

R-Urban



Project author or developer:
Atelier d'Architecture AutogÃ©rÃ©e (AAA)

Where:
FR / France / Paris

Website:
r-urban.net/en/

Social participation and sharing at the base of a radical change in the management of urban space

The R-Urban strategy initiated by Atelier d'Architecture Autog'ran'oe (AAA, Paris) explores and implements alternatives to the current models of living, producing and consuming. R-Urban is based on the idea that radical change in our ways of managing and using space implies re-appropriation and re-invention of our commons, or in other words: bottom-up cultures of collaboration and sharing. For this, new categories and new institutions, new forms of management and governance, new spaces and actors are necessary, as well as an active link between the urban and the rural. This long-term project started three experimental residents-run hub facilities in Colombes, a northwestern suburb of Paris with 80 000 inhabitants, where R-Urban encourages real participation and democratic governance by local people in various processes, from recycling to urban farming. What makes the work of AAA especially significant is that (from its position as an architectural platform with a cultural background) it tackles social and ecological aspects of urban commons, but increasingly also addresses the space of economy itself—in essence how the resources and the means of production too can be appropriated or installed, and shared by a community. It may be exactly by integrating the production locally in the city (again) and in the urban community (at last) that a breakthrough in a resilient form of urbanity can be made. During the last decade, AAA has constructed and tested a number of prototypes in and around Paris, in which simple methods of implementing an ecological approach at the level of everyday life (food and energy production, recycling strategies, waste management) and self-managed collective skills and practices have been tested. Now, with R-Urban these experiences are scaling up, enabling participation and harnessing the latent energy of citizens, aiming at resulting in a radical alternative model of urban development as a consequence.

