

From Rust to Roots

Phase 1: Remembrance & Recognition

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From Rust to Roots

Phase 2: Recomposition & Reclamation

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Phase 3: Rebirth & Regeneration

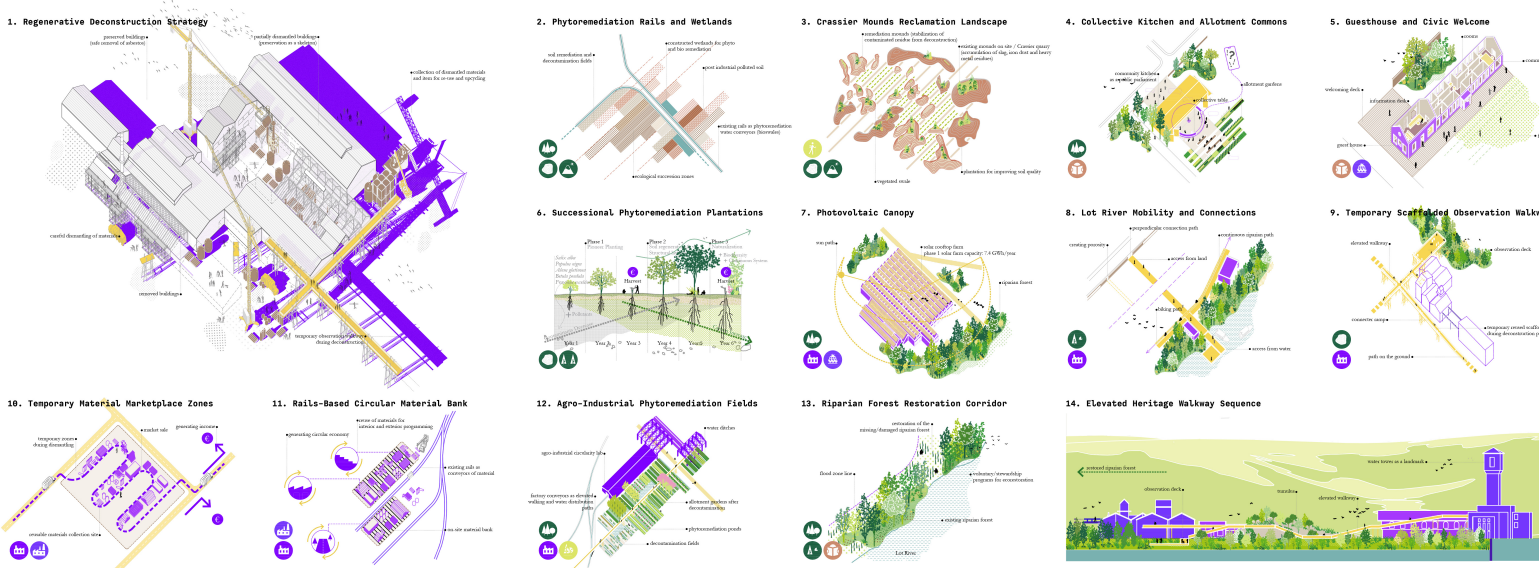
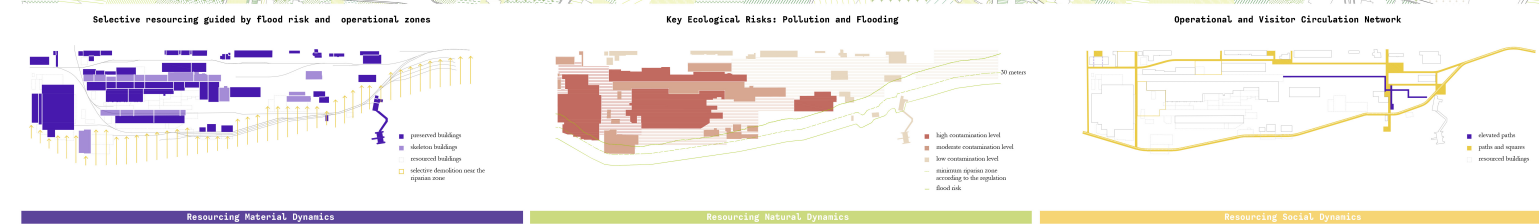
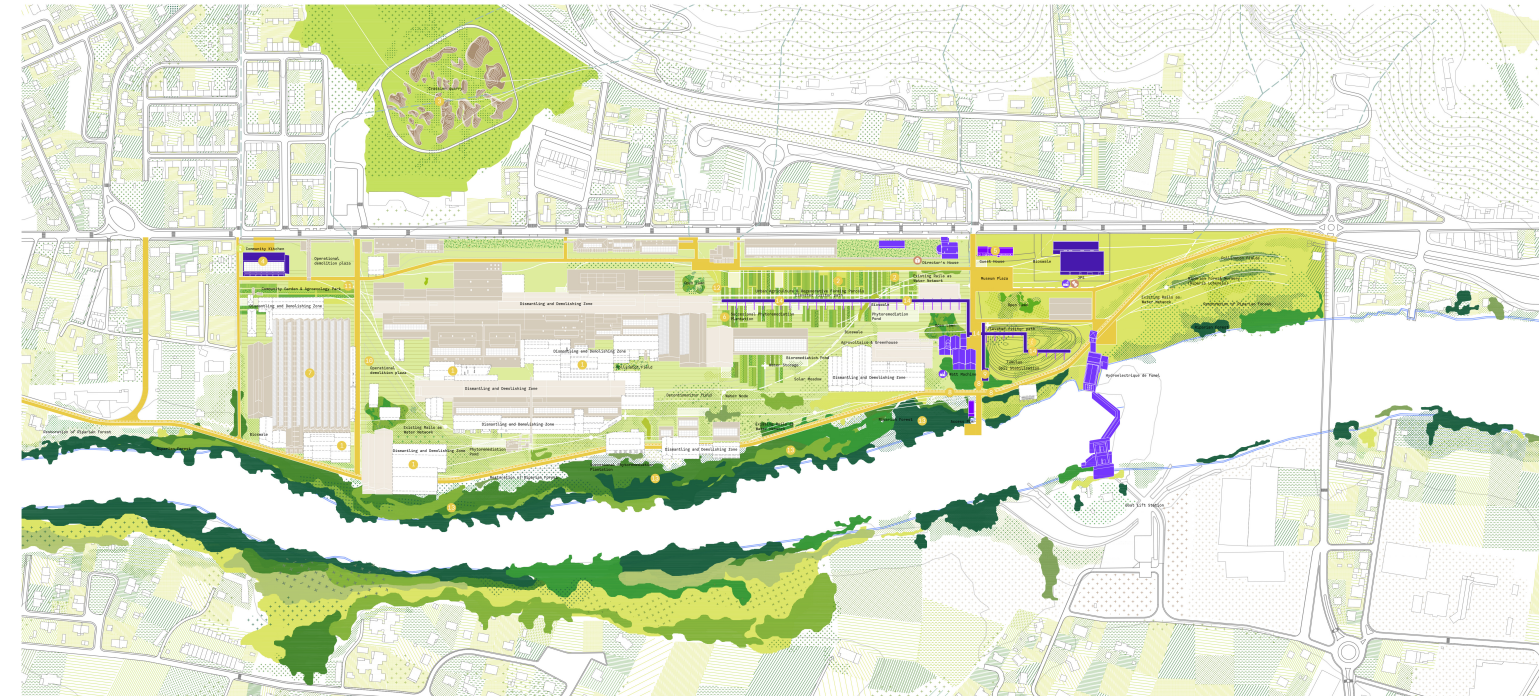
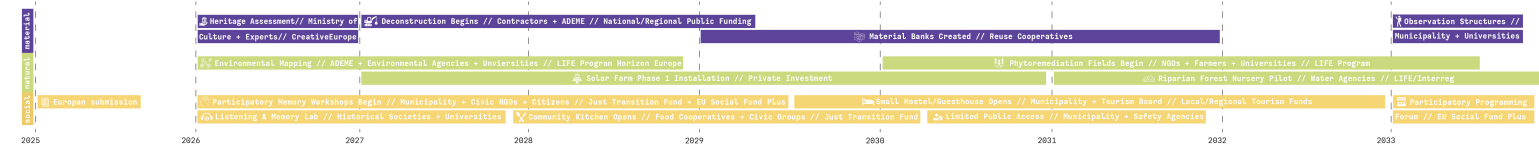
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A Process-Oriented Framework: Phased Transformation as a Living Metabolism

Living Metabolism
In the face of climate crises, resource depletion, and social fractures, Fumel demands more than preservation; it calls for radical reimagining. From Rust to Roots treats the site as a living metabolism unfolding through three phases — *Rennance & Recognition*, *Recomposition & Reclamation*, and *Rebirth & Regeneration* — integrating strategies for ecological restoration, material reuse and community engagement. This phased, process-oriented framework creates a landscape where soils heal, biodiversity returns, and heritage structures find new life, while building early momentum and income streams to sustain transformation. It allows time for recovery, trust-building, and program adaptation ensuring Fumel evolves with resilience and inclusivity.

Phase 1 — Remanence & Recognition: Honoring What Remains, Preparing for Renewal

This initial phase begins by carefully listening to the site: reading its scars, residues, and silent testimonies. Remanence means embracing the emotional, material, and spatial traces of Fumel's industrial past — rusting structures, polluted soils, workers' stories — recognizing these as both memory and latent resource. Recognition turns this reading into action: mapping pollutants, analyzing existing structures, identifying materials for reuse, and cataloging heritage elements with cultural or educational potential.

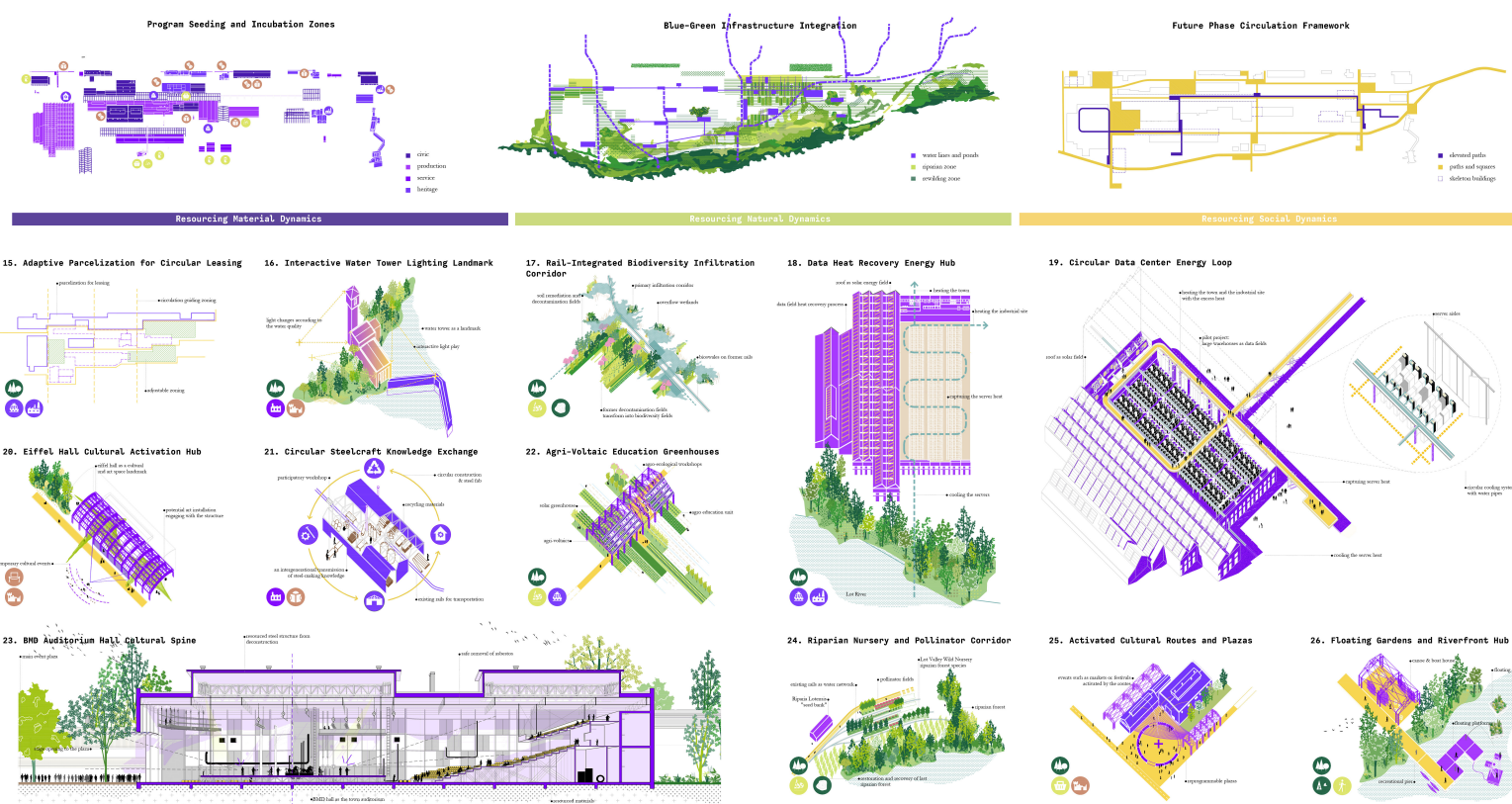


A Healer and a Catalyst: From Rust to Roots

From Rust to Ruins envisions Fumel's former steelworks not as a frozen relic but as fertile ground for a new metabolism of life, memory, and innovation. Transforming this scarred industrial landscape into a dynamic commons, the proposal creates a place where humans and non-humans coexist, histories of labor are honored and reimagined, and regenerative processes heal ecological systems and collective memories. Anchored by the factory's monumental ruins and the Lot River's meandering flows, the project layers soil and water remediation, biodiversity restoration, adaptive reuse of heritage structures, and sustainable energy production to weave vibrant ecologies, productive spaces, and connective routes, stitching Fumel back to its valley, towns, and communities.

Phase 2 — Recomposition & Reclamation: Incubating New Programs, Weaving Routes of Renewal

Building on the groundwork of recognition, the second phase focuses on creative recomposition and active reclamation. Recomposition reshapes what remains into new spatial, ecological, and programmatic configurations, while reclamation activates the site through diverse programs that seed a resilient, multifunctional landscape. This phase marks an incubation period where programs aligned with four renewed landscape routes — local production, agriculture, civic & cultural life, and nature preservation — begin to emerge.



Phase 3 — Rebirth & Regeneration: Flourishing Futures and Adaptive Continuity

As soils heal, hazards flourish, and diverse programs seeded earlier take root, the third phase celebrates the emergence of a thriving socio-ecological landscape. Regeneration marks the natural and cultural climax: decontaminated fields become vibrant meadows, wetlands, and woodlands, while the maturing riparian forest forms a continuous corridor of native flora and fauna stabilizing riverbanks and enriching regional ecosystems. Programs from Phase 2—spanning renewable energy, agri-ecology, gas-tronomy, arts, education, and community services—are evaluated for participation, viability, and impact. The project's adaptive, process-oriented framework allows successful initiatives to expand while others evolve or adapt through ongoing dialogue with the community, ensuring Funnel remains dynamic, responsive, and resilient.

A Regenerative Model for Fumel and Beyond

From Rust to Roots transforms Fumel's abandoned steelworks from a symbol of decline into a testament to resilience and renewal. By turning a site of extraction into fertile ground for ecological and cultural regeneration through phased, adaptive strategies, it shows how post-industrial territories can reconnect communities with their landscapes, fostering social, economic, and environmental vitality.

Here, rust signals not just decay, but the promise of transformation; and roots do not merely reclaim the past, but branch into futures of shared, thriving possibility.

