

I connect knowledge and people.

Carina Kurta

I am an urban researcher and cultural practitioner working at the intersection of **architecture** and **urban planning**.

My work focuses on understanding and drawing inspiration from urban and territorial transformation processes, as well as on the role of **everyday spaces** (Zwischenräume) in shaping sustainable change.

Since 2013, I have coordinated and facilitated study trips, field-based formats, and learning experiences in cities across Europe and the Mediterranean, including including cultural strategies connected to the European Capitals of Culture.

After more than a decade of living in Marseille, I authored the architectural guidebook *Marseille* (DOM publishers, Berlin, 2023), which explores the city's evolution within its Mediterranean context.

Alongside this practice-based work, my academic background in art history, museology, and European studies informs a critical and contextual reading of the urban fabric. I work fluently in German (mother tongue), French, and English.

Currently based in Paris, I am developing an open platform for collaboration, research, and field-based formats. I am deeply engaged with the specific challenges of each city and community as living laboratories of urban change.



Learning experiences and study tours

Knowledge transfer in Cities and Communities

Concept

Field-based learning formats exploring urban transformation through applied research and interdisciplinary exchange.

Format: Study tours · Tailor-made professional programmes for one or several days

Scope: France · Europe · Mediterranean

Audience: Universities · Public administrations · Cultural institutions · Architects & urban professionals · Private companies

APPROACH

Exploring urban fabric means looking beneath the surface. These site-based formats engage with places, actors, and in-between spaces that shape everyday life. Cities become living laboratories where transformation is examined in practice — linking strategy and intervention, heritage and innovation, and short-term visibility with long-term impact.

CORE THEMES

Urban transformation
Architecture: heritage, innovation & circular economy
Sustainable development & governance
Cultural policy & creative industries
Visitor strategies & legacy
Stakeholder dialogue

VALUE & IMPACT

Deep contextual understanding
Direct exchange with decision-makers
Transferable insights
Inspiration grounded in real conditions
Contribution to resilient urban futures

METHODOLOGY

Applied research · Field observation · Curated spatial exploration · Stakeholder meetings · Comparative perspective · Facilitated dialogue

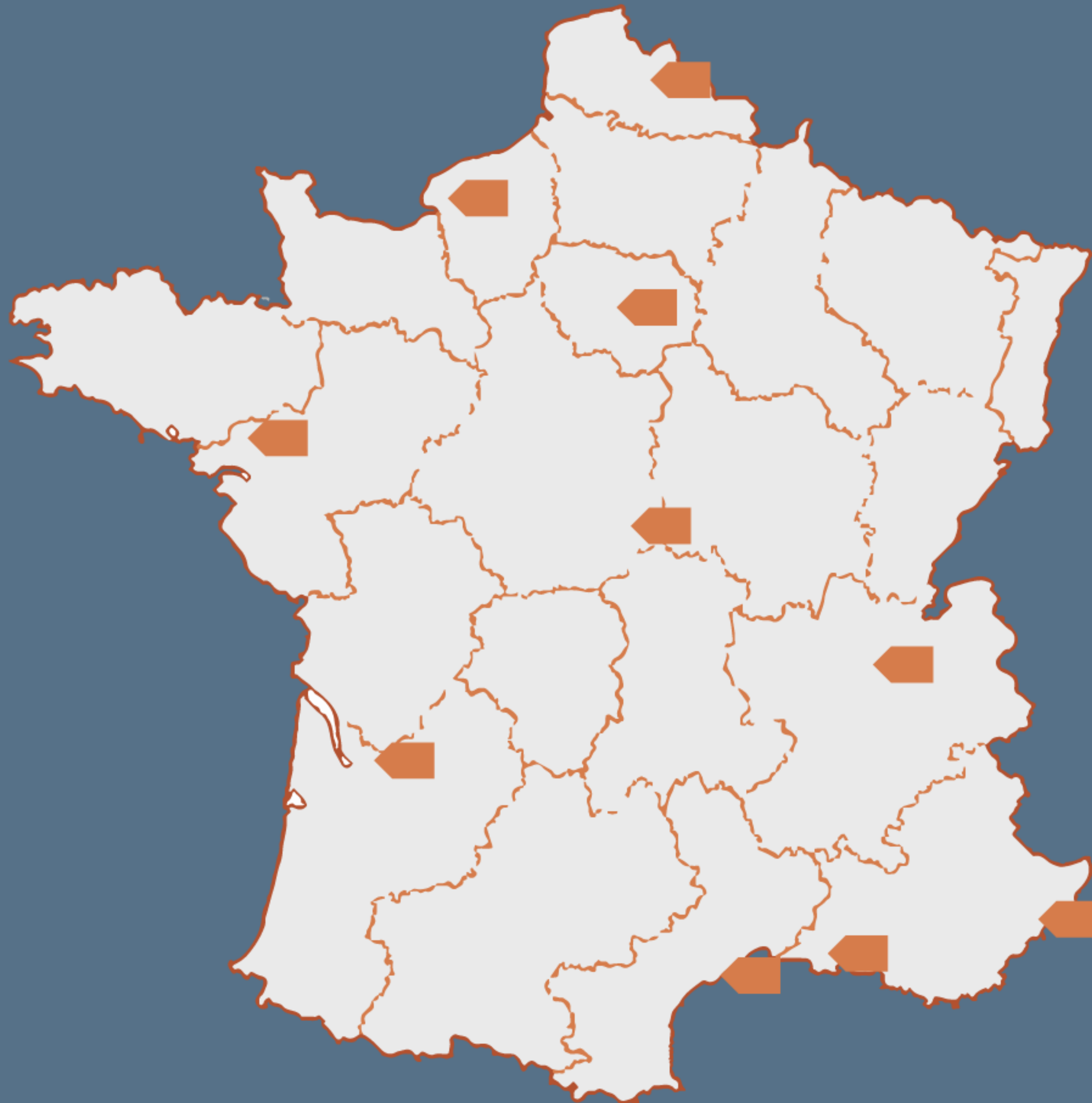
Cities I have been working on since 2013

European Capitals of Culture

- Marseille-Provence (F) 2013
- Riga (LT) 2014
- Mons (BEL) / PLZEN (CZ) 2015
- Wroclaw (PL) 2016
- Valletta (MLT) / Leeuwarden (NL) 2017
- Plovdiv (BG) 2019
- Rijeka 2020
- Luxemburg + Esch-sur-Alzette (LUX) 2022
- Athens + Elefsina (GR) 2023
- Salzkammergut (AUT) 2024
- Chemnitz (GER) 2025
- Trencin (SVK) 2026



EUROPE



Where I have organized trips in France

- Marseille + Provence
- Côte d'Azur
- along the Rhône river
- Montpellier / La Grande Motte
- Lyon / Villeurbanne
- Bordeaux / Bordelais
- Burgundy

On my bucket list:

- Nantes
- Le Havre
- Lille
- Bourges (European Capital of Culture 2028)

PARIS

Innovation, Transformation & the Power of Municipal Action

Urban Transformation as a Learning Experience · Spring 2026

Location: Paris & Île-de-France

Format: Professional field-based study trip

Role: Concept development · Coordination · Field facilitation · Network building

Audience: International professionals in urban development, public administration, city marketing, and creative-economy fields

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Paris is undergoing a visible urban lifting — from climate policies to multiple pedestrian zones and new mobility networks. This programme explores how these changes are planned and implemented, and how they reshape everyday urban life through direct encounters with projects and key actors.

The central question is not whether transformation is possible — but how it can be designed responsibly, inclusively, and at metropolitan scale.

KEY QUESTIONS

How is urban transformation implemented across scales?

What roles do politics and civil society play?

How can reuse create durable impact?

What makes transformation resilient over time?

CONTRIBUTION

Development of the learning framework

Coordination of local stakeholders

Facilitation of field-based dialogue

Translation between policy, architecture, and everyday space

Curated walking explorations with in-depth insight

Paris is a composition of the historic part *intramuros* and the huge metropolitan area named Ile de France.

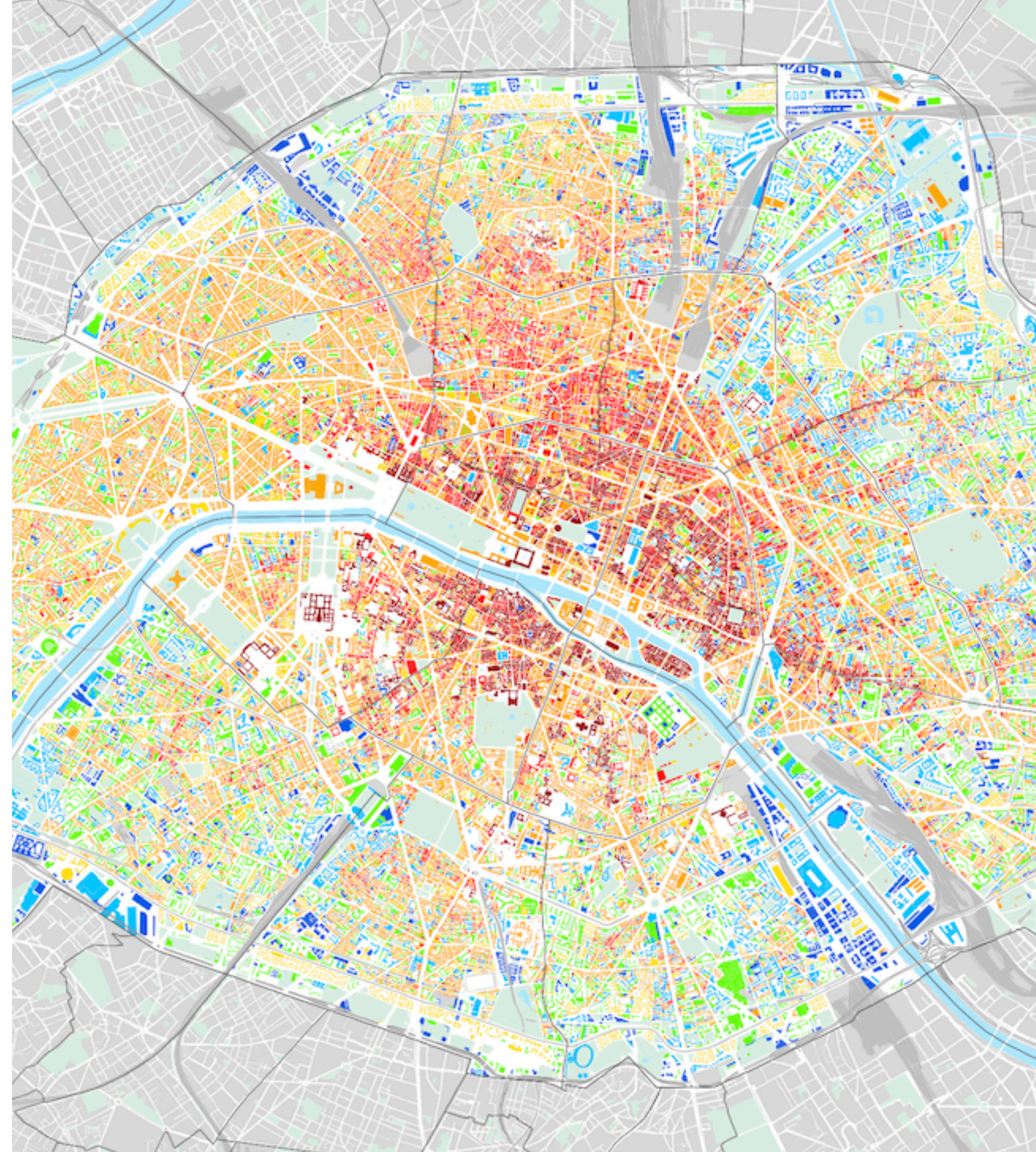
It's future planning concerns almost eleven million people.

Metropolitan measures

- development to a polycentric metropolitan area
- integration of the suburbs/banlieues
- Creation of new urban centers around major transport hubs
- Climate adaptation measures
- Redevelopment of industrial and logistics sites
- Integration of innovation projects

Paris intramuros

- Reclaiming street & public space for pedestrians
- Transformation of the Seine riverbanks
- Creation of new parks, green corridors



MARSEILLE

Architectural Guide

Author: Carina Kurta | DOM publishers, 2023

Publication

ISBN: 978-3-86922-395-7

Format

Architectural guidebook — 368 pages — 670 illustrations

Role

Author — research, images, conceptual framing, and editorial coordination

Geographical Focus

Marseille & Provence region (urban and hinterland)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The architectural guide Marseille, published by DOM publishers (Berlin), offers a comprehensive portrait of one of the Mediterranean's most complex urban territories. Rather than cataloguing buildings, the guide situates the city's architecture within broader historical, cultural, and territorial narratives extending across Provence, Aix-en-Provence, Arles, and the Étang de Berre. Through nearly 200 projects and contributions from specialists in urban history, sociology, public art, and architectural practice, the book explores how climate, landscape, and migration have shaped Marseille's built environment. The first comprehensive guide to the city in German, it will also be re-edited in English. Bridging scholarly discourse and situated urban knowledge, the publication serves as both a reference and an exploration of Marseille's spatial complexity.

Architekturführer Marseille

Mit Ausflügen nach Aix-en-Provence,
Arles und an den Étang de Berre

Carina Kurta

DOM
publishers

Other publications

"Marseille Barriers" in Espazium and Marseille "Quel Amour!"

Format

journalistic and creative text

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Marseille Barriers: In Marseille, physical barriers — from bollards and fences to gated communities — are everywhere and reveal tensions between the city's multicultural self-image and a fragmented public realm, raising questions about how future urban development can create more open, inclusive, and accessible space. With Anaïs Bonroy, 2025.

<https://www.espazium.ch/de/aktuelles/barrieren-marseille-oeffentlicher-raum> / english version: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-KZckYNRWAZlq8osrgw5cVOYL5_OFNVH/view?usp=sharing

Quel Amour! A bi-lingual hymn to creative walks through the city of Marseille : listening to the sound of the city and waiting for the next urban step to take, under a highway, with Pia Leydolt-Fuchs, Nicolas Memain, Kathrin Wildner, Tilman Reichert, 2018.

https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/6ed8fb6f/files/uploaded/CaP.CULT_Marseille_MP2018.pdf



EUROPE

The Role of Culture in Urban Transformation

Format: Professional study formats & field-based programmes

Scope: European Capitals of Culture · Candidate cities · Urban Biennales

Role: Concept development · Coordination · Facilitation · Curatorial leadership

Audience: Urban development, public administration, cultural and city marketing professionals

BACKGROUND

Organising team member: Linz 2009

Organising team member: Istanbul 2010

Project partner & exhibition curator: Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2023

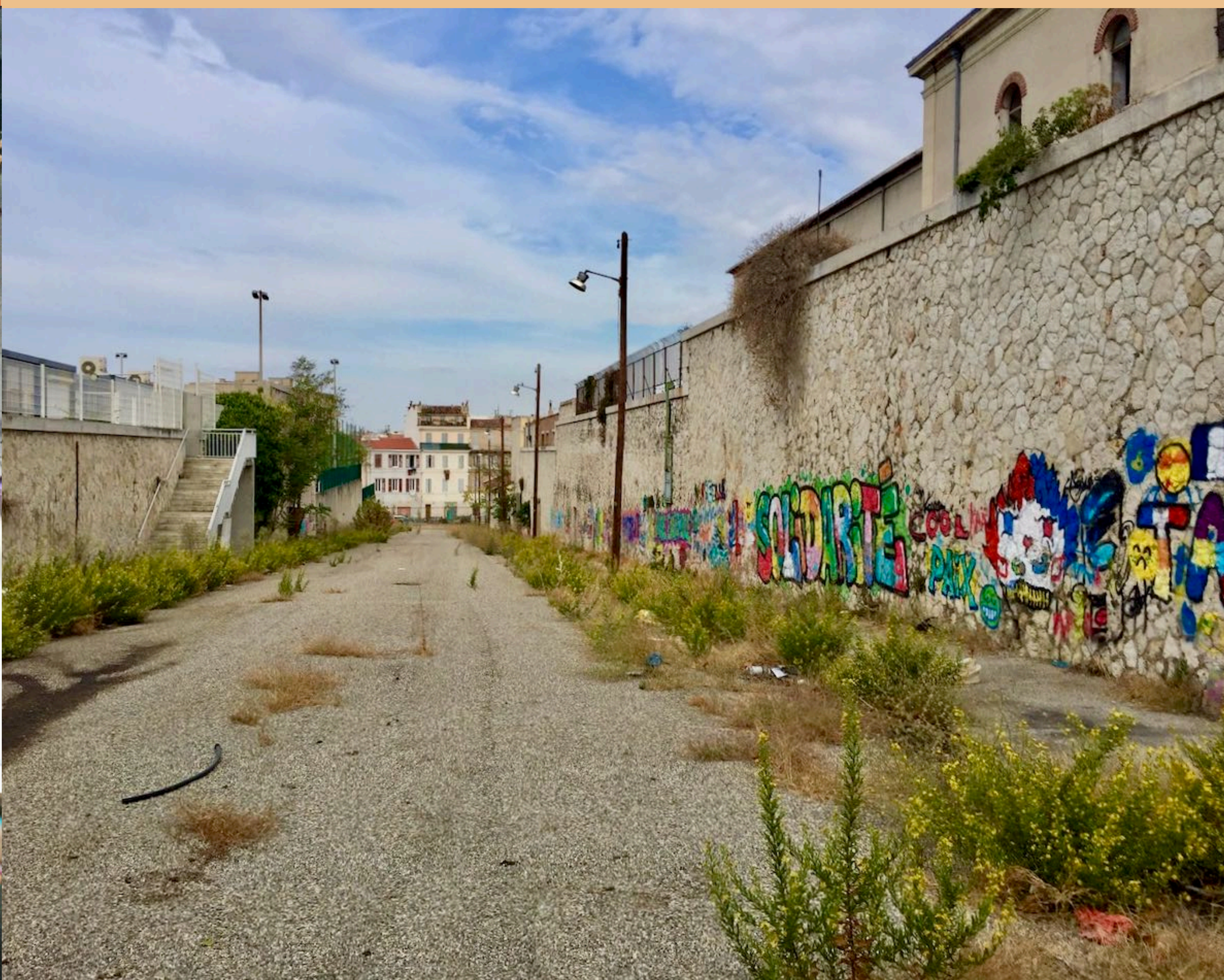
Objective analyst of the dynamics of ECoCs since 2013

PROJECT FOCUS

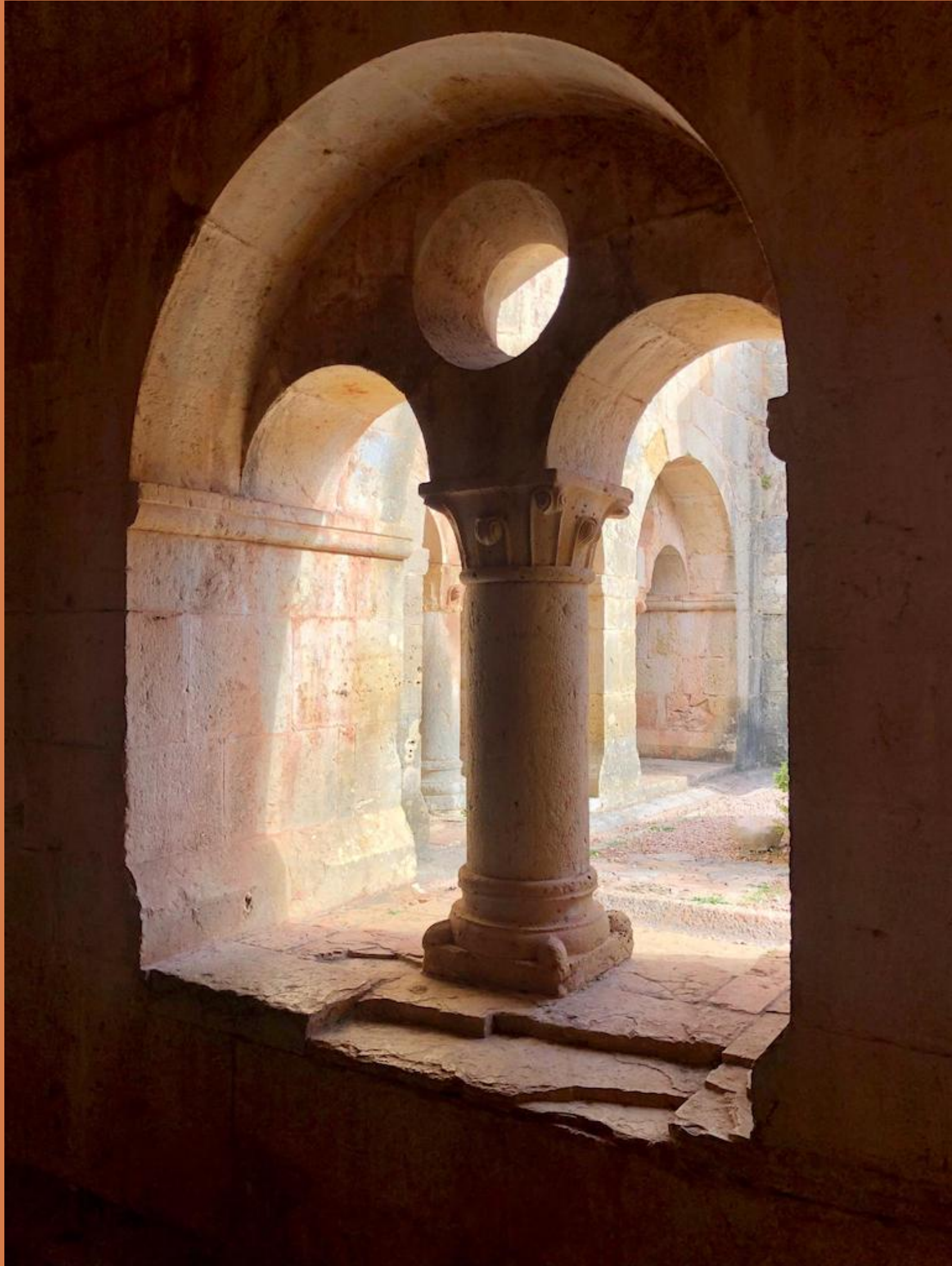
Since 2013, my work has explored how cultural initiatives — particularly European Capitals of Culture and urban biennales — can act as catalysts for urban transformation. Across various European cities, these formats foster exchange and comparative learning, linking cultural strategy, policy, and spatial practice to support lasting urban and regional change.



Zwischenräume *spaces between*



Marseille, Vieux-Port/ Belle de Mai



Stone: Le Thoronet, quarry of Fontvieille





Belval, Mudem Luxemburg





Roquebrune Cap Martin, Villa E-1027



Learning experiences
are deep dives beneath
the city's layers.