

# Urbanism meets Agroecology

Operational  
research and  
pedagogical  
approaches  
in Europe

**International study  
day**

**Monday, September 22, 2025  
at 9 a.m at Ensa Paris-Est**





Luigi Ghiri, Campagna reggiana, Diapositiva 6x7, 1985, Eredi Luigi Ghiri

## Scientific Comitee

**Jennifer Buyck**

EUP – UGE

**Carles Crosas Armengol**

UPC – ETSAB

**Taneha Kuzniecowa Bacchin**

TU Delft

**Geoffrey Grulois**

ULB

**Emel Karakaya Ayalp**

Izmir Democracy University

**Sébastien Marot**

OCS, Ensa Paris-Est, UGE

**Isaline Maire**

OCS, Ensa Paris-Est, UGE

Università luav - IUAV

**Alessandra Marcon**

Università luav - IUAV

OCS, Ensa Paris-Est, UGE

**Maria Chiara Tosi**

Università luav - IUAV

**Etienne Randier Fraile**

OCS, Ensa Paris-Est, UGE

**Chiara Tornaghi**

Coventry

**Raphael Bach**

EPFL

## Scientific direction and organising committee

**Sébastien Marot**

OCS, Ensa Paris-Est, UGE

**Maria Chiara Tosi**

Università luav - IUAV

**Isaline Maire**

OCS, Ensa Paris-Est, UGE

Università luav - IUAV

**Alessandra Marcon**

Università luav - IUAV

OCS, Ensa Paris-Est, UGE

**Etienne Randier Fraile**

OCS, Ensa Paris-Est, UGE

**Lauriane Mollet-Rastello**

OCS, Ensa Paris-Est, UGE

*Avec le soutien de*

Ministère de la Culture

Université Gustave Eiffel

Laboratoire OCS

Università luav di Venezia

observatoire  
de la  
condition  
suburbaine



I  
- -  
U  
- -  
A  
- -  
V

Università luav  
di Venezia

École d'architecture  
de la ville & des territoires  
Paris-Est  
Université  
Gustave Eiffel

Soutenu par  
MINISTÈRE  
DE LA CULTURE  
Paris  
Gustave  
Eiffel

## Participant

**Sophie Bonin** Ensap Versailles, LAREP

**Axelle Thierry** Ensa Normandie, ATE, LAREP

**Charles Rives** atelier georges, Ensa Paris-Belleville, OCS

**Thibault Barbier** atelier georges, Ensa Paris-Est

**Karim Lahiani** le Vent se lève

**Daniel Jauslin** Ensp Versailles & Marseille, DGJ Paysages

**Asma Mehan** Huckabee College of Architecture, Texas Tech University, AHU\_Lab

**Sophia Arbara** TU Delft

**Lou Gomez** Lab'Urba, UGE

**Alessandra Miglio** OCS, UMR Innovation, INRAE Montpellier

**Coline Perrin** UMR Innovation, INRAE Montpellier

**Ersia Stylianou** University of Cyprus

**Claire Schorter** agence Laq

**Loïc Jacotey** agence Laq

**Benoît Dugua** Habiter (EA 2076), Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne

**Myrtille Schlur** Habiter (EA 2076), Université de Reims Champagne-Ardenne

**Paola Peláez Rodríguez**

**Fernanda Luzuriaga Torres** Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, FPI-UPC

**Arca Atay** Association for Ecological Living (EKODER)

**Gloria Maria Crisogianni** luav Venice

**Amin El Didi & Nima Tabrizi** TU Delft

**Elif Köklü & Armagan Selin Köksal Türkkan** Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality

**Nora Itri** OCS

**Juliette Taymont & Marie Vendier**

## Keynotes speakers

**Michiel Dehaene** Ghent University

**Eric Alonzo** OCS, Ensa Paris-Est

# Presentation

**Urbanism which deals with interpreting, describing and thinking about the current and future conditions of inhabited territories, is facing a dead-end of means in regard to the contemporary environmental challenges. Large part of Western urbanism has contributed to the deep rift in ecological relations between humanity and nature and remains firmly anchored to a paradigm that separates the urban from the agrarian, despite their long-standing mutual constitutive nature. Starting from the need to renew its theoretical and methodological approach, Urbanism has recently approached Agroecology, which is simultaneously a science, a set of practices, and a broad cultural and political movement. Indeed, Agroecology opens up new avenues for an urgent cultural and political debate on the future of inhabited territories. Agroecology is already bringing concrete answers to address the challenges related to the unsustainability of the corporative food regime, the extension of the phenomena of land grabbing and commodification of the natural commons indispensable to life on earth. Urbanism cannot but begin to confront the agroecological movement finding new spaces on the agenda of urban research, design and teaching. The encounter between urbanism and Agroecology, however, is not a foregone conclusion and raises relevant questions that researchers, designers and teachers - but also producers, policy makers and activists - should take into account.**



## 01 – Operational, pedagogical and research practices

At this round table, contributors will introduce the ways in which operational, pedagogical and research practices explore the encounter between urban planning and agroecology, based on experiences in their own countries. Starting from one of the pillars of agroecology, the *Diálogo de saberes*, which is an appeal to those forms of knowledge that have long been excluded and marginalized from mainstream discourses, contributions will tend to sketch the diversity of practices at work, across several European countries, today.

- How are urban operational practices interacting with agroecology ?
- What educational tools enable the encounter between urbanism and agroecology ?
- How does urban research on agroecology is feeding new pedagogical methods ?

## 02 – Grassroots movements and public action

This round table recognizes the contribution of bottom-up initiatives to the establishment of alternative systems of living, production and action. These agroecological initiatives explore the commons dimension through practices of collaboration, self-organization and collective management, but not without generating social tensions or conflicts with the public realm. Contributors will explore how urban planning meets these movements and conflictual situations, while reflecting on the dimension of the commons. A multi-faceted approach will examine the diversity of actions, their obstacles and the levers used, depending on the political contexts in which they take place.

- What tools and new approaches is Urbanism exploring to map these agroecological initiatives ?
- How can these tensions and conflicts foster the encounter between urbanism and agroecology ?
- What is the place of the common in this encounter ?

## 03 – Design and people's resourcefulness

This round table explores how the encounter between urban planning and agroecology is influencing urban design. In particular, it aims to show how people's ingenuity and creativity are recognized as a catalyst for new design tools capable of responding to contemporary climatic and territorial challenges. During this round table, the contributors' contributions will provide an opportunity to discuss project variations based on the specific features of the European territories represented.

- How can people's resourcefulness enhance urban design in a context of limited resources ?
- What raw materials and tools are handled, stored and combined ?
- What anticipatory capabilities do these everyday practices can offer ?

# Programme

## amphithéâtre Pöete 90

<b>Introductory lecture</b>	
8:45 9:15	Welcome and coffee for participants (location to be announced shortly)
9:15 9:30	Welcome introduction by <b>Sébastien Marot &amp; Maria Chiara Tosi</b>
9:30 10:15	<b>Keynote speaker</b> <b>Michiel Dehaene</b> Professor of Urbanism Department of Architecture and Urban Planning, Ghent University <b>Agroecological urbanism or how to understanding agroecology as a practice of urbanization ?</b>
10:15	Discussion with <b>Sébastien Marot, Alessandra Marcon, Jennifer Buyck</b>

10:45     *coffee break*

## amphithéâtre Pöete 90

<b>Plenary session – Urbanism meets Agroecology</b> <i>scientific moderators : Michiel Dehaene &amp; Sébastien Marot</i> <i>organisation : Alessandra Marcon</i>	
11:00 11:30	<b>Reading agroecological transformations : lessons and methods for agronomy and landscape architecture crossing</b> <b>Sophie Bonin</b> <i>Agronomist engineer, doctor &amp; HDR in geography, associate professor to the National School of Landscape Architecture in Versailles, researcher at LAREP</i>
11:30 12:00	<b>Designing collectively agroecological landscapes. Looking back on an urban prospective experiment in the Greater Paris</b> <b>Axelle Thierry</b> <i>Architect and landscape architect, associate professor at Ensa Normandie, permanent researcher at ATE laboratory and associate researcher at LAREP (ENSP Versailles)</i>
12:00 12:30	<b>The Doulon-Gohards Development Zone (ZAC): A Site of Negotiation Between Public Urban Planning and Local Agroecological Resistance, in Service of the Common Good</b> <b>Charles Rives</b> <i>Architect and urban planner, doctor in architecture, project lead at atelier georges, teacher at Ensa Paris Belleville &amp; associate researcher at OCS (Ensa Paris-Est)</i> <b>Thibault Barbier</b> <i>Landscape architect and urban planner, co-founder of atelier georges, associate professor at Ensa Paris-Est</i> <b>Karim Lahiani</b> <i>Landscape architect, urban planner, geographer, and political activist, founder of Le Vent se lève</i>
12:30	Discussion with the moderators & question from the audience



Parallel sessions of the round tables 01 & 02

---

**Atelier Bo Bardi**

Round table 01 – **Operational, pedagogical and research practices**  
scientific moderators : **Taneha Kuzniecowa Bacchin & Maria Chiara Tosi**  
organisation : **Etienne Randier Fraile**

- 14:00 **Self-Helped Housing: A Project for Six Tiny Houses and a Food Garden for Fabrik**  
14:20 **à Yoops, Rouen**  
**Daniel Jauslin**  
*Landscape architect, doctor, lecturer at Ensp Versailles & Marseille, founding director of DGJ Paysages*
- 14:20 **Agroecological Infrastructure as Civic Reparation: Grassroots Practices and**  
14:40 **Design Pedagogies in the U.S. Southwest**  
**Asma Mehan**  
*Doctor and assistant Professor at the Huckabee College of Architecture, Texas Tech University, director at the Architectural Humanities and Urbanism Lab (AHU\_Lab)*
- 14:40 **Designing Against Disconnection Research-by-Design Across the Longue Durée**  
15:00 **for a Resourceful Agroecological Delta Urbanism**  
**Sophia Arbara**  
*Architect and urban designer, post-doctoral researcher at the Department of Urbanism, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment at TU Delft*
- 15:00 *Discussion with the moderators & question from the audience*
- 

**Atelier Sellier**

Round table 02 – **Grassroots movements and public action**  
scientific moderators : **Alessandra Marcon & Emel Karakaya Ayalp**  
organisation : **Isaline Maire**

- 14:00 **Agroecology as a participatory act of ecological repair in dense urban areas**  
14:20 **Lou Gomez**  
*PhD candidate in spatial planning and urban studies at Lab'URBA - UGE*
- 14:20 **Farmers' housing: a barrier for setting up farms ? A survey on local innovation**  
14:40 **processes**  
**Alessandra Miglio**  
*PhD candidate in architecture at OCS (UGE) & UMR Innovation, INRAE Montpellier*  
& **Coline Perrin**  
*Doctor & research professor in geography, Director of research at INRAE Montpellier, UMR Innovation*
- 14:40 **Resisting Territorial Control: Commoning Practices and Land Access in Cyprus**  
15:00 **Ersia Stylianou**  
*Architect-engineer and PhD Candidate at University of Cyprus's Department of Architecture*
- 15:00 *Discussion with the moderators & question from the audience*
- 

- 15:30 *break*

Parallel sessions of the round table 03 session 01&02

---

**Atelier Bo Bardi**////////

Round table 03 – **Design and people’s resourcefulness – Session 01**  
scientific moderators : **Maria Chiara Tosi & Sébastien Marot**  
organisation : **Isaline Maire**

- 15:45 **New skills, new knowledge for urban agroecosystems**  
16:05 **Claire Schorter**  
*Architect-urban planner and founder of the Laq agency*  
**& Loïe Jacotey**  
*landscape designer, project manager at Laq agency*
- 16:05 **Could a world where urbanism meet agroecology exist ? Insights from the an**  
16:25 **action-research project in France**  
**Benoît Dugua**  
*Doctor in urban planning and spatial development, associate professor in urban planning at the research unit Habiter (EA 2076), Reims Champagne-Ardenne University (URCA)*  
**& Myrtille Schlur**  
*Researcher on the Âge2SCoT project, at unit Habiter (EA2076), Reims Champagne-Ardenne University (URCA), future PhD candidate*
- 16:25 *Discussion with the moderators & question from the audience*
- 

**Atelier Sellier**////////

Round table 03 – **Design and people’s resourcefulness – Session 02**  
scientific moderators : **Raphaël Bach & Michiel Dehaene**  
organisation : **Etienne Randier Fraile**

- 15:45 **Agroecological practices as design intelligence: toward co-designed urban**  
16:05 **futures in the Peruvian Amazon**  
**Paola Peláez Rodríguez**  
*Urbanist & architect*
- 16:05 **The Kichwa Chakra: A Micropolitics of Care**  
16:25 **Fernanda Luzuriaga Torres**  
*Architect, Doctor in urbanism, lecturer and researcher at Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, FPI-UPC*
- 16:25 *Discussion with the moderators & question from the audience*
- 

- 16:55 *break*



17:00 Discussions around scientific poster presentations

17:30

**Thinking the City Through Rural Knowledge: In Search of a Participatory Dialogue Between Agroecology and Urban Space**

**Arca Atay**

*Agronomist, ecological activist, founding member of the Association for Ecological Living (EKODER) and general manager of Gazi Agricultural Inc. (municipality of Osmangazi)*

**From smallholder farming to a new agricultural paradigm: what role for the territories of Italy's agrarian reform ?**

**Gloria Maria Crisogianni**

*Architect and urban planner, PhD candidate in urban planning at IUAV University of Venice*

**Reassembling neighbourhoods and agroecology through Zurich's SoLaWis**

**Amin El Didi**

*Architect, urban designer at Buro Sant en Co (Netherlands)*

**& Nima Tabrizi**

*Urban researcher and designer, PhD candidate at TU Delft*

**Agroecological Transformation at Büyükdere Atatürk nursery**

**Elif Köklü**

*Landscape architect, urban designer, Productive Department of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality*

**& Armagan Selin Köksal Türkkkan**

*Landscape architect, Productive Department of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality*

**Architecture and agriculture from a "subsistence perspective": relationships, knowledge, and practices of an alternative modernity**

**Nora Itri**

*Architect, PhD candidate in architecture at OCS (Ensa Paris-Est)*

**Common Roots, Fertile Stories: An Eco-poetics of Agrarian Territories**

**Juliette Taymont**

*Architect at ACMH Pierre-Antoine Gatier*

**& Marie Vendier**

*Architect at AREP*

17:30 break

**amphithéâtre Poëte 130**

**Summary session**

17:45 *Amphithéâtre 130*

18:15 Discussion with the scientific moderators of each round table

**Closing lecture**

18:15 *Amphithéâtre 130*

19:00 **Keynote speaker**

**Eric Alonzo**

*Architect, doctor and full professor at Ensa Paris-Est, director of the research laboratory OCS*

**Studying rural morphology : Geography and architecture (1895–1948)**

*Discussion with Michiel Dehaene, Sébastien Marot, Maria Chiara Tosi*

19:00 **Conclusion**  
& cocktail

# Keynote

## Michiel Dehaene

### Agroecological urbanism or how to understanding agroecology as a practice of urbanization ?

---

**9:30**     **Introductory lecture**

**10:15**    & Discussion with **Sébastien Marot, Alessandra Marcon, Jennifer Buyck**

---

The emancipatory and civic pedagogic space of urbanism of the past 200 years has been designed and written in political-economic ink, defining the urban interplay of public and private interests and the collective benefits that may be derived from its coordinated and integrated development. That political economic perspective has contributed to a project which progressively constructed nature as unproductive and literally outside of the project of urbanization. Against this background, agroecological urbanism appears a speculative effort which mobilizes the biopolitical imaginary of political agroecology as a transformative perspective to challenge the current role of urbanism in the social reproduction of dominant urban relations and to speculatively articulate the possibility of a post capitalist urbanism.

What does it mean to think agroecology as part and parcel of an urbanizing society.

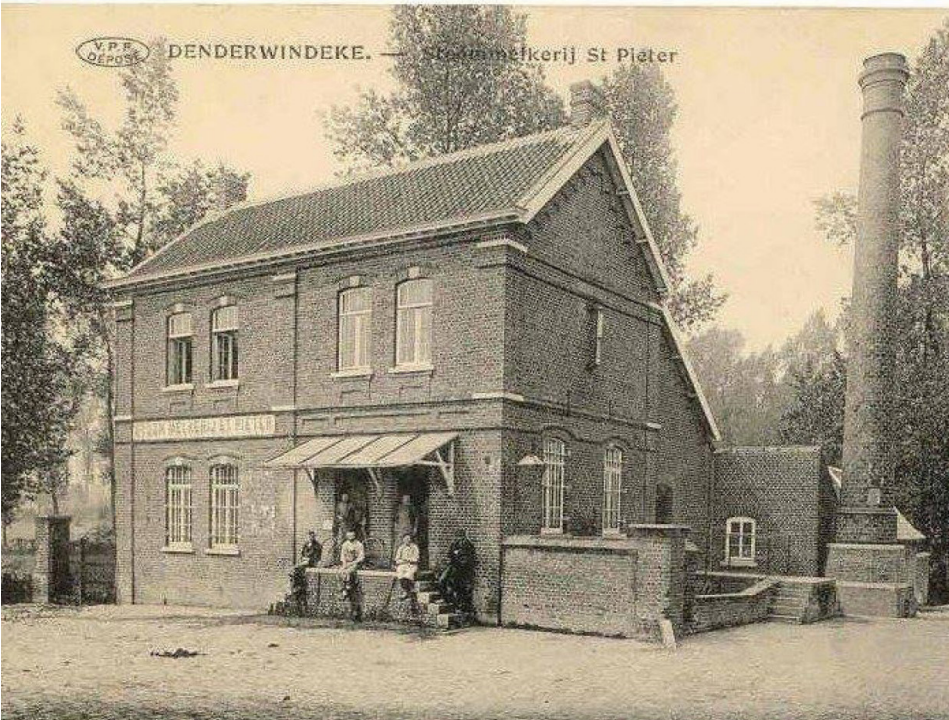
And why hold on to 'urbanism' when engaging with agroecology ?

In this talk I will start from an interpretation and critique of urbanism that makes room for agroecology and go in search of historical precedents in the Belgian productive inhabited landscape.

**Michiel Dehaene** (1971) is Professor of Urbanism at the Department of Architecture and Urban Planning, Ghent University, where he teaches urban analysis and urban design. His work focuses on the epistemology of urbanism and the relationship between urbanism, ecology and urbanization. His research addresses questions of urban renewal, the legacy of suburban and dispersed development, and the relationship between urbanization and the food question. In his research, he combines exploratory research by design and planning-historical research. With Chiara Tornaghi, he led an international consortium on the development of an agroecological urbanism (agroecological-urbanism.org).

Steam Dairy Saint Pieters in Denderwindeke around 1910  
Source : Denderwindeke in Beeld. Twee eeuwen dorps-  
geschiedenis 1796 - 1996, Davidsfonds, 1996





# Keynote

## Eric Alonzo

### Studying rural morphology Geography and architecture (1895–1948)

---

**18:15** Closing lecture

**19:00** & Discussion with **Michiele Dehaene, Sébastien Marot & Maria Chiara Tosi**

---

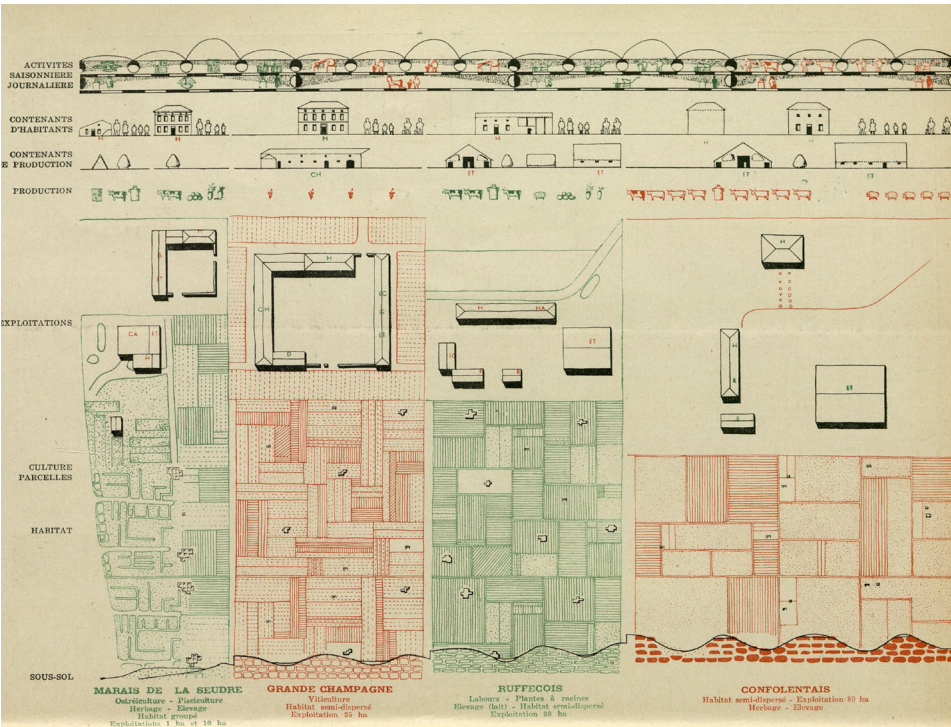
EN. The links between soil, climate, agrarian structures, rural settlement patterns (concentrated or dispersed) and architectural typology were one of the major themes of human geography in the Vidalian tradition. In France, the first surveys, begun at the end of the 19th century, were continued during the interwar period by geographer Albert Demangeon (1872-1940), president of the Rural Housing Commission within the International Geographical Union. The results of this research were presented in an exhibition entitled 'La maison rurale en France' (Rural Housing in France) at the Palais de Tokyo in 1937, under the auspices of Georges-Henri Rivière, the young curator of the Museum of Popular Arts and Traditions (MATP). This exhibition foreshadowed the 'Regional Architecture Survey' (intellectual and artistic project no. 1425), entrusted to the MTAP five years later. Around fifty young architects were then mobilised to study the forms of rural housing throughout France, guided by the theories that Demangeon had developed over the previous decades.

FR. Les liens entre sols, climats, structures agraires, formes de l'habitat rural (aggloméré ou dispersé) et typologie architecturale ont été, l'un des grands sujets de la géographie humaine de tradition vidalienne. En France, les premières enquêtes, engagées à la fin du XIXe siècle, sont prolongées durant l'entre-deux-guerres par le géographe Albert Demangeon (1872-1940), président de la Commission de l'habitat rural au sein de l'Union géographique internationale.

Le résultat de ces recherches fait l'objet d'une exposition « La maison rurale en France » présentée en 1937 au Palais de Tokyo, sous l'égide de Georges-Henri Rivière, le jeune conservateur du Musée des arts et traditions populaires (MATP). Cette exposition préfigure l'« Enquête d'architecture régionale » (chantier intellectuel et artistique no 1425), confiée, cinq ans plus tard, au MTAP. Une cinquantaine de jeunes architectes seront alors mobilisés pour étudier les formes de l'habitat rural à travers la France, guidés par les théories que Demangeon avait élaborées durant les décennies précédentes.

**Éric Alonzo** is an architect and full professor at the École d'architecture de la ville & des territoires Paris-Est, Université Gustave Eiffel. He is the director of the research laboratory OCS/AUSSer and co-directs the postgraduate programme in urban design and landscape architecture. He founded the periodical publication Marnes, document d'architecture (with Sébastien Marot), and has published two books : Du rond-point au giratoire (Parenthèses, 2005) and L'Architecture de la voie. Histoire et théories (Parenthèses, 2018), based on his thesis awarded the First Manuel de Solà-Morales European Prize. Since 2020, he has also served as an associate member of the Environmental Authority of Île-de-France (Paris Region).

Robert Goubert, « Prélèvements. Les Charentes », extraits de l'Enquête d'architecture régionale, Techniques & architecture, no 11-12, novembre-décembre 1943.



Plenary session  
Urbanism meets  
Agroecology  
Amphithéâtre Poët  
11:00 - 13:00

**Sophie Bonin**  
**Axelle Thierry**  
**Charles Rives,**  
**Thibault Barbier,**  
**Karim Lahiani**

*scientific moderators*

**Michiel Dehaene**  
**& Sébastien Marot**

*organisation*

**Alessandra Marcon**





# Sophie Bonin

## Reading agroecological transformations *Lessons and methods for agronomy and landscape architecture crossing*

Agronomy and landscape architecture are two disciplines with an operational planning focus, and they share both multiple fundamental sciences (botany, pedology, hydrology, climatology, now included under the term of ecological sciences). Both have a common root in horticulture. In the debates that animate urban planning on agricultural issues, which are heated today as this study day points out, agronomy is very little present, still marked – and this is logical spatially – by its interest in large-scale farming systems production, and less in territoriality aspects: urban agriculture is certainly a recognised theme within INRAE, for example, but only very marginally. Landscape architecture, which is primarily an urban planning movement concerned with the creation of urban public spaces, is therefore a useful tool for renewing practices aimed at this relationship between cities and agriculture, and for finding new models that respond to ecological challenges while being economically sustainable.

Based on observations of volunteer farmers and their connection to their territories, we have developed a reflection on these intersections: they share a common goal of seeking to hybridise the tools and knowledge of these two disciplines. The corpus is twofold. First, we'll analyse the proceedings of the 'Agropaysages' seminars, which have been held for almost fifteen years, during which agronomy students and landscape architecture imagine an agroecological transformation of the choosen farms. Second, we'll review a series of visits to exemplary farms led by a collective that also combines landscape and agricultural analysis, including agroecology. The analysis of the projects and assessments highlights a typology of desired transformations (within the framework of the projects imagined by the students) or transformations already underway (within the framework of cross-diagnostics). This typology proposes two factors of transformation that are material and spatial, corresponding to the activation of relationships between agricultural practices and biophysical environments: the role of uncultivated landscape elements, and the spatial organisation of cultivated space, particularly parcels of land design. It is complemented by two more immaterial, territorial factors, in the sense that they involve not only spaces but also non-agricultural actors and communities: a multi-scale approach to the functions of agricultural spaces, and the multifunctionality of farming. This forms the basis for interdisciplinary questioning, accompanied by a methodological proposal. Agricultural landscapes are treated as one would treat an interview, using a comprehensive interview method, alternating between a global view and a detailed view, crossreferencing different types of discourse, and drawing on with both the agricultural actors and whatthey produce as a system. These crossings reveal clues and hypotheses, and at the same time outline futuristic projection to address environmental challenges.

### Sophie Bonin

is an agricultural engineer, civil engineer specializing in rural water and forestry engineering, and holds a doctorate in geography. After teaching in geography departments (Paris 1, Paris 8, Grenoble) and working in design offices and technical study centers (CETE de l'Ouest, Nantes), she joined the Versailles School of Landscape Architecture and has been teaching landscape designers since 2010. She defended her HDR (Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches, or accreditation to supervise research) in 2025 on the theme of city-agriculture relations, through the prism of landscape theories and contemporary ecological issues. She is a member of the Paysages de l'après pétrole (Post-Oil Landscapes) collective and chair of the scientific council of the Infrastructures, Territories, Ecosystems, Landscapes research program.

Lisière agri-urbaine dans la plaine de Versailles, Villepreux, avec projet d'agroforesterie, photographie de Sophie Bonin



# Axelle Thierry

## Co-designing agroecological landscapes Designing collectively agroecological landscapes.

### *Looking back on an urban prospective experiment in the Greater Paris*

This contribution offers feedback on a collective territorial foresight exercise that I organised and codesigned as part of my PhD research. The aim of this exercise was to link academic research to the operational world and shed light on how the agro-landscape project can constitute a negotiated process that changes the urbanism framework. The method used enabled a group of stakeholders to define the conditions for thinking about and implementing a rapprochement between the agricultural project and urban planning.

This experiment was conducted on the Coteaux de Nézant and Mont de Veine arboricultural site (approximately 200 ha), 17 km from Paris, characterised by its uncertain future due to political inertia, significant decline, and retirements of farmers without successors. It took place in several stages, culminating in the development of four contrasting scenarios for the site's evolution, involving two main variables: involvement of public actors and dynamics of agroecological transition. Four scenarios were drawn up, ranging from the total disappearance of agriculture to ambitious agricultural reconquest.

The main contribution lies in the proposed method, which explores the future in order to co-design agroecological and urban projects in the present. This design process – combining territorial foresight and landscape architecture – made it possible to examine the capacity of the agroecological project to rebuild links between agricultural and urban spaces, to the point of creating a territorial project. Indeed, two of the scenarios, based on agroecological practices, promote dynamics of reterritorialisation. The landscape project then emerged as an intermediate design object around which the future of a territory is discussed. The involvement of designers, particularly landscape architects, would then facilitate the development of a shared project, in a context where the values of soil, resources and the commons are reinvented through collective action and individual ingenuity. This experience thus reveals levers for concerted action with farmers, public stakeholders, and representatives of the agricultural world and of the civil society to renew the tools and methods of agriculture and urban planning.

The presentation will revisit the use of key concepts, such as agriculture amplified (through agroecology associated with spatial project), and co-benefits, borrowed from climate policies, which have gradually become established in this PhD research to renew the interdependence between cities and agriculture from a multifunctional and systemic perspective. Thinking in terms of co-benefits therefore opens up a path for reflection and action to activate territorial solidarity and complementarity. They allow us to think about urban agriculture in a broader way, going far beyond food production alone.

**Axelle Thierry** is an architect and landscape architect, lecturer at ENSA Normandy, permanent researcher at the ATE laboratory (ENSA Normandy) and associate researcher at LAREP (ENSP Versailles). She analysed the relationship between agriculture and urbanism in her landscape PhD, defended in February 2025 and entitled «Negotiating agriculture in the Greater Paris archipelago. A prospective survey of agro-ecological urbanism and its co-benefits through landscape design» (supervised by Sylvie Salles / co-supervised by Rémi Janin / at LAREP-ENSP).

Axelle Thierry, Plan prospectif, 2024



### Scénario C

Hypothèse d'occupation  
des sols en 2050

- OCCUPATION DU SOL**
- espaces forestiers et boisés
  - végétation
  - élevage
  - parcelles partagées
  - marécage
  - agro-forestier
- AMÉNAGEMENTS**
- chemins
  - outil agricole et habitat

- #### DIFFÉRENCES PHYSIQUES
- 1 arborescence érigée**  
 L'arbre effectue une croissance en hauteur et agit horizontalement pour élargir son territoire. L'arbre est capable de se déplacer en suivant des courants d'air ou de s'enfouir dans le sol.
  - 2 sans canal et sélecteur du site**  
 Le passage par les canaux du site est déterminé par la forme et la position du tronc principal, les branches, les racines, les feuilles, les fleurs, les fruits.
  - 3 arborescence diversifiée et durable**  
 Les plantes monocultureuses ont une durée de vie limitée, généralement une dizaine d'années.
  - 4 exsufflantes agiles**  
 Les arbres ont une durée de vie de 50 à 100 ans et leur impact dépasse celui du chat du Nigrit.
  - 5 jardins partagés, jardins vivants**  
 Les jardins vivants ont été créés en 1975 par des paysans et des habitants du village de Koudougou. Ils ont permis de créer une culture d'entraide et de solidarité entre les habitants du village.
  - 6 baccaraux (cannabis végétaux)**  
 Les baccaraux sont des plantes qui poussent dans les champs et les jardins. Elles sont utilisées pour la fabrication de médicaments et de produits cosmétiques.
  - 7 grandes espèces agricoles : les jardins culturels et éducatifs**  
 Les jardins culturels et éducatifs sont des jardins qui ont été créés pour éduquer les enfants et les adultes sur les plantes et les animaux.



# Charles Rives, Thibault Barbier, Karim Lahiani

## A Site of Negotiation Between Public Urban Planning and Local Agroecological Resistance, in Service of the Common Good

The Doulon territory offers an exemplary case for observing the tensions between a public-led urban development model and a grassroots movement advocating for agroecology. This contribution explores the stakes of this conflictual encounter within a district of Nantes, and examines how project-based action might move beyond direct opposition to create “spaces of negotiation” capable of articulating these two forces — opening pathways for new ways of inhabiting and governing territories.

Located in eastern Nantes, Doulon-Gohards lies at the edge of the dense city, but still within the metropolitan ring road. Shaped by a strong market gardening heritage — tied to its position on the Loire’s alluvial plain — and by a railway legacy still visible in the built environment, the area is also marked by social diversity and a long-standing culture of civic engagement.

Since the early 2000s, the metropolitan authority has identified this area as a strategic land reserve for urban expansion, with the ambition of developing a new residential district in response to local demographic growth. Since the 2010s, a public development project has been underway, combining housing (private, social, and affordable), public services and amenities, and an agricultural component aimed at supporting the last remaining intra-ring farms, committed to agroecological practices. In parallel, a grassroots movement composed of local ecological collectives has emerged in opposition to the official plan. Challenging conventional metropolitan urbanism, it defends farmland preservation, biodiversity, and the inclusion of marginalized communities. It promotes alternative ways of cultivating, managing, and inhabiting the area — based on collective, self-managed, and ecologically sensitive practices. In 2024, a new urban design team (atelier georges, lead landscape architect) was appointed to revisit the development framework in light of current ecological and social transitions. Their proposal aims to rethink land use, commit to environmental repair, protect ecosystems, and promote diversity in both uses and forms of dwelling.

At the same time, the citizen movement entrusted another design collective, Le Vent se lève, with the development of an alternative vision. Their project, Les Gohards en Commun.s, is conceived as an agroecological manifesto: placing commons and conviviality at the heart of urban policy, and envisioning the citizen as an active participant in the transformation of their environment through knowledge-sharing and the valorization of local resources.

Rather than framing these two projects — and the actors behind them — in opposition, which risks reproducing the public project as-is or reducing the alternative to a mere idealized counter-model, their coexistence should be seen as an opportunity. In Doulon, the friction between urbanism and agroecology could become the driver of a fertile project — if the negotiation spaces it opens are acknowledged and used to build a productive dialogue between public authorities and grassroots initiatives. This is precisely the purpose of this joint contribution from the designers of atelier georges and Le Vent se lève.

**atelier georges** is an urban planning, landscape, and architecture practice that works on the transformation of cities and territories at the intersection of research, ecology, and project-based economies. The agency’s methods and tools earned it a distinction in the 2014 Young Urban Planners Award (Palmarès des Jeunes Urbanistes).

**Charles Rives** is an architect and urban planner, with a PhD in architecture (Université Paris-Est), and project lead at atelier georges. He teaches at the École nationale supérieure d’architecture de Paris-Belleville and is an associate researcher at the OCS laboratory.

**Thibault Barbier** is a landscape architect and urban planner, co-founder of atelier georges. He is an associate professor at the École d’architecture de la ville et des territoires Paris-Est / Université Gustave Eiffel.

Le Vent se lève is a radical ecology design studio founded in 2022. Awarded the Young Urban Planners Award in 2024, it focuses on developing and supporting alternative projects that resist destructive urbanization. The studio operates within a dynamic of systemic bifurcation and the regeneration of living environments degraded by modernity.

**Karim Lahiani** is a landscape architect, urban planner, geographer, and political scientist. He holds degrees from the École nationale supérieure de paysage de Versailles, the Institute of Urban Planning in Lyon, and the Institutes of Political Studies in Paris and Lyon.



Terres agricoles du Bois des Anses, unités de traitement des terres Chemin du Moulin des Marais, jardins familiaux des Chaupières, quartier Doulon-Gohards, Nantes, France, Groupement ateliergeorges, 2024

**Round table 01 –  
Operational, pedagogical  
and research practices  
Atelier Bo Bardi  
14:00 - 15:30  
Daniel Jauslin  
Asma Mehan  
Sophia Arbara  
*scientific moderators*  
Taneha Kuzniecowa Bacchin  
& Maria Chiara Tosi  
*organisation*  
Etienne Randier Fraile**





# Daniel Jauslin

## Self-helped housing

### *A project for six tiny houses and a food garden for Fabrik à Yoops Rouen*

**“Erst kommt das Fressen, dann die Moral” (“First comes food, then morals” Berthold Brecht 1928)**

**There are good reasons why this is a practical report and not a theoretical paper:**

DGJ Paysages has been working on social urban agriculture projects since 2012. In The Hague, we designed Zeehelden Community Garden in 2015 and the Greens in Westbroekpark in 2018 (DGJ Paysages 2025). Experienced in social entrepreneurship, we also work on commercial projects. However, the latter quite often do not lead to the commercial success of our design firm. In both Switzerland and France, we encountered a system that forces designers to reduce the quality of their work for public clients in order to keep budgets down in the face of rising project costs, inflation, increasing regulation and other constraints.

Recently DGJ Paysages decided to select projects more effectively to align with our goals : Climate, Biodiversity and Inclusion. To see how others achieve such goals, we visited Change Now in Paris in April 2025 : «the largest event of solutions for the planet». At the fair, we met Franck Renaudin & his team, a social entrepreneur in Normandy since 2020 (Carrère 2025). Their Fabrik à Yoops provides emergency housing in the Rouen metropolitan area. The inhabitants rent these tiny houses without land cost, while they would not meet the minimum requirements for social housing.

The Fabrik a Yoops model is simple and effective: the association primarily helps people to reintegrate into social life by providing them with a fixed place to rest, meals, assistance with paperwork and job applications, community learning opportunities, and access to washing facilities. This social work is highly efficient given its small facilities: around 500 people have been reintegrated in 2024 at the site in an abandoned hangar in Rouen.

A small number find employment in the association's social entrepreneurial construction workshop next door. There, they build low-cost houses of about 15 m<sup>2</sup> for around 40,000 euros, meeting local energy and comfort norms. These houses are financed by sponsors who can offset their investment against tax with a fixed return rate.

When the SNCF gave away a 14 year land lease for 6 houses only few minutes walking distance they wondered who's drawing up the garden ? DGJ did not need long to negotiate the design job in Rouen. Is this agroecological urbanism ? Yes and no. Yes, because DGJ Paysages will provide an urban garden for growing food and a space for neighbours to share. But no, because there was no urban theory involved. Our role here is simply to provide practical help. We draw up plans for houses that are already in the final production stage for a permit. We provide basic urban planning advice, such as orienting larger windows towards the sun and communal spaces and smaller ones towards noise and shade. We organise public and private spaces, distances, insights, communal areas for the group and areas for neighbours. Revised plans include an easy-to-maintain food garden based partially on permaculture principles.

Design theory and ethics are not particularly helpful for people living in the street. However, once the basic needs have been met, we can consider theory. Perhaps we should ask ourselves how much urban theory or regulation can help. Are practical solutions not much more efficient ?

**Daniel Jauslin** is a landscape architect, educator and researcher with a PhD. He is the founding director of DGJ Paysages in Switzerland and France and DGJ Architektur in Germany. Having trained in architecture and urbanism at ETH Zurich, he has 25 years of international experience in design, teaching and research, working on projects ranging from public furniture and gardens to regional landscapes and infrastructures. As project manager at West 8 in the Netherlands, he led designs including the Red Amsterdam Footbridges in 1998 and the Expo.02 Park in Yverdon-les-Bains in 2002. With DGJ since 1999, he has co-authored over 300 projects, including 30 completed works and 25 competition wins. He has taught landscape design at TU Delft and Wageningen University and is currently a lecturer and international director at ENSP Versailles & Marseille. His research explores architectural and landscape strategies for the Anthropocene, including his PhD, 'Landscape Strategies in Architecture' (TU Delft, 2019), and the related exhibition If Buildings Were Landscapes... (in Zurich, Paris and Delft, 2020–2022). With DGJ Paysages he has also co-founded two community gardens in the Netherlands and a cycling planning network in France.

# Asma Mehan

## Agroecological Infrastructure as Civic Reparation

### *Grassroots Practices and Design Pedagogies in the U.S. Southwest*

In the U.S. Southwest, a region marked by ecological degradation and extractive land histories, community-led agroecological practices are emerging as both spatial interventions and political acts. This contribution uses research and teaching methods in West Texas and the Navajo Nation to look at how agroecological infrastructure—like food forests, water harvesting systems, and community learning spaces—serves as a way to fix past wrongs and design land use. These grassroots efforts are shaped by legacies of settler-colonial displacement, industrial overuse, and water insecurity, yet they also reflect powerful modes of resistance, repair, and reinvention. This paper looks at how community-focused design methods include agroecological ideas like recycling resources, sharing knowledge across generations, and improving soil health in planning spaces and teaching architecture. Drawing on the concept of people's resourcefulness (MacKinnon & Derickson, 2013; Escobar, 2018), it reflects on how agroecological agency is embedded in informal systems of stewardship and self-organization. At the same time, it interrogates the tensions between these grassroots initiatives and dominant urban planning frameworks that often fail to accommodate non-institutional land use claims. By sharing real-life examples and hands-on teaching experiences, this work highlights how agroecological urbanism can act as an alternative to traditional environmental management from above. The work engages with agroecology not only as an environmental solution but also as a socio-political movement reconfiguring the commons through situated design practices. In the end, it suggests that agroecological infrastructure can be a community-based approach that values different ways of knowing and is based on real-world needs, making those who work on the land partners in taking land out of the market and supporting local independence.

**Asma Mehan** is an Assistant Professor at the Huckabee College of Architecture, Texas Tech University, USA, where she also directs the Architectural Humanities and Urbanism Lab (AHU\_Lab). She currently serves as Editor-in-Chief of *plaNext: Next Generation Planning*. Dr. Mehan has authored three books and edited two volumes. Her debut, *Kuala Lumpur: Community, Infrastructure, and Urban Inclusivity* (Routledge, 2020), explores how infrastructure shapes social equity in the Malaysian metropolis. She followed this with *Tehran: From Sacred to Radical* (Routledge, 2022), a critical analysis of political transformation in Tehran's public spaces from a Global South perspective. Her most recent authored book, *The Affective Agency of Public Space: Social Inclusion and Community Cohesion* (De Gruyter Brill, 2024), examines how public spaces in cities like Amsterdam and Houston foster urban connection and civic interaction. She also edited *After Oil: A Comparative Analysis of Oil Heritage, Urban Transformations, and Resilience Paradigms* (Springer, 2025) on post-industrial city futures, and *City, Public Space and Body: The Embodied Experience of Urban Life* (Routledge Research in Planning and Urban Design, forthcoming November 2025).

# Sophia Arbara

## Designing Against Disconnection Research-by-Design Across the Longue Durée for a Resourceful Agroecological Delta Urbanism

This contribution reflects on the spatial disconnection between food systems and the delta territories that once sustained them. Drawing on research in the rice fields of the Mekong and the potato fields of the Rhine - Meuse deltas, this paper builds on Agroecological Urbanism and Delta Urbanism approaches aiming to tackle the question of agroecological transition through a critical reading of infrastructure, landscape, and time. The focus lies not only on what has been built, but on what has been disassembled: the relationships between soil, water, cultivation, and collective life.

Through a longue durée perspective, the paper traces how layered territorial transformations, from sedimentation and canalization to land consolidation and global logistics, have shaped across time deltas into highly engineered and commodified landscapes. These processes have rendered food production increasingly abstract, detached from ecological rhythms and local capacities. Spatial planning has often reinforced this detachment, privileging techno-fixes over situated practices and rendering invisible the knowledge of farmers, cooperatives, and territorial actors working toward more regenerative models.

To address this, the paper proposes a research-by-design methodology that unfolds along three interconnected dimensions :

Longue durée mapping as a tool to unveil histories of infrastructural intervention, agrarian reform, and spatial control; a tool to make visible how past decisions continue to shape the conditions for agroecology today. Territorial counter-infrastructure, developed in close dialogue with local actors, as a way to prototype spatial strategies that support collective governance, ecological restoration, and food sovereignty. These may take the form of decentralized irrigation systems, agroecological zoning, or soil-centered land stewardship frameworks.

Diálogo de saberes, or dialogue of knowledges as a foundational epistemic principle, acknowledging that no agroecological transition can occur without confronting the hierarchies

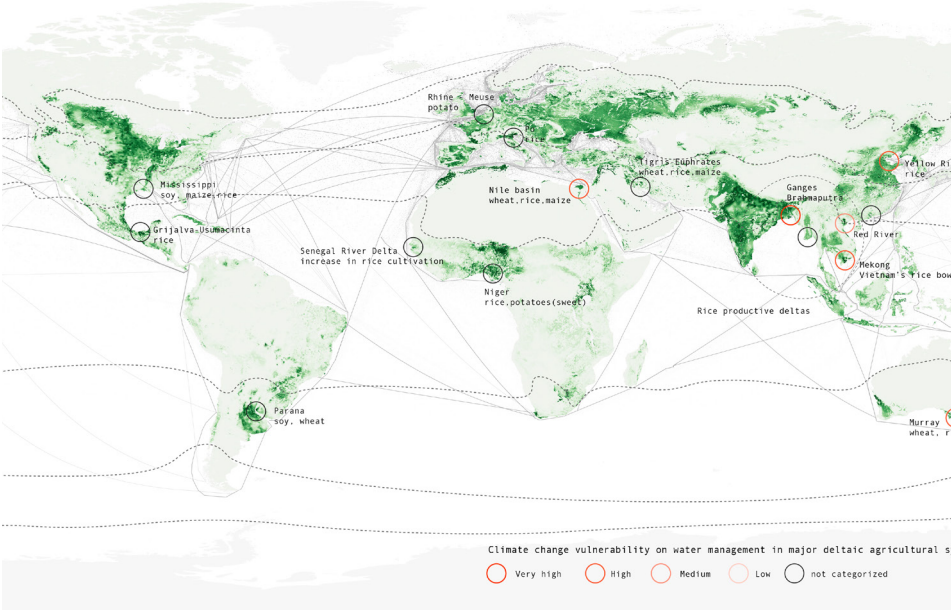
that structure knowledge production, spatial decision-making. This aligns with the call for a resourceful agroecological urbanism, one that centers care, reciprocity, and shared territorial responsibility. Fieldwork in the Mekong delta highlights how seasonal rhythms, informal governance, and sediment logics are entangled in place-based food practices. In the Dutch delta, longstanding spatial planning traditions offer both friction and potential revealing the need to reconfigure institutional frameworks to accommodate more grounded, soil-aware, and commons-based approaches.

Ultimately, this paper advocates for an approach to urban design that is not solutionist, but reflective, situated and prefigurative. One that reclaims spatial practice as a tool for reembedding food in territory, and for reimagining deltas not as infrastructures of extraction, but as landscapes of renewal. It calls for a practice that re-embeds food in territory, reclaims infrastructural imaginaries, and reorients delta urbanism toward ecological repair and collective agency.

**Sophia Arbara** is an architect and urban designer, currently working as a post-doctoral researcher at the Department of Urbanism, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment at TU Delft. She has worked across the fields of urban design, mobility and cultural heritage studies aiming to address socio-ecological challenges and unveil both familiar and untold narratives through spatial approaches. Her current research focuses on food systems as spatial agents in the shaping of territorial and local dynamics in deltaic areas and in investigating the integration of Soil in Spatial Planning and Design. Sophia has completed her Phd at Roma Tre University (Italy) and engaged in teaching and research activities at UC Berkeley (US) and the Federal University of Santa Catarina (Brazil). Previously, she worked as an architect and urban designer in the Netherlands, Greece, and Spain. She holds a Master's in Architecture from the National Technical University of Athens and a Master's in Urban Design from the College of Environmental Design at UC Berkeley.

Arbara & Hooimeijer, 2025





**Round table 02 –  
Grassroots movements and  
public action**

**Atelier Sellier**

**14:00 - 15:30**

**Lou Gomez**

**Alessandra Miglio**

**Coline Perrin**

**Ersia Stylianou**

*scientific moderators*

**Emel Karakaya Ayalp**

**& Alessandra Marcon**

*organisation*

**Isaline Maire**



# Lou Gomez

## Urban agroecology experimentations in high-density areas *Agroecology as a participatory act of ecological repair in dense urban areas*

This paper explores agroecology as a participatory act of ecological repair, based on experimental desartificialization initiatives led by gardening collectives in dense urban environments. Grounded in a doctoral research project in spatial planning and urban studies, the study draws on ongoing fieldwork in Plaine Commune, a highly urbanized and polluted territory undergoing profound transformations in the Paris metropolitan region (Blanc et al., 2017; Bellanger & Lelévrier, 2023). This area faces significant ecological and social transition challenges.

Desartificialization is approached not merely as a technical or regulatory operation, but as a living, situated process co-constructed with local residents through collective agroecological practices: soil restoration, mobilization of local energies, attention to more-than-human life, social and professional inclusion, popular education, civic participation, and participatory research.

The research draws on the theoretical framework of Ecological Reparation (Papadopoulos, Puig de la Bellacasa, Tacchetti, 2023), which conceives ecological repair as going beyond material remediation, becoming an emancipatory, political, social, and memorial act. Echoing Salvadoran experiments (Millner, 2023), desartificialization here enables the reactivation of local knowledges and marginalized memories.

The study is structured around several key questions: - In what ways can urban gardening collectives be considered as producers of situated soil knowledge ? How do these practices help repair not only degraded soils, but also suppressed collective narratives ? - How do state- and municipality-led desartificialization policies integrate or fail to integrate vernacular knowledge and participatory dynamics ? - What forms of narrative and knowledge production can value these grassroots practices and turn research itself into a tool for ecological, social, and methodological repair ?

Through participant observation at Lil'O, a citizen-led ecological site on Île-Saint-Denis, this contribution highlights urban repair as a space of experimentation, collaboration, negotiation, and sometimes conflict between institutions, residents, and living environments.

Following Ghelfi & Papadopoulos (2022) concept of “more-than-social movements,” these urban gardening collectives appear as agents of alternative ecologies, or alterontologies, enacting transformative practices that challenge extractive urban governance and open up the possibility of other urban futures. This paper calls for greater recognition of situated knowledges in public desartificialization policies and argues for agroecology as a key lever of ecological and social repair in dense urban territories.

**Lou Gomez** is a PhD candidate in spatial planning and urban studies at Lab'URBA (Université Gustave Eiffel), under the supervision of Jennifer Buyck. Trained at the Institut d'Urbanisme et de Géographie Alpine in Grenoble, within the Urban Design program, she develops a sensitive and situated approach to territories, attentive to social and ecological dynamics.

© Stéphanie Herbé





# Alessandra Miglio Coline Perrin

## Farmers' housing : a barrier for setting up farms ?

### *A survey on local innovation processes*

Assuming that the agroecological transformation of French agriculture will only be possible on condition of maintaining a high number of farmers on the land, this contribution tackles an increasingly critical problem for the renewal of agricultural populations: farmers' difficulties in accessing housing. Nowadays, when people want to take over a farm, they often can't find a place to live, or the ones they do find are too expensive, unsafe, or unsuitable for their needs. On the other hand, they are confronted with a regulatory environment that, due to land use restrictions, considerably limits building rights in agricultural areas. What solutions can be implemented to provide suitable housing for new entrants without further increasing land consumption in rural and peri-urban areas ?

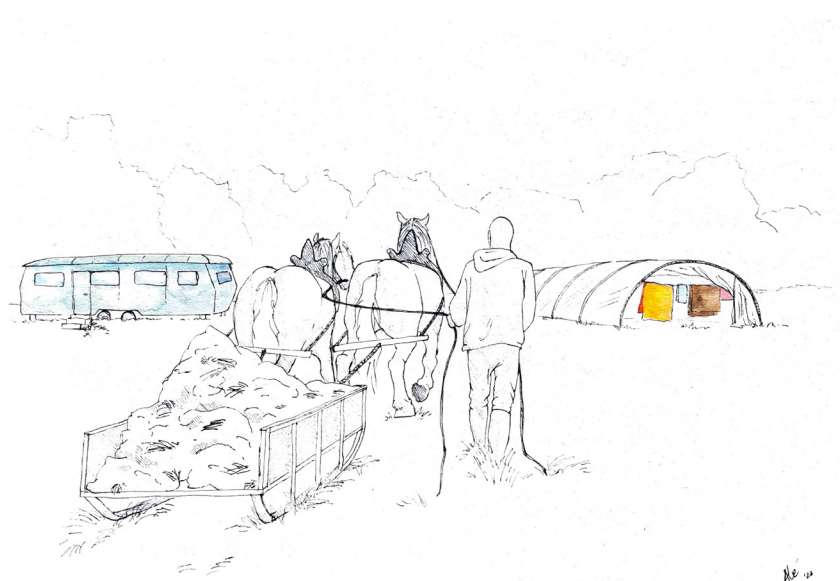
In the absence of large-scale public policies on the subject, innovation seems to be happening from the bottom up: in France, local initiatives are emerging to experiment with new forms of agricultural housing that resemble a 'common' to be protected from real-estate speculation. How do the principles of agroecology inspire these alternative housing solutions for farmers ? How do these local initiatives renew urban planning practices ?

This contribution, based on ongoing PhD research, will first provide an overview of these agricultural housing experiments, whose innovative nature may lie in the architectural approach, in the legal devices developed to preserve the agricultural use of these dwellings in the long term, but also in the new or renewed practices of collaboration, self-organisation and collective management implemented by stakeholders to build a 'common'. The presentation will then examine certain societally relevant issues posed by the emergence of these new forms of agricultural housing, relying on examples from recent field investigations. In particular, we will discuss the challenge of cooperation between the often compartmentalised sectors of urban planning and agriculture, the way in which these forms of housing can reconfigure farmers' residential pathways and their attitudes towards property, heritage and succession, and finally certain obstacles, tensions and conflicts encountered in these innovation processes when dealing with the challenge of scaling up.

**Alessandra Miglio** obtained her architecture degree from the ENSA-Marseille in 2023. She is currently working on a PhD financed by ADEME and co-directed by Sébastien Marot (OCS, ENSA Paris-Est) and Coline Perrin (Innovation, INRAE Montpellier) about the challenges of access to housing for farmers in France.

**Coline Perrin** is a doctor and professor of geography. She is director of research at INRAE within the Innovation UMR and teaches at the Institut Agro in Montpellier. Her work combines rural geography, urban planning and critical geography. It focuses on the interactions between cities, agriculture and food.

Installation maraîchère en habitat léger  
sur l'ex-zad de Notre-Dame-des-Landes.,  
Alessandra Miglio, automne 2023.



10/12

# Ersia Stylianou

## Resisting Territorial Control Commoning Practices and Land Access in Cyprus

This paper examines historical and contemporary commoning practices in Cyprus, with a focus on their implications for territorial transformation and access to agroecological land. From Ottoman-era communal land classifications and sharecropping to 20th-century land consolidation legislation and the rise of agricultural cooperatives, Cyprus presents a layered case of evolving relationships between land, policy, and community.

These practices reflect shifting socio-political dynamics, economic strategies, and territorial models. Land consolidation, particularly since the 1970s, aimed to address agricultural fragmentation and infrastructure deficits. Scholars such as Lanitis (1944) endorsed consolidation to improve land use and productivity, but implementation faced resistance—especially in areas with large historical estates—due to inheritance structures and social barriers. Sharecropping in Cyprus functioned as a hybrid model of land access, involving mutual dependencies between landowners and tenants. Though it allowed for risk-sharing and flexibility, it also revealed vulnerabilities tied to labour conditions and social hierarchies. Comparative perspectives from international contexts (e.g., India) further highlight the system's capacity for adaptability amid market volatility, while also showing its potential for exploitation. The cooperative movement in Cyprus and abroad emerges as a vital counterpoint, facilitating access to credit, protecting small farmers, and promoting collective agency. International examples—from Western Europe to Japan and Hungary—reveal efforts to balance land tenure reforms, agricultural efficiency, and rural cohesion through legal mechanisms, preference rights, and land banks. However, even cooperative models face structural limitations, such as bureaucratic inefficiencies and pressures from real estate development that threaten agricultural land.

The Cypriot experience reveals the tension between historical continuity and policy-driven disruption. In addition to policy and institutional models, this paper foregrounds the resistance techniques employed by rural communities of the past—including the grafting of wild trees, informal planting and harvesting, and the shared use of olive presses and water mills—as material acts of de-territorialisation. These practices contested state-imposed control over land and natural resources, and reflected non-state strategies of land access, cooperation, and stewardship rooted in cultural continuity. Rather than abstract speculation, these acts offer tangible lessons from the past for designing equitable and regenerative territorial futures. By engaging with commoning as both a historical and future-oriented practice, this study contributes to rethinking territoriality beyond ownership, centring on collective agency, land stewardship, and regenerative agricultural possibilities. It aligns with broader agroecological transitions that demand fluid, inclusive, and context-sensitive approaches to land access and territorial governance.

**Ersia Stylianou** is an Architect-Engineer and Researcher focusing on territorialisation, colonial histories, and landscape transformations. She has been working at the University of Cyprus's Laboratory of Urbanism (LUCY) since 2021 and is currently a PhD Candidate at UCY's Department of Architecture. Ersia has taught architecture studios and coordinated the SUCY lecture series. Her research examines colonial agricultural frameworks and their effects on human–nonhuman relations. She holds degrees from National Technical University, Athens and participated in the 2022 International Symposium Territorial Turn ! at TU Graz. Ersia has presented at international conferences and workshops, most recently at the 2025 Urban Commons Research Collective (UCRC) Online Workshop (University of Sheffield), aiming to create an archive and publication.



**Round table 03/session 01 –  
Design and people's  
resourcefulness**

**Atelier Bo Bardi**

**15:45 - 16:55**

**Claire Shorter**

**Loïe Jacotey**

**Benoît Dugua**

**Myrtille Schlur**

*scientific moderators*

**Maria Chiara Tosi**

**& Sébastien Marot**

*organisation*

**Isaline Maire**





# Claire Schorter Loïe Jacotey

## New skills, new knowledge for urban agroecosystems

In the aftermath of the Covid health crisis—and as our metropolises brushed up against the limits of functioning “under perfusion” (decoupling between cities and their agricultural and food-producing hinterlands, proliferation of complex supply chains increasing the risk of failure and food insecurity in the face of climate and geopolitical disruption)—I began a dialogue with Franck Chevallier, an agroecology trainer, about the importance of broadening the scope of the “urban” project to include human settlements as a whole, from housing to agriculture. Since then, we’ve been steering the agency’s projects in this direction, working together on urban agroecosystems in Rungis and Villejuif. In Villejuif, we are exploring possible synergies between inhabited neighborhoods and productive farms, through the implementation of a circular metabolism—an early model of a resilient city that rethinks its functions and its relationship to nature and ecology. To put this into practice, we are moving forward on several fronts, aided by experts and tailored partnerships. The collection of ultra-local knowledge on the agro-pedological and hydrological characteristics of the environments is accompanied by experimentation with test crops—currently underway with AgroParisTech and the Tesora engineering firm—to observe the impact of soil types and pollution levels on the vegetables produced. These findings are intended to refine the distribution of bio-intensive market gardening and their integration into an agroforestry system, designed with Franck Chevallier, who is also a farmer and agricultural designer, to mitigate the effects of climate change. We are working with Aneco association on strategies for recycling/composting yellow, grey, and black water from urban housing to convert them into resources for soil amendment, fertilization, and irrigation. Scientific literature analyses conducted by students and researchers from Polytech Sorbonne help to clarify the advantages and limitations of various solutions. These are all new areas to explore for urban planners—field investigations to be carried out and specialized knowledge to be integrated in support of a bold goal: the repair and resilient future of urban territories.

The convergence of agroecology and urban planning is embodied in recognizing the urban and peri-urban agricultural territory as a single ecosystem; in the consideration of all resources, their complexity and diversity; in attention to the details where nothing is lost and everything is transformed in a fertile cycle. Urban and agricultural design weaves hyper-local connections, in service of soil restoration and fertilization and biodiversity, in a context of climate change and energy crisis.

Claire Schorter founded her architecture and urban planning agency in 2013. She is driven by the conviction that transforming cities must address a dual challenge: anchoring urban development in natural cycles through a culture of low-tech solutions and resilience, and designing compact neighborhoods that truly fulfill the daily needs of their inhabitants—while preserving, in contrast, cultivated and wild areas with low human intensity. To move beyond the simplistic opposition between “concrete-heavy urbanism” and the “nature-city,” she applies her expertise to create neighborhoods where living soils and walkable public spaces take precedence over road layouts, pragmatic housing over iconic architecture, and environmental sobriety over certification labels. She pays close attention to the personal stories and specific resources of the cities and territories where she works. Her practice draws on 25 years of experience, initially alongside Paul Chemetov, then Bernard Reichen, philosopher Chris Younès, and more recently in partnership with the Danish agency Gehl Architects and agroecology trainer Franck Chevallier.

Her projects on the Île de Nantes, in the Saint-Sauveur district of Lille, the Hébert neighborhood in Paris (18th arrondissement), Montjean Est in Rungis, and République in Villejuif (Val-de-Marne) focus on healing places, restoring soils, welcoming biodiversity, fostering coexistence between dense urban environments and landscapes, and embracing agroecology—in short, resilience, to use the era’s buzzword, and above all, quality of life for residents.

Claire Schorter is the winner of the 2024 Grand Prix de l’Urbanisme, honored for her commitment to ecological urban design and for placing residents at the heart of her approach.

Loïe Jacotey project manager at Laq, is a landscape designer (ENP-INSA Val de Loire) and holds a postgraduate degree in urban architecture (DSA ENSA Paris-Est). She is also actively involved in Nantes’ associative network on issues of agroecology and food resilience.

Growing an urban farm, ZAC Campus  
Grand Parc secteur sud, Villejuif, Hélène  
Guillemot, Laq



# Benoît Dugua Myrtille Schlur

## Âge2SCoT : agroecology in urban planning documents

Funded by ADEME for the period 2022–2025, the action-research project Âge2SCoT (Dugua, 2023) focuses on the relationship between agroecology and spatial planning. The analysis is approached through the lens of landscape and Schémas de Cohérence Territoriale (SCoT), which have been described for over twenty years as “key documents” in the French spatial planning system. Two main questions structure the research: To what extent does spatial planning anticipate an agroecological transition ? And conversely, how does agroecology reshape spatial planning ? The project is based on two partner study areas: the SCoT of Greater Reims and the SCoT of the Lyon metropolitan area, managed by the urban planning syndicate SEPAL. These two territories differ significantly — demographically and in terms of landscape, but also regarding urban planning history and types of agriculture. This presentation offers a reflection — or a wondering open to debate — based on the findings of the Âge2SCoT project, in dialogue with the call for papers “Urbanism meets Agroecology.” In contrast with the idea of convergence, the fieldwork conducted in both areas reveals instead a «missed encounter,» a kind of mutual ignorance between the world of spatial planning and the world of agriculture — and even more so, agroecology. The planning system appears largely incapable of addressing agricultural issues in depth, let alone agroecological ones. The concept of agroecology itself often proves ineffective in the context of the interviews conducted with a wide range of local stakeholders (local authorities, farmers, consular chambers, land agencies, grassroots organisations, etc.).

This observation echoes findings from other research conducted in different territorial contexts (Charbonneau et al., 2024 ; Charbonneau, 2025 ; Boyon et al., 2024). In Champagne region, the SCoT of Greater Reims mainly contributes to the continuation and consolidation of the post-war agro-industrial model, reinforced by both national and EU-level performative planning (Garnotel, 1981), as long as the ongoing social, ecological, and climate crises do not significantly undermine its economic profitability. In the Lyon area, the Green municipal government (Europe Écologie Les Verts) has, since 2020, been developing an ambitious metropolitan agricultural and local food policy. It is based on the promotion of organic, local, and short-supply-chain farming, along with the recognition of agriculture and food as common goods. However, this policy remains controversial and contested by representatives of the agricultural sector as well as by predominantly rural and farming territories outside the Lyon metropolitan area. As such, it struggles to gain traction within large-scale spatial planning and long-term territorial visions. We therefore argue for the need for a genuine encounter between «bottom-up agroecological initiatives» (Chakroun, 2023) and «territorialised public action» through the structuring of spatial planning processes (Hillier, 2011; Dugua & Chakroun, 2019) — two worlds that, so far, still seem to operate largely in parallel.

**Benoît Dugua** holds a PhD in Urban Planning and Spatial Development (Grenoble Alpes University) and is an Associate Professor in Urban Planning at the research unit Habiter (EA 2076), Reims Champagne-Ardenne University (URCA). His research, situated at the intersection of urban planning, landscape studies, and agroecology, focuses on the analysis of territorial transformation processes in the context of ecological transition.

**Myrtille Schlur** is currently working at theresearch unit Habiter (EA2076), Reims Champagne-Ardenne University (URCA), on the Âge2SCoT project, which explores the relationships between spatial planning, agroecology, and landscapes. Her current research focuses on the territorial dynamics of agroecological transitions. In December 2025, she will begin a PhD on the restructuring of farms and agricultural land within an agroecological perspective.

Sugar beet platform, Val-de-Vesle, Myrtille Schlur, 2024





**Round table 03/session 02 –  
Design and people's  
resourcefulness**

**Atelier Sellier**

**15:45 - 16:55**

**Peláez Rodríguez**

**Fernanda Luzuriaga Torres**

*scientific moderators*

**Raphaël Bach**

**& Michiel Dehaene**

*organisation*

**Etienne Randier Fraile**



# Paola Peláez Rodríguez

## Agroecological Practices as Design Intelligence *Toward Co-Designed Urban Futures in the Peruvian Amazon*

In the face of global social-ecological crisis, there is an urgent need to rethink urban design through other systems of knowledge and life. This proposal offers an initial inquiry into how agroecological productive practices—such as the cultivation, transformation, and circulation of cacao—can be recognized not as peripheral to Peruvian Amazonian urban territories, but as central structures to envision more inclusive, resilient, and regenerative urban futures.

The city of Kimbiri, located in the southern Peruvian Amazon, provides a compelling context for this reflection. In recent years, urban growth has unfolded in tension with processes of land speculation, ecological fragmentation, and informal expansion. At the same time, the region is home to deeply rooted agricultural practices—particularly those related to cacao and coffee—that structure everyday life and shape cultural and economic identity. These practices remain largely invisible to formal urban planning frameworks, which often reproduce top-down, technocratic models disconnected from lived territorial realities. Yet, these agroecological practices hold significant potential to reveal forms of design intelligence in the way space, resources, and ecologies are managed, adapted, and sustained by local communities.

This research project, still at an exploratory stage, aims to identify how urban planning and design can be enriched through an agroecological reading of the territory. It seeks to recognize productive landscapes not merely as background rural activity, but as spatial, ecological, and social infrastructure—capable of informing a more contextually embedded urbanism. By focusing on the lived experience and ecological rhythms of the territory, the project challenges the binary between the urban and the rural, proposing instead a continuum of practices, actors, and relationships that shape Peruvian Amazonian cities.

Through participatory and co-design methodologies, this project investigates how agroecological knowledge and more-than-human systems—rivers, soils, vegetation—can be repositioned at the center of design processes. In doing so, it aims to contribute to a planning paradigm that is not only technically informed, but ecologically attuned, socially embedded, and territorially grounded. Mid-sized cities like Kimbiri offer a powerful lens to prototype these transitions, where planning and agroecology can meet in the co-creation of alternative urban futures.

**Paola Peláez Rodríguez** is a Peruvian architect and urban planner-designer. She holds a Master’s in Human Settlements from KU Leuven (Cum Laude, VLIR-UOS Scholar) and a Bachelor’s in Architecture from Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. Over the past years, she has contributed to 18 urban consultancies in Peru, focusing on context-sensitive, inclusive planning. She coordinated the Kimbiri Plan 2030 in the Peruvian Amazon, which was recognized by UN-Habitat and the 2023 City Awards. In parallel, she has supported urbanism studios as a teaching assistant, guiding students in using design as a tool for urban transformation. Her current research interests focus on the intersections of urbanism, agroecology, and co-design in vulnerable and rapidly transforming territories.

© Municipality of Kimbiri, Peru, 2021



# Fernanda Luzuriaga Torres

## The Kichwa Chakra *A Micropolitics of Care*

Contemporary urbanism faces the imperative of rethinking its relationship with inhabited territories, especially amidst growing environmental challenges. This research proposes the Kichwa Chakra from the Ecuadorian Amazon as a vital paradigm. The chakra is a living landscape that stems from the body-earth relationship. Paradoxically, it emerges within the land reform strips projected in the 1960s and 70s, yet transforms their colonial extractivist logics.

In Kichwa, chakra means «sown land» and refers to the incorporation of a portion of the jungle and its subsequent transformation. This is a vital process that the Kichwa people are not only deeply conscious of, but also feel intrinsically part of.

The chakra’s spa-al configuration is directly influenced by the reciprocal care and nurturing actions carried out primarily by chakramamas, Kichwa women. Indeed, the chakra’s design and measurements directly reference female bodies: their rhythms of interaction and their stimuli to the earth create a stratified landscape that mimics the jungle’s trophic structure. This spatio-temporal configuration, besides protecting the land, is a habitat for diverse beings that coexist and intertwine. In the chakra, therefore, forms do not precede; rather, they arise from the mutual participation between body and earth, making explicit some characteristics and possibilities of the environment. This vital cycle, contained within the bodies of the chakramamas, reveals a relational way-of-being fundamental to kawsay [human and non-human life].

We posit that the Kichwa Chakra embodies a micro-narrative. It does not directly oppose the dominant; instead, it operates from corporeal knowledge or living knowledge to transform imposed boundaries: the dominant cartography – encompassing both Western epistemologies and ontologies of accumulation – that has emptied the body of its inherently relational knowing. This capacity for selfreconfiguration, which evokes Viveiros de Castro’s (2010) “I as another” and the act of “predation” from perspectivism, reveals pedagogical and operational tools and approaches that can nurture a minor, relational, and therefore ethical urbanism. Namely, an urbanism that promotes an exploratory freedom that flourishes precisely by disengaging from the logic of accumulation, cultivating a “savage” thought distinct from the domesticated one seeking profit (Lévi-Strauss, 1997).





**Discussions around scientific  
poster presentation  
Hall**

**17:00 - 17:30**

**Arca Atay**

**Gloria Maria Crisogianni**

**Amin El Didi & Nima Tabrizi**

**Elif Köklü & Armagan Selin**

**Köksal Türkkan**

**Nora Itri**

**Juliette Taymont & Marie**

**Vendier**

***organisation***

**Isaline Maire**

**Alessandra Marcon**

**Etienne Randier Fraile**



# Arca Atay

## Thinking the City Through Rural Knowledge: *In Search of a Participatory Dialogue Between Agroecology and Urban Space*

As cities grow, they not only transform the land, but also reshape the ecological, cultural, and productive relationships embedded within it. This transformation deeply affects a wide array of commons — from food access and collective memory to seeds and water. Based on years of field experience, this contribution explores the potential of agroecological principles as a foundation for alternative ways of thinking and acting within urban space.

Agroecology, when approached not merely as a production model but as a system of knowledge, a network of solidarity, and a cultural-political stance, offers a more meaningful relationship with the urban. Within this context, I have had the opportunity to observe and engage in practices where rural knowledge and community-based production models were integrated into urban life. These include community gardens, local seed exchanges, educational gardens, and seasonal workshops with children — all of which foster intergenerational knowledge transmission and ecological awareness.

These experiences demonstrated that the principle of diálogo de saberes (dialogue between knowledge systems) is not only a theoretical call but also a transformative tool in practice. The coming together of individuals with different ages, backgrounds, and skills in shared production spaces enabled a redefinition of the commons and a shift in how learning and producing take place in cities. Moreover, these participatory practices encouraged horizontal, pluralistic knowledge production outside the formal structures of urban planning.

This research approaches the relationship between agroecology and urbanism as a space of cultural convergence with transformative potential for urban contexts. It aims to explore how agroecological principles, when applied in urban settings, can support not only food production but also spatial justice, participatory learning, and a culture of commoning. Grounded in direct observation, hands-on experience, and tacit knowledge derived from grassroots activism, this study also seeks to contribute to ongoing debates on the transformation of pedagogy, design, and social practices- through an applied lens at the intersection of agroecology and urbanism.

**Arca Atay**, born in 1956 in Eskişehir, and graduated from Ege University, Faculty of Agriculture in 1980. For over 30 years, he worked in the agriculture and food sectors, mainly focusing on processed food production and exports. He has been actively engaged in various ecological and environmental movements in Turkey, contributing to initiatives on ecological farming, agroecology, urban gardens, local seed libraries, and seed exchange events.

He is the founding member and current president of the Ecological Life Association (EKODER), and previously served 11 years as Coordinator for Environment and Rural Affairs at Nilüfer Municipality. Since January 2025, he has been General Manager of Gazi Agricultural Inc., under Osmangazi Municipality.

# Gloria Maria Crisogianni

## From smallholder farming to a new agricultural paradigm : *what role for the territories of Italy's agrarian reform ?*

Since the post-World War II period, the Italian rural landscape has undergone a profound paradigm shift: from a system dominated by large landed estates, often managed through sharecropping and marked by exploitative labor relations, to a national strategy of agricultural modernization, with agrarian reform as its key instrument.

This policy, territorially based and focused on promoting smallholder family farms, deeply transformed the Italian countryside—especially in the South—creating new physical and social infrastructures in rural areas. However, the economic model underlying the reform failed to halt rural depopulation or ensure long-term development, leaving behind territories often perceived as marginal or unsuccessful.

This doctoral research investigates the legacy of agrarian reform through the urban and territorial analysis of two emblematic regions in Southern Italy—Capitanata and Salento—with the aim of reconstructing their transformation trajectories, current challenges, and the spatial outcomes produced by one of the most extensive wealth redistribution policies in the history of republican Italy (Primavera, 2020; De Leo, 2009).

Today, these areas face a profound crisis in agricultural production and supply chains, caused by multiple factors: soil degradation, intensive farming, olive monoculture, excessive land fragmentation, climate change, and severe water scarcity affecting much of Southern Italy.

Yet—perhaps precisely because of these vulnerabilities—some of these former agrarian reform territories are witnessing the emergence of agroecological practices promoted by cooperatives, social farms, and grassroots associations. Often inspired by traditional farming methods and collective management models, these initiatives contribute to reinterpreting the legacy of the reform not as a failed strategy, but as a material and symbolic infrastructure from which to build a new agroecological paradigm (McMichael, 2023; Puig de la Bellacasa, 2014).

Through an integrated analysis of agrarian geographies, territorial practices, and development policies, this research argues for a shift in perspective: rather than viewing these areas solely as places to be regenerated, they can be understood as potential laboratories of ecological and social innovation, capable of contributing to the construction of a more just, cooperative, and resilient agriculture.

**Gloria Maria Crisogianni** holds a degree in Architecture and Urban Design from Politecnico di Milano and is a PhD candidate in Urban Planning at IUAV University of Venice. Her doctoral project explores the spatial and infrastructural legacies of Italy's 1950 Agrarian Reform, examining old and new paradigms of the rural landscape in the Apulia region.

# Amin El Didi & Nima Tabrizi

## Reassembling neighbourhoods and agroecology through Zurich's SoLaWis

From the medieval manor to today's farmers' markets, history is filled with ties between people and the lands that feed them. These ties have weakened over time as the free market divided producers from consumers and shaped landscapes around monocultures serving global demand. In Switzerland, the family farm—once central to national identity—faces pressure from economic demands and controversial policy shifts, while “cultural landscapes” are seen as preserved islands for leisure and biodiversity, surrounded by the intensive agriculture of the Mittelland. In this context, with fewer farms, mounting environmental concerns, and growing socio-economic pressures, we ask: what landscapes emerge when food systems are guided by solidarity instead of market forces?

To explore this, we turn to Zurich's Solidarische Landwirtschaft (SoLaWi) cooperatives—community-supported agriculture initiatives forming between urban regions and farmland. A key player is the City of Zurich and its public land, especially areas designated as Freihaltezone—zones left unbuilt to protect nature and provide public access. Yet, in practice, these zones often consist of monocultural meadows, ecological compensation fields, or land reserved for future development. We argue these spaces can be transformed through agroecology to host richer biodiversity and foster social and ecological value.

SoLaWis demonstrate how a spectrum of agroecological activity—from village orchards and shared fields to urban pixel-farming and direct markets—can form ‘agroecological arms’ that reconnect fragmented forest patches, farmlands, and communities. These cooperative landscapes support knowledge exchange and local resilience while resisting industrialised food systems. Ultimately, commoning land through solidarity agriculture revives cultural traditions and nurtures a more just, sustainable, and inclusive future.

**Amin El-Didi** is a practising architect and urban designer based in the Netherlands, worked with Buro Sant en Co and FABRICation. He holds a joint MAS in Urban and Territorial Studies from EPFL and ETH Zurich. His interdisciplinary work explores the social, political, and environmental dimensions of space through spatial design, research, and visual media. Originally from Cairo, his early work at Cairo Lab for Urban Studies, Training and Environmental Research (CLUSTER) focused on urban informality and localising the SDGs in African cities with several co-authored articles.

**Nima Tabrizi** is an urban researcher and designer based in Rotterdam, currently pursuing a PhD at TU Delft. His research focuses on spatial justice, design values, and socio-ecological regeneration. He holds a MAS from ETH Zurich and EPFL, and a MSc in Sustainable Architecture from the University of Tehran. He co-founded Atelier SigmaN, exploring regenerative design, spatial justice, and urban narratives, and serves on the board of the Workshop on REGENERATION. His work spans Iran and Europe in design, teaching, and writing.



# Elif Köklü & Armagan Selin Köksal Türkkan

## Agroecological Transformation at Büyükdere Atatürk nursery

Established in 1928 upon the request of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the Büyükdere Atatürk Nursery is Turkey's first fruit nursery and a significant historical production site. In 2023, it was reactivated by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality as a public hub for nature-based education and production. Our unit, the Department of Productive Landscapes, has played a central role in this ecological transformation.

### Key Components :

#### • Interdepartmental Collaboration:

The Nursery is coordinated under the Directorate of Urban Ecological Systems and managed in collaboration with various municipal departments, including the Department of Agricultural Services and Lifelong Learning Directorate.

#### • Gardening School:

Re-established within the nursery, the Gardening School delivers certified vocational training in agroecology. Our department oversees the curriculum design, field practices, and public workshops.

#### • Seed & Plant Diversity:

Native plant species such as *Lavandula stoechas* and *Ononis spinosa* are cultivated on-site. The Seed Center, located within the Nursery supports the preservation and propagation of heirloom seeds.

#### • Nature-Based Solutions:

The site integrates rainwater harvesting, integrated pest management, xeriscaping, and organic composting as key components of resilient urban green infrastructure.

#### • Community-Based Education:

Nature-based workshops for all age groups, including children, adults, and the elderly, are regularly held. Topics include horticulture, permaculture, grafting, composting, and medicinal plants.

### Elif Köklü

Landscape architect, urban designer, Productive  
Department of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality

### & Armagan Selin Köksal Türkkan

Landscape architect, Productive Department of  
Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality

# Nora Itri

## Architecture and agriculture from a “subsistence perspective”

### *Relationships, knowledge, and practices of an alternative modernity*

The organization of this international study day on the concept of agroecology in urban planning in Europe represents an opportunity to move away from a Western conception that has contributed to an everincreasing separation between nature and humanity. By integrating the practical and theoretical contributions of agroecology as resources for renewed urban planning, the aim is to find a way to transform territories beyond the divide between urban and rural environments. In this context, taking the interrelationship between agriculture and architecture as a research perspective allows us to explore the question of the relationships that humans who inhabit these places have with the different entities that make up their environment. The perspective of subsistence, understood as the set of conditions that ensure the continuation of existence, allows us to formulate the hypothesis that there is a link between the practice of subsistence agriculture and the care that inhabitants take of their nourishing environment. In this context, the way of life in rural and vernacular habitats is the subject of a thesis whose objective is to identify the ramifications of relationships with the living, the no-living, and sometimes the invisible.

Applying this reflection to the study of rural mountain communities, which are assumed to have maintained a high level of knowledge about their natural and cultural environment due to the very configuration of the territory they inhabit, the research focuses on three communities that have maintained subsistence agricultural activities: the Amazighs of the High Atlas region in Morocco, and the Mayas of Chiapas in Mexico and the Altiplano in Guatemala. The notion of subsistence, which mobilizes all the vernacular knowledge and practices received or inherited within a community, resonates with the *Diálogo de Saberes*, a practice of transmission that aims to consider local knowledge and experiences as tangible knowledge, part of an alternative reality to the dominant capitalist model and intended to ensure the continuity of the knowledge necessary for the habitability of a territory. This work intersects in several ways with Arturo Escobar's research on a concept of post-development that would allow us to move beyond the prism of development that is desired and desirable for everyone everywhere, by nurturing the idea of an alternative modernity as a tangible and credible reality for territories, activated by the inhabitants themselves.

Associating the concept of agroecology with the field of urban planning is an opportunity that opens up several avenues of research and recognition: by helping to build a societal model that is more aware of the entities that make up the natural environment, by enabling the recognition of soil and natural resources as a common good necessary for the survival of humanity, by integrating resident and practicing communities as a source of vernacular knowledge and techniques derived from the territories and by considering this knowledge as tools necessary for supporting territorial development, among other things. The concept of agroecology therefore offers new practical and theoretical insights that should help to build a form of urban planning that embodies a valid and desirable alternative form of modernity.

**Nora Itri** is an HMONP architect and graduate of the Bordeaux National School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. Her research led her to spend several months in Mexico, where she continued her exploration of the relationship between human settlements and the natural environment. As a doctoral student attached to the OCS laboratory at ENSA Paris-Est from 2026, she is undertaking research on the link between agriculture and architecture from a subsistence perspective among rural communities in the mountains of Morocco, Mexico, and Guatemala.

# Juliette Taymont & Marie Vendier

## Common Roots, Fertile Stories *An Ecopoetics of Agrarian Territories*

In response to the limitations of conventional planning tools, our research methodology brings together field investigation, sensitive cartography, and territorial storytelling to reframe the relationship between urbanism and agroecology. Grounded in our dual training, architecture and history, it allows us to anchor fieldwork in both material and immaterial layers of the landscape. Photographs taken in situ and archival documents testify to landscape evolutions and reveal often invisible dynamics. This first phase aims to explore and analyze the territory, in its agricultural, built, and social dimensions.

From this material, we develop sensitive cartographies, subjective mappings that express atmospheres, uses, and tensions. These tools communicate qualitative analysis in a way that is open and accessible to local actors. Finally, the narrative becomes a planning tool: by proposing hypotheses for transformation, it opens new situated imaginaries, grounded in real practices and the framework of agroecology and commons-based thinking.

Three case studies illustrate this methodology through different but complementary entry points: isotropy, soils, and commons.

The Garonne Plain, in southwestern France, reveals the isotropy of agrarian territories, where apparent uniformity hides a rich complexity of land uses and spatial patterns. Our sensitive cartography revealed a fragmented organization shaped by ruptures, fertile residues, and productive interfaces, elements often overlooked by regulatory planning tools.

The Lot Valley was approached through the lens of agrarian soils, analyzed as living, degraded, or artificialized substrates. The intersection of fieldwork and sensitive cartography highlighted the relationships between soil health, agricultural practices, and forms of inhabiting, leading to narratives of regeneration and transmission.

Finally, the Sabino Archipelago, in the Lazio region of Italy, focused on the village of Collelungo, where agricultural organization is based on the collective management of resources. Drawing on Elinor Ostrom's theories of the commons, we analyzed self-governance systems that structure access to land, water, and forests. This case reveals the richness of territorial commons, often invisible but holding great potential for resilience and innovation in urban and territorial planning.

These three studies demonstrate how a situated and sensitive methodology can renew research and teaching practices, while actively contributing to the convergence of urbanism and agroecology. We propose to share these reflections as part of the roundtable on pedagogical and research practices.

Graduates of the École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Versailles and holders of degrees in architectural history, **Juliette Taymont** and **Marie Vendier** have developed a transdisciplinary approach combining urban planning, heritage, and agroecology. Their work seeks to understand the world we have inherited, while imagining possible transformations for rural and agricultural areas.

**Juliette Taymont** specializes in heritage studies at the ACMH Pierre-Antoine Gatier, providing an in-depth perspective on the conservation and enhancement of built heritage.

**Marie Vendier**, meanwhile, draws on her knowledge of the history and evolution of territories at the AREP agency, where she analyzes territorial dynamics and their contemporary challenges.

Their shared experience, notably their time at the architecture and urban planning agency AUC, enriched by fieldwork in France and Italy, as well as their combined training in architecture and history, enables them to approach the territory in all its complexity, from the macro to the micro, transcending administrative and disciplinary boundaries. This approach opens up a new interpretation of territorial continuities, attentive to the land, sensitive narratives, and the commons.



