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Rosenberg & Sellier

*urban
transfor-
mation*

• *Paris*

• *process
diagram* •

les Halles

A Four-pages Saga

An Attempt at Graphical Analysis of the Transformation of les Halles in the Late 20th Century, with Some Implications

Daniele Campobenedetto

Is it possible to represent exhaustively the design scales (Revel, 2006) of a thirty-years long urban transformation in just one scheme? Is it possible to consider such a thick description (Geertz, 1973) as autonomous and analytically useful?

The following scheme is an attempt to explore the answers at these questions through an overview of the Paris's les Halles saga during the Seventies and the Eighties, as a result of a three-year research

Even if the scheme may appear obscure to those who are not familiar with the les Halles saga it is meant to give an idea of the path traced by documents and material effects among different social entities, as policies, projects, conflicts and physical transformations. The arrows show the cause-effect relationship between events and mirror the continuous redefinition of strategic decisions, and the superposition of material effects. Almost every event has effects, which can shape the physical space (through building sites), the socio-technical space (through projects) and the social space (through negotiations and policies).

Exploring this path, is at least possible to highlight two elements:

Affiliation
Politecnico di
Torino.
daniele.campobene-
nedetto@polito.it

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Legend

○ Event/action of primary importance (referred to the process) in a casual chain

○ Event/action of secondary importance (referred to the process) in a casual chain

X Controversy generated within a formal context of Governance

X Controversy generated informally and unpredicted

● Interruption of a process

↑ Direct cause and effect relationship of primary importance

↑ Direct cause and effect relationship of secondary importance

↑ Indirect cause and effect relationship

↑ Implication between events / actions which influences the process with no cause and effect relationship

↑ Casual chain without details

First proposals ...

Event/action of the process

Scheme for the...

Event/action related to the Apur process

Relationship related to the Apur

● Event/action in which Apur plays a direct role

○ Event/action in which Apur plays an indirect role

Associations and individual professionals oppose...

Description

Abbreviations

Apur
Atelier Parisien d'Urbanisme
CCI
Centre de Commerce International
CdP
Conseil de Paris
COPRAS
Comité Parisien de Recherche et d'Action Sociale
CDU
Centre de Documentation et d'Urbanisme
PAZ
Plan d'Aménagement de Zone
SDAURP
Schéma Directeur d'aménagement d'Urbanisme de la Région de Paris
SEAH
Société civile d'Études pour l'Aménagement des Halles de Paris
SEMAH
Société d'Économie Mixte pour l'Aménagement des Halles
ZAC
Zone d'Aménagement Concerté

Material effects

Documents

Conflicts and negotiations

Policies

Architectural projects

Public space projects

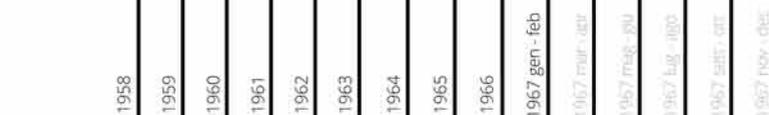
General schemes

Ville de Paris

Prefecture

Ministries

Presidency



○ (1948) Preliminary studies for the transformation of central Paris

● The prefecture entrusts more studies to the CDU

Approval and creation of an agency of studies for the development of the Halles (SEAH)

Decree 13/71 1962 declares the dislocation of the general markets out of Paris

● Scheme for the center of Paris CDU

○ Scheme Lopez-Holley for the center of Paris

○ First proposals from Louis Hoym de Marien

X the SEAH opposes to the Lopez and Holley's scheme and promotes other studies for les Halles.

○ Approval SDAURP

↑ Launch of the first competition

○ Masterplan by Hoym de Marien

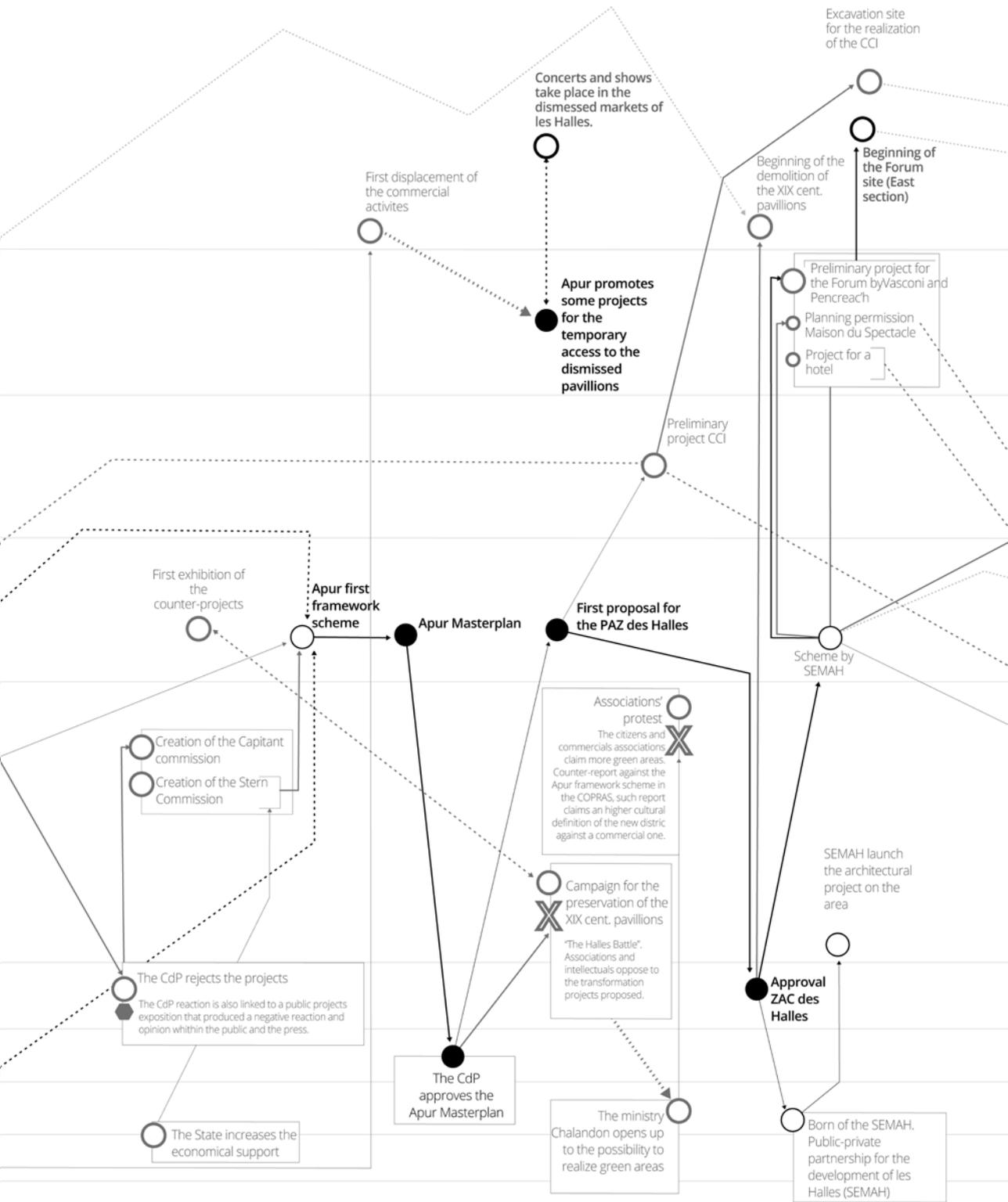
○ Project Marot et Tremblot
○ Project Hoym de Marien
○ Project Charpentier
○ Project AUA
○ Project Jean Faugeron
○ Project Louis Arretche (consultant Apur)

○ Presentation of spontaneous projects

X Associations and individual professionals oppose to the projects presented during the competition held in 1967.

● Born of the Apur

○ Approval loi d'orientation foncière



1968 gen - feb

1968 mar - apr

1968 mag - ju

1968 lug - ago

1968 sett - ott

1968 nov - dec

1969 gen - feb

1969 mar - apr

1969 mag - ju

1969 lug - ago

1969 sett - ott

1969 nov - dec

1970 gen - feb

1970 mar - apr

1970 mag - ju

1970 lug - ago

1970 sett - ott

1970 nov - dec

1971

1972

1973

1974 gen

1974 feb

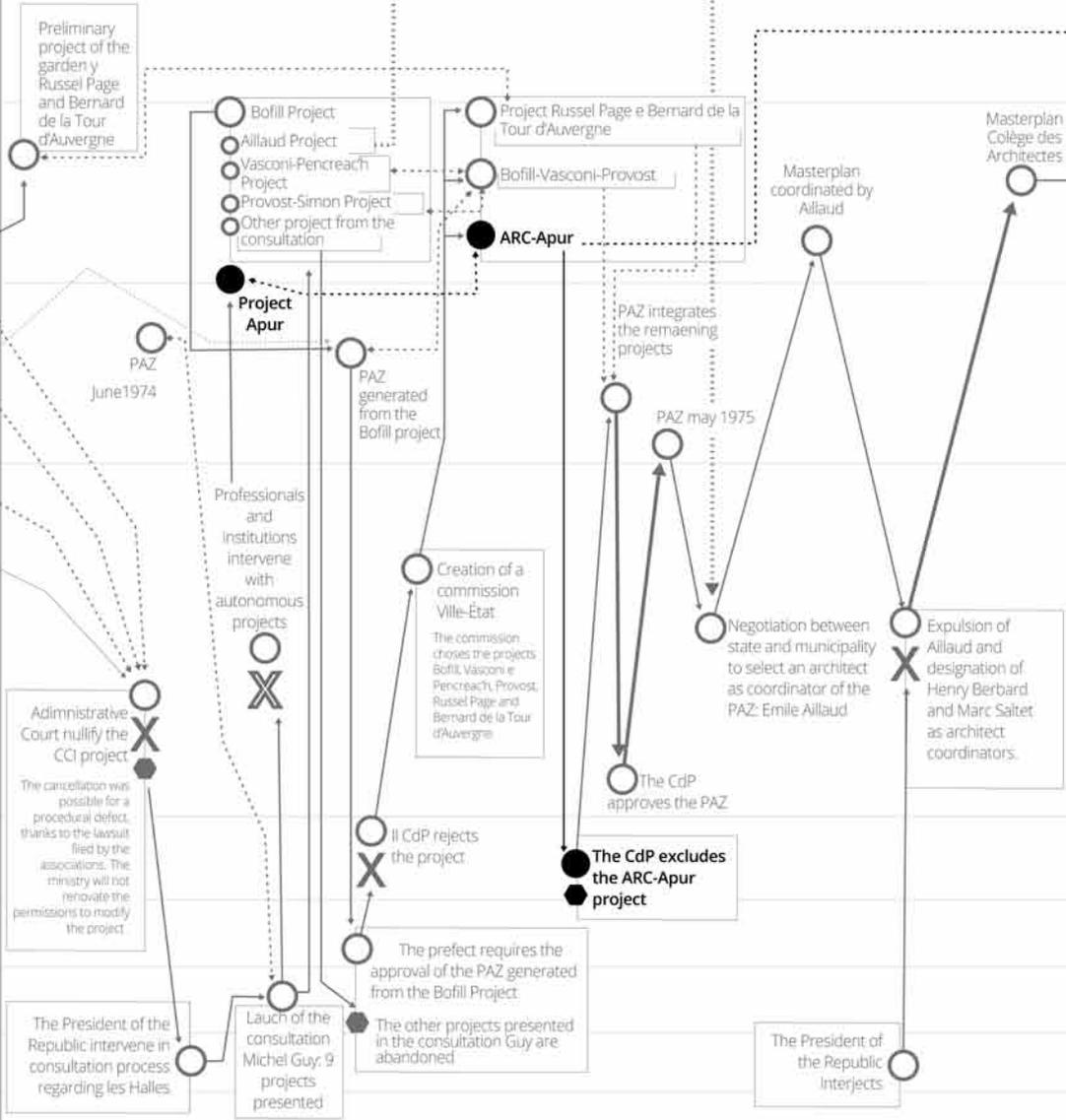
Material effects

Documents

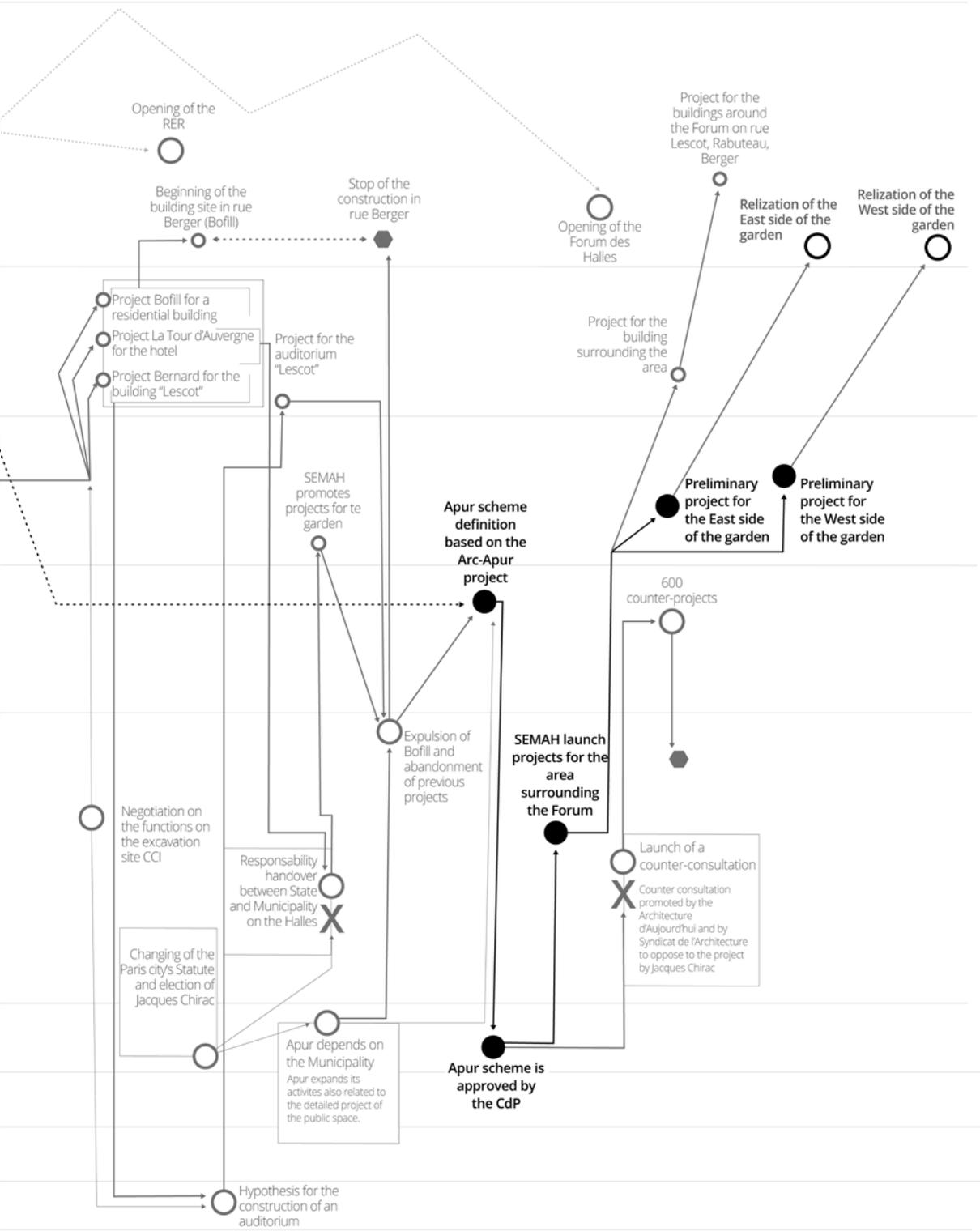
Conflicts and negotiations

Policies

The Forum project is modified according to the variations of the proposals for the building in rue Lescot



- 1974 mar
- 1974 apr
- 1974 mai
- 1974 juin
- 1974 juil
- 1974-08-01
- 1974-08-01
- 1974 oct
- 1974 nov
- 1974 dec
- 1975 jan
- 1975 feb
- 1975 mar
- 1975 apr
- 1975 mai
- 1975 juin
- 1975-06-01
- 1975-06-01
- 1975-07-01
- 1975 oct
- 1975 nov
- 1975 dec
- 1976-01-01
- 1976-01-01
- 1976-01-01
- 1976-01-01
- 1976-01-01



- 1976 lug - ago
- 1976 sett - ott
- 1976 nov - dec
- 1977
- 1978 gen - feb
- 1978 mar - apr
- 1978 mag - jiu
- 1978 lug - ago
- 1978 sett - ott
- 1978 nov - dec
- 1979 gen - feb
- 1979 mar - apr
- 1979 mag - jiu
- 1979 lug - ago
- 1979 sett - ott
- 1979 nov - dec
- 1980
- 1981
- 1982
- 1983
- 1984
- 1985
- 1986
- 1987
- 1988
- 1989

One is that les Halles saga is an over-stratified process, in which different urban paradigms overlap and superpose themselves going up and down between policies and material effects.

Another is the role of intermediate entities, as public bureaucracies (Myses 1944) – namely The Atelier Parisien d’Urbanisme (APUR) – which appears to be the translator of policies in plans and projects, through conflicts and negotiations.

The question if such a tool can be used not just to build up a rough “urban history” (Roncayolo 1976), but rather to picture an ongoing project, remains an open issue: the same energy which is more conventionally spent to communicate a design could, perhaps, be redeployed to design a process.

References

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