



CATEGORY Urban/architectural
LOCATION Aigle (VD)
 Site «At the heart of the City»
POPULATION 8'757 inhabitants
STRATEGIC SITE 15 ha
SITE OF PROJECT 3 ha
SITE PROPOSED BY City of Aigle
OWNERS OF THE SITE Private Owners

COMMISSION AFTER COMPETITION:
 New development plan for the district.

TRANSFORMATION OF SITE

Located at the heart of the city and extending from the Place de la Gare to the Place de l'Hotel de Ville, the site consists of listed buildings, which are the remnants of a time when going through Aigle was the only way to reach Italy. Buildings inherited from the industrial past - such as the large mills - stand in the middle of the site.

To control the urban sprawl the City wants to increase the density in the downtown area.

Moreover, a recent population poll showed that the City center is seen as unattractive and its appeal should be boosted.

THE CITY'S STRATEGY

The project aims to revitalize the downtown area and showcase its architectural heritage.

The site could become the articulation point between several adjacent areas currently undergoing redevelopment (Place du Marché and adjacent streets, urban design competition for the new Sous-le-Bourg housing district).

The Rue du Midi, which runs through the parcel of land is a historical thoroughfare.

The site is bordering the north part of the «administrative» zone composed of the City Hall, the District Court and a police station.



SITE DEFINITION

The City of Aigle stands at the heart of the Chablais, between the mountains and the plains surrounding the Rhone River and Lake Geneva.

Most of the land plots are privately owned and the owners are involved in the development of their city.

The urban fabric of the sector is patchy with old housing buildings along the streets, and miscellaneous industrial or business buildings.

The site is served by the TP network (AL train line and city bus). The CFF railway station is 2 minutes away. There is a 30 minute train ride from Aigle to Lausanne and 1h15 from Aigle to Geneva.

NEW MOBILITY

The City of Aigle is located at the heart of a railway grid (plains and mountain railway lines leading directly to 9 alpine resorts) and a road network.

Soft mobility should be promoted.

Individual parking should be limited to prevent an excessive traffic increase in this sensitive area.

Two indoor parking lots are located near the site.

Proposals should take into account the excellent connection to existing public transport networks (the AL train line crosses the center of the city and gives Aigle its very unusual aspect).

NEW WAYS OF LIFE

With the urban development of Aigle west of the railroad tracks, the old city started declining: retail sales dropped, public areas became less popular and business activities dwindled.

The public survey did set the record straight: 50% of Aigle's residents see the downtown area as unattractive.

The European sector is one of the areas that must be revitalized to achieve the target set by the Municipality: preventing the old city from becoming an empty shell.

This raises the issue of the fate of old city centers challenged by peripheral developments, and the construction of shopping centers that became actual pieces of urban development.

NEW SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Soft mobility, water management and renewable energy.

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Semi-aerial photos, with and without the project site



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Rue du Midi with the «Vieux Moulins» (Old Mills) in the background

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At the heart of the project site

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The new SBB-CFF railway square

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From the Rue de la Gare at the corner with the Rue du Rhone (in the background: The railway station)

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