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## Rediscover the River, Respect and Transform

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# Recovering the Loire



The island project is built around the Loire and enables residents to get back in touch with the river and start using the riverbanks once more.

The newly developed streets and buildings open the city up onto the Loire with new views over the river. A whole landscape comes into view, reminding us of how close we are to the ocean.

Old and new functions operate side by side along the Loire, with riverbanks shaped by quays, pontoons and jetties. The preserved and rehabilitated harbour heritage attracts new activities. From the Haudaudine Bridge to the Bananas Hangar, housing, business, leisure facilities, restaurants, tourism and culture are all there at the waterside.

The river adjusts to new living styles and the need to move around, with river shuttles, pleasure boats and new bridges all included in the project.



“The idea is to get the island, the Loire and the riverbanks talking together... In this way the Loire will no longer be where everything stops, but as the basis for sharing out the city.”



Riverside developments help residents to take the waterfront over again.

# Respect and Transform



The island is shaped by the natural, port, industrial and architectural heritage which is worth being preserved.

The project considers what is **already there with respect**. However, the approach is not nostalgic, **but contemporary**.

This new chapter in the city's history is rather to be seen as **a form of urban ecology**, an approach that calls for the reconversion rather than **the destruction of existing buildings**.

The determination to create a sustainable area that preserves the natural environment means that we have to **respect the island biodiversity**. The quality of residents' living conditions lies in the landscaping developments and enhancing the natural vegetation. A few examples: the redeveloped riverbanks of Blancho Boulevard, Mabon Square, the estuary angelica (a protected species growing wild along the banks of the Loire) or the garden set out under one of the former Atlantic Foundries' halls.



“The transformation of this already shaped and occupied island must reconcile the need for renewal with due consideration for what is already there.”

Alexandre Chemetoff, architect and urban designer. (IFA exhibition - June 2005)



A covered garden set under the Foundries' halls where exotic plants bring home thoughts from abroad.