

2014 - TIME SPACE EXISTENCE
MADE IN EU, LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA 2014

PORTRAIT DE L'AGENCE
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TIME SPACE EXISTENCE MADE IN EUROPE

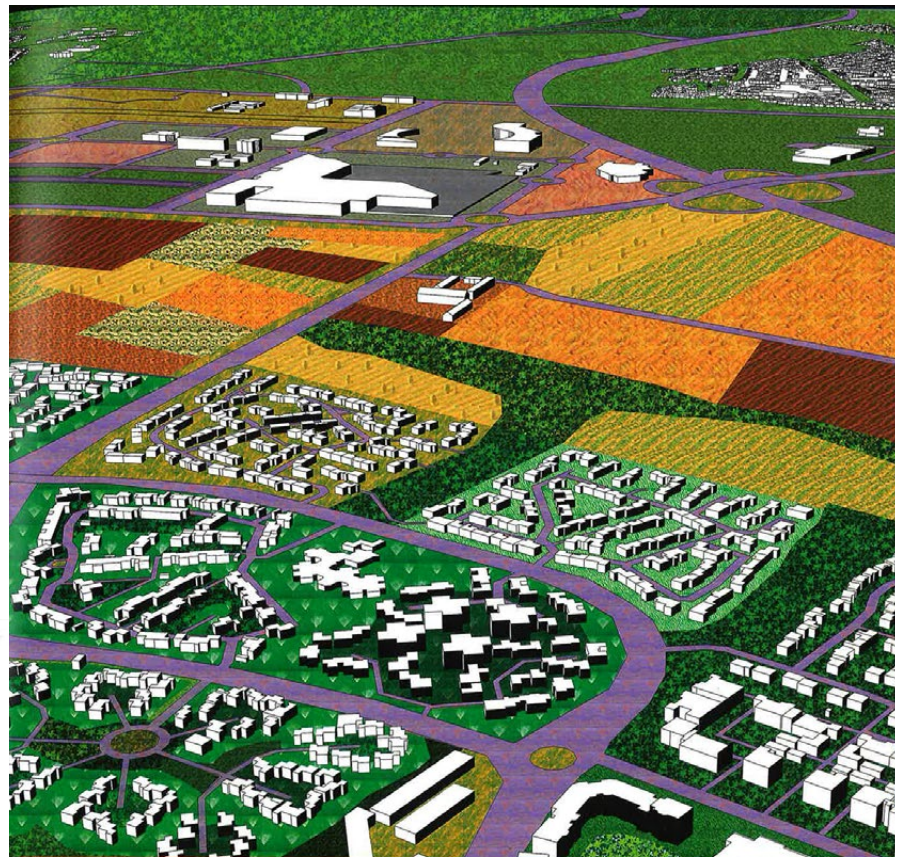


la Biennale di Venezia

14. Mostra
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LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA 2014



PARC ARCHITECTES

The realm of the suburban

The experimental territory of the XXth century: Sénart's case

Utopias at wide scale: During the 1960s, France experienced a tremendous boom. Paris was growing very rapidly. The French government decided to create new towns on the periphery in order to contain this growth. Urban growth strategy was situated at the territorial level. All architectural and urban theories of the time were tested. Those planned communities were growing at high speed. According to the doxa of late modernism, urban had to be absorbed by architecture and infrastructure would become aboveground slab. An ideal utopia imposed on farmland separated nature from culture. But these planning experiments failed to create the new urban life awaited.

Land opportunism: Latest of those planned communities, Sénart was then seeking a theoretical line. But land opportunism killed this great ambition. The new city grew through small concerted development zones financed by private money. The State financed infrastructures. Commercial models imported from the United States flourished : suburban houses, malls and industrial areas. This mass installation in the fields spread a collection of standardized buildings linked by road networks. The artificial environment turned the countryside into a pleasure garden. Culture took precedence over nature. The suburban town exclusively relies on its stewardship networks : water, energy, telecommunications and transport. It creates a sprawling environment of parks network where everything seems both similar and unique, both fully functional and totally fictional.

Experimental links: The suburban town of Sénart superimposes three layers of urban paradigms : the historic village, the optimized modern city and the suburban individualism. To deal with its past, a layer of new experimentations needs to be added to the city. It is neither about projecting at a wide territory scale, nor about adding new architectural icons. It is about paying a particular attention to link the existing separated components in order to reunite individual housing, commercial and industrial areas. We don't want to build cities separated from nature anymore. We don't want to paste icons into gardens or signs in parking lots. We need to redefine our exchange relationship with nature. Relations are reversed: autonomous fictional parks become a common network of heterogeneous united parks.

The city that happened: The suburban town of Sénart is made of parks network where everything seems both similar and unique, both fully functional and totally fictional.

The community of communities: A flower of dead ends organises clusters of suburban houses designed for cars happiness.

The discontinuous environment: In the suburban environment, all buildings are standalone structures in the void. They are connected by networks which provides transport, energy, telecommunications and water.

PARC Architectes was founded in Paris by Brice Chapon & Emeric Lambert in 2009. The office works on various projects of urban planning, public buildings, dwellings as well as office buildings.