A City which is part of its geography

The territory as the city project

Reconsidering the relation of the city with the 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 backyards, floodplains, undergrowth and fields, participating in the new urban system.

Established on the right bank of Allier, the city almost completely developed eastwards, turning the back on the river. The creation of heavy infrastructures of expressways, enclos- ing the city on the West of YT, and the loss of interest for the main historic wings, progressively cut the links between the city and its territory and hinterland. The city grew up: downtown little by little with regard to the Orilliers Avenue, which was widened due to the creation of a hopper in the crossing of this way following Allier and the Régnieries bridge. It turned the Orilliers 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 nevertheliss become her main asset. Because it was not "Channelled", it keeps its natural and promenade character, where the flora and fauna compose a landscape which the project suggests valuing.