

Salut Paris

Reviving abandoned railroads.

<https://competitions.uni.xyz>



Img 1: Map of Paris, 17th Century.

Paris

Paris, the capital of France has been inhabited since the beginning of 3rd Century BC along the banks of river Seine. It started as the hub of trading center which eventually led to its growth as a metropolis.

Romans settled in Paris around 5th Century BC and placed origins of the town of *Parisius*. During the 13th and the 14th Century in the reign of Philip II, it was improvised extensively. Streets were paved, the city wall was enlarged, and a number of new towns were enfranchised. Throughout the middle ages Paris was ruled by a number of French rulers who added to it's landmark (Notre Dame, Louvre Fortress, Palais de la Cité etc) and built new mansions for the nobility.

By mid 18th Century, it became densely populated with a cityscape that had not changed since the middle ages. Napoleon III hired [Hausmann](#) for one of the largest urban transformations. Consequently, he built the first transport network encircling Paris, transforming it from a medieval town to an industrial center of 19th Century.



Img_2: Aerial view of Paris

Urban Network

This **railway network**, known as **Petite Ceinture**, initially made for transporting goods, functioned for over 70 years (1862 to 1934), making a tremendous impact on the development of industry during this course. The urban renovation that was done by Haussmann was not only to cater to the huge influx of population but also to also to make Paris a flourishing industrial town.

As technology and demand grew, the Paris government laid the foundation for “**Paris Metro**” in 1898 and the first metro began by the year 1900. It gave the residents a better civic life and built a new layer of transportation lattice, enhancing mobility within the city’s inner districts. It resolved the deadlock of traffic congestion and overcrowding.

During the overlap of a better urban transportation network, the existing railway line **Petite Ceinture** encircling the city became defunct as people opted for a faster option. and by the year 1934 it was officially shut. It turned the railway line space and stations into urban voids. Hence, they became an eyesore, until the people and the government started intervening to repurpose them.



Img_3: A part of desolated railway line - Petite De Centurie.

Issue

The tracks and stations of **Petite Ceinture** which once formed a part of the city fabric are now left with its mere traces and long abandoned spaces. With time, these were hidden by plantation, and is now an overgrown vestige.

Soon the people acknowledged its existence and started rejuvenating it in parts, by transforming old stations into restaurants, or gardens, renting out spaces to private businesses, urban hiking trails etc. Yet, the most of the **32 kms** of this stretch still remains neglected, running through prime locations of the Paris metropolis. Even though the width of space is limited, its linear expanse makes the overall volume of the unused space very large.

The future of this extensive deserted network is still uncertain and looking for a timeless solution.



Img_4: La Recyclerie - Ornano Station, Paris

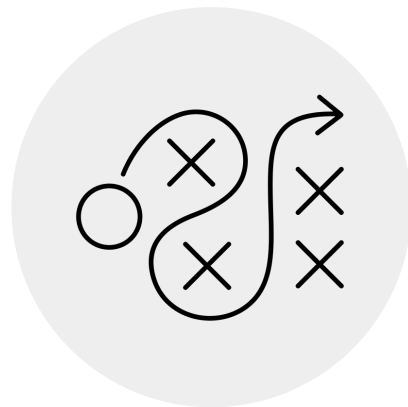
Brief

Petite Centurie is just one of the obsolete areas of Paris. Defunct Industrial towns, warehouses, malls etc have a similar fate in many urban landscapes once their use is completed. Yet, due to its prime location it still drives the interests of the residents and localites living around.

The linearity of space makes it a challenge for urban planners and designers at large to utilize the area without uprooting the essence of railway tracks, i.e. **the purpose of its existence**. It expects the designers to explore a new breed of **public spaces**. The place and its reminiscence itself weave a story and nostalgia for people, giving them a glimpse of a history 150 years old.

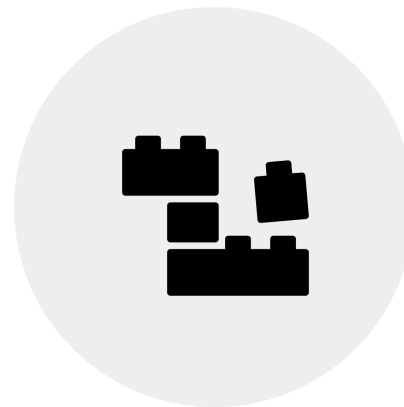
Architecture intervention aims to create a public space for transient activities (marketplace) and a cohesive community platform. It would enhance the existing infrastructure filling the urban void that has been existing for decades. Conclusively, the project would establish a **common physical space** between the old metropolis and the expanding city.

Objectives



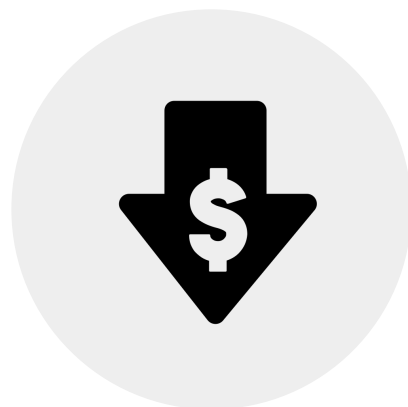
Adaptability

Alternate uses of the marketplace (*urban playground, space for community activities etc*)



Modular

Modular layouts for transient/permanent shops



Cost Effective

Inexpensive/ sustainable materials and design ideas



Scalable

Flexible design to accommodate the changing demands of weekend market and community participation activities

The following objectives can be a point of beginning to conceive this design. Participants can assume their own contexts and users before initiating their design process.

Brief: The challenge here is to design and augment the public space by converting it into community platform near the historical Ornano St. which has a pre-existing garden and Restaurant (*Le Recyclerie and Jardins du Ruisseau*) that attracts visitors and local commuters looking for a local collaborative area.

*The expected number of visitors per day can be assumed to be around 300 with more footfall during weekends. The number of permanent to temporary shops can be in the ratio 1:3. In addition to the "flea market" participants may add more programmes to their project subjective to their design idea of the **public space**.*



[Img 5: La Recyclerie - Ornano Station, Paris](#)

La Recyclerie, Paris

Established along one of the neglected platforms of the **Petite Ceinture** former Ornano station, the project **La Recyclerie** Bar is a one of a kind project that not only re-used the abandoned space of Petite Centurie but also converted the patch into a community space used as a restaurant and a hub for society and climate development activities. It includes activities like urban farming, health workshop, pop-up stores etc. The site chosen for this project is a part of this small public space and extends up to 100 m starting from **La Recyclerie**.



Imq.6: Site Map

Site View

Established along one of the neglected platforms of the **Petite Ceinture** former Ornano station, the project **La Recyclerie** Bar is a one of a kind project that not only reused the abandoned space of Petite Centurie but also converted the patch into a community space used as a restaurant and a hub for society development driven activities. It includes activities like urban farming, health workshop, pop-up stores etc. The site chosen for this project is a part of this small public space and extends up to 100 m starting from **La Recyclerie**.

Area : ~2250 m²
 Height limit: 15 m (49.21ft)
 Site coordinates: [48°53'51.5"N 2°20'38.8"E](#)



2



3



1



4

Submission

You have to deliver an architectural outcome on the following site, based on the given outlines.

- A maximum of 4 boards / sheets. – [**2362px x 3544px**] or [**400mm x 600mm in 150 dpi**] in portrait digital format (JPEG).
- Each image should be less than **15MB**
- You can find the preset PSD, AI and INDD template files in the 'additional resources folder' and [here](#).

This additional resources folder contains: FAQ Questions, High Res maps, Sketchup Model of the site and CAD file of the site plan.

Minimum requisites in the sheets are 3 sheets/boards + Cover image containing:

- Site plan (Compulsory)
- Key conceptual sections x 1 (Minimum)
- 3D views x 4
- Cover image/Thumbnail of size 2000 x 1000 px or larger in aspect ratio 2:1.
- Floor plans, images, sketches (if any) can be added to support the entry in the form of additional images.
- Answer 6 FAQ questions in the discussion section as given on the 'additional resources folder'.

-
- + The team limit for this competition is 4 members maximum.
 - + Use exploded views to discuss multi levelled conceptual models better.
 - + Ensure that the final sheets which are submitted do not include your name or any other mark of identification.
 - + Mention sheet number on corner of every sheet.
 - + This is a design ideas challenge only. There is no built commission/realization is associated with the problem
 - + Plagiarism of any idea / form / design / image will be disqualified with a notice.

Registration page here: <https://competitions.uni.xyz/salute-paris>

Discover the competition schedule and deadlines here: [Schedule](#)

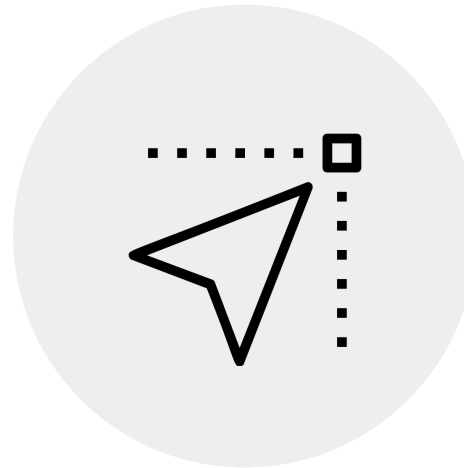
Rewards



Grants of up to a total of **20,000\$** can be won on this challenge. Learn more about the full conditions on the competition page [here](#).

Judging Criteria

The entries will be judged by an international jury of the competition on the following criteria:



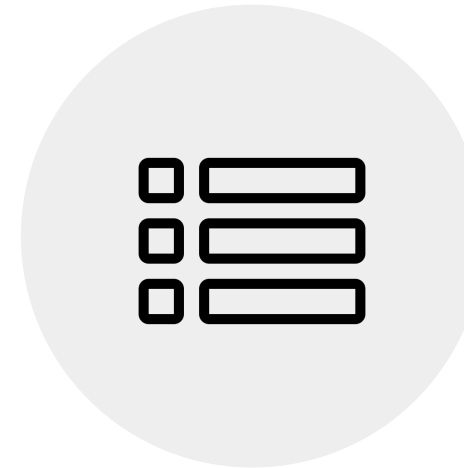
Presentation

The fundamental to a good entry is a good presentation.



Concept/Idea

Quality of thought and intent in pre-design phase.



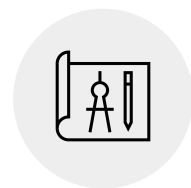
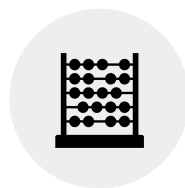
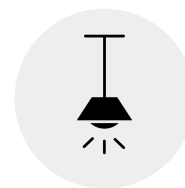
Spaces/Programme

How the spaces are calculated and ordered.



Design Output

The final architectural outcome of the solution.



The judging panel can also add other criteria based on their internal discussions - which will be in line with the problem statement. Participants are advised to fulfil above given criteria first in their design.

(Ad) Competitions.uni.xyz

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About COMMUN

Commun serves as a unit block for **UNI** in the field of Urban Design. It intends to break the fusion of traditional design barriers and methodologies by making it a platform for experimentation and conceptual exchange of ideas in **urbanism, society, culture and ecology**. It is a research initiative dedicated to provide opportunities for designers from all domains to explore ideas that go beyond the boundaries of the discipline and enrich our built environment holistically; thereby opening up possibilities for promotion of urban design thought at a global level.

Queries: support@uni.xyz

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Reclaiming the urban voids of Paris.

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