

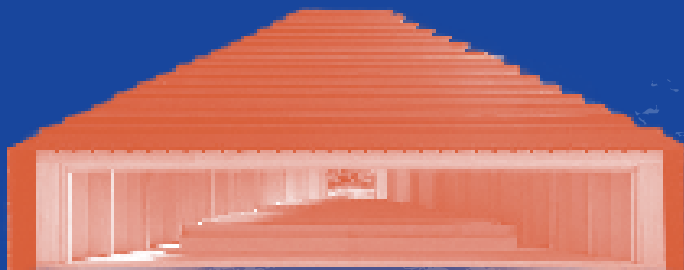


Métropole  
du Grand Paris

**Bap!**  
Biennale d'architecture  
et de paysage  
Région  
Île-de-France

# LITTLE AGORA

OF THE GREATER  
PARIS METROPOLIS



07 MAY >  
13 JULY  
2025

# C O N T E N T S

- 
- 03 **Editorial**
  - 04 **Combining perspectives:  
the Greater Paris Metropolis  
at the Biennale**
  - 06 **The Small Agora of the  
Greater Paris Metropolis**
  - 08 **Presentation of the**  
"Maison de l'architecture Île-de-France"  
World's Smallest Circus  
"Pavillon de l'Arsenal" partnership  
programme
  - 13 **The Digital Agora of the  
Greater Paris Metropolis**
  - 14 **The stakeholders**

# EDITORIAL



## **Patrick OLLIER,**

Former Minister,  
President of the Greater Paris Metropolis  
Mayor of Rueil-Malmaison

One of the aims of the Greater Paris Metropolis is to develop a sustainable urban, social and economic model for the 130 municipalities it includes, with a view to improving the quality of life of its 7.2 million inhabitants.

Through each of its actions, the Greater Paris Metropolis is boldly shaping the future, in particular with the three editions of Europe's largest call for architecture and urban planning projects "Let's invent the Greater Paris Metropolis" or with the construction of the Greater Paris Olympic Aquatic Centre for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games and their heritage.

The Metropolis is experiencing a new way of collectively building a living city, the theme of this Biennale. An unprecedented method, a technical feat, a scale of thought that makes it possible to grasp complex issues. The Metropolis wanted to bear witness to all this at the third Architecture and Landscape Biennial, with a proposal combining the perspectives of this "living city".

The "Petite Agora" of the Greater Paris Metropolis, designed by architect Jean-Christophe Quinton, demonstrates the need to anchor architecture in the perspectives of a site. The programming that unfolds challenges different viewpoints on architectural and landscape heritage.

This cultural project also has a digital dimension, as a digital Agora will extend and document the thoughts arising during the Biennial.

With Pascal PELAIN, the Councillor responsible for monitoring the Development Council (CoDev), and Anne-Gaëlle LEYDIER, the Councillor responsible for Culture and Heritage, we would like to thank all the partners who will be sharing their perspectives and viewpoints at the "Petite Agora" of the Greater Paris Metropolis.

All have a wonderful Biennale!



# Combining perspectives: the Greater Paris Metropolis at the Biennale

**The concept of perspective, central to both architecture and landscape, is the common thread running through the Greater Paris metropolis's proposal as part of BAP! 2025.**

As part of its participation in the Biennale and to illustrate the major challenges facing the city, the Greater Paris Metropolis has **made the ambitious choice of erecting a solid wooden structure** conceived and created by the architect Jean-Christophe QUINTON, using simple, understated and sustainable construction techniques: *The Little Agora of the Greater Paris Metropolis*. As a symbol of the need for architecture to be rooted in its surroundings, it will offer a number of visual perspectives on the surrounding landscape (pages 6 & 7).

To bring this Little Agora to life throughout the Biennial, the Metropolis is offering a **partnership programme** highlighting the challenges of a living Metropolis, through **3 perspectives**:

- **Promoting** the metropolis' heritage identity (Pride in the past);
- **Raising awareness of the need to protect** and renovate this heritage (care of the present);
- **Insight into the imaginary of the tomorrow's Greater Paris Metropolis**, in a context of climate change (looking to the future).

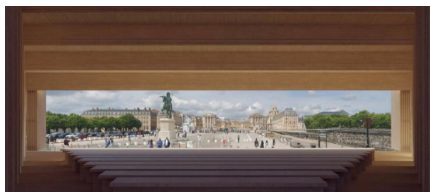


View of the Palace of Versailles from the Avenue de Paris, engraving by Claude Fortier and Pierre Courvoisier.

Two exhibitions take it in turns to decorate the interior of the pavilion, alongside **fifteen programmed highlights** - featuring architects, landscape architects, students, artists, schoolchildren and city players - to transform the pavilion into a true Agora, open to the crossroads of all perspectives (pages 8 to 12).

The key issues of **transmission** and **heritage** are the third part of this metropolis proposal. The entire programme of events is designed to be documented and promoted at "The digital Agora of the Greater Paris Metropolis", so that as many people as possible can benefit from it, during and especially after the BAP! (see page 13).

# The Little Agora of the Greater Paris Metropolis



## Companies involved in building the pavilion:

**Architect:** Jean-Christophe Quinton,  
architect

**Structure design office:**  
Bollinger+Grohmann

**Quantity Surveyor:** Eco + Construire

**Prevention specialist:** Casso & Associés

**Company:** Timberframing  
(Partnership: Sammode)

**Inspection office:** Alpes Contrôles

**HSC:** Degouy

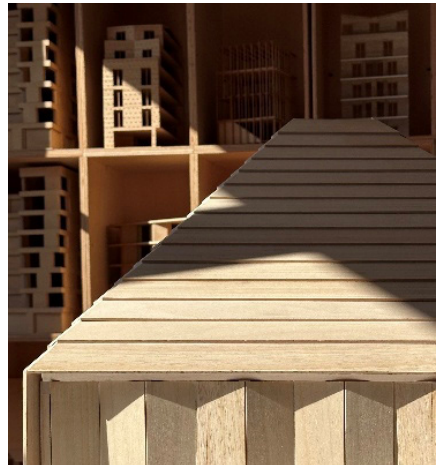
**Partnerships:** Sammode and the  
Laurent Druart electricity company

Designed and created by the architect Jean-Christophe QUINTON, *The Small Agora of the Greater Paris Metropolis* is a temporary space for meetings, debates and exhibitions, set in the exceptional setting of the Palace of Versailles forecourt. It has been designed to offer an intense, unique and immediate architectural experience for all users and walkers of the Avenue de Paris.

Its shape, structure and spatiality are fully derived from the site. A wide horizontal window frames the Palace's landscape, while a wide vertical window frames the avenue landscape. The result is an astonishing space that will be felt simultaneously vertically and horizontally, in an amplified, intense link to the landscape.



*The Small Agora of the Greater Paris Metropolis* fights against the standardisation of architecture by making sure to closely link architecture to its context, embodying this powerful link between landscape and architecture. It is made entirely of wood, with an innovative framework made of laminated nailed portals. The assembly of its building elements creates an open, welcoming and warm atmosphere that offers everyone this existential experience of feeling better in the world and better with others.



Free access during the opening hours of the Architecture and Landscape Biennale (7 May-13 July):

12 noon to 7:00pm, Tuesday to Friday

11am to 7pm on Saturdays and Sundays

# Programming of the "Maison de l'Architecture Île-de-France"

The "Maison de l'Architecture Île-de-France", accustomed to disseminating architectural culture, while challenging it, is investing in the Small Agora de Greater Paris Metropolis with numerous events throughout the Biennale. By giving the floor to a wide variety of people in the Metropolis (architects, schoolchildren, architecture students, artists, etc.) to share their respective perspectives, the architectural challenges of Greater Paris in the twenty-first century are being defined.

## WORKSHOPS



© Olivier LECLERCQ

### Workshops for young people The Little Agora at children's level

Intended for primary school pupils, these workshops offer an initial introduction to architecture. Supervised by architects, children will have the opportunity to visit and build a model of the Little Agora of the Greater Paris Metropolis using recycled materials.

## CONFERENCES



### Conference cycle - Architecture in dialogue

Anchored in a cross-disciplinary approach, free and open to all, these conferences on the architectural and heritage challenges of the ecological transition will address topics that resonate with current challenges, such as the intersections between **architecture and emotion** (21 May), the **transformation of existing infrastructures** (4 June), **off-site construction** (17 June), **water architectures** (24 June) or **relationships with living things** (2 July). These meetings will offer a forum for debate and reflection on the challenges and issues that are redefining architectural practice.

EXHIBITION - FROM 8 TO 26 JUNE



### Designing the Greater Paris exhibition

A journey through the Greater Paris region, with its stories, anecdotes and, at times, its issues, an exhibition between reality and imagination. The *Designing Greater Paris* exhibition presents a selection of drawings by students from the École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture (ENSA) of Île-de-France, revealing the Metropolis' complexity and vibrancy. Across some fifty locations, these works combine technical precision and creativity to tell urban stories, question changes in the landscape and reveal singular imaginations.

PROJECTION - TUESDAY 27 MAY



© Olivier LECLERCQ

### High school students live in Greater Paris projection

High school students living in Greater Paris propose to work with high schools to grasp how high school students view, understand and live in the complex neighbourhoods included in the capital region. Accompanied by architects, high school students create one-minute videos of a place in their daily lives. In this short video, they introduce us to their neighbourhood, an architecture or a place that appeals to them. This project highlights the wealth and diversity of the Greater Paris region through the prism of adolescence, combining doubts, worries and hopes specific to this age.

# Programming of the “Peripheral Heritage” cultural meeting centre - World's Smallest Circus

As the focus of the Small Agora in the Greater Paris Metropolis, the Agoras proposed by **The World's Smallest Circus** include students, professionals, elected representatives and citizens in urban transformations, craftsmanship and the promotion of living heritage. They will also be documented by two videographers to extend insights and fuel future debates.



**TUESDAY 20 MAY**

## **The Agora of the Vibrant City**

The Agora of the Vibrant City offers collective insight into the future of peripheral neighbourhoods in the face of climate challenges. Students in architecture, urban planning and public policy will present their research on hybrid and resilient approaches to the city, opening up dialogue with researchers, architects and elected representatives from the municipalities studied (Bagneux, Nanterre, Suresnes).

In the afternoon, a plea based on the work of the younger generations will be submitted to decision-makers and experts, with a view to rethinking the way in which cities are built and administered.

THURSDAY 22 MAY



© Louise Grugeon

### The timber construction Agora

The timber construction Agora celebrates high school students in carpentry at the Louis Blériot High School in Suresnes. This day of immersion in the wood industry is centred around meetings with major players in the sector, such as FIBOIS and the Jean-Christophe Quinton agency. A panel discussion will address the challenges facing timber construction in the face of new environmental regulations and the role of local craftsmen and industries in more sustainable architecture.

THURSDAY 12 JUNE



© Hélène Combal-Wess and Irvin Anne

### The creative imaginations Agora of the Greater Paris Metropolis

The creative imaginations Agora of the Greater Paris Metropolis takes over the Small Agora to explore the links between art, architecture and peripheral heritage. Through short films and testimonials, this day highlights the cultural narratives that are reinventing the perception of metropolis urban landscapes. Circus performances, screenings and debates bring together artists, researchers and creators to showcase the little-known heritage wealth of Greater Paris, while reflecting on the imaginations - past, present and future - that link and amplify them.

# Arsenal Pavilion programming



17 MAY - 5 JUNE

## HouseEurope exhibition! Focus on renovation

Launched by architects, researchers and activists, the **HouseEurope!** initiative aims to create incentives for renovation to become the new norm. This scheme, presented in the form of a **European Citizens' Initiative (ECI)**, aims to challenge European leaders by tabling a European bill to promote building renovation and make the construction industry more sustainable. The aim is to gather the signatures of 1 million European citizens from at least 7 European Union countries.

As part of the Ile-de-France Architecture and Landscape Biennale and in partnership with the Greater Paris Metropolis, the *HouseEurope! exhibition Focus on renovation* brought to you by the **Arsenal Pavilion** presents the approach, through a series of posters, to make European legislation easier, more affordable and more social.

# The Digital Agora of the Greater Paris Metropolis

## The Digital Agora of the Greater Paris Metropolis

### Intersection of perspectives

To allow metropolis residents to take advantage of the BAP!'s wide-ranging programme during and after the event, the "Digital Agora of the Greater Paris Metropolis" platform will be launched alongside the Biennale.

By documenting and showcasing all the debates held at *The Small Agora in the Greater Paris Metropolis*, it will serve as a legacy of the event to promote the dissemination of discussions.

## Big competition in perspectives

### Create your own perspective of the Greater Paris Small Agora

Calling all creative minds! Whether you prefer photography, drawing or collage, share your best perspective of the *Greater Paris Small Agora* on social media with the hashtag **#PetiteAgoraGrandParis** or send it to [bap@metropolegrandparis.fr](mailto:bap@metropolegrandparis.fr).

The best creations can then be displayed in the *Paris Greater Paris Small Agora* and in the Greater Paris Metropolis digital Agora.



Accessible using  
the QR code  
opposite, it  
provides direct  
access to:

- All about the **event agenda** of the *Greater Paris metropolis Small Agora*;
- **Video recordings** of debates, conferences and workshops;
- Numerous **exclusive content** from partners in the Greater Paris heritage.

## A B O U T

# Presentation of the Little Agora stakeholders

### The Greater Paris Metropolis

The Grand Paris metropolis is an inter-municipality, based on the continuous dense urban area, comprising **130 communities**. Created by the Law of 27 January 2014 on improving regional public action and the asserting of metropolises, and reinforced by the Law of 7 August 2015 on the republic's new regional organisation, it was created on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016. As Europe's leading hub for jobs and offices, the Greater Paris Metropolis is a major driver of global growth.

As a forum for dialogue and strategic orientation for the municipalities it includes, the Greater Paris Metropolis must meet the challenge of economic and social development, environmental planning and protection, and attractiveness.

The actions carried out by the Greater Paris Metropolis aim to improve the living environment of its inhabitants, reduce inequalities between neighbourhoods, and develop a sustainable urban, social and economic model.

### The agency of Jean-Christophe Quinton, architect

Jean-Christophe Quinton, born in 1972, graduated from the Paris-Belleville school in 2000. He founded his agency in 2003. In 2004, he won the New Albums of Young Architects award and was named in the Chernikov Prize in 2010. He taught at various architecture schools at the same time and led the "École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Versailles" from 2015 to 2024. The monograph of his work entitled *Towards the immediate strangeness of forms* won the Grand Prix for architectural books of the town of Briey in 2017. He has been a full member of the Academy of Architecture since 2019.

### Île-de-France 'Maison de l'architecture'

In operation since 2004, the "Maison de architecture" is the home of the 10,000 architects from the Île-de-France region, including urban planners, landscape architects and the entire quality of life sector. The "Maison de l'architecture Île-de-France" is a place for debating the making of the city, a place for disseminating architectural culture, a place for wide gaps: between theory and practice, between the professional

world and the general public, between children, students, architects and project owners. These differences enable it to weave a framework conducive to the dissemination of architectural culture, in all its diversity and plurality. To this end, the "Maison de l'architecture Île-de-France" is initiating a wide programme of events throughout the year, with over sixty events featuring more than 250 experts, heard by some 40,000 people.

## The World's Smallest Circus - "Peripheral heritage" cultural meeting

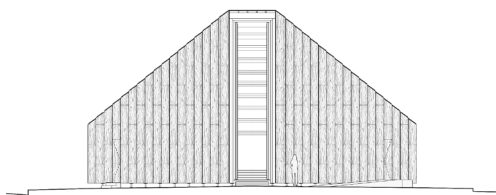
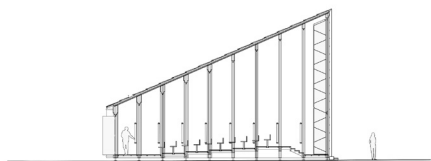
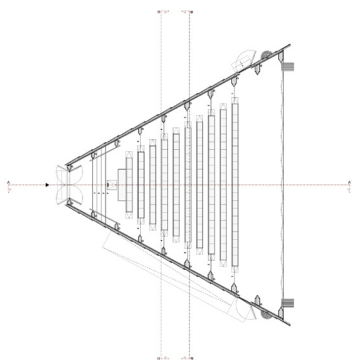
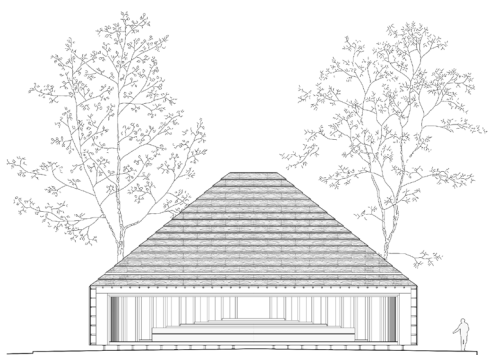
As the first cultural meeting centre dedicated to peripheral heritage, the World's Smallest Circus (PPCM) explores the links between heritage, creation and urban transformation. Its participation in BAP is in line with its desire to question the place of the suburbs in the design of the city, through debates, meetings, performances and the presentation of student work.

Making these Ile-de-France landscapes visible, questioning new architectural and urban practices, and giving a voice to students, researchers, young people, elected representatives, artists and cultural players are all part of the PPCM program in the Greater Paris Metropolis' Small Agora. At a time of major metropolis changes, the PPCM prompts us to work together to imagine the heritage of tomorrow.

## The "Pavillon de l'Arsenal" – Paris and Greater Paris Metropolis' architecture and urban planning centre

As a producer of exhibitions and documentaries, publisher of books and digital content, and creator of debates, the "Pavillon de l'Arsenal" publishes, films and broadcasts the work of those who think and design the city. As Europe's leading centre for architecture and urban planning, the "Pavillon de l'Arsenal" invites you to unique experience of the transformation of the city as it is being invented today and imagined tomorrow. The "Pavillon de l'Arsenal" is touring the Paris metropolis, offering a wide-ranging and varied programme of architectural, urban and ecological events.





## Greater Paris Metropolis

15-19 avenue Pierre-Mendès-France  
75013 Paris - Tel. 01 82 28 78 00

[www.metropolegrandparis.fr](http://www.metropolegrandparis.fr)

