



THE CHALLENGES AT THE
**RURAL
URBAN
INTERFACE**
IN EASTERN GREATER PARIS

POST

The post atelier report
Seine-et-Marne county, France, 2010



les ateliers

maîtrise d'œuvre urbaine



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THE CHALLENGES AT THE RURAL-URBAN INTERFACE IN EASTERN GREATER PARIS

LES ATELIERS - POST-WORKSHOP REPORT SEINE-ET-MARNE COUNTY, FRANCE, 2010

Two years ago, Les Ateliers met Vincent Eblé, chairman of Seine-et-Marne county council, to suggest holding an Ateliers workshop in his area.

A workshop consists of 30 students and young professionals from around the world, selected from a university network covering a variety of disciplines, from business school students to geographers, architects and landscape architects, who work together as a team for a month on a real commission in complete freedom.

First of all, the specific nature of Seine-et-Marne county, which covers an area equal to half of the entire surface area of the Paris Paris Paris Ile-de-France region, presented an unusual question in terms of scale. The subject of large areas of farmland coming into contact with urbanisation raised questions about the practices of urban planners, for whom agricultural land too often acts as an expansion gap for urban development. It prompted us to reconsider the fact that facing a major agglomeration with millions of inhabitants, there was an equivalent area of some of the most beautiful and productive land in France, and wonder whether it would still exist in several generations' time, given the pace at which agricultural land is being consumed.

The arguments of the rural world and its 2% of farmers count for little faced with the pressing needs for housing and comfort in an agglomeration that is home to several million people. In order to rethink the conflictual relationship between urban and rural

areas and identify the economic, urban, agricultural, landscape and land conditions required to organise agricultural land and the activities that depend on it over the long term, we needed to look at the question from the point of view of the tools we have available to us as urban planners.

It was not a question of stepping into the shoes of agronomists and farmers and trying to replace them, but examining the issue of the urban/rural interface and what defines it: the divisions between rural and agricultural land, between the peri-rural and the peri-urban and between natural and recreational spaces, all of which are areas that are populated at varying levels of density and on whose fringes new forms and types of use are emerging to serve both rural areas and the city.

These questions are relevant not only to the Parisian agglomeration but to all major cities. On 22 September 2010, the five teams handed their work in and reported on what they had done, which has been compiled into a set of "workshop proceedings". The proposals put forward by the teams and outlined here by theme are based on the specific characteristics of the area around Sénart. The aim is to present, post-workshop, the converging lines of research into the future balance between urban areas and the countryside, and a shared area of solidarity where both lifestyles can co-exist.

Pierre-André Perissol
Chairman of Les Ateliers





INTRODUCTION

The publication of the workshop findings is the final stage in a two-year process, made up of meetings and visits designed to pinpoint the substance of a subject to which little attention has been paid in the context of the sustainable city. These were followed by a workshop, held in September 2010, during which the participants were able to draw on the insights of a wide range of key players to support their proposals. Finally, the proposals were scrutinised by the members of the judging panel, experts and academics with clear views on the topic.

The subject is far from exhausted. Although the point at which rural and urban environments meet is susceptible to the imaginations of young people, fired by questions of food shortages, the balance between getting the best possible yield from the land and shorter distribution circuits for local produce, and by managing climate change, for all that we were unable to bring together young agronomists and urban planners: the division of work on this subject seems to be an intellectual divide too. A symposium was therefore organised in advance, in Moissy Cramayel, with the Seine-et-Marne county council, in order to address a range of issues including, amongst other things, the economics of urban sprawl (Thierry Rebour), the persistent influence of history on the area (Hervé Gazel), hybrid regions (Thomas Sieverts) and areas of urban agriculture (Peter Bosselmann, Jean Marie Stephan, Michel Fleury), not forgetting the views, or rather the appeals, of farmers (represented

by Didier Corman and Rémi Garnot). Tackling a subject that is still seen as an empty space by urban planners and a pressing issue by agronomists, also raises the question of the best use of the potential represented by land that has not yet been developed on the outskirts of major cities, porous areas of both agricultural land and natural space, to give shape to what some people have called the new countryside.

The belt formed by the “urban / rural interface” accounts for 20% of the surface area of the Paris Ile-de-France region. It is the area where a new relationship between the city and the countryside will be developed over the next 30 years. It is possible that it could be used for the development of public spaces, led by a reappropriation of agricultural land, and that the signs of a subservient area could be removed, with urban and rural cultures creating a new kind of relationship in both form and substance. Far from creating a role for itself as a new centrality, this concept of Greater Paris is conceived of in terms of new connections and increased density, with more space for market gardening, planting and environmentally friendly transport, with a much more diverse mix of functions. In this particular space, the differences inherited from geography and history – rivers and the ways land was divided into plots – can define locations and embed rhythms and divisions that can be beneficial to the identity of a major agglomeration.

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**THE TOPIC:
THE URBAN / RURAL
INTERFACE**

THE TOPIC: THE URBAN / RURAL INTERFACE

Inspired by the new-found interest amongst elected representatives and inhabitants in the future of agricultural land on the fringes of metropolitan areas, the workshops in the 2010 session identified actions and projects to launch to ensure that these areas would become a new area of solidarity, which city dwellers (in the majority) could share with the rural population (in the minority). Urban planners are invited to embrace this twofold approach, in order to organise agricultural space over the long term in the face of urban expansion, using positive measures rather than demarcating boundaries, which are never respected.

The agricultural land on the margins of metropolitan areas is one of the future challenges we currently face. In general terms, the effect of concerns about sustainable development in all countries had been to intensify the central urban areas in large agglomerations. Changes are already taking place or will be needed in the outer suburbs over the coming years. A slowdown in the pace of peri-urbanisation is already being seen, but what is needed above all are more appropriate urban forms and urban fabrics, as well as a relationship between city dwellers and nature, expressed not only in leisure areas but also in a meaningful local environment. By hoping that there will be a resurgence in fruit and vegetable production near to where they live, inhabitants have shown that they want to re-establish the connection between agriculture and society and take a fresh look at agricultural areas.

More than other areas, agricultural land, which is so fragile on the outskirts of metropolitan areas, has the ability to be synonymous with the countryside: a space that provides nourishment, represents a special kind of landscape and creates a setting for leisure activities, whilst at the same time, with its impermeable open spaces, performing an ecological service which is now indispensable for city dwellers. From San Francisco to France and other European countries, there is now a craze for “locally grown” food and “box schemes” run by the AMAP (Associations pour le maintien d’une agriculture paysanne – Associations for the protection of small-scale agriculture), farmers’ markets, direct sale to consumers and other agricultural initiatives.

The upsurge in local production since the appearance of organic farms and agricultural diversification (pick-your-own schemes, etc.) has resulted in renewed dialogue between city dwellers and farmers. People



Villarceaux estate (Val d'Oise). A 400 ha agricultural estate held by a single tenant, transformed by the Léopold Mayer Foundation into a modern farm combining two areas of activity: cereal cultivation and livestock farming (meadows). Plots of around 8 ha are separated by hedges and paths, in order to enhance the landscape and increase biodiversity. Crop rotation is used to avoid the use of agricultural inputs. Yields are lower, but organic wheat commands higher prices. Taking into account the fact that the estate provides pure water and offers local inhabitants an environmental service does not compensate fully for the significant financial investment made by the foundation every year, but does contribute to a more balanced annual budget.



who live in the outer suburbs are also interested in an activity that brings to life the idealised values of the rural environment on the fringes of the agglomeration, at the meeting point between recent urban fabrics and rural villages.

The social value of peri-urban forests has largely been taken into account by managers and they are protected from the development of urbanisation. This is generally not the case with agricultural land, which can be consumed for amenities and urbanisation, particularly in the “Green Belt” in the Paris Ile-de-France region.

At a time when concerns about sustainable development are focusing increasingly on identifying a concentration of urban areas in order to rationalise services and facilitate the provision of public transport, economic management of agricultural land is no longer a synonym for preventing the building of the housing needed to revitalise the region. The challenge faced by agricultural regions is threefold: not only should they largely be able to co-exist alongside urban areas, but they should also offer opportunities for a higher proportion of local production and provide the natural potential needed to create greenways and blueways that will help to slow down the erosion of biodiversity

The session therefore addressed the issue of agricultural land on the fringes of metropolitan areas, and more particularly in Seine-et-Marne county, in order to examine the implications for urban development of agricultural activities being taken into consideration. This objective reverses the situation in relation to a spontaneous approach to urban development. Whilst in general terms, cities consume agricultural land with such a level of financial resources at their disposal that they can neutralise competition from agricultural production, is it possible, in this very specific area on the fringe, to envisage real safeguards for agricultural land and ensure an appropriate price in line with production, the protection of natural resources, an increase in biodiversity and functions that define a new kind of peri-urban matrix? What forms could urban development on the outskirts of a metropolitan area take? What types of urban development could

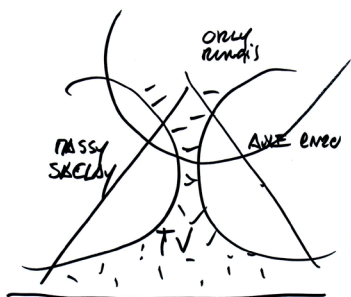
combine residential and production areas and what steps need to be taken to achieve this?

The five teams of young professionals from 12 countries worked on the urban/rural interface from 28 August to 24 September 2010. They drafted a set of guidelines to enable urban development and agricultural activities to co-exist. In addition to numerous other suggestions, they developed a new vocabulary for urban development to accompany, in Michel Serres’ terms “the current recoupling” of urban development “to life and earth sciences”.

AREAS IN SEINE-ET-MARNE COUNTY: GRAPPLING WITH THE METROPOLITAN FRINGE

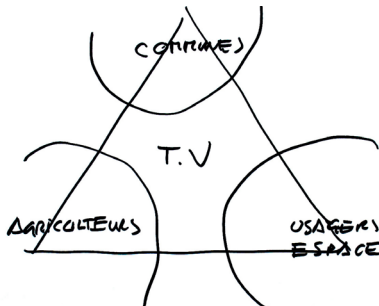
- Agricultural land:
an identity for fringe areas

Seine-et-Marne county covers half the surface area of the Paris Ile-de-France region. It includes urban centres as large and important as Roissy CDG airport and the towns of Marne-la-Vallée, Meaux and Melun, but is still the most rural area in the region. It is dominated by large-scale farming, which performs extremely well in terms of yields. The sector studied has all the characteristics of a peripheral metropolitan area, accommodates both housing and logistics facilities and has good connections to the rest of the region via the A5 and Francilienne motorways. It is located to the west of a line running between Combs-la-Ville, the new town of Sénart and Melun, where there has been a significant increase in the number of detached houses, blurring the boundaries between the city and the countryside. The area is characterised by a lack of density and loss of identity, including agricultural land that has been fragmented by the development of roads and buildings, with cereal farms with few hedges or wooded areas and a relatively homogeneous landscape, exacerbated by the marked decline in specialist crops in the Paris Ile-de-France region over recent decades. Fringe areas do offer significant potential, however: as soon as they are given back a sense of scale by the introduction of copses, they become a magnificent matrix of living nature and are able to forge an identity for themselves in line with the increasing influence of rural values rather than being subservient to the capital.



TRIANGLE SOUS PRESSION

→ PROJET



STRUCTURE PROJETS

- PROJETS COMRUMES
- PROJETS AGRICOLTEURS
- PROJETS USAGERS ESPACE



The “Triangle Vert” (Green Triangle) association, created in 2003, brings together elected representatives, farmers and inhabitants from five municipalities to the south of Essonne county around a combined agriculture and urban development project, formalised in the form of an agricultural development charter. It represents both an approach and a territory. Its aim is to reconcile urban development and the maintenance of a viable agricultural economy. Alongside the association itself, the steering committee includes managers and members of the administrative authorities (French Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries), the region and the county (including the ATRFP, the Water Agency and the CAUE – Council for Urban Development, Architecture and the Environment). A PRIF (Perimètre Régional d’Intervention Foncière), a mechanism introduced by the Loi d’orientation agricole (French Agricultural Framework Act) of 1999 giving the regional authorities rights of pre-emption of a predefined area of land, has been created.

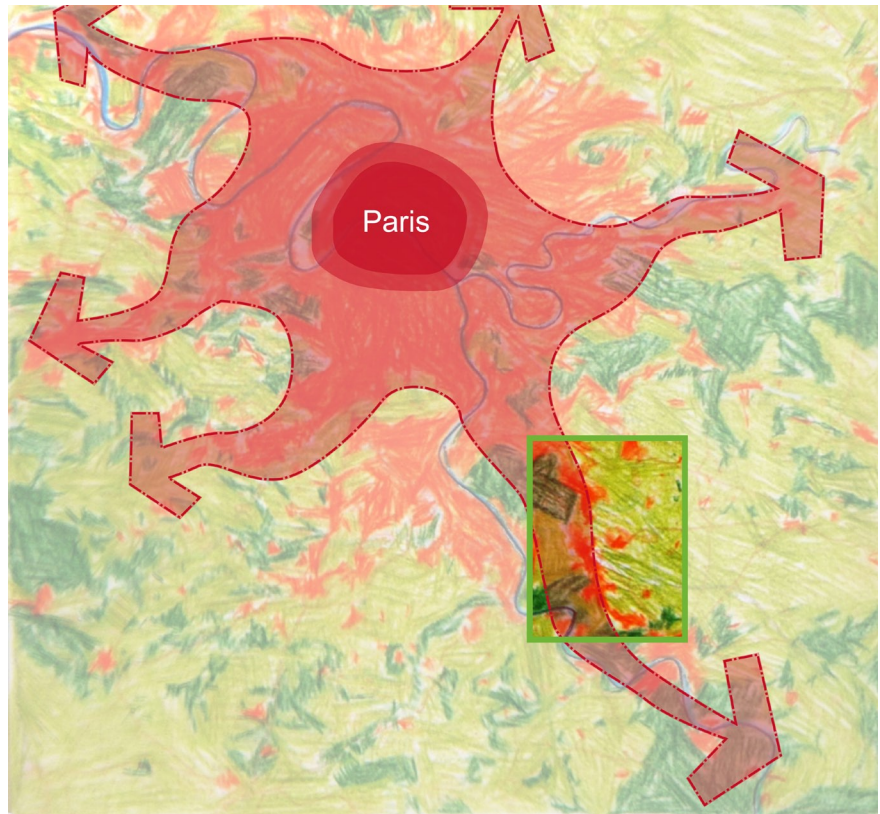
Illustrations: Thierry Laverne
Carte: the Triangle Vert (Green Triangle)

Opposite

Location of the study area in the Paris agglomeration

Right-hand page

An analysis of the constituents and scale of the site, showing the position of major infrastructure, the difference between the new town and the villages, the valleys and the structural role of Melun. (Sketch: Bertrand Warnier) –



équipe Polyculture

- First-class tourism centres and attractive rivers for leisure activities

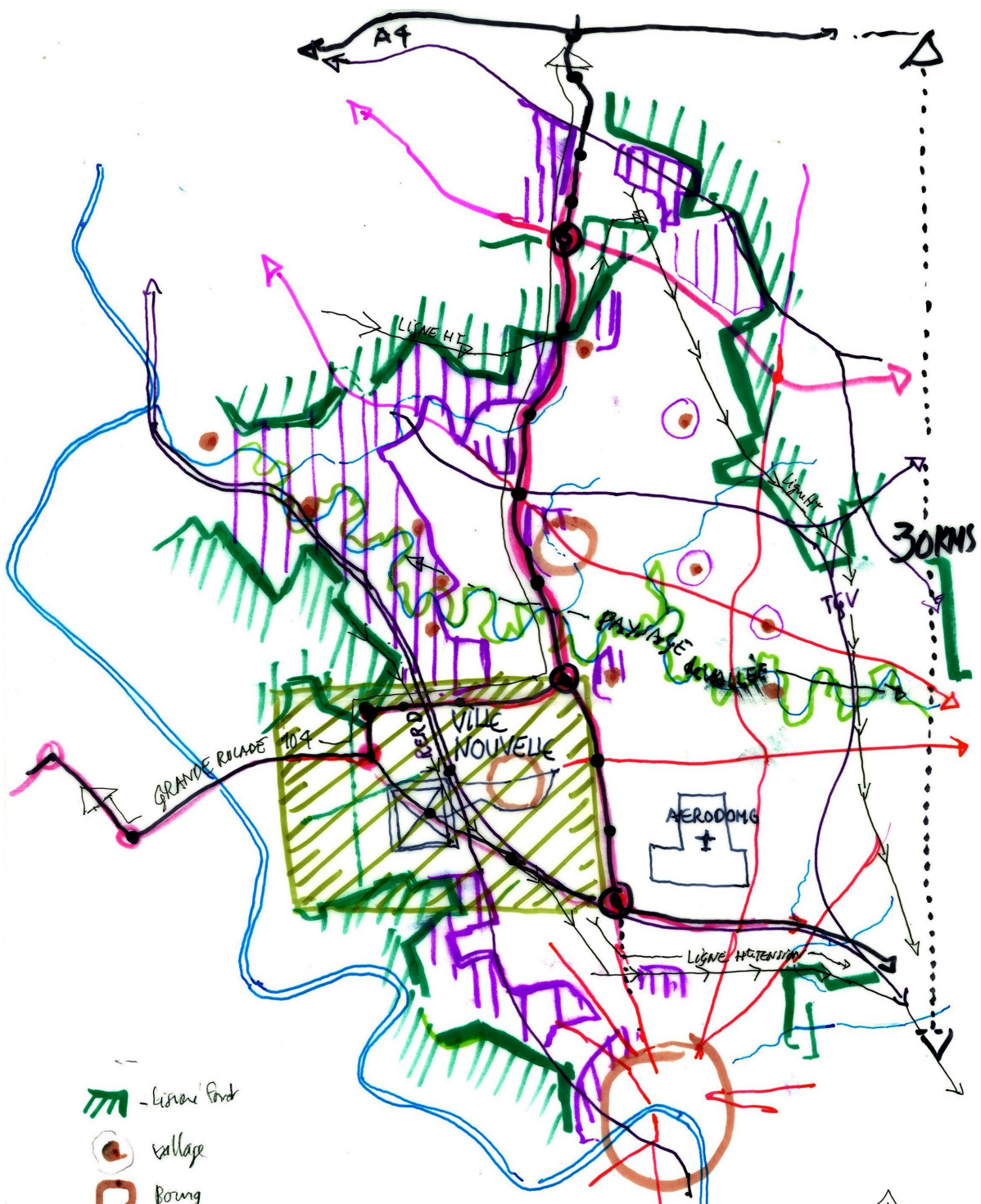
A second area offers growth potential and increased prestige for Seine-et-Marne county: leisure and tourism. The county has a wealth of cultural heritage. In addition to some exceptional heritage sites and remarkable monuments in the towns, along the rivers or in networks anchored by certain villages and even a number of farms and other traces of agro-industrial activities, lanes and footpaths provide ways of exploring history and offer potential for rural outings, which are gradually being developed.






- Contrasting types of urban centre

When the fringes of urbanisation are held back and do not systematically touch each other, individual municipalities retain their outline and identity, although the shape of some is more marked by the

impact of the current peri-urbanisation than others. Melun, the county town of Seine-et-Marne, is a historic centre and a major hub. The town stands in a remarkable landscape, connected to the Seine on one side and an area of rural land on the other by a fan-shape arrangement of major roads serving major destinations running in straight lines across the plateau; it is home to numerous services and is the major town in the area.

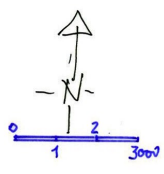
Sénart, 35 km from the capital and 35 minutes away via line D of the Paris region's mass rapid transit railway system (RER), stands at the focal point of the interface area examined by the session. Sénart was created as a new town in 1973. Urban development occurred on a voluntary basis, incorporating existing villages, prior to the formalisation of a main unifying hub in the form of a large square: the "Carré Sénart" (opened in 2002) which is already home to a shopping



-  - Lignes bord
-  Bourg
-  Bourg au village
-  autoroute simple double 104
-  urbain continu.

Tous les INGREDIENTS de
 la périphérie d'une métropole -
 y compris ceux d'une agriculture sur de larges espaces
 dont les DEFI sont de s'ACCOMPAGNER de ces VOISINAGES
 et d'en TIRER PROFIT

On est bien dans l'ESPACE INTERMEDIAIRE
 entre l'URBAIN CONTINU et le "VACUUM"
 - l'ESPACE de TRANSITION -



centre, leisure amenities, services, administrative offices and tertiary businesses, and retains a number of strategic open spaces that will be valuable over the long term. Whilst the process of creating traditional towns includes a densification of the centre with a concentration of functions (known as central services) and then a slide out towards the surrounding area, here the rough outline of the “centre” is still pending, a situation which creates an element of surprise and to some extent a sense of discomfort, and this status was a matter of concern to our young urban planners.

Finally, the rural hamlets and villages of Brie are separate communities dotted at regular intervals across the rural plateau, each with its own personality. As an ideal type of urban development in embryonic form, with a variety of uses and public spaces, these villages can be seen as benchmarks. They illustrate the collective identity of rural areas, having undergone few changes in terms of form or shape, except for those closest to the outskirts of the city or which have become part of the new town, most of which have accommodated developments of single-family housing units. Peri-urbanisation, the insidious image of a subservient space, results from the way logistics facilities, numerous business parks and shopping centres (such as Boissénart, an old shopping centre along the former RN 6 trunk road (now the RD 306), which has undergone a programme of renovation, primarily as a result of the opening of “Maisonément”, a specialist in home furnishings) are located in direct contact with agricultural land, strung out unceremoniously along the main roads, particularly the RD 306, without any kind of transition. These sites along the RD 306, and the aeronautics centre in the Villaroche competitiveness cluster, nonetheless represent key points in the Sénart agglomeration for strengthening employment, which is a priority, but also clearly signal the disintegration of the surrounding rural environment.

One key asset for urbanising the new agglomeration is the TZen: a tram bus designed to link Corbeil and Sénart (scheduled to open in 2011) and then be extended to Melun.

The next decade is likely to see a sharp increase in urban development and businesses in the broad strip between the A5b motorway – which connects the A5 to the Francilienne orbital motorway – and the Seine, which follows a meandering course between Evry (another 1970s new town) and Melun. This will be made possible by the large reserves of publicly owned land set aside for the new town. Locally, it is hoped that the region, which is divided by line D of the RER, will be able to identify exemplary forms of growth. The assets it already has will need to be given the necessary amount of time to become even more significant. Local bodies have already created a large number of natural areas, forests, lakes and green spaces. The areas surrounding the Paris agglomeration also have the potential to thrive, based on forms of urban life that are compatible with the long-term viability of agricultural activity.

● INTERFACE OR BOUNDARY?

How should we define the point at which urban and rural environments meet? Should we think of it as an interface or a boundary, and on what scale, in which circumstances and at what time? This question was raised so that the teams could develop proposals both in terms of definitions and designs, and in terms of suggestions for development. It is an issue that concerns the outskirts of all metropolitan areas: how to mark, in the series of rings that constitute the urban area, the rhythms and breaks which, unlike urban sprawl in an “oil stain” pattern, show the successive stages and changes in the urban fabric and the nature of the land and contribute to the living environment, and how to create the conditions for a

It is about knowing how to interpret the landscape, which is immense, flat and contains some of the best agricultural land in the world (based on documents from the Urban Development Corporation (EPA); photos by Camille Fallet)



Fragmentated by infrastructures

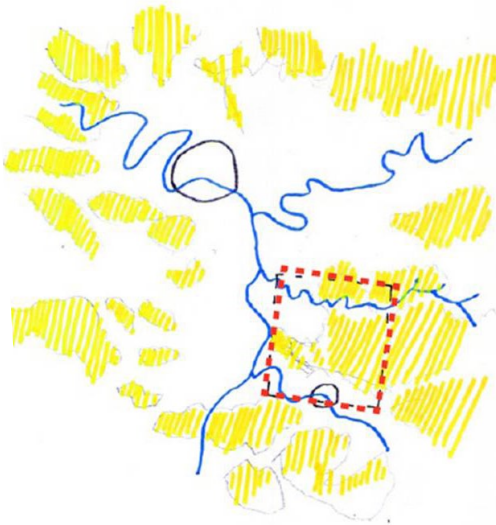


specific location that allows the rural environment to continue to exist? The map on p. 17, produced for the workshops by the IAU, shows the current boundary, based on the INSEE categorisation, between “urban” and “rural” municipalities; the teams have changed this either into a solid line or into a fairly broad contact area: an interface, somewhere that should acquire its own specific functions. Clear boundaries may then appear between different kinds of use on a different scale within the interface itself.

AN AREA WAITING TO BE INVENTED

The workshop’s choice of territory, in the centre of a town that is still under development, seemed particularly ripe with possibilities, with the potential to invent new ways of living at every level.

Beginning of the Brie plateau



Non structurant forest grid



CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED DURING THE SESSION

- Ensure agricultural land is preserved by urban residents

An important point from this session was the realisation that in areas on the fringes of major metropolitan areas, the question of agricultural land and its preservation would need to be dealt with by urban residents. These people represent the majority of the population and demand services. They have the power to manage space. Farmers are unable to impose the maintenance of agricultural land within the boundaries of new towns or even in marginal areas, where the demand for urban development is always strong. As there are now only a handful of them covering an immense area of land, farmers, even with land that generates very high yields, have been placed in a vulnerable position by the market (due to lower production prices and concerns over announcements about a drop in CAP – Common Agricultural Policy – subsidies).

The possibility of maintaining agriculture in marginal areas or partially converting it towards greater specialisation and diversity will need an overall vision shared by urban residents and the world of agriculture.

From a spatial planning point of view, the new town could gain a new area of authority and play a role in managing / protecting certain areas of agricultural land at the level of the interface between rural and urban environments. It could allow various experiments on reserves of land it does not intend to allocate to housing or associated businesses before a certain time. Without prejudging the future, this would help to respond to local demand and increase the number of points at which agricultural activities and inhabitants meet.

- Make the urban / rural interface an area of solidarity

Young urban planners, landscape architects, economists and agronomists identified the area where urban and rural environments meet as a new area of solidarity for society. The result was a series of development proposals for actions that would both

be profitable and build solidarity between the two groups, in particular incoming populations and young people. What matters, as Thomas Sieverts, amongst others, says, is to try to change the attitudes and views of inhabitants and their elected representatives on what is there in front of them, so that they are even able to feel a certain sympathy for the future of the space and for agricultural activities. Attitudes can, in fact, help to move things considerably, even if the method relies on a series of steps.

THE MAIN IDEAS DEVELOPED BY THE TEAMS

- Sustainability is about economising on land and densifying urban centres

Even in fringe areas, urban forms need to be compact. Space for urbanisation in fringe areas is distributed differently compared with areas closer to the town: this is an opportunity for the countryside to work alongside the town, and reserve land for small vegetable cultivation activities: individual kitchen gardens, market gardens, orchards, etc. It is seen as an advantage of the metropolitan fringe that it is necessary to combine on an equal footing the qualities required of the urban environment, and the enlargement of public transport services related to the decline in the use of private cars. This makes it necessary to identify points of densification, both within existing urban boundaries, and even within existing developments (housing or businesses). The new town of Sénart offers some fine opportunities for this, as the Ateliers projects emphasised, in particular by densifying housing on the approaches to stations, and along the line of the TZen. Enabling the development of more public transport services is also about developing a more central role for urban bridges.

- Improving the living environment by improving the relationship with areas of agricultural production: the development strategy

The idea of placing inhabitants back in a human and agricultural environment to give them roots and an identity is not a new one: it is inherited from garden cities and later the new towns of the early 20th

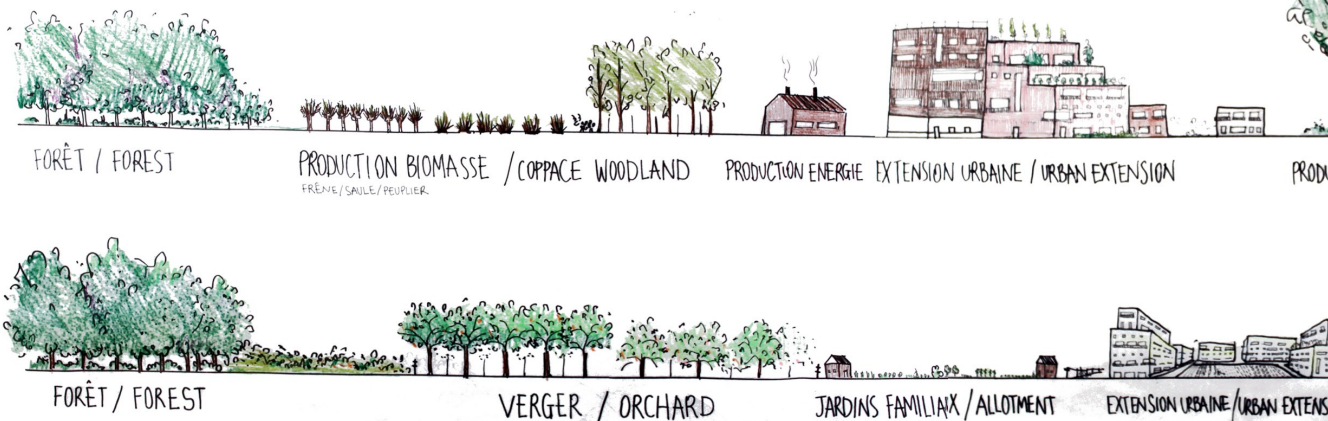
century. The challenge today is to revise the structure of the land and the built environment to create a new kind of rural/urban fabric. This may mean:

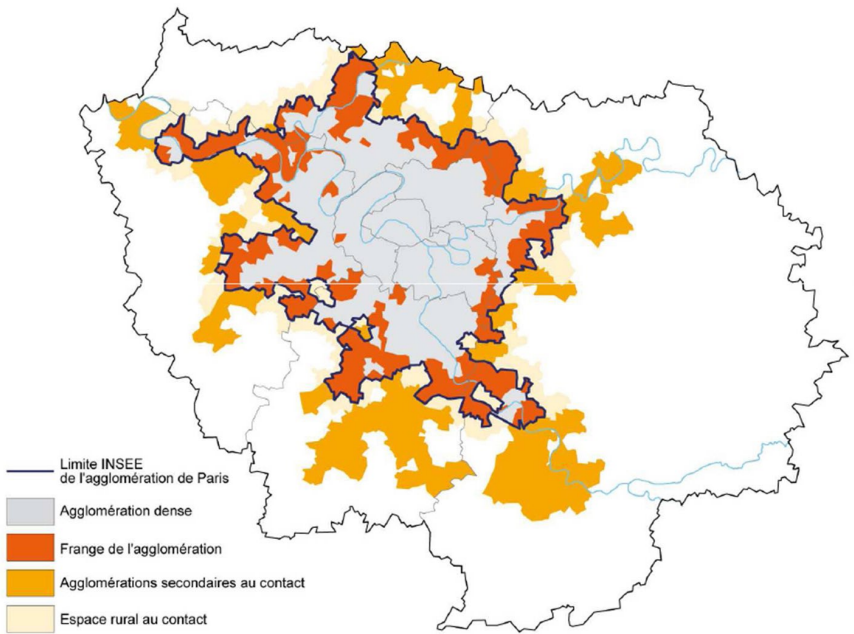
- defining which land owned by the state should be retained over the long term and allowing different kinds of occupation on it;
- identifying or forming long-term boundaries for urban development; either by returning some plots of land to rural space that is valued as such (today, development plots are advancing backwards, turning their back on agriculture and sometimes surrounded by barricades); or by producing soft boundaries, i.e. creating a path or a planted copse every time there is too stark a boundary with no transition.
- restoring the image of the area, by bringing the landscape up to the same level as its heritage. This type of intervention could, for example, help to avoid

the image of the very stark confrontation between the rural landscape and the SNECMA aircraft engine manufacturing plant continuing to damage the image of Seine-et-Marne county. This also means that any intervention near the SNECMA plant would be a positive driver for changing the image of Seine-et-Marne. It was by putting agriculture at the heart of their development concerns that the teams defined the underlying approach of their projects.

- Recreating diversity within specialist areas

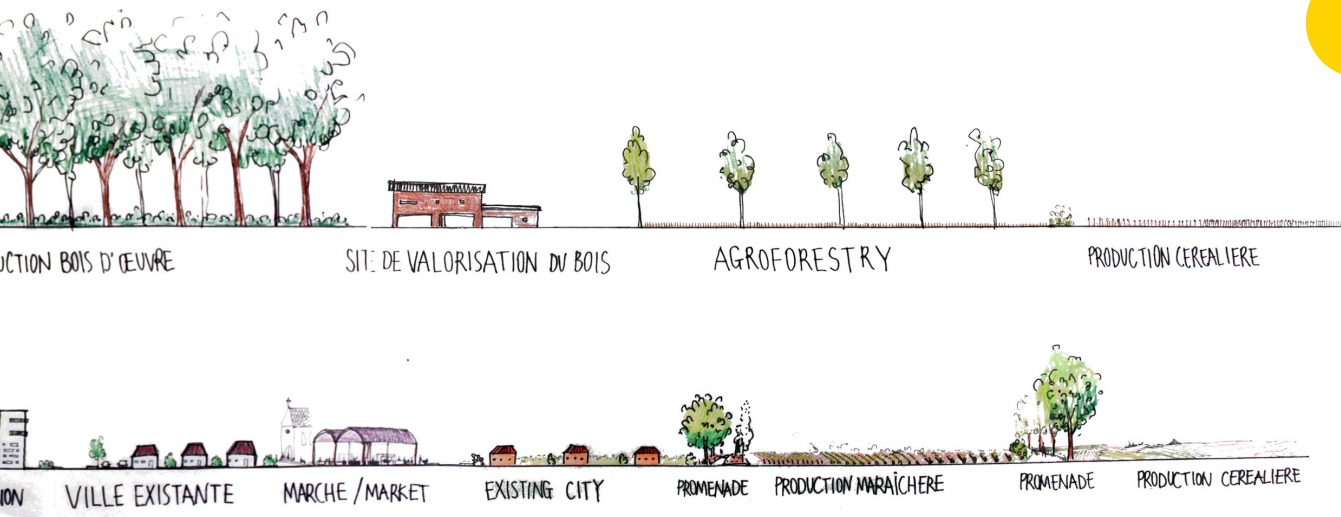
Another constant appears in the projects: as long as there is no mixing of functions in current spaces, whether they are urban/logistical or rural/large-scale agricultural, this vast plateau, despite being surrounded by woods and rivers, will fail to fulfil its potential and create an environment that its inhabitants can appropriate to themselves.





Map of boundary interface areas = 20% of the surface area in the Paris Ile-de-France region. These represent a linear total of 13,800 km, 800 km of which border agricultural land, and 5,450 km of which border wooded areas.

(source: IAU, Charles-Antoine de Ferrières)



Picture by Thomas Sieverts, one of the speakers at the preparatory symposium for the summer workshop (held on 29/04/2010 in Moissy-Cramayel), author of *Entre-ville; une lecture de la Zwischenstadt*, éd. Parenthèses, 2004, and the inspiration behind the major urban redevelopment programme at Emscher Park in Germany. Sieverts emphasises the potential of these peripheral areas, as yet undefined places free from concepts such as urban centre or urbanity. We need to focus our attention on their cultural heritage, and what helps to mediate art. Farmer and baker Remy Garnot, who offers artistic / agricultural experiences on his farm, the Ferme de la Carrière in Réau takes the same approach and is helping to change people's view of the region.



OUTLINE PROPOSALS

OUTLINE PROPOSALS

Agricultural land dates back several centuries. After the functionalist hiatus of the 20th century, it is a resource that deserves to be put back at the centre of urban planners' concerns and should be the focal point around which towns and cities are built. This is a time for innovative proposals, such as new ways of dividing up agricultural land that are compatible with climate change, developing greenways and blueways along grassy lanes or creating public spaces along rivers. These new developments are urban and rural at the same time and act as vectors for teaching about civilisation in the 21st century where, in time, the urbanisation of the country will be based on valuable agricultural land, in the sense of its being alive and indispensable.

ESTABLISHING A BALANCE BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL AND CREATING A NETWORK OF ENVIRONMENTS

The teams suggest using construction resources (+ 8,000 housing units /year scheduled in Seine-et-Marne) to mark a better balance between agriculture and housing, in order to increase the appeal of Seine-et-Marne and ensure that it is no longer viewed from the outside simply as a subservient area. This means developing a “social-economic-natural” tripod that will help to demonstrate that the contribution made by agricultural land to Seine-et-Marne is much greater than its GDP (1 to 3%). As a result:

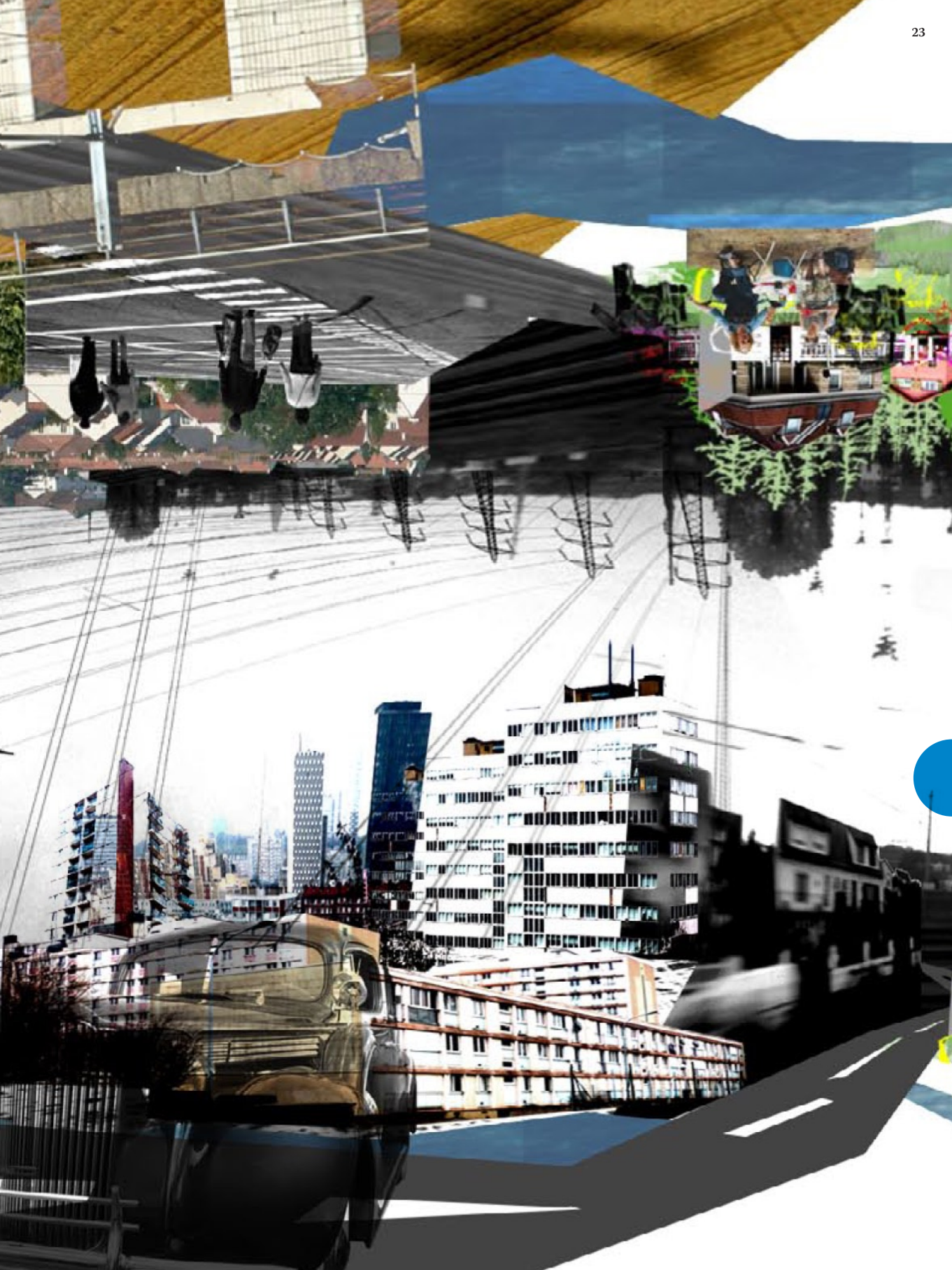
- in the natural arena: every development project should be associated with a social programme;
- in the economic arena: every agricultural programme should be associated with part of a nature programme:

– in the social arena: every housing development should be associated with opportunities for inhabitants to take part in leisure activities and have access to nature.

PUTTING “AGRICULTURE AT THE CENTRE”

The geographical position of agricultural land between hamlets prompts empathetic reactions. The discussions led by elected representatives should not only focus on housing and businesses. It would be beneficial if they approached agricultural projects with the same interest as urban ones, and gave them the time needed to generate a return on investment required to switch to specialist or organic agriculture.

It is important to be able to help to introduce specialist agriculture and encourage agricultural diversification. Farmers close to the area of the new



town have all managed to diversify successfully (through cultivating potatoes, producing bread, introducing pick-your-own schemes, etc.). Those that are 10 km away have not yet thought about it for themselves, but it could work with the right organisation. Farms are well distributed across the region and are potential attractions. They have the option of becoming sales outlets or more. Having market gardens close to villages or tourist attractions adds appeal for visitors and creates a market for producers. It seems possible to systematise the diversification of large-scale farms by combining them with market gardening or other services for urban residents (an example would be the success of the rabbit stew and other artisan farm produce in the Regional Natural Park (PNR) of the French Vexin, which the Park has promoted very successfully).

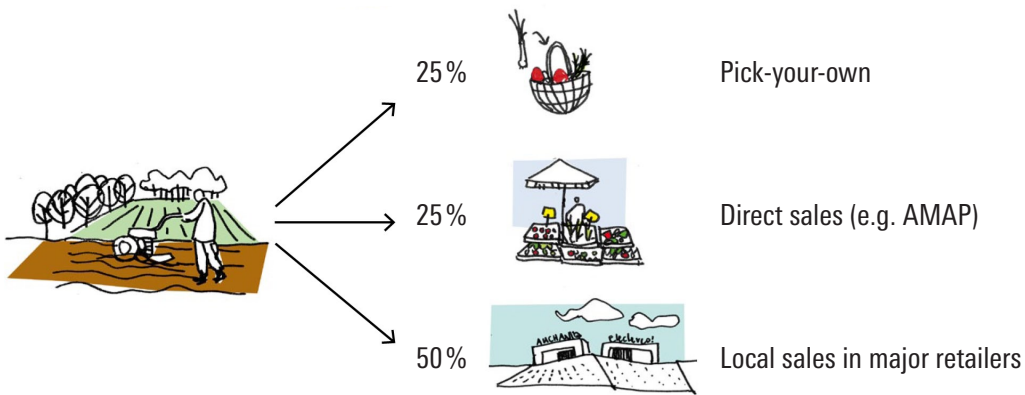
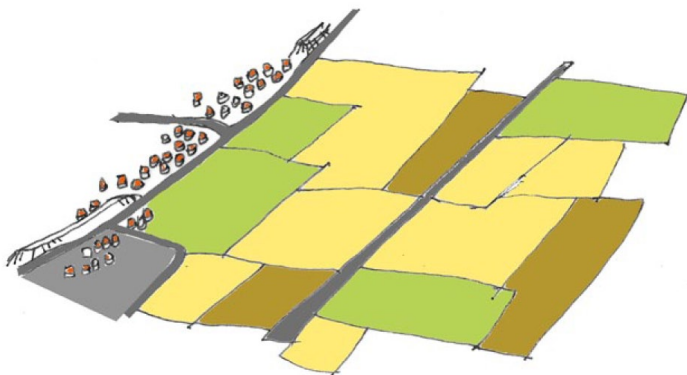
RETHINKING THE CITY BASED ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

This is a new idea, which can operate on several levels. Small, cross-functional projects can help to ease the current tense relationship between agriculture and the city. The teams are enthusiastic about bringing agricultural activities into the new town, which would help to protect some current farms and would require ways of making it easier for agricultural traffic to move through urban areas. One option would be to work with existing green spaces and land reserves, close to where people live: areas of large-scale farms could be turned into agricultural parks based on diversified agriculture or production intended for local consumption. These areas could be open to the public and operate as a kind of urban park. These could be provided in the grounds of chateaux that are open to the public or



- Childcare provider - farmer
- Private market gardening services
- Local sales of local produce
- Farm used for social reintegration
- Household waste collected by horses
- Lawns mown by grazing sheep
- Green waste composting companies
- Chipped wood production company
- Sawmill
- Farrier, saddler, veterinary surgeon
- Animal fertiliser and straw recovery/redistribution company
- Rural/urban cultural centre
- Bars, restaurant

Changes to the agricultural system in urban landscapes



Net surface area per inhabitant is approximately 200 sq m. At this rate of development, Sénart will be completely urbanised within the next half-century.

Opposite

Urban forms that are unsuited to sustainable local development

Right-hand page

Incorporating market gardens in the composition of densely populated developments

on farms, or even in the Carré Sénart, as proposed by some teams. These areas could include shared activities (e.g. a community garden area or gardens used for social reintegration, or market gardens run by associations). The combination of refreshments, education, a protected garden and possible festivals found in numerous European cities (and in Paris, for example at the Parc de la Villette and Parc de Bercy) makes small-scale farming attractive and an activity that appeals to people who have the time and energy for it (women, older people and unemployed people). It may be a way for municipalities to manage their heritage more effectively.

THE CHANGING FACE OF SÉNART: EMPHASISING A MULTICULTURAL IMAGE

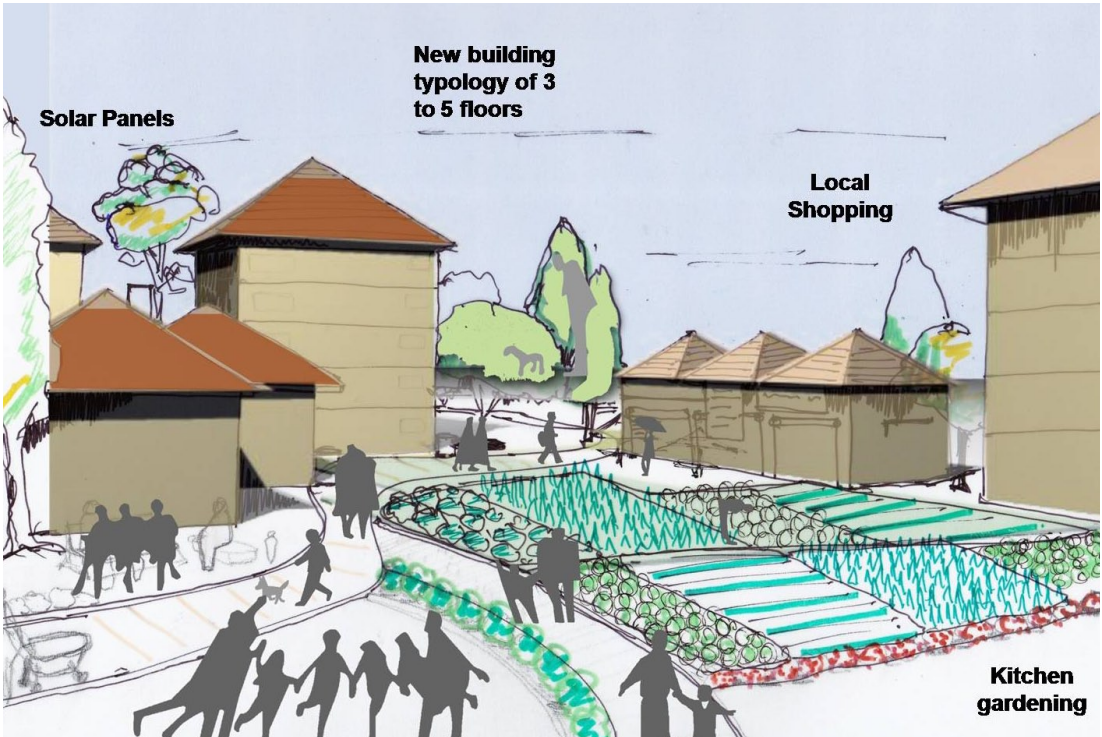
As a town that is far from complete, Sénart is the subject of numerous discussions.

	Superficie	%
Sénart	117	100
Housing	21.5	18.36
Business parks	12.5	10.68
Forest areas	16	13.68
Agricultural land and transport infrastructure	67	57.26
Population	112373	
Residential areas	21.5 km ²	
Surface area/inhabitant	200 m ²	
Net density	5226 pa	
Net density/inhabitant	52.26 h/ha	

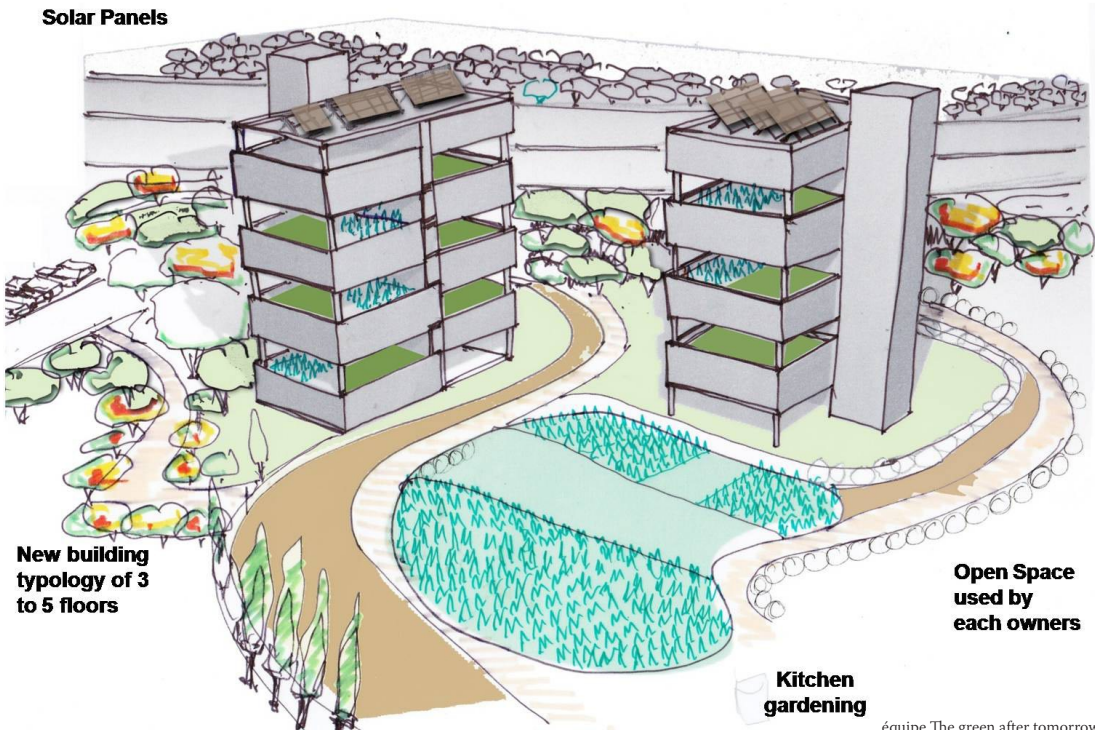
équipe The green after Tomorrow

The “Carré Sénart” new town centre has been seen as being under a twofold constraint, insofar as it is denied a role as a central hub by the small centres created by the surrounding villages, which monopolise certain functions and is denied its agricultural space by inhabitants, who see it as in a state of transition. The result is that visitors are left with the impression that the space is neither urban nor rural, with the same status as wasteland, which is paradoxical.

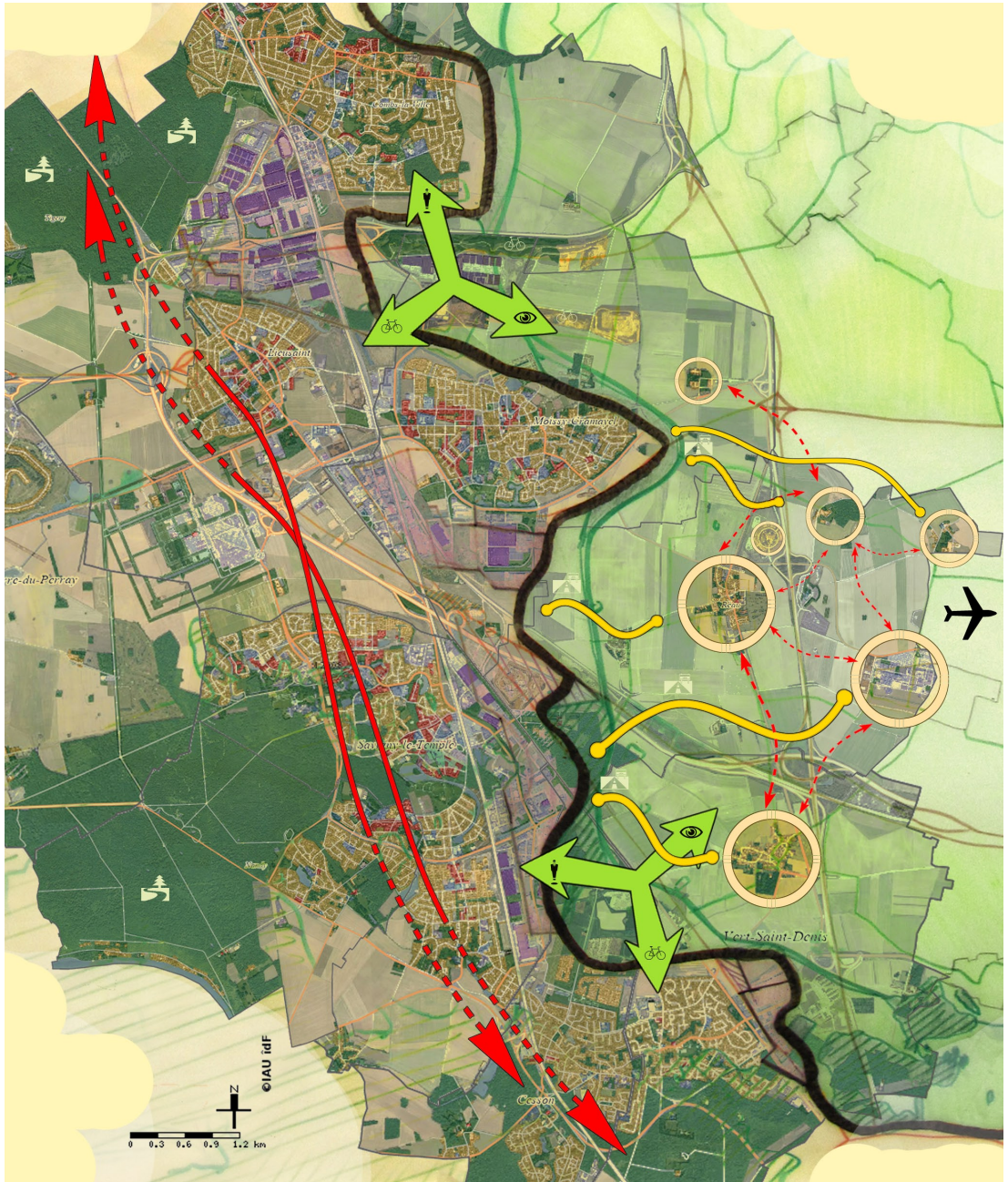
The centre of Sénart currently conveys an image that is the opposite of that of the rural village of Blandy-les-Tours, which is centred around the feudal chateau of the viscounts of Melun and a public space, surrounded by the buildings of a very large farm, a town hall, a state school, two restaurants and a small shop. The round central area conveys an image of heritage and a living environment, with retired people and passers-by.



équipe The green after tomorrow



équipe The green after tomorrow



équipe Sénharbor

The idea of connections, porosity and the difference between a continuous urban environment, a discontinuous rural environment and infrastructure elements.

The two sites reveal a distance that is never seen so strongly elsewhere: the difference between the urban and the rural and two opposing lifestyles. The emblematic image of Seine-et-Marne is that of a rural system with a certain density of lifestyle.

One team focused on small, simple but multifunctional and multicultural projects with the aim of helping to change these images, particularly in Sénart, in order to counter-balance the monofunctional image of the new town. One team proposed, for example, introducing a living element along the Allée Royale in Sénart, either housing or a natural amenity: a café/refreshment area next to the Allée Royale would be ideal. Other teams also came up with proposals for combining shared elements conveying the culture of Seine-et-Marne in Sénart and using abandoned urban space. Lines of mounds or other barriers could inspire plans for their use and serve as an interface in line with their impact on the landscape – information points, sales outlets for local produce, mobile refreshment outlets, rest areas on major roads and wind turbines on their summits.

PROMOTING TRACES OF RURAL AND INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE

The new town has developed educational activities focusing on the heritage of farms and nature, but has also wiped out a significant number of traces of former kinds of occupation. In 1974, for example, the new town celebrated the centenary of the Béghin-Say sugar refinery with Ferdinand Béghin. The refinery was demolished by its owner in 1995. It has now been replaced by the car park for the RER station. Sugar beet production (which was decided on in around 1800, at the time of the blockade, aimed at Napoleon, which prohibited imports of sugar cane from the colonies) was what first generated the plateau's agricultural wealth. A tribute to sugar beet is still an option. We need to look beyond the usual negative image of the "beet field" and remember that sugar beets, well suited to the soils of Brie, are still cultivated and offer some very modern advantages in peri-urban environments. The plant is highly tolerant of urban pollution, has a limited need for chemical

inputs and high energy capacity (1 ha of sugar beets absorbs as much CO₂ as 5 ha of forest) and can be used for a variety of purposes including electricity production, bedding for animals, in horticulture as crop containers, converted into bioethanol, etc*.

INTEGRATE BOUNDARY AREAS INTO THE LANDSCAPE AND CREATE GREENWAYS AND BLUEWAYS AS STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS OF THE NEW TOWN

The question of how to enhance the position of boundary areas showed that it could be dealt with at two levels:

- as an interface: the five main plans at a 1/25,000 scale showed that things need to be interwoven on a large scale;
- at the level of urban perimeters, even if this scale is no longer sufficient in itself to hold firm against the consumption of urban land. Between boundary areas, the proposal is to retain and even enlarge the biodiversity corridors that cross these areas (which should be reintroduced into local urban development plans), which can be broadened in certain places to create a number of areas that could be used to create market or kitchen gardens, community gardens and gardens used for social reintegration.

Empty spaces in the new town could be used to accommodate the network of greenways: the teams have planned greenways as a complement to riverside forests and wooded banks close to brooks (as already exist along the Hauldres stream and the canals). Everyone envisages a complete network across the study area (to be cross-referenced with the existing plan for the county) in order to establish closer connections between villages, forests and rivers using greenways and environmentally friendly modes of transport, increase the amount of shelter and food available for small animals and decrease the degree of fragmentation by infrastructure.

* source: Dossier de l'Institut National de la Recherche pédagogique, E. Darot.

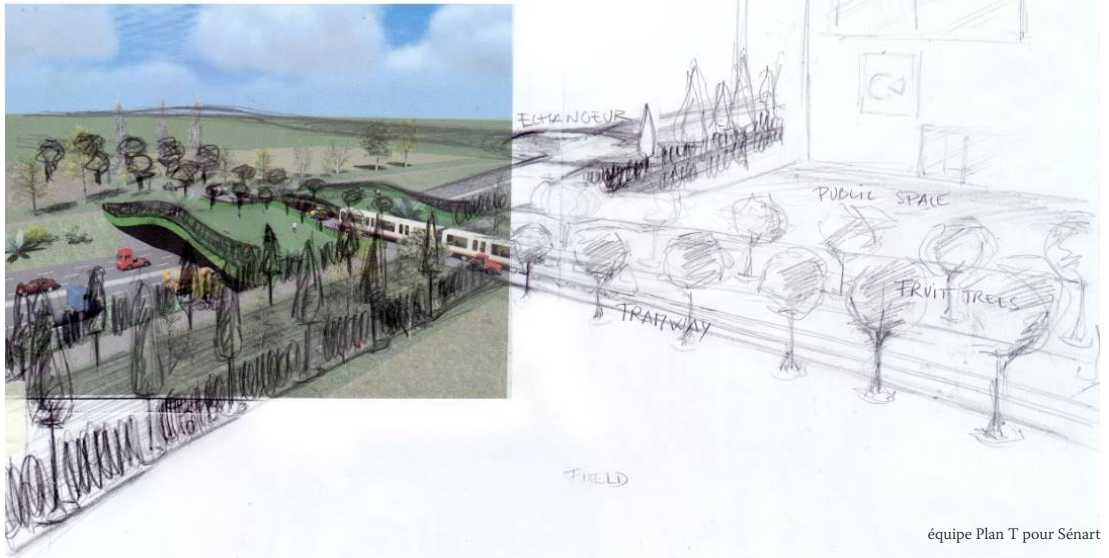
RECLASSIFY THE AREA USING PLANTING TO ABSORB LOGISTICS DEVELOPMENTS AND BLOTS ON THE LANDSCAPE

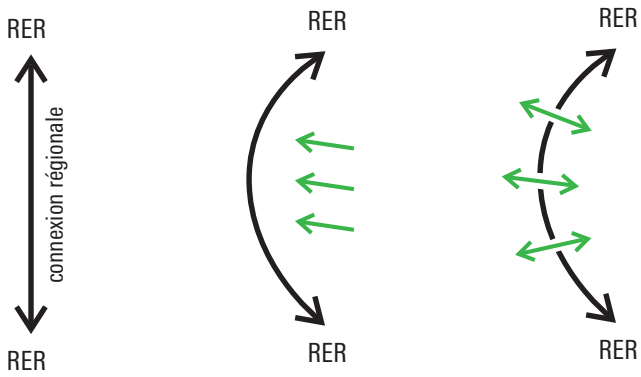
The plateau area does not present a positive image of itself and it seems important to take a position: reunifying the space so that it becomes a recognisable area, with the unifying force it has in the fine Atlas des Paysages (Landscape Atlas) produced by the CAUE.

It is seen as too flat, not particularly attractive, lacking in visual landmarks (such as copses, hedges and avenues of trees) and too vast: this neutralises its agricultural value which, combined with huge changing skies, could produce a wide range of

colours and atmospheres. If a human scale (such as hiking trails and routes from village to village using environmentally friendly forms of transport or even by car) could be found again, it would make the area as appealing as the Regional Natural Parks (PNR).

Eliminating blots on the landscape (this could be a requirement imposed on landscape architects) provides an opportunity to manage an abandoned area of land or a barrier as and when the need arises and show that there can be projects for certain places. The motorway network: create crossings for biodiversity and agricultural activities, as was done for the Allée Royale. The suggestions made by the teams could be taken up by projects run by the CAUE or students at the school of architecture as policy vectors.

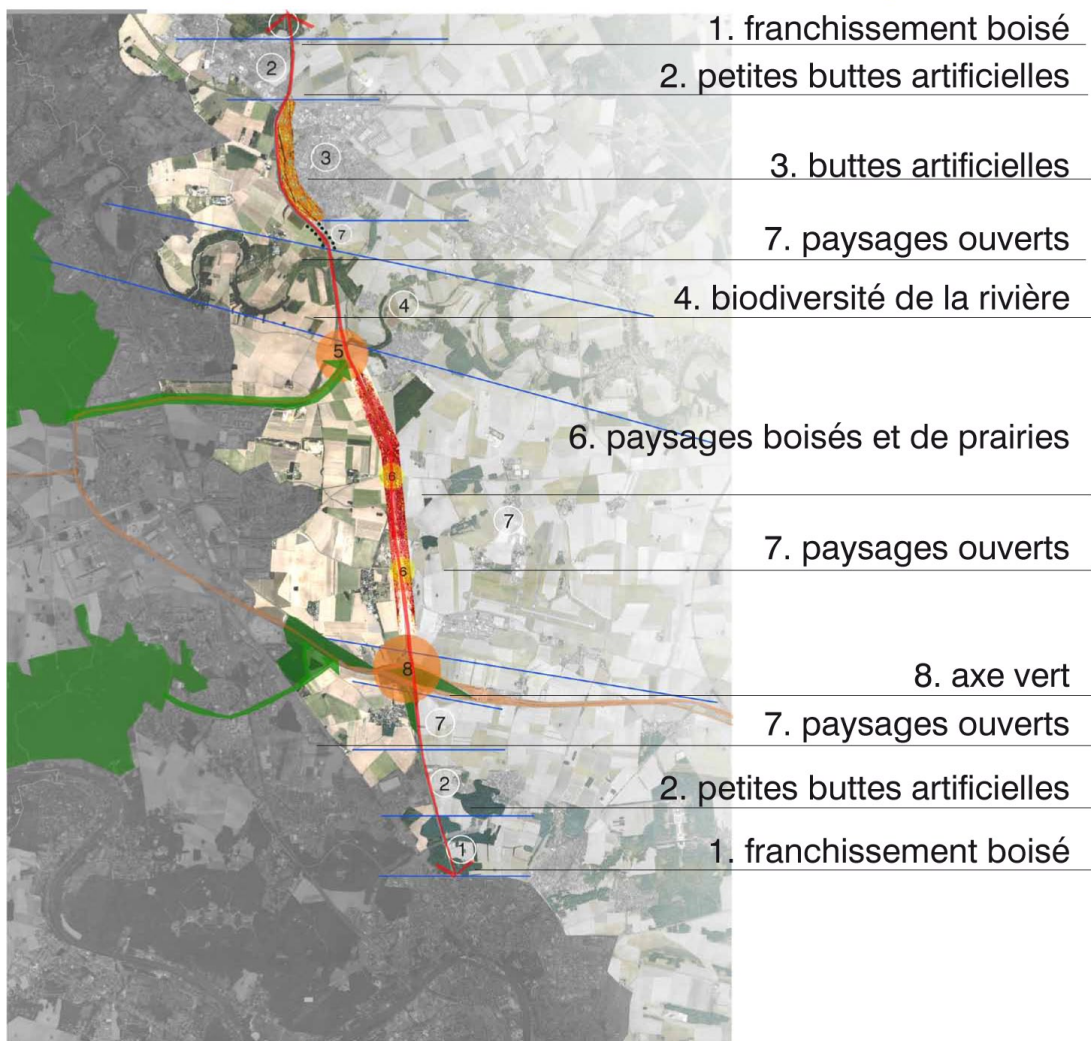




Left-hand page
 Reclassifying interface areas includes creating new amenities and ensuring the long-term survival of existing agricultural areas within an urban development framework.

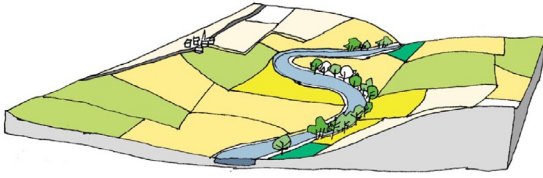
Below
 A strategy for promoting biodiversity on the A5b

équipe polyculture



équipe The green after tomorrow

Enhancing waterways using public spaces and diversified riverside forests



équipe The link of convergence

ENHANCING PUBLIC SPACES CLOSE TO RIVERS

The teams enlarged the public space along the banks of waterways (rivers or brooks), where the space could accommodate a combination of natural areas and new functions.

The examples chosen were as follows: on the Seine, where additional space is now quite limited, with walkways along the riverside. On the Yerres river, there may be some areas that could be used to trial threatened or lost uses, such as meadows: more horses could be raised there.

On the Almont river, all the natural areas of riverside forest have been consumed by large-scale farming. A public footpath would need to be reopened in or along the widened corridors. Whilst they open up space for public use, the teams also plan to refocus housing on the Seine and the rivers, both to save agricultural land on the plateau and to make the banks of waterways more vibrant through varied use.



équipe The link of convergence

**FROM COMMON
TRAITS TO SPECIFIC
NEW IDEAS:
THE FIVE TEAMS
IN BRIEF**

THE GREEN AFTER TO-MORROW

Creating a network of farms and other key places to mark the value of the region

Urban planning in the future will become agri-planning, with a matrix organised around agricultural land and agricultural activities. The town could continue to grow and develop primarily by using the space available within it. Two kinds of urban centre are proposed: those included in the Sénart area focus on greater concentration and more mixed use (greater density achieved through greater compactness in the urban forms embedded here and there), whilst those in the villages will develop in line with the character of a village environment, hosting smaller programmes linked to tourism, leisure, small agricultural markets and other services aimed at urban residents.

The team discusses the links that could exist between farms on the rural plateau, the new town and villages (and which are then transformed into meeting places, environmentally friendly modes of transport and ecological corridors) in an agricultural plateau protected from urban sprawl. These links are also used to form a network of cultural heritage and other key places in the area. The identity of the area is marked using signage. The new town is strengthened, with a proportion of the current land reserves being given over to urbanisation, mainly along the Seine valley to the west of the Allée Royale – a green space is planned to the east, part of a green network within the town – and between the Rougeau forest and the woods around Melun and Le Mée.

Agriculture is accommodated within the town, which becomes a porous, sustainable urban area, whilst agricultural land rises in value as a result of the homogeneity of the protected area and the stronger dialogue between the villages and the network of farms and key buildings. Public transport networks are enlarged. Work on integrating the A5b motorway in landscape and ecological terms is proposed.

Yogesh Agashe
urban planner
India

Vincent Dubroca
urban planner
France

Marina Esmeraldo
architect-urban planner
Brazil

Paola Abatto
architect
Chile

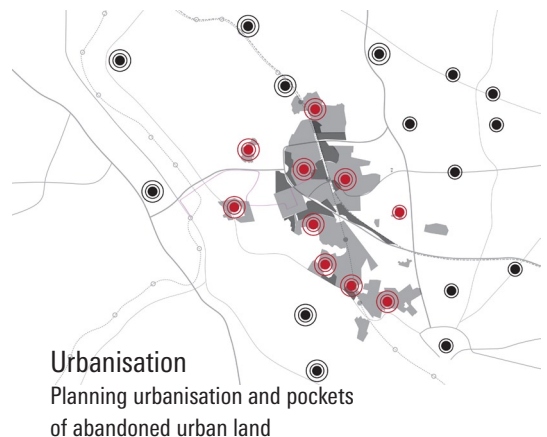
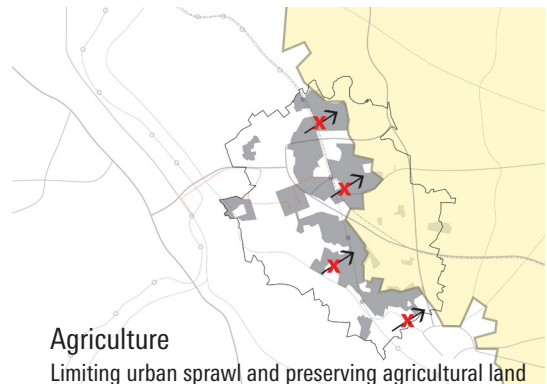
Ranran Ju
artist-landscape architect
United Kingdom - China

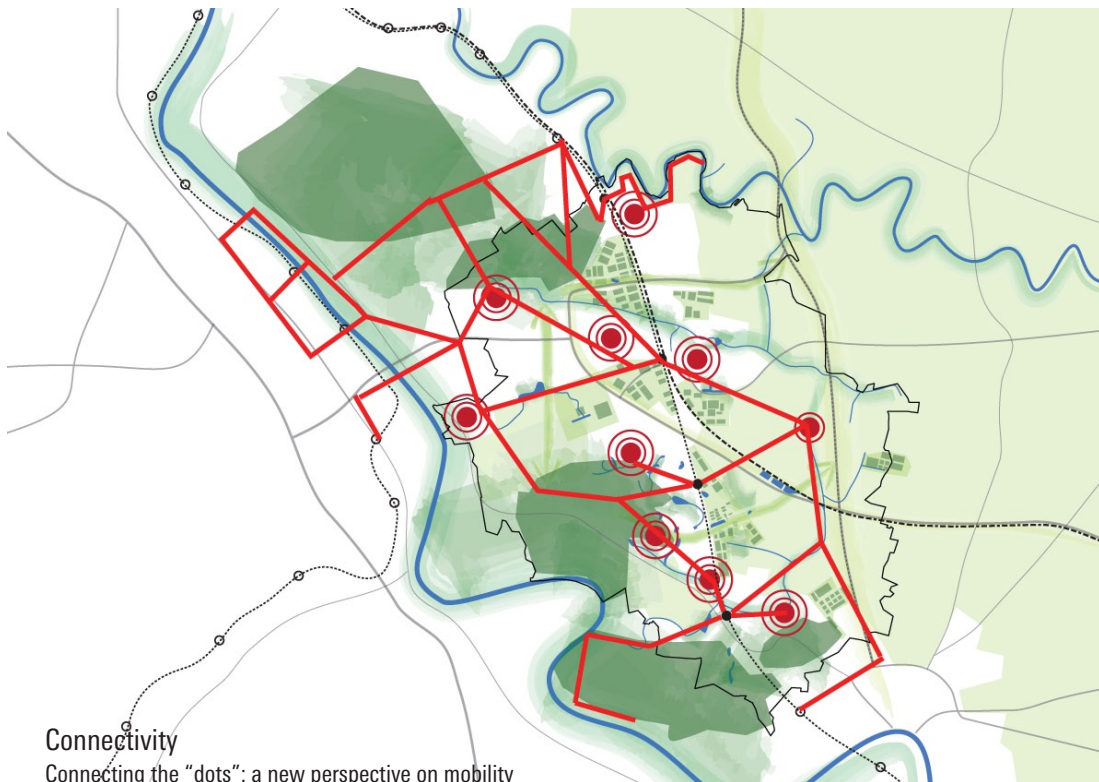
Zeno Piccoli
architect
Italy

Lead experts

Benoit Vernière
engineer

Anne Durand
architect-urban planner





Connectivity
Connecting the "dots": a new perspective on mobility



Biodiversity
Creating a biodiversity matrix



THE LINK OF CONVERGENCE

Increasing the visibility of activities on agricultural land to protect space.

The team outlines two clear boundaries to the north and south to create a double “boundary” between the urban and the rural; the one to the east is woodland, whilst the other is built. Fringe areas are thus identified on the right scale. The first boundary runs along the A5b motorway to Brie-Comte-Robert and then follows the RD 216 road to Chevry-Cossigny forest. Discontinuous ecological wooded areas create a visual structure as a backdrop for the landscape of the plateau, playing a role in integrating infrastructure.

On a large scale, the corridor forms a linear forest (which acts as a source of building timber) and links the Yerres and Seine rivers and the forests of Notre Dame and Armainvilliers as well as accommodating sporting activities.

The second boundary is the densification of the urban environment supported by the boundary identified by the IAU. This is also a porous boundary. It is marked by a line of rings two kilometres in diameter. The double barrier helps to comprehend the scale of a village but also that of the wide open spaces used for cereal cultivation, the immensity of which is precisely the problem. Market garden crops, livestock farming and horticulture help to create new kinds of landscape. The threatened agricultural areas to the west are devoted to agri-forestry, agri-tourism and specialised farming. They are protected by the fact that activities are visible.

The new kind of urban environment incorporates local agriculture, whilst its concentrated forms of housing increase variety alongside the detached house, which is already well represented. The aim is to create meeting places for the next 20 years, based on the porosity of practical activities both in rural and agricultural life and in the town. The idea is also to promote agri-tourism to counter the area's loss of identity, to encourage increasing awareness of the necessity of agriculture and the changes in agricultural methods, and to experience at first-hand the quality of the rural lifestyle.

Leonard Cattoni
landscape architect
France

Moises Sacal
architect
Mexico

Marina Lima Medeiros
architect-urban planner
Brazil

Laura Franco
urban planner
France













Christian Mewes
landscape architect
Germany - Rwanda

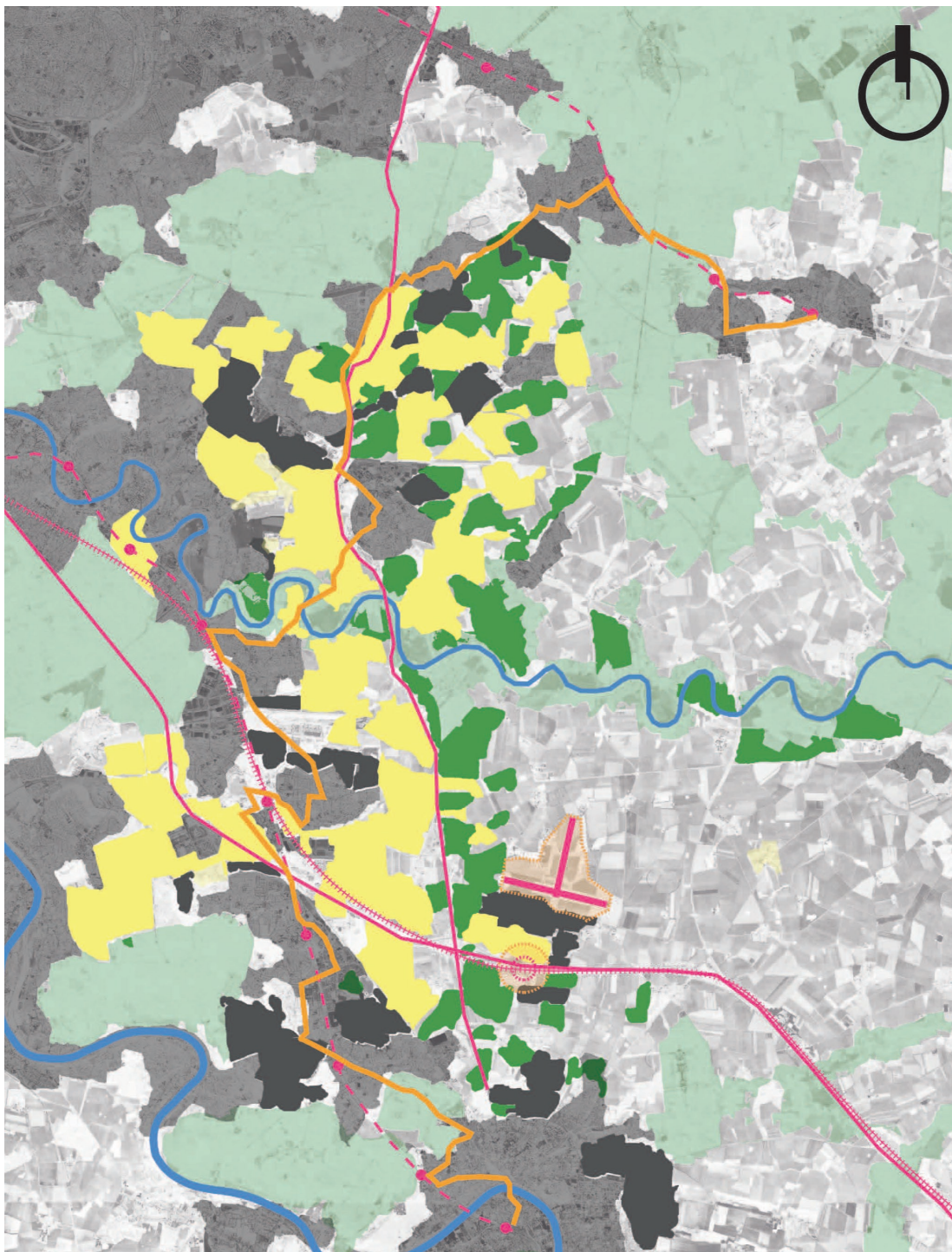
Sonal Gupta
urban planner
India

Lead expert

Corinne Lamarque
architect-urban planner

The project highlights the structural role of Melun through the large star-shaped pattern formed by the historic roads radiating out from the town centre. The space in between the fingers of the “glove” is classified as (ancient) forest, urban extension, diversified agriculture, new forest and large-scale farming to the east. The fan-shaped area between Melun and the aerodrome at Villaroche is home to a range of new business and urban developments and creates a useful link to a future hub as a result of its shape. Sénart both has a place in this scheme and strengthens it.

-  Proposed BRT
-  Motorway
-  RER
-  TGV
-  Yerres
-  Seine
-  Existing urban areas
-  Proposed urban areas
-  Existing agricultural areas
-  Proposed agricultural areas
-  Existing forests
-  Proposed forests



POLYCULTURE

Cultivating identity through micro-programmes
(winner of the Iosis Foundation prize)

The first idea is to create a dichotomy between the urban and the rural, with red on one side and green on the other. The following idea is rooted in an analytical approach: too many areas on either side of the dividing line operate on a monofunctional basis, hence the loss of identity, in relation to the concepts of both town and countryside. In addition, abandoned areas of land both in the town and next to infrastructure have a deadening effect on the landscape. The aim is to achieve an interactive relationship between the urban and the rural. The team invented a new vocabulary to create more sustainable territories and move these areas towards more “polyculture” with a more flexible use of space.

Compared with the existing monofunctional categories that fragment the territory – housing, industry, fields, forest, river, infrastructure and abandoned areas – the team proposed micro-programmes suited to each location, with greater housing density along the future TZen, a greater role for refreshment areas in an industrial area, etc. Innovative activities (such as an energy farm, production of wood used for heating, environmentally friendly building materials and market gardening) make the organisation of the area more complex.

Access points into the territory such as barriers and motorway interchanges are used as introductory spaces for managing the transition between urban and rural environments with the creation of gradients of mixed agricultural use on land used for large-scale farming, which are divided into areas for urban agriculture or reworked for greater biological diversity. Existing geographical or infrastructure corridors are redeveloped to become biodiversity corridors.

Michel Roberts
urban planner
United Kingdom

Zoe Xiaohui
urban planner
China

Laura Herman
urban economist
France

Momo Okazaki
landscape architect
France

Quentin Mourier
architect
France

Nabila Stambouli
architect-urban planner
Algeria

Lead expert

Marie-Marie Penicaud
Landscape architect



HABITAT-CHAMPS



INDUSTRIE-ROUTE-CHAMPS



INDUSTRIE-CHAMPS



INDUSTRIE-DELAISSE-HABITAT



CHAMPS-CHAMPS



HABITAT-ROUTE-CHAMPS



HABITAT-RIVIERE



CHAMPS-ROUTE-CHAMPS



CHAMPS-ECHANGEUR-CHAMP



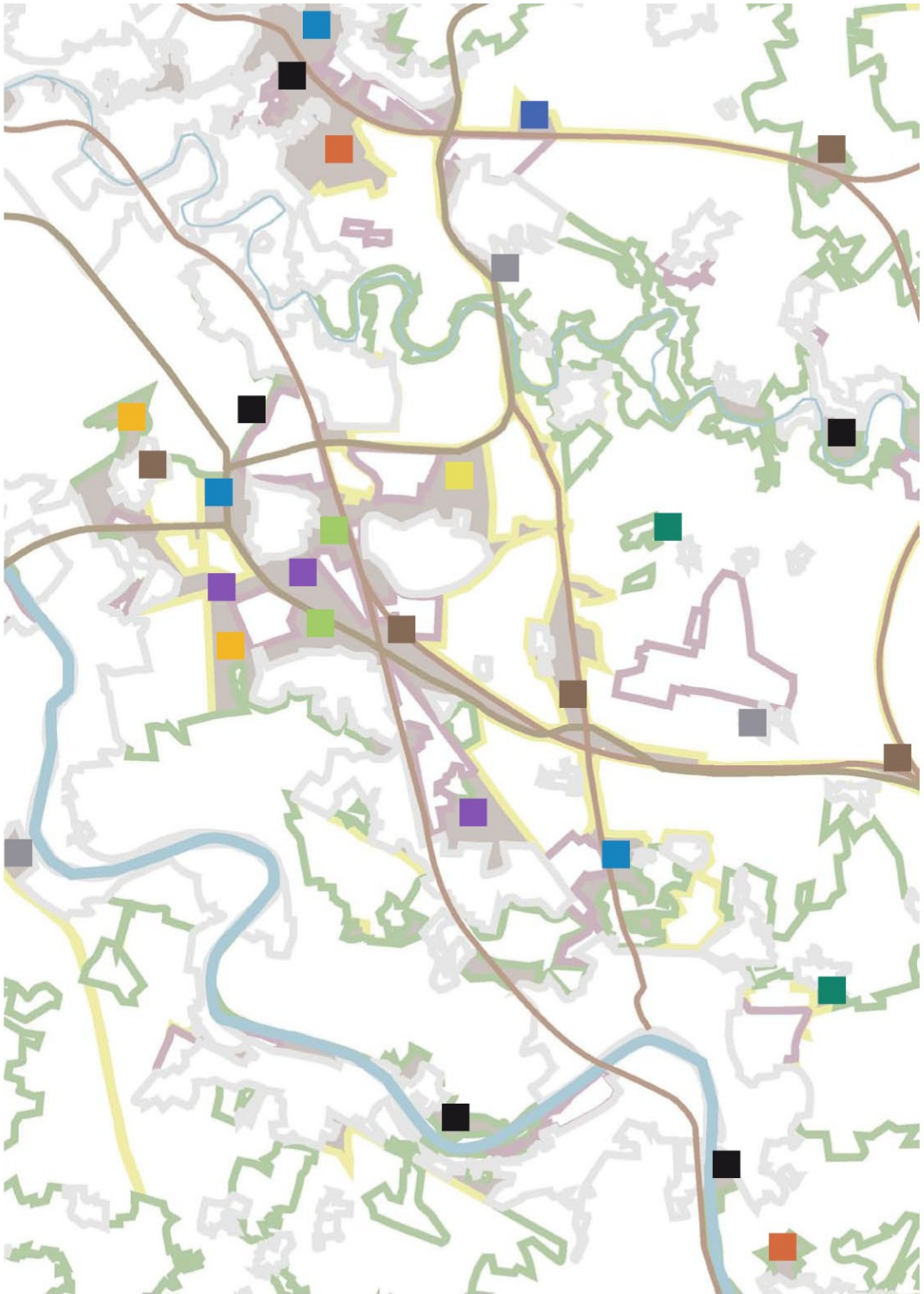
HABITAT-DELAISSE-ROUTE



INDUSTRIE-DELAISSE-HABITAT



HABITAT-ROUTE-CHAMPS



SÉN HARBOR

The fertile metaphor of the coast

A contraction of two names – Seine and Sénart – combined with the word “Harbor”, the title of the project exploits the metaphor of the coast through a subtle drawing, which according to the team exploits the identity of the territory. The main idea is that the boundary cannot be perceived and protected simply at the level of an individual plot of land. Examined on another scale, however, the boundary can become a strong point in the landscape and contribute to the overall identity of the territory. The second idea is that the concept of a boundary can offer support to a wide diversification of projects. The coast therefore has depth. These spaces could therefore be transformed, either using footpaths or activities related to nature and agricultural production and accommodate agricultural parks / transitional areas accessible to the public, community gardens or leisure areas (rivers such as the Yerres form part of the coast). Barriers too can be compared to a coastal footpath and observatory. Locations are identified along the coast as ports are, and become meeting points such as local markets and cultural spaces. Towns that protrude into the agricultural area, identified as islands, could be linked through both functional and biodiversity corridors. The image of the coast gives weight to the idea of a boundary and structural barriers, which organise the surrounding space. On the rural side, paths in the existing environment play a major role in signalling the heritage value of an area that dates back over several centuries. Ecological corridors and grassy lanes are included both for Sénart (north/south) and the rest of the area.

Lasha Chkaidze
architect-urban planner
Georgia

Youssef Magdi
architect-urban planner
Egypt

Alexandre Druhen
landscape architect
France

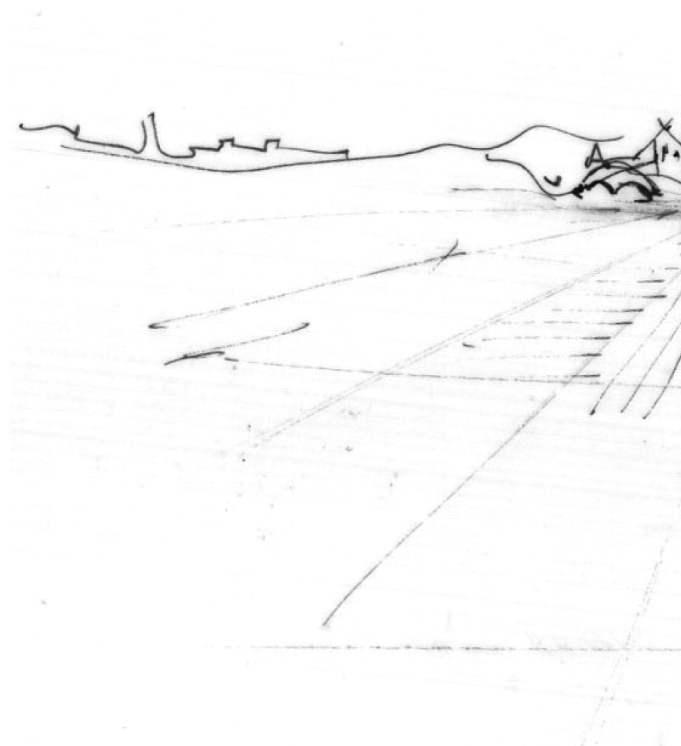
Matsamitsu Tanikawa
architect
Japan

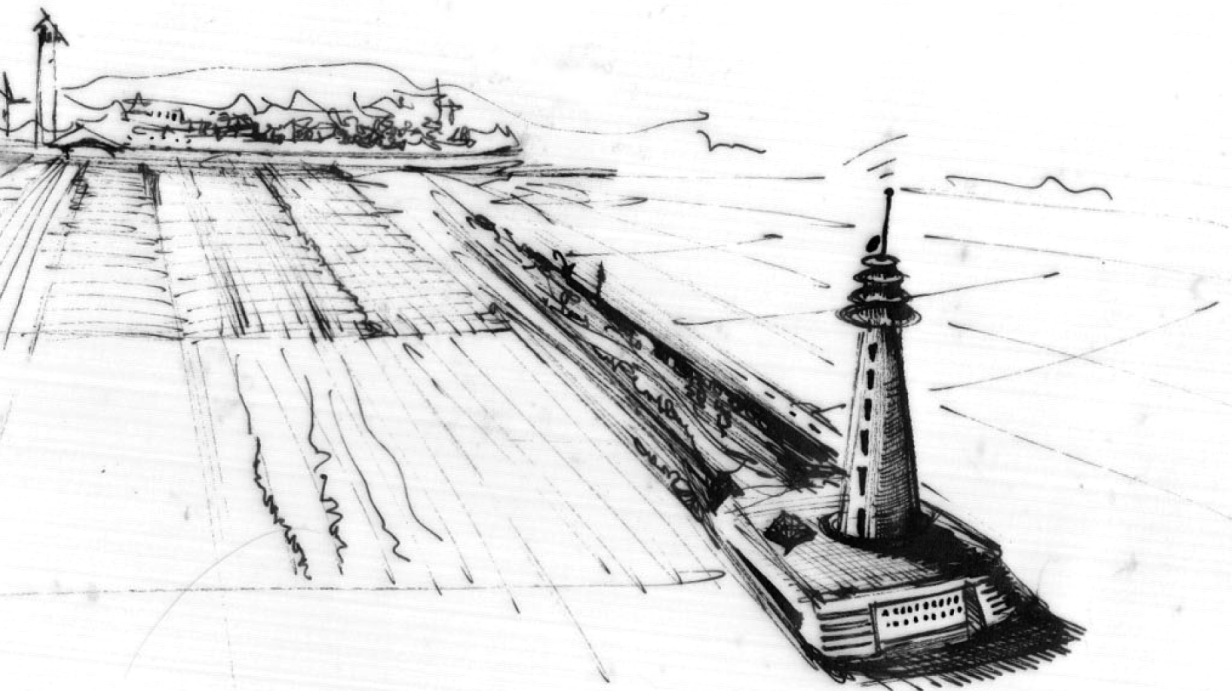
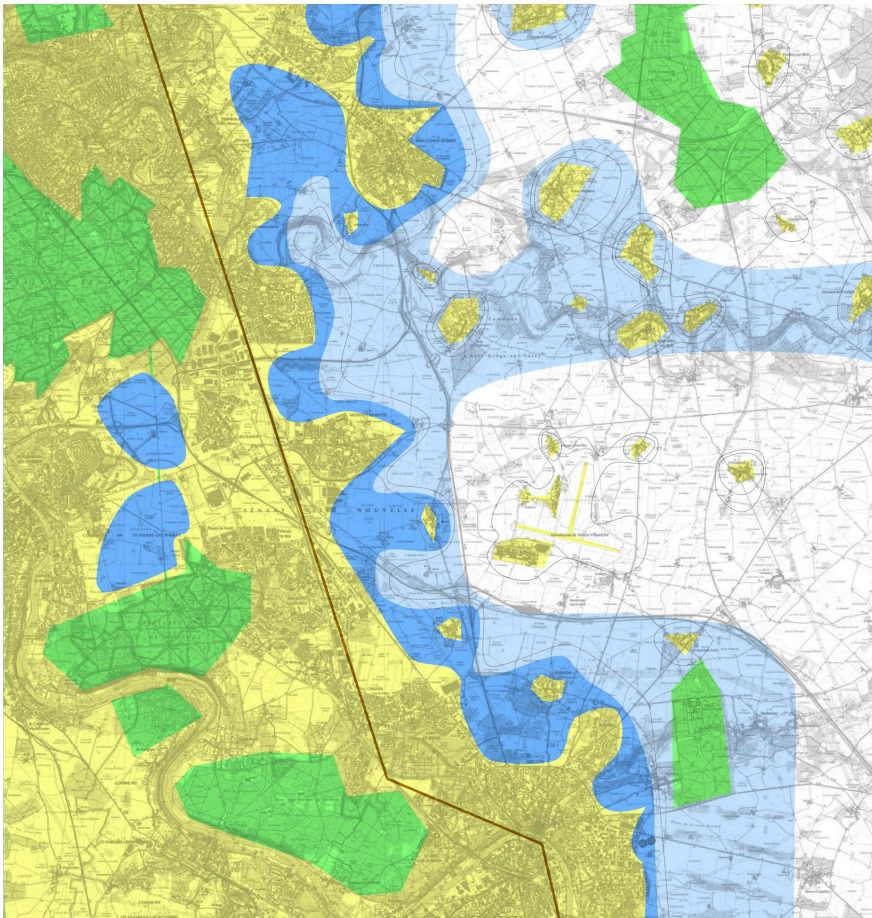
Maxime Bichon
artist
France

Amel Bellala
architect-urban planner
Algeria

Lead expert

Marion Talagrand
landscape architect





PLAN T FOR SÉNART

Inventing a New Countryside (winner)t

The project proposes reducing land take, diversification, sharing ideas and networking in order to act on the town and the countryside at the same time. It takes as its emblem the letter T (which in India symbolises the meeting of the Tigris and the Euphrates and the fertility of the land) to manipulate the different spaces, downplaying the concepts of both urbanity and rurality. The team analyses the abundant quantity of land owned by the public authorities, which is disproportionate to the growth in the housing sector. Like the other teams, it proposes to apply a policy of saving land for future developments and that a proportion (to be determined) of the strategic land reserves in the new town should be used to support agricultural innovation, creating new jobs and setting the standard in ecological terms.

New lifestyles can be invented at every level by exploiting S enart's enormous potential in terms of public spaces and public transport hubs, to create transitional spaces and meeting places. The T acts as a crossing point for the axes that support the components of a new kind of urban living in the new town. An example is the Carr e S enart, close to the All e Royale and the A5b/Francilienne interchange (infrastructure elements at this point are covered with natural elements to limit their impact), the introduction of public spaces and areas for future urbanisation (based on the idea of micro eco-neighbourhoods), with areas for livestock farming, polyculture, market gardening and forestry. The resulting patchwork produces a scenario in which S enart plays a central role and where household waste is collected by horses, lawns are mown by sheep and there are facilities for green composting, a farm for social reintegration and an agricultural centre. S enart would become the accepted and symbolic link for the rural/urban interface in the 21st century.

Another example is the Yerres, where the focus is on intensifying urban development and planting, to produce a better structured environment incorporating market gardening and re-introducing

livestock farming, following the meandering path of the river, which is protected as a result. The large area under cultivation, the open field, is designated as an area of special interest, which gives the region its identity. Strips of woodland are used to mark its boundaries and organise the immensity of the space. These cross it from the north and south and connect the two rivers. The open field extends to the urban pocket of S enart, whilst more specialist crops form a boundary close to the rivers. It is a way of putting agriculture at the centre. The highly dynamic overall image creates a dialogue between economic activity, the landscape and biodiversity.

Kamal Kataria
urban planner
India

Vasil Giorgadze
architect
Georgia

Larisa Krylova
architect
Russia






Alice Lauret
architect
France

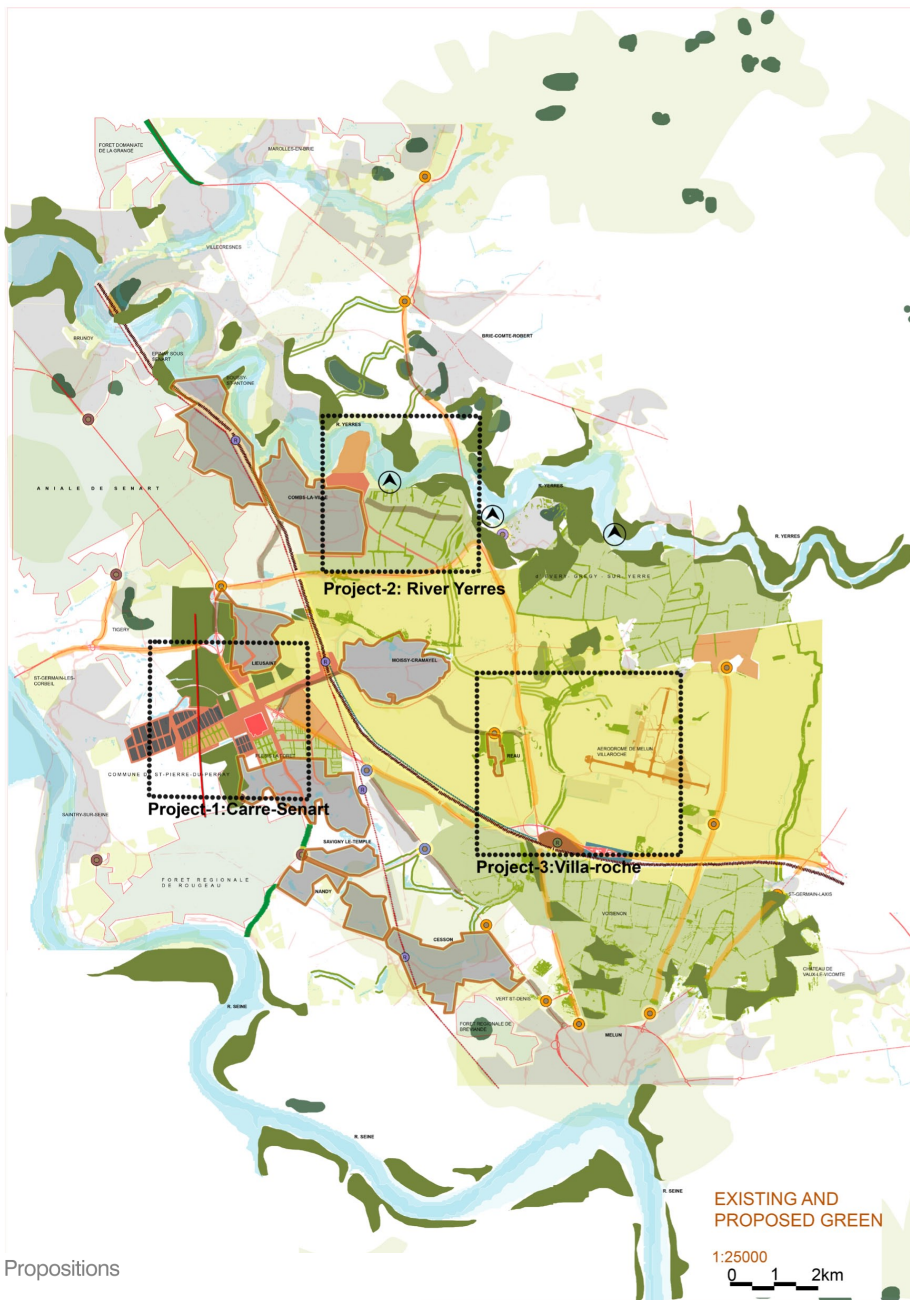
Virginia Gamna
artist
Italy

Oriane Carballido
landscape architect
France











Lead expert







Delphine Balde
architect-urban planner

- Donn es sur l'existant
-  Frange urbaine
 -  Frange urbaine autre que S enart
 -  Espaces verts
 -  Ligne TGV existante
Ligne RER existante, stations
 -  For t
 -  Carr e S enart
 -  Poches existantes de biodiversit 



Propositions

-  Ceinture de protection composée de fermes diversifiées
-  Nouvelles zones à boisées le long de la rivière + espace public
-  Station de RER proposée
-  Espace de transition agriculture/ville
-  Ligne d'échanges (vente directe)
-  Nouvelle connection RER
-  Polyculture (champs agricoles)
-  Proposition de station RER
-  Proposition de parking
-  Espaces publics

-  Repères Visuels
-  Elevage
-  Zone boisée de protection des ruisseaux
-  Interface entre ville et agriculture
-  Interface entre agriculture et route
-  Interface avec l'autoroute

EXISTING AND PROPOSED GREEN

1:25000
0 1 2km





SUMMARY MAPS & CONCLUSIONS

“My father told me, you will pass this land on to your children.”

Didier Corman (farmer)

“The Carré Sénart has given the area a sense of place.”

François Tirot (urban planner in Sénart)

“Farmers are getting a new lease of life by coming into contact with stakeholders, buyers and the people who live here.”

Rémi Garnot (farmer)

“It takes time, and culture, for open spaces to be managed intelligently.”

M Roger (mayor of Réau)

“The State has enormous reserves of land. What should we do with them? Support projects that value agricultural land. We are thinking about repositioning Sénart for the next 20 years.”

Hélène Peskine (DRE)

“We are rediscovering the fact that good urban living is associated with the presence of nature in the town. Stop urbanisation, create a boundary? The only way I was able to stop smoking was by telling myself it wasn't final.”

Thierry Laverne (association of elected representative for the Triangle Vert)

“These border areas help to guarantee the health and quality of the natural and urban environments they adjoin. The SDRIF offers a number of tools in this regard, but does not offer any ready-made solutions.”

Charles-Antoine de Ferrières (IAU)

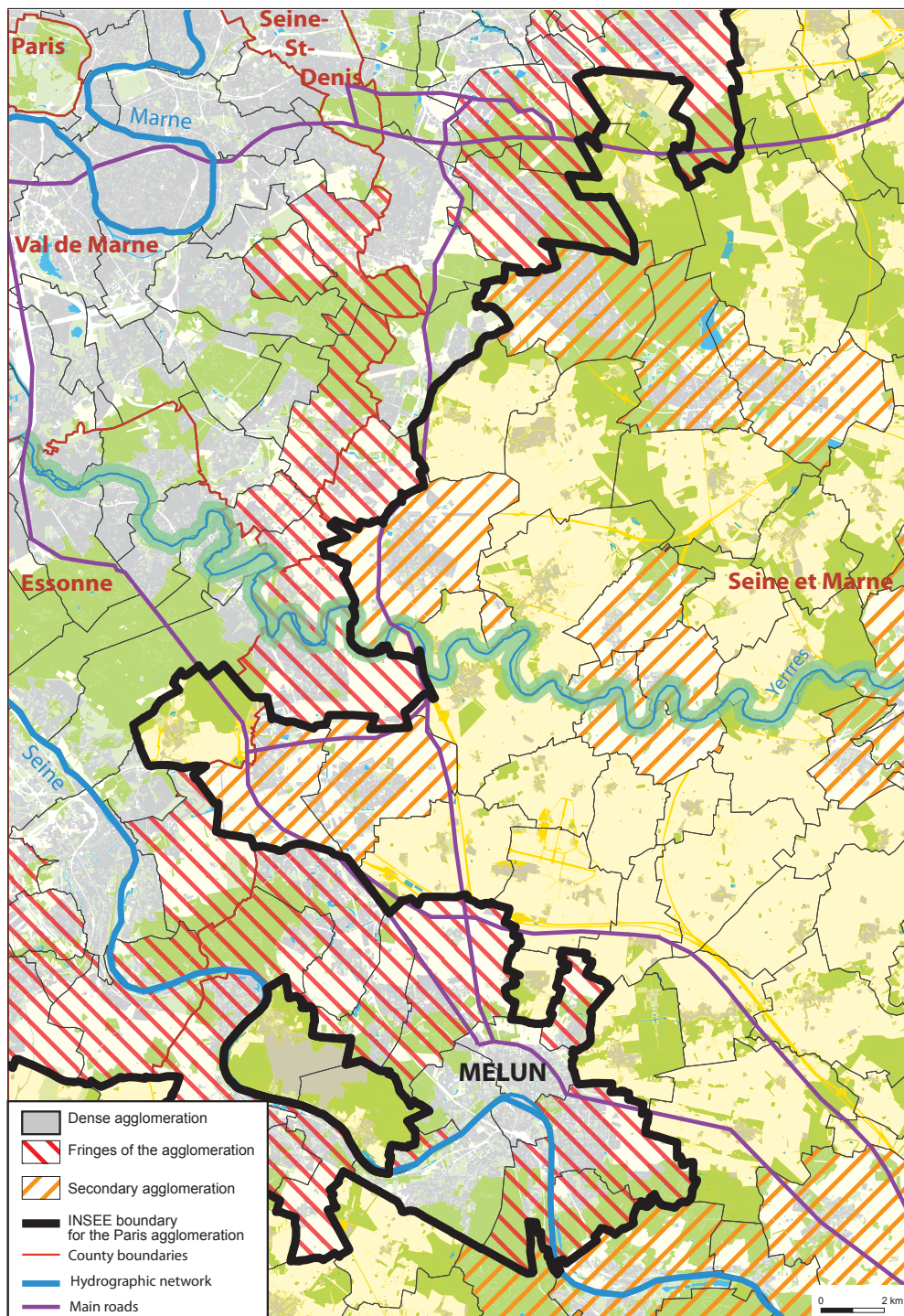
“The kind of town we should be cultivating.”

Jean-Jacques Fournier (Chairman of the Sénart SAN)

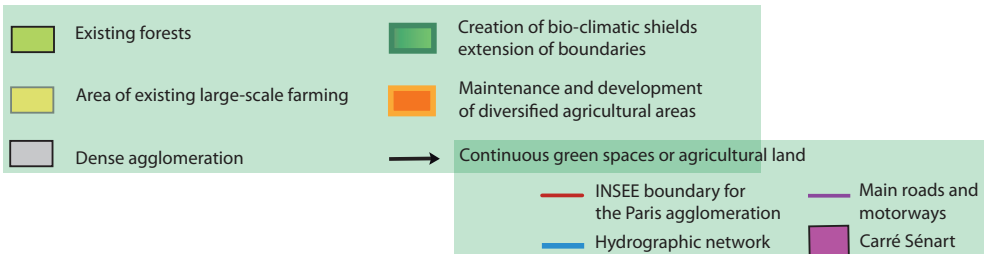
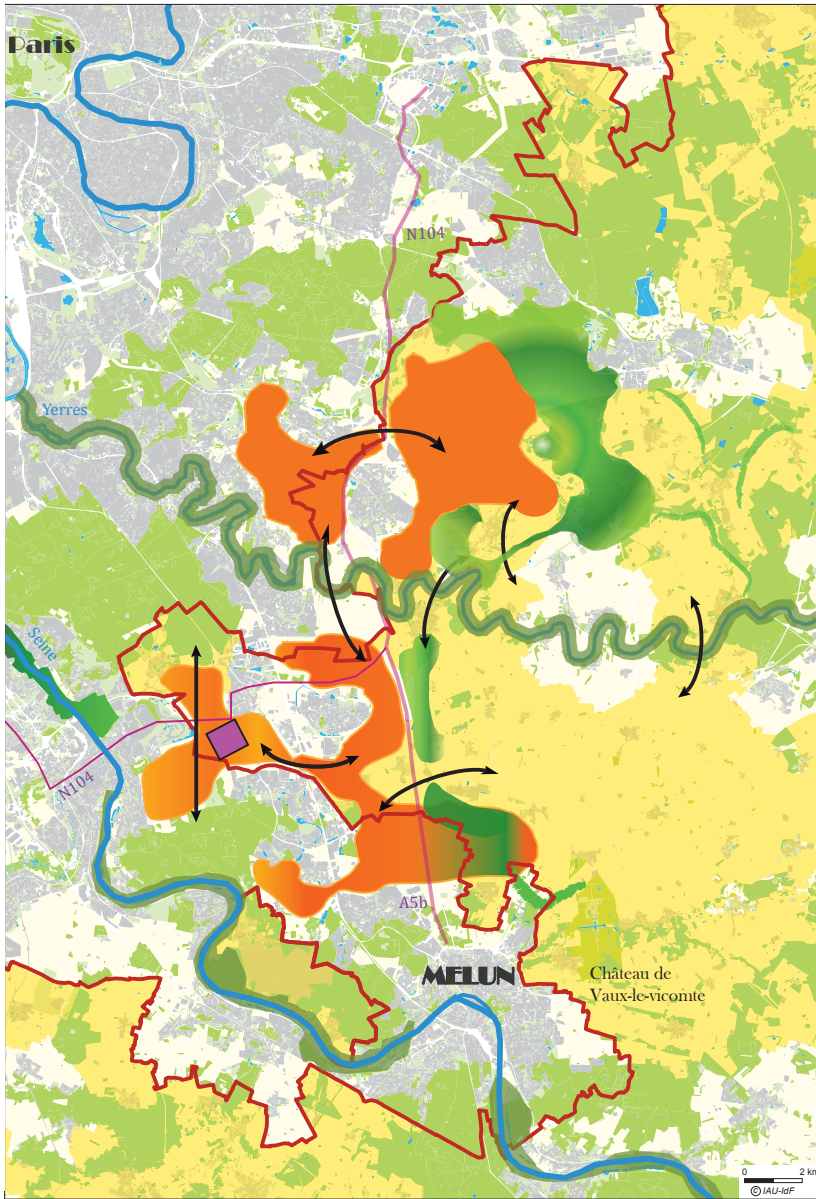
SUMMARY MAP

SOUTH-EASTERN BOUNDARY OF THE PARIS AGGLOMERATION (INSEE)

The aim is to ensure the long-term survival of agricultural land within the urban fringe.



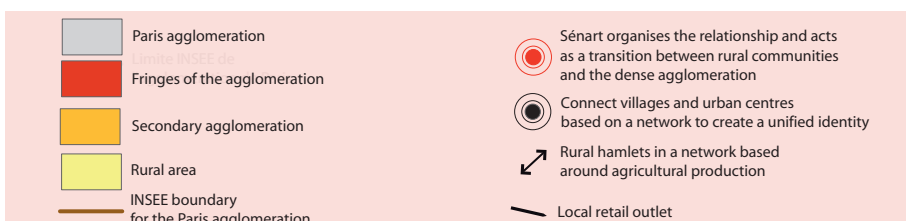
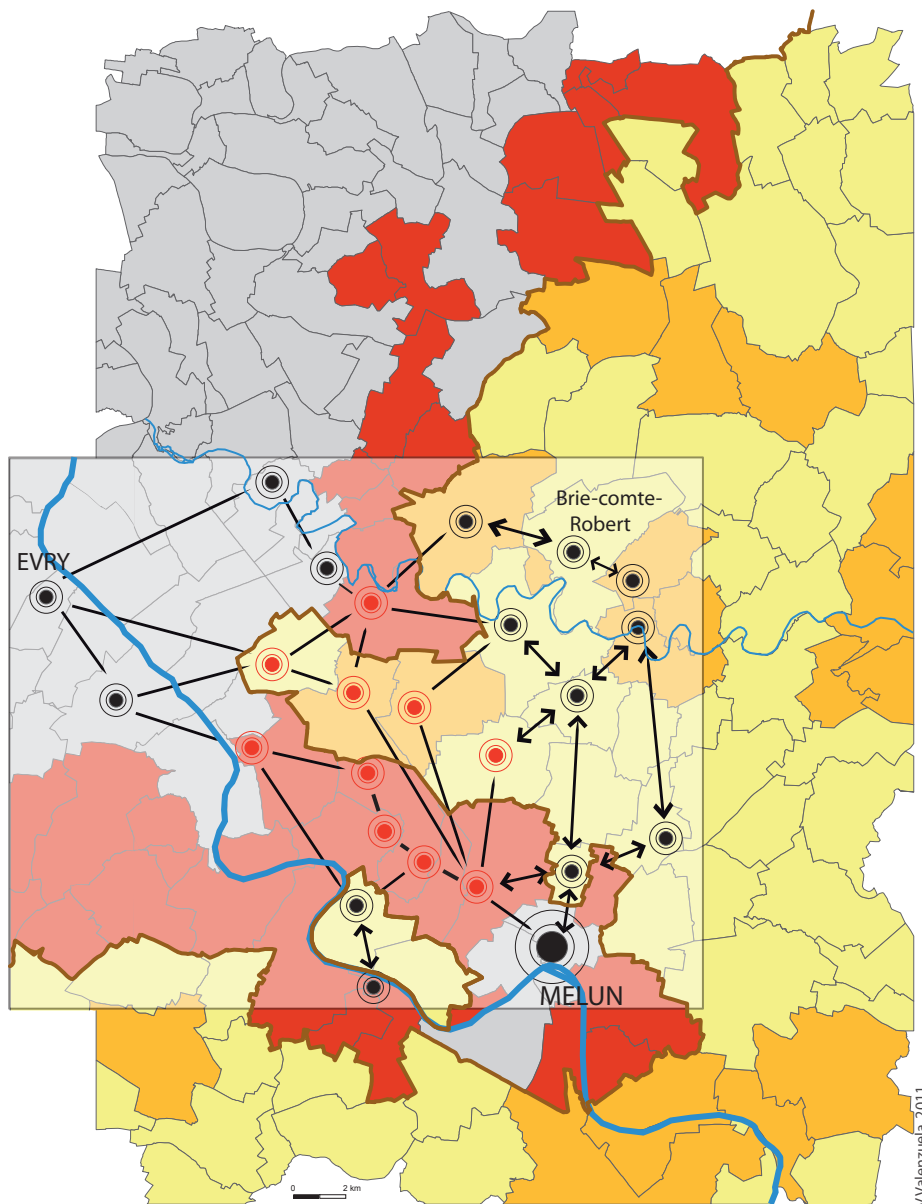
SUMMARY MAP RURAL / URBAN POROSITY IN THE FRINGE AREA



SUMMARY MAP

ORGANISING A NETWORK OF HAMLETS AND VILLAGES

Urban growth exists on the scale of a network of villages pulled by a dominant “metropolis”, which organises the distribution network for local production.



CONCLUSIONS

LESSONS LEARNED

The interface as a topic is not a new one: agricultural land has frequently been seen as the expansion gap for urban development. What is new is the slightly offbeat way of tackling the subject. It has to do with values: it is not about preserving nature but about food shortages, not about a void but about the history of an area that was ruralised and stripped of its urban characteristics by the Kings of France in the 13th century, not about protecting the best agricultural land in the world but helping it to adapt to climate change and the diversification of production. Not about urban sprawl but the long-term viability of agricultural land in an urban environment.

In addition to these contradictions there is a division of labour, which instigated separate evolutionary paths for the agricultural industry on the one hand, and urban development on the other; this was accompanied by a sudden but foreseeable loss of representativeness of farmers in society, and at the same time by a lack of development tools, which were targeted more towards urban residents than actions that would support ways of co-existing with agriculture.

Imagining in physical terms how the two can live alongside each other and projects involving communities in the gradual transformation of society towards a more measured economy, which does not mean without a sense of well-being, is the challenge made possible by the new development tools trialled by these workshops: they have resulted in three summary maps (opposite), the salient points of which are:

- The RESERVE of 18,000 km of land on the outskirts of the agglomeration (Insee map) which alternate between “rural” secondary centres and “built up” urban areas without there currently being any perceptible difference to the trained eye. This could be used for the DIVERSIFIED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION that urban residents expect. It would help to involve small villages in the distribution of agricultural produce to urban households and contribute to re-establishing both economic and CULTURAL dialogue between them.
- The CLIMATIC SHIELD of biodiversity aims to create porosity for land used for agricultural production, which will remain an integral and definitive part of the agglomeration, over the long term. The development of GRASSY LANES not only creates access corridors for agricultural vehicles but also habitats for the insects that protect crops and pleasant places to walk, but also makes walkers key defenders of the maintenance of agricultural land in metropolitan areas. The spread of CONTINUOUS AREAS OF FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURAL LAND as a tool to regulate urban development is highly effective insofar as it is universally understood.

The list goes on...

Ann Caroll Werquin and Christophe Bayle

WHY INVENT A NEW COUNTRYSIDE?

The idea of a new countryside marks a shift away from accepted views. The position taken by the workshops on the subject of the key concept of the urban/rural interface is based on the specific characteristics of the territory in relation on the one hand, to the Paris agglomeration, home to urban residents, and on the other, to the rural areas of Seine-et-Marne, which represent half the agricultural land of the Paris Paris Ile-de-France region.

Urban and rural lifestyles that are currently opposed must come together in the future in areas that must be treated accordingly. The photo by the artist, with an urban cyclist passing a combine harvester on a grassy lane, highlights the necessity of a new kind of urban living alongside a new kind of countryside, with the former consuming what is produced by the latter in order to find justifications for defending areas of agricultural production and environmentally friendly forms of energy from those who allow urban sprawl to continue.

In one part of this 3,000 ha territory controlled by the State – the result of 40 years of land policy – the teams proposed to densify the existing urban area by demonstrating its aptitude to accommodate the share of construction in the Paris Paris Ile-de-France region appropriate to it. They proposed to turn the remainder, namely wooded and agricultural areas, into a meeting place where the production of renewable resources could be secured for the long term. Three spatial characteristics emerged strongly as a way of marking the identity of the area:

- the centre of Sénart, as a symbolic and actual meeting place and point of connection,
- the Yerres valley as an area for biodiversity and urban densification orchestrated by
- the open field landscape on the plateau extending its production areas into the ravines, bordered by strips of forestry land.

The conclusion reached by these young teams is clear: the future of CAP-driven agriculture cannot be left to chance. They propose the creation of a public agricultural corporation able to deal with the 3,000 ha in the region and organise and plan the necessary changes, to “create the countryside” in the real sense of the term, just as public development corporations create the city.

Jean Michel Vincent

PROGRAMME & PARTICIPANTS

Saturday 28 August	Participants arrive
Sunday 29 August	Free time in Paris
Monday 30 August	Understanding the area and explanations visit to the study areas / Sénart SAN / community gardens / Ferme de la Carrière
Tuesday 31 August	Opening ceremony - Metropolitan challenges Official opening of the workshop, by Pierre-Andre PérissoI, and lectures by: Hélène Peskine - Jean-Marie Stephan - Charles-Antoine de Ferrières - Ann-Caroll Werquin
Wednesday 1 September	Key members of the Sénart Urban Development Corporation (EPA) Lectures by François TiroI - Patrice Berthé - Bertrand Deladerrière. Visit to Frétoy with comments by the artists, by Romain Pellas.
Thursday 2 September	Openings / Voice-over Guided tour of the "Triangle Vert" initiative with Thierry Laverne Visit to the Bergerie de Villarceaux with Baptiste Samson
Friday 3 September	Review and creation of teams
Saturday 4 September	Workshop sessions
Sunday 5 September	Free day
Monday 6 to Thursday 9 September	Workshop sessions
Friday 10 September	Discussion forum 1
Tuesday 14 September	Workshop sessions - Presentation by artists Romain Pellas and Camille Fayet.
Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 September	Workshop sessions
Friday 17 September	Discussion forum 2
Monday 20 September	Workshop sessions Judging panel: Arrival of international members of the judging panel
Monday 21 September	Workshop sessions / Submission of A4 documents Judging panel: Practical seminar on the Les Meuniers development area (ZAC) in Bessancourt. Site visit, presentation on issues faced and round-table discussion
Wednesday 22 September	Submission of A1 documents and preparation of oral presentations Judging panel: Introductory lectures, visit to Bergerie de Villarceaux.
Thursday 23 September	International judging panel - at ESSEC
Friday 24 September	Award of prizes and close - Pavillon de l'Arsenal
Saturday 25	Participants and international members of the judging panel depart

The green after tomorrow

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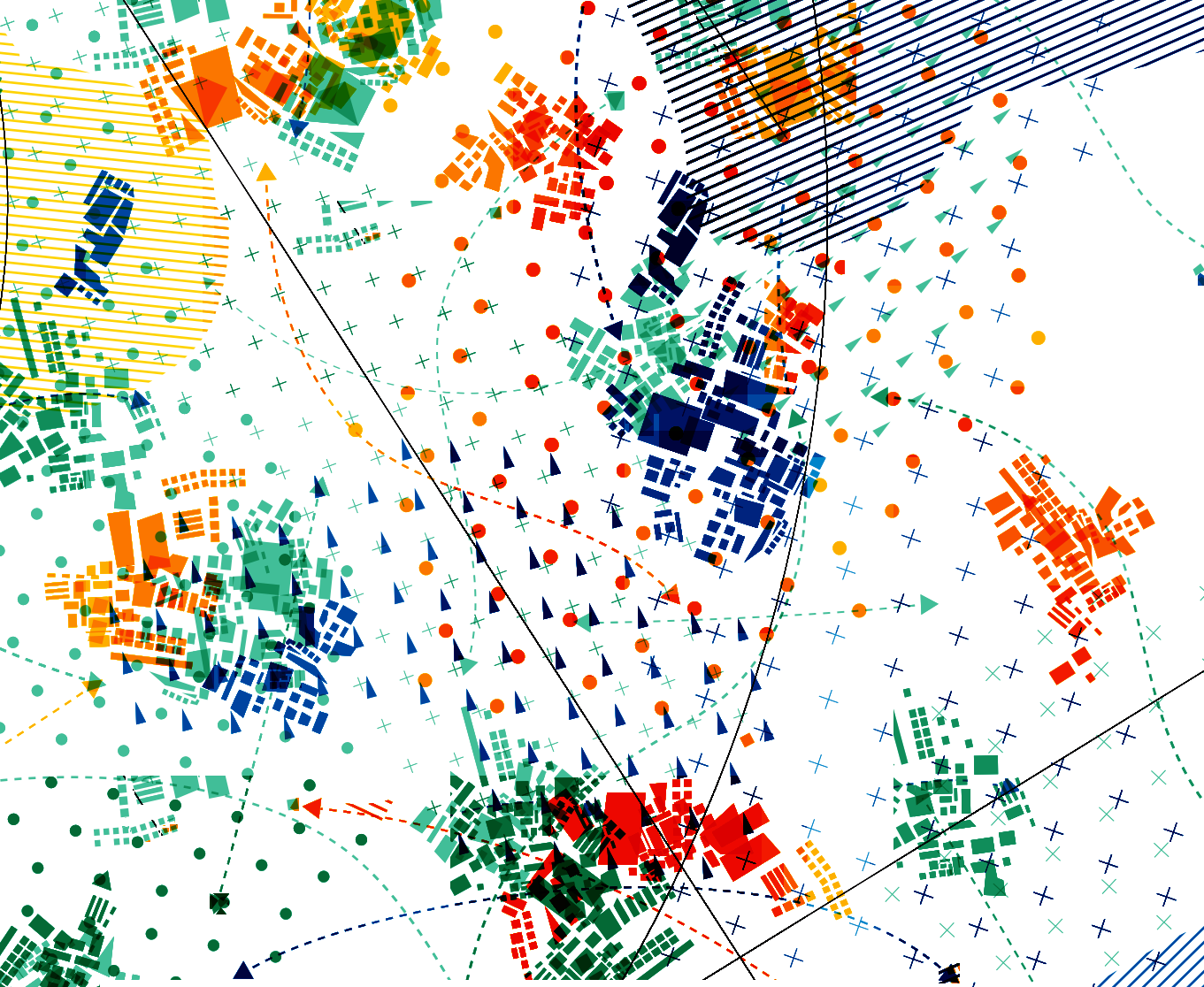
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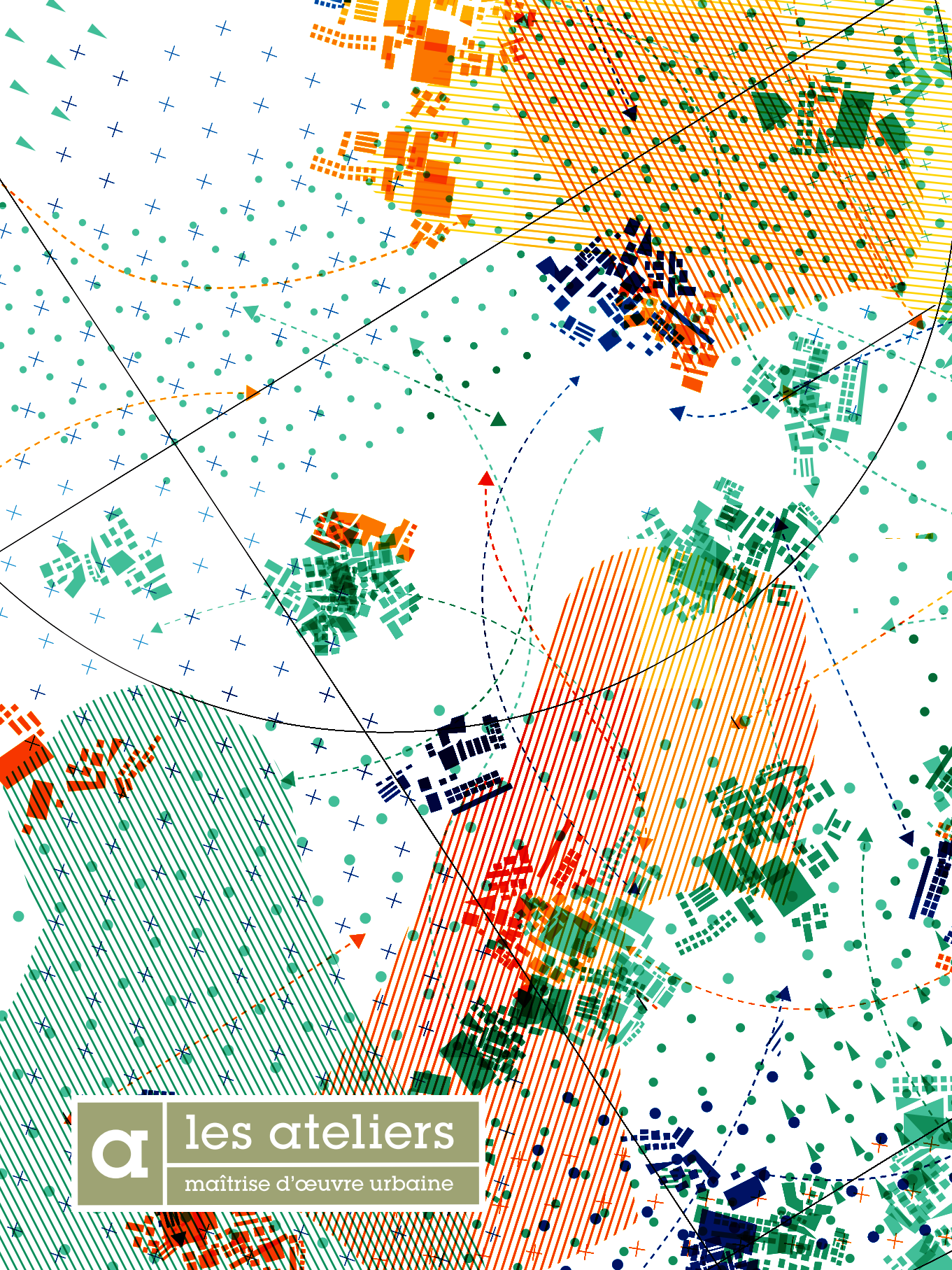
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