

(RE)SOURCES

The verdict has been delivered. The metalworking factory ARCOP is closing under market pressure. Emile, now a former employee of the factory, is a local, as they say. He knows the valley like the back of his hand. His family, established for four generations, witnessed the gradual installation of factories along the Risle, providing new job opportunities. Among forges, tanneries, paper mills, glassworks, and other industries, the family's expertise has developed and been passed down over time. Today, he is forced to leave his beloved valley in the hope of finding work elsewhere. He will follow the water to its estuary, and perhaps there, his future will be more prosperous.

Activity in the valley evaporates. Factories are closing one after another under the pressure of globalization. Over the years, this upheaval in global trade has continuously weakened local industries. One by one, this string of industrial ruins along the Risle River is gradually closing. The population in the valley is decreasing drastically, preferring to migrate to close towns that offer more job opportunities. In the meantime, farms are expanding, and farmers are disappearing in favor of a limited number of agricultural actors controlled by lobbies. The water, which once played a central role in the life of the valley, is gradually losing interest among the local population. Over time, it has also become an unpredictable and dangerous element present in the territory. Feared and rejected, the water is channeled and hidden in the vain hope of taming or forgetting it. Today, a new paradigm seems to inspire the thoughts of committed actors in the territory. (Re)Sources suggests reconsidering the living aspect within the valley. Water is a (re)source of life and a driving force of activity. Instead of hiding from it and distancing ourselves, it must be integrated into the local ecosystem as a structuring element of the valley. It should connect all things together.

T1 REVEAL

Faced with the ambition of a renewal, the idea of a blank page could be a reflex, as if everything were obsolete, incompatible with the projects of tomorrow. However, understanding the intrinsic resources of the territory is the key to navigating the twists and turns of ideas with serenity. (Re)Sources proposes to highlight the local forces at play in order to collectively build the territory. The transformation of built and landscape spaces begins with the rehabilitation of the collective imagination. At the heart of this desire, the Risle stands as a starting point. Temporary cultural and artistic events follow one another along its banks, creating a lively and festive atmosphere. The river becomes a place of encounters and sharing. Initiatives are deployed to preserve biodiversity and promote the natural habitat of the valley. Concrete actions are taken to repair soils and enhance biodiversity, relying on regenerative agricultural practices. In order to facilitate travel, the railway network is modernized. Additionally, the development of soft paths, such as cycle tracks and hiking trails, is being planned. The machine is set in motion.

T2 CONSOLIDATE

The river becomes a source of attractiveness once again. It is once more admired, explored, and utilized. (Re)Sources aims to consolidate the hope of renewal initiated in the valley by transforming ephemeral actions into actions firmly rooted in the territory. This process begins with consultation involving all relevant stakeholders and users to define needs in light of previous interventions. (Re)Sources proposes to define a development direction specific to each of the industrial sites, with the objective of minimizing competition among them. This approach prioritizes the synergy of the four sites through complementary activities and skills offered. To illustrate this synergy, one can imagine that the site of «Les Nouvelles Coordonnées» organizes cultural events in partnership with the co-working space of the industrial site of Siret Delaporte. Furthermore, the Serquigny site ensures the maintenance of equipment for the cidery located on the site of the former sugar refinery, which, in turn, supplies products to the solidarity canteen of the Fontaine-L'Abbé site. This inter-site collaboration promotes the flow of resources and expertise, reinforcing mutual assistance and solidarity within the (Re)Sources network.

T3 SUSTAIN

Like a root system, (Re)Sources envisions creating a sustainable ecosystem, driven by the commitment of engaged stakeholders and available resources. The four domains of action - economy, environment, social, and culture - are constantly questioned with a focus on long-term sustainable development. Nothing is left to chance; everything is interconnected. The Risle, now vibrant and active once again, continues to irrigate the territory. The new generations will carry the values of a sustainable future, consciously ready to address the challenges of the new issues of their time.

Gathered around the table, local stakeholders are numerous: municipalities, major employers, associations, citizen collectives, residents, artisans, farmers, training institutes, schools... The observation is shared by all. The golden age of the 19th-century valley is over. Its attractiveness has significantly declined over the decades, leaving behind many abandoned structures. Today, the material and immaterial resources present in the territory are just waiting to be activated, with the help of the living, its inhabitants, and its workers.

SYNERGY OF ACTORS, A SOURCE OF (RE)NEWAL

Like water, regenerating life, all local actors irrigate the territory with collective actions for a sustainable environment. (Re)Sources proposes to reconsider the entire territory to address the challenges of influence, sustainability, inclusivity, and solidarity. The forces at play, at all scales, once focused on their separate paths, now evolve hand in hand within a collaborative microcosm. (Re)Sources suggests establishing a local cooperative that brings together all present actors and supports innovative projects in the territory, following the charter of the Risle and Charentonne Valley. This collaborative approach allows all entities to develop sustainably for the collective good and to enhance the territory's influence. It also facilitates the transmission of knowledge and know-how, ensuring the integration of new actors and the continuity of this committed ecosystem. Together, let's draw the valley's new golden age, because it's possible.

SOCIAL, SOLIDARITY, AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY ENHANCED

The social and solidarity economy refers to « *a set of companies organized as cooperatives [...] whose internal functioning and activities are based on the principles of solidarity and social utility* ». (Re)Sources proposes to expand this concept by adding a circular economy in the valley modeled through different prisms.

- Circular through the creation of a new exchange currency, the Risle. This new asset economically structures the Risle valley from its source to the estuary of the Seine. It brings new opportunities for collaborations and exchanges across a larger territory, including other industrial wastelands in need of activation.
- Circular in waste valorization as resources, promoting material sharing and transformation to avoid destruction.- Circular in the exchange of best practices regarding local know-how and skills. An economy based on consideration and sharing to initiate new synergies.

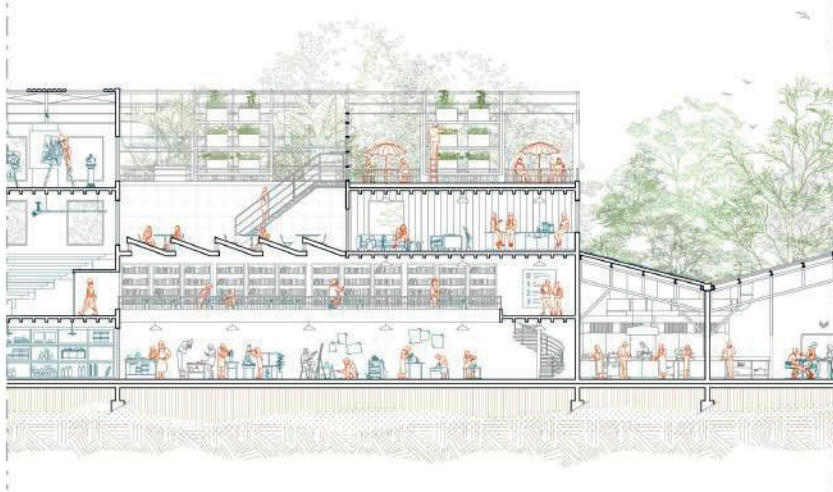
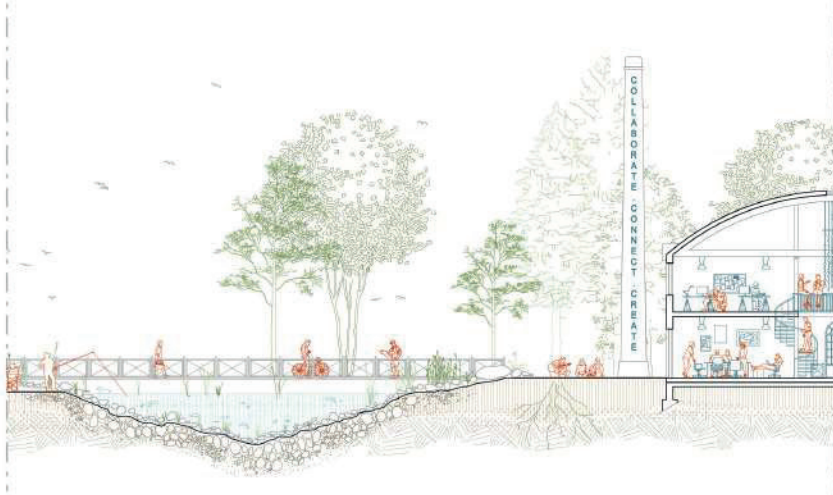
TOWARDS AN ACCESSIBLE TERRITORY FOR ALL

The valley is composed of numerous biotic infrastructures such as the river and its meanders, as well as abiotic structures like railways and roads, which enable the movement of animal species and our own travels. The anthropocenization of the Risle, left a significant number of hydraulic structures that hinder fish migration. To enhance the biodiversity of our rivers, (Re) Sources suggests installing passages for these species near each barrier structure. In the alluvial plain, (Re)Sources proposes the densification of Normandy hedgerows to preserve riverbanks and combat flooding, thanks to the root systems of trees. The river meanders also become supports for soft mobility, welcoming cyclists, hikers, and equestrian trails on nature paths that connect the four wastelands. To facilitate movement within the territory, (Re)Sources proposes to use the roads, to graft a network of fast greenways that connect different train stations to the wastelands. In addition to this activation, the frequency of trains is increased, and a local train operates with more frequent stops in the valley. Finally, (Re) Sources ensures not to forget the inhabited slopes of the Neubourg plain by proposing aerial connections through the installation of cable cars. This new local network facilitates smooth circulation within the territory for residents, workers, and visitors, while also becoming a means to discover the long-neglected built and landscape heritage.

COLLABORATIVE WASTELANDS

The former industries, sources of activity and employment in the valley, were situated along the riverbanks to harness its energy potential. These sites operated independently, with a single function, and were inward-focused, aiming for profitability and competition beyond the scale of the territory they occupied. (Re)Sources fosters complementary activities within the four wastelands, based on their location, history, and available spaces. Instead of persisting with a self-centered and unsustainable approach, (Re)Sources advocates for collaboration within a new cooperative called «Les CoFriches.» This cooperative encompasses a cultural and collaborative third-place, an experimentation and innovation hub for sustainable development, a local nourishing activity zone, and a training and research center for sustainable construction. These intertwined competences aim to share knowledge and promote the development of a more inclusive and engaged territory.

BERNAY TERRES
DE NORMANIE



With every installation of industries in the territory, the soil is damaged and forgotten under the weight of an abiotic world. It waits, without losing hope, to see the light again, to feel the rain seep in, and then to regenerate, reclaiming its biotic and nourishing capacities.

REGENERATING SOILS AND RIVERS

Each site displays different types of soils: the external artificialized soils, polluted by the former industrial activity; the external artificialized soils used as parking and circulation supports; the internal artificialized soils serving as support for capable volumes, carrying programs.

(Re)Sources proposes to restore the external soils of the wastelands to allow for the coexistence of biodiversity and human activities. The depollution of soils through natural processes is slow, but it is showcased on the sites with an educational purpose. This awareness is also implemented through phyto-purification micro-stations at the banks of each wasteland.

In contrast to the old industrial sites that exploited and polluted their environment, the «CoFriches» of the Risle and Charentonne take care of their soil and river for a more sustainable world.

SHARING EXISTING VOLUMES

The surfaces and volumes within the industrial wastelands are considerable. In pursuit of net zero artificialization, rehabilitating the existing structures becomes a necessity and a mindset.

(Re)Sources proposes to tap into the potential of collaborative mutualization found within these vast abandoned volumes. Each site has its own history, territorial location, and program.

Along the Charentonne River, the Courcelles Wasteland establishes itself as a cultural and collaborative third-place, initiated by Les Nouvelles Coordonnées, who remain active and present locally. The superposition and juxtaposition of numerous existing volumes naturally prioritize the elements of the program and position the various stakeholders on this site.

(Re)Sources offers generous and well-lit spaces defined within the pre-existing envelope, encompassing artist lodgings, a performance hall, a solidarity canteen, workshops, and offices for artisan cooperatives. At the top of the tallest volume, currently in poor condition, a viewpoint allows contemplation of the Charentonne River's alluvial plain under a productive framework.

At the meeting point of the two rivers, the Petit Nassandres Wasteland shines anew after a long restoration project undertaken over the years by collaborative, training-oriented common workshops that foster inclusion. Knowledge transfer is a key aspect of this site, which evolves through consultations with various stakeholders, transforming into a hub for education and research in sustainable construction. The site offers a platform for reusing materials for students and also for valley residents and workers. The main volume is divided between the owner's workshops and the school where they impart and share their expertise.

In the heart of the alluvial plain, not far from the crossroads connecting the Lieuvain Plateau to the Neubourg Plateau, the future of food is being envisioned. The former Saint-Louis Sugar Factory Wasteland is where the local food activity center develops. It offers reasoned production of various foods, from orchard products to insect breeding, within its numerous volumes and outdoor spaces. On-site, it ensures the processing, storage, and distribution of its products and those of neighboring local producers, enabling consumption on-site in a restored biodiversity environment. Concerned about its energy consumption, a methanization unit meets its needs in partnership with agricultural cooperatives. With a focus on transmission and support, the wasteland sets up an incubator for young farmers and also provides social, insertion, and seasonal housing directly on-site to commit to the place and uphold its values.

In Brionne, a research and innovation center puts the city in the national spotlight as an exemplary site committed to sustainable development. The location of this wasteland, close to the train station in an active city center, is ideal for accommodating businesses engaged in research and development for the small cities of tomorrow, as well as territories deeply marked by the industrial era. Here, within the valley's association hub and in close collaboration with the social and solidarity economy business incubator, pathways for development are analyzed and shared with other wastelands.