



Académie de France à Rome



Planning the Grand Paris – A city beyond design?

Wednesday March 2nd 2011 at the *British School at Rome* h. 18.00

Organized by the *Académie de France à Rome – Villa Médicis* and the British School at Rome, in collaboration with Institut Français

Round Table discussion with: Djamel Klouche, Dominique Perrault and Francis Rambert, chaired and organised by Antoine Vialle. *

Press release

The *British School at Rome* is pleased to host the round table discussion “*Planning the Grand Paris – a city beyond design?*” as part of our ***Three Cities in Flux*** programme. The *Académie de France à Rome – Villa Médicis* has invited two urban planners and two critics to focus on a case study - that of the urban restructuring of the French capital region known as *Le Grand Paris*. This project was launched two years ago by the French state. Its mandate is to create a metropolitan entity that would go beyond the traditional opposition of urban centre and periphery. It takes the form of a non-competitive work in progress, one that brings together ten multidisciplinary teams. The initial proposals have been made and published, and the next step in the project is to create an “urban workshop” in which all the teams will combine to form a new think-tank which will address many of the central issues that influence the fabric of large European cities such as urban regeneration, density management, transportation innovations, “centre” and “periphery” relationships, and the economic and sustainable development of the “post Kyoto” city. The Grand Paris urban planning process is unique in that, unusually, it covers a territory without predefined limits - an entity whose name, population, program, boundary and governance remain to be identified or invented.

The round table discussion will consider how the Grand Paris enterprise alters the methodology and practice of French urban design in both political and administrative terms. It has seen the emergence of planning strategies that go from the very formal to the more theoretical or pedagogical. But is the making of the city still a matter of “design”? What actually can still be designed at the level of the European city? And if so, what is the aim of the urban design process and what community does it serve? An analysis of the ten proposals for the Grand Paris indicates that a profound shift in urban planning aims and strategies has taken place both in French architectural theory and practice. We shall also be discussing *METROPOLIS?* the French pavilion at the 2010 Venice Architecture Biennale, where many of these current urban French design projects were displayed.

*Djamel Klouche is an architect and urban designer. In 1996, he founded his office, l’AUC, with Caroline Poulin and François Decoster and has worked on several urban regeneration projects, particularly in the context of industrial or social housing. L’AUC is one of the ten teams selected to participate in the Grand Paris Project.

Dominique Perrault is an architect and urban designer. Since 1981, he has built several award winning buildings in the Paris metropolitan area. He was the curator of *METROPOLIS?* the French pavilion at the 2010 Venice Architecture Biennale, and was on the board of the Grand Paris' scientific committee in 2008-2009.

Francis Rambert is an architectural journalist and critic. Since 2004, he has been the director of the Institut Français d'Architecture(Cité de l'Architecture et du Patrimoine.)

Antoine Vialle is an architect and resident at the Académie de France de Rome in 2010-2011. He works on the representation of landscape and urban space through the use of photography, drawings and virtual media.

Architecture programme The British School at Rome

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The British School at Rome, Via Gramsci 61

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