



Aerial photograph

CATEGORY : Urban/architectural
TEAM REPRESENTATIVE : architect / urban planner / landscaper

LOCATION : North-East area of Paris
POPULATION : Conurbation: 10 millions inhab. City : 2.2 millions inhab. 18th arrondissement : 200 000 inhab.
STUDY SITE : Porte des Poissonniers 27 ha
PROJECT SITE : 4 ha
SITE PROPOSED BY : City of Paris, with those partners on the project : Mairie d'arrondissement, RATP, Ministère de la Défense
OWNER(S) OF THE SITE : Ministère de la Défense, Ville de Paris
COMMISSION AFTER COMPETITION : urban design project, redesign of public spaces, architectural project management in connection with partners

HOW THE SITE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE ADAPTABLE CITY?

At the heart of the Paris metropolis, the proposed site, Porte des Poissonniers in northern Paris, is part of a large and evolving section of the Parisian suburbs. A strategic study is currently underway with the aim of remodelling this sector as a dense, robust and sustainable urban zone, and gradually incorporating the city tomorrow into the city of today. Four themes, linked with the specificities of the site's location, are involved in this exploration of the adaptable city: **the accessible city framework, the dense mixed city, the city and nature, timeframe management as a factor in urban projects.**

CITY STRATEGY

The PLU (local urban masterplan) and the PADD (sustainable development plan) for Paris are both part of the global objective of building a sustainable and community-minded city in order to reduce the social and spatial inequalities inherited from the past. The city is working on the transformation of large development areas, almost 10% of its territory, mostly in the suburbs. The proposed site falls within one of them. With an urgent need to build housing, almost 6000 dwellings a year (with a total target of funding 40,000 social dwellings over the period 2008-2014), the City is looking for urban forms that take account of the diversity of contemporary living patterns in a large metropolis and objectives of sustainability, solidarity and social mixity.



Aerial photograph of the study site



Aerial photograph of the project site

SITE DEFINITION

Situated at the interface between Paris and its inner suburbs, the study area falls within a 200 ha project zone within Paris: "Paris North, North-East". It is near Porte de la Chapelle, one of the main gateways of Paris, a point where the inner ring-road (Boulevard Périphérique) meets the A1 motorway. It is located in the strategic axis of the new Greater Paris centres, between the two station hubs of Gare du Nord and Gare de l'Est and the future Pleyel - Saint Denis multimodal station. It will ultimately enjoy excellent public transport provision. Located on the edge of the former suburban districts, Porte des Poissonniers consists of a traditional urban fabric, the footprint of large industrial activities and 1960s-1970s urban projects such as social housing, amenities, stadiums, separated by major infrastructures, roads and railways. For the European competition, the remit is to explore two scales: the first is the **study site** covering 27 hectares, notably including a large 8 hectare plot belonging to the RATP (independent Paris transport board) and, within this study area, a 4 hectare **project site** encompassing development land belonging to the Ministry of Defence, and its immediate surroundings.

ADAPTABILITY : MAIN ELEMENTS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT

The site raises the question of transforming and adapting a dense city fabric. The conversion of this area will focus on the transformation of the interstices and large land areas. Urban changes will need to take into account the existing functions that the city needs to retain. The possibilities for change in this sector must harmonise with both the metropolitan and the local scale, by fostering the establishment of a strong urban framework to support the development of a dense and mixed fabric that will allow the emergence of new neighbourhoods and more dynamic and diverse economic activity. The remit is to reconcile a certain density and diversity of complementary functions and uses with a priority on housing: a social and generational mix, with corresponding local amenities and services, together with activities that contribute to a rich neighbourhood life. The candidates will need to think about the metropolitan dimension and

put forward proposals that operate at two different scales:

- **The urban strategy:** response at the scale of the **study zone** for which they need to propose a strategy illustrated by one or more scenarios for spatial change. The remit here is above all to think about potential short-term, medium-term and long-term changes to the area through an action strategy that links the themes and options described above, and harmonises them with the richness and complexity of the existing fabric.
- **A sustainable and adaptable neighbourhood:** response at the scale of the project site, with urban and architectural proposals that prioritise residential functions, with a varied range of housing, and ideas for new sustainable neighbourhoods in the dense city, with open spaces and buildings adapted to modern living patterns, founded on social relations based on solidarity, communication, community

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Semi-erial photograph of the study site



The Boulevard Ney



The Gley barracks



Croisset/Jean Cocteau mall



Small beltway / rue Belliard