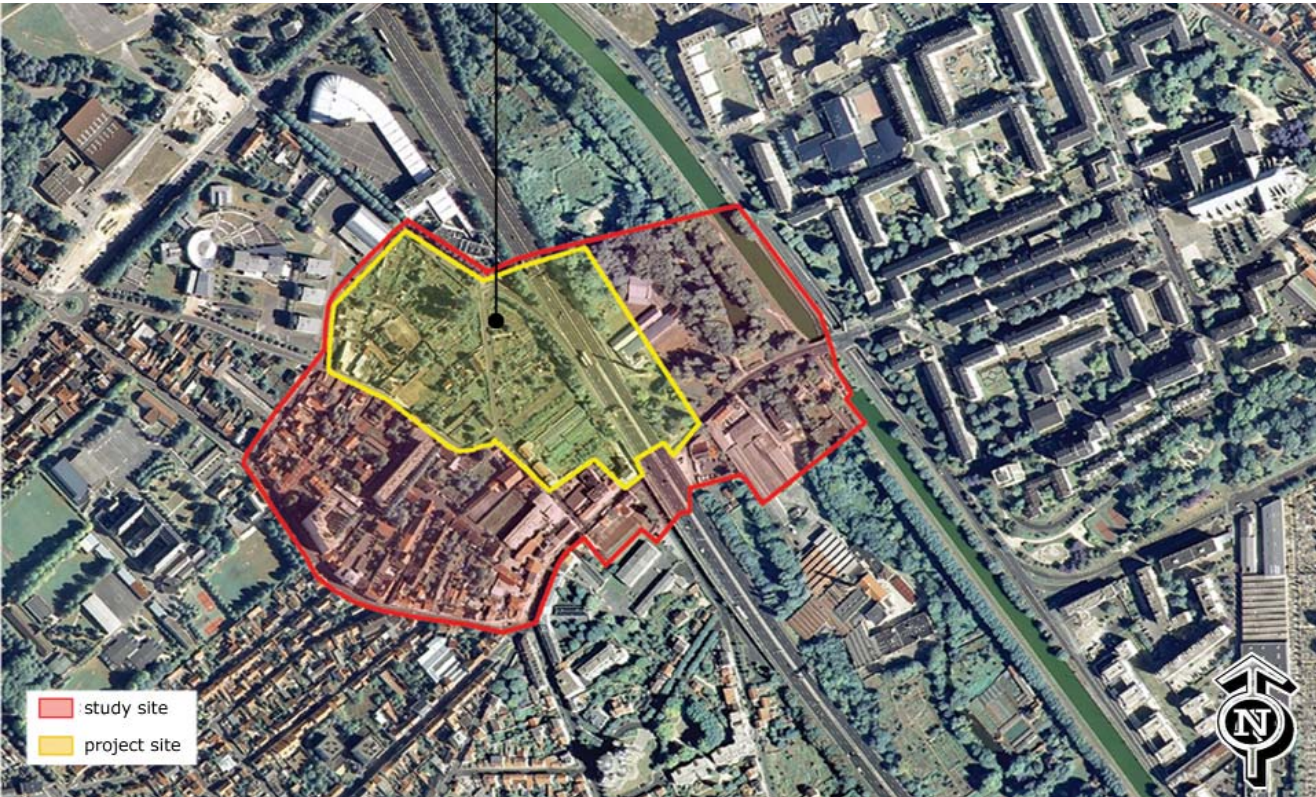




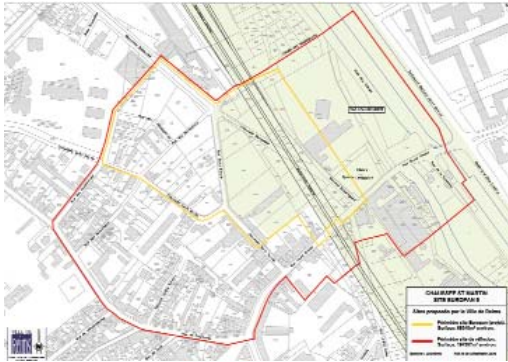
la chaussée St-Martin



City	Reims
Location	Chaussée Saint Martin
Population	187 000 inhab
Study site	19.4 ha
Site of project	6.8 ha

TOPIC
The Chaussée Saint-Martin site, made up of market gardens, detached houses and small blocks of council flats, is located not far from the river and on either side of the A4 motorway, which is soon to be downgraded. The aim is to convert this downgraded section of motorway into an urban boulevard, along with the areas on either side of it. In the long run, this development will create a synergy for the conversion of the whole urban motorway route and will provide a better connection between the town centre, on the other side of the canal, and the big estates to the west.

TERRITORIAL SCALE : CONURBATION
A city of religious ceremonies, Reims is the biggest conurbation between Paris and Nancy, ahead of Troyes, the other big town in the Champagne region. Formerly the capital of the linen trade, Reims now stands at the heart of a rich farming and winegrowing region (Champagne). Nonetheless, the service sector is the city's biggest employer. Reims already has good motorway links (A4 Paris-Strasbourg, A26 Calais-Dijon and A34 Reims-Sedan), and in June 2007 will be 45 minutes from Paris by the TGV Est (high-speed train). In addition, the tramway project (work starting in 2008 for opening in 2011) will generate a programme to improve building frontages (compulsory facelift) and roads (Cathedral square currently being converted to a pedestrian zone).



URBAN SCALE : STUDY SITE

The study site, which is part of the Saint-Anne district, a 19th-century suburb, is on the left bank of the Vesle, on the other side of the river from the town centre and along the Marne à l'Aisne Canal. It is at the transition between the town centre and the big suburban estates. The A4 motorway and the canal cut this district off from the town centre. The site extends through areas of low building density, containing small blocks of council flats or private operations, market gardens and former industrial zones, whose many buildings have either disappeared or been converted to sports facilities.

Programmatic intentions

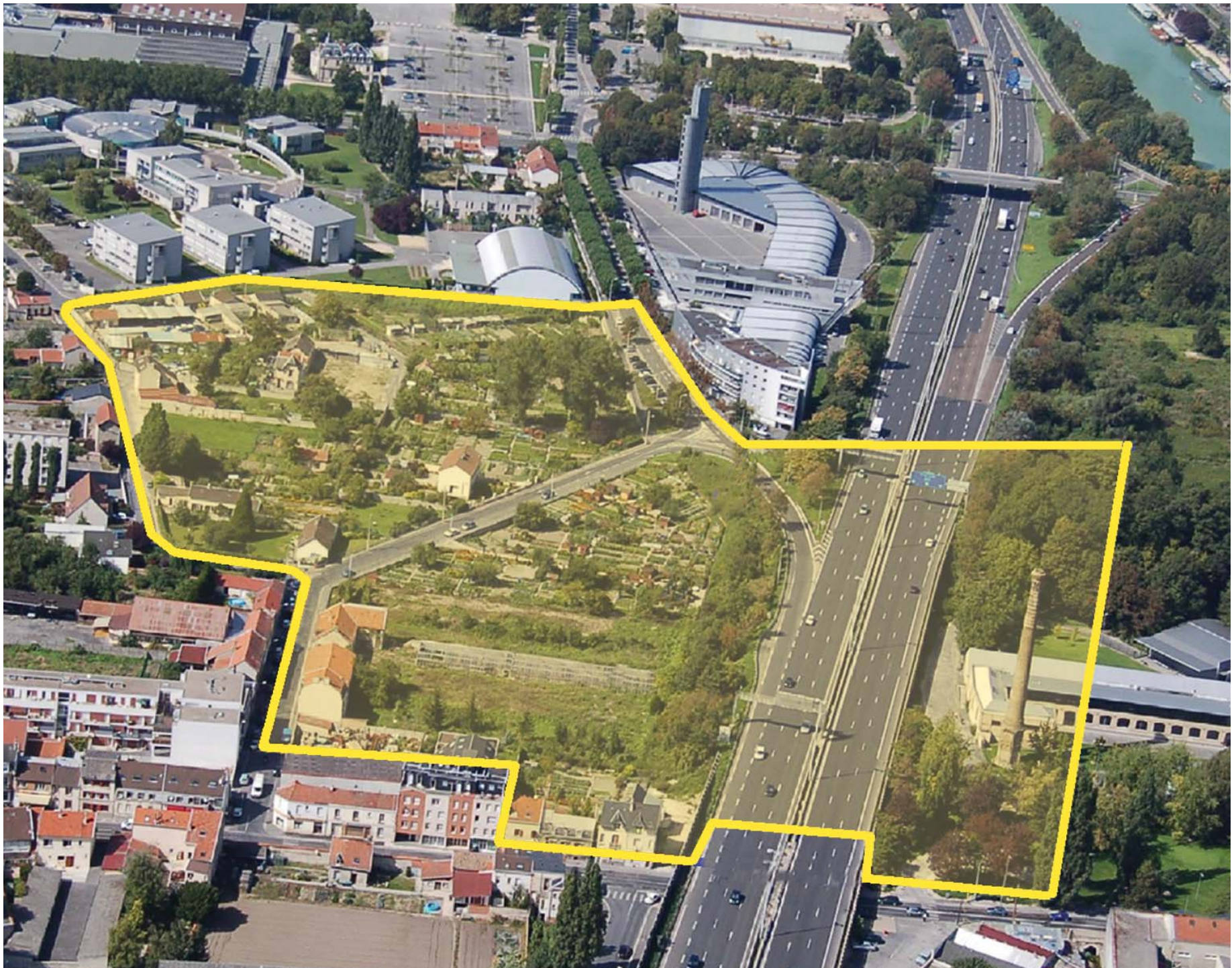
The town wishes to reclaim and exploit these areas when the A4 motorway is downgraded and converted to an urban boulevard. So the aim here is to reflect on a process of urban grafting.

PROXIMITY SCALE : SITE OF PROJECT

The project site is a 6.8 hectare area on either side of the A4 motorway.

Programmatic intentions

The objective is to design a programme of 350 to 400 dwellings on this land, made available by the downgrading of the motorway, with space to house premises for voluntary sector agencies associated with the leisure sector and/or artists' studios, and to come up with a high-quality treatment for the surroundings of the future urban boulevard.





View towards the motorway; right; chimney of the old factory, home of the Régates Rémoises



Rue Clovis Chézel; right: supporting wall of the motorway



Rue des Naussonces where it bends parallel to the Chaussée St-Martin, looking South-East



Rue des Maraîchers from the crossroad Chaussée Bocquaine-rue St Fiacre