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EPAU GROUPEMENT
D'INTÉRÊT PUBLIC
L'Europe des Projets
Architecturaux et Urbains

CONSULTATION
INTERNATIONALE

QUARTIERS
D'ICI
DEMAIN



At the initiative of the President of the French Republic, a consultation for international designers is being launched.

The *Quartiers de Demain* ('tomorrow's neighborhoods') initiative is a laboratory for future thinking and experimentation, aiming to harness the best in architectural, urban and landscape design excellence to construct the future of disadvantaged neighborhoods in the 21st century. This multidisciplinary consultation is an unprecedented catalyst for a new way of building to enhance the quality of life of local residents.



"We need to invent new Cités Radieuses."

Emmanuel Macron,
President of the French Republic, June 2023





30

international
teams

10

project sites
all over France



**to transform
tomorrow's
neighborhoods
by 2030.**





Priority urban neighborhoods, areas with a future

France's priority urban neighborhoods* (*quartiers prioritaires de la politique de la ville*) are home to 5.3 million people. From mainland France to its overseas territories, from city suburbs to provincial town centres, the 1,362 priority neighborhoods come in a variety of urban forms: from post-war tower blocks built in suburban areas, to mining towns or the dense urban fabric of town centres or outskirts.

Diverse in history, form and quality of life, what these priority neighborhoods have in common is that they are home to deprived populations (financial insecurity, lower access to employment, higher proportions of single-parent families, high proportion of immigrant households, distance from public services, etc.). Yet they also have specific attributes: youth, civic and community vitality, a dynamic of entrepreneurial activities and further education, melting pots of new urban culture. They are neighborhoods that accommodate the newly arrived, that see high residential mobility, and that function as springboards. But they are also neighborhoods to which certain households have been 'relegated', those whose social disadvantages are heightened in the face of climate change.

The international Quartiers de Demain consultation represents an unprecedented mobilization of professionals from the worlds of architecture, urban design and landscape design to transform and regenerate these priority urban neighborhoods. As the climate crisis accelerates, and even calls into question the habitability of certain areas, these designers have a pivotal role in devising developments and architectural interventions that act as leverage for ecological, social and cultural transition, embracing and enhancing the context and specific history of each area.

*Priority urban neighborhoods are a priority geography of urban policy carried out by the government and local authorities and established by the planning law for urban affairs and urban cohesion of 21 February 2014, with the common goal of reducing development disparities between these neighbourhoods and their urban unity.

An international consultation for 10 showcase projects

The consultation proposes ten project sites in a variety of regional contexts, all backed with a shared ambition by the associated local authorities and contracting authorities. Three multidisciplinary teams will be selected for each site via a process of competitive dialogue, conducted simultaneously in each of the 10 areas. As a result, 30 projects will be developed and debated at local and national level, with residents and with experts; 30 proposals for the future of urban policy.

The international *Quartiers de Demain* consultation follows three main objectives:



To realize showcase projects for socio-ecological transition in priority urban neighborhoods

The international consultation aims to design short-term projects that will boost the neighborhood as a whole. It will bring about the formulation of concrete proposals for the face of our public spaces, our workplaces, schools or homes, our daily lives in 2050. Environmental excellence, at the heart of the consultation, will need to be combined with the need for social sustainability. As residents of disadvantaged neighborhoods constitute one of the social groups with the lowest carbon emissions, but also are the most exposed to the consequences of climate change, the *Quartiers de Demain* projects must enable sustainable improvements to their living environment, taking into account issues of adaptation to climate change and social inclusion.

Innovative proposals are also expected in terms of carbon neutrality, adaptation to climate change, preservation of biodiversity, and sustainable management of natural resources (water, bio- and geo-sourced and recycled materials, mobilization of innovative sources or off-site construction, taking into account existing buildings, etc.). These ambitions can only be met if the projects respond to the needs and specific characteristics of the areas and their inhabitants. The designers will thereby need to ensure the quality of use and the sustainability of their proposals (notably with regards the management of green spaces and buildings), as well as their positive impact on employment and local skills.



Using experimentation and community participation to find new ways of working

Seeking to set examples for the future, this consultation constitutes an unprecedented catalyst in improving the quality of life of these populations, and in establishing new ways of constructing towns and buildings. As a country-wide, experimental scheme, *Quartiers de Demain* seeks to encourage innovation in procedure, programming and organization in all their forms. The 30 teams will compete in a dynamic of reflection and participative design, bringing together client bodies, design team, residents and users.

With a driving ambition to renew procedures and tools, the consultation plans to place resident participation at the heart of the projects, in particular by means of community juries. The aim is to allow residents of disadvantaged neighborhoods to become agents of change, providing concrete responses to the challenges of transition. The design of living spaces – from the most private to the most public – will be based on tools adapted to each local context, such as participative design, prototyping, participative or open programming, taking into account existing participative schemes in the neighborhood, such as community councils. Here again, innovative approaches that take greater account of social and inclusive dimensions need to be explored to renew the way in which interventions are made, as well as the way these urban spaces are regarded.



To highlight the heritage of priority urban neighborhoods

Most priority neighborhoods are sites of experimentation that has marked the history of architecture and urban design, and as such they are part of a heritage, that of the 20th century. Their transformation requires an approach based on reparation and restoration, celebrating what is already there. The consultation seeks to draw on the existing architectural qualities of each neighborhood, on their vegetation and landscaping, the generosity of their public spaces and the nature of their housing, to use as drivers in proposals for evolution.

The consultation will encourage the emergence of showcase projects aimed at refurbishing and upgrading existing structures. By trialing and developing the winning projects, the consultation should enable technical, regulatory, procedural, programmatic and even social innovations that will help in capitalizing on the existing heritage of these neighborhoods. The aim is to build solutions in situ and to draw on local ecosystems (stimulating learning communities and local businesses, mobilizing young people, etc.), that can influence new practices and ways of building.

A Manufacture des Quartiers to forge international debate

By mobilizing international, multidisciplinary teams of designers, the *Quartiers de Demain* consultation seeks to create a forum for debate and reflection, as much as to bring about the concrete realization of projects of architecture, urban design and landscaping.

Based on the experiences of these 10 neighborhoods, fed by the contributions from their residents, *Quartiers de Demain* will conduct a national study to aid replication of the initiatives throughout France. Complementing the field work carried out by the designers on the 10 sites, researchers and international experts will be called upon to fuel dialogue between research, expertise and design.

By means of local and national '*manufactures*', discussion workshops conducted during and following the consultation period, the aim is to found new principles in the development of neighborhoods and to identify the drivers and obstacles for their deployment (whether legal, regulatory or financial). Drawing on the experience of international architects and designers, *Quartiers de Demain* will serve as a forum for discussion, experimentation and dissemination of projects in priority urban neighborhoods.

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CONSULTATION INTERNATIONALE QUARTIERS DE DEMAIN

At the initiative of the President of the French Republic, the international *Quartiers de Demain* consultation aims to harness the best in architectural, urban and landscape innovation and design to transform ten neighborhoods and create a national dynamic in support of urban policy.

The consultation will enable the realization of projects that will have an impact across the neighborhoods and beyond, providing for the needs of local residents and making an exemplary contribution to ecological transition.

The result of an inter-ministerial dialogue, *Quartiers de Demain* is led by the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Renewal. It is conducted by public interest group Europe des Projets Architecturaux et Urbains, in association with the following organisations: Agence Nationale pour la Cohésion des Territoires, Agence Nationale pour la Rénovation Urbaine, Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine, La Banque des Territoires and Conseil National de l'Ordre des Architectes.



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