

Questions Of Life style

What life in metropolises in the 21st century?

Metropolitan evenings and productive seminars in September 2017 and April 2018

The scope of the 2018 subject led us to produce 2 seminars and 4 metropolitan evenings to feed the reflection of the young participants of the September workshop: ecological transition, living-working, digital and finally the economic and cultural attractiveness.

This works and the questions posed during the productive seminar of April 12, 2018 by fifty or so local stakeholders and experts, are intended to give benchmarks to the teams of participants of the September workshop; it is up to them to ask good questions at the right scales of territory, to an international jury, while proposing ideas for action.

1-How big do we have to think? The world's population is growing, the climate threat with, cities are critical. How to evolve territorial metabolisms? How to integrate scales? In what city-countryside relations? According to what temporalities?

The climate threat is not a belief but a fact. 80% of emissions are from the global middle and upper classes, mostly in cities that do not produce their own food. 80% of the emissions are made by the cities, They create more diseases, more mortality, more economic and agricultural losses, they increase precipitations and droughts, change the consumptions of water and energies. The problems are the same in Chicago, Beijing, Riyadh or Paris: the challenge is global. It as to be treated at all scales of territory. From that of the Seine, from its source to Le Havre for example, to housing and local employment. And at the speed at which we emit greenhouse gases, we have an obligation of result, by the 2030's.

2. How to avoid the infinite extension of metropolises? Paris center is not the subject: where do want to live the 3 million additional people expected by 2050? In the suburbs? In the cities around? Beyond, in the little towns, the villages? But how to network them?

Are we going ineluctably towards hyper connected mega-cities? Or is the model of metropolisation outdated? When lifestyles surveys indicate that people yearn for remoteness, calm, tranquility, transportation or income, why live in the city? Especially since the consequence of urbanization is poverty. The institutions are in the logic of growing up, but in the institutions nothing happens, nothing that goes in the direction of well being, of the effective ecological transition. The machine to concentrate the functions of command in the metropolises does not see the local initiatives which they,

go in this direction. Is the invisible non-existent? How to make them visible and accelerate their networking?

3. Work is the master of the game: how to have one? How to go to to? The work is conditioning the housing. Go to work walking, by cycling is ideal. How to counter the distance? Can a polycentric bio-region give back proximity

The big scale is not for planners but for people. Because of travel times, half of the Paris region has the right to the 35-hour week, the other to the 41-hour week. Another organization of work spreads with distance from home to work and digitization, via third parties places. Moreover, while some continue to say that work is not created by decret, others say that he chooses himself and do so, to find meaning; going to work elsewhere, in the countryside. How to organize the work, the habitat and the territory accordingly? How to install large scale in the collective representations of people, by hundreds of thousands? What meta narrative of the city, the countryside and the common good, as shared value?

4. Time is running out to ward off the climate threat. How to go to post-carbon metropolises? At what scales of territory are there solutions? How to define the dream? What are the entries for quick changes?

Is the speed of change compatible with the ability to act? Reproduction of successful experiments requires organizations: to coordinate with 2 billion is impossible, to carry out evaluated projects is. How to progress at the necessary speed? With what representations of reality? What shared vision? What urban-rural factory for a trajectory towards the circular economy: 10 Tons of resources / inhabitant / year in Europe and 340 T stored, for 5 T of waste per year and 60 T stored. Less is more, but how? Which friendly territorial alliance? How to create momentum? Social ecology, fair and sustainable as a gateway to uses: how to integrate it into our way of life?

5. Is digital a solution or a problem, an end in itself or a means? The services rendered are they worth almost disappearance of private life, political manipulations? Would our societies survive a long breakdown? What memory when technical support disappears? How to best use its services without degrading our freedoms? uses: how to integrate it into our way of life?

Digital services are eminent, of all kinds: remote contacts, exchanges, work, shopping, mobility, accommodation, catering ... And tomorrow artificial intelligence. In return for a quasi disappearance of privacy and an ever greater intrusion into our relational choices, purchasing, even policies; and tomorrow of breaks in the social organization: jobs and inequalities. Over time, the memory written on paper, written or photographic, disappears with the technical means that evolve. Piracy and breakdowns have demonstrated the fragility of our societies, their weakness in the face of major accidents. How to exclude intrusive, major risks while integrating digital services into our lifestyles? Europe has took in account this question.

6. Economic and cultural attractiveness is the urban declination of the desire for power, embodied by states and their foreign policies. Does concentration of wealth play against well-being? Does pursuing wealth and well being make schizophrenic?

What metropolitan attractiveness ? Productivity, speed, consumption, invisible networks or readability, beauty? Beauty is to be found in places of everyday life, where we have fun to be: the places of the proximity. The beauty is also in the big horizons, the silhouettes, the landscapes which offer varied perceptions of game of colors, lights of continually changing arabesques of the clouds. On the other hand, the metropolises lead to conceptions of attractiveness, one exogenous, the other endogenous, at best complementary, in any case eminently political, always on the ability to develop strategies and a system of governance highlighting its assets, nowadays by mobilizing culture.

7. After the garden cities, the modern movement, the new cities, how to build the new urban dream? Which measurement units to choose for a different view, a shared vision? What significant indicators to define life in metropolises?

Is the new dream urban or urban-rural? In the space, a marquetry of city and countryside in the great landscape gratifying or density like in Japan, favorable to the hyperactivity, the "after hours"? And if there were no more cars or trucks? What priorities? What solutions? What modes of production and consumption? Where ? What becomes for activity zones? What temporal patterns? 700,000 hours of life, 200,000 to sleep and 100,000 to work for the double in the nineteenth century: with what leisure, where? In the resulting metabolism of the territories, with what objects, which energies, which greenhouse gas emissions, which pollutions, which biodiversity? More: which inequalities? Which migrations? Which wars? Are metropolises doomed to be barbarians?

8. Should we change the status of the land? Follow the countries of the north: no private ownership of the property but reserved property? Does this help to reduce global inequalities? The local cleavage center-periphery? To strengthen the common goods in the face of greed?

Metropolises are places of speculation and exorbitant land costs. How to reinvest the public utility and land ownership in the face of financial optimizations: what anticipations, capture, recovery? What legal and financial frameworks, which contracts that spare the public and the private sector? How to reconcile economic activity and land ownership of developments? Public services are the most important levers for reducing inequalities. Which public services, where? Can the social protection privileges of developed countries be extended to the world from reasoned development of metropolises? Address poverty and inclusion through ecological transition one by the other? How?

Verbatims :

« Population growth / cities are critical : How big do we have to think ? As climate change, productivity drop. How to define the dream ?

Guangzhou : resilience in the city, how can we reinforce natural defenses and balance with environment ?

La pedrera : assuring new line soft defense for the city ?

River walk canada : balance access with ecology to preserve floodings

Chicago : capture clean water

yellow river china : act to large river and prevent cities from cities

wadi hanifah : what risk to riyad in coming decades / 120 km long restored watershed

Riyad : bioremediation, clean urban waste water through natural systems in the desert

How to apply that thinking here ? »

« Heavy trends: continued opening to the international market or reconnection food / agriculture with a less meaty diet, in the autonomy of the territories; what choice of future? »

"Metropolises become hyper-cities and hyper-regions, hyper connected; to post carbon cities? "

"In reality in the institutions nothing happens. "

"There are urban decays but we have unlearned to see these things"

"The survey highlights lifestyles that strive for remoteness, calm, tranquility, with a proximity to work: my lifestyle at the service of my family, 24%, my way of life anchored in my place of life, 22%, my country lifestyle, 16%; total 62%. "

"The city / countryside debate raises the question of living space. How can those who have the will of self-sufficiency, of reduction of their consumption can settle down? Or ? "

« The consequence of urbanization is poverty. Can we fight against that? How? »

"The temporal evolutions generate problems and social inequalities; the offices of the times change the eye, lead to pragmatic actions that improve the quality of life of the inhabitants. "

"There is no change of cultural reference in the center-periphery relationship in Ile-de-France.

"Metropolises inherit a disqualification of rural territories to facilitate the exodus, to have an economic workforce. "

"The circular economy is based on waste but the waste hides the product, the product hides the resource: 10 Tons of resources / inhabitant / year in Europe and 340 T stored, for 5 T of waste per year and 60 T stored. The circular economy requires a strategic intelligence that coordinates the action of the various actors, in a systemic approach. "

"To coordinate ourselves when we are 12 million is impossible, to carry out in parallel actions, projects, evaluated with the same grid is possible: to see the work of several thousands of actors in Île-de-France: www.agirlocal.org"

"Moving forward on models poses a question: giving value to design. "

"The question of space and therefore land but also pleasure are to be included in the questioning. "

"Can we use the street differently? What mutations of the speeds? "

"Agricultural natural land must be expensive"

"How to reinvest the notion of public utility in planning with the notion of land protection? "

"The more expensive land is, the more there is. "

"The city is built today in a model inscribed in the market economy, stronger than the ideas. If the city is the addition of trade, of differences, then the land is a public good "

"Public land institutions aim at anticipating, regulating flows, capturing land rent in order to restore to developers sustainable economic conditions offering diversity and quality. "