OPENING THE CONVERSATION

A starting point for identifying what matters, what this generous open space can become- by listening to the landscape, the residents, and the processes already in motion. This requires continuing and expanding the conversations we began in Clermond Ferrand.

The big open **grounds** of Fontaine du Bac aren't voids to be filled, but habitats to be built.
Beneath the surface, the rich soils though recently supporting mostly infrastructure still holds memory and potential to regain its natural functions. Above, it is full of **people** and life - this is where the landscape potential lies. Connecting ground and community.

"Trees don't make a social environment they can only contribute to the physical surroundings." (Alain R. Ruff)

This quote frames our approach to develop a landscape in Fontaine du Bac. We see our roles not as designing scenery, but as creating conditions for social and ecological life to grow together- an evolution rooted in Fontaine du Bacs own resources. A place for people to extend a feeling of home, and for nature to re-enter the city.

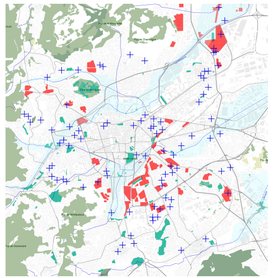
From control to care
Fontaine du Bac's landscape is maintained to offer a pleasant and clean image- but this often leaves little left to truly care for. What's missing are opportunities to engage: to smell a flower, witness the changing seasons, or feel the wind in the trees outside your window. The need goes beyond modern maintenance regimes- it's about creating chances to care, feel, and relate. We propose a shift: from a logic of control to one of care and holding.

Assemblies holds a unique position to lead this transition for Clermont-Ferrand. With more than 250 sites, it stewards a powerful land resource that can become the backbone of new urban biodiversity and Fontaine du Bac a model for regenerative practice- for modernist housing estates across the city, France, and Europe.

A social biotope
Our goal is to cultivate a social biotope: a landscape that evolves through dialogue and active involvement from its community. This means giving a space to research, discussion, and exploration- a shared exploration that takes shape in space. It invites new roles and new relationships in the processes and project.

Spatially, we propose to work along the human–nature gradient - from spaces for people to spaces for nature- embracing diversity and coexistence. We aim to build an ecosystem that exists through links between living beings and between environments.

A new urban green space that connects, hosts, and regenerates, both human and non-human life- where there's space for all.


Wasteland
Allotments
Sports field
Residential
Industry
Cemeteries
Wasteland
Industry
Wasteland
Industry
Wasteland
Industry