

Grand Paris METROPOLE DOUCE

Paris, France

2008



» *image-Davide Abbonacci*

» *PAM-01-ESS-LIN-grand paris perspective, Davide Abbonacci*

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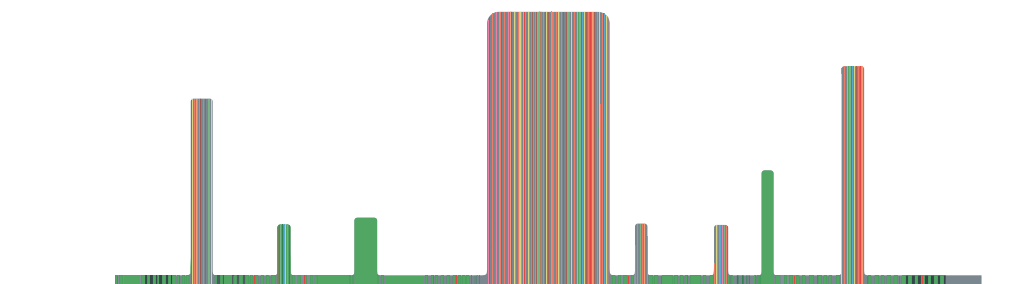
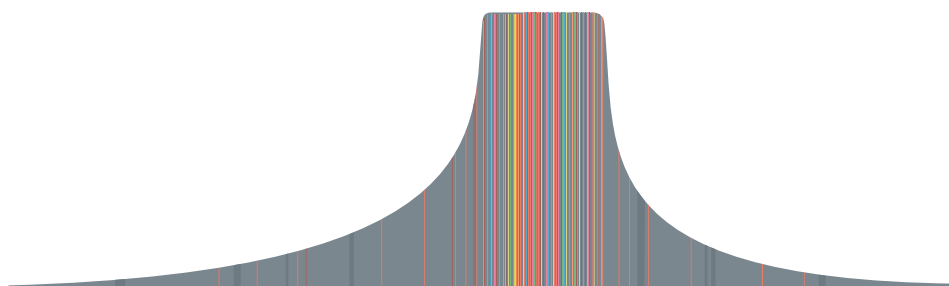
» *image-LIN*

» *PAM-02-ESS-LIN-aerial poles sketch*

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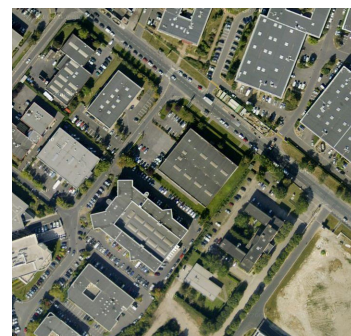
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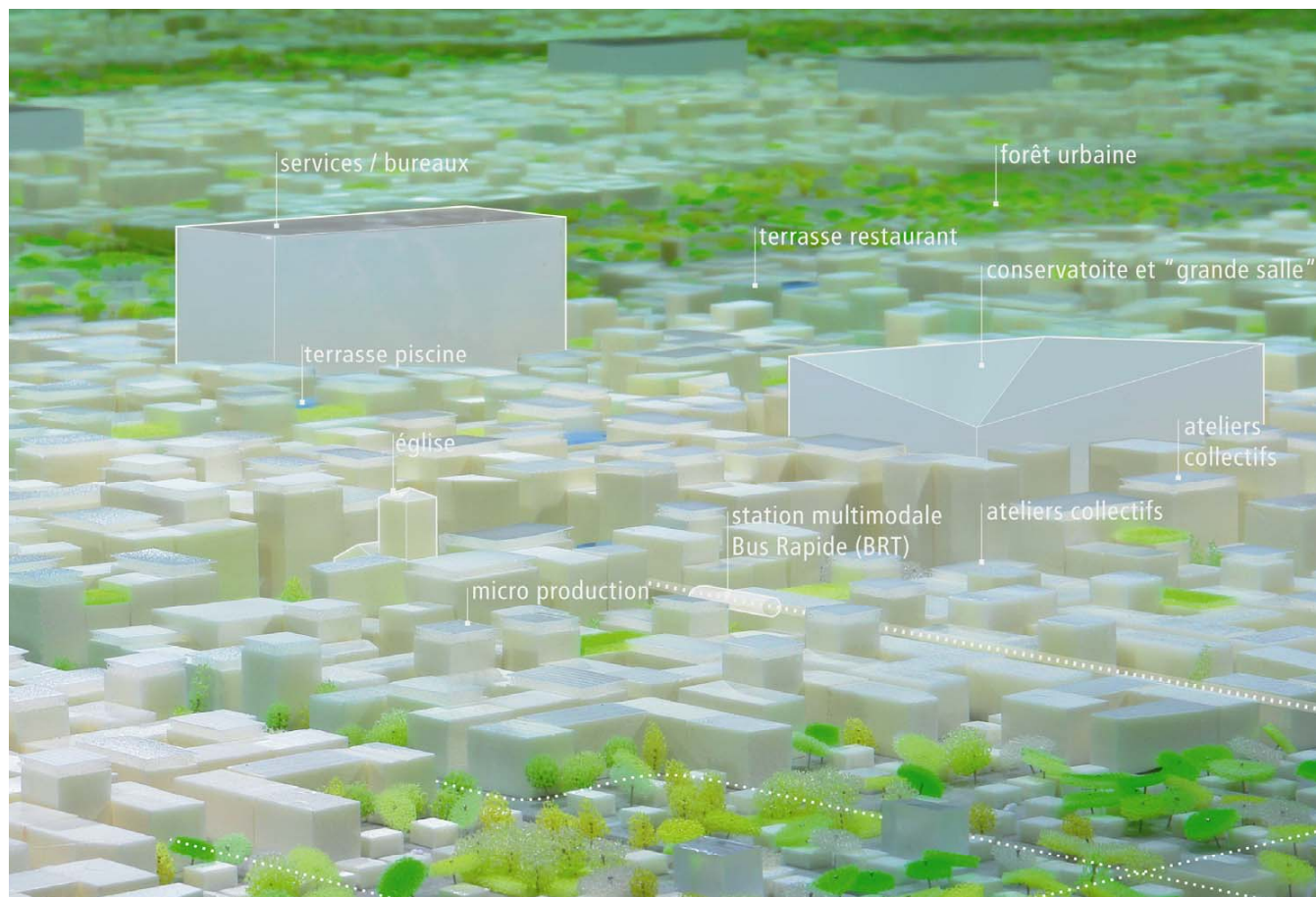
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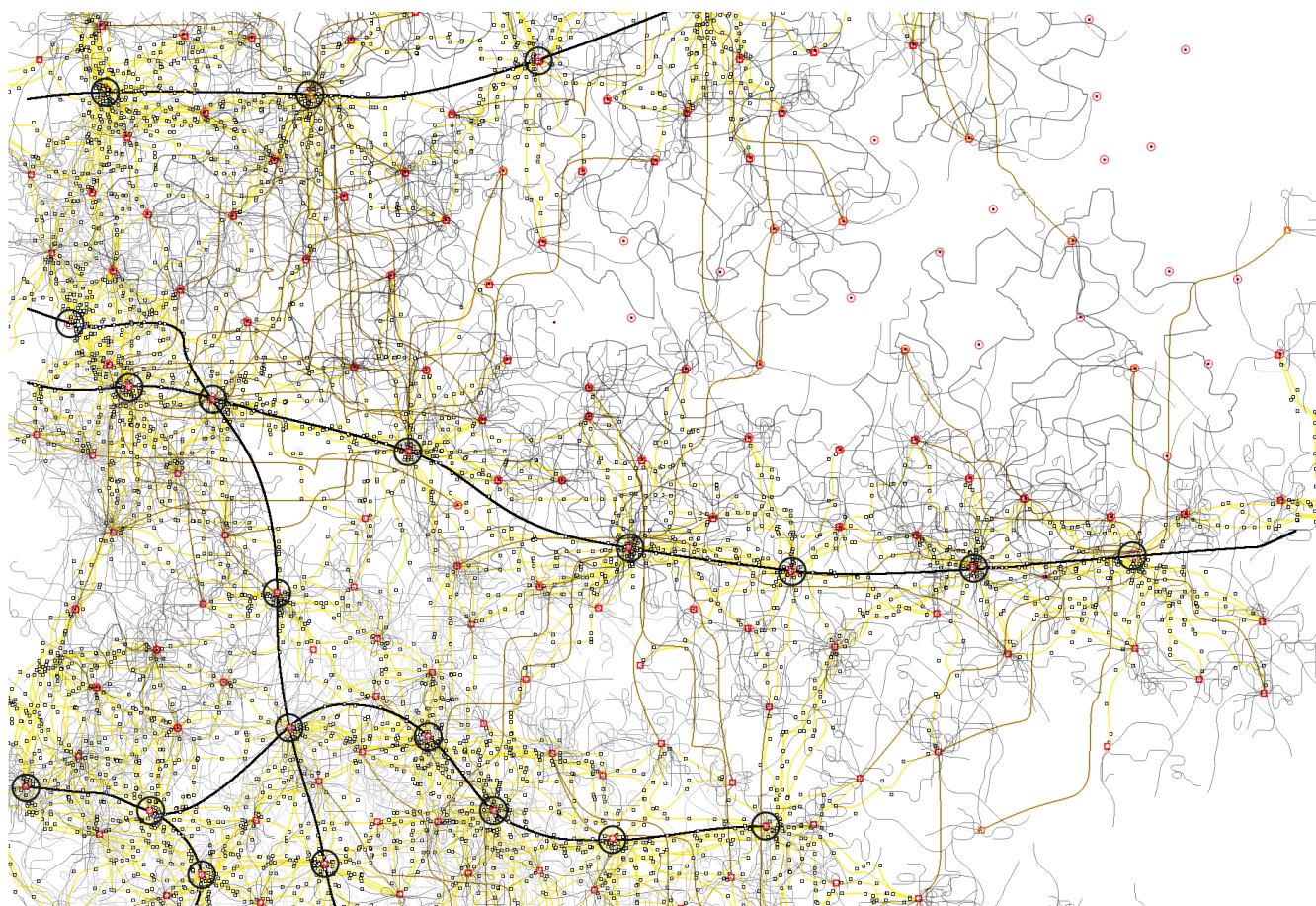
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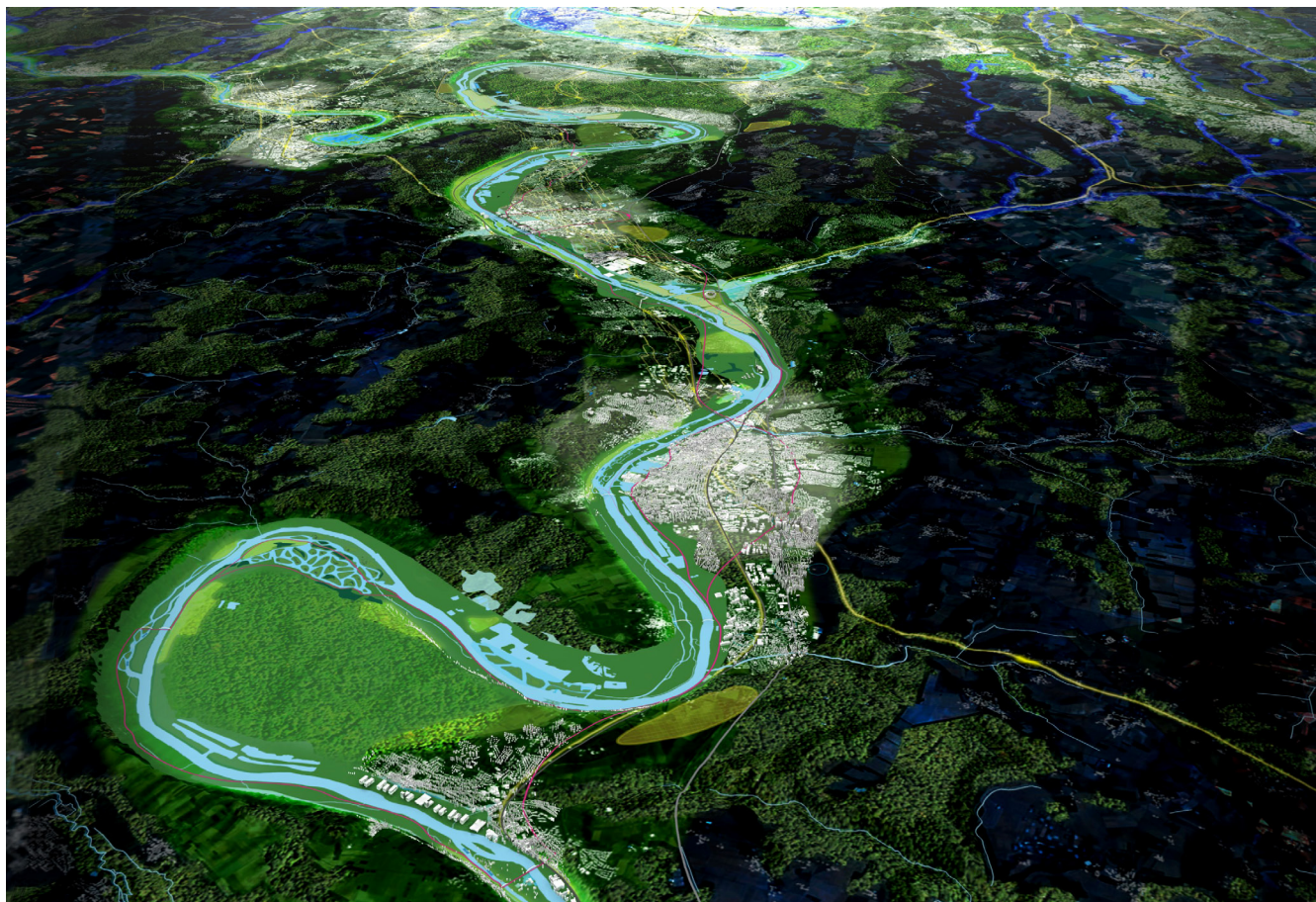
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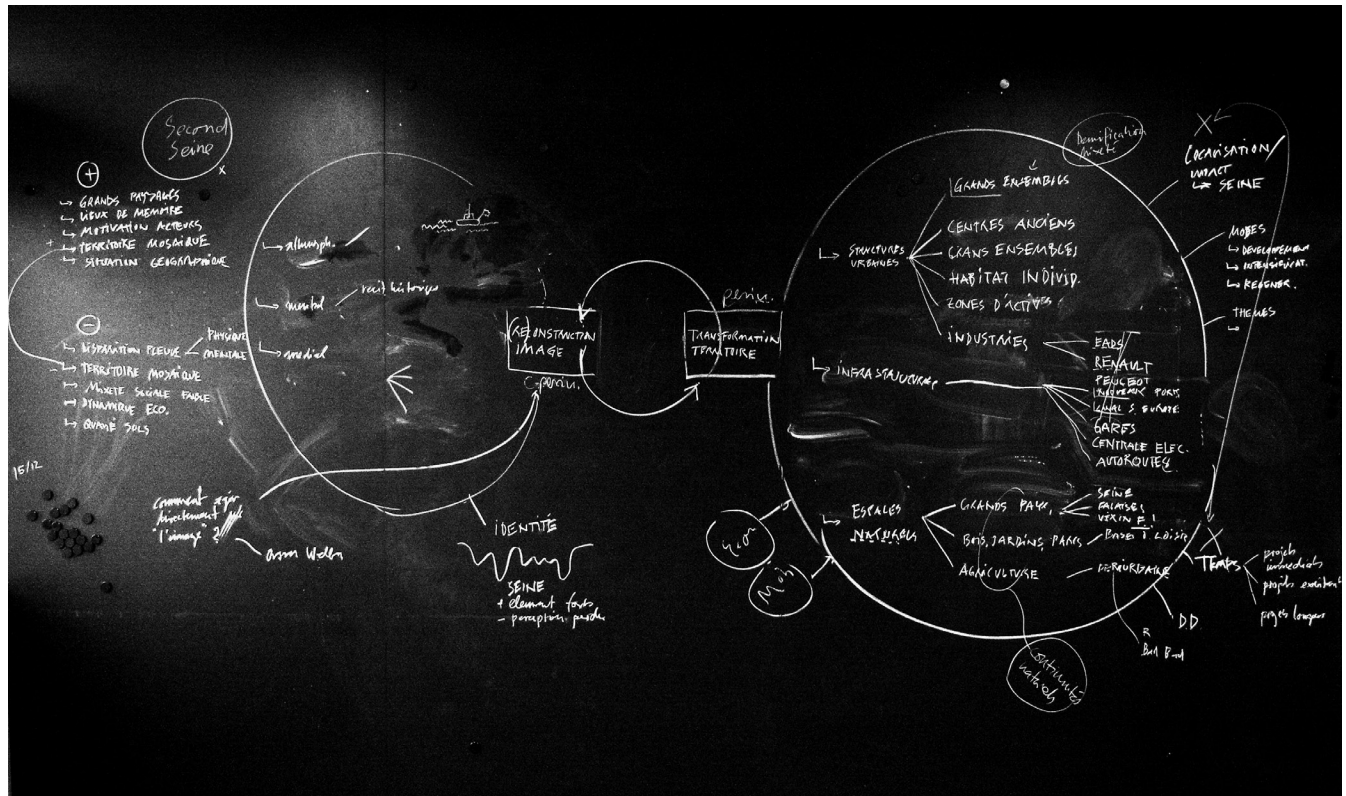
» *image-Davide Abbonacci*

» *PAM-07-ESS-LIN-perspective*

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» *image-LIN*

» PAM-08-ESS-LIN-plan de travail sketch

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» *image-LIN*

» *PAM-09-ESS-LIN-workshop*

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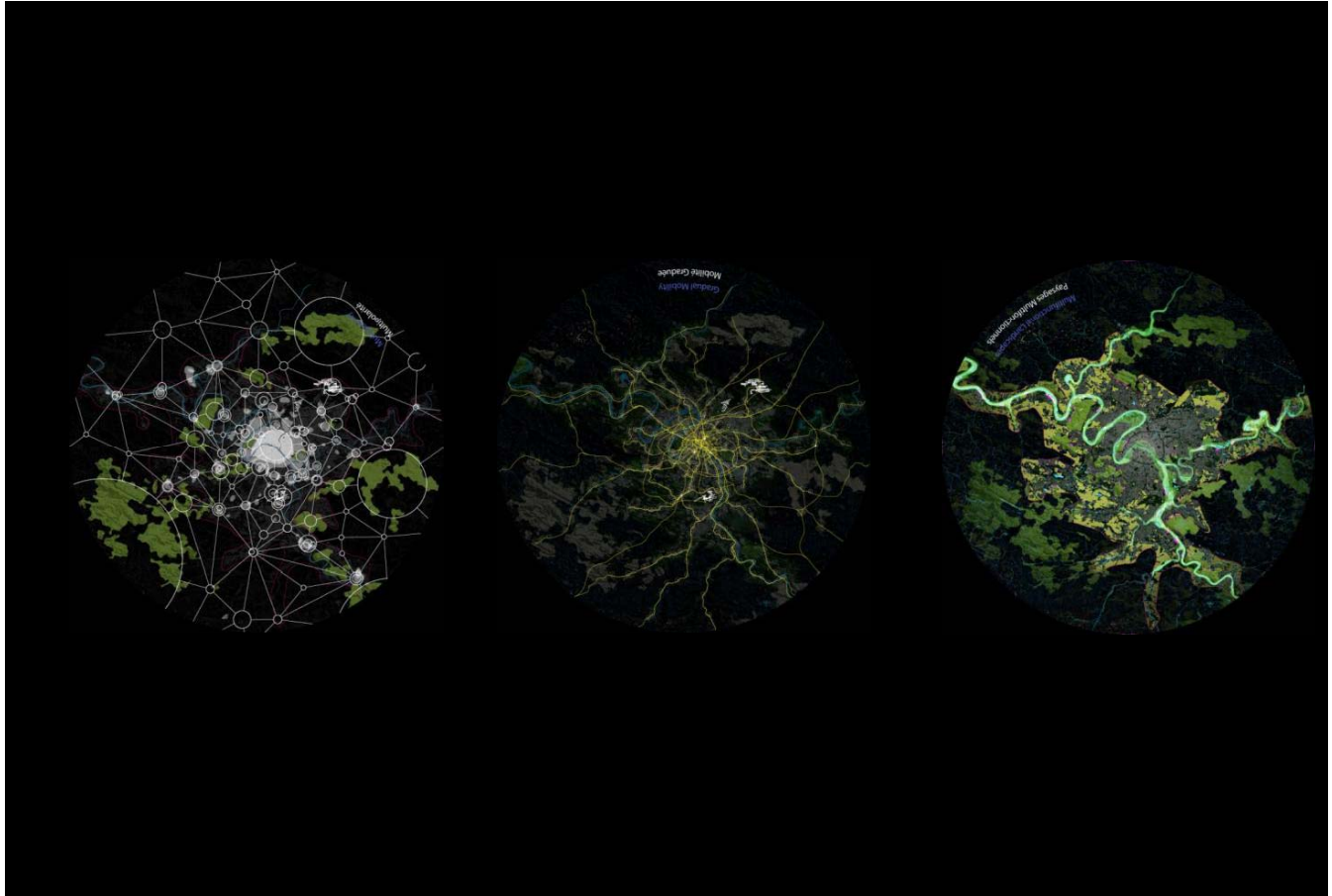
» *image-LIN*

» *PAM-10-ESS-LIN-exhibition at kulturforum, Berlin, 2011*

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» *image-LIN*

» *PAM-11-ESS-LIN-representation*

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VISION

Grand Paris Métropole Douce is a vision for the development of the metropolitan region of Paris as well as a model for a prosperous and ecologically balanced metropolis for the 21st century.

In 2008, former French President Nicolas Sarkozy initiated an international consultation, Le Grand Paris, where ten multidisciplinary teams were asked to imagine the transformation of Greater Paris into a pioneering urban landscape evolving in accord with the demands of the Kyoto Protocol. LIN worked together with experts in urban planning, urban theory and history, philosophy, architecture, ecology, climate change, mobility, and culture in a distributed temporary laboratory, collaborating with research institutes at MIT, the Oldenburg University and the TU Berlin.

Grand Paris Métropole Douce optimistically suggests that urban change does not only happen - driven by complex systems and structures - it can also be tackled, discussed, influenced, re-directed... It is an attempt to think about the urban phenomenon in all its dimensions at the same time: social, economical, ecological, cultural... It is not a finished project: it defines a multitude of steps, a transformation process for the upcoming decades.

TERRITORY

Grand Paris Métropole Douce is an investigation on an immense scale, examining a vast land area (2,700 km²), heterogeneous yet continuous, developing Paris together with its endless and homogeneous surrounding - the so-called banlieue. The project entails looking at the metropolis as a whole: at its structural underpinnings and its polarities as well as the diffuse networks that operate on it. It is about finding ways to affect change within a fundamentally complex and uncertain environment.

MODEL

The extreme polarization of Paris's metropolitan area and the uncertain character of its banlieue have led to a situation of crisis. Paris covers an area of 105 km² with a population of 2.2 million people (210 people/Ha). The banlieue covers a surface of 2600 km² with a population of 7.4 million people (28 people/Ha). The tightly- networked core holds a concentration of economic, cultural and symbolic power. Beyond this center, wide monofunctional swaths of single-family houses, industrial facilities or large social housing units are characterized by isolation, when not abandon. Grand Paris Métropole Douce stands for a new organic constellation: a model for Paris to develop from a mono-central city with dependent surroundings to a multi-polar metropolis where the centers exist not only in relation to one another but also with the uncertain textures they emerge from.

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TRANSFORMATION

Grand Paris Métropole Douce is not about starting from scratch but about working within and transforming existing structures. What is to be found in the metropolitan region of Paris is not homogeneous: buildings (dense blocks, freestanding single-family homes, modernist slabs, industrial halls, infrastructural boxes...); surfaces (streets, asphalted plazas, expansive mass housing parking...); nature (rivers, forests, micro suburban gardens...). Transformation strategies should adapt to the specific qualities of each found situation, without preconception.

CONDITIONS

Grand Paris Métropole Douce proposes a system of alternate urban conditions and graduated intensities: the Ville Dense and the Ville Légère. New dynamics are introduced within existing urban structures, revealing their respective potential.

The Ville Dense represents the stable entities in an ever-changing landscape: historical landmarks or production sites, complex and diverse platforms that offer an expansive array of culture and services, green areas such as parks and forests. Their programmatic and typological intensification allows new centralities – independent from their localization – to grow beyond the centre throughout the whole territory.

The Ville Légère mainly consists in wide carpets of freestanding housing, industrial facilities, and large social housing units, all today hardly accessible without a car. With its low density, flexibility, and simple, unprotected landscape, it possesses its own particular qualities, the first the capacity to maintain coherence among the dislocated fragments of the agglomeration. Its transformation into a more diverse, adaptable, self-sufficient milieu makes it a potentially nourishing layer for the metropolis

MOBILITY

Mobility is one of the keys to the transformation of the metropolitan region of Paris into a resilient, ecologically balanced, urban landscape. With its distributed intensities, Grand Paris Métropole Douce requires a new model of gradual mobility, one that is fast, direct, and efficient. In low-density areas, which represent 80% of the surface of the metropolitan region, the introduction of micro-mobility together with the development of new retail, social and cultural microcenters (mobility on demand, services for seniors, child care, post, etc.) simultaneously provides new services and potentials for social interaction.

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LANDSCAPES

Grand Paris Métropole Douce reveals the presence of nature within the metropolitan region of Paris of Paris. There, the rivers (the Seine, Marne and Oise with a total length of 1200 km) have become invisible. Large forests are often inaccessible; landscape has often become specialized, the same way the city has. It must recapture its essential diversity: the more services a landscape can offer, the greater its ability to absorb the impacts of nature and society and to return to its desired state. As opposed to specialized landscapes, the multifunctional landscapes of Grand Paris Métropole Douce flexibly integrate residential functions, water retention solutions, food production, energy production and the preservation of biodiversity; along rivers: self-regeneration systems, new housing typologies in flood zones, zones for leisure, business, transportation...

ACTION

Grand Paris Métropole Douce questions operational change. The acceptance of new forms of urbanity calls for the invention of new modes of action. The traditional top-down approach is still often essential to guarantee the realization of structuring and emblematic projects. When operating on the most uncertain fields of the metropolis, bottom-up transformation may be more efficient: de-centralized initiatives and informal constellations, negotiating projects within local contexts.

LABORATORY

Grand Paris Métropole Douce is a laboratory. The attempt is to imagine the urban phenomenon in all its dimensions – social, economic, ecological, and cultural: defining frameworks and creating efficient yet flexible solutions through interdisciplinary confrontation and new collaborative methods.