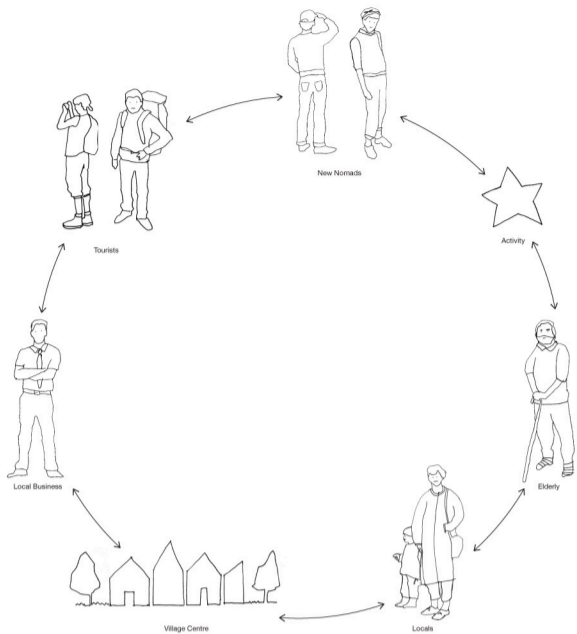


Village Centres: Long-term local effect



Ambitious and Responsible:

Being aware of the modesty of resources and means should imply a focus on reducing risks; however without taking any risk there is no possibility for change. The proposed projects rely on a balanced approach to risk-taking, introducing changes in a phased manner in order to be able to address problems if something doesn't work.

Resilient architecture:

In order for the built environment to be resilient, the proposed interventions are a reaction to the site rather than the programme. The projects rely as much as possible on existing structures and when new buildings are required they are designed around the 'genius loci' of the area, making them specific but open to a wide variety of uses.

Developing local ecosystems:

The project is based financially and socially on the local ecosystem. Instead of tourism detached from the local life, the *New Nomads* Programme adds a population and an activity component to the existing organisation in order to reboot it. Local businesses, residents of all ages, tourists, *New Nomads* and architects develop a sharing strategy involving resources, knowledge, funds, services and time.

The focus on youth in this programme is only seen as the beginning. Instead of a straightforward reply to the problem of an ageing population - developing a concept around it (something which only deals with the effects rather than the reasons) - the idea is to stimulate young people in order to stimulate the villages. The spark created by this change is an opportunity to trigger positive chain reactions that can lead to a renewal of the village centres. A rediscovery of the social ecosystem.

Phase 1 : WOODWORKING WORKSHOP

The first part of the project consists of renovating the long hall to create a Woodworking Workshop. This project is funded in partnership between local wood actors, future local members, the *New Nomad's* community and the intercommunal group of Ussel. It is a school where teaching is learnt through real projects. Students attain knowledge, Businesses create jobs and the town centre sees a redevelopment of its buildings.

1 : Local Wood Actors provide knowledge and guidance to the students of the Workshop. They benefit from an open access to all new technologies and from the help of their students for a certain amount of hours per month.

2 : The *New Nomads* attend the woodworking school and benefit from professional training. They occupy the lower part of the Brownfield in exchange for taking care of its renovation.

3 : During out-of-hours, the workshop is open to Local Members Makers.

4 : A *Fablab* truck run by the Members Makers brings digital fabrication to the whole intercommunal group.

Phase 2 : THE WOOD FAIRGROUND

5 : *New Nomads* transform the large hall into a wood fairground where they can exhibit and sell their production. They also help in renovating the third hall with the aim of turning it into a cafeteria and basketball field.

6 : By paying their membership Local Members visitors support the school and in exchange they have the possibility to use the building for private events.

7 : Tourists are welcome to visit the fairground and to attend any public events.

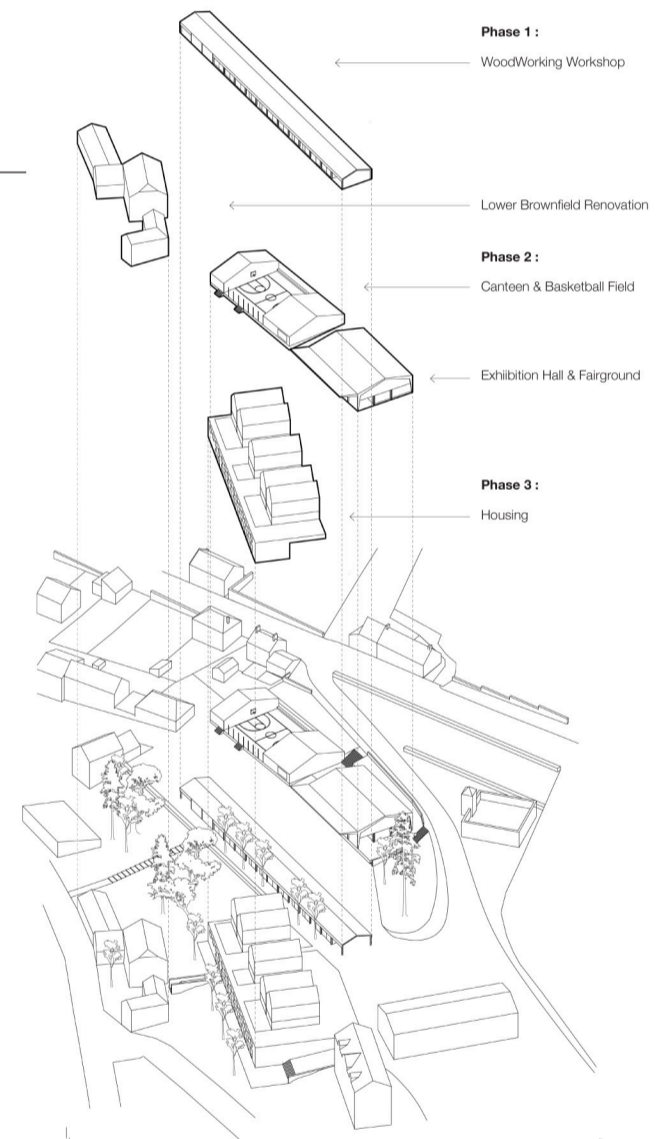
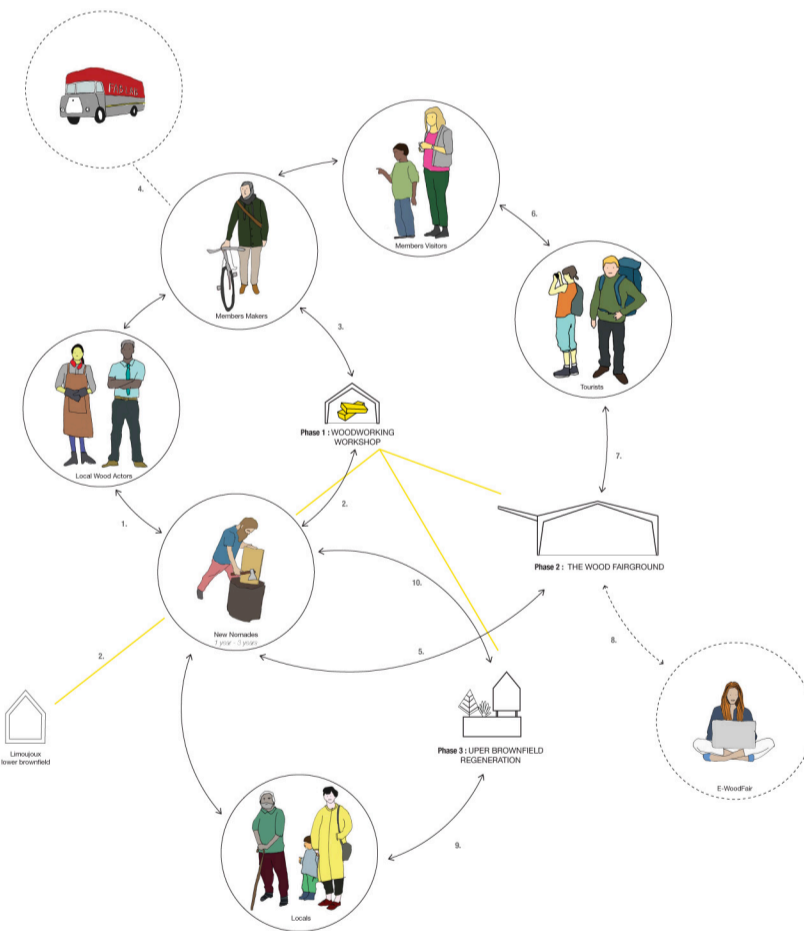
8 : E-consumers are connected to the wood fairground E-WoodFair and can purchase wooden objects while supporting ethical and local action.

Phase 3 : BROWNFIELD REGENERATION

9 : Locals invest in a participative housing complex with a basement dedicated to elderly people and a top section open to everyone else.

10 : The *New Nomads* help build the wooden houses.

Ussel Wood Fairground



View of the Woodworking School & Fablab



View of the wood fairground



View of the the brownfield renovation