

Lab Pays(S)age

a Laboratory of Observation as an Activator for Landscape Awareness Process

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CONTEXT AND MISSIONS

The **Meuse valley**, reshaped by deep transformations, is the main topic for researches, concerning specific morphological, typological and social characters. All along the river, **the scars of industries** mark the territory as a land in search of new cycle of life.
The regeneration of abandoned industrial sites, as a practice of **territorial recycle**, is part of sustainability policies in urban planning, based on the enhancement of local resources.

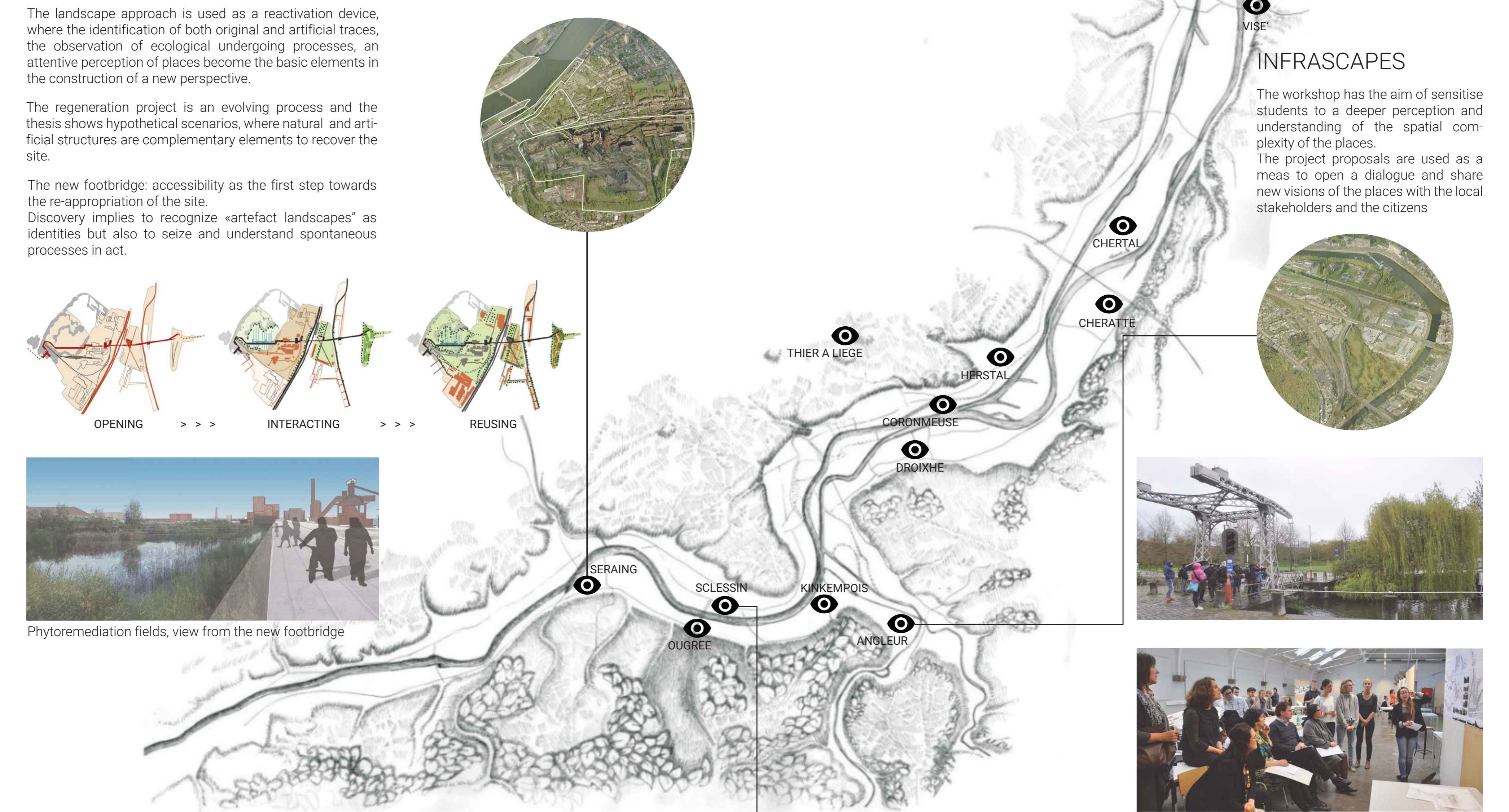
The work of LabVTP at the Faculty of Architecture in the University of Liège, has been linked with the concept of Landscape Laboratory (R. Gustavsson) in order to enhance and underline perceptive, experiential and active dimensions of sites, responding to the Universities' missions required by the ELC: **education and sensitization**.
The Observatory Lab Pay(s)age, is intended as a structure for **site-specific study** and **continuous fieldwork**, concerning both the evolutionary processes of natural structures and the involution of built environment.

METHODOLOGY

Observation, analysis, interpretation and re-launch of new hypothesis are fundamental elements to increase the public knowledge about the cultural factors characterizing the landscape discipline. Thus, the notion of «observatory» is a strategic device, monitoring the evolution of places in time through actions of **dialogue and awareness raising**, in order to get citizens re-acquire a consciousness of their territory. The collected qualitative data, describe the features of the sites, based on the local actors experience and knowledge.

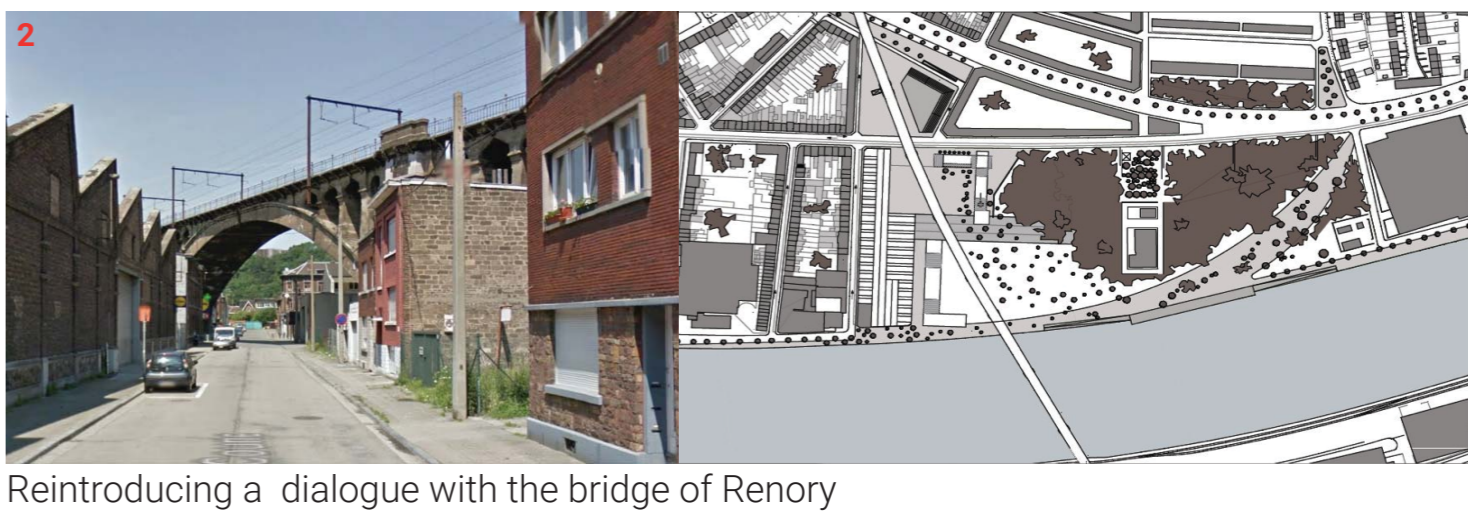
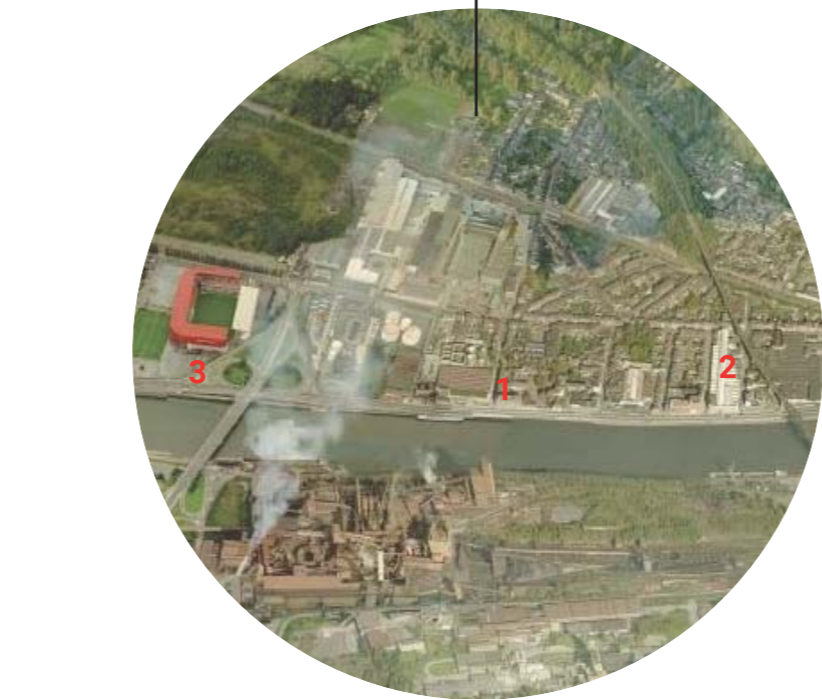
NATURE AND ARTIFICE REORIENTING THE FUTURE

The landscape approach is used as a reactivation device, where the identification of both original and artificial traces, the observation of ecological undergoing processes, an attentive perception of places become the basic elements in the construction of a new perspective.
The regeneration project is an evolving process and the thesis shows hypothetical scenarios, where natural and artificial structures are complementary elements to recover the site.
The new footbridge: accessibility as the first step towards the re-appropriation of the site.
Discovery implies to recognize «artefact landscapes» as identities but also to seize and understand spontaneous processes in act.



THE INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE BETWEEN MODERNITY AND TRADITION: THE PROJECT AS A TOOL TO ACCOMPANY THE TERRITORIAL CHANGE

Project as a configuration of the intentions to reacquire and reinterpret the lost relations between morphological and cultural elements of the site.
Waiting time as a preparing phase to territorial changes: time to reflect, intensifying the efforts to raise the inhabitants' awareness, reconstructing the spheres and neighbourhoods, re-initiating the construction of a new and positive imagination.



A selective research of significant objects lost in the industrial actual patchwork become the principal need before rethinking a new global plan of the area.
The castle of Sclessin, the Renory bridge, the stadium, the waterfront and the bridge of Ougrée are identified as main landmarks in the territory of Sclessin, to be reinterpreted and enhanced in their spatial and cultural relationships with the area.

