

Project : inflatable houses «show me»

Objectives and principles

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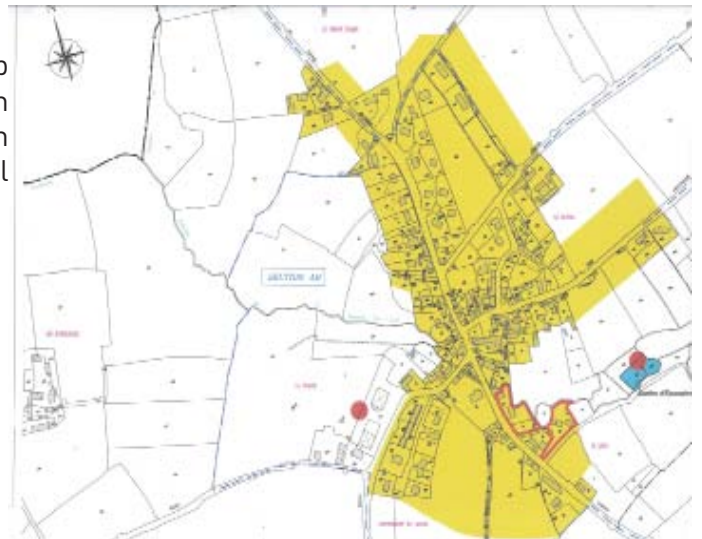
We propose a presentation of our inflatable houses project in three complementary parts : the first one, this document, show the principles and objectives related to the project; the second one is an exploration of technical process we needs to use those houses; then the last part will give you a brief panorama of what is done today with short-live and inflatable structures.

Actas

Most of the new constructions, in rural and periurban context, have a major impact on landscapes, moreover if the territory get a strong identity and recognized heritage, as for exemple regional natural parks.

Besides, the tools used by «experts» in urbanism or architecture are most of the time complexe medias and not always easy to serve for concrete projection on lands, by local authorities and local managers, but also by population. Maps, models, 3D vues... all those tools can not be projected in 1:1 scale and in real situations.

A classic exemple of regulatory map based on a growth and extension of urbanism without reflexion on landscape, agriculture or social aspects



Exemple of banal new built (bottom)... without links to old one, integrated and using local materials (on left)



What's the idea ?

Have you ever dream to scribble a real architectural project, in real place and real scale, just to show, and have the possibility then to erase and try another way ? Have you ever dream of a tool that could be used by everyone, simple and concrete for urbanism, a media that will not put a distance between ideas, decisions and their concrete traduction ?

Then this idea propose to answer those questions, using inflatable short-lives buildings, in 1:1 scale, just to see what could be the way to build «there». Those houses will help us to see and think in the area, to understand the position in the cadastral plot of land, what we could see since these houses, what could be hide a construction here, and to sketch an idea of architecture and volumes.

To do what ?

- To generate quickly (in particular in rural areas) a original and concrete dialogue on the urbanization and the architecture, by exposure of possibles futures,
- To bring a concrete and playful dimension to the inhabitants within the framework of reflections linked to the town planning ,
- To put the question of buildings landscape integration, architecture and urban forms, position in area, perspectives impacts.



<<< Does an extension of buildings could be a great issue here ?

...where to build in a ancient and traditionnal village ?>>





<<...And how does my house could be seen in the landscape ?

Could we propose a new form of houses near old one ?>>



How does inflatable houses could be adapted to different situations?

Three or four inflatable structures could be constituted by separable and rather neutral blocks to adapt themselves at the most of situations, with simple and unicolor volumes. The aim is not to represent a real project but to wear a look, to support reflexions and decision on the landscape and town planning.

Then inflatable houses could be used to show non desirable futures, for exemple consumption of rural landscape by non-sustainable building, or to show that urbanization is possible and could exist in a village.

To appreciate what we will see since the houses, how we feel in, but also to improve the friendly and funny aspect of the project, the structures should be opened and visitable.

Ideally, an inflatable pillow forming a compartment of independent air could be placed under the structures to adapt themselves to the case of sloping constructions. We could also imagine inflatable roofs in order to have the choice between cubic shapes or a sloping roofs. Scratches could be used to associate/dissociate volumes according to situations and projects. In addition it could be possible to represent virtual limits of plots of land with white spray or other simple system on soil.

How does it will works ?

This service of inflatable houses will work before and during elaboration of planning documents, or for exemple in the reflexion of future districts or the renovation of one of those. The interest of our proposition is to project a future situation, without a «firm investing». The inflatable houses could be also used by private project leaders to help them to imagine concretely their installation in a municipality.

Structures and the service of putting up could be a rental service, and why not with the support of a presenter, or even the complicity of live performance companies.

How many time will during the houses show ?

Houses could be put up during a day reflexion with local decision makers, or 3-4 days for more interaction with citizens and partners.

Uses and users

In France, networks of regional natural parks, new metropolises and Land development plan (SCOT) should be good scales to test and promote the use of the service.

Inflatable houses, necessitating transport, inflating, and maintenance could be rented by municipalities or the organizations mentioned higher (see second part : technical propositions).