

E16 LIVING CITIES

Grenoble France

SCALE: XL / S

TEAM REPRESENTATIVE: architect/
urbanist/ landscape architect

SITE TOPIC: Recovery / dynamizing
landscapes

LOCATION: Grenoble - Isères (38)

POPULATION: City : 158 454 inhab.
Grenoble-Alpes : Métropole 443 123
inhab.

STUDY SITE : 432 ha

PROJECT SITE: 25 ha

SITE PROPOSED BY : City of Gre-
noble

ACTORS INVOLVED : City of Gre-
noble, City of La Tronche, City of
Saint-Martin-le-Vinoux, Grenoble-Alpes
Métropole, Departmental Council de
l'Isère, CROUS, Auvergne Rhône-Alpes
Region, Regional Natural Park of Char-
treuse, Urban Planning Agency of the
région Grenobloise

OWNER(S) OF THE SITE : City of
Grenoble and the French State

COMMISSION AFTER COMPETITION:
study and project missions on one
or more mutable sites. Operational
implementations may be initiated with
partners.



La Bastille, a rocky spur perfectly aligned with the historic center of Grenoble (IGN / Géoportail)



General aerial oblique view

Between living slopes and in- habited areas

Bastille (extra)ordinary, Rabot in transition



Aerial view with clear limites
study site (red line)
+ project site (ligne jaune)

URBAN CITY STRATEGY

Often presented as a rocky spur perfectly aligned with the historic center of Grenoble, the Bastille, a fragment of urban mountain articulating river (Isère), massif (Chartreuse) and urbanized plain (Grenoble urban area), remains nevertheless a space psychologically distant from the cities it overlooks. A place of culture and heritage, a place of tourism and sports activities, but also an inhabited place, the Bastille is at the same time a sanctuary, a totem pole and a living space. In spite of this, the site is still difficult to access and suffers, more generally, from the absence of a project likely to enhance its built heritage, to renew the ways of living on the slope but also to preserve the richness of its biodiversity. This is more particularly the case of its intermediate stratum, composed of the Cité universitaire du Rabot, whose imminent departure (2023) constitutes the opportunity for a real transformation combining urban and ecological issues.

SITE DEFINITION

This intermediate stratum consists of three levels of terraces with public spaces, roads and built elements with a strong heritage character. A privileged site for contemplating the Grenoble basin, its pronounced perch and its geography make it difficult to access, all the more so since the mono-functionality that characterized it until then (housing and student life) has largely contributed to isolating this urban fragment from the rest of the city. In addition, the floor space offered by the existing buildings make it a privileged space for urban renewal and one of the few living spaces in the Bastille. Thus, putting this site into project means articulating three major issues: its accessibility (what alternatives to motorized travel?), its habitability (what program options?), and its degree of openness to the city (what kind of public?).

E16 VILLES VIVANTES - Grenoble France



Vue sur le Rabot, Photographie de Raoul Blanchard, début XXe, collections Musée Dauphinois.



HOW MUST BE DEVELOPPED AND CONNECTED METABOLISM AND INCLUSIVITY?

Despite its multiple qualities, the presence of exceptional natural and heritage resources, and beyond the variety of uses to which it is put by the people of Grenoble and visitors today, the Bastille suffers from the absence of a unifying narrative about its future. Under these conditions, how can a project be developed that contributes to a renewal of its image and practices, while preserving its singularity? What are the elements available to be mobilized to establish a narrative of the development and management of a common good such as the Bastille?

Among the main expectations of this competition, the question of the future identity of the Bastille site in general and its intermediate stratum of the Rabot in particular seems central. Thus, the formulated projects will ensure to find original ways to reconcile, articulate or take part between the dualities that characterize this site: protected space / frequented space, inhabited space / visited space, natural space / anthropized space, sanctuary space / experimentation space, learning space / edutainment space, strolling space / sports space, alternative space / institutional space, accessible space / forbidden space, intimate space / collective space, local space / global space... And finally urban space / mountain space?

Through these questions, the Bastille offers itself as a unique place to experience our relationship with the living, but also to observe and study global changes. Can it not be seen as a watchtower for contemporary climatic and environmental issues, where perception by the sensible, understanding by measurement, action by experimentation, questioning by creativity and sharing by discussion would invite us to think together and not separately about the architectural, urban and territorial project and the design of a more inclusive ecological society?