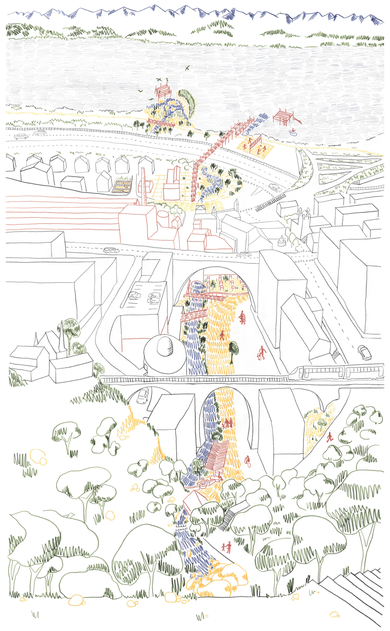
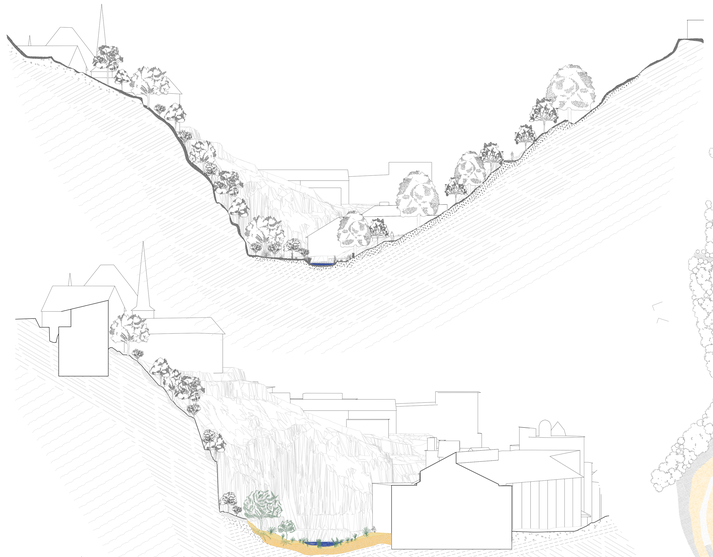
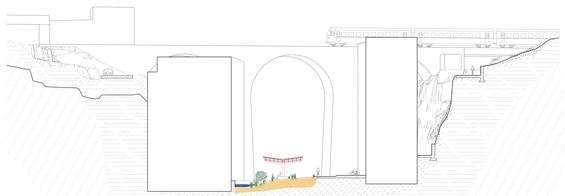
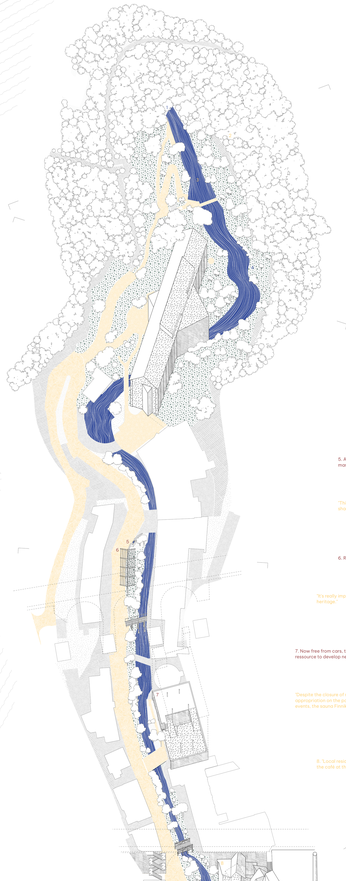
Commoning the Watersides in Serrières

From Industrial Hollow to Urban Oasis









1. The river surfaces after a 2 to 3 day journey in the karst galleries of the Jura relief.

During periods of flooding, the Torrent cave is transformed into a geyser which supplies the Seyon basin.
This flood outlet allows the Serrières to keep a constant flow.

2. "I often go mushroom picking in this forest."

– Antoine, 29 years old, inhabitant

3. "I sometimes go for a dip in the spring to cool off."

– Daniel, 54 years old, inhabitant

4. The parking lots have been removed to make way for the water.

"I teach at Serrières primary school, and I wanted to go for a walk along the river with my class. We soon realised that it wasn't accessible at all, so we went to the Seyon."

– Magdalaine, 29 years old, teacher

5. An old fountain stands as the last witness of the former House of coins, a manufacture that was operating between 1622 and 1694.

"This station really needs life again. It misses places to eat, conviviality and shared spaces."

– Marc, 23 years old, student

6. Repurposing of the abandoned steel structure.

"It's really important to preserve the memory of this site. It's an exceptional heritage."

– Elisabeth, 73 years old, inhabitant

7. Now free from cars, the car park can offer a common, shared space as a ressource to develop new activities, such as a repair café.

"Despite the closure of many buildings, there is a strong sense of appropriation on the part of both people. The Bonsaguts, the 'Jeudi-ou' events, the Maison Perdue, do have one."

– Olivier, 58 years old, co-president of the ACSB association

8. "Local residents used to meet up at the Café du Port. Since the closure of the café at the end of 2005, there is no longer life here."

– Pierre Richard, 57 years old, retailer

9. The old foundations are now visible and witness the past presence of the majestic Factory called "L'Orientale" which burned in 1957.
Once uncovered and filled this new thickness allows human and non-human communities to coexist and meet.

The last Suchard factories that were appropriated by many cultural players definitively closed in 2019. A developer project of housing and car park is supposed to replace this last industrial heritage soon.

10. "We could turn it into a museum instead of demolishing it... It could be the Suchard Museum!"

– Eliane, 59 years old, co-president of the ACSB association

11. VITEOS hydro-electric power station

12. The Gallo-Roman baths, built between 200 and 300 CE, were discovered in 1908. In 2016, they were reconstituted and buried for their preservation.

13. Next to the Roman remains, the abattoirs, which have been closed for almost 20 years, are transformed into a beach trading post, showers and changing rooms, echoing the public baths of the Roman era.

14. A pier is built with reused elements to reveal the end of the underground river path until its mouth, while prioritising access to the lake by soft mobility.

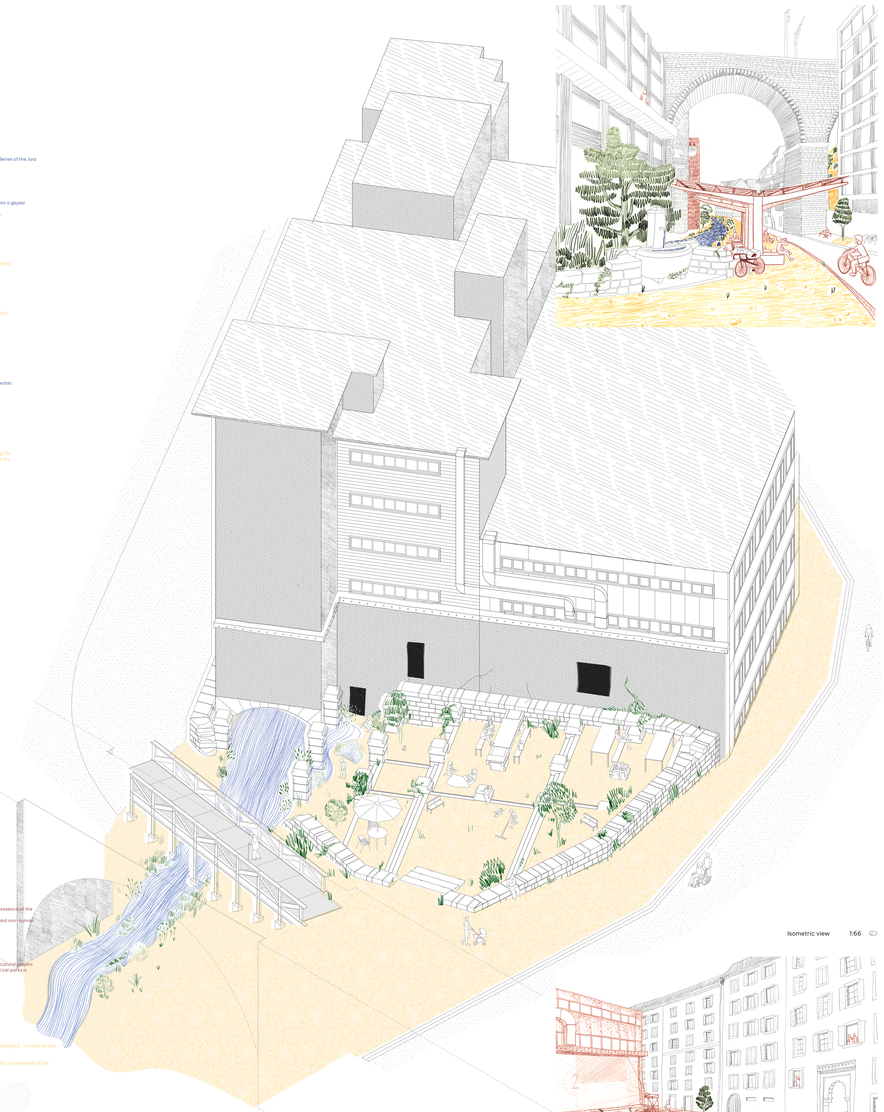
15. "I've cycled there a few times, but I didn't know there was a river. By the way, do you know the Bonsaguts, it's this little bar by the harbour? It is a really cool community initiative."

– Roman, 20 years old, cyclist

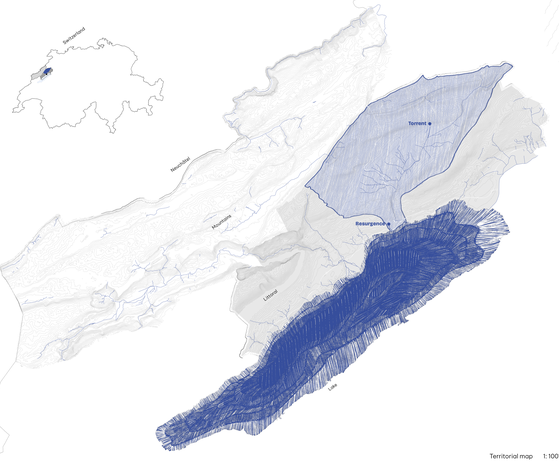
16. "I like picking flowers and making bouquets in spring. You can find lots of wildflowers by the lake."

– Morgane, 25 years old, inhabitant

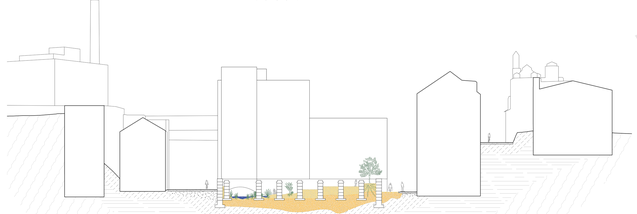
17. The first and the second lake's water level corrections in 1867 and 1973 resulted in an artificial extension of the lake shores, driving the construction of the A5 national highway (1975) and the RC5 cantonal road (1990).

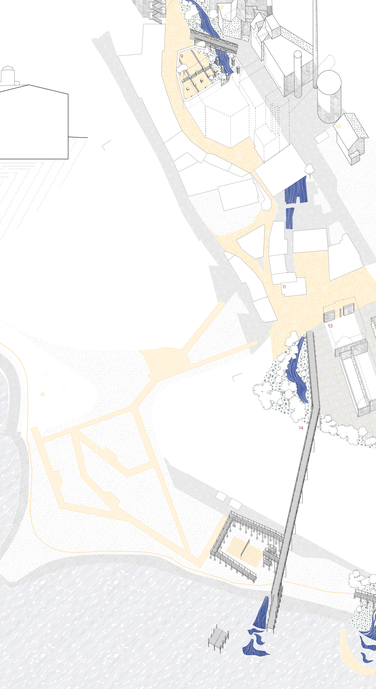


Isometric view 1:66



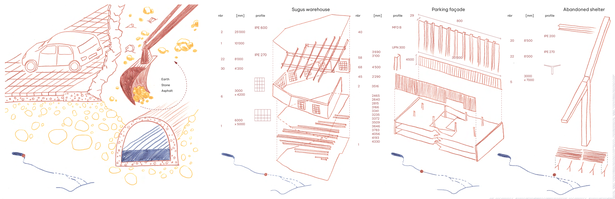
Territorial map 1: 100'000



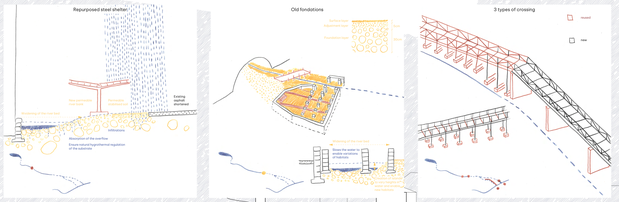


Elevated plan 1:500

1. Uncover

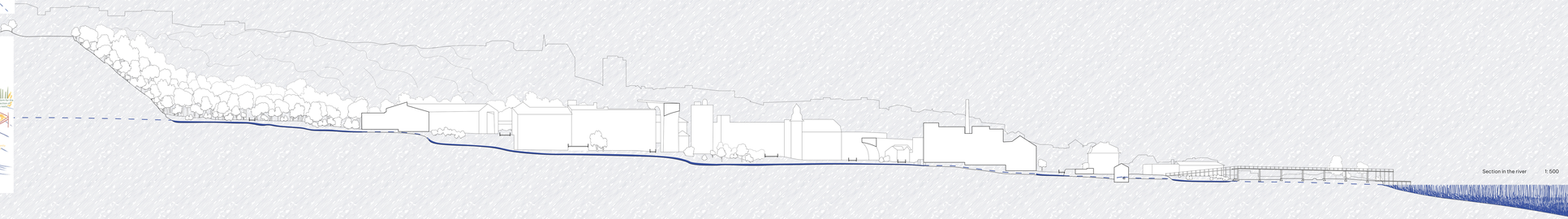


2. Transpose



3. Revitalise

Transversal sections 1: 200



Section in the river 1: 500