



Overview / September 27th / press release

From September 14th to September 24th, Agora, Bordeaux biennial, organized **130 propositions**, attended by approximately **more than 75 000 persons**.

A 90-person international delegation represented about twenty worldwide metropolises.

After 11 days of exhibitions, debates, installations, performances, parties, workshops, screenings, sites visits, walks and tours, educational activities, tomato-tasting, ... during which we obviously dealt with architecture(s), design and town-planning but also discussed how cities adapt to climate change, how they increasingly introduce green landscape, about current and upcoming projects in the metropolis ... and thanks to leading architects and landscape architects' accounts brought together around the biennial 2017 theme "Metropolitan landscape(s)", Agora thus :

- attracted between 75 000 and 80 000 visitors on 60 sites (55 000 in 2014),
- displayed in the H14 (Bordeaux exhibition center) an immersive installation conceived by Bas Smets, curator of the exhibition "Augmented landscapes",
- hosted 120 speakers, architects, landscape architects, urban planners, philosophers, designers, photographers, video-makers, directors, ...,
- brought together 300 event organizers,
- hosted 120 members of international delegations representing the metropolises invited by Agora (1) and willing to follow in creating their own biennial (for instance Rabat),
- displayed 1800 tomato plants on Bordeaux waterfront and 300 trees in the H14 (a scenography by Bureau Bas Smets).



Inauguration of the promenade Michel Corajoud

Shall a French city pay tribute to Michel Corajoud, it must be Bordeaux, where he created the *miroir d'eau*, so "emulated" since its creation.

Shall an event celebrate the fact that the promenade on the two banks is named Promenade Michel Corajoud, it had to be Agora for its theme and the debates hinted at the urban enhancements realized by the landscape architect. On September 24th, Alain Juppé and Claire Corajoud unveiled the street sign and thus closed this 7th biennial.

(1) *Mohamed Nabil Benabdallah, Minister of Housing and Urbanism of Kingdom of Morocco – Juan Maria Aburto, Mayor of Bilbao – Adama Sangaré, Mayor of Bamako – Larissa Kannounikova, Saint-Petersburg council for architectural and urban development – Dr Fritz Ntoné Ntoné, general delegate for the government of Douala urban community – Papa Rao, government of Telangana – Andres Ortiz, deputy mayor for Bogota town planning, etc....*

“The three lessons of this biennial”

Michèle Laruë-Charlus, general delegate for Agora

- **participation/ interaction:** the audience did not only visit the H14. Some visitors followed the debates from the *miroir d'eau*, thanks to a giant screen, which brought the sense that what was in the H14 was everywhere in town.

And the fact that our tomato plants were displayed from the Chartrons to the Maison éco-citoyenne, and thus stretched out Agora on 1,8km, increased the participation of the population comparing to the previous years. A stronger interaction between the audiences echoes with what the biennial wanted to show: the existence of an indubitable interaction between the cities' geography and climate.

- **an emerging necessity for a urban project:** the idea of the Metropolis was conjured up again during debates and speeches, including Alain Juppé's. Everything we displayed on the ground floor interested the audience that starts to engage with the geography of the metropolis. We wished and appreciate this success.

- **an obvious interest for other experiences, other metropolises:** the audience was interested in everything that dealt with foreign cities. This is a new development for the biennial since the previous Agora screened pictures from international metropolises to illustrate a point, but no exhibition was fully dedicated as it was the case this year for two cities in Georgia, for Hyderabad and Bogota... and for a dozen of metropolises that took part in the exhibition *Learning from the metropolises of the world*.

“A new version of the definition of landscape”

Bas Smets, curator of the exhibition “Augmented landscapes”

Agora offered me the extraordinary opportunity to rethink my position by asking me to make an assessment on the theme “landscape”. And what has been fascinating and fruitful was to be provided with a long time to think it over (two years and a half) ... a time that enabled me to question everything and experiment things. I think this was absolutely great in this exercise: we had time to explore, to make mistakes, to go back and forth, and in the end, to suggest a new definition or at least a sort of new version of the definition of what the landscape can be. And this idea, I didn't have it when I started working for Agora. At first, I was searching without a method. But the exercise not only enables – but urges to – convey clear ideas that shall be understandable by all. That is what I liked with Agora: this exercise where I'm being asked to be a theoretician for the landscape and very action-oriented at the same time in order to produce a “result” that shall be also relevant for Bordeaux territory. It is outstanding that Agora succeeds in combining these two things.

Free use pictures: <http://canal-com.eu/bilan-de-7eme-edition-de-biennale-agora-bordeaux/>

Press contact: Canal Com – 05 56 79 70 53 / agence@canal-com.eu



Paysages
bordeaux
2017

agorabordeaux.fr
facebook.com/Agorabordeaux - @Agorabdx

Commissariat Général : Ville de Bordeaux