BEFORE THE FLOOD

A world in Le Havre

Architecture & Experience
BEFORE THE FLOOD

A world in Le Havre

An hypothesis on collective Housing

Architecture & Experience

SOUTENANCE
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Before the flood – a world in Le Havre

After having tested the hypothesis to build a world in Arc-et-Senans, Guise, Clairevivre and Firminy, we settle this year in the city of Le Havre.

We are interested in this city for many reasons and particularly for its capacity to condense several dimensions able to inform the projects. Due to its singular geographic position, at the estuary of the Seine, Le Havre is one of the most important European ports. Built at the beginning of the 16th century, the growth of the port goes alongside with the fast economic development of the city and the rise of pre-industrial brick and tile workshops. Some see this port as the entrance port to Paris, like the Piraeus for Athens. Le Havre is at the crossroad of landscapes, in-between land and see, the Seine and the Channel, clear and saltwater, giving it a special quality. Thus, the city is also imbued with the imaginary of Perret who actively participated to the post-war Reconstruction.

Nevertheless, its geographic situation is also the sword of Damocles of Le Havre. Following the most pessimist projections of the IPPC (GIEC), the average water levels could rise by one meter until 2100. This rise of water levels increases the risk of water submersions, permanent or temporary, the risk of coastal erosion, increases salt intrusions into coastal aquifer, thus increases the risk on coastal and port infrastructures. Le Havre is then on the frontline facing environmental issues that makes it a representative subject to study the question of the coastal fringe. This question is even more relevant that by the year of 2040, in France, coastal regions could gather a third of the population.

By the interest on the coastal fringe landscape, the aim of a world in Le Havre is to evaluate the consequences of such a situation on the architecture and how this situation opens a huge field of experimentation that leads us to question the definition of architecture. In other words, the question is to understand how the architectural form could be deeply redefined in relation with the environmental issues and then generate unexpected results. Environmental imbalances create a strong paradigm shift that forces us to radically think about our relations to the territory, the construction, the mobility, the uses, etc. and thus to define new balances within the architectural form. In addressing the subject of environmental issues through the means of architecture, we affirm our attachment to the definition of architecture as a knowledgeable and exploratory discipline while outlining the contours of a possible disciplinary approach of the environment in order to propose new standards of comfort.

These explorations on the definition of the architectural form and new standards echoes with the work of Perret for the Reconstruction of Le Havre. He developed the “Immeuble standard” or “Appartement modulaire” both based on the use of a constructive grid of 6,24 meter offering at once standardization of the construction and flexibility of uses in order to “inscribe city in measure, like a musical harmony”, to use his words.
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01
HUNDRED YEARS
LOW RISE - HIGH DENSITY
7M
Clémence Hugues
03
HUNDRED YEARS
VERTICAL BUILDING
7M
Lucas Vaudoux
Site 1
Cliff

05
POST-COMFORT
VERTICAL BUILDING
7M

Enzo d'Auria
Site 1
Cliff

08

DOING TOGETHER
VERTICAL BUILDING
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Claire Fachetti
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Site 2
City center

HUNDRED YEARS
LOW RISE - HIGH DENSITY
7M

Shaojun Luo
Site 2
City center

HUNDRED YEARS
LINEAR BUILDING
7M

Khadija Barkani
DUPLEX
ETAGE COURANT
ESPACE DE RANGEMENT
ESPACE SERVIS
ESPACE SERVANT
MEZZANINE
Site 2
City center

11
HUNDRED YEARS
VERTICAL BUILDING
21M
Agathe Convert
Site 2
City center

POST-COMFORT
VERTICAL BUILDING
7M

Axel Eugène
DOING TOGETHER
LINEAR BUILDING
21M

Solène Frémont
DOING TOGETHER
VERTICAL BUILDING
21M

Lucas Nény
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DOING TOGETHER
LOW RISE - HIGH DENSITY
7M

Bouchra Larbi Bouamrnane
DOING TOGETHER
VERTICAL BUILDING
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Kelly Chhour
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<td>30 DOING TOGETHER</td>
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HUNDRED YEARS
LOW RISE - HIGH DENSITY
14M

Florian Brehin
Site 4
Swamp

HUNDRED YEARS
VERTICAL BUILDING
14M

Angela da Silva
Site 4
Swamp

25
POST-COMFORT
LOW RISE - HIGH DENSITY
14M
Célia Codjia

169
Site 4
Swamp

28

DOING TOGETHER
LOW RISE - HIGH DENSITY
14M

Antoine Jellimann
Site 4
Swamp

DOING TOGETHER
LINEAR BUILDING
14M

Margot Sustar

193
DOING TOGETHER
VERTICAL BUILDING
14M

Arianna Migliarino