

# Les rencontres de la Haute École du Bois et de la Forêt

July 2nd - 8th 2023  
Guillestre (FR)



Living the mountain,  
living the forest

Designed as a European Campus, the Haute Ecole du Bois et de la Forêt is currently being planned in the French Alps. One part of the school, located in l'Argentière-la-Bessée, will offer specific training in production, building construction, trade/marketing, forestry engineering. Another part, located in Embrun, will be dedicated to wooden architecture, bio-sourced materials and energy performance. The School will provide transversal competences on wood and forest in order to develop a systemic vision of the forest environment -from forest management to wooden construction – with the aim of supporting future professionals to confront with with the actual context characterized by ecological, economic and social crises.

The communities of municipalities of the Pays des Ecrins, Guillestrois-Queyras and Serre-Ponçon are organizing a summer school to engage in collective reflection about the relationships between the forest and housing, in the specific context of the Alps, through an interdisciplinary approach. The summer school will deal with the crises of our century – climate change, overexploitation of resources and the deepening of social inequalities – questioning our relationships with nature into the future, and challenging our visions about wood and forests:

**What representations, imaginary, uses and forms, to reinvent housing in the Alps of tomorrow?**



**To provide some answers to this challenging question, selected areas of the territory will be used as samples, in order to represent territorial and social differences across the region. On these situated examples, we will develop three scenarios, each considering the forest through a different approach:**

## 1. The forest as a resource

This first scenario will raise the question about **the “scale”** of the wood industry. Considering forests and wood as resources means questioning their exploitation conditions and their uses. Can the Alpine Arc be considered as a “local” scale? If so, what type of cooperation among municipalities and among countries, to manage the resources and to develop the most appropriated skills? How to materialize these reflections from the territorial project to the architectural scale? By addressing these questions, this scenario will therefore try to figure out how to optimize the resource at different scales. Furthermore, the possible contribution of the innovative industry will be analyzed in order to understand how to make the resource accessible to the greatest number of people while respecting production cycles.

## 2. The forest as a reserve

This second scenario will challenge the question of **the limits** of the exploitations and use of forests and wood. What is our capacity to preserve the forest from human action? How can we use “less” while welcoming new population? How can we repair damaged landscapes? In answering these questions, we will explore the potential of other resources than forests and wood, considering the possible articulations between other local bio-sourced material and reuse processes. Considering the forest as a reserve is also the opportunity to develop a landscape vision for the territory, challenging the idea of forests in free evolution.

## 3. The forest as a garden

This third scenario will explore **the uses** to be preserved, abandoned and (re-)introduced for enhanced cohabitation among humans, fauna and flora. How to rethink the social and productive values of the forest and in what forms? What methods and practices should be developed to enhance its value as a common good? How could we overcome the classical dialogical opposition of the domestic and the wild? Considering the forest as a garden to be cultivated will challenge our ways of life, questioning our modes of consumption, production and construction. This scenario will be an opportunity to approach the concept of multifunctional forest and explore the uses that could coexist.

**At the end of the summer school, these three scenarios will enlighten scales, limits and uses of wood and forests. Used as a matter of debate, they will aim to open up ways of negotiation between productive and preservative logics, by developing a resolutely ecosystemic vision of wood and forest.**

# Key moments

**Discovery of the territory:** meetings with inhabitants, professionals and institutions (local public authorities, builders, operators, carpenters, architects...);

**Interdisciplinary lab:** cross-fertilization of knowledge and practices in order to test different project's scenarios;

**Conferences and films:** as key moments of training and public awareness ;

**A final forum** where ideas will be discussed with local professionals, institutions, and inhabitants.

# How to participate?

**The summer school is limited to 21 participants.**

This summer school is for students (graduate, post-graduate, PhD students, post-doc) and young professionals **in architecture, wood and forest engineering, landscape, urbanism, design, social sciences.**

Transdisciplinary approach is crucial to provide answers that take into account the complexity of wood and forest, but also to develop common language and vision for the future.

# Dates

**18th of may**

Sending a motivation letter + three images that represent your work to

**festival.rencontres.hebf@gmail.com**

**22nd of May**

Answer from the organizing team

**From th 2nd of July to th 8th**

Summer School

Accommodation and meals are provided by the communities of communes of Pays des Ecrins, Guillestrois-Queyras and Serre-Ponçon



# Organising team

**Gabriele Salvia** is an architect, teacher at the Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Marseille, researcher at Project[s] and cofounder of the architecture and research studio Tiers Lab. His work focuses on the requalification of historical centers and the rehabilitation processes of old buildings, particularly in mountain areas.

**Marion Serre** is an architect, cofounder of the architecture and research studio Tiers Lab and a researcher at the Project[s] laboratory of the and the EnsadLab of l'école des Arts Décoratifs. Uses and users are at the core of her design and research-action processes.

**Matteo Penza** is a designer, but he wonders what it might mean to be a designer at a time when designing ever more beautiful chairs seems to be the worst thing to do. He wonders what would happen if, instead of drawing objects, he drew postures, gestures, narratives evoking other worlds and other possibilities, which force us to squint and to follow them with a few steps aside.

**Matthieu Duperrex** is a senior lecturer in humanities at the École nationale supérieure d'architecture de Marseille. Artist and theorist, artistic director of the collective **Urbain, trop urbain**, his work proceeds from field investigations on anthropized environments and crosses literature, human sciences and visual arts. His last book is entitled *La rivière et le bulldozer* (Paris, Premier Parallèle, 2022).

## Guests

In order to propose great debates during the week, we will welcome different people, who will share their vision of the wood and forest from their field of action : art, literature, industry, engineering, architecture, research and practice, cinema, ecology, biology, crafts... (program of conferences and roundtables in progress, **here soon**)

**[festival.rencontres.hebf@gmail.com](mailto:festival.rencontres.hebf@gmail.com)**



COMMUNAUTÉ DE COMMUNES  
SERRE-PONÇON

Guillestrois-QUEYRAS

Communauté de communes

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Pays des Écrins



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