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# Charl'e(au)roi [25x25km]

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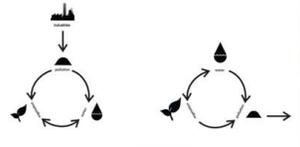
Living quality is a primary concern in contemporary cities. With its industrial past, Charleroi, located in the 'Basin Minier' of Belgium, is adapting to a reasonable new life. We believe that human as well as our living environment are parts of the nature. The driving force of this reform is to define a harmonious relation between nature and urban. Our transformation of integrating the urban into a nature framework starts from the water cycle. The water cycle system works as a catalyst in this reform. To improve the natural water cycle, we need to leave the highland for water infiltration and the valley for storage and purification; to recreate the cohesion between them resulting in the new Charleroi: the "City on the Slope". The forests will be expanded in order to reconstruct the nature's background. Both the high ground (ridges) and the low ground (valleys) are transformed to vibrant elements of Green and Blue, while the slopes are appointed for urbanization.

Charleroi is an industrial city that used to be very vibrant city in the past but nowadays is continuously declining and inhabitants are leaving the city to make their living elsewhere. Charleroi nowadays is the city with the highest unemployment rate in Belgium, many of the industries today remain abandoned and some urban neighborhoods have a similar luck. Those conditions contextualize a city in risk, which, however, in the same time offers opportunities to re-think the future. In fact taking to account that Charleroi was developed based on the prototype of the late 19th

and early 20th century industrial city, the project is reflecting to a question on how the 21st century city should look like. To seek the answers of this question we should not look again to new development and growth but more into ecology and re-cycling.

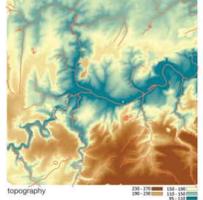
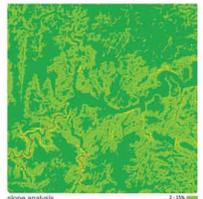
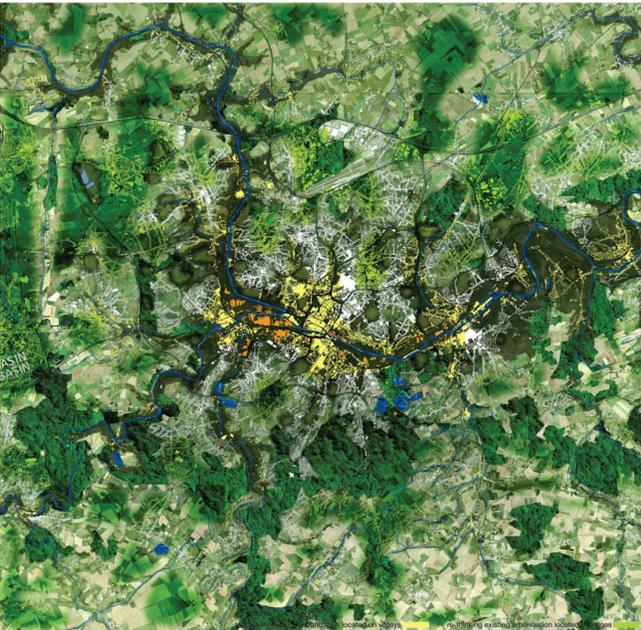
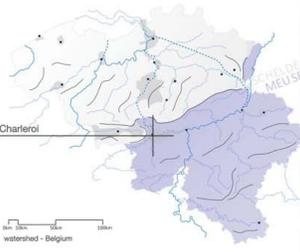
The project suggests dismantling the industrial city and re-qualifying nature. Re-cycle many of the abandoned buildings, residential and industrial. To that extent we are proposing re-qualifying of the ridges and the valleys and strategically re-naturalize urban areas that have been developed in the high and the low. New urbanization is projected to be developed only on the slopes of 2%-15% where the water is easily flown and as there less stagnation, infiltration and purification is limited.

A big part of the project has to do with treating the polluted sites and introducing a multidimensional transformation of existing neighborhoods with a goal to give a qualitative life to people. A vision defies our lifetime. This long term vision is a process realized only gradually. However, the intervention is not necessarily radical but practical. Charleroi will benefit from the new cycle of the water. The city will gain its water independence under a new ecological system thanks to the well-functioned forest, an urban tissue that is developed to respect water and green relations will allow reasonable development and at last a re-naturalized valley that will support recreational spaces along the currently polluted rivers and streams passing through the territory.

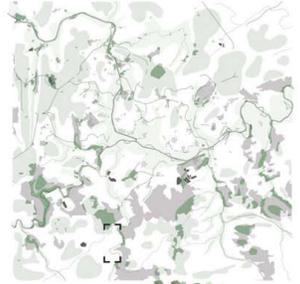


pollution of the soil and the aquifer due to heavy industrial activities

Re-Cycle, regenerate the water cycle, support it with vegetation and use the water to re-qualify polluted sites



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- ⊙⊙⊙ Quercus Robur (oak tree)
- ⊙⊙⊙ Alnus Glutinosa (black alder)
- ⊙⊙⊙ Fraxinus Excelsior (common ash)
- ⊙⊙⊙ Acer Campestre (field maple)
- ⊙⊙⊙ Orchards
- ⊙⊙⊙ Betula Pendula (birch tree)
- ⊙⊙⊙ Salix (willow)
- ⊙⊙⊙ Helianthus Annuus (sunflower)

