

Requalify open spaces with plants

Open areas can be variously planted with trees and shrubs that contribute to the characterization of spaces and environments.

The trees in these areas belong to different species. They have variable sanitary and aesthetic conditions, generally related to inappropriate maintenance practices. The bad state of a number of them contributes to a rather negative feeling and perception of these areas which, as a result, are rarely or never occupied.

"Chaque lieu peut devenir le plus bel endroit du monde" (Pascal Cribier)

Each place can become the most beautiful place in the world

Because there is no reason to believe that this sentence could not apply to our daily lived spaces, this exercise proposes to take up the challenge by reflecting on a requalification by plants of an open space with little or no planting.

The exercise has four parts:

1. Inventory / assessment
2. Health and aesthetic assessment of the trees present
3. Establishment of specifications
4. Replanting proposal

1- Inventory / assessment

Make an inventory / survey of current plantations for the entire chosen area:

- locate on the map the trees and shrubs that currently exist; the most important and/or interesting shrubs (and other small plants) will also be indicated; give a number to each for easy identification in the rest of the exercise;
- identify the species by establishing for each tree and shrub a sheet with the elements that allow you to propose the identification;
- define a graphical representation for each species;
- estimate the dimensions (height and size of tree canopies) for each tree and shrub.

2- Health and aesthetic assessment of the trees

- what is the health status of the trees?
- what is the aesthetic condition of the trees?

The information is added to the previously established sheets: description with photos or sketches.

3- Establishment of specifications

To complete the inventory of the place, we will add a "portrait" of the space: how to characterize it? what are its atmospheres and possible landscapes? what are the uses and practices that it welcomes?

All the information collected previously is used to formulate recommendations: which trees should be removed or conserved, for what reasons (safety, health, aesthetic condition)?

These specifications must also list the requirements and needs that the project must take into account:

- condition of soils and subsoils, electrical or water networks
- accessibility for the disabled
- vehicle accessibility (deliveries...) : location, dimensions, coatings...
- fire brigade accessibility (access roads, facade clearance, etc.)
- neighbourhood constraints (emergency exit from the neighbouring school, planting distances, views, shade...)
- shadow areas
- areas of high sunlight
- maintenance and upkeep (what resources are available? by whom?)
- watering
- lighting
- furniture (inventory and needs)
- plant protection....

4- Replanting proposal

Based on the previous elements, you imagine a project that could redefine and improve the space studied: the proposal attaches great importance to plant identity and ambiances, but is not limited to the choice (and location) of plants. It is an opportunity to think about the ground, furniture, lighting, and tree protection devices. The choice of trees is based on the "catalogue" compiled from observations made during visits to gardens and arboretums: the plants chosen must be of autumnal

interest, but the other seasons should not be ignored or neglected. It is also necessary to take into account the problems identified in order not to repeat them.

The proposal is presented by a plan + 2 sections minimum + some atmospheric sketches for each sector, all accompanied by a note of intent that explains the project and the approach. The sketch is to be drawn by hand, using the plans, sections and facades provided.

This year (2018-2019), the site for this replanting project is the school's entrance courtyard.

The context is that of the recent work (autumn 2017 and winter 2018), the replacement of trees felled in February, and the celebration of the school's 50th anniversary. The project therefore proposes, among other things, the planting of one (or more) tree (s) that will be symbolically planted in the fall of 2019 to close this anniversary year.

All the work is gathered in a folder in digital format.

For the final presentation, you will develop three posters in A1 format and a 1/100 scale model.

The posters are organized as follows:

- 1- Presentation of intentions in relation to the inventory and specifications
- 2- Overall presentation of the proposal
- 3- Focus on "The Tree of 50 Years!"

Warning! Posters are a synthesis that do not necessarily present all the information and elements present in the folder. It is therefore necessary to select the most effective way to express your proposal.

Note: Documents for steps 1 and 2 of the exercise were produced last year. They are available in the OneDrive folder. Feel free to consult them and use them to argue your proposal.