

GRAZ UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE INSTITUTE OF URBANISM OCTOBER 2013

URBAN STRIPES WEAVING CONTINUITIES IN THE CITY

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE | DIPLOM-INGENIEURS

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HISTORICAL BA

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STATUTORY DECLARATION

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The strong **separation of Paris and its suburb** is a major issue for the Parisian metropolis. The city fails to offer affordable and qualitative living conditions because of the **huge demand and the lack of space**. Simultaneously, the "banlieue" is not **desired and has a negative image**.

The challenge is to **reconnect the city with its suburbs** in order to liberate Paris of its limits and to enable good development of the suburb.

Our project site, which is just a **part of the interface** between Paris and its suburbs, shows very well **how dif**ficult it is to remove these limits.

Our methodology to deal with this area will be to explore at first from where comes this separation. Secondly, we will study the different issues combined in this area. It will also be an occasion to analyse the development opportunities. Finally, we will present our proposition to improve this area.

The scale of the intervention may seem too small to meet the metropolitan issues, but we believe that it **can't be solved by a single gesture**. This territory is already urbanized, and therefore there are many different situations. Paris Intra-muros (1)

Bois de Boulogne (2) Bois de Vincennes (3)

Project location (4)

Right False color satellite image of Paris, 2006 Landsat 5, NASA

PARIS URBAN AREA	
Population	12,089,098
Area	17,175km²
Density	Density 704/km ²

PARIS CITY	
Population	2,243,833
Area	105km²
Density	20,169/km ²

*Source INSEE 2012





In this first part, we will explore the different historical events that have affected our area. Paris is a city full of history, and we had to **select what is useful** to understand the issues of our project. In order to stay focused on our subject, many important parts of the history of Paris were excluded from this analysis. However, this part of Paris is interesting to study because **it concentrated many little known or unpopular historical events**. This other history is very important in order to understand the challenges of the metropolis.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF NORTHERN PARIS

CHAPTER

AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN NORTHERN PARIS

ntil the extension of Paris in 1860 an important transit place. Almost all located outside city's limits. Paris was were transiting there. The fishmonger two hills. In the north, the summit of used before the Industrial Revolution In the east, the city was limited by the English Channel¹ to Les Halles de Paris². high. These two hills **formed a natural** with horse-drawn carts in less than 24h. entry to Paris from the north. The site, which was between these two hills, was

under Napoleon III, the site was goods arriving from northern France surrounded in the northeast region by road, which was crossing our site, was Montmartre hill was 131 meters high. to transport fish and seafood from the hill of Belleville, which was 128 meters It was possible to transport fish to Paris



Carte de Cassini, 1756

Bottom left View of Montmartre Michel Georges, early XIXth

> Montmartre hill (1) Belleville hill (2)

Fishmonger road (3) Pilgrimage road (4) Royal Road RN1 (5)

Wall of the Farmers-General (6) Paris (7) Project location (8)







The site was also between to major reli- also a popular area to drink the wine gious cities. Montmartre, which **became** produced by the nuns. This is probably in 1960 a borough of Paris, was an why it became a famous place in Paris important religious place. Although for art and festivities. The city of Saint the Montmartre Abbey was destroyed Denis was also a very important religious during the French Revolution, it still place. The Basilica of Saint Denis was remains many religious buildings. Mont- the burial place of the French Kings. martre's hill, which was free of taxes, was Nearly every king from the 10th to the 18th



centuries, as well as many others from the soil was good for agriculture. It was previous centuries, was buried there.³ a land to produce wheat. There was no The city of Saint Denis was directly con- habitations, no trees, and the land was nected to Montmartre by a pilgrimage flat. The peasants, who worked there, road. Every 7 years, there was a proces- were living in the surrounding villages: sion from Saint Denis to Montmartre. Saint-Ouen, Clignancourt, La Chapelle, This pilgrimage was in memory of Saint Aubervilliers."⁴ Denis, who was the first bishop of Paris. Previous page Atlas de Trudaine, 1743-1776 There are still many religious buildings Bottom left along this way. View of Saint-Denis from Montmartre Michel Georges, early XIXth

The fishmonger road and the pilgrimage road were no longer useful after the construction in the middle of the 18th century of the Royal Road RN1 (Louis XV) connecting Paris to Calais through Saint Denis. It is probably why these two historic roads are today broken in many parts. However, their path remains visi**ble** in the urban structure.

The lands along these roads were agricultural areas, characterized by large rectangular cadastral parcels. "Slightly elevated, and safe from flooding, it was a well-defined dry and open area where

Bottom right View of the pilgrimage in 1750



INDUSTRIALIZATION OF THE LAND

zone of the city. The cities of St. Ouen, on our project site, still remains. St. Denis and Montmartre grew up very fast at this time. The plain of Saint Denis was the crossing point of many infrastructure and the land was inexpensive.

"The plain provides the needed space to redeploy the old Parisian workshops with the new technologies, which were essential to ensure that the company remains competitive. It was the time of relocation, fusion, and modernization. The space allows reorganization, and permit new work organization."⁵

It was easy to pump water from the groundwater to supply steam engine.

fter the French Revolution, in the Industries also profited of inexpensive A early nineteenth century, began in manpower coming from the country-France the industrialization. In northern side to find work in the city. Numerous Paris, the plain of Saint Denis guickly industries were created in the plain and became one of the largest industrial some, as the buses workshop directly

Improvement of the Canal Network

As explained earlier, the site was the main access from northern Paris. The Royal Road N°1 (Imperial Road N°1 under Napoleon Bonaparte) was going through the plain of Saint Denis and was used to transport goods from the

Carte du Département de la Seine, 1921

The industrial area in northern Paris was called the "Industrial-triangle" or the "French Manchester"

> Canal Saint-Denis (1) Canal Saint-Martin (2) Gare Saint-Lazare (3) Gare du Nord (4) Gare de l'Est (5) Thiers Wall (6) La Petite Ceinture (7) Industrial Triangle (8) Project location (9)





northern France. This road was the first major infrastructure of the plain.

There was already in the early nineteenth century a good canal network in France, and Napoleon decided to improve it. In 1802, Napoleon ordered by decree⁶ **the construction of two canals in order to bypass Paris by the northeast**. The navigation was difficult in the centre of Paris and there was too much traffic on the Seine. The construction of the canal Saint Denis and the canal Saint Martin began in 1805, and they were **opened to the navigation in 1821**. These new infrastructures have speed up the industrial development of the plain. Many new industries were created along the canal.

Right Carte de l'état major, 1818-1824

North Station
East Station
Classification yard from La Chapelle
Canal Saint-Denis
Project location



Development of the Railways

France began to build railways a bit After the vote of the law, the number later as United Kingdom, Germany, Bel- of railways increased quickly. The line gium, or Switzerland because the recon- from Paris to the north was completed struction after the Napoleonic Wars in 1846. The railway was built parallel to (1803-1815) used most of the available the Imperial Road No. 1 in the plain of resources. The law of 11 June 1842, Saint Denis. A few steps from our site, concerning the construction of major was set the classification yard from La railways in France, defines the structure Chapelle⁹. All goods coming from the of the new network as follows:

in France had to pass through Paris. northern France were unloaded there

"There will be a system of railways from Paris to:

- The border of Belgium, passing through Lille and Valenciennes;
- \cdot England, by one or more points along the coast that will be determinate later;
- The border of Germany, through Nancy and Strasbourg;
- · The Mediterranean, through Lyon, Marseilles, and Sète;
- The border of Spain, through Tours, Poitiers, Angouleme, Bordeaux, and Bayonne;
- · The Ocean, through Tours and Nantes
- The centre of France, through Bourges"7

This law confirms the selection of the Star-Shaped Plan⁸ centred on Paris. This system, which was already used for the national roads, implies that all transit

Gas plant in the plain, located between the north railway and the canal Saint-Denis Aerial photography, 1920

Bottom right Development of the railway network in France





Weaving Continuites in the City



CONSTRUCTION OF THIERS WALL

A parte at the Battle of Waterloo in ment to oppress the people. "The 1815, Prussian general Gebhard Leb- fortifications [...] are the most obvious erecht von Blücher entered in Paris. reaction against the French Revolution He perpetrated numerous acts of van- which was ever tried and which ever dalism, and he asked to pay a huge war succeeded. I reject this insane project. contribution. This event deeply affected The strength of France is not in the walls the population and so came the idea to of Paris: the strength is in its people, in create a new fortification wall around its soldier. We cannot feed and contain Paris. An intense debate began in a city of 1.5 million inhabitants. If Paris between peoples for and against the were besieged, the government would project. Lamartine, who considers the be overthrown and the France would be wall as a "counter-revolution", led the hit in the heart. 500 Million for this? This



fter the defeat of Napoleon Bona- opposition. It was for him an instruis too stupid to be a truth, and it is too expensive to be a lie. I reject the project on behalf of common sense, of dignity,

of mankind, and of freedom of my country."¹⁰

The people, who were for the construction of the fortification, also did not agreed together. One group was defending the project of a continuous



Project Location (1)

Paris before the war, 1870

Bottom left Caricature in the newspaper, 1855 Shows how the army could use the wall to control Paris wall around Paris while the others were proposing a system of independent forts around the city. There were also peoples who wanted a mix of the two systems. The situation was blocked, and nothing changed until the Oriental Crisis in 1840. United Kingdom, Austria Prussia, and Russia decided to support the Ottoman Empire against Egypt. On the other hand, France was supporting Muhammad Ali from Egypt. France was the wall cut several roads. Moreover, a excluded from the Convention of Lon- lot of Haussmann's boulevards were credon, and **peoples began to fear a Euro**- ated directly according to the openings pean war. Thiers government was con- of the enclosure. cerned about the safety of Paris, and Thiers wall has been widely criticized decided to build guickly a wall around because it became guickly obsolete in the city. The construction began in military terms. Furthermore, the con-1841, and the wall was finished in 1844. struction was completed only fifteen The 33 kilometers long enclosure con- years before that Germany and Austria sisted of 94 bastions, 17 gates (major road crossings), 26 minor road crossings, eight posterns, eight railway-crossing points, and five crossing points of rivers or canals.¹¹

"The wall was composed of:

- · An internal military street
- · A parapet (6 meters wide)
- · A steep wall (10 meters high)
- · A dry moat (40 meters wide)
- \cdot A counterscarp
- · A glacis (250 meters wide)"¹²

Despite the large number of passages,

began the destruction of fortifications. The only other city in this situation was Cologne, where the Prussian built fortifications after 1815. Vienna launched a competition for the transformation of

the wall in 1858, and began to destroy its fortification after 1861. Barcelona also adopted in 1859 the Cerda plan for the extension of the city.



Weaving Continuites in the City

Bottom The wall at the Porte de La Chapelle Atlas de la Seine, 1831

TRANSFORMATIONS UNDER THE SECOND EMPIRE

n 1852, Napoleon III became Emperor of France. He realized considerable work to modernize France. He did a lot for the development of the railways network, which was still underdeveloped in comparison with other European countries. He also radically transformed Paris with his prefect Haussmann.

Construction of the Circular Railway

One of the major problems of the centralized rail system was that the railways were not connected in Paris. All rail- endanger their regional monopolies. ways were ending at the limits of Paris Napoleon III solved the issue in 1852. with a terminal station. To switch from He ordered the construction of a circuone network to another, people had to lar railway around Paris called La petite unload the train and transport all the ceinture. goods through Paris. The interchanges were long and onerous. Several different companies owned the railways, and they were all persuaded that direct connection to another network would



Project location (1) Extension of the limits of Paris (2)

Map of "La petite ceinture"

Haussman's Renovation of Paris Andriveau-Goujon, 1851-1868



Weaving Continuites in the City

Haussmann's Renovation of Paris

In the mid-nineteenth century, when Haussmann became prefect of Seine, Paris was still a medieval city with small ings.¹³ streets and narrows. The city was dan- Haussmann was inspired by the gerous, dirty, and unhealthy. For the first "Lumières" to clean up the city. The time, the city was perceived as a whole question of flow management was cenfrom a birds-eye view. It was no more tral. He wanted to improve the flow of a sum of neighborhoods, blocks, and people with wide and straight avenues buildings. It was no longer enough to to **decongest the city**. The air quality renovate a few areas or to create new was also very important, and these new districts. Haussmann wanted to clean openings were also used to ventilate up the city (**hygienic aspect**), to make it



safe (military aspect), and to embellish it (aesthetic aspect). It is estimated that he transformed 60% of Paris's build-

the city. To achieve this goal, he also planned several new green spaces as the Parc Montsouris or the Parc des Buttes Chaumont. He also worked to create a modern sewerage system to collect wastewater. The network, which was 157km long in 1852, had a length of 600km after Haussmann's works. One other goal was to be able to **control** popular uprisings. Napoleon had for sure in mind the revolution of July 1830,

Bottom right "The five floors of Parisian world" Bertall 1845

Bottom left View of the Boulevard Ornano near to our site



THE R. P. R. MANDON DAMAGEMENT OF ANY ADDRESS.

and the revolution of June 1848, which ended the July Monarchy. Haussmann's urbanism allows better military control. The wide boulevard allows shooting with barrels against rioters and makes the utilisation of the cavalry possible. Open urban spaces can be easily surveilled and placed under the control of the army in moments of crisis. The use of triangular-shape housing blocks allows minimizing the central courtyard, which was difficult to control.

The last aspect of the project was to embellish the city. The goal was to bring back the upper classes in the city centre and to push the poor people in the periphery. Haussmann wrote to Napoleon:

"We have to accept high rents and high food price [...] as a way to defend Paris against the invasion of the workers from the province."14



Haussmann used a system of axes achieve perspective effects.

The new buildings were mostly planned the housing. Indeed, without lift the value as the main floor.

Between 1852 and 1870, more as 300km were already 114,315 inhabitants. In of new streets were created and 600,000 1856, there were 351,596 people living trees were planted. More than 19,000 in between the two walls.¹⁷ It was not

unhealthy buildings were destroyed and replaced by 30,000 new buildings. The Opera Garnier, the new courthouse. the halls of Baltard, the Hôtel-Dieu (hospital), a lot of theatre and schools, and also many Churches were built at this time.¹⁵ Haussmann designed the Boulevard Ornano, which is close to our site, in 1863. The Albert Kahn place has a typical star-shaped plan.

Extension of the Limits of Paris

Despite the construction of Thiers wall with really strong alignments rules to in 1844, the administrative boundary of Paris did not changed. The city was still defined by the wall of Farmers-General, to accommodate the bourgeois, but where was collected the Octroi¹⁶. This there was also a vertical social-mix in area on the edge of Paris became really fast urbanized. In 1806, there were only upper floors did not have the same 13,227 people living there. In 1841, when the construction of the wall began, there

negligible, when we know that Paris had Thiers wall was ineffective against Ger-1,174,346 habitants in 1859. The main man modern artillery. The 1 mars 1871, problem for Napoleon was that there a popular assembly deposed Napoleon was no global planning for the devel- III. He was declared "responsible for opment of this area. Napoleon was also the destruction, the invasion and the afraid of the lack of control in this area. dismemberment of France". After the The population was mostly composed reign of Napoleon III, the enclosure has of labourer and handicraft. In Paris there gradually lost its military role. The wall was a police officer for 360 people and became a promenade for Paris. Many in this area only one for 5,165 inhabi- artists painted this unusual atmosphere. tants.¹⁸

The law of 16 June 1859 has established the integration of the cities located between the two walls. The city of Paris was then divided into 20 districts, which are still the same today. In 1861, Paris has a population of 1,667,841 within the new city limits.

Failure of Thiers Wall During the Siege

After the Siege of Paris, lasting from September 19, 1870 to January 28, 1871, Prussian army captured the city.

Bottom right Thiers Wall, Henry Cheffer, 1925

Upper left

" The city of Paris trying to encompass the suburb" Charles Vernier, (1831-1887)



THE DEVELOPMENT OF "LA ZONE"

A fter 1871, the wall began to lose indicate 50,000 to 200,000 inhabitants. It was forbidden by the law to build any did not want to give these lands without durable construction, and therefore getting something in exchange. Many people were living in a kind of slum. J. people began to settle on the Glacis Flourens wrote about this place: (Zone de non aedificandi) to avoid the "The population of this place consists tax of Paris. There were plenty of bars mainly of Rag-and-bone man, vagawhere prices were much lower than in bond living on top of one another. They Paris. It is hard to know how many peo- live in shacks or in cars without concern ple exactly lived there. A survey of the of hygiene. prefect of Seine counted 30,000 inhab- These people are obviously not the itants in 1913¹⁹. But other estimates owners. [...] There is more thefts and



muggings in this area than anywhere in 1919 and was finished in 1930. It was else. Police surveillance and criminals much more complicated with the Glaresearch is very difficult there. These cis. The city had to negociate with more people are living in really bad sanitary as 5000 owner to clear the land. The condition. They are for the neighboring city expropriate slowly, plot by plot, the cities a unhealthy and dangerous neigh- whole land. This process lasted until the borhood. It his a perpetual subject of 1970s. Only owners, who could prove concerns and complaints. "20 that they were already there before the During the First World War, Thiers wall construction of the wall, got indemnifiwas not more useful because the Ger- cation.

mans used very long-range artillery to bomb Paris. The army finally agreed to sell the land to the city in 1919. The destruction of the wall began directly



Left to right Section between Clignancourt and Montmartre, 1944 Garden in Thiers Wall, 1920 Construction of the HBM, 1930 La Zone 19th arrondissement, 1920

PROJECTS OF THE INTERWAR PERIOD

fter the First World War, there was years, the population of Paris has nearly A a considerable need for public doubled. It was decided to launch a housing in Paris. The city grows very fast major housing construction program. in the second half of the 19th century. In Plenty of space was now available on 1861, just after the extension of the city, the land of the old wall. But many peothere were 1,696,141 inhabitants. At the ple also wanted to create a green belt end of the First World War, 2,906,472 around the city. The model of German people lived in Paris.²¹ In less than 50 and Austrian cities was very important



in the debate. It was finally decided to is one of the few around Paris where no build housing on the strip where was housing units have been built at that the wall (50 meters wide) and to build time. There was on this land a barracks a long park on the Glacis (250 meters (Caserne de Clignancourt) and the state wide). It was obviously easier to build on wanted to maintain this building. the land of the wall, because there was not the issue of the expropriations. The Aerial view of the new public hounsing, 1938 housing blocks were completed very View of the Ney barracks, 1926 quickly, but the project of a green belt Next page has never really been achieved. Our site Project for the construction of new housing ,1917





GERMAN OCCUPATION DURING WORLD WAR II

that he had more power than any French leader since Louis XIV.²² The new administration decided to realize the green belt around Paris. The project did not advanced a lot since the First World War due to the problem of expropriation. The Vichy regime used the tripartite motto "Work, Family, Fatherland"²³ instead of "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity". They considered sport as a good way to teach young people how to serve their fatherland. The idea was based on the motto "A sound mind in a healthy



During World War II, Marshal Pétain possessed almost all legislative, executive, and judicial power in Vichy France. One of his advisors commented that he had more power than any French leader since Louis XIV.²² The new admin-

> "In order to develop the land of the old wall [...] the city is authorized to take ownership of the land and of all construction on this land. The demolition may begin immediately after the evacuation of the selected buildings."²⁴

> This legislative framework gave the city an unrestricted freedom to act. The city used this law to destroy a lot of buildings at this time, including those on our project site. Despite this, **the projects were not finished at the end of the war** and it remained mostly undeveloped lands.





Weaving Continuites in the City

Project location (1)

Upper right Map of the expropriated lands, 1944

Bottom left

Photography used to control the destruction of "La zone" Between Porte des Poissonniers et Porte de Clignancourt, 1944



Upper left Masterplan for the Porte de Clignancourt, 1943

Upper right Project for the Sport Center Porte de Clignancourt, 1943

Bottom right View of the site at the end of the war





Weaving Continuites in the City

LES TRENTE GLORIEUSES²⁵ (1945-1973)

A had a period of continuous growth nificant increase of road traffic. and full employment. These decades During this period, modernist ideas of economic prosperity combined high were very present in the debate. Many productivity with high average wages planners used theories of Le Corbusier and high consumption, and were also (Athens Charter) to justify their projects. characterised by a highly developed The trend was to divide living, worksystem of social benefits.²⁶ In our case ing, recreation, and circulation areas we are mostly interested by the **strong**



fter the Second World War, France urbanization at this time and by the sig-

in order to achieve a functional city. In 1954, the city of Paris decides to build a highway around Paris to meet the increase in traffic. The project was a 35km long highway with 4-lane in each direction. This mega infrastructure was planned directly on the Glacis of the old wall. The construction began in 1956 and was completed in 1973. As soon as it was finished, the highway was already crowded.

During this period, the city also completed the development of the rest of the Glacis. There was still a lot of space,

because the highway used about 40 meters from the 250 meters available. The city decided to use the remaining land to build public housing. These new tower blocks were poorly built to meet quickly a huge housing demand.

Yearly Growth Rate of Vehicule Population in France (million/year)



Weaving Continuites in the City

Bottom lef View of the interchange of La Chapelle near to our site

URBAN SPRAWLAND ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

city. From 1950 to 2010, the urban area plicated. Our project site is located just (including Paris and its suburbs) has at the border between Paris and Saintincreased from 6 to 12 million inhabi- Ouen. tants. During the same time, the population of Paris has decreased form 3 to 2,2 million inhabitants. Our project site, which was historically at the edge of the city of Paris, is now located in the heart of the metropolis. However, the administrative boundaries never changed since Napoleon's extension. This last point is particularly important today. The nearby suburb of Paris, where live more than 6 million people, is **divided** into 123 municipalities. Each of these municipalities is autonomous in matter of urban planning. It makes large-scale projects very complicated to achieve because each municipality has different interest. The project to create a Grand

The development of the automo- Paris, in order to facilitate the decision bile accelerates the growth of the process, is politically extremely com-

Construction from 1950 to 1965



Population of Paris and Paris with its Suburb (million/year)



Weaving Continuites in the City

Urban Stripes // Paris E12

CONCLUSION

W e explained in this historical development of Paris and it was often $\mathbf{V} \mathbf{V}$ analysis the major events, which trapped between national networks. affected the development of our site. This historical background allows us to We must recognize that most of these understand the challenges of this site. projects are not part of the great history of Paris. There is almost nothing left from the Thiers wall and people see this project as a shame for Paris. The Haussmann work did not changed so much the aspect of this area. The main effect was the **forced movement** of the poor from the centre of Paris to the periphery, including our site. The green belt was never really realized. The ring highway is a nuisance for local residents. The housing blocks are also in many ways problematic today.

Another point we would like to notice is that all these projects were thought at the metropolitan scale. There was never really a local project. Our site has always been used to support the





We will analyze in the second part the current situation, and see what are the development opportunities. We will discuss the metropolitan issues, the urban trend, the social context, the transportation network, the cultural heritage, the urban form and the green structure. The aim of this research is to find out the objectives of our project, and to help us to define our strategy. We must therefore understand the qualities, the weaknesses, the opportunities and the threats from this area.

Development opportunities

CHAPTER

EVOLVING AREA IN NORTHERN PARIS

launched an urban renewal project: is divided into sector. Our project site Le Grand Projet de Renouvellement belongs to the sector Porte Montmar-Urbain (GPRU). This project involves tre - Porte de Clignancourt. This secmost of the neighbourhoods of north- tor is located in the north of the 18th ern Paris, including our. The goal is to arrondissement of Paris. This territory accelerate the development of these is also since 1995 a Sensitive Urban territories, which combines multiple **Zone (ZUS)**. It means that this area is a social, economic and urban problems. high-priority target for city intervention. This project is expected to reduce the inequalities between the northeast of Paris and the southwest.

n 2001, the municipality of Paris has The territory concerned by the GPRU

Project location (1)

Map of the different projects and study areas in Paris, Apur

The different objectives set by the city are:²⁷

- \cdot To open up and connect the districts to the city, to create public transportation
- \cdot To promote social and economic integration, and to develop qualitative facilities
- To improve day-to-day living conditions and guality of life.
- \cdot To improve the urban environment and the quality of housing.
- · To help the economic development of these neighbourhoods
- · To promote environmental quality
- \cdot To work in cooperation with the other municipalities of the suburb



URBAN TREND IN PARIS

The project from Christian de Portzam- and the highway. It is a typical project of parc for Massena neighborhood has sig- Open blocks. nificantly influenced Parisian urbanism. This urban form offers numerous quali-He theorized the Open Block, which ties, but it does seem to be adapted for is between Haussmann block and the our location. The ZAC Claude Bernard open plan from the modern. The Open allows us to see the main issues. Firstly, Block consists of many independent the scale seems inadequate because and diverse buildings. These buildings there are mostly very large elements in are aligned along a traditional street. this area of Paris. As example, the ware-The heights are coherent but non-iden- house in front of the project (Calberson tical. The buildings do not touch each Macdonald Warehouse) is two times other in order to **generate more open-** bigger than the entire block. This highly ings. The center of the block is open and fragmented planning is hard to read in visible from the street but **still private**. Nowadays, most of the large urban form is hard to integrate in a context projects within Paris are built according **dominated by infrastructures**. A block to this model. We are lucky to have an is waiting for another on the other side example of this urbanism in a similar sit- of the street, and it does not tolerate uation as our. The project of the ZAC any breaks. And finally, it is a very static Claude Bernard is located one kilometer urban form in a space on the move. This east of our site. This project also takes form is not adapted for large, empty place between the Marshals Boulevard and open spaces.

this kind of context. Secondly, this urban



Weaving Continuites in the City









OPEN BLOCK



OPEN STREET SEMI-FREE BUILDINGS

OPEN BLOCK

Open Block, Christian de Portzamparc

QUARTIER MASSEN

1995-2007, FRANCE PARIS







Right Views of the ZAC Claude Bernad

Weaving Continuites in the City



SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL CONTEXT

The Parisian Urban Worksop, called **Preponderance of labourer and** Apur²⁸, conducted a survey about the **employee** sector Porte de Montmartre - Porte The employee and labourer represent de Clignancourt. Most of the followings 71% of the workers instead of 35% in data come from this work²⁹.

High average of young people and single-parent households

This area is characterized by **a high** in Paris). average of families (35% of households instead of 22% in Paris). A lot of these Important social issues families are single-parent households A third of the population (33%) live (43% instead of 26% in Paris). The pres- below the poverty threshold instead of ence of these families leads to a high 11% in Paris. The unemployment rate is percentage of young people. People one of the highest of Paris (22% instead under 20 years old represent 25% of of 11% for the whole city). Concerning the population instead 18% in Paris. education, 23% of children finish pri-The proportion of people older than mary school at least one year later than 60 years of age is also important (30% normal (13% in Paris). Only 54% of the instead 19% in Paris). Most of these children are accepted at the national people are living in their homes since diploma at the end of ninth grade (70% the construction of the housing.

Paris. Only 8% of the workers are middle manager compared to 35% in Paris. Nearly a third of population aged 15 and above don't have any diploma (11%

in Paris).



Sector Porte de Montmarte - Porte de Clignancourt



TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

The Boulevard Périphérique

the main roads of Paris. This is the 40 crèche and 68 sports fields.³¹ busiest urban highway in Europe with The other main problem with the Bou-270,000 vehicles per day³⁰. Most of the levard is that he **divides the territory** movement (around 60%) are between in two parts. The fact that he is raised Paris and the suburbs. The movements onto an embankment makes it very diffrom suburb-to-suburb represent 35% ficult to cross. It is like a wall between of the traffic and the movements form Paris and its suburbs. Paris-to-Paris represent only 5% of the traffic. Near to our site, there is one of **The boulevard Ney** the four main road junction. The inter- The Boulevard Ney is part of a collecchange of Porte de la Chapelle, which tion of thoroughfares that encircle Paris. is an impressive engineering project, The whole ring road is called Boulevards connects the ring road to the Northern of the Marshals. These boulevards are Motorway (A1). On the portion near our parallel to the Boulevard Périphérique. site, the highway is an 8-lane road and is There is also a lot of traffic on this road. raised onto an embankment.

noise pollution and air pollution. This Boulevard Périphérique, this road gen-

is a major issue for the 100,000 people As we have seen previously, our who lived within 100 meters from the site is located along the Boulevard Boulevard. Within 200 meters, there Périphérique. This highway is one of are also 20 hospitals, 20 nursing homes,

Underpasses are built in most of the This infrastructure generates a lot of junction to limit congestion. As the



Number of vehicles per day (two direction)

= 150.000 to 300.000 75 000 to 150 000 25.000 to 75,000 less than 25.000

Average daily traffic in 2002



erates a lot of noise pollution and air pollution. It is also a significant break because it is hard to cross it. However, the construction of the T3 tramway in 2017 will give us the opportunity to redevelop this boulevard.

Left Traffic Network Analysis

	Boulevard Périphérique (8 lanes - 80km/h)
	Main roads (4-6 lanes)
	Secondary road (2 lanes)
	Local Network (1-2 lanes)
	Railway tracks
	Pedestrian area
• • • •	Petite Ceinture (Old Circular Railway)
M	Subway Station
676	Vélib Station

The public transport network

Our site is **well served by public trans**- the major commuter train hub in Paris. port. There is one metro station of the The T3 tramway, which is expected to line 4 at the Porte de Clignancourt. encircle Paris, ends currently Porte de This is the main north-south line of la Chapelle. The extension on our site Paris. It crosses all other subway lines is planned for 2017. This line is the first and served three train station: North modern tramway using separate tram-Station, East Station, and Montpar- way lane system in Paris. nasse Station (south). It also served the There are also several bus stops, which

Châtelet - Les Halles Station, which is



provide a good local service. Paris. They are the Boulevard Ornano Our site is also equipped with the Vélib, and the Rue de la Chapelle. They are, which is a large-scale public bicycle sharwith the Rue des Poissonniers, the only ing system in Paris. The Autolib system, streets that cross our site in the northwhich is the equivalent of Vélib for cars, south direction. was also recently installed in our area.

The railroad tracks The local street network is underdevel-Close to our site, there are also all the oped. This is mostly due to the division railroad tracks from Paris North. This into large parcels of the land and to the station is the busiest in Europe and the difficulty to cross the main infrastructhird one in the world by the number of **tures**. This lake of local network causes travellers (190 million per year)³². There the isolation of the site due to a bypass are around 550,000 travellers per day effect. There are no streets to support including about 400,000 travellers to local activities, social life, and district the suburb of Paris. This is certainly an **development**. economic advantage for our site to be closed from the train station but the rail tracks are also a very strong urban break.

The radial streets

Near to our site, there are two arterial roads that convey traffic to centre of

The local raster

CULTURAL HERITAGE EVALUATION

There are on our project site a lot of construction and reparation of Parisian destroy.

Championnet workshops

buildings that reflect the history of this bus. The workshops were used during area of Paris. We will identify in this World War I to produce weapons and part the important buildings to pre- aircraft for the French army. During serve, those to transform, and those to World War II, the Germans also requisitioned the site. On 21 April 1944 the Royal Air Force **bombed all the north of** Paris. About one hundred bombs were The workshops were **built on our site** dropped on the workshop. There were in 1882. At the beginning there were no victims among the staff but the origmore than 1,500 people working to the inal buildings were almost completely









Buildings built in the 1990s

Upper Datation of the different buildings of the workshops

> Bottom left View of the main shed
Urban Stripes // Paris E12

destroyed. The buildings that we can industrial buildings and also by adminin red brick. They also have a very inter- high architectural value. esting industrial roof. These buildings should be preserved in any case. The other buildings that we can see today were built during the 1980s. This second generation of buildings is formed by

see today were for one part built after istrative buildings along the Boulevard World War II. They are long shed built Ney. These buildings do not have a



Weaving Continuites in the City

Bottom Facade of the buildings built in the 1980s.

Ney barracks

The barracks of Boulevard Ney was build after World War II. This building was used by the army to store flour and the green axe. This is why it is considwas also a bakery. During World War II, ered to destroy these two buildings. the bread and many other foods were restricted in France. We suppose that this building has been built to ensure that this will not happen again.

The army do no use the barracks since 2004. In response to the need to make effective use of abandoned buildings, the City has installed temporary programmes. The main building along the Boulevard Ney is an accommodation centre for homeless (400 beds) and the other one is a Muslim centre of worship. These programmes will be transferred somewhere else in Paris.

These two buildings have some architectural qualities but they also pose a lot of problems. Their location within the plot, their footprint and their relation to the street would further complicate the

density that the city would like to see on the site³³. The building on the Jean Cocteau street is also interrupting brutally

> Top right Muslim centre of worship

Top left Accomodation centre for homeless

> Bottom Facade of the Ney barrack



The residential towers

As we saw in the first part, there are several residential towers on our site from the 1960s. The height of these towers **may seem disproportionate**. Their integration in the context is brutal and it seems inconceivable to build the same today. However, these towers are now **part of an architectural landscape** along the Boulevard Périphérique. In the current context of high housing demand, there is **no need to destroy these towers**. It is why the City pursues a renovation policy of these buildings.



NO. THE R. P.

IIII

10 10 10

Right The three residential high-rise on our project site



URBAN FORM AND STRUCTURE

A lot of different urban forms are next overall no continuity any more. to each other on our site. There is not really a dominant urban tissue. Unlike Haussmann's Paris, which is very isotropic, our site is characterized by its heterogeneity. By simplifying a lot, we can identify the following forms:

• The south of the site is mostly composed of housing blocks. This is a continuous tissue with regular alignments and similar heights. It is also a very dense urban form.

· Between the Boulevard Ney and the Boulevard Périphérique we have a mix of two systems. The housing from the 1920s are organized in open blocks. There are also fixed alignments and heights but the blocks are not closed. The other form is a composition of independent buildings. There is no alignments rules, no heights limits and

· In the north of the Boulevard Périphérique, there are mostly individual houses. Density is much lower and buildings scale is pretty small.

· To the east, along the rail tracks, there are mostly industrial buildings. They have a large footprint but are not very high.

Black plan of our area

Next page Building heights plan







URBAN GREEN SPACES

Although the long park around Paris On our site, the green structure is based has never really been completely realized, our site is very important for the Parisian green system. The Paris Biodiversity Plan identifies this area as a strategic territory for increasing biodiversity within Paris. The objectives set by the city are:

• To have more nature, to create new green spaces in the green belt

· To have more porosity, to create new connections

 \cdot To have **more uses**, to create new functions

Right Biodiversity plan, 2011

Increase the permeability of the soil, create new green spaces, diversify the vegetation, transform the boundaries



Create new connections with Parisian park

on three elements:

· Jean Cocteau mall is the heart of the system. This mall, with its triple row of trees, allows cycling and pedestrian links at neighbourhood level. Unfortunately, this 30 meters wide promenade is blocked at the end by the Ney barracks. Despite the quality of the vegetation, the public space needs to be renovated.

• The Petite Ceinture, which is the old circular railway around Paris, is also an important element of the green structure. The traffic shutdown of the line and the difficulty to access the platform allowed nature to grow. It is nowadays an important reserve of biodiversity with a lot of varieties of plants and trees. There are several projects of transformation into a promenade but not for



Urban Stripes // Paris E12

our section. The State decided that this section should remain usable for rail traffic.

• Thanks to Haussmann's renovation, most of the **Parisian boulevards are tree-lined**. This is the case of the Boulevard Ornano on our site. The street of La Chapelle and the street of the Poissonniers, which have not been transformed by Haussmann, are also planted. However, the vegetation is less regular and often interrupted of these two streets.

Jean Cocteau Mall
Petite Ceinture
Boulevard Ornano
Rue des Poissonniers

Right Vegetation Height Map, Apur



SWOT ANALYSIS

WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
Underdeveloped area compared to the rest of Paris		There are a lot of different actors with different interests
Strong social and economic difficulties	A lot of aids and programs are availed to develop this area	
A lot of noise and air pollution due to the high traffic No porosity and no local network	Extension of the tramway in 2017	
	Good industrial heritage to develop A lot of ground to develop will be released	Temporary programs will not be easy to relocate
Green spaces are isolated and neglected	The City as an ambitious program of sustainable development	
	Underdeveloped area compared to the rest of Paris Strong social and economic difficulties A lot of noise and air pollution due to the high traffic No porosity and no local network	Underdeveloped area compared to the rest of ParisStrong social and economic difficultiesA lot of aids and programs are availed to develop this areaA lot of noise and air pollution due to the high traffic No porosity and no local networkExtension of the tramway in 2017Good industrial heritage to develop A lot of ground to develop will be releasedGood industrial heritage to develop a lot of ground to develop will be released

THREATS

CONCLUSION

interface between the northern districts of Paris and its inner suburbs. A division into parallel strips characterizes the urban structure of this area. The current form of the district comes mostly from the path of the old fortifications of the city. The two main axes of the Thiers wall, the boulevards of the Marshals and the Chemin de fer de la Petite Ceinture, still exist. The two radial roads that existed before the construction of the wall, Rue de Mont Cenis and Rue de Clignancourt, are brutally interrupted.

The site is characterized by the following stripes:

(1) The historic city marked by Haussmann architecture along the boulevard Ornano

(2) L'Atelier central de Championnet,

The proposed site is located at the which is a major industrial area for the RATP, is today a significant break in the urban network. It is impossible to cross this site over 500 meters.

> (3) The "Chemin de fer de la Petite Ceinture" is an old railway around Paris. The trench of the railway is also a significant break because there is just two bridges to cross it. The two bridges are 600 meters far away from each other.

> (4) The boulevard Ney (part of the boulevards of the marshals) is also a main rupture. There is four lanes of fast traffic and two exit lanes.

> (5) The strip of social housing in this area is a bit different because there are many mixed-use functions. Nonetheless the perception of the whole is similar. It is composed of independent buildings with an undefined green space at the ground level. These private ground

strip.

(6) The Jean Cocteau street is the centre of the green structure of the guarter. This space has a lot of qualities but it is isolated from the rest of the district. It is the backyard of the housing.

posed of equipment accessible only to



spaces also define an impenetrable "members". There's a lot of sport centres around Paris on this strip.

> (8) The boulevard Périphérique is one of the main road infrastructures of Paris. It is on the site in an elevated position. It's a physical and visual boundary.

(9) On the other side of the boulevard (7) The public facilities strip is com- Périphérique is a predominantly residential area.

Urban Stripes // Paris E12

The result of all these breaks is that the only way to cross the site is to go through the Porte de Clignancourt or Porte des Poissonniers. These two crossroads are not sufficient to support a neighbourhood and they lead to a bypass effect for the site. This lake of local network causes the isolation of the site. There is no porosity, no continuity, no accessibility and the district is closed on itself. It is for us a priority to create a new framework to support local activities, social life, and district development.



Right Aerial view from the Batignolles cemetery to the Porte des Poissonniers, 1970



INTRODUCTION

We saw in the last chapter all the issues that this area is facing. But at the same time, northern Paris is **changing very fast**, and there are plenty of opportunities to change the situation. This territory, despite all its weaknesses, **has qualities that should be valorised**. Unlike most of the projects that this area has experienced in the past, there is - this time - a real desire to develop urban qualities. The change is already underway, and we will now **present our proposition** in order to revitalize this neighbourhood.

PROPOSAL FOR AN URBAN REGENERATION

CHAPTER

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

urban character, we need to develop **a** be social and functional. dense, fluid, and diverse urbanism.

 \cdot The density, which is often reduced to the environmental aspect, is the parameter that enables group cohesiveness. In our case, we consider density as a way to **create urban intensity**.

· The fluidity, which should not be reduced to the mobility aspect, is the parameter that allows exchanges. Our site is very fragmented and these ruptures cause the isolation of the area. The lack of fluidity is a factor of segregation. The accessible city can be achieved by creating porosities and new continuities.

·The diversity is the third characteristic

• ur intervention is part of an **Urban** of the urban condition. There are no Renewal Project. The aim is to interactions in a homogeneous social transform this difficult area in order group, and no exchanges in a monoto generate urbanity. To achieve this functional context. The diversity must

> Our proposal should combine all these characteristics in order to reactivate this area of Paris.

Development guidelines from the Local Plan of Urbanism (PLU)

Reconnect the neighborhood 4000 Develop green spaces and soft mobility $\triangleleft 000 \triangleright$ $\triangleleft \Box \Box \triangleright$ Create or enhance urban continuity Regualify the existing public facilities Improve the appearance of green spaces $\langle \bullet \rangle$ Renovate the housing complexes Reduce the noise pollution Develop or restore the urban fabric Projects in progress Sectors waiting for a project



SCENARIO AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

n our development scenario, we pro-strengths of this area. pose to **remove the industrial activity** Our strategy in order to insert urbanity on the site of Championnet workshops. in this area can be explained with the It does not make sense for us to keep SWOT analysis that we saw in the last such a large industrial area in the cen- chapter. Our methodology is to use the tre of Paris. These workshops used for opportunities to counter the weakthe buses renovation can be moved to nesses of this area. This approach wills the outskirts of the town. However, the generate new strengths. offices of the Ratp can be maintained For example, the release of ground on this site but should be redesign. The Ney barracks should be destroyed ment of this area and to achieve a new in order to release ground to develop. dense urban project. The construction The new Centre of Islamic Culture, of the tramway allows us to reduce the which will be finished in 2014, will offer traffic and to redesign the Boulevard the space needed to relocate the Mus- Ney. This is the opportunity to develop lim centre of worship. The issue of the a local network based on soft mobility accommodation centre for homeless is supporting the district development. it and to integrate a smaller centre into development enable us to revalorize the new project.

of valuable space and to preserve the social life.

allows us to deal with the underdevelopstill pending, but the city plan to **destroy** The city's ambitions in **sustainable** the green spaces and to develop new This scenario allows us to release a lot one in order to support activities and

Project Specifications

Programme given by the city All categories of housing, from family t A range of economic activities - retail, Local public amenities linked with hous Public school Public spaces Parking lot for hounsing

Relocation resulting from our develop

Office spaces for the Ratp

Accommodation centre for homeless

	Surface
to individual	Unspecified
small business, offices	Unspecified
sing construction	Unspecified
	4,000m ²
	Unspecified
	1P/100m ²

pment scenario	Surface
	15,000m ²
	2,000m ²

OUR VISION FOR THE SITE

pose to use an **atypical urban form for** on this axis and as a place to highlight **Paris**. We looked for a structure able it. All the other strips are parallel to this to respond to the large-scale and to one. the dynamism of the context. We also The new office building of the Ratp wanted to provide greater transparency passes over the Boulevard Ney. This in order to create new urban openings. is powerful symbol, which shows the It was also important to find a form, reactivation of this neighbourhood at with high density, able to accommodate different kind of functions. The to create a physical link between the urban form, which meets the best these two sides of the Boulevard Ney and to expectations, is for us the organization reinforce the axe of the Rue de Cliqinto in stripes.

Our proposal is to overlay a new system over the existing one, but in the opposite direction. Our project is based on a group of stripes north-south oriented. The strip, which extends the Rue de Cliqnancourt, is the main axe of the project. Throughout this new axe come a series of public spaces. It supports the economic activity of the district. The main

In order to revitalize this area, we pro- hall of the workshops is situated directly

the metropolitan scale. It also permits nancourt.

> Housing stripes (1) Ratp Offices (2) Temporary Accommodation for Homeless (3) New Public School (4) Old Housing Tower to Renovate (5)

> > Masterplan - Porte des Poissonniers





Right Aerial view of the project

INCREASE THE URBAN INTENSITY

In order to give an urban character to **neighbourhood**. this area, we chose to **develop a high** The choice of the building typologies density. The Haussmann architecture in also aims to create new cross-situation. urban form. This may seem extreme, vides quality housing. These very long but we believe that this site is able to buildings generate a dynamic space. accommodate such a high density. This choice can be justified by the **excellent** public transport service or also by the presence of many green spaces.

In order to give a character to the neighbourhood, we chose to express the community in our architecture. Our idea was to **create a new unity** in order to clear the breaks. Our system is pretty isotropic, but the **diversity comes from** the existing context. Indeed, the site is already very heterogeneous and there are almost everywhere elements that help to orient. This architectural unity allows the identification of this new

Paris has a density around 5. Our project We chose a type of housing in strips has a similar density but with a different that achieves a high density and pro-

	Black plan of the project
Housing mix	79,130 m ²
Offices	10,638 m ²
Offices School Homeless Center	6,000 m ²
Homeless Center	4,446 m ²
Shops	18,489 m ²
Total Construction Ground Surface	118,703 m ²
Ground Surface	27,939 m ²
FAR (Floor Area Ratio) 4,24

Right

Black plan of the project





CREATE A NEW LOCAL NETWORK

The main challenge for us is to deal with project. the lack of local network. Our goal is to Along the housing stripes, we created **new porosity**, and **new transparency** in order to **open this area to the city**.

We developed a central axis in the pro- can accommodate playgrounds for This axe is not similar to the other streets because this is not a residential space. It performance spaces, and many other comes with a series of public spaces. activities. These spaces are lined both The first one is the **new place in front** sides with shops on the ground floor. The of the warehouse. This place highlights high density allows us to concentrate on this beautiful industrial building. This underground car parking and to create is an interesting space for cafes and pedestrian streets along the housing along this axe is designed to accom- port the social life in the neighborhood. modate a market under the trees. The last main public space is located on the roof of the office building. This sky garden is the main attraction in the area. This park connects the two parts of the

connect or re-connect the various ele- a new network of pedestrian streets, ments of the district. We want to create which can support any kind of activities. The idea is to have a polyvalent central block in each street. This space longation of the Rue de Clignancourt. children, terraces, green spaces, sport spaces, gardens, bicycle parking racks, restaurants. The second public space stripes. These new public spaces sup-

Black plan of the project





INCORPORATE DIVERSITY AND ADAPTABILITY

housing for everyone. In order to pro- local shops (bakery, grocery, bank, etc.) vide a good social mix in the building, for the housing. We also established a we designed several housing typolo- school under the office building of the gies. Included are apartments between Ratp. The goal is to integrate all the one to six rooms, from 60-meter square functions peoples would expect to find to 160-meters square for a triplex. There in a dense urban environment. are apartments in simplex, duplex and triplex with or without terraces. The challenge is to offer something for all social classes and also all groups of age. Each housing block is actually composed of two side-by-side buildings. The access balconies are taking place in between these two buildings. Each unit is cut in some places to let in natural light and to provide community terraces. These spaces are meeting places for the residents. There are playgrounds for children, terraces to have lunch, and it is able to accommodate other functions as needed.

It was very important for us to create In the ground floor, there are all the

Distribution of the functions

Emergency accomodation for homeless (1)





















Simplex 60m² 2 rooms



Studio 60m² 1 room



Duplex 120m² 5 rooms



Triplex 160m² 6 rooms



CONCLUSION

We presented our research in order to redevelop the interface of Paris and its suburbs. The metropolitan challenge is to create new urban continuity between Paris and its suburbs. We saw through our case study all the issues that we are facing in this territory. In the first part, we paid attention to the turbulent history of this site. We saw that people have failed to develop an urban quality as we can found it in other areas of Paris. This historical research enabled us to understand how this area was formed. In the second part, we analysed the current situation. We studied all the weaknesses of this area, but it also allowed us to see the development possibilities. From these researches, we established in the third part our proposal for this area. We developed a clearly structured project combining density, porosity, and diversity. We believe that these three characteristics are absolutely necessary in order to create a new urbanity in this area. Despite the relatively small scale of our intervention compared to the metropolitan issue, we think that it could contribute to reduce the urban fracture.

Informations

⁰¹ The English Channel is an arm of the Atlantic Ocean between England and France.

- ⁰² Les Halles was the traditional central market of Paris.
- ⁰⁷ Known as « l'étoile de Legrand »
- ⁰⁸ « Gare de marchandise de la Chapelle »
- ¹⁵ Octroi is a local tax collected on various articles brought into a city.
- ²¹ Travail, Famille, Patrie
- ²³ The Glorious Thirty
- ²⁶ APUR (Atelier Parisien d'Urbanisme)

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- ¹¹ http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enceinte de Thiers
- ¹² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georges-Eug%C3%A8ne_Haussmann
- ¹⁴ http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napol%C3%A9on III
- ¹⁹ http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/D%C3%A9mographie de Paris
- ²⁵ http://www.paris.fr/viewmultimediadocument?multimediadocument-id=99270
- ²⁷ http://www.apur.org/cdrom/CD_CUCS_2010/pdf/menu1_cucs/Quartiers/PMPC/Projet%20de%20territoire.pdf
- ²⁹ Source IAU Île-de-France http://www.iau-idf.fr/
- ³⁰ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gare du Nord
- ³¹ Europan 12, Briefing note http://www.europan-europe.eu/media/default/0001/01/e12 topic pdf.pdf

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- ⁰⁵ Décret du 29 floréal an X (19 mai 1802)
- ⁰⁶ Loi n°1842-06-11 du 11 juin 1842 relative à l'établissement des grandes lignes de chemins de fer ²² Act of October 11, 1940

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- ⁰⁹ Lamartine, Le Moniteur, January 22, 1841
- ³² Petite Ceinture et biodiversité (Ecofaubourgs, 09 septembre 2008)

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²⁸ Mairie de Paris - Étude sur l'insertion urbaine du boulevard périphérique, 2008

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