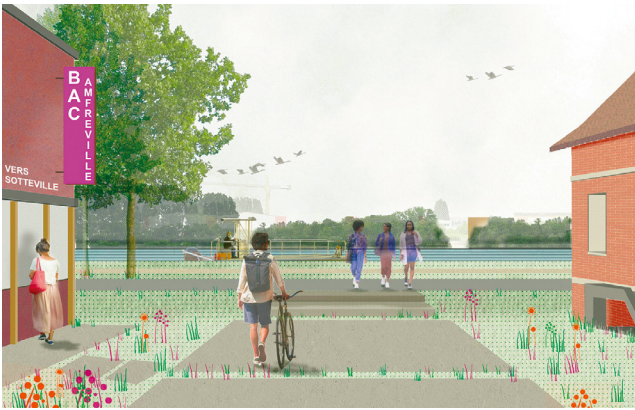


# Building the Right to Biodiversity

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1 – Métropole Rouen Normandie (FR), runner-up – Aux fibres de l'eau  
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A collection of E17 awarded teams offers new caring perspectives in the fabrication process of public spaces strengthening biodiversity. The comparative analyses at the European scale allows the transition from the local conditions to the common strategies and, what is more important, to a shared vision on their implementations.

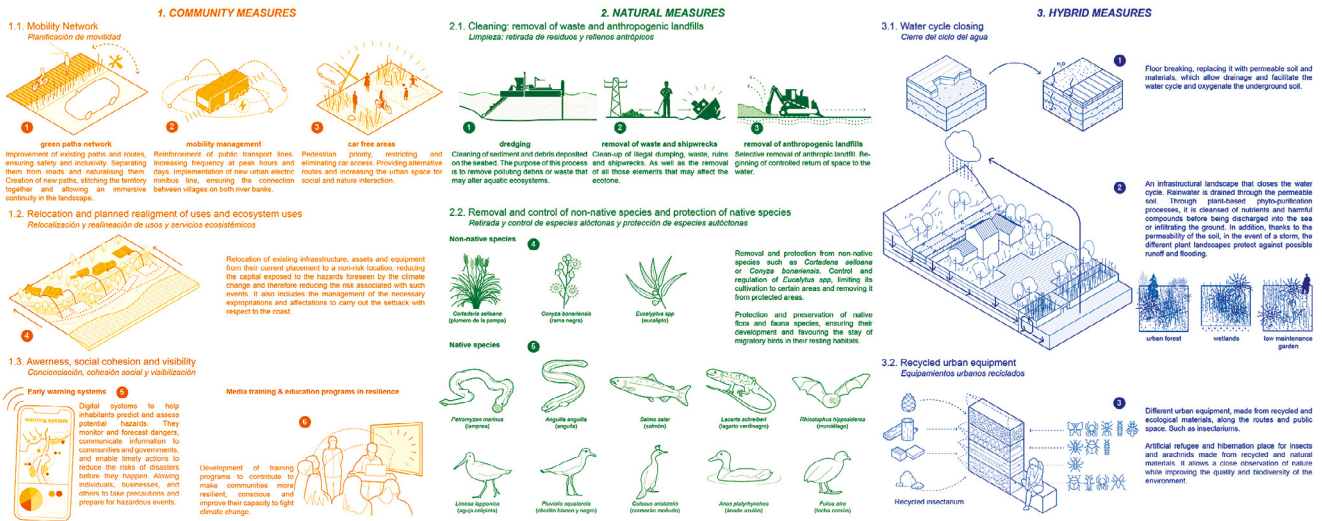
The E17 session as a space of continuous co-production platform provides an idea about biodiversity as a transversal ecosystem service working at the level of systems and landscapes. First of all, a collective responsibility appears to repair and promote the diversity of existing species and ecosystems. On a second level, there is a strong interest in the reinvention of the symbiotic relations between living beings. Biodiversity is understood beyond the diversity of life, also including social vitality and inclusivity.

Following this approach, what kind of strategies for which public spaces could emerge as a testing bench to implement these bio-dynamics at the proximity scale?

## **Bio-Based Strategies as a Transition Between the Large and the Proximity Scale**

There is an interesting trend in some of the proposals to offer a smooth transition through time from an anthropocentric to a bio-inspired approach, resulting in a new spatial organisation of public spaces. These attitudes reconnect the proximity and the territorial scales with a fractal logic giving an answer to new climate conditions. It is observed that young practitioners are familiar with a new technical knowledge and a new glossary that emerges over the table to guide these processes of land reparation.

*From Territory to Acupuncture:* a common vision is founded in some submissions, as in the runner-up in Métropole Rouen Normandie (FR), *Aux fibres de l'eau* (fig. 1), which brings new life to territorial voids and transforms them into livable public spaces. The strategy is based on the reconnection of the transversal habitats of the Seine river – what they call 'fibres actives' (or 'active fibres'), allowing mutualism to appear between human activities, non-humans, nature, culture and the industrial economy of the place. One of the main tools is to encourage water infiltration and groundwater recharge by desealing the soil surfaces, promoting continuity between the slopes and the banks habitats. The impact at the proximity scale is showcased on the Place de l'École or around



the Eauplet public garden with wetlands biotopes and reservoirs. The project includes a process based on three steps: preconfiguration, consolidation and confirmation.

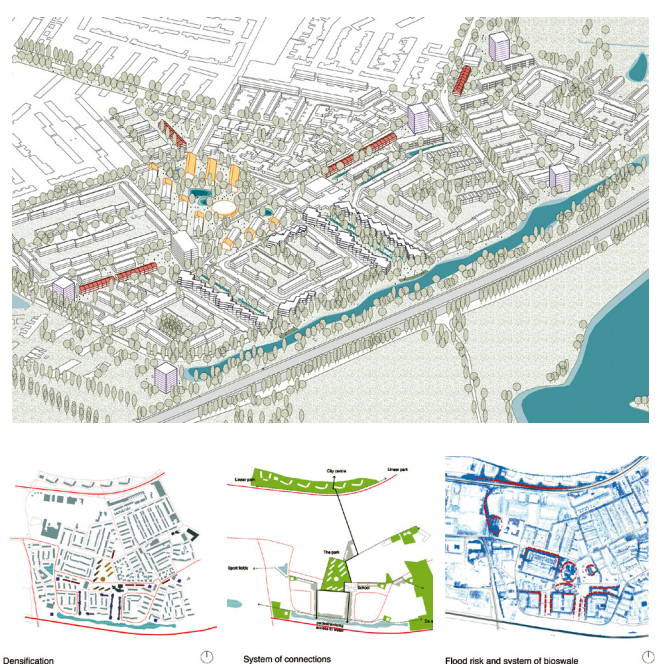
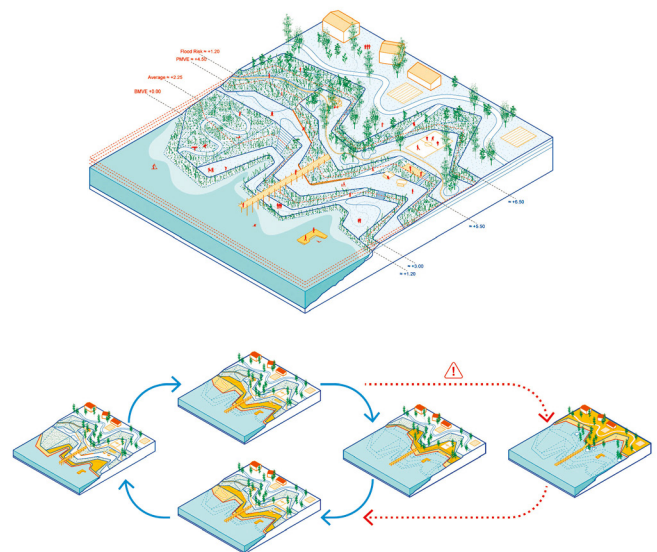
From *Extractivism to Resourcing: tide builds* (fig.2), winning project in Nalón Estuary (ES), provides a case study for the transformation of an anthropised territory moulded by an extractivist economy for years. It can serve as a model against climate change for other areas of the Asturian coastline. It offers a comprehensive plan working at three levels: the *community* to ensure inclusivity and equity; the *natural* to guarantee the good health of the ecosystems and biodiversity; and the *hybrid* level to promote nature-based supports for maritime activities and the coexistence between the natural environment and uses, as well as a self-sufficient development over time. A process-project for next three decades for the full estuary reparation includes: cleaning and anthropogenic removal, reconstruction and maintenance of ecosystems, and correcting habitat gaps in parallel to a social and economic activation of both shores.

The idea touches ground at the public space through an intermediate intertidal landscape, avoiding the classic waterfront duality of Land-Vs.-Sea. Unexpected common spaces are revealed as an adaptive system designed by precise bio-based solutions, increasing biodiversity and gradients of topography and salinity, while also acting as a refuge against waves and floods.

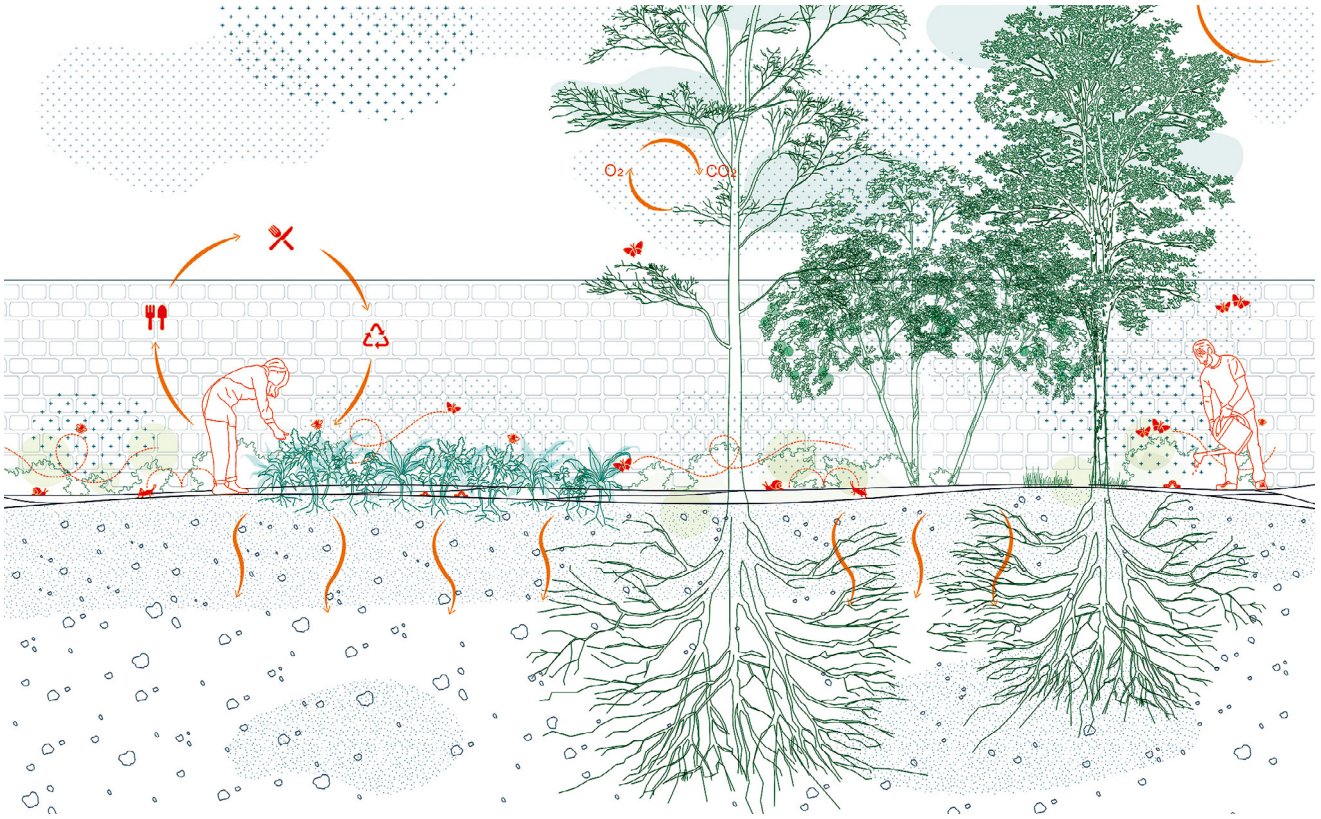
### Ecosystem Services as Mediators of a Social and Ecological Intensification

Most European cities are already built. We are facing a new age of tactical densification and precise intensification, which is an opportunity to rebalance the relationship of reciprocity with the living world. New urban and landscape practices from E17 show regenerative paths to measure externalities and infill the power of the ecosystem services in our everyday life through the proximity scale.

From *Densification to Flood Risk Regulation*: the site of Groenewoud (NL) is a case of a garden city densification from another ecological perspective. The winning entry, *Bricolage City* (fig.3), consists of a series of punctual interventions that are the result of a careful typological, volumetric and flood risk analysis of the neighbourhood. In order to preserve the proportion between green-blue areas and the built environment, new imaginaries appear around the shared areas with new habitats thanks to the incorporation of bioswales, stormwater landscapes and a diverse vegetation







palette for water absorption and retention. A new meaning of densification is driven by intensification of biodiversity and climate change risks adaptation measures.

*From Intensification to the Right to Biodiversity: Rooms of Conviviality* (fig 4), one of the special mentions in Makarska (HR), infiltrates biodiversity in an urban core following two complementary strategies. The first one reconnects the site with the ecosystems of the large scale, understanding a metabolic territory as a cascade of embedded, interconnected habitats. The three small-scale public spaces under transformation are reconnected with the green-blue network from the seaside to the mountains. The second one in-fills public uses as the Trojan horse to strengthen biodiversity and improve the livability of the urban scene, fostering the right to biodiversity as a transversal ecosystem service. For instance, at one spot, the Mediterranean Forum takes shape as a food garden, while in others, a Culinary Hub or a Market food reconnects local food production with citizens through an oasis of biodiversity.



4 – Makarska (HR), special mention – Rooms of Conviviality  
> See more P.70



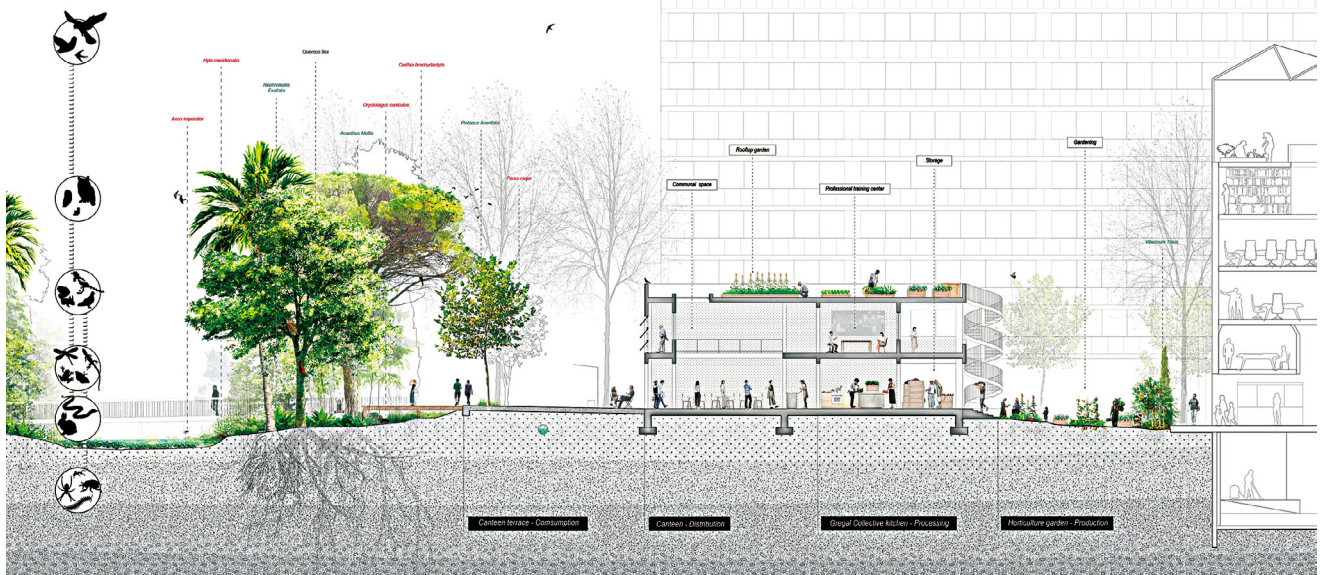
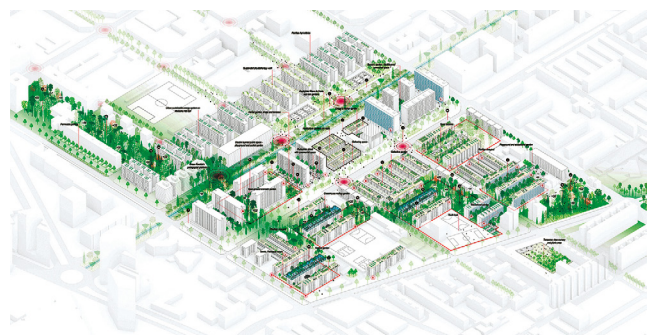
### Third Habitats as the Operations Field of a Caring Perspective

If we have already illustrated how to infill biodiversity in urban cores or garden cities, in the case of Barcelona (ES), the modernist housing estates of El Besòs i El Maresme are expecting an urban regeneration process. Special mention *The Inhabited Garden* (fig.5) transforms underused urban voids in a network of gardens taking advantage of the existing fertile soil conditions, improving the land's social and ecological functions as a productive landscape that benefits the local economy, while infiltrating water to mitigate flooding in built-up areas. The strategy triggers a more inclusive urban scene by reactivating the third landscape, including intersections, corridors and forgotten areas near rail and highways that are transformed into rain gardens, tree nurseries, orchards, and pasture. Pocket in-between spaces become productive container gardens, kitchen gardens, composting sites or sensory gardens for residents. Open areas adjacent to commercial hubs become unique educational farms.

This Barcelona project is a case of a caring attitude regarding pre-existences in consolidated urban areas. A living public space never starts from a *tabula rasa*. Around us there are multiple hidden natural and social treasures to rediscover and bring to the front, as the rich biodiversity of the third habitats.

### ...In Transition

*Building the right to biodiversity* is a paradox to describe the transition of our practice nowadays. We can observe a cultural shift in the young practitioners from an object-oriented thinking (*building*) towards a new regenerative practice (*right to biodiversity* among others), supported by challenging processes that need the cooperation of unusual actors and different timeframes. Consequently, what is the meaning of *implementation* in this new age?



5 – Barcelona (ES), special mention – The Inhabited Garden > See more P.27