

GARONNE MÉTROPOLE

1. liquid centrality

a territory where the river is inhabited

GARONNE MÉTROPOLE is an urban strategy to re-imagine the region of Bassens and its surrounding territories. The goal is to transform the Garonne river into a singular downtown that generates revitalized dynamics between port, landscape and city. These three longitudinal systems currently operate as a constellation of independent islands, neglecting access to the waterfront. Four strategies are proposed to establish this alternative centrality: open, connect, protect and stimulate.

OPEN

Recover the city's natural heritage, permeability and accessibility to the local ecosystems and waterfront, greening and blueing Bassens landscape up to a 75%!

CONNECT

Decongest up to 50% of private motorized traffic to promote an alternative polycentric micromobility system that includes a pendular combination of fluvial, MaaS, logistics and pedestrian network.

PROTECT

Balance the current port's 60% land occupation with a softer industrialization that regenerates fragile areas and biodiversity. A resilient landscape and caring network infiltrated along the river that integrates ludic and free public space.

STIMULATE

Activation of the city as a vital infrastructure through a hybrid programmatic agenda that acknowledges citizen empowerment, variety of actors and adaptability over time. 100% WIP social scenario!



Urban City Strategy

New transversal axes re-connect the plateau with the river, overcoming their topographic disconnection. These spaces of interaction

showcase an open metabolism through a mixity of civic scenographies. Therefore, the ecological and social value of the Garonne is reclaimed with new proximities in Bassens. The plug-in character of bringing the city into the water expands the dimension of public space, and revitalizes the environment through a sustainable, synergic and iconic metropolis.

The project aims to redefine a new territorial intelligence with the Garonne river as the new central actor.

Can a natural environment canalize the impetus, energy and density of a consolidated metropolis?

Can it embody a revitalized role not only for Bassens but for its adjoining territories as well?

Can the river rise awareness of the invisible agents that the city needs to survive?

It becomes a key attractor of social and cultural qualities, that will invite the habitants of the upper plateau of Bassens town to 'cross' the port and reach the water. By doing so, they will discover a landscape of hybridisation, with new programs for the city that complement those of the industrial-dockland area.

The proposal acts as a showcase of the possibilities of setting a new policy of interest that merge all four spheres of life:

- **productive life**
- **caring life**
- **personal life**
- **socio-communitary life**

A new urban map will be available at every information point of Garonne Métropole, to be able to understand the river as a new interface and all the new attractions and connections around it!



**BORDEAUX
MÉTROPOLE**



**GARONNE
MÉTROPOLE**

2. metabolic pathways

three axes where the port becomes city

The proposed site of Bassens and its industrial character is already a mediator apparatus that silently metabolizes inputs from the river, the port and the city because of its logistics nature. The main challenge is that currently it operates as a blackbox that doesn't reveal its processes to the exterior. By addressing this problem, new dynamics are created, reconnected and exposed in the form of public realm: **an open metabolism**.

Buffer proxy(mities)

The typical industrial plot is surrounded by a vacant perimeter space that provides isolation and protection. By inhabiting this boundary and inverting its logic, the proposal seeks to link an ensemble of inclusive functions and flows informed by the -so far- invisible dynamics of the port.

An analysis of these in-between areas revealed the intervention area, where spaces were connected to reveal three perpendicular axes to the river that provide a combination of facilities, gathering together and exchange. Environments of dense exchange that are redefined from a human scale perspective.



City making

The project evokes three urban elements and tests them as spatial strategies for revitalization:
1.surface 2.cloud of points 3.lines

1- LES JARDINS DES GUERLANDES

(site 1) a linear park along the 800 meters of riverbank define the green window, with three new piers and activities together with the left bank. It is connected to a former polluted site that will be treated with a new natural water park, also accounting for the flooding risk area.

renaturalized platform and eco-resilient territory!

2- LE CAMPUS DE LA GIRONDE

(site 2) a new combination of economic development and learning spaces along the underexploited railways. It accounts for the integration of urban agricultural activities and deals with the logistics of products and movement of people.

hybrid matrix and productive territory!

3- LA PROMENADE DES BASSENAIS

(site 2) a former waste ground that integrates a pedestrian boulevard with amenities for the variety of users of the city. It solves the parc relais necessity with a mutant transportation hub.

expanded pathway and inclusive territory!

Gateways to the port

Overcoming the physical borders between the upper and lower parts of the city was the main challenge of the intervention. The topography in the edge of the LGV naturally produces two potential crossing points to the port:

4- LAFON - STATION PUBLIC PLAZA

A fully pedestrianized urban square provides a calm common space between the Station and Lafon building. A series of platforms defined by multimodal transportation and free programming. This meeting point in the historic center of Bassens enhances a redesigned and quality underpass for the LGV trainline. It is connected to the CUB through the extension of the green loop along the Lafon building.

5 - PANORAMIS BRIDGE

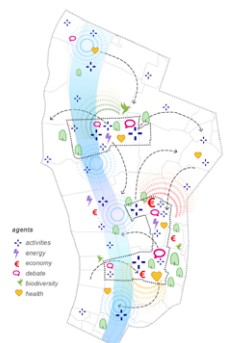
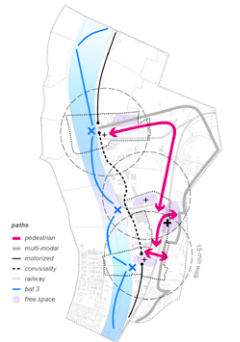
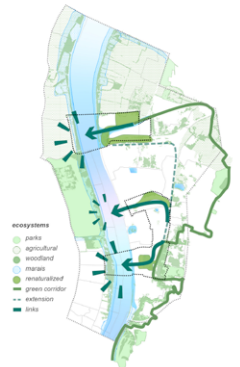
A complementing crossing is found further south where the difference in height is enough to control a non-invasive intervention above the LGV trainline. A natural pathway for pedestrians and bikers that connects to the Promenade des Bassenais.

Capillary axes

The living city is defined through three urban archetypes that exploit their metabolism in three phases...

...an immediate intervention prepares the edges of each axis with a specific pier and the Gare du Port. In the medium-term the programmatic catalysts appear along the lines. Over time, the network becomes more permeable and consolidates the new urban model in a broader area.

A long term reflection on the site that addresses the **respect for the different temporalities** that each development needs to be fully revitalized.



3. bassens fantastique

revitalized places where life happens

A series of programmatic mixity is proposed to make the territory performative. Most of them are designed as a basic proposal that accepts informal gradual reappropriation of the space by the people.

Our position as architects is that the living city needs to evolve, welcome, accomodate and make the habitants complicit of the urban design.

It should acknowledge empowerment projects and governance so that the diversity of age, gender, abilities and interest are equally represented.

The activation of these new dynamics is not an utopia but a multiplier of possible futures that can be achieved transforming the cities that we already have.

The vision of a softer industrialization - less harmful for the territory and the people will have a great payback.

Taking care of all the bodies (not only human) and investing in ecology goes hand in hand with economic growth.

Bassens fantastique is a place to show the narrative of the city, where memories and experiences are stored. It is defined by a strong sense of domesticity, ownership, encounter, participation, connectivity and belonging.

Local + national institutions and businesses have been taken into account as potential participants to ensure a sustainable development based on alliances.

Legend of site interventions:

- * Les Jardins des Guerlandes (SITE 1)
- * Le Campus de la Gironde (SITE 2)
- * La Promenade des Bassenais (SITE 1)

S

Short-term interventions

- * **“Station la fenetre verte”** : a new Bat 3 station to expand river mobility and connect Bassens with the rest of the metropole.
- * **“La Recyclerie”** : a floating recycling pier directly connected with Azura recycling center through a “waste pipe line”. Trash is now carried along the river, reducing truck traffic and bringing new alternative use of the river.
- * **“Les bassins de la Garonne”** : a leisure pier integrating a floating swimming pool and floating stage.
- * **“Marché du Port”** : a train gateway to the port that foster km 0 consumption where the citizen and local producers engage.
- * **“Logistic Pier”** : a cooperative platform to exploit the underused infrastructure of the port and open it to the city and the region, giving access to the water (maritime low carbon logistics) and to the road (last mile logistics)
- * **“Lafon-Station underpass”** : the new meeting point of the city, a urban square blended with the connection to the port under the trainlines.
- * **“Promenade des Bassenais”** : a lifestyle strip that gives access to the CITRAM relocated station, ADIAPH flower market, a daycare center and wellness center...
- * **“Commuting Pier”** : new passenger station of the Bat 3 line, for workers living in the left bank to access their workplace, for tourists to arrive at the Port Stage and for locals to enjoy the river activities.

Mid-term interventions

- * **“Linear park fenetre verte”** : a resilient and dynamic riverfront, strongly connected to the left bank Grattequina site.
- * **“Guerlandes wetland park”** : a re-imagined cured garden primarily using pyto remediation processes and protected from flood risk using retention waterbodies system.
- * **“Eco-islands”** : floating pavilions that can host fishing huts, sanctuaries, cafes, spas...
- * **“Upcycling Atelier”** : outdoor and indoor artist workshops where citizens and students are



involved in the recycling process of AFM recyclage creating large scale sculptures that populate the surroundings.

* **“Community Winery”** : an upgrade of the current vineyard that incorporate agrivoltaics technology (openAG) and establish a infrastructural network of wetlands that clean the water runoff of the industrial activities.

* **“Productive islands”** : floating pavillions for new economic activities such as aquaculture, floating market, water classroom...

* **“Panoramis Bridge”** : a shortcut from the CUB to the lower plateau, initial point for the Promenade des Bassenais and a viewing platform over the landscape. it connects to the rural hostel hubs through an accesible elevator.

* **“Les Quais Ephemerés”** : a flexible events space, adaptable in size with a retractable canopy and enhanced through the infrastructure elements. This strip includes everyday services targeted to the port workers, such as toilets and canteen.

* **“Leisure islands”** : floating pavillions that offer a new experience of public space, namely enotecas, pique-niques, convenience stores...

Long-term interventions

* **“Recycling village”** : an expansion of the Azura Recycling Company, workshops, research lab, exhibition center, event space, shop ...

* **“Culinary Center”** : the buffer space between AFM recyclage, Sevia and a existing wetland is suitable to expand the campus axis to the north and consolidate the intervention using the cleaned water runoff to irrigate the agrivoltaics plantations.

“School Farm” : a biodiversity learning center supported by Sevia’s company ongoing bee keeping program.

* **“Parc(ing)”** : a permanent P+R area is complemented with a hybrid for parking during the weekdays and other activities during the weekends, namely sport climbing walls, bbq areas, drive in cinema...

