esteemed, innovative and award-winning firm.

With strong focus on a natural systems approach to city design

his projects range in complexity, scale and are developed with an unyielding commitment to sustainable, resilient and socially transformative results. Today Drew is contributing to some of the largest and most significant city building initiatives around the world including work in the Middle East, China and North America. These projects share a common goal... to repair and enhance the natural systems that support us all.

In 2001, Drew started work on Riyadh's Wadi Hanifah Comprehensive Development Plan in Saudi Arabia and has been involved in every aspect of the project from vision building to design and implementation. The Aga Khan Award for Architecture-winning project involves the restoration of a 120-kilometer-long oasis, which continues to be recognized as one of the most significant environmental projects in the world. Drew was invited to present the plan to the Council for Sustainable Development and Delegates at the United Nations in New York as a leading example of sustainable urban renewal. This project marks a paradigm shift in the treatment and preservation of environmental systems and natural resources, and their critical importance in building strong sustainable cities in the future.

Responding to the complexity of modern cities and the depletion and contamination of the natural systems that support them, Drew has dedicated his career to improving and enriching urban environments through entirely novel and sustainable practices that have literally resuscitated entire environments back from near collapse to thriving focal points of community life. The systems designed and implemented by his team have delivered a healthy future and clean water to millions of people. Drew's unique ability to translate vast amounts of information and multi-dimensional ideas into pragmatic environmental solutions is demonstrated through his thorough understanding of complex projects from concept to construction detail. His skill set is applied to all aspects of the design and implementation process providing clients with unparalleled level of service and an exceptional project. Drew's goals are clear and focused and they include delivering a project that exceeds the client expectations on all fronts.



*Phil Enquist and Drew Wensley at the Riceys in Burgundy in a park designed by Le Nôtre (a famous french landscape architect in the 17<sup>th</sup> century)*

### Apart from the main authors, the group of seven includes:

**Michel JAOUËN**  
President of the association Urba2000  
and Vice-President of Les Ateliers 'Workshop  
of Planning and Urban Design'

**Louis MOUTARD**  
Architect - Urban Planner from Les RICEYS

**Laurent PERRIN**  
Architect - Urban Planner at the *Institut Paris Région*

**Jean Michel VINCENT**  
President of the association *Agir Local*  
for the climate



This appeal was actually meant to be a manifesto. Indeed, it's a challenge to call for a great park system on the scale of the River Seine and its tributaries: a challenge because it has to deal with land issues on a large geographic scale but it needs to be done with the attention and sensitivity of a gardener. The challenge is also our new sense of time, dictated by the urgency of climate change: it means initiating a stimulating and healthy dynamic on a wide range of issues. It also means to act and think in an inclusive way so that future major planning and development projects respect the basic commons we share: water, earth and air. Three authors, six hands from different continents have written this appeal, which is an invitation to show bold and innovative approaches for the future and a call for the attention of all decision-makers.

### A CUT DOWN TREE IS A WOUNDED TREE

#### The authors are:

**Bertrand Warnier**, Urban Planner, former Head of Town Planning Studies at the Public Corporation of the New Township of Cergy-Pontoise (France) and co-founder of the International Workshops of Planning and urban Design.

**Philip Enquist**, Urban Planner, former partner of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) in Chicago and has taught Urban Design at several North-American Universities.

**Drew Wensley**, Landscape Planner, Principal and Chief Executive Officer at MT Planners in Toronto and main planner of the environmental restoration of Riyadh's Wadi Hanifah that was awarded the Aga Khan Award for Architecture.

Nominated for the first edition in the topic **LANDSCAPE**  
**THE INTERNATIONAL PLANET ALBERT KAHN PRIZE - PIPAK - 2021**  
*Award ceremony at the SNHF (The National Horticultural Society of France)*

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Price: 10 €  
ISBN: 978-2-9579962-2-3



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