

SOLAR DECATHLON EUROPE 2021

TEAM AURA - AUVERGNE-RHONE-ALPES

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GRE - GRENOBLE

# PRESS RELEASE

## TEAM AURA GOES ... TERRITORIAL!



## SDE21 GOES URBAN ? TEAM AURA GOES TERRITORIAL !

**Designing a sustainable territory, without densifying the city.**

**Grenoble, 03\_12\_2020**

*Team Aura is once again participating in the Solar Decathlon Europe! This international student competition aims to raise awareness, educate and inspire people about urban energy transition, sustainable construction and building renovations. For the 2021 edition, more than just using renewable energies in new buildings, the goal is to optimise the actual urban structure, in converting and expanding existing buildings rather than to demolish and reconstruct them.<sup>1</sup>*

### **A Guiding Concept**

As Philippe Chiambaretta said, the Anthropocene is

*«a scientific concept which postulates that the earth has entered a new geological era, where human activity has become the dominant geophysical force. Beyond the scientific debate, the Anthropocene is a social issue, the name of an environmental consciousness, which confers an enormous responsibility on humanity: to find the tools to meet the challenges of today's way of life.»*

To (re)build a fertile territory and a sustainable society, is by far the biggest challenge of the 21st century that humanity must take up. In 2020, objective indicators show, one after the other, an advanced and increasing state of degradation of the planet, and irreversible changes are already underway. It is no longer a question of avoiding them, but of limiting their impact. Team AuRA believes in the collective capacity to change the course of things, and so will do its part.

### **Awareness towards change**

To this end, the ambition is to bring out, in the coming years, several projects and stories that will enable us to consider different ways of living in the Anthropocene. The first opus of this long-term study will be to **revitalise rural areas, as an alternative to megacities and as a territorial balance vector.**

The subjugation of megacities with a complex and globalised supply system comes at the price of an abandonment of sovereignty and a lack of resilience in the face of constraints. This dependence raises

questions, all the more so in view of a future that is, to say the least, indecisive, of which we can affirm that the increase in climatic, environmental, social and health constraints, as well as the scarcity of material and energy resources, will be among its main characteristics.

Team AuRA believes that there is a territorial balance to be established between large metropolises and less densely populated areas in France. Thus, rather than working on the densification of the city, the team develops the Distributed Urbanism notion and addresses the following question : What is the most sustainable way of making territory today?

To these regards, we will be working on different scales :

- Territorial scale: put forward possible alternatives to the metropolises relying on the peri-urban and rural areas existing building stock.
- Local scale: encourage resilient, fertile and self-sufficient communities development.
- Architectural scale: propose an architectural project based on sobriety, energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy. This intent directly refers to the three Negawatt scenario pillars, developed to reduce carbon emissions.

### **An elaborate project for SDE2021**

In this respect, the AuRA team's project, developed as part of SDE21, is located at the Col de l'Arzelier in the commune of Château Bernard, about 35 minutes from Grenoble. This mid-mountain pass, located at an altitude of 1154 metres, is experiencing an economic decline since the closure of its ski lifts in 2018. **The project developed by the team AuRA** aims to revitalise this area and to develop its potential to welcome new permanent inhabitants. The building that supports the SDE21 project is a characteristic former hotel from the 1970s. It will be renovated, integrating housing, common areas and activities. In order to limit entropy, the designed projects will only be using geo-based or bio-based matters, as well as re-used materials.

### **Team AuRA**

After taking part successively in the SDE 2010 (the Armadillo Box© project was ranked 4th) and 2012 in Madrid (the Canopea® proposal won the competition) and being members of the organisation of the 2014 edition of Versailles, we are today thrilled to announce that the Team Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (Team AuRA) has been selected for the coming Solar Decathlon Europe edition, taking place in Wuppertal in 2022.

<sup>1</sup> Refer to : <https://sde21.eu/>

The team will be jointly guided by both the Grenoble National School of Architecture (ENSAG) and the Grands Ateliers Innovation Architecture (GAIA) which is the biggest French technical platform dedicated to innovation and experimentation in the field of architecture. These two institutions have been historically deeply involved in the previous SDE adventures the team AURA participated in. The team will also include the Saint-Etienne National School of architecture (ENSASE), the University of Grenoble (UGA), the ENSE3 school, the ENSAM Chambéry school, the Association des compagnons du devoir et du tour de France (AOCDTF), the IUTGEII Grenoble, the IAE of Grenoble, the URBAN school of Lyon and HES-SO.



Fig.001. Former projects designed and built by the Team AuRA



Fig.002. Existing building the Team AuRA is working on

## Média channel we are aiming to reach

- Newspapers  
National : Le Monde, Le Figaro, Le point, Libération  
Regional : Le Dauphine Libéré, Energie.com, La Chambre de commerce de Grenoble, Les Affiches de Grenoble et du Dauphiné, Présences, L'essor isère
- Web magazines  
General: gre-mag.fr, ici-grenoble.org, lesmondaines.com, Le courrier de l'architecte  
University magazine : (H)auteurs UGA, Newsletter de la doc (ENSAG)
- Radio stations  
France inter, France culture, BFM radio, France Bleu isère, Radio ISA, Virgine Radio
- TV  
Tf1, France 2, BFM TV, Grenoble TV, France 3 R-A, ARTE, Sept à Huit

## Key Words

Anthropocene - Urbanism - Architecture - Engineering - Rural - Universities - Solar Decathlon - SDE21 - Mobility - Agriculture - Team Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes - Megacities - Alternatives - Reuse materials - Solar Energy - High performances buildings - Team AuRA - Students - France - Grenoble - Lyon - Construction - Experimentation - 1:1 scale model - Competition - Innovation - Cross Universities program - Germany - Wuppertal - Constructives cultures

## Contact

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