

Country /City

University / School

Academic year

Title of the project

Authors

Montreuil (Seine-Saint-Denis), France

RWTH Aachen University, Institute of Landscape Architecture

Summer 2020 – Winter 2020/2021

Murs à Pêches de Montreuil : Active Heritage Approach

Ayda Hamid Kargari, Kevin Christopher Wehnert

TECHNICAL DOSSIER

Title of the project	Murs à Pêches de Montreuil : Active Heritage Approach
Authors	Ayda Hamid Kargari, Kevin Christopher Wehnert
Title of the course	Research Module “Exploring Urban Agricultural Heritage” (2 semesters, 6 ECTS)
Academic year	Summer 2020 – Winter 2020/2021
Teaching Staff	Dr.-Ing. Axel Timpe, landscape architect; Katharina Christenn, M.A.
Department / Section / Program of belonging	Institute of Landscape Architecture, M. Sc. in Architecture, M.Sc. in Urban Planning
University / School	RWTH Aachen University



Written statement, short description of the project in English, no more than 250 words

Agriculture is facing the challenges of climate change and de-fossilisation which can have a massive impact on our contemporary, industrialised agricultural production systems and agricultural landscapes. Agricultural heritage systems can be an important inspiration and knowledge base to adapt agriculture to local conditions and reintroduce a resource efficient production.

The Peach Walls of Montreuil are a cultivation system which allows to produce Mediterranean fruit near Paris. After making its way from seigneurial parks into local farming practices in the 18th century a thriving economy developed around peach cultivation in Montreuil. It declined with the import of Peaches since the beginning of the 20th century and the walls were abandoned. The student research explores how the peach wall zone was organised as a complex cultivation system making use of local materials and creating a micro-climate for fruit production. In addition to the walls, the techniques of tree grafting and cutting were enhanced over time.

After having been abandoned for decades, the Peach Walls receive new interest since the 1990ies and a multitude of local initiatives uses the heritage structure to develop new forms of greening the city and improving the quality of life for the local community.

As a takeaway for their own practice the students identified how an urban production system can be designed following the principles of sufficiency and how historic structures can be repurposed for contemporary practices while conserving their initial idea and materiality. This student research contributed to the book “Urban Agricultural Heritage” published in 2022.

For further information

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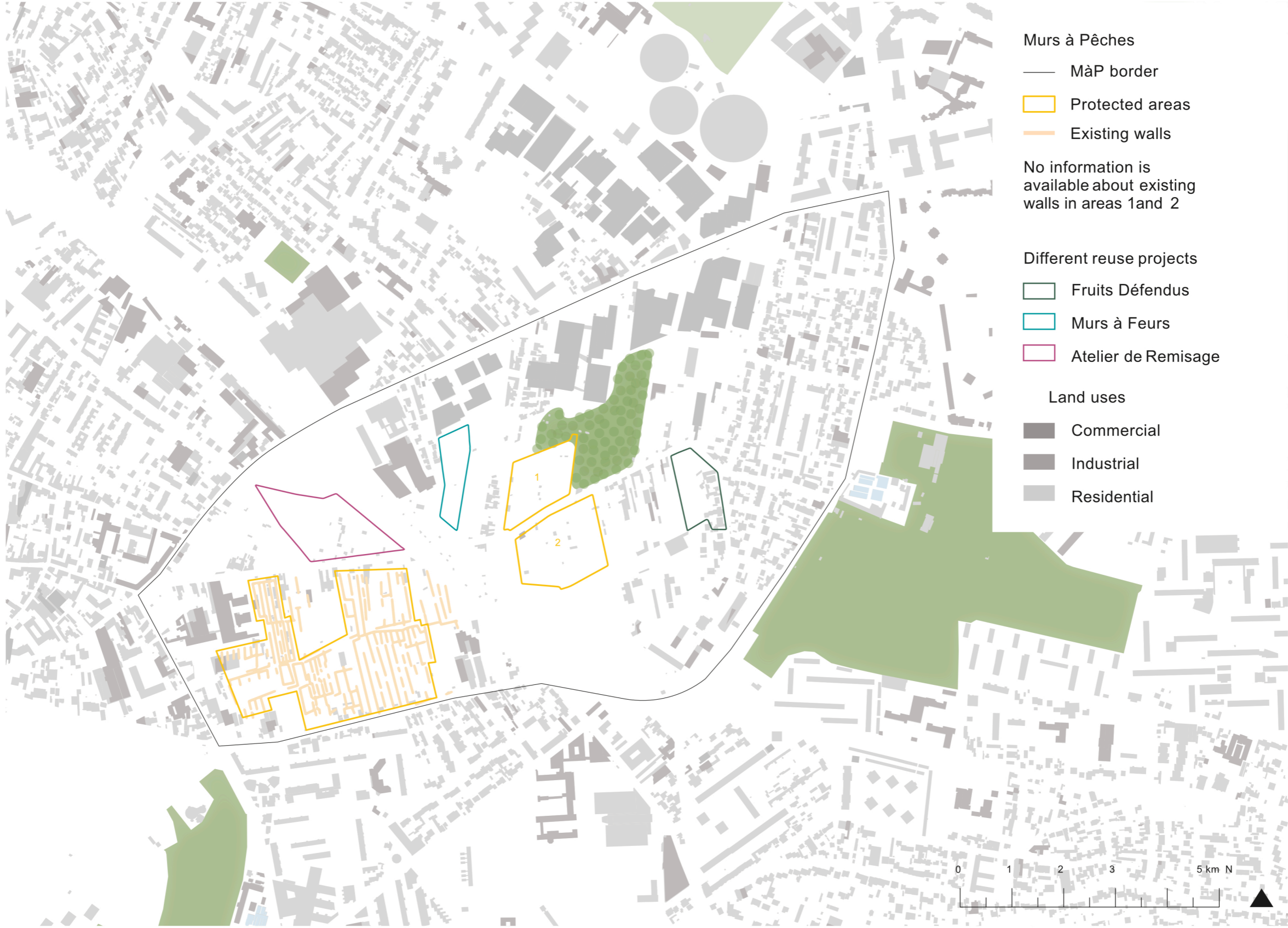
Carrer Arcs, 1-3
08002 Barcelona - Spain

12th International Biennial Landscape Barcelona

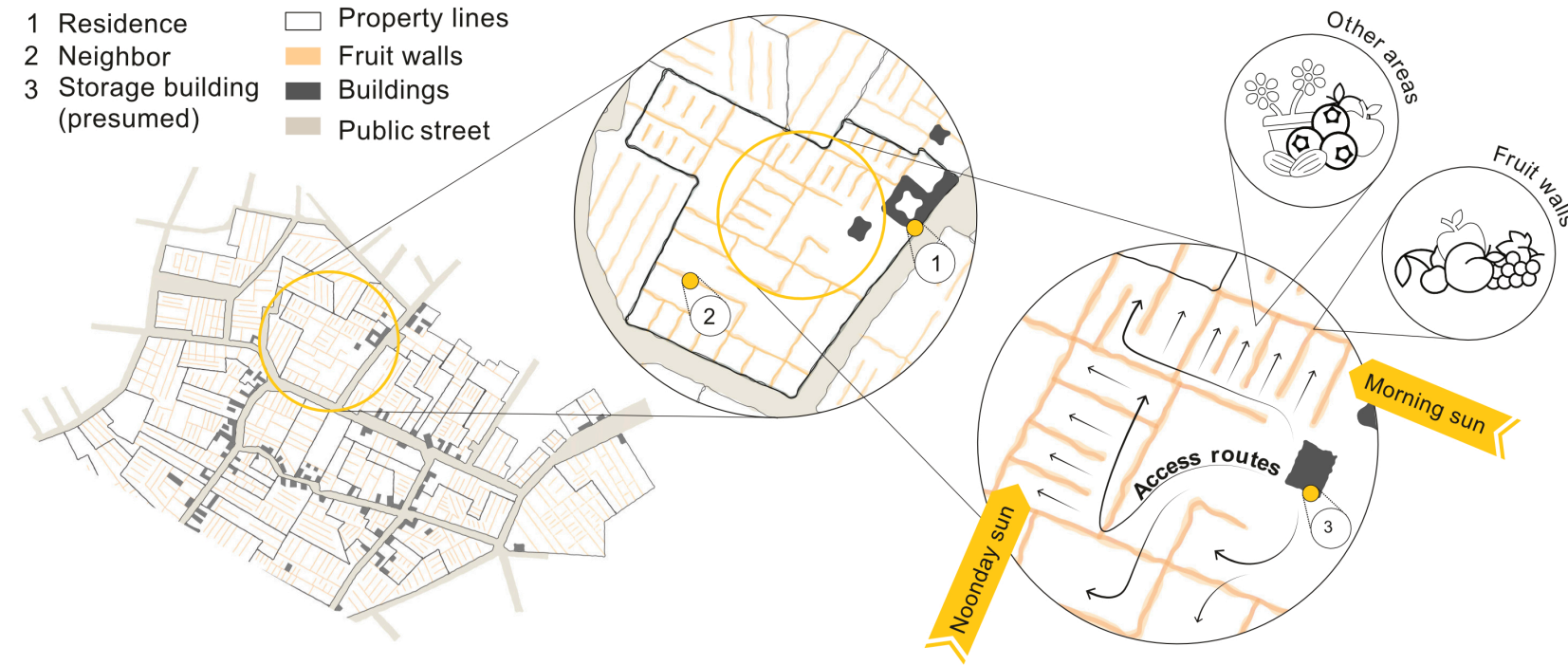
Barcelona November 2023

SCHOOL PRIZE

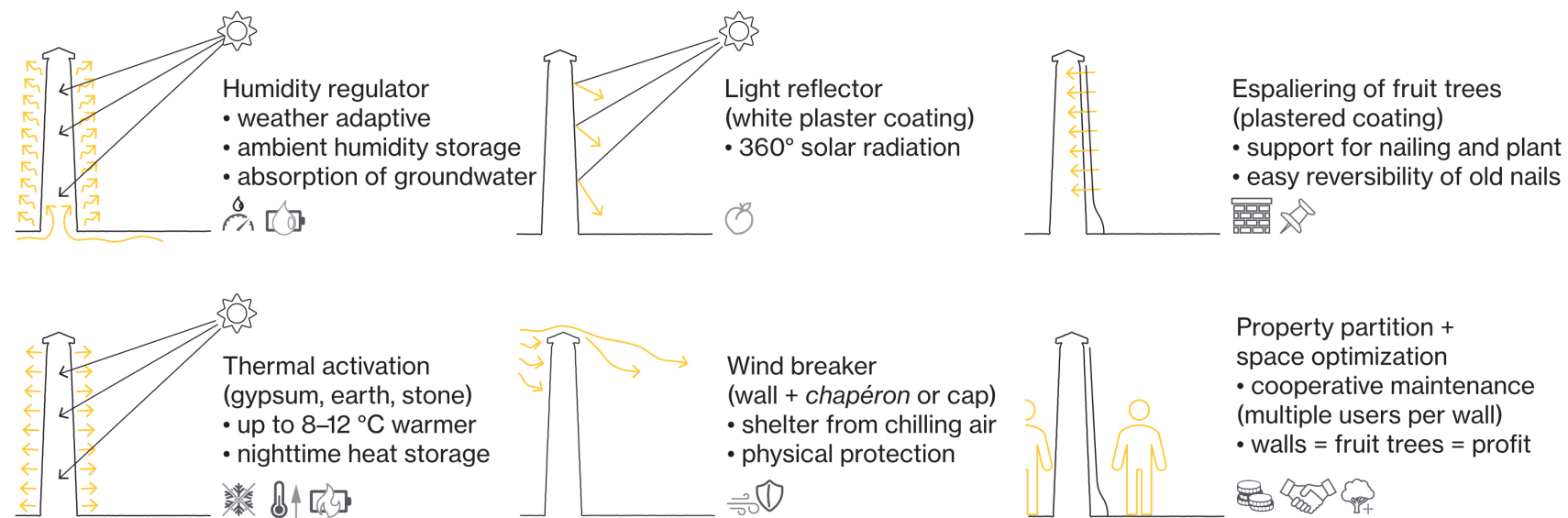
Remaining and reactivated Peach Walls in the urban fabric of Montreuil



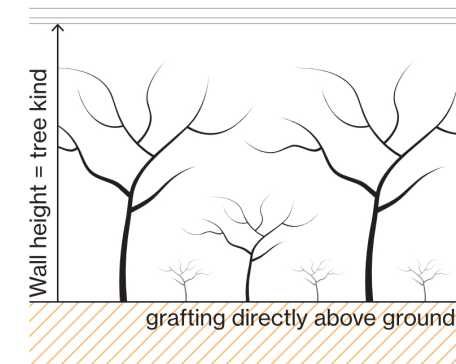
Spatial analysis of the Peach Wall system in 1773



Micro-climatic and productive functions of the Peach Walls

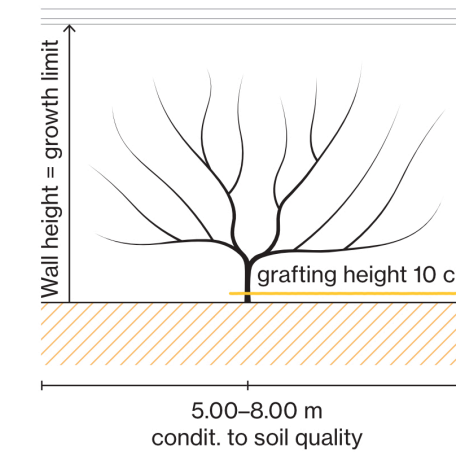


Peach cultivation techniques in Montreuil



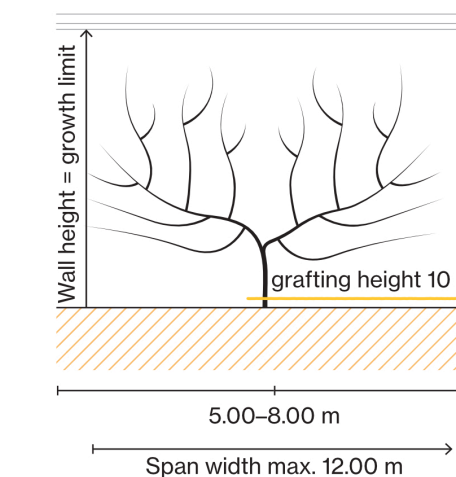
Tree continuum

- + different heights covered by multiple plants
- o growing young trees replace old ones, new saplings are planted in between



L'arbre à l'étoile (star-shaped tree)

- + higher safety in case of damage
- difficulty in keeping middle part tidy



L'arbre Baucer (tree of Baucer)

- + better balance of juice - pressure
- higher impact of damage

The Peach Walls are built from cheap local material with traditional techniques

