



● Clearing out

If the site's history is one of successive transformations—in which, according to the changing needs of the industrial apparatus, the same parcel has housed different facilities—the historic building structures dating from the first period stand out as elements of stability, having long imposed their framework throughout the various eras. While their spatial legibility has gradually been absorbed by ancillary developments, it seems their typology proved adaptable enough to accommodate the constant shifts in use demanded by production.

We assume that their robustness, their scale, and the characteristics of their construction system make them efficient structures, sufficiently stable to be adapted over time. Added to this is their specific architectural value, associated with the industrial aesthetic of the late 19th century. As such, they are destined to

form—as capable structures carrying the site's long memory and endowed with civic aesthetic qualities—the "spine" of the project, responsible for initiating the site's transformation and providing a stable image as a framework for the changes to come.

Through three situated examples, we have sought to illustrate an overall strategy that can be replicated for other buildings of the same type. These different interventions share the aim of creating spaces of collective interest that support diverse uses, readily accommodate unplanned elements, and offer minimal obstacles to future transformation.

Batiment 1A

Construction: 1875
Surface area: 500m²

Located on the northern edge of the site, Building 1A forms a new entrance from Fishermen's Lake. The asbestos roof covering (1) is removed, as well as part of the intermediate floor (2), in order to create an enclosed outdoor space functioning as an "anteroom" for the adjacent public program. This is a place for gathering and conviviality, offering spatial and thermal comfort that complements the surrounding outdoor areas. The staircase formerly attached to the facade (3) is relocated and reassembled as a double-height stair, transforming it from a purely technical element into a scenic feature that embodies the building's new civic purpose.

Batiment 1

Construction: 1875
Surface area: 500m²

Separated from Building 1A by a load-bearing wall, Building 1A offers a twin volume to the latter, but the good condition of its mechanical tie roof (1) argues for its preservation as an interior space. The infilled opening connecting it to Building 1 is reopened (2). The intermediate floor and its supporting structure (3) are removed to restore a clear height of more than 10 meters up to the ridge. The freeing of this large volume makes it possible to accommodate a program dedicated to the performing arts (4).

Batiment 8

Construction: 1875
Surface area: 1000m²

While, by virtue of their location at the heart of the site and the scale of their volumes, the workshop buildings mentioned above lend themselves to a public vocation, the two administrative wings parallel to the lakes, situated at the periphery and of shallower depth, offer an opportunity to give the site an inhabited character. With a depth of 11 meters and large openings in the facade as well as the roof (1), these volumes—once reopened by removing ancillary developments (2)—provide exceptionally bright spaces. We propose a partitioning plan that creates up to 15 units of 80 m² each (30 in total) (3), sufficiently flexible to accommodate various forms of use, such as housing or studios.

● Re-resource the volumes



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● Re-assembly

Because the project is based on the restoration of the building structures from the first period as the site's main organizing axis, and because not all existing structures can be preserved—for reasons related both to soil contamination, their poor state of conservation, and their limited spatial qualities—the future of the site can only be conceived as that of a large-scale material reuse center.

This center offers an unprecedented reservoir of standardized construction elements, more or less recent, with varying conditions of reusability. While the project plans to allocate a space for their storage (potentially Building 76, due to its short-term availability as a public access building), another ambition is their reimplementation in diverse forms, offering different architectural solutions from the same materials, introducing typological and spatial diversity complementary to the preserved buildings.

This approach to reuse requires considering materials not for what they were originally designed for, but for what they can become. Constructive and visual constraints are sought, resulting in radically different objects that nevertheless retain something of their previous state: forms, colors, and patinas that extend the architectural vocabulary of the site by subverting its reuse center.

Batiment 50 - Water sports facility

The large characteristic trusses of Building 50 (1) are redeployed to form a stilted building forming as a watersports center overlooking the lake. These trusses are doubled to reinforce a structure originally designed to support only a roof. Two emergency staircases (2), painted in a yellow commonly seen on site, provide access to the habitable level.

Batiment 61 - Kiosk

Originally built on a rectangular plan on the upper floor of Building 61, these metal frames have a large 17-meter span and a distinctive structural expression. Reassembled into a rotunda, they form a pavilion whose geometry contrasts with its surroundings, thereby highlighting its singular role as a focal point drawing visitors toward the lake.

Batiment 7 - Serre

The dismantling of Building 7 (and potentially other prefabricated buildings such as 70, 73, and 75) makes a large quantity of window frames available, which we propose to reassemble into a horticultural greenhouse connected to a community garden. The frames are overlapped to ensure watertightness. The structure itself, made of metal profiles, also comes from the dismantled building.

● Re-source the materials



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● Ruination

If the open spaces (understood both as logistical slabs and planted courtyards or "small gardens") were originally an integral part of the site's plan, they have also, as a consequence of the site's constant transformations, served as "waiting spaces"—either replacing a dismantled building or anticipating one yet to come. Successive eras have thus left their marks, whose original logics are often lost, taking the form of tree alignments leading nowhere, overhead networks circumscribing phantom obstacles, or an abstract patchwork of surface materials.

In the perspective of a partial dismantling of the site and its future reconversion, it seems valuable to us to add new traces proportionally to this palimpsest. While the re-sourcing of volumes and materials has a tangible quality, that of open spaces can only be acquired through increased attention. This aspect, however,

Batiment 69

Construction: 1966
Superficie: 800m²

A light-structure building of low architectural value and covered with asbestos sheets is completely dismantled. As a ghost twin of the neighboring building 10, its volume is recreated by means of a grove of trees (1) densely planted in the slab (2), where funnels have been stripped away (3). The plantings thus have access to uncontaminated soil at this part of the site. This shaded plateau, whose volume echoes that of building 10 (converted into a temporary bar), occasionally becomes its terrace, thereby continuing the idea of the functional dependency of the buildings in their original use.

Batiment 50

Construction: 1973
Superficie: 3000m²

Completely dismantled (due to its location on a polluted zone) and with its frame elements reassembled as part of a new construction (see Re-assembly), building 50 leaves behind a substantial slab covering an area of 3,000 m². Considered a "capable platform" as it isolates from pollution and possesses certain load-bearing capacities—it is occupied by a sports program (1) and by a stearthen mounds garden (2) independent from the polluted soil. Part of a spatial composition that, together with the boiler house, defines the northern boundary of a courtyard with stable geometry (see Scenario 3), the building's facade is preserved by the addition of braces (3). This facade both qualifies the space and provides a climatic comfort element.

Batiment 27A

Construction: 1936
Superficie: 620m²

Alongside the realm of large industrial buildings lies that of the machines—quasi-structures—that populate the site as a community of objects returned to their pure material existence due to their very obsolescence. In a post-industrial and postmodern vision, these objects become signs of a lost language and fetish tokens from which a new system of values and meanings is projected. Revealed by the dismantling of the surrounding buildings, they acquire a sculptural status and become markers (or "folies") along a path through the site. They establish and maintain "addresses" within a site reclaimed by employees.

● Re-sourcing the open spaces



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● Re-source the materials



Ce(ux) qui restent