

REPAIRING THE BUILT WORLD

Materials and cultures of care

ENSA de Paris-Belleville, IPRAUS Laboratory

October 2, 9, 16, 23, 2025

18.30-20.00

4 roundtables on Thursday evenings

Organised and moderated by

Élisabeth Essaïan and Philippe Simay

As part of the project

Ecological approaches to restoration and construction

PENCE Programme (Power Europe Narrative for Civic Ecology)

"Environmental disruptions are only the visible surface of a much deeper and more significant problem—related to our ways of living and being together on this planet. Environmental ecology should be thought of alongside social and mental ecologies, as part of an ecosophy of ethical and political nature."

— Félix Guattari

Can we claim to build ecologically without questioning the modes and conditions of production? Can we promote so-called ecological materials without interrogating their origins and implementation conditions? To what extent might ecological construction help define a new professional ethics for architects?

Drawing on Félix Guattari's three-fold ecological framework—environmental, social, and mental—these four roundtables invite debate and confrontation of perspectives, grounded in diverse contexts, on how to care for places, for those who build them, and for those who inhabit them.

Key themes include design and practice conditions, current and desirable economic models, the limits of internalizing time constraints, proxemics and relevant action perimeters, the consequences of specialization versus massification in supply chains, and the tension between discourse and implementation.

October 2, 2025 — Roundtable 1

"Post-war: Is ecological reconstruction possible?"

Wars have devastating consequences for populations and equally serious impacts on the environment. The destruction of buildings, infrastructures, and landscapes generates not only tons of waste but also soil and air pollution that may alter inhabited environments for generations. While there is consensus on the need to rebuild decent living conditions, the strategy to adopt remains unclear. Faced with urgency, should we build as quickly as possible to shelter people—using cheap, highly carbon-intensive industrial materials—or instead take time for a sustainable ecological reconstruction using bio- and geo-sourced materials?

In such processes, how do we reconcile displaced residents' need for shelter with their attachment to place? How can we move from building **for** to building **with** them?

Guests: Anna Dobrova (Metalab, Ukraine), Mathilde Leloup (Paris 8, Paris), Stéphanie Dadour (ENSAPM-ACS, Paris).

October 9, 2025 — Roundtable 2

"Reuse in the age of its massification"

Long seen as a marginal practice, material reuse in construction is now a pillar of the circular economy. Driven by environmental imperatives and regulatory constraints, it is becoming professionalized, supported by the structuring of supply chains ready to scale up. This momentum brings new opportunities for the building sector. But can this massification—often industrially driven—stay true to the social values that historically shaped these practices? What forms of social, economic, and technical organization can ensure reuse grows without losing meaning or emancipatory power? How do we balance efficiency, ethics, and territorial anchoring?

Guests: Hugo Topalov (Bellastock, Paris), Michaël Ghyoot (Rotor, Belgium), Joanne Boachon (Minéka platform, Lyon).

October 16, 2025 — Roundtable 3

"Building with earth: a different way of working?"

This roundtable explores the resurgence of interest in earth construction, valued for its ecological, aesthetic, and social qualities. Beyond performance metrics, what imaginaries does this material evoke? What are the contemporary pathways for knowledge transmission? Where are these techniques being taught and how are they being shared?

We will also discuss labor conditions on conventional construction sites versus earthen building sites, which are often less strenuous, more inclusive, and strongly community-oriented. Such sites often encourage professional integration and higher participation by women, offering a glimpse of an alternative building model at the intersection of environmental and social issues.

Guests: Salima Naji (Morocco), Dominique Gauzin-Muller (Germany), Frédérique Jonnard (Atelier Terramano, Noisy-le-Sec).

October 23, 2025 — Roundtable 4

"Architecture and vulnerability"

The notion of *care* places vulnerability at the heart of architectural thought. Can we design **from** vulnerability rather than **for** it? And how does this shift enable more inclusive forms of togetherness?

Focusing on architectural projects centered on care and mental health, this roundtable will assess their therapeutic and social value. We will also consider whether these approaches can sustainably transform design practices by incorporating listening, care, and spatial justice.

Guests: Lila Bonneau (Archidessa, Paris), Éric de Thoisy (Architecture and care, CNAM, Paris), Gaston Tolila (Tolila & Gilliland, Paris).

Organizers

Philippe Simay

Philippe Simay is a senior lecturer in philosophy at the École d'Architecture de Paris-Belleville and a researcher at the IPRAUS laboratory. He co-founded the journal *Métropolitiques.eu* and also hosts the documentary series *Habiter le monde* (Living the World) on the ARTE channel. His work focuses on the ethical and political issues of eco-construction. Recent publications include *La Ferme du rail: pour une ville écologique et solidaire* (with Clara Simay, Actes Sud, 2021) and *Bâtir avec ce qui reste. Quelles ressources pour sortir de l'extractivisme?* (Terre Urbaine, 2024).

Élisabeth Essaïan

Élisabeth Essaïan is a licensed architect (DPLG), PhD in architecture, senior lecturer in Theory and Practice of Architectural and Urban Design (TPCAU) at ENSA Paris–Belleville, and researcher at IPRAUS. Her early work, including an exhibition and thesis, focused on memorial architecture in Oradour-sur-Glane. She later studied Soviet architecture and urbanism under Stalin, culminating in the book *Le prolétariat ne se promène pas nu. Moscou en projets* (Parenthèses, 2021). She co-leads the *Architecture et précarités* platform with Laetitia Overney and Stéphanie Dadour, and co-curates (with Mathilde Leloup) the exhibition *Patrimoines en ligne de mire. De Bâmiyân à Kharkiv* (Cité de l'architecture et du patrimoine, opening May 2026).

Roundtable 1 – October 2, 2025

"Post-war: Is ecological reconstruction possible?"

Anna Dobrova

An architect trained at the National Academy of Fine Arts in Kyiv and the Technical University of Vienna, Anna Dobrova focuses on architecture's social mission. She works across rehabilitation, education, artistic and urban interventions, participatory research, and institutional development. Her work centers on democratizing post-war societies. She is co-founder of several non-profit institutions in Ukraine, including METALAB, an urban lab based in Ivano-Frankivsk, which supports communities in creating inclusive, sustainable, and comfortable living spaces.

Mathilde Leloup

Associate professor in Political Science at the Institute for European Studies (IEE), Université Paris 8, and deputy director of the CRESPPA research center, Mathilde Leloup explores cultural heritage and its ties to multilateral actors (development, peacekeeping, international security). She teaches international relations, conflict studies, and foreign policy. Notable works include *Défendre l'humanité en protégeant son patrimoine* (Daloz, 2021) and *Les banques culturelles. Penser la redéfinition du développement par l'art* (L'Harmattan, 2016).

Stéphanie Dadour

Associate professor at ENSA Paris-Malaquais and member of the Institut Convergences Migrations, Stéphanie Dadour co-founded the architecture agency Dadour de Pous. Her research explores power relations and asymmetries in spatial design, particularly within domestic environments. Key publications include *Des voix s'élèvent. Féminismes et Architecture* (Éd. de la Villette, 2022) and *The Housing Project. Discourses, ideals, models and politics in 20th c. exhibitions* (with G. Caramellino, Leuven University Press, 2020).

Roundtable 2 – October 9, 2025

"Reuse in the age of its massification"

Hugo Topalov

Architect and engineer, Hugo Topalov, works with Bellastock, a Paris-based architecture cooperative

active since 2006 in circular economy and material reuse. He is involved in research, design, and consultancy. He teaches at ENSA Paris-Belleville since 2020. His work frequently contributes to public, professional, and academic debates.

Michaël Ghyoot

Architect and researcher, Michaël Ghyoot focuses on ecology, material reuse, and architecture. He joined *Rotor* in 2008, a Brussels-based non-profit founded in 2005 specializing in reuse. Rotor later launched *Rotor DC* in 2016, a cooperative recovering, conditioning, and reselling reusable building materials. Ghyoot has led research, exhibitions, and advocacy projects. He co-authored *Déconstruction et réemploi. Comment faire circuler les éléments de construction* (EPFL Press, 2018).

Joanne Boachon

An architect committed to sustainable practices, Joanne Boachon founded Minéka in 2016 to make reused materials accessible to all. She is passionate about both ecology and social entrepreneurship. As co-founder of the MATAURA network and elected board member of the Professional Union for Reuse Actors in Construction, she helps steer the regional and national reuse movement, grounded in Social and Solidarity Economy values.

Roundtable 3 – October 16, 2025

"Building with earth: a different way of working?"

Salima Naji

Architect and anthropologist, Salima Naji founded her agency in Morocco in 2004. She has worked on exemplary preservation and repair projects in southern Morocco, blending eco-construction with participatory methods. From restored heritage (ksour, mosques, granaries, synagogues) to new builds, she favors locally sourced materials—earth, stone, clay. She calls her process "paleo-innovation", drawing from historical techniques to address climate change. She has authored several books on Moroccan architecture and received the French Academy of Architecture's Gold Medal in 2024.

Dominique Gauzin-Muller

Architect and honorary professor at the UNESCO-CRAterre chair, Dominique Gauzin-Muller teaches at Strasbourg School of Architecture and at universities in Linz, Marrakech, and Zurich. She curated the *TERRA Award* in 2016, the first global prize for contemporary earthen architecture. A member of the négaWatt association since 2007, she contributes expertise on eco-responsible urbanism. Her best-known book *L'architecture écologique* (Le Moniteur, 2001) is translated into 8 languages. She was editor-in-chief of *EcologiK/EK* (2007–2016) and now directs a publishing series on ecological transition at MUSEO Editions.

Frédérique Jonnard

State-certified architect, mason, and trainer, Frédérique Jonnard manages *Terramano*, a company specialized in earthen construction. Since 2013, she has taught traditional building techniques and co-founded *ACI Terre de Femmes*, a job-integration site for women, supported by the Salvation Army's *Palais de la Femme*. Founded in 2016, Terramano works with local soils and promotes circularity and carbon footprint reduction in building across the Île-de-France region.

Roundtable 4 – October 23, 2025

"Architecture and vulnerability"

Lila Bonneau

Licensed architect (HMONP), specialist in Architecture & Heritage (ENSAPB), and PhD in Architecture, Urbanism, Landscape, and Heritage (Université Paris Cité – ENSAPVS), Lila Bonneau teaches and researches at ENSAPVS, EVCAU lab. She coordinates the *Archidessa* Chair on

Architecture, Design, and Health. Her research focuses on architecture and care. She authored *L'hôpital Beaujon de Clichy. L'architecture thérapeutique du XXe siècle et ses milieux* (Hermann, 2023). In 2019, she co-founded the Franco-Spanish collective MAÀPA and later the MAÀPA architectural firm.

Éric de Thoisy

Architect and PhD in architecture, Éric de Thoisy has published extensively on architecture and care. He is an associate researcher at the Chair of Philosophy at the Hospital (GHU Paris Psychiatry & Neurosciences). Since 2020, he has hosted the seminar *Architecture and care* on the *Adamant*, a psychiatric day hospital on a barge in central Paris. Former research director at SCAU architecture firm, he co-led the *Soutenir* project and exhibition with philosopher Cynthia Fleury on city, architecture, and care.

Gaston Tolila

Licensed architect (DPLG) and INSA engineer, Gaston Tolila co-founded the architecture studio *Tolila + Gilliland* in 2011 with a focus on the link between materials and use. Their practice emphasizes construction methods as a lever for reducing environmental impact, favoring natural, bio- and geo-sourced materials. The firm won the *Moniteur Architecture First Work Prize* (2012) and the *Équerre d'Argent Award* twice—in 2023 (Workplaces category) and 2024 (Housing category). Since 2024, he has begun research on “Architecture and Psychiatry.”