

WO902

MOULINS (FR) 1

# WHEN THE ALLIER BECOMES CITY

## A City which is part of its geography

### The territory as the city project

Reconsidering the relation of the city with its river is to make it part of its territory. Starting from the heart of the city of Moulins, the project connects the departmental park of the Valley of Allier, linking by this way the various natural spaces of the bed of the river and the cities which surround it. New pedestrian and cycle routes, on both sides of the stream, shape a vast network running through beaches, floodplains, undergrowth and fields, participating in the new urban system.

Established on the right bank of Allier, the city almost completely developed eastward, turning the back on the river. The creation of heavy infrastructures of expressways enclosing the city on the West by N7, and the loss of interest for the main historic ways progressively cut the links between the city and its territory and hinterland. The city level underwent little by little with regard to the Orvilliers Avenue, which was widened due to the creation of a hopper in the crossing of this way following Allier and of the Régemortes bridge. It turned the Orvilliers avenue into an expressway, and deeply altered the connection of Moulins towards the Allier river and the suburb of Madeleine.

If the city gradually turned away from its river, this one can nevertheless become her main asset. Because it was not channelled, it keeps its natural and tempestuous character, where the flora and fauna compose a landscape which the project suggests valuing.

