The Landscape of Paris

Exploring future issues and challenges through a city and its imaginaries

Design Studio Viganò
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Juxtaposition of maps from the Atlas, participatory workshop with residents, December 2022, Ben Gitai -HRC.
Themes, context and hypothesis

The context

The Atlas of Landscape of Paris
Exhibition in the Pavilion de l'Arsenal in Paris

The themes

Paris Imaginaires
Paris Sort/Métabolique
Paris Change
Paris Vivant

An Atlas and its issues

The Landscape structures and challenges
The Landscape entities
The Landscape elements
The Landscape unities

Teaching methods and program

The context

A new urban landscape of Paris

Construction site of the Place de la catalogne, Paris, 2023, Service Technique des Transports Automobiles Municipaux.
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<tr>
<th>Habitat</th>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Center</th>
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Un Atlas de paysages pour la Ville de Paris
“Landscape is a part of a territory, as perceived by local inhabitants or visitors, which changes over time as a result of natural forces and human action” European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000)

The interpretive journey that the HRC-EPFL team has been following for almost a year is guided first and foremost by the idea of landscape conveyed by the European Landscape Convention: a definition that is eminently cultural and rooted in the multiple points of view that reveal it.
"For me, Paris is not an object with a thousand facets, a sum of perceptions, nor indeed the law of all these perceptions... each express perception of my journey through Paris - the cafés, the faces of the people, the poplars on the quays, the bends in the Seine - is cut out of the total being of Paris...".

Maurice Merleau-Ponty (1945 : 325).
Themes
Paris Imaginaires: The city as seen by its inhabitants and visitors

Paris Workshop02
December 2022.
Cross-mapping data, the
Landscape atlas of Paris.,
HRC 2023© SOS météores,
Edgar P. Jacobs, Collection
Lombard, 1959.
An Atlas and its issues
The landscape structures and challenges

The Périphérique (ring road)
The Seine river
The boulevards
The park system
The monuments system

The Périphérique (ring road) no longer perceived like La « Zone », it’s a changing beltway where sports complexes and pieces of contemporary architecture are concentrated. Porosity / traversability / The gates become places of continuity and new opportunities for centralities between villages. What about traffic? noise pollution, air quality, quality of life, pollution? What about the tertiary sector adjacent to the ring road? Its architectural development is not affected by the new PLU directives (no height limits) and its existence creates an obvious boundary between Paris and the adjacent communes. Linear forest: a vision for the Périphérique.
An Atlas and its issues
The landscape structure and challenges

The ring road
The Seine river
The boulevards
The parc system
The monuments system

Drought - faces of flowerbeds and lawns, monocultures, endangered species, heat island biodiversity cool accessibility: island courtyards, public accessibility - courtyards added to landscape structure uses and open spaces
An Atlas and its issues
The landscape entities and challenges

The centrality of the village as a spatial, social and historical entity derives from its multiple paths, its geomorphology and culture, but even more, from its contemporary relevance. Villages are physical entities and metaphorical places of the metropolis, today partially absorbed by the logic of global and local gentrification processes.

The village map of Paris and the map of Cold beds/unoccupied dwellings. Atlas of landscape, HRC 2023. Source, Apur 2017, collage:

The landscape entities and challenges

Villages and inter-villages hospitable qualities of landscapes, which are why we use the term "villages lits chauds / lits froids" (hot-bed / cold-bed villages). It’s hard to call entities in the center of Paris "village", probably due to hyper-tourism and over-consumption. There’s no longer any community life in these places, because it’s Disneyland. > What does the bioclimatic PLU say? Differentiation or homogenization? Gentrification, social mixing, separation of populations and disappearance of schools. Rejection of middle-class and poorer populations
The concept of 'difference' is associated with the work of Gilles Deleuze, who maintains that difference is the fundamental reality and that everything is a product of difference. On the other hand, the term 'repetition' refers to the act or process of repeating elements. The use of recurring elements, such as motifs or spatial structures, creates a sense of unity and coherence. The concept of repetition is associated with the work of Friedrich Nietzsche, who argued that repetition is a fundamental aspect of human existence and that we constantly repeat certain actions and thoughts in order to find meaning in our daily lives.
An Atlas and its issues
The landscape elements and challenges

The Seine crosses Paris from east to west over 13 km and has 37 bridges and footbridges. The ratio of distance between bridges is 37/13 = 0.35 km, or 2.85 bridges per 1 km.

Potential for greening the banks of the river, which were made to crossed and not to be commun ground. Tension created between metropolitan practices and the naturalization of the river.


1) Pont Amai;
2) Pont de Gargantua;
3) Pont Mirabeau;
4) Pont de Grenelle;
5) Pont Roussel;
6) Pont de Bir-Hakeim;
7) Pont d’Iéna;
8) Passerelle Debilly;
9) Pont de l’Alma;
10) Pont des Invalides;
11) Pont Alexandre-III;
12) Pont de la Concorde;
13) Passerelle Léopold-Sédar-Senghor;
14) Pont-Royal;
15) Pont du Carroussel;
16) Pont des Arts;
17) Pont-Neuf;
18) Pont-au-Change;
19) Pont St-Michel;
20) Pont Notre-Dame;
21) Petit-Pont;
22) Pont d’Arcole;
23) Pont-du-Double;
24) Pont Louis-Philippe;
25) Pont St-Louis;
26) Pont de l’Archevêché;
27) Pont Marie;
28) Pont de la Tourneire;
29) Ponts de Boly;
30) Pont Mortand;
31) Pont d’Austerlitz;
32) Vaduc d’Austerlitz;
33) Pont Charles-de-Gaulle;
34) Pont de Berry;
35) Passerelle Simone-de-Beauvoir;
36) Pont de Tolbiac;
37) Pont National;
38) Pont du Boulevard Périphérique.
An Atlas and its issues
The landscape unities and challenges

The map of landscape unities illustrates the different landscapes that make up the city of Paris, representing specific characteristics such as topography, hydrology and geography, as well as the different uses of these spaces in terms of vegetation cover or the development of human activities. Each landscape unities is delimited and categorized within a perimeter, according to its geomorphological characteristics and differences from the surrounding units. In this way, landscape unities and their juxtaposition with landscape structures and landscape entities enable us to refine our understanding of the city of Paris and its relationship with the rest of France.
Design tools

Design as a descriptive tool

On site, mapping, videos ...
Design as a conceptual tool

*Conceptualization, Diagrams, Figures*

Exploring space of abstraction in which to reformulates all of pre-existing thinking and imagining in relation to the territories of the contemporary.

Process of design as elaboration of new (spatial) concepts whilst also making use of concepts from other fields, re-interpreting them.

Cesare Leonardi, *Struttura Reticolare Acentrata*, 1988

PDM EPFL 2019, Noélie Lecoanet. Prof. Paola Viganò, maître EPFL Tommaso Pietropolli

Yves Zurstrassen, Dance, 2017 (detail), Summertime, 2016 (detail)
Design tools

Design as description of future situations and future challenges

Scenarios, Prototypes

Field of practice for the implementation and evaluation of hypothesis.

Eco-socio-spatial proposals for action developed through a continuous exchange with situations and themes.
The Program

Rencontres / On site
Atelier / Mini-workshops
Critics / Readings / Public debates

Paris Promenades
10-13 novembre 2022

Events

20 Sept. 2022
Seminar: Les enjeux du Paysages de Paris
Jean-Marc Besse, Pieter Uyttenhove/Habitat Research Center

06-8 October. 2023
Voyage d'étudiants à Paris
Les Promenades de Paysages

09 October. 2023
Seminar: Les Paysages de Paris
Chiara Santini, Pieter Uyttenhove/Habitat Research Center

Calendar

Mid-term
30 October 2023
Final
19 December 2023