

HS20 Master Thesis  
Theme A

# JARDIN DES NATIONS

Restaging Global  
Governance in Geneva

# Colophon

JARDIN DES NATIONS

Fall Semester 2020 (HS20)

This booklet is an introduction to  
the Master Thesis Theme A

ARCHITECTURE OF TERRITORY  
Associate Professor Milica Topalovic

Team: Muriz Djurdjevic, Ferdinand  
Pappenheim, Michael Stünzi

ETH Zurich D-ARCH  
ONA G35 Neunbrunnenstrasse 50  
8050 Zurich, Switzerland

P +41(0)44 633 86 88  
[www.topalovic.arch.ethz.ch](http://www.topalovic.arch.ethz.ch)

# Content

5	<b>Introduction</b> Jardin des Nations
11	<b>Context</b> Historical context Genève Internationale in the Metropolitan Region Cuvette Genevoise Site of the Jardin des Nations Genève internationale: Genesis and protagonists Planning process Ongoing projects Site photos
153	<b>Project assignment</b> Focus areas Schedule and field trip Ancillary discipline Experts contacts
187	<b>Resources</b> Reference maps and images Reference projects and plans Selected bibliography Text source and web data



# Introduction

7 Jardin des Nations



United Nations Office, Alley of Flags, Geneva

# Jardin des Nations— Restaging Global Governance in Geneva

“Together, let us assume that the Earth is one small garden.”  
Gilles Clément, *Planetary Garden*, 1992.

The crucial infrastructures underpinning the contemporary urban realm are mostly invisible, and it takes a crisis or a breakdown of some sort to bring them into view, observed anthropologist Susan Leigh in her work. She further observed that the role of research and design is to expose and scrutinise these invisible systems in order to ensure their just and equitable use.

These observations resonate well with the recent experience of the Covid-19 pandemic, when institutions of global governance, in particular the World Health Organisation, burst into media spaces around the world. In contrast to their powerful role in the media, the urban presence of the WHO and other international institutions located in the city of Geneva remains relatively marginal. To borrow from Leigh, these institutions remain “invisible” in the city and detached from everyday life.

The image of the “city of peace” and the seat of world governance in Geneva is still highly appealing. Located in the cuvette surrounding Lac Léman between the Jura and the Alps, Geneva has maintained an appearance of a small and well-organised city, a home to efficient apparatus of international institutions and organisations. But in times of crisis of capitalist urbanisation, the ecological crisis, and the rise of nationalist tendencies across Europe and the world, coalescing in the recent events of the pandemic, the institutions including the United Nations, the World Health Organisation, and the International Labour Organisation, all located in Geneva, are struggling to assert their leadership and to retain influence.

The described challenges provoke questions about the character of urban spaces and landscapes of International Geneva. Due to the high level of security sought by international institutions and organisations, much of the area is inaccessible to the public, with many parks and gardens serving as mere backdrop, or a buffer, shielding the complex and untransparent inner workings of organisations. On select public walkways, groups of tourists are usually being guided between the monuments — however, since the start of the pandemic, any public visits have been halted, further underscoring the detached character of the area.

The wider urban ramifications of the growing cluster of Geneva’s international organisations include soaring rents in the inner city, which have pushed many working residents to look for housing in the French periphery. With thousands of employees and hundreds of associated services and activities, International Geneva is one of the key economic protagonist in the city and the region, but its urban role for the city is weakly articulated. As things stand, it appears that the international institutions are hosted by the city of Geneva, but remain largely independent from it.



Daniel Berset, Broken Chair, 1997, erected at Place des Nations in Geneva to draw attention to the victims of landmines.

The notion of the Jardin des Nations links back to the birth of internationalism and institutions of international governance, a process which unfolded throughout the nineteenth century and culminated in Geneva with the competitions for the League of Nations around 1927. A few institutions, including the Red Cross and the International Labour Organisation, had by that time already arrived in this area on the northwest fringes of Geneva, which had become known for large summer estates of Genevian elite, for vineyards and gardens, and for leisure promenade along the lake with Jardin Botanique.

Only in 2005, for the first time, the municipality of Geneva tried to address and reframe the urban character of the international quarter with a concept plan (Plan directeur) entitled Jardin des Nations. The intention of the municipality has been to open many of the closed estates and institutions to the public, linking them into a new framework of public spaces and landscapes accessible to the citizen. However, until today, almost none of these ideas have been realised.

Jardin des Nations diploma invites the student to engage with the urban space of International Geneva, in order to rethink the constitution of urban political spaces, and the urban and architectural representation of institutions of global governance in the 21st century. How does global political cooperation and common decision-making work in times of decentralised societies, media and information technologies? How do globalised political spaces, such as the space of the Covid-19 politics, intersect with the physical space of the city? Should international political institutions engage with the city and its everyday life? How and where can democracy be exercised in public? What kind of values do we want institutions of global governance to represent? How can those values be projected and represented in public space and landscape? Can this site with high security demands become open, public and diverse?

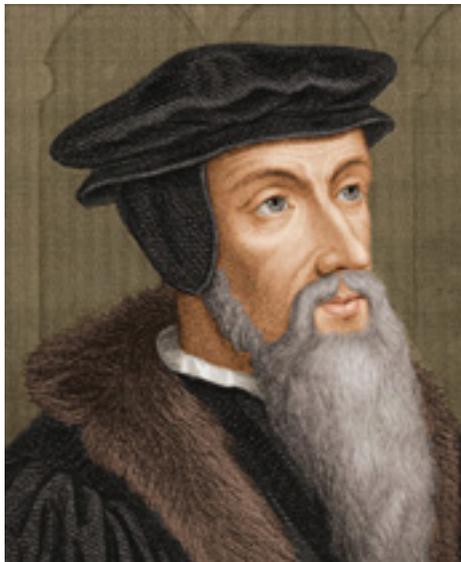
Finally, can the metaphor of the Garden — as in Jardin Planétaire by Gilles Clément — inspire a vision of a space and society, based on the principles and values of diversity, inclusivity, and Nature? Can the Garden metaphor inspire a new design approach to Geneva's international quarter?

The diploma students are invited to contribute ideas and urban design proposals for international Geneva. Taken together, all students projects will have a cumulative value, describing a potential common vision for the area, a complementary project to the municipal Plan directeur Jardin des Nation.



# Context

13	Historical context
21	Genève Internationale in the Metropolitan Region
25	Cuvette Genevoise
31	Site of the Jardin des Nations
51	Genève internationale: Genesis and protagonists
101	Planning process
109	Ongoing projects
129	Site photos



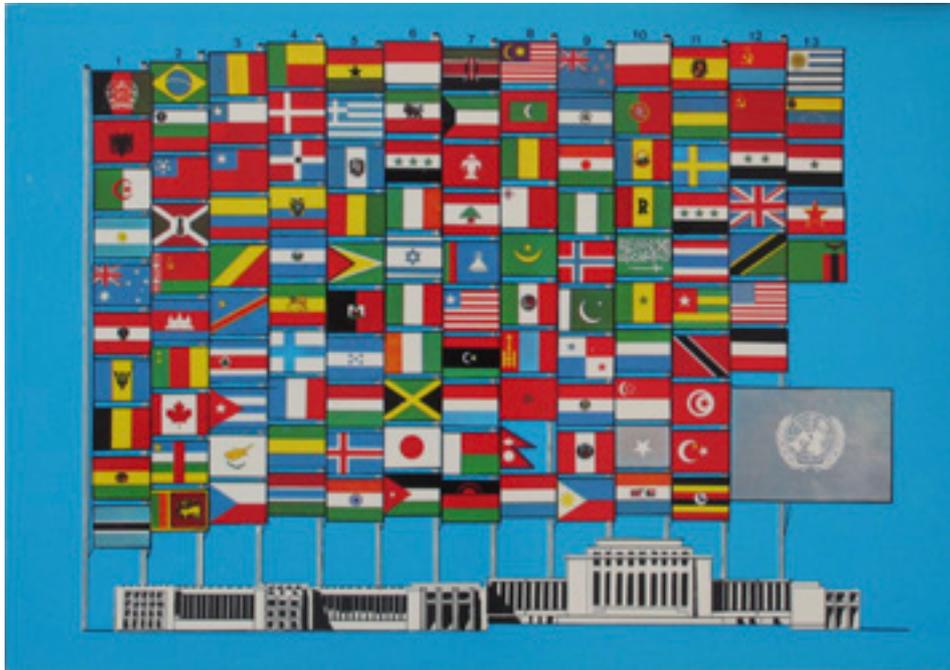
Relief «Genève, cité de refuge» at Place du Molard, Geneva  
Johannes Calvin (1509 - 1564), Voltaire (1694-1778)

# Historical Context— A City of Political Refuge

In the early 16th century, Geneva was a trade center and a town of some 13,000 inhabitants, a catholic diocese in close relations with to the neighbouring Savoy. In 1536, following the example of Zurich and Bern, the city had abolished its Catholic form of worship and turned towards Protestantism under Jean Calvin, one of the leading theological reformers in the french speaking world. The Bishop was evicted and re-established himself in the Pays de Gex, just out of reach of the city, in the neighbouring french countryside. Under Protestantism, Geneva edged closer to an allegiance with the Bernese Republic, which sought to expand its influence in the territories later to become Switzerland. Thus, it was not only the Reformation movement that lead to this turn, but a rivalry with the neighbouring Savoy, which had wanted to absorb the strategically well positioned Geneva into its territory for centuries: Geneva's religious struggle coincided with the struggle for political independence.

Over the next two centuries, the city became a harbour for persecuted protestant minorities from France, most famously the Huguenots, bringing with them their skills as silk workers, jewellers, clock and watchmakers, printers and bankers. Along with this specific knowledge of fine craftsmanship, the protoindustrial economy of Geneva flourished and formed a wealthy bourgeoisie, that established the base for trade and the financial industry. This way the city became also a fertile ground for philosophical scholars like Voltaire and Rousseau, that bred a culture of independent thinking and philanthropy. Geneva, the "protestant Rome", had a civic spirit, but also a worldliness. Its "merchant aristocracy" had an international dimension stemming from alliances and business dealings, as well as from the personal lives of its families whose members were found in many European cities.

Through establishing independence, political liberties, and "internationalism" as part of its culture, the Calvinist Geneva carved out its place in both Switzerland and Europe as a center for international trade and banking. Under the Ancien Régime, Geneva's elite was embedded in a vast network of mutual trust among the protestant trading houses in many capitals and trading ports, based on personal contacts and family ties. Inevitably, this experience of the world at large was transmitted to a broad section of the local population.



From: Joelle Kuntz. Geneva and the call of Internationalism: A History, 2011

UN General Assembly 1988-89

# Genève Internationale as a Center of Global Governance

In the nineteenth and twentieth century, it was the horror of war between the upcoming nations of Europe that set out the circumstances for a new phase of international cooperation that would be initiated in Geneva. The perception of Geneva as a safe and neutral terrain for political negotiations was pushed forward in 1863, when the Red Cross was founded: A society of volunteers organised to be ready to help care for the wounded in times of conflict, followed by an internationally accepted and respected convention proclaiming the principle that humanitarians should be able to do their work without being hindered by the hostility between enemies. The four Geneva Conventions that were signed in the subsequent decades reassured the city's image as a space of neutrality and negotiation.

In the aftermath of the World Wars, this was reflected in the founding of the League of Nations in 1920, followed by the United Nations Organization in 1946. In the post-war world, many other political, business and scientific organizations, such as the European Centre for Nuclear Research (CERN, founded in Geneva in 1954), arrived in the city owing to its politics of neutrality. This contributed to its increasing attractiveness for international organizations.

In this space of political exception, many international treaties have been negotiated over the years, most recently the Iranian Nuclear Deal in 2013. However, next to being the center of international politics Geneva is also one of the world's most important financial centers. Throughout its history, the nexus between the political and economic power has been maintained. Many economic instruments, such as the Zone Franche since 1815, and other tax free and free port regimes over the years, have functioned to secure Geneva's status for financial services and commodity trading.

Throughout the nineteenth and the twentieth centuries, as the international institutions arrived in the area, the open pattern of agricultural fields and grand estates transformed gradually into a unique urban cluster, concentrating most of the international activities on the northwest of the city, along the lake. The urbanism of International Geneva does not represent the city of Geneva. Rather, the city hosts international institutions, whose urban territory remains largely independent from the rest of the city.



Micheli Du Crest, Jacques Barthélemy, Carte des environs de Genève, vers 1730

# The Specific Role of Landscape

The wide space between the lake and the road to Ferney is a territory of ancient occupation. Reflecting its feudal divisions, shared between France and the Geneva franchises, this land was structured by “bocage”, an intricate system of fields and hedges, as illustrated by Micheli du Crest’s map. Some of the bocage, with lines of trees crisscrossing the countryside, had formed a dense ecological network, traces of which are still preserved. The countryside around Geneva practiced polyculture: Orchards, vineyards, meadows and vegetable gardens created a landscape of great variety, which Voltaire described as a “garden surrounded by mountains”.

After 1815, this countryside was punctuated with fortified estates, and the rich bourgeoisie of Geneva had slowly started to build their residences in the fields: Morillon, Beaulieu, Varembe or the Reposoir in Pregny to name a few. Jean-Jacques Rousseau, another major figure of Enlightenment, is a child of Geneva’s countryside. With his attitude, he embodied the philosophical-political current of a return to nature, to simplicity — an attitude which transformed this everyday environment into an object of seduction and contemplation, into a landscape.

During the nineteenth century, as Geneva became a Swiss canton, its territory was enlarged. The city fortifications were demolished, paving the way for the expansive urbanisation of the surrounding region. The construction of the quays transformed the lake shoreline into a space for contemplation and leisure, changing the orientation of city toward the lake. The large countryside estates of the eighteenth and the nineteenth centuries, now enclosed by urban fabric, gradually received new vocations: Many of them were subdivided to accommodate residences, hotels, schools and international organisations. Most of the international institutions arrived in this landscape after the WWII.

In 2005, with the Plan directeur de quartier Jardin des Nations, the municipality of Geneva envisioned a transformation of the area of International Geneva into a more publicly accessible urban space and landscape between the built complexes of international governance. The entire area is rich in biodiversity, complemented by collections of exotic plants around embassy buildings and in the Botanical Gardens and holds tremendous potential. Even so, little of this project has been realised to date. The vision of the garden of nations remains superposed by private interests and manifold security regimes.



Demonstrations by Kurdish people protesting against the Turkish state's invasion (2019),

Tibetan communities protesting for freedom of religion and human rights (2016)

UN staff protest against pay cuts plans (2017)

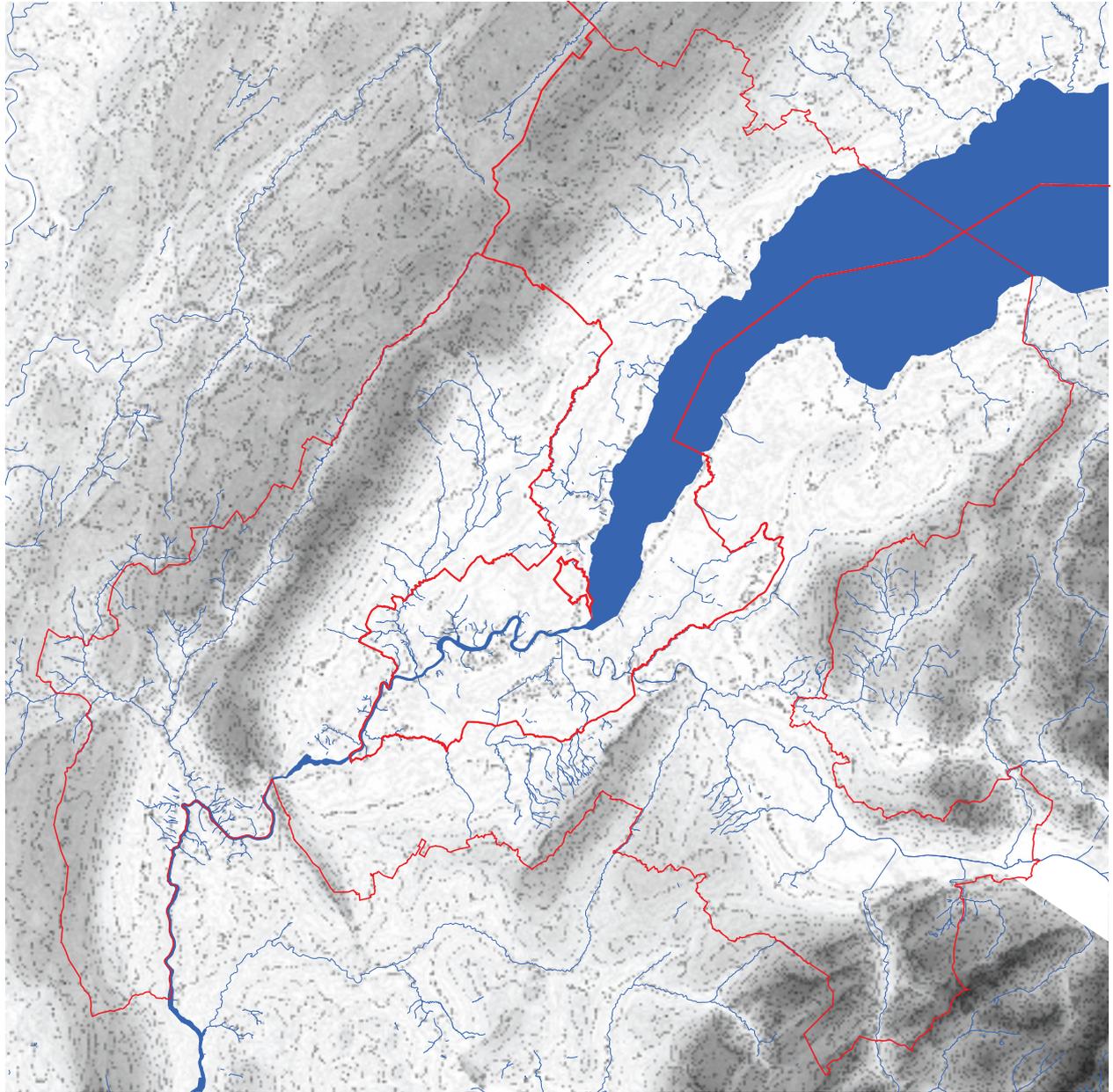
# Genève Internationale as a democratic space — A (missing) place to speak up

Today, one might wonder how little open political expression, like demonstrations or rallies, happen within this urban area representing the highest levels of international politics. The International Geneva, with its position and configuration, seems rather to counterfeit large assembly of people, resembling more a splintered and labyrinthic piece of city, difficult to access and to navigate.

An exception is the Place des Nations, the public square facing the long Alley of Flags, leading to the European headquarters of the UN, originally the Palace of the League of Nations. This 600-metre-long building, hosts thousands of employees and is a venue for some 8000 meetings, including 600 major conferences annually. Surrounded by high fence and located extraterritorially, on international soil, the UN headquarters is fully off limits to the public.

The square facing the UN headquarters, the Place des Nations, is currently the only veritable public stage for democratic expression and dissent within the urban cluster of International Geneva. It has often attracted groups of demonstrators from all over the world campaigning for diverse causes, from freedom of religion to human rights. The question remains whether the tall fences, flags, cameras, motion sensors, and other crowd control security systems spread across the area of International Geneva, represent an appropriate repertoire of urban spaces and technologies, with which the democratic expression should be staged in the city.

In this sense, the urban public spaces of International Geneva today do not express the aspirations of the 1930s original designs, nor the values of democracy and global cooperation.



0 2.5 5 km N

Position of Genève Internationale in the region

# Genève Internationale in the Metropolitan Region

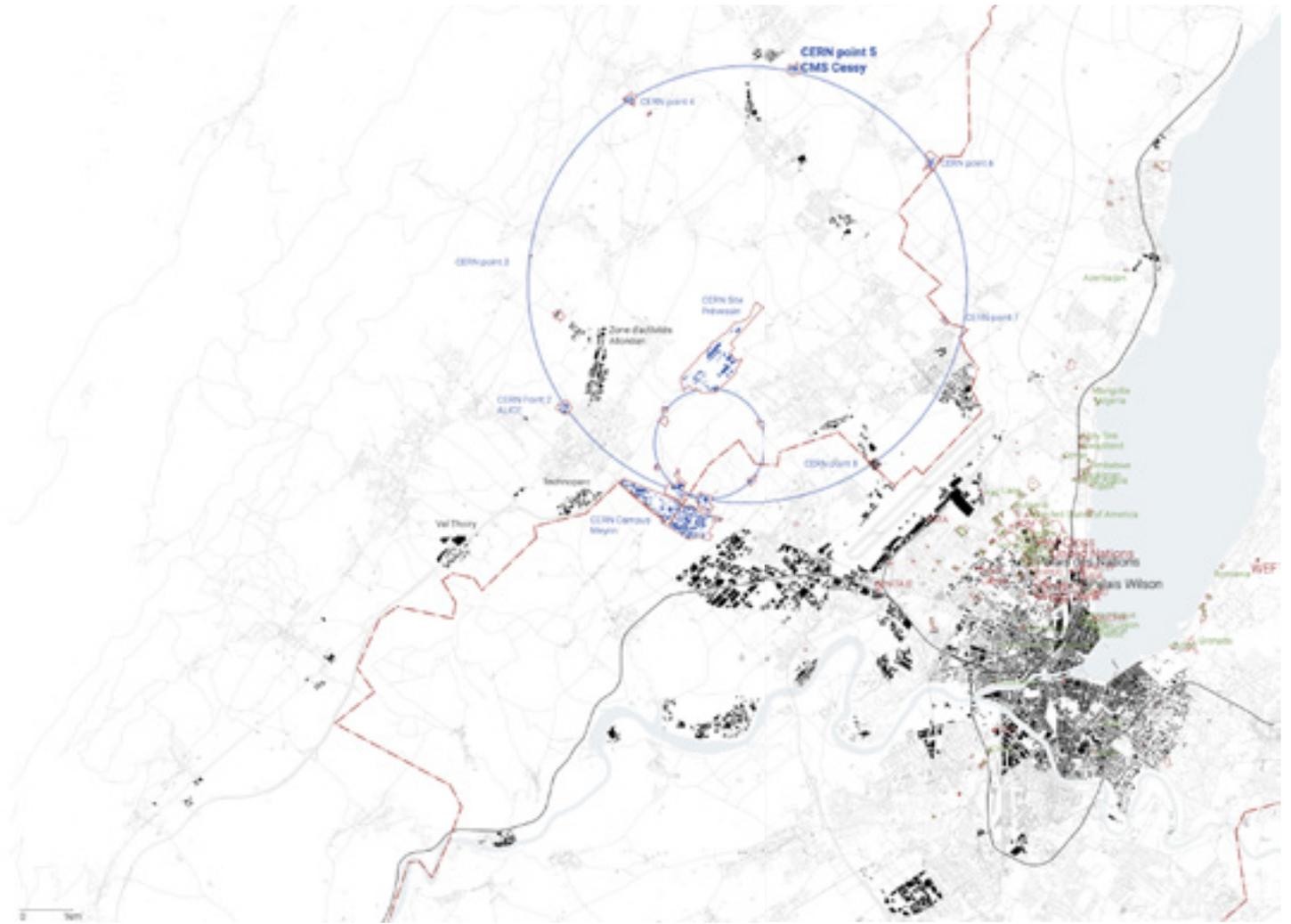
Owing to employment opportunities, Geneva's population is growing. The increasing number of *frontaliers*, cross-border workers, reflects the widespread practice and an economic formula of working in Switzerland and living in France. The commuting cross-border workforce currently registers around 400,000 border crossings each day.

The increase in cross-border mobility has introduced sharp asymmetries in the territorial and urban developments on both sides. With a vision "construire la ville en ville", the Canton of Geneva has adopted the strategy of "inner densification" as an approach to growth, even at the expense of its inner city open spaces. In contrast, the French Geneva has unlocked access to land and given upper hand to developers in construction of housing, which led to urban sprawl and a drop in housing quality.

However, the efforts to counter these contrasting developments in the metropolitan landscape of Geneva go several decades back. Already in 1973, the Franco-Genevan Regional Committee (CRFG Comité Regional Franco-Genevois), one of the oldest political bodies for cross-border cooperation, has been founded. The GLCT association (Groupement de coopération transfrontalière) was founded in 2013. Greater Geneva has been established in 2007 as a cross-border metropolitan region covering 2,500 square kilometers and housing 950.000 inhabitants. By 2030, the region expects 200.000 additional inhabitants and 100.000 more jobs.

International Geneva, with dozens of institutions, thousands of employees, and professional visitors each year, is among the key protagonists contributing to this cross-border metropolitan dynamic.

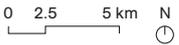
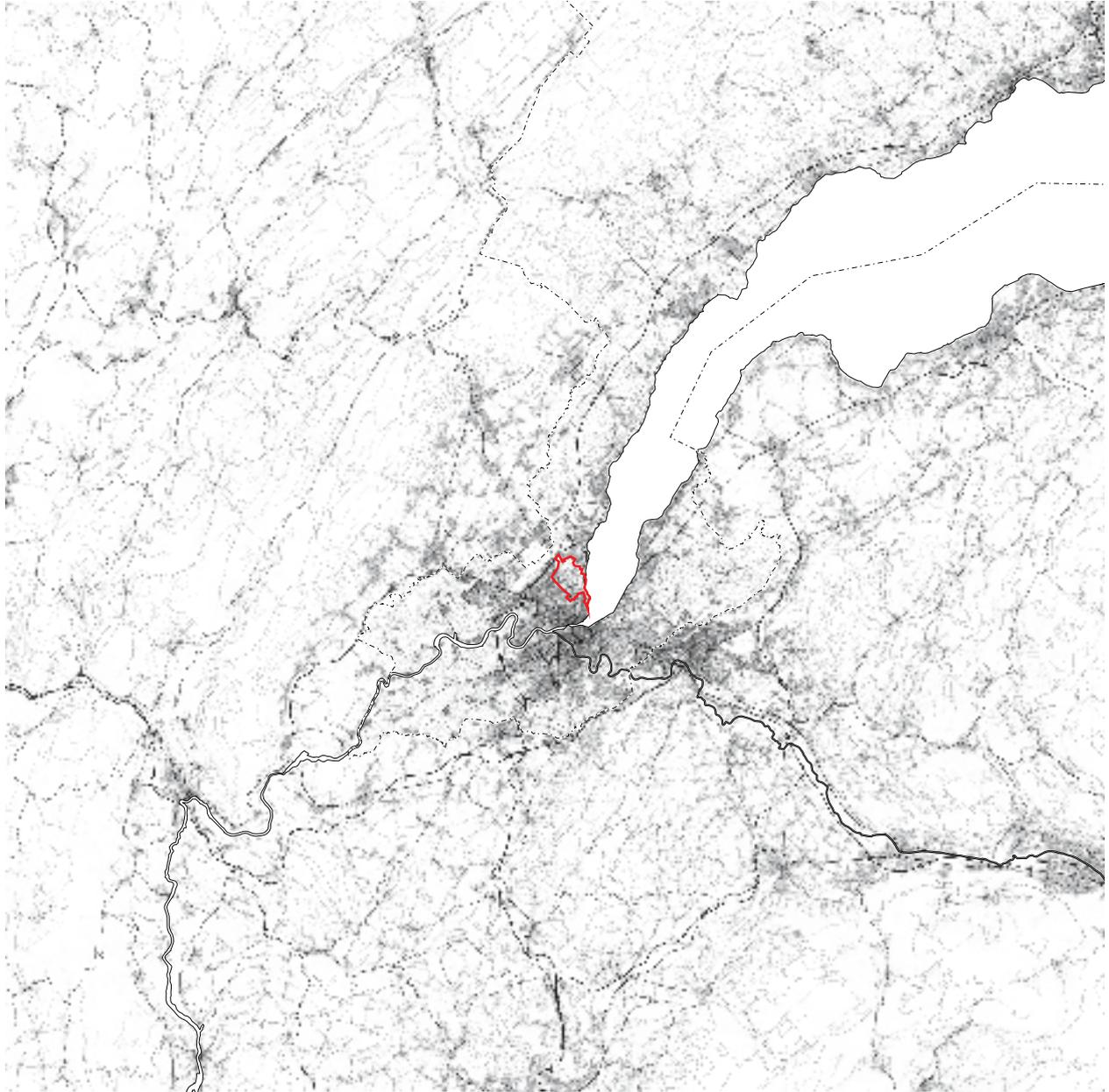




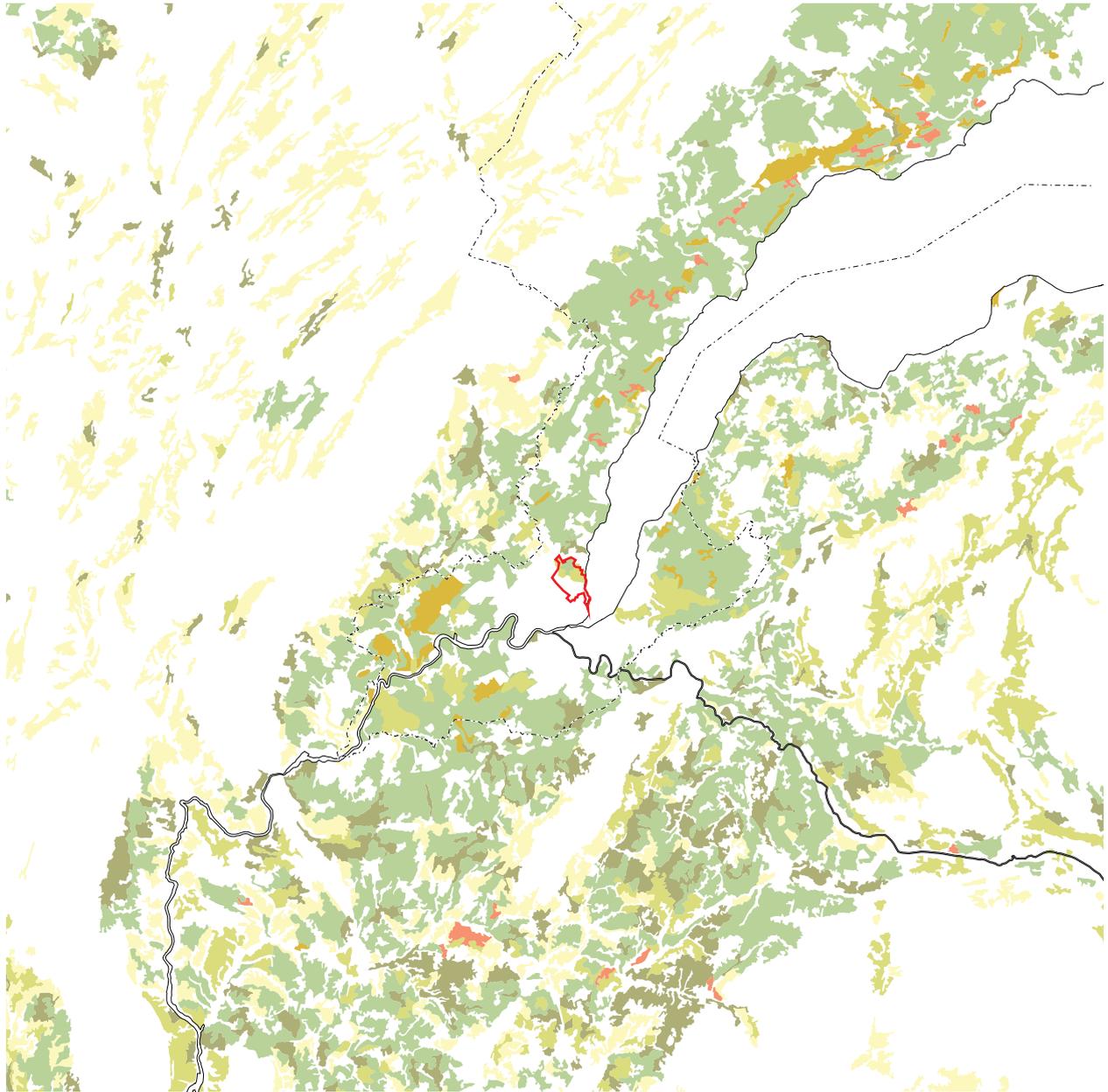


# Territorial Frame Cuvette Genevoise



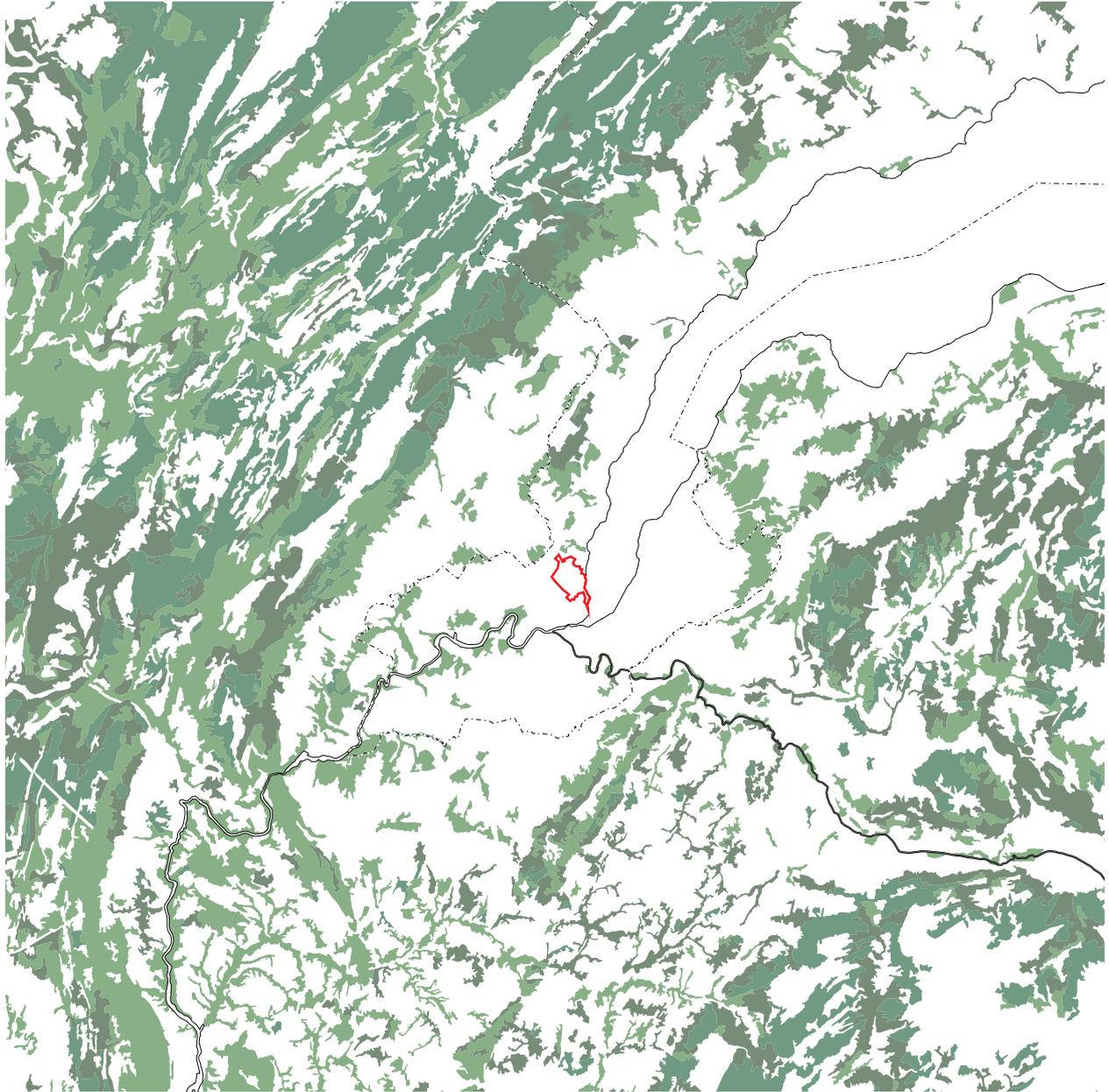


Greater Geneva, Built Fabric



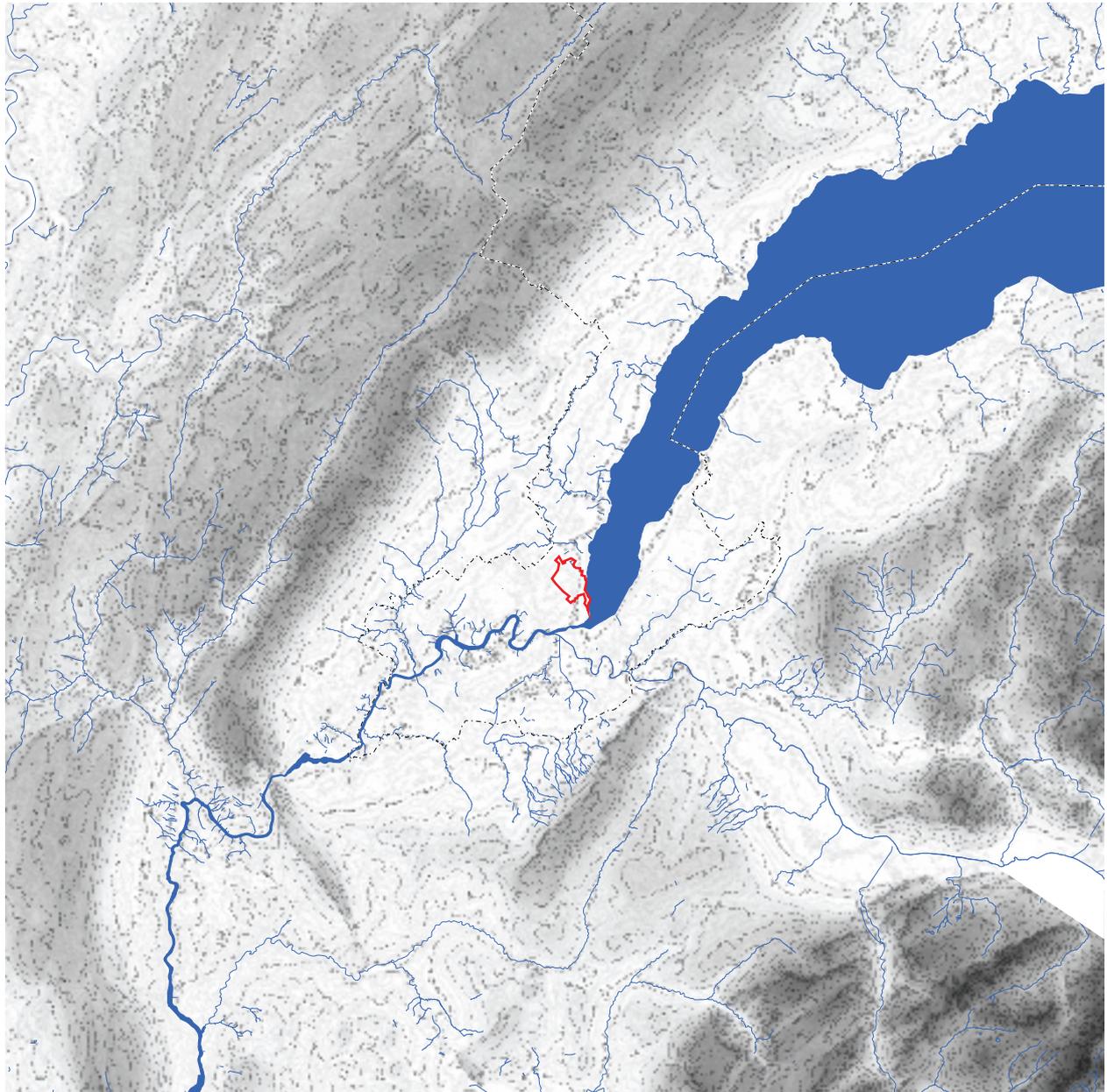
- Agriculture land
- Agriculture land interspersed with natural areas
- Fruit tree orchards
- Vineyards
- Complex cultivation patterns
- Pastures

0 2.5 5 km N



- Broad-leaved forest
- Coniferous forest
- Mixed forest

0 2.5 5 km N





Ferney-Voltaire

Meyrin

Geneva Airport

Le Grand-Saconnex

Satigny

Vernier

Bernex

Lancy

# Urban Frame Site of the Jardin des Nations





CERN

Ferney-Voltaire

FR-CH Border

IATA

Meyrin

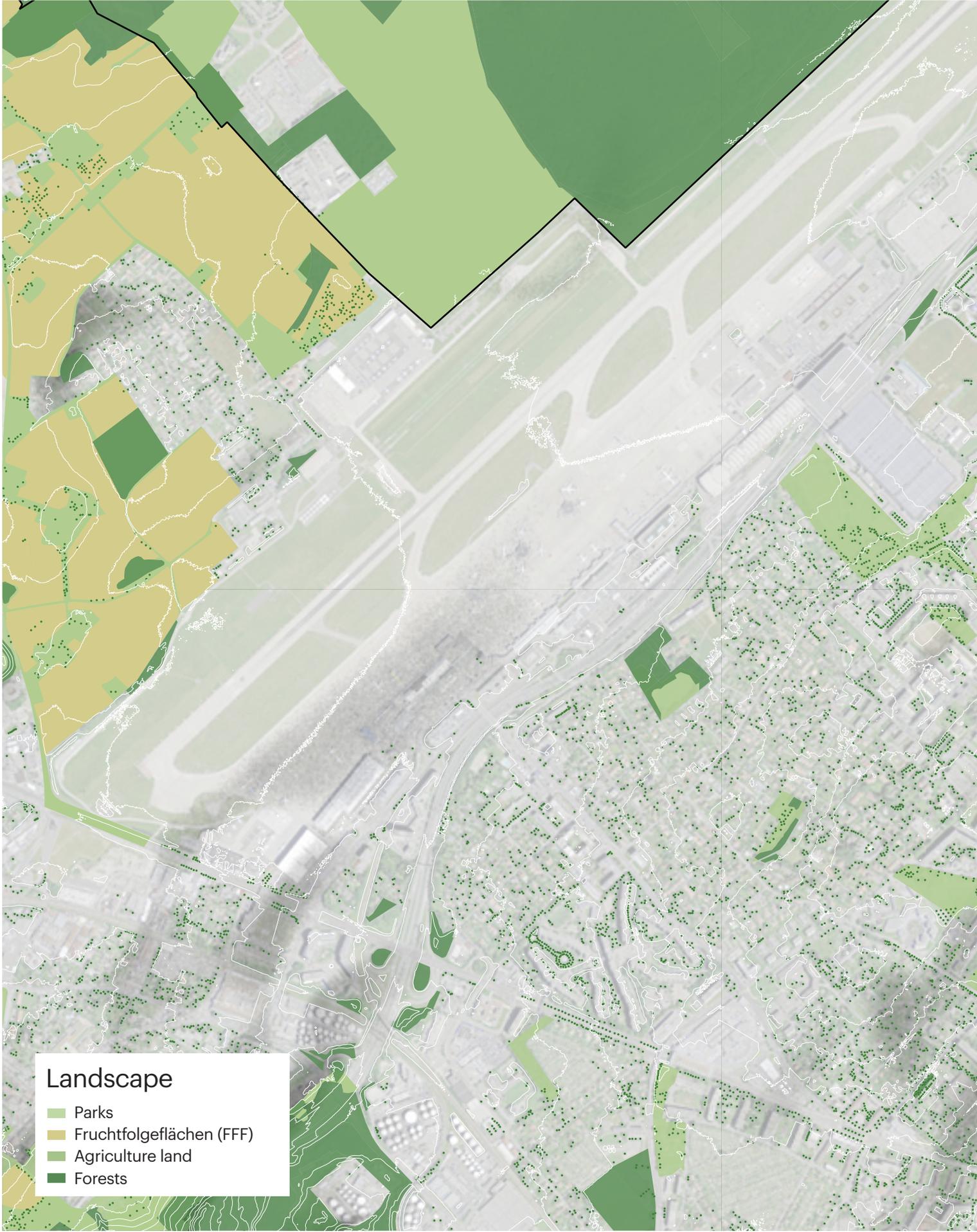
Le Grand-Saconnex

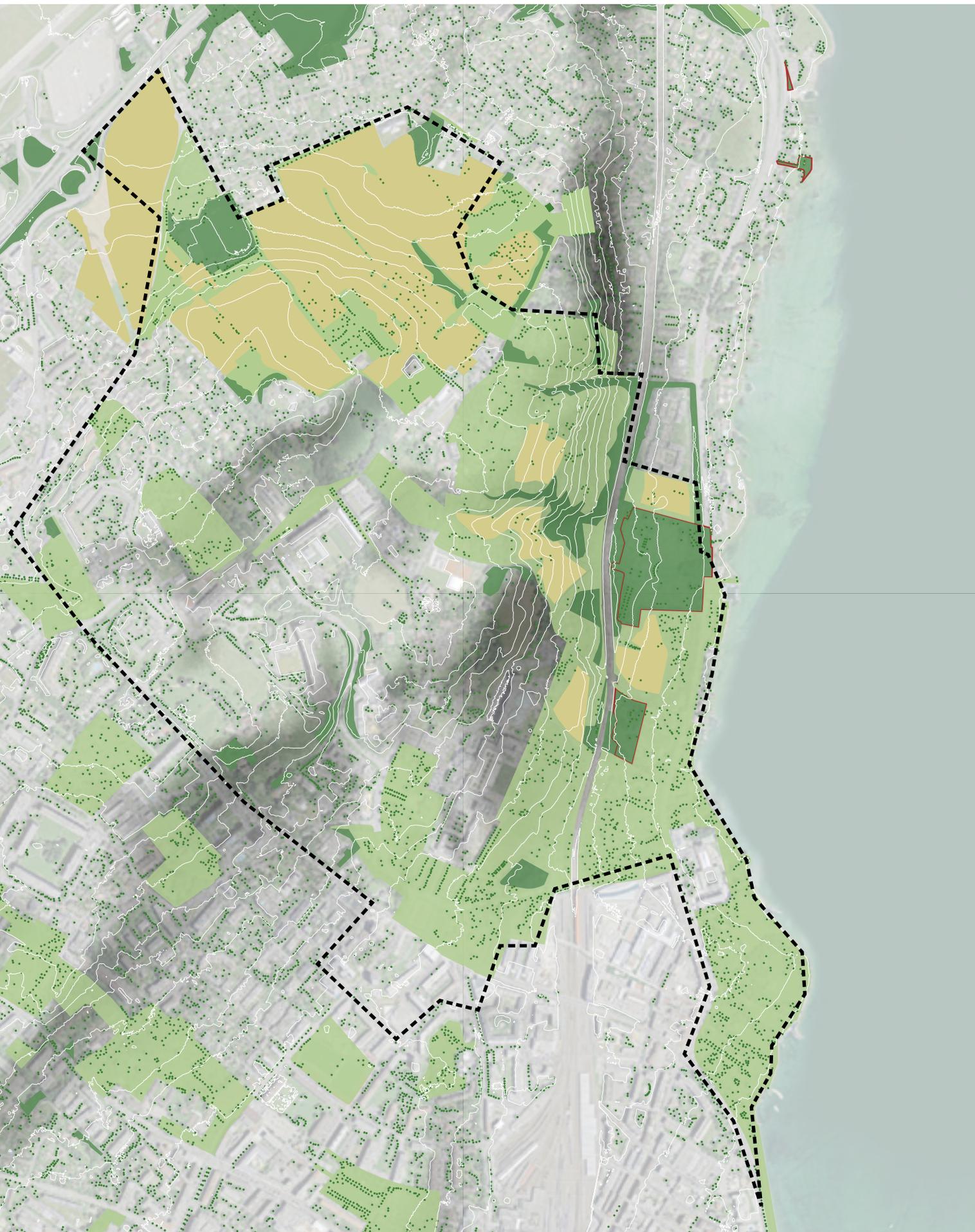
IPU

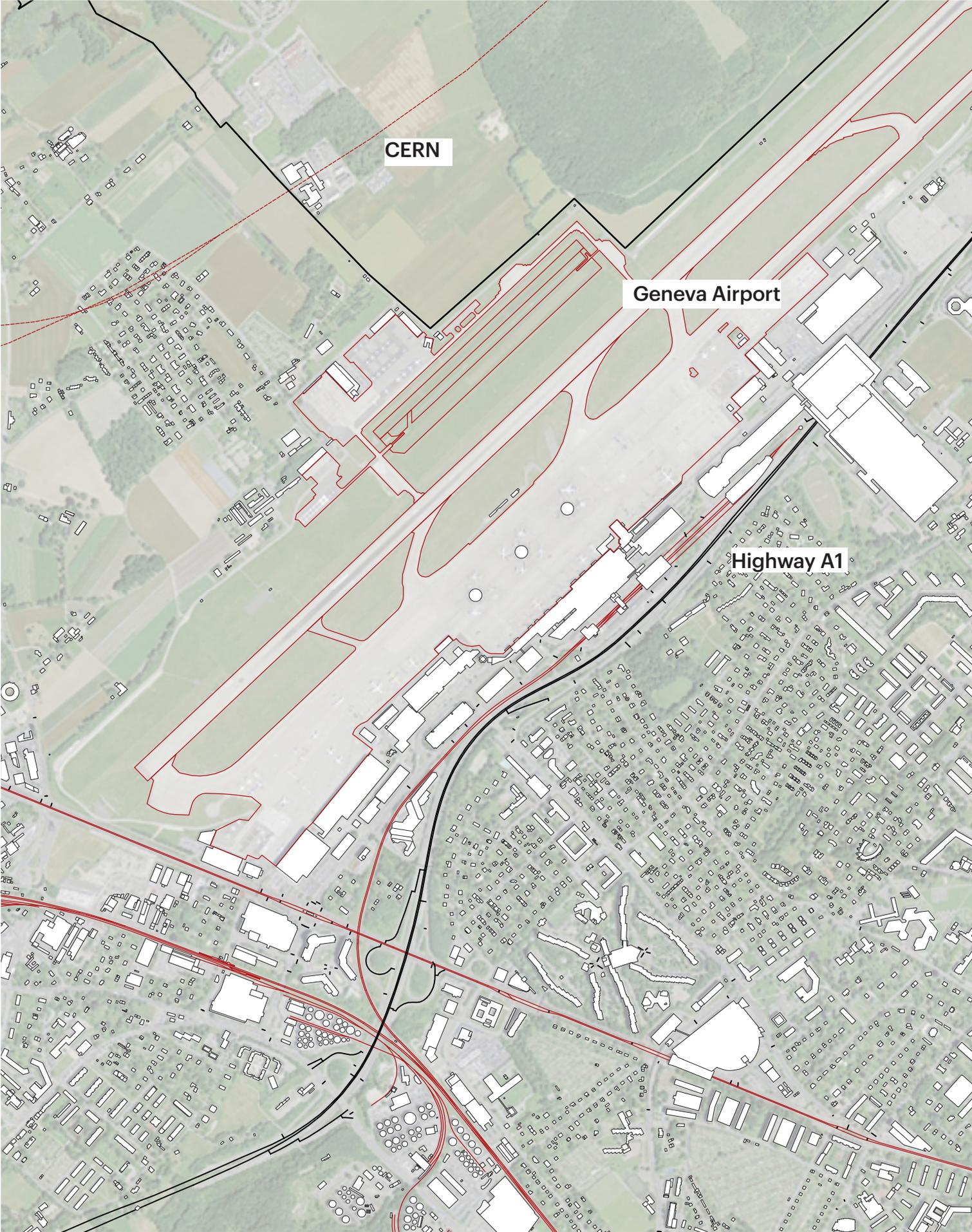
Vernier

# Main International Institutions







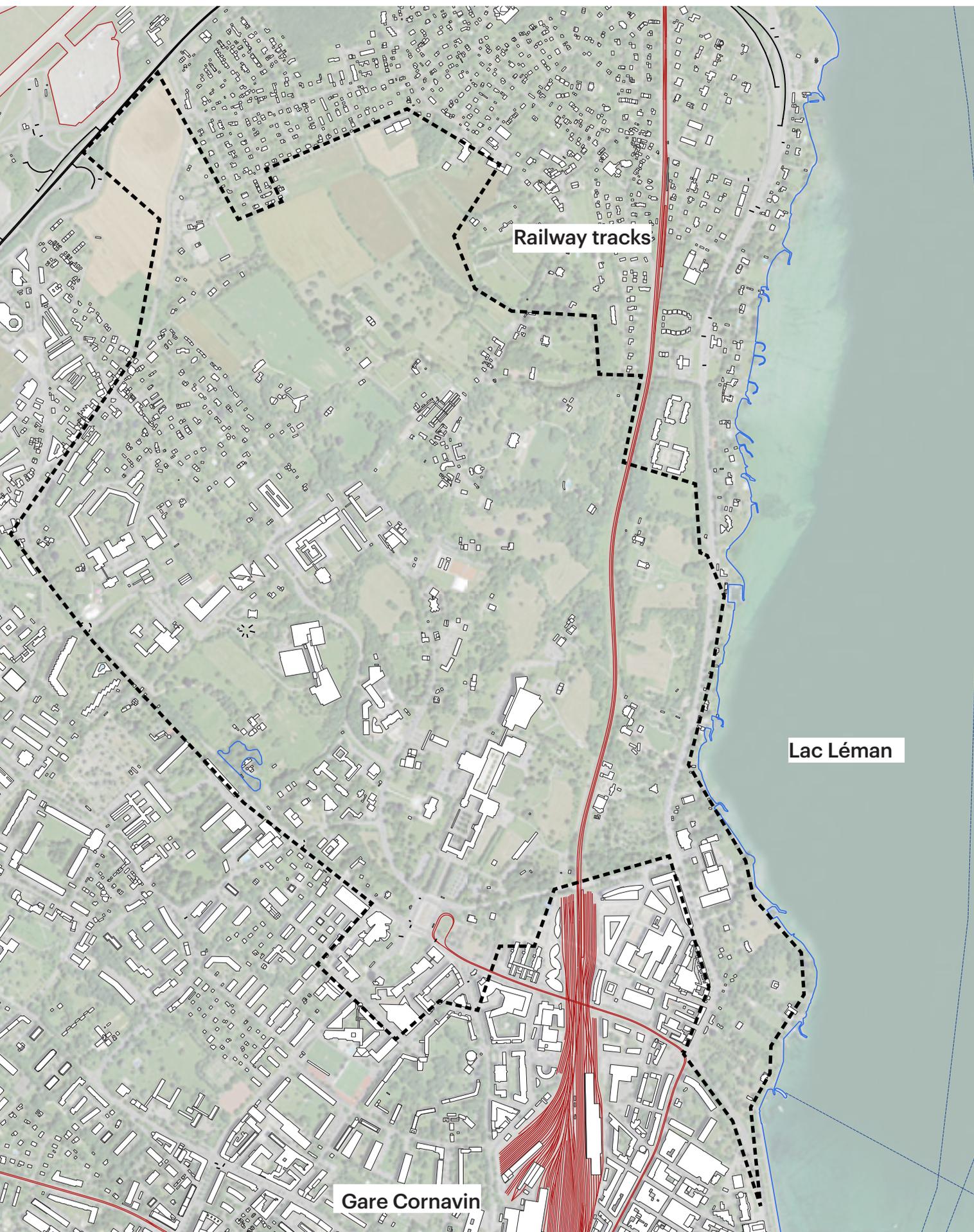


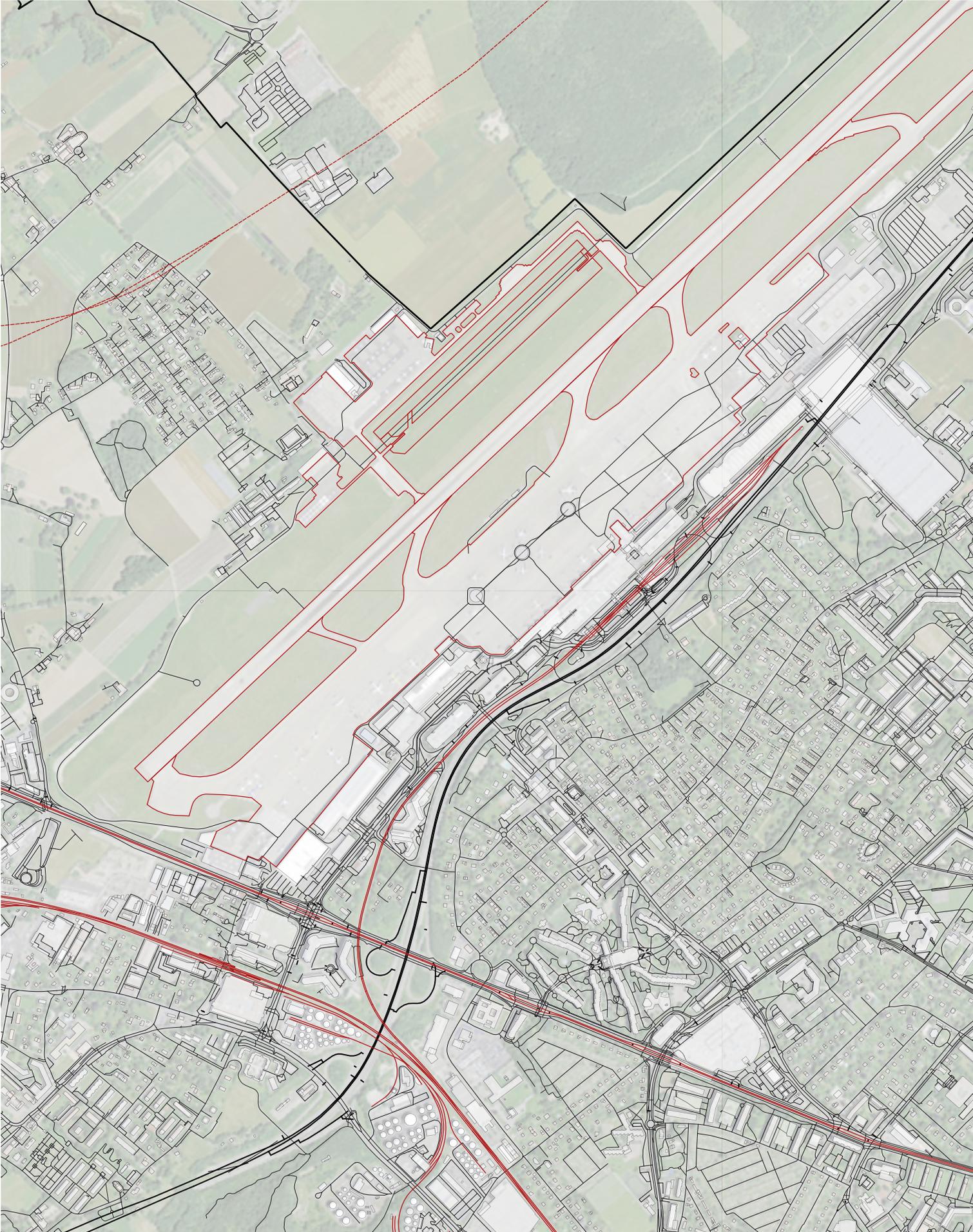
CERN

Geneva Airport

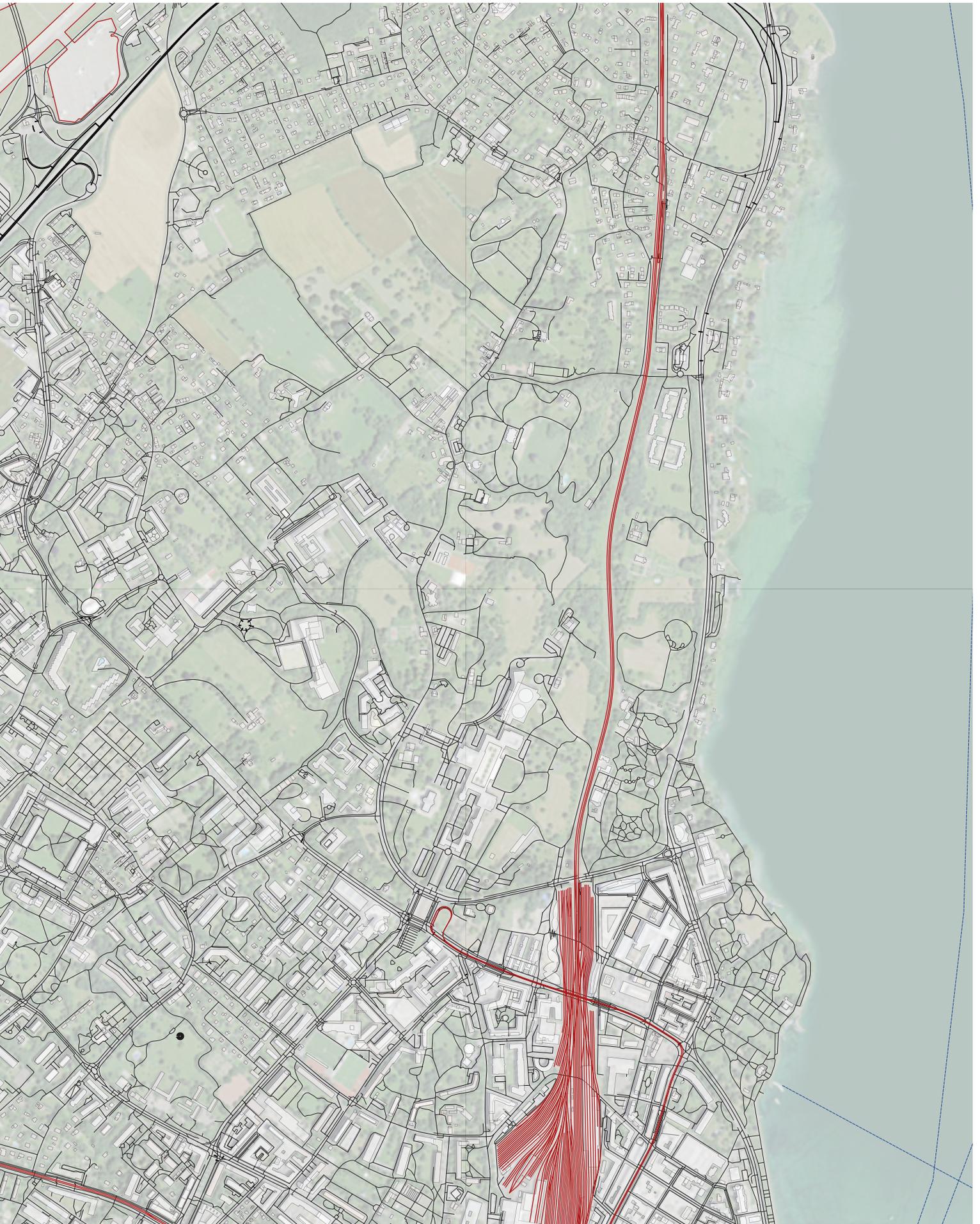
Highway A1

# Main Traffic Arteries





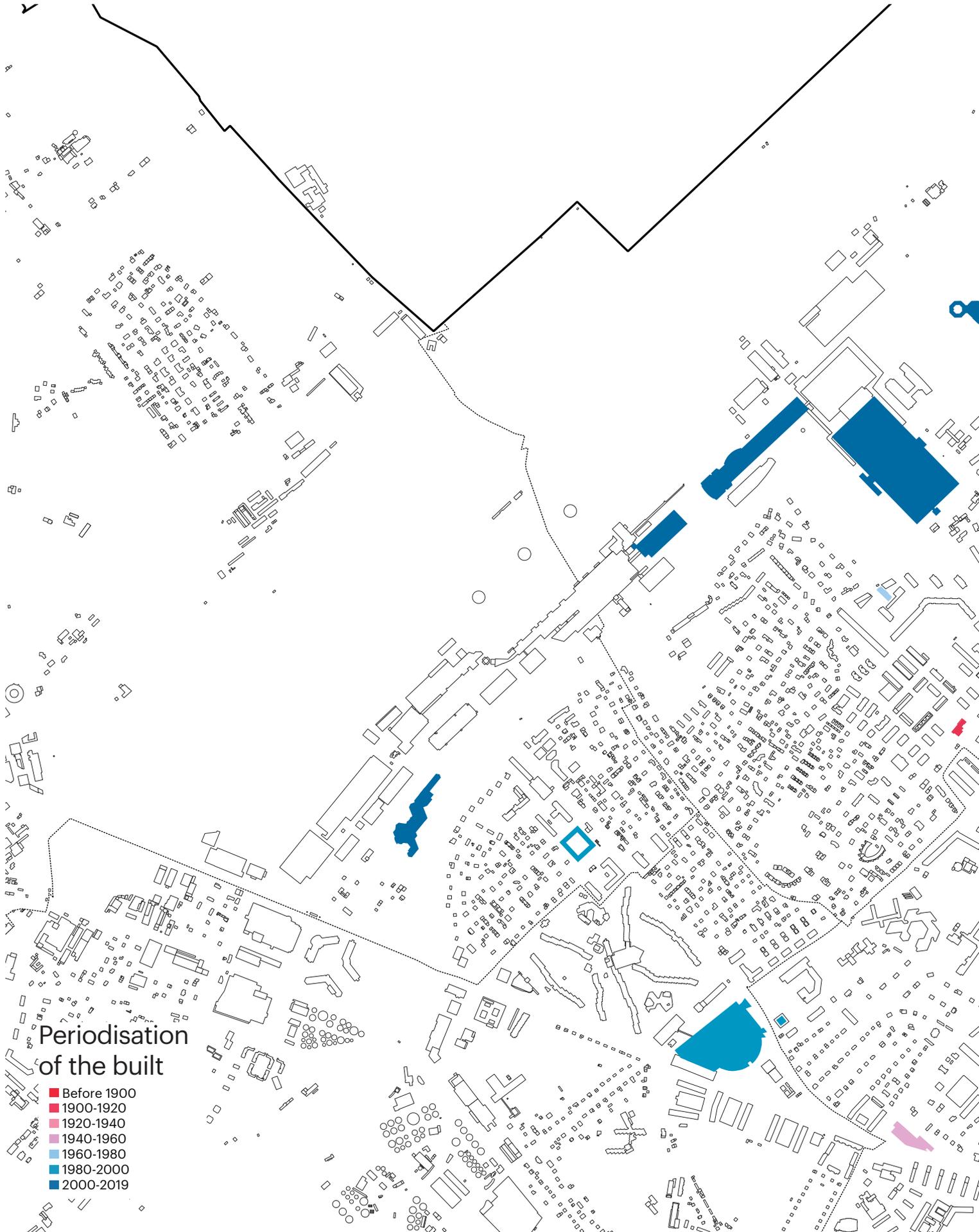
# Traffic Capillaries





# Figure Ground Plan

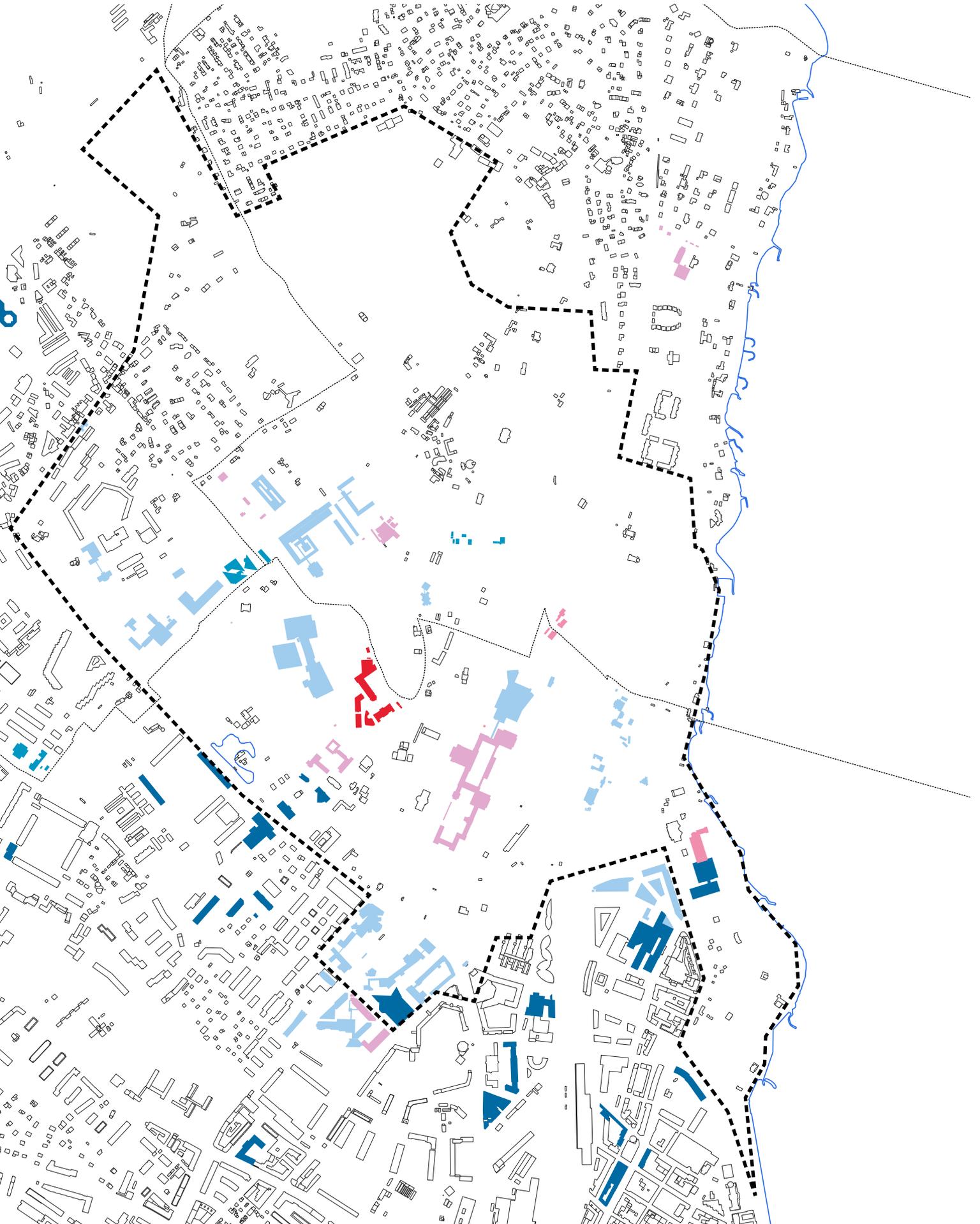




## Periodisation of the built

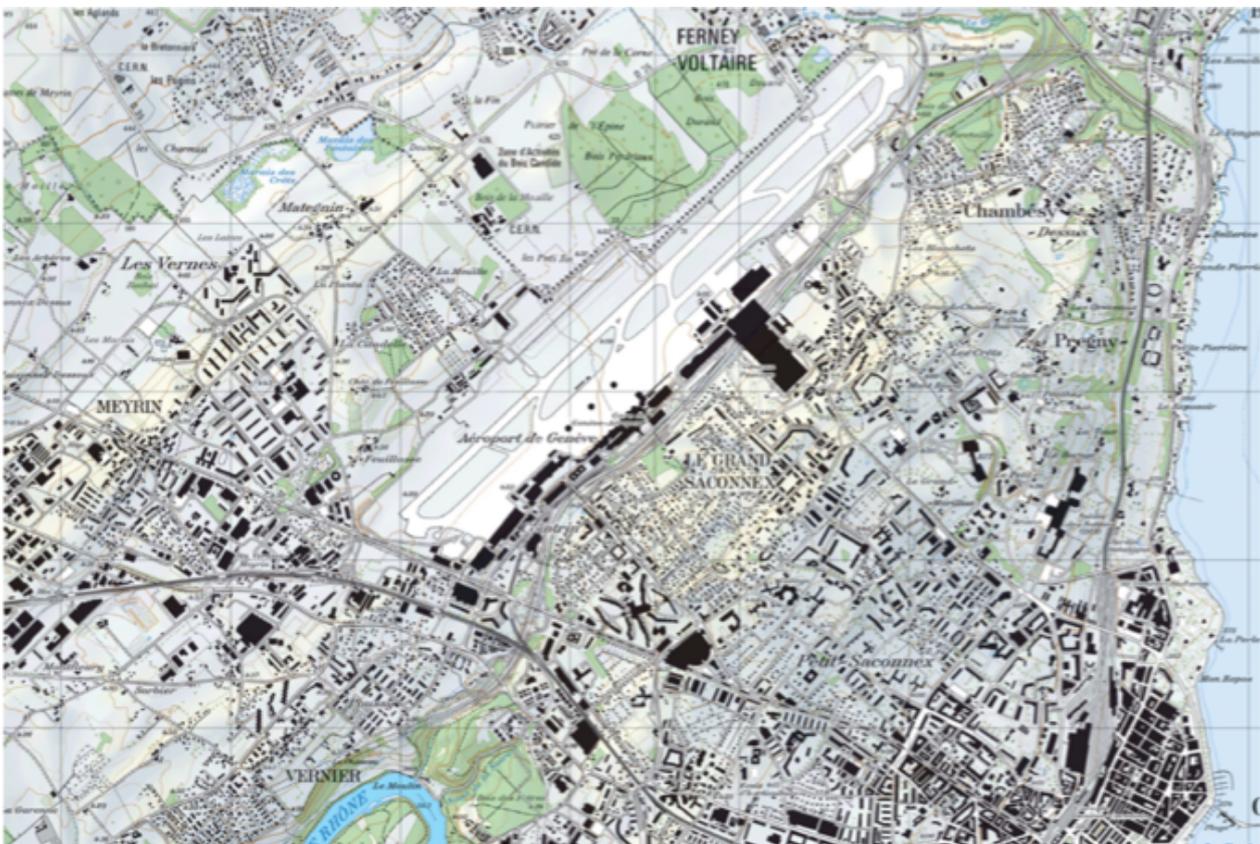
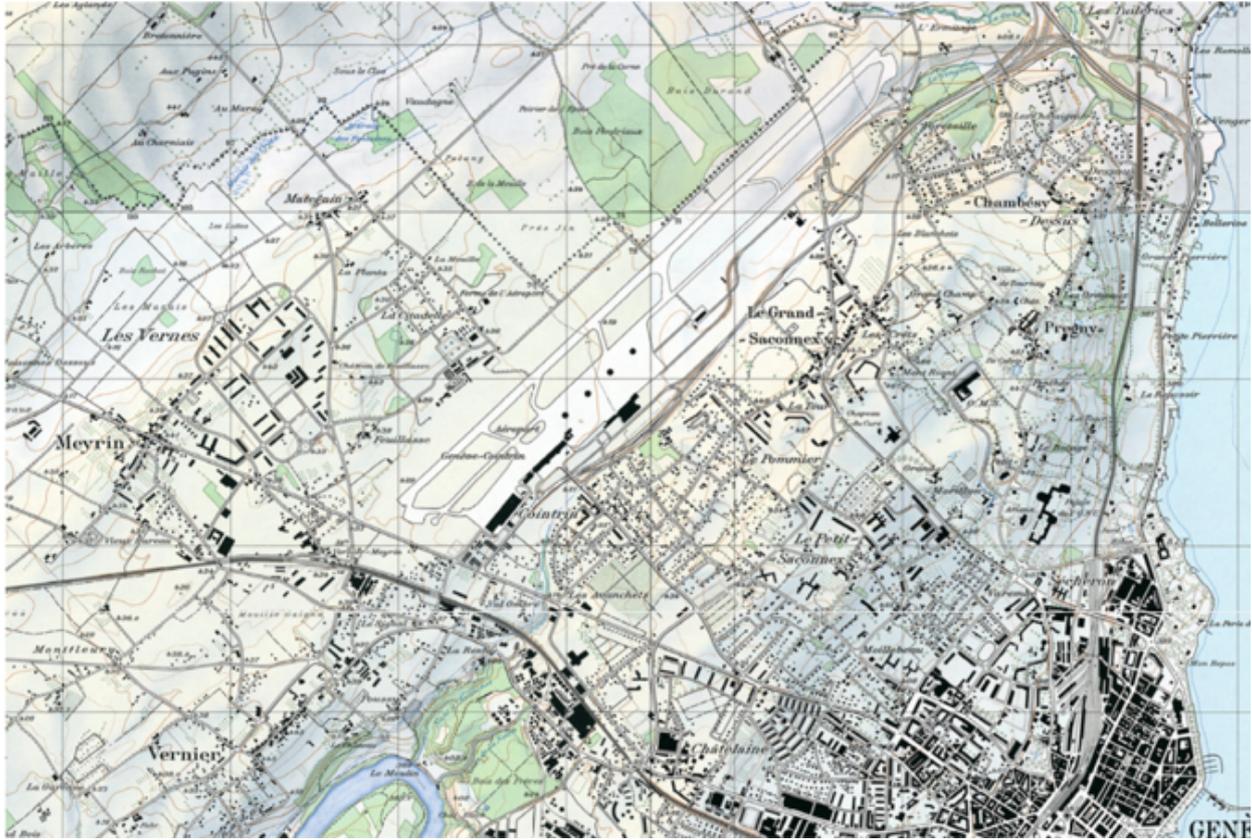
- Before 1900
- 1900-1920
- 1920-1940
- 1940-1960
- 1960-1980
- 1980-2000
- 2000-2019

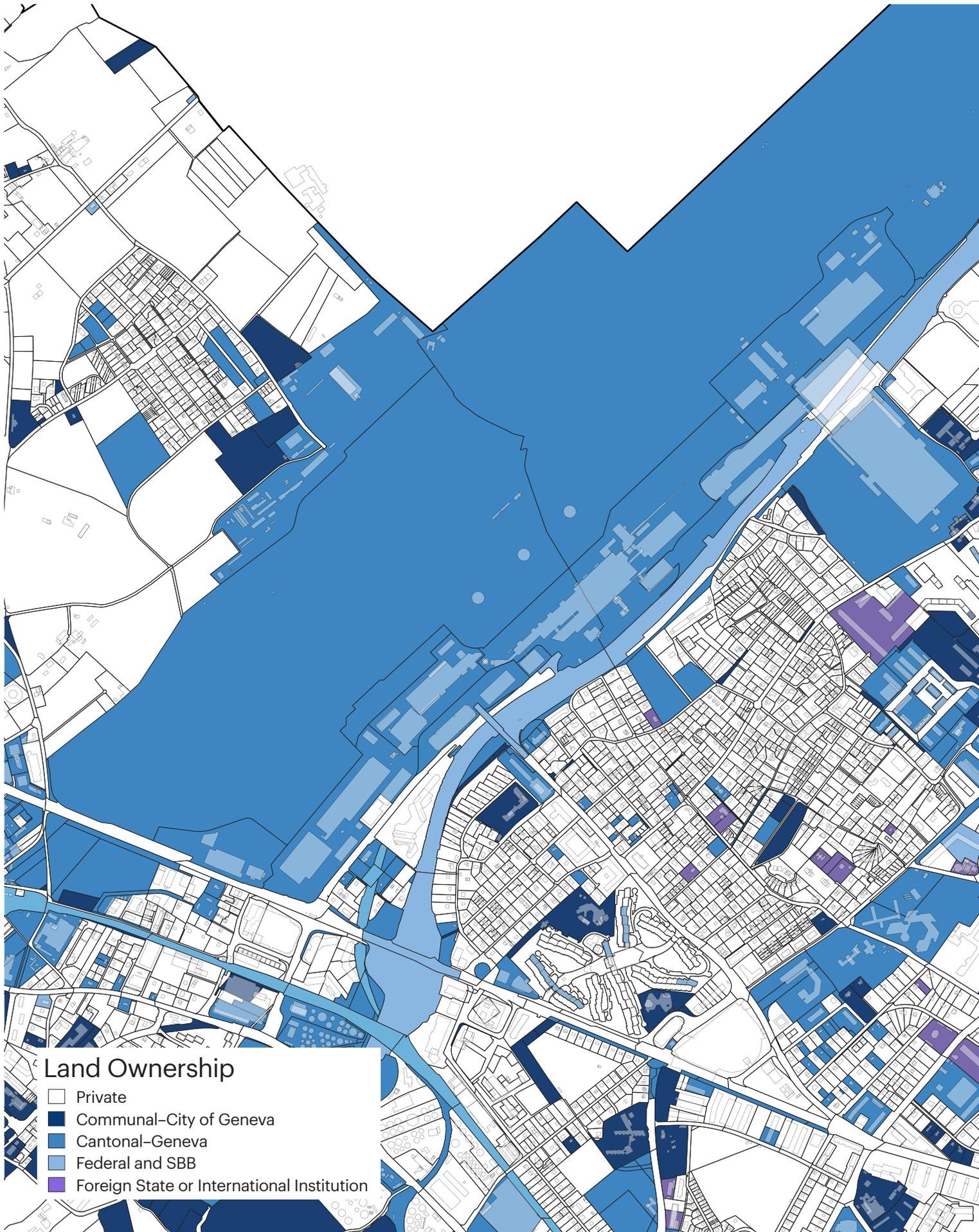
# Periodisation of the built





# Historical development of the urban structure

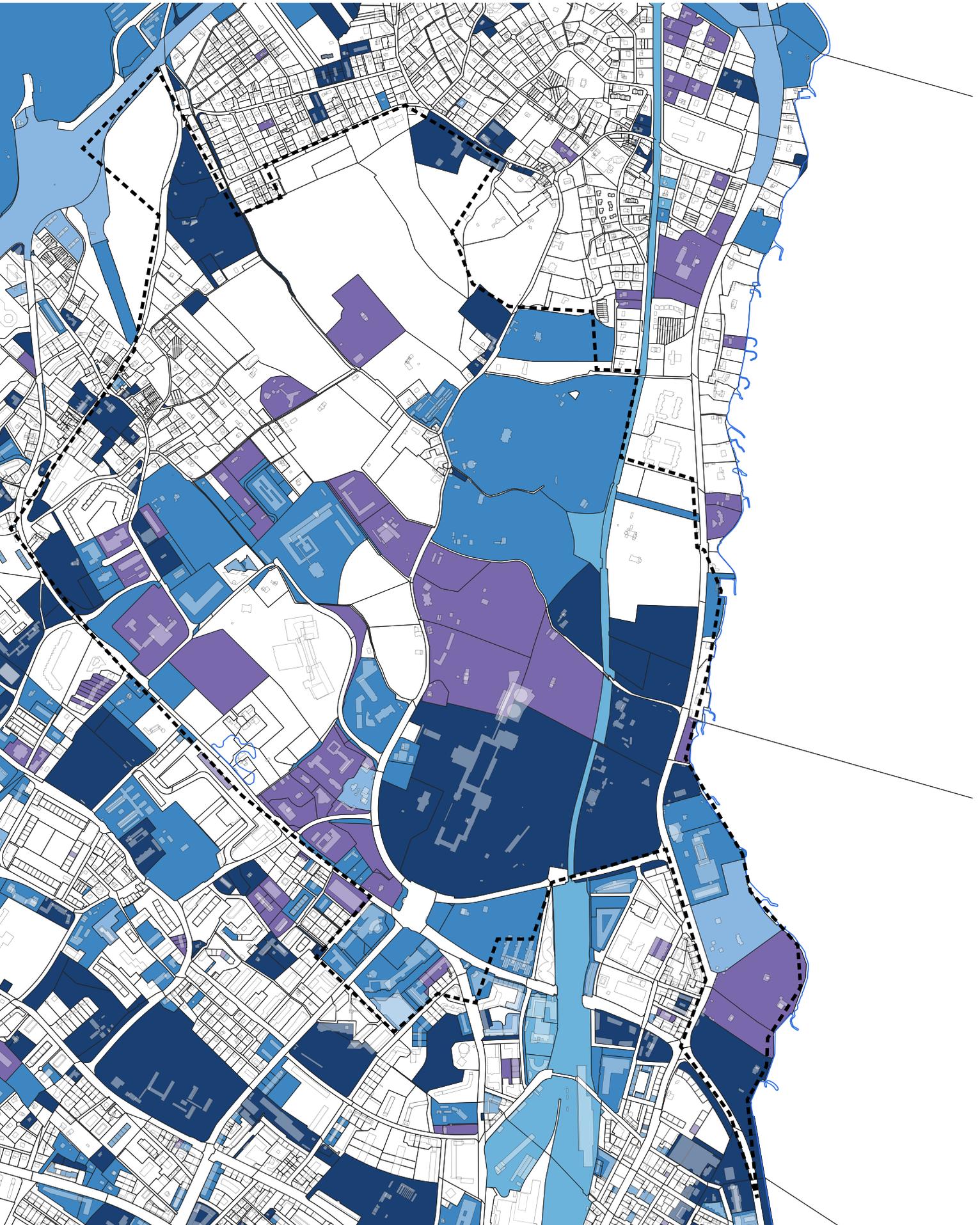


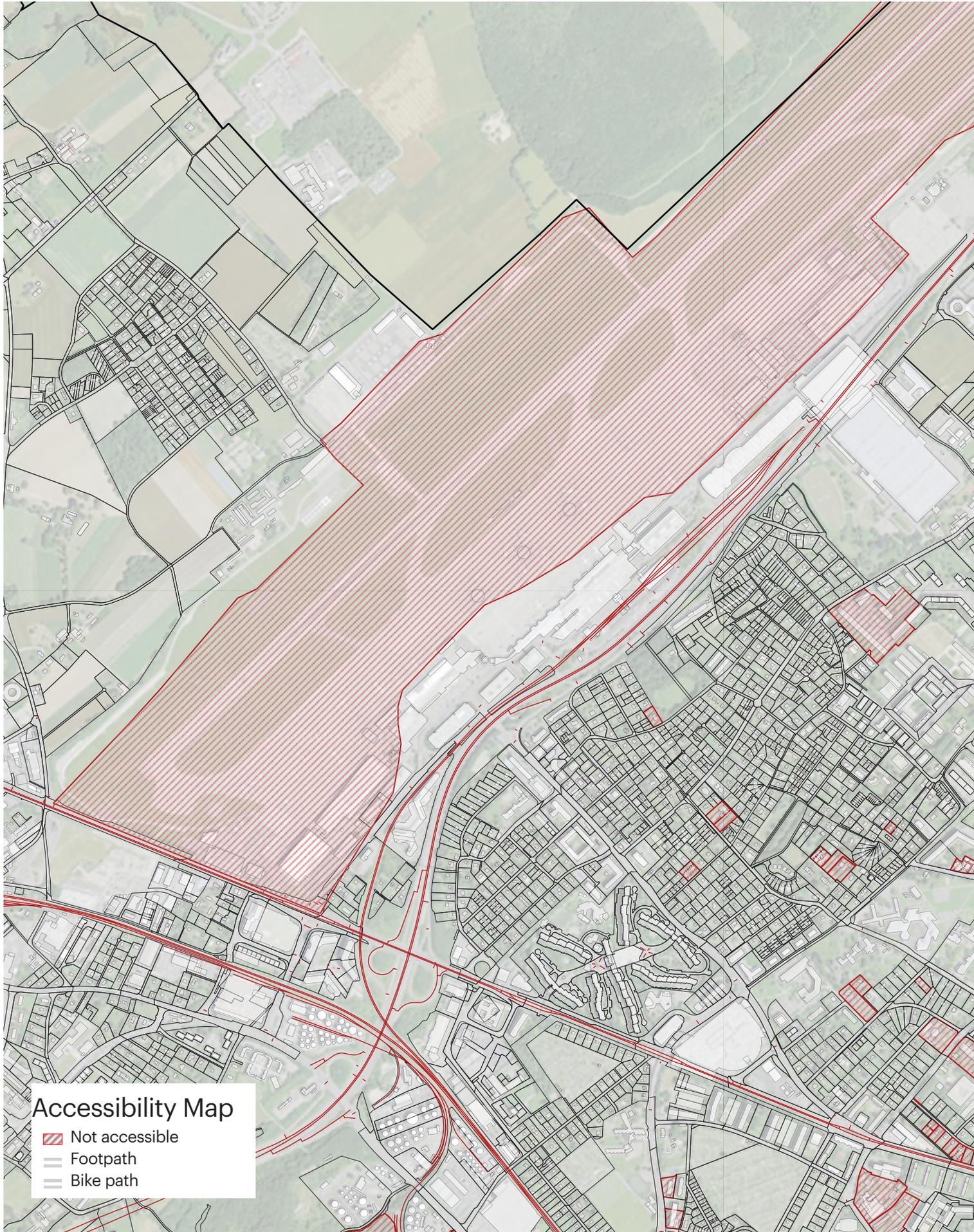


### Land Ownership

- Private
- Communal-City of Geneva
- Cantonal-Geneva
- Federal and SBB
- Foreign State or International Institution

# Land Ownership

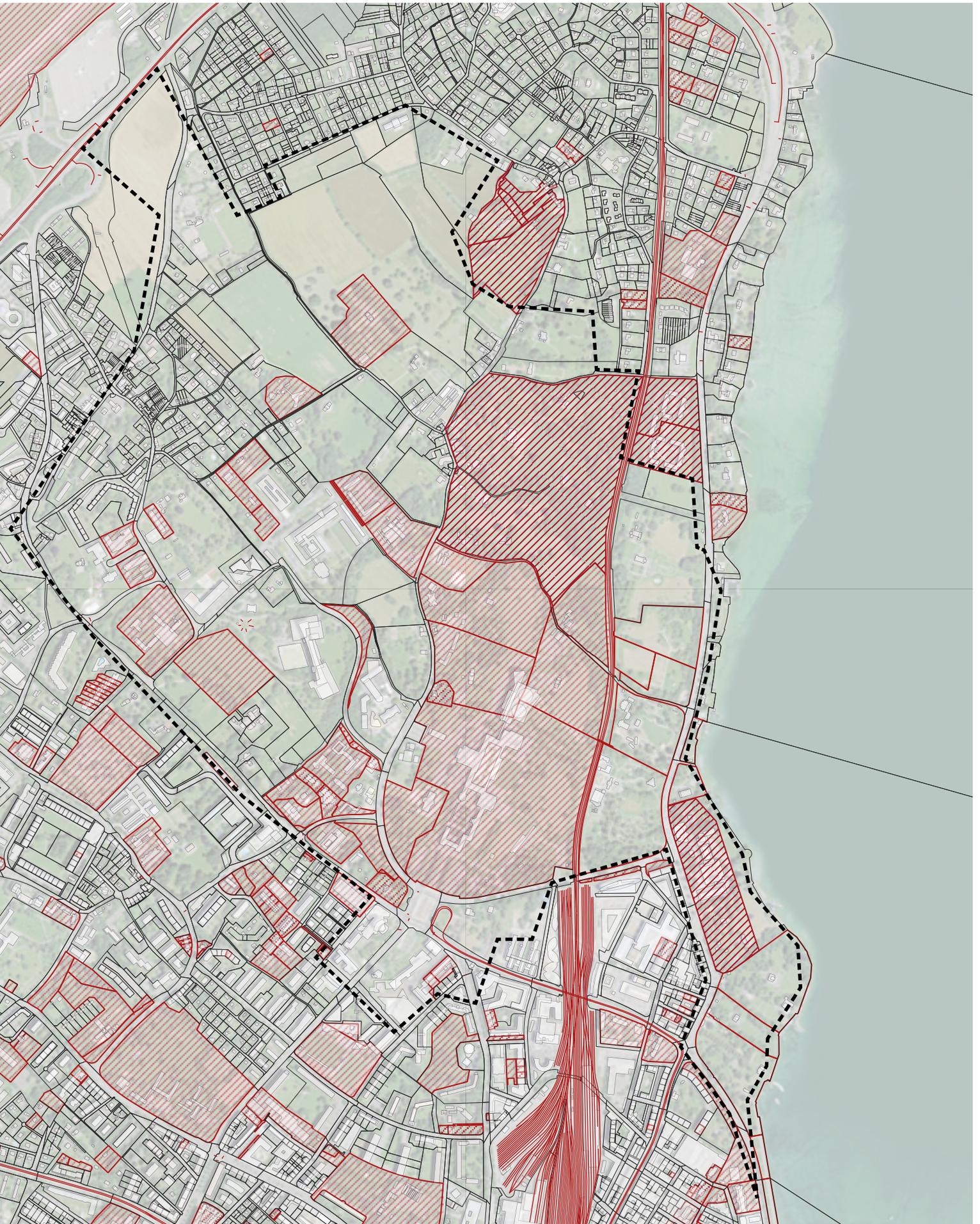


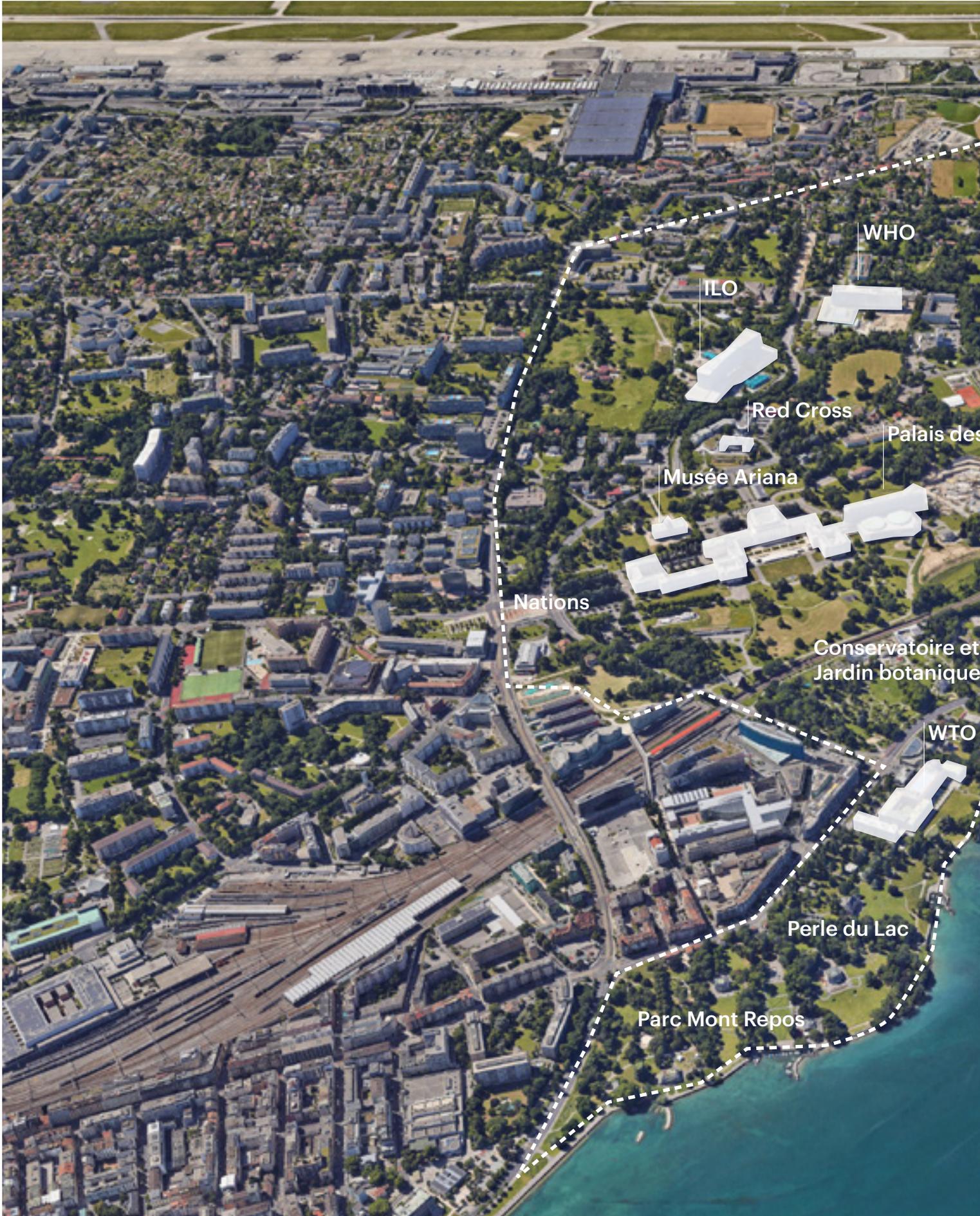


### Accessibility Map

-  Not accessible
-  Footpath
-  Bike path

# Accessibility of Institutions





WHO

ILO

Red Cross

Musée Ariana

Palais des Nations

Nations

Conservatoire et  
Jardin botanique

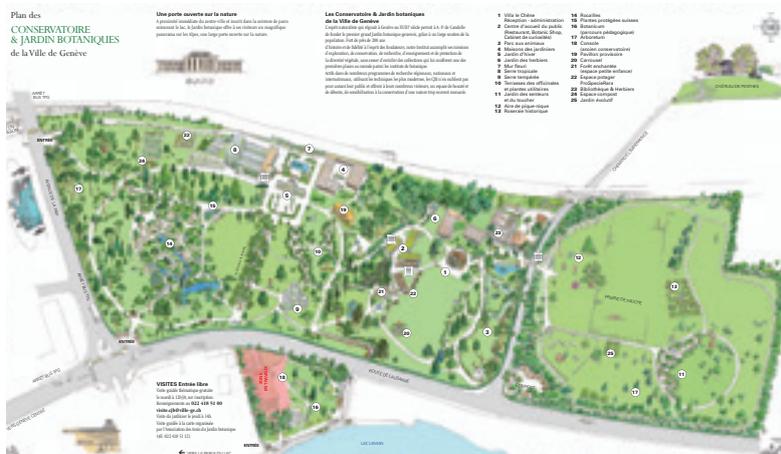
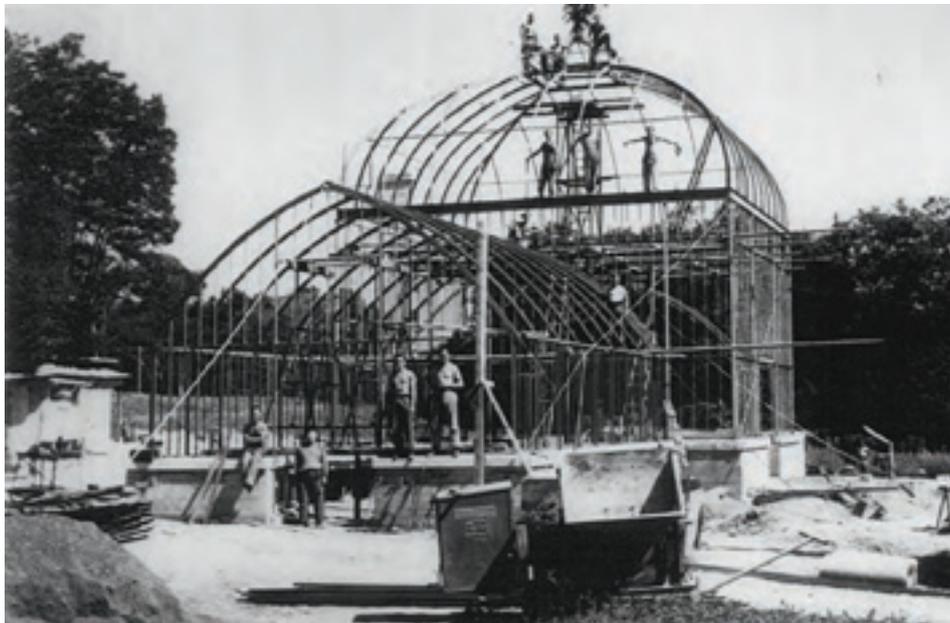
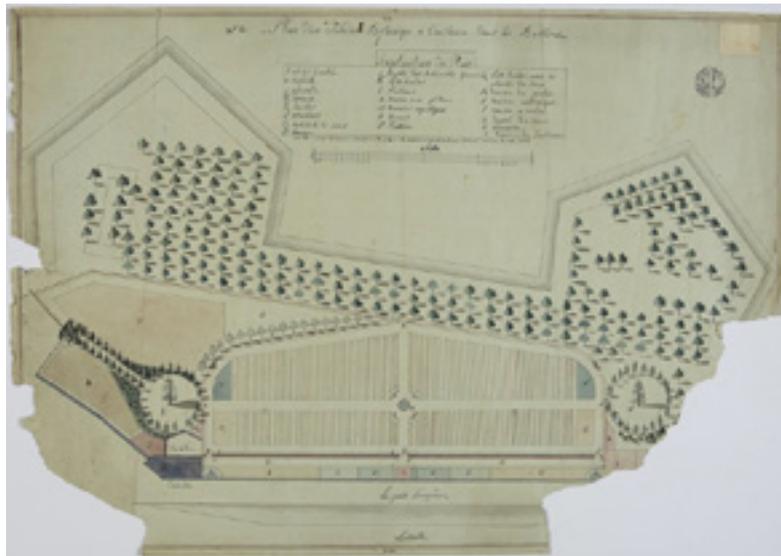
WTO

Perle du Lac

Parc Mont Repos

# Genève Internationale: Genesis and protagonists





Plan for a botanical garden at the promenade des Bastions, first half of 19th century

Reconstruction of the "jardin d'hiver", 1935

Plan of the garden's current layout

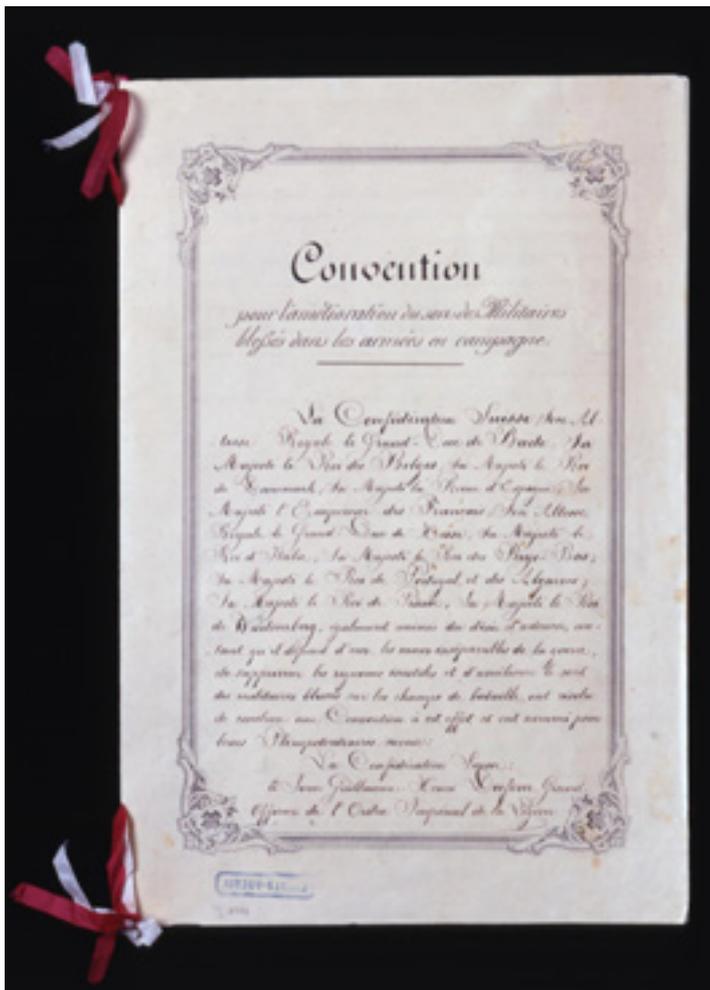
# Conservatoire et Jardin Botanique, Guillaume-Henri Dufour, 1817-1820

Text by Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques de Genève

“In the area between the train tracks and the lake shore is the Conservatoire et Jardin Botaniques. Today, this Botanical Garden covers about 28 hectares and includes a collection of 16'000 species from all over the world. The area is divided into several sectors: the arboretum, the rockeries and the protected plant massif, the ethnobotanical gardens, the greenhouses, the horticultural plants, the Garden of Scents and Touch for visually handicapped people, and an animal park dedicated to conservation of the fauna.

Founded by Augustin Pyramus de Candolle in 1817, it was first situated in what is now the Bastions Park in the center of Geneva. It was only in 1904 when the Botanical Garden was transferred to where it is today. The garden was laid out by Jules Allemand, the same paysagiste who was also involved in the design of the Park around Rothschild Castle. Between 1902 and 1904, Geneva architect Henri Juvet designed the Glasshouses for the purpose of housing the Delessert herbarium that was up so far sheltered in the Bastions. It was enlarged in 1911-12 to the donation of Emile Burnat's herbarium, and again in 1923, after the posthumous donation from Candolle's herbarium. With nearly 6 million samples, the herbarium of the Conservatoire et Jardin Botanique is today one of the five largest in the world. In 1910, Henri Juvet built again a Winter Garden along the former Chemin de Varembe, which was relocated on its present location following the construction of the Palais des Nations and the various urban planning developments that followed.

The whole Garden, including the greenhouses, libraries and collections, and two mansions “Le Chêne” and “La Console”, is registered as a cultural asset of national importance. Besides housing a big collection of flora and fauna from all over the world, the CJBG also works as an institution that researches on the alpine vegetation of Switzerland, the tropical plants of Africa's eastern coastline, or on medical plants from South America, to name but a few. In the Conservatoire et Jardin Botanique, the dense encounter of the various fragments of planet earth makes this place a botanical equivalent of the Jardin de Nations.”



Title Page of the 1864 Geneva Convention and Red Cross poster from the First World War

ICRC Headquarters in Geneva, Former Carlton Hotel, 1946

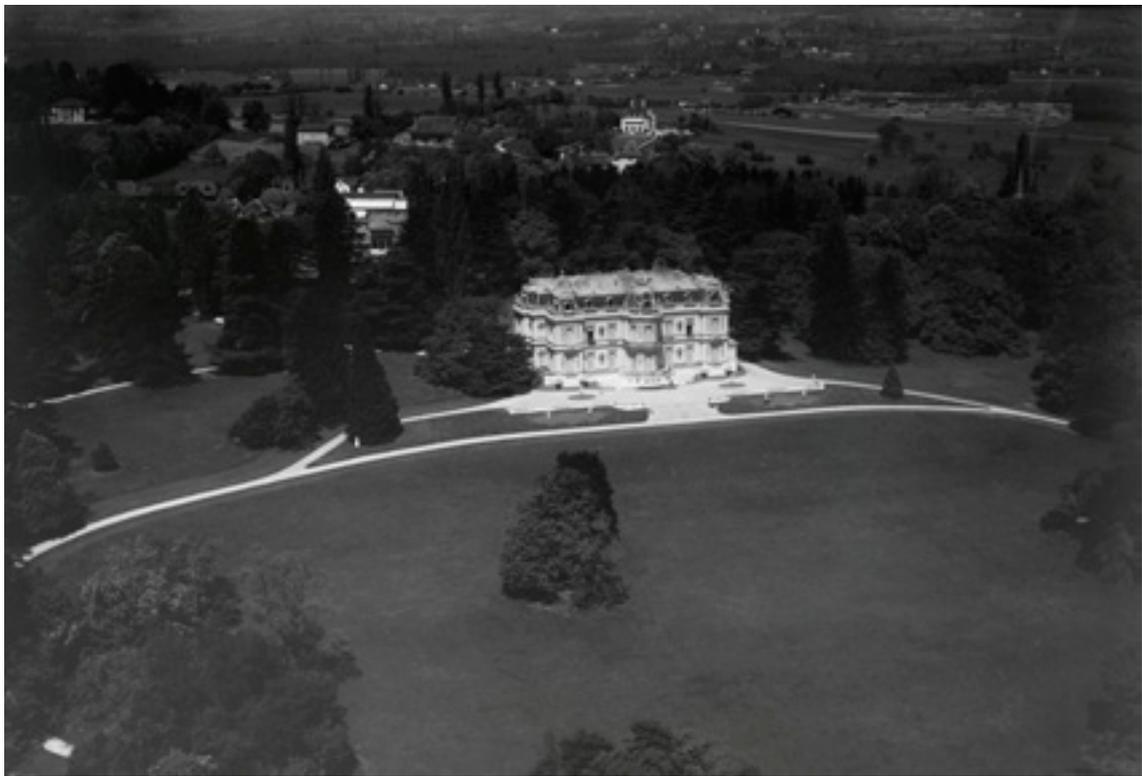
# Geneva Conventions & International Committee of the Red Cross, 1864-1946

A group that was to become the International Committee of the Red Cross met for the first time in February 1863 in Geneva, Switzerland. Among its five members was a local man named Henry Dunant who, the year before, had published a book with the name *A Memory of Solferino*, where he called for improved care for wounded soldiers in times of war. By the end of the year, the committee had brought together government representatives to agree on Dunant's proposal for national relief societies to help military medical services. In August 1864, the committee managed to persuade various governments to adopt the first Geneva Convention. This first treaty obliged armies to care for wounded soldiers, whatever side they were on, and introduced a unified emblem for the medical services: a red cross on a white background.

Initially, the ICRC's role was a coordinating one. But as the need for a neutral intermediary between combatants became apparent, it gradually became more involved in field operations. At the outbreak of the First World War, the ICRC opened a Central Prisoners of War Agency in Geneva, to restore links between captured soldiers and their families. The national societies themselves undertook an unprecedented mobilization that saw volunteers running ambulance services on the battlefield and caring for the wounded in hospitals.

The Second World War saw an expansion of organizational activities. The ICRC and the League worked together to ship relief supplies across the globe, intending to reach both prisoners of war and civilians. However, this period also saw the ICRC's greatest failure: its lack of action on behalf of victims of the Holocaust and other persecuted groups. Lacking a specific legal basis, bound by its traditional procedures and hindered in its ability to act by its ties with the Swiss establishment, it was unable to take decisive action or to speak out. It was left to individual ICRC delegates to do what they could to save groups of Jews.

Since 1945 the ICRC has continued to urge governments to strengthen international humanitarian law and to respect it. It has sought to deal with the humanitarian consequences of the conflicts that have marked the second half of the 20th century, starting with Israel and Palestine in 1948. The ICRC's headquarters are housed in the unused Carlton hotel donated by the canton of Geneva in 1946. Annexes have been added to the complex somewhat haphazardly over the years, as the need arose. The evolving state of the world, and the services it required, largely determined the configuration of the heterogeneous campus where the organization manages its global activities. Today, the humanitarian agency of the ICRC is challenged profoundly through a complex overlap of various sources of conflict, which are happening at the nexus of climate change, armed conflicts, cyberwar, and the ever more complicated situation of the Covid-19 pandemic.



Les serres de Pregny, photograph by *Ceux d'en face*, Genève

Château Rothschild in Geneva-Pregny, photograph by Walter Mittelholzer, 1925

## Rothschild family, Château de Pregny, George Henry Stokes and Joseph Paxton, 1858-59

Scattered along the northern zone of today's Jardin des Nations, a couple of opulent castles were built over the course of the 19th century. The biggest one of them is the Château de Pregny. This villa is situated on a small hill overlooking the Lac Léman, and belongs to the dynasty of the influential banking family of Rothschild.

In the year 1858, Baron Adolphe Carl de Rothschild commissioned George Henry Stokes and Joseph Paxton to build a castle on the estate he had acquired. The Château de Pregny marked the appearance of more ostentatious and eclectic private houses in the former outskirts of the city. The main entrance in the east is highly decorative, while the façade on to the lake was softened by a central bow window. Initially, the residence was intended to house the collection of paintings and art objects collected by Adolphe de Rothschild. In 1860, Adolphe, together with his wife and cousin Baroness Julie de Rothschild, extended the Villa with greenhouses and an aviary, for which they again commissioned Paxton and Stokes. In the following decades, the Baroness also bought a close-by vineyard and turned it into a picturesque alpine garden designed by Jules Allemand. Between 1887 and 1892, more than 1500 trees were brought from all the nurseries and forests of the canton and planted in the garden.

The Château de Pregny was passed on along different members of the Rothschild family, and is today inhabited by Benjamin de Rothschild. He is the owner of the Edmond-de-Rothschild-Group, a renowned private banking and asset investment institution based in Geneva, which was named after Benjamin's father and founder of the Bank Baron Edmond de Rothschild. The Château de Pregny, sometimes referred to as the Rothschild Castle, has always been the location for the general assembly of the bank, and gained reputation as a place where strings are pulled. The castle will reportedly pass to the canton of Geneva when Benjamin de Rothschild dies, and the surrounding gardens will supposedly be opened to the public and combined with the adjoining Parc de l'Impératrice.



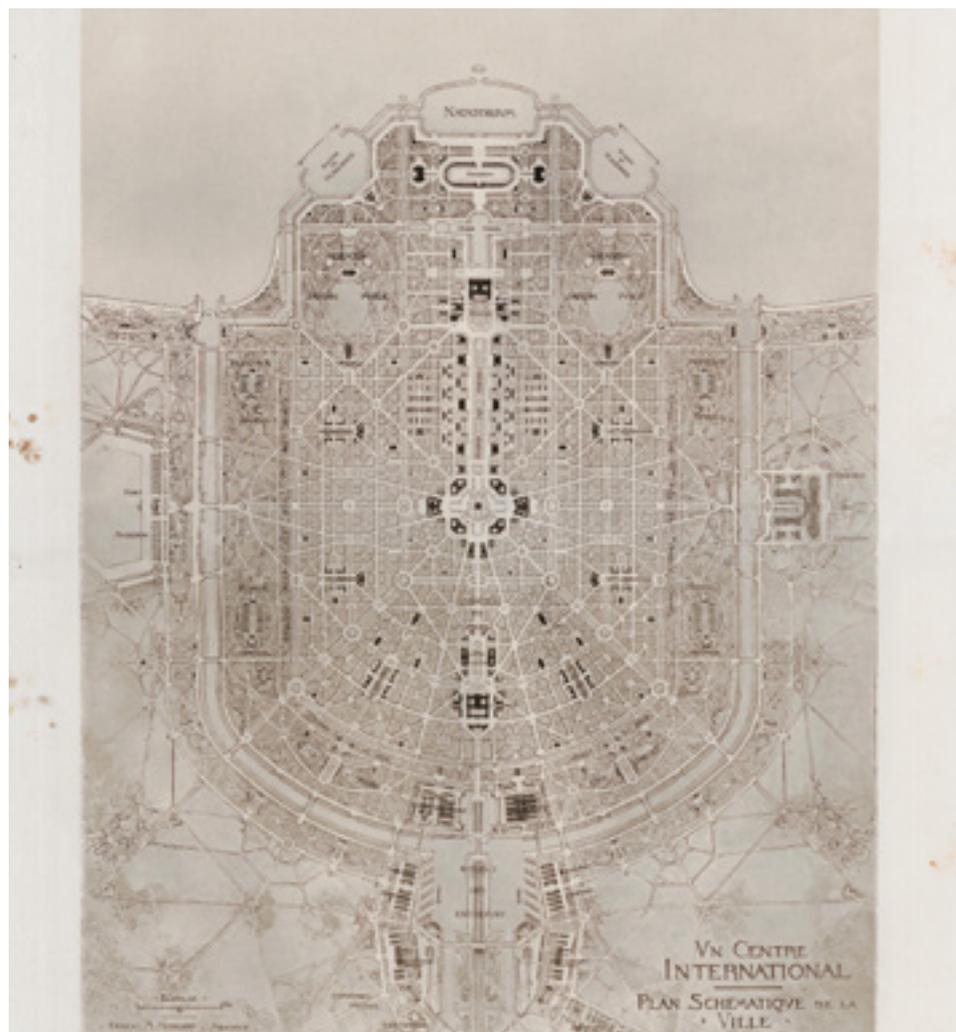
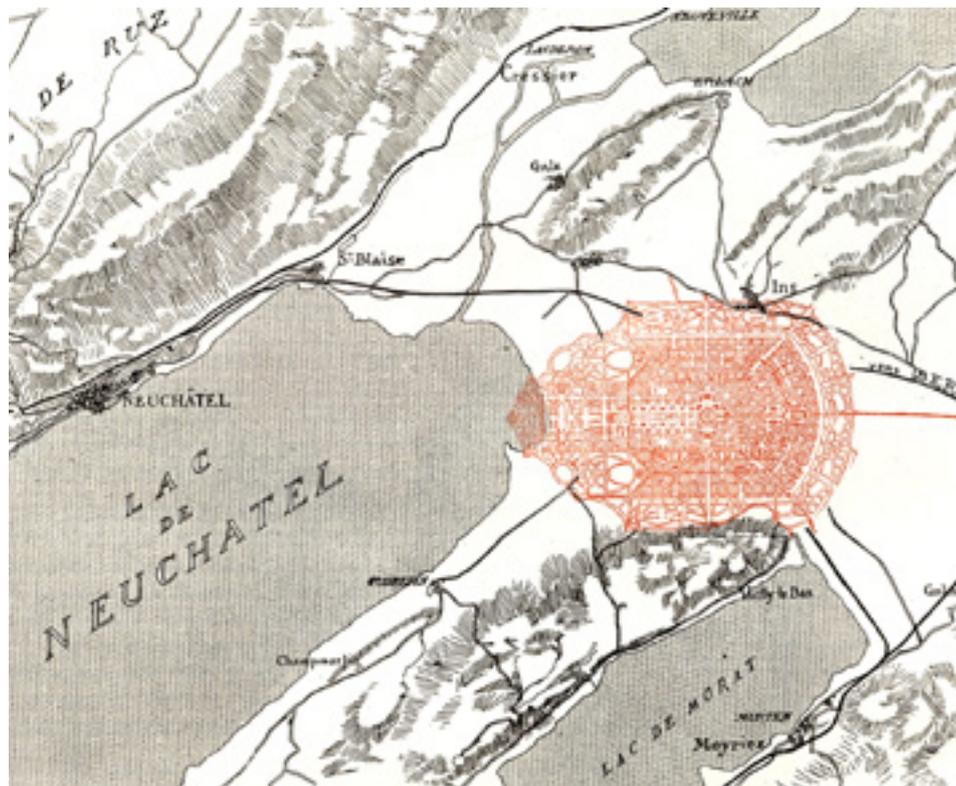
Construction of the Musée Ariana by Émile Grobety, Photo by Antoine François Détraz, 1879

Postcards of the Musée Ariana in Genève from 1903 & 1918

## Patron Gustave Revilliod, Musée Arianna, Jacques-Élysée Goss, 1877

In close proximity to the Palais des Nations, another representative building from the neo-classical period can be found: The Musée Arianna. It was built in the second half of the 19th century on the commission of Gustave Revilliod (1817-1890), a generous Geneva patron and distinguished collector. The architect Jacques-Élysée Goss designed the building from the outset to house a museum where ceramics and glass would be exhibited along with painting, engraving, sculpture, coins, old books and all forms of applied arts. Gustave Revilliod named it Ariana, in honor of his mother, Ariane de la Rive, from whom he inherited the fortune. The architecture of the museum borrows elements from the neo-classical and neo-baroque styles, punctuating its enormous hall with marble colonnades, crowned by an elliptical dome with a starry vault. A program of painted ceilings and a set of stained glass windows complete the interior decoration.

By the end of the 19th century, Revilliod bequeathed the building to the City of Geneva, along with the entire collection and the surrounding estate of 36 hectares - the Ariana Park, which later offered the plot of land for the Palais des Nations. Since 1934, the collections of the Musée Arianna are dedicated to the field of European, Middle and Far Eastern ceramics, covering a period from the Middle Ages to the present day. The building was entirely renovated between 1981 and 1993, and is today offering a comprehensive vision of the history of ceramics and glass. Besides its museal content, the site of the Musée Arianna is the only bigger lot that is publicly accessible within the area defined by the street that encompasses the Palais des Nations - despite the fact that the City of Geneva had inherited the whole Ariana Park on the condition that it would stay open to the public.



Hendrik C. Andersen, Ville Internationale Neuchâtel, 1912

Hendrik C. Andersen, Un Centre International, Universitätsbibliothek Heidelberg, 1913

# World Centre of Communication, Hendrik C. Andersen, E. Hébrard, 1913

World Capital Projects, Text by Dr. Andreas Kalpakci

“The *World Centre of Communication* belongs to the capital city debates of the early Twentieth Century, next to such projects as the 1901 McMillan Plan for Washington, DC. Talks for a world capital city surfaced on the margins of the 1899 Hague Peace Conference, which established the Permanent Court of Arbitration. American industrialist Andrew Carnegie financed the construction of the Court’s seat. Others, however, saw in this new international institution not just a building, but an opportunity to give the geographically dispersed and intermittent networks of internationalism a unity of space and time through urban form. Alternative proposals were made for specific sites in The Hague and Brussels. The project initiated by Norwegian-American sculptor Hendrik Christian Andersen (1872–1940) in collaboration with the French architect Ernest Hébrard (1875–1933) differed from these precedents, in that it decoupled the design task from local and international politics, offering instead a placeless composition. Despite receiving some support, the initiative encountered mostly indifference. The advent of the League of Nations in 1919, with its concrete demands, pushed it eventually aside.

Andersen and Hébrard crafted with the *World Centre of Communication* an optimistic allegory, where a peaceful metropolis stands for the overcoming of humanity’s internal divisions thanks to modern technology. The design gathers the international institutions that emerged during the Nineteenth Century, from the Universal Exhibitions to the Olympics, and stages them as monumental public buildings interconnected by squares, avenues, and parks. The flat, rectangular plan is curved on one side and extends into the waters on the other. A canal and a garden city with sport facilities, playgrounds, and hospitals mark its outer boundaries. Beyond them, industrial harbours and train stations, an airport, and an exhibition hall provide visitors and commodities with access to the city.

A gigantic roundabout at the plan’s centre highlights the Tower of Progress as the main feature of the design. Surrounded by scientific, religious, economic, and judicial international institutions, the Tower combined a convention centre with offices and an antenna to gather, produce, and broadcast news to the world. An avenue flanked by national embassies connects the Tower with the museums, Olympic facilities, parks, and the two colossal statues that structure the vast shore, forming the main axis of symmetry for the entire design.



Andersen and Hébrard deployed multiple means to present internationalism as a coherent ensemble. Architecturally, all public buildings are thoroughly designed following Beaux-Arts composition, thus giving the city a homogeneous neoclassical façade. Organizationally, institutions from the same domain are grouped in thematic quarters. At an urban level, avenues link visually the distant parts of the city with one another. Infrastructurally, networks of centralized heating and subway transportation serve the city from its underground. Finally, the fixed repertoire of plans, sections, axonometries, and bird's eye views published in 1913 produces a consistent gaze on the city by portraying its different spaces from similar angles, in broad daylight, and with only minimal hints of traffic.

The proposal for Neuchâtel is the plan's adaptation to one of eight locations, that Andersen and Hébrard considered for the project's realization, ranging from Constantinople to Lakewood, New Jersey. Beyond Swiss neutrality, the site's main potential was its proximity to Bern, where two organizations that regulated worldwide communication, the Universal Postal Union and the International Telegraphic Union, had already their seat, and thus offered the new city a unique programmatic affinity."



ILO's Centre William Rappard is the first building in Geneva to be purposely built as the headquarters of an international organisation

The former ILO building later became the headquarters of GATT and the WTO.

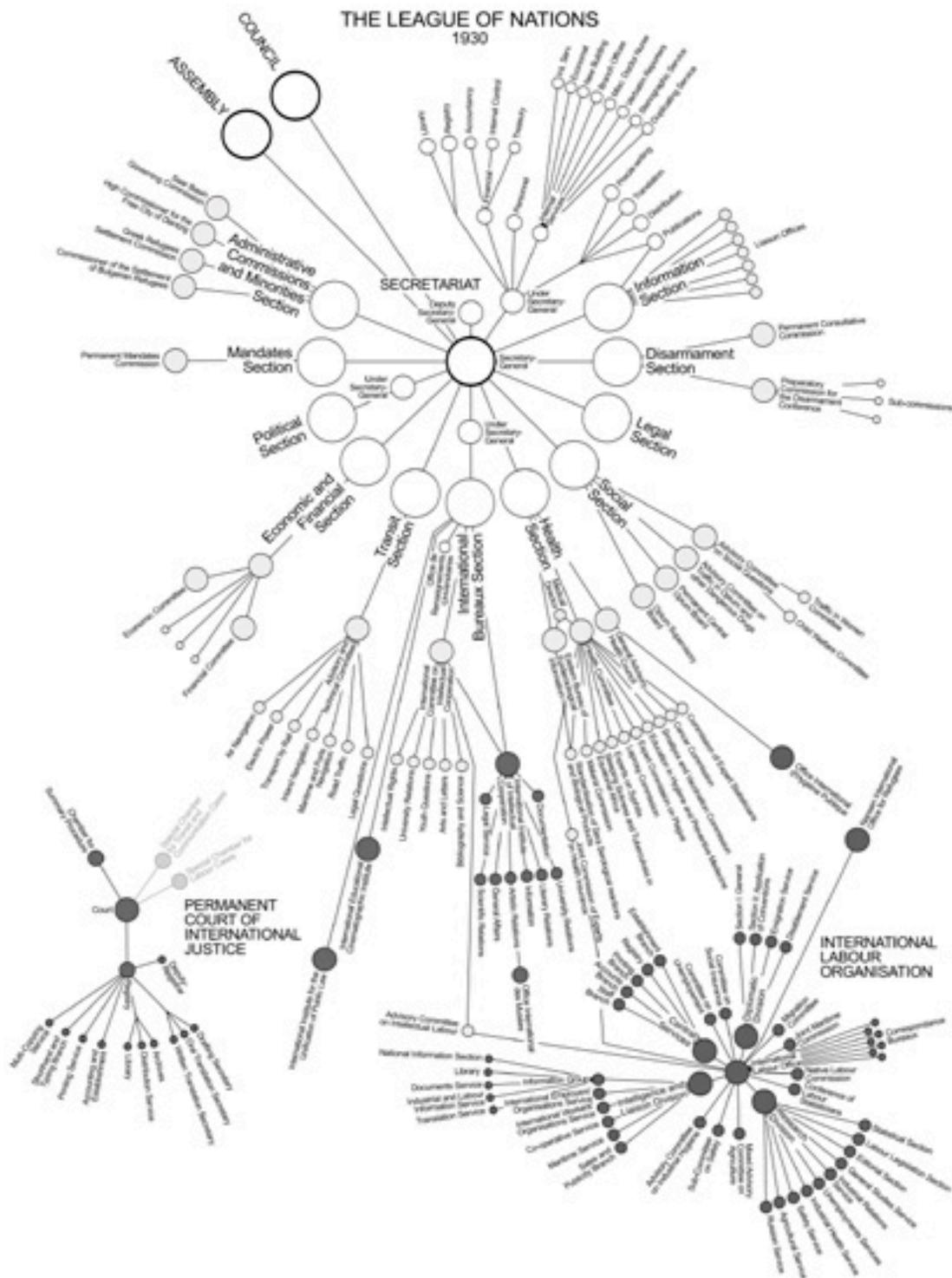
# ILO International Labour Organization Georges Epitoux, 1926

Text by ILO History and Genève Internationale

“The International Labour Organization was created in 1919 as the Part XIII of the Versailles Peace Treaty ending World War I. It grew out of nineteenth-century labour and social movements which culminated in widespread demands for social justice and higher living standards for the world’s working people. In 1946, after the demise of the League of Nations, the ILO became the first specialized agency associated with the United Nations. In structure, the ILO is unique among the UN organizations in that the representatives of the workers and of the employers have an equal voice with those of governments in formulating its policies.

The ILO Office in Geneva, Switzerland, is the Organization’s secretariat, operational headquarters, research center, and publishing house. The William Rappard Centre, the first building specifically constructed to host an international organization in Geneva, became the first ILO headquarters.

The so-called Centre William Rappard was later adopted by the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO). It was extended with a new annex in 2012 in order to gather all employees at the same location. The renovation project was generously supported by federal funds, while the canton of Geneva is providing the site for use free of charge.”



# League of Nations 1920-1946

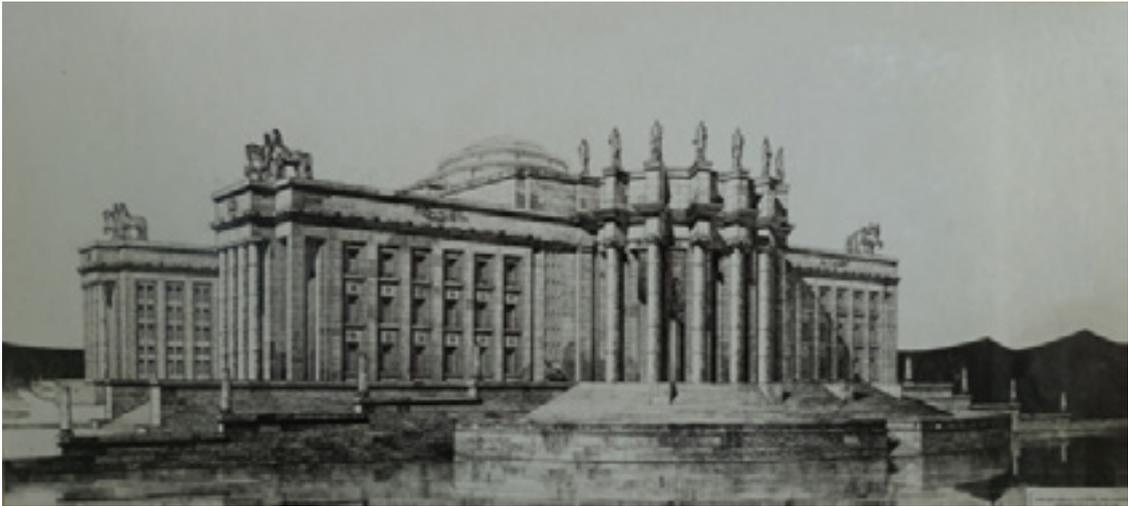
The League of Nations is the forerunner of today's institution of the United Nations. It is an organization conceived during the first World War, and established in 1919 under the Treaty of Versailles with the aim to promote international cooperation and to achieve peace and security. Under the same Treaty, the ILO was created as an affiliated agency of the League of Nations. On 15 November 1920, an enthusiastic crowd welcomed the delegates of the First Assembly of the League of Nations at Geneva.

Having installed its Secretariat in the Palais Wilson, the League of Nations made a durable mark on the urban landscape of Geneva by constructing the Palais des Nations in which the League was installed in 1936: The Palais des Nations owes its presence in Geneva to the American president Woodrow Wilson, who forcefully opposed Brussels as the League of Nations' headquarters. It owes its right-bank location to the League's first secretary-general, the Englishman Sir Eric Drummond, who insisted on "the view of Mont Blanc". It owes its situation on the Ariana hillside to the American oil baron John D. Rockefeller, who donated to the League a library too large for the lakeside plot initially set aside, which was too small for an extension.

To the competition for the League's new headquarters in 1927, 377 projects were submitted. The projects covered the entire spectrum of architectural positions of the early period after the First World War, and the Palais des Nations became a key moment for the architectural discourse of the time: The task to design a house dedicated to international collaboration and peace offered the opportunity to find new expressions for an enormous building with no programmatic predecessor. In the stylistic debate, the main lines of conflict were drawn between the classical traditions and the new modernist Avantgarde.

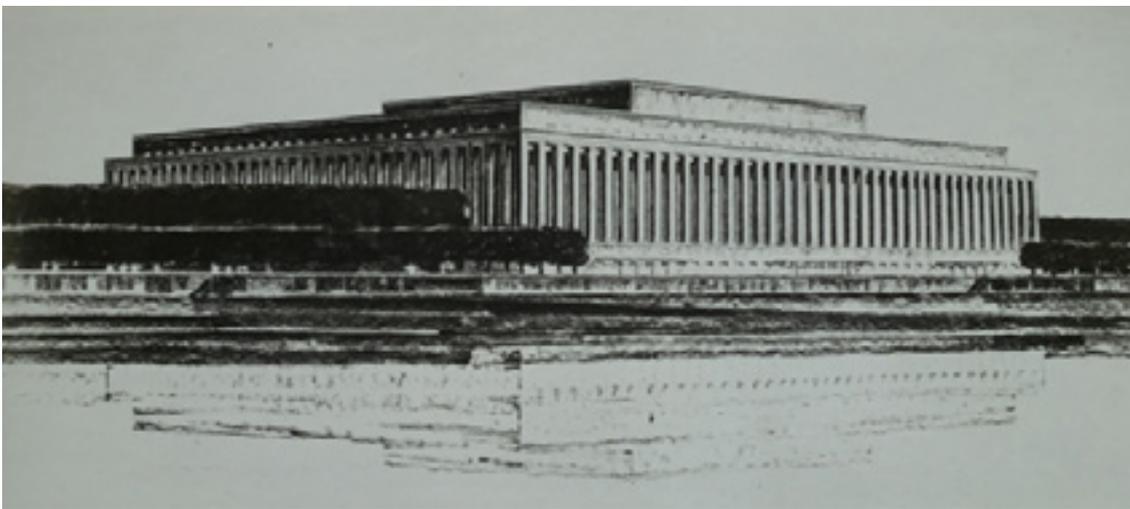
The rather conservative Jury finally commissioned a group of five architects to work on a joint design: Carlo Broggi of Italy, Julien Flegenheimer of Switzerland, Camille Lefèvre and Henri-Paul Nénot of France, and Joseph Vago of Hungary. The five developed a design that eventually became the basis for the Palais des Nations, complying with a traditional understanding of monumentality and representation. Nevertheless, the competition projects of Le Corbusier and other modernists like Hannes Meyer became important historical benchmarks for the architectural discourse, and managed to significantly influence the further evolution of modernism.

In 1946, the League of Nations ceased its activities officially after failing to prevent the Second World War. It found its replacement with the United Nations Organization, which inherited many agencies and institutions that were set up by the League in the decades before.



Competition for the Palace of Nations, 1926-27

Visualizations by Carlo Broggi, Giuseppe Vacaro & Luigi Franzini (Italy) and by Henri Paul Nénot (France) & Julien Flegelheimer (Switzerland)



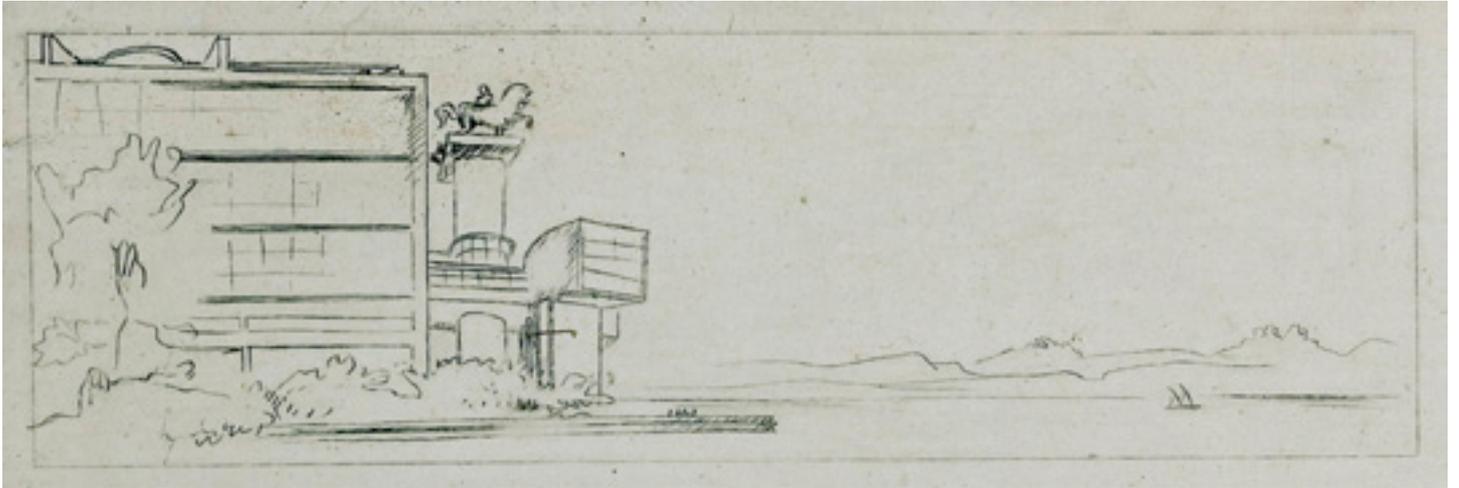
Competition for the Palace of Nations, 1926-27

Visualizations by Jozsef Vago (Hungary) and by Erich zu Putlitz (Germany)

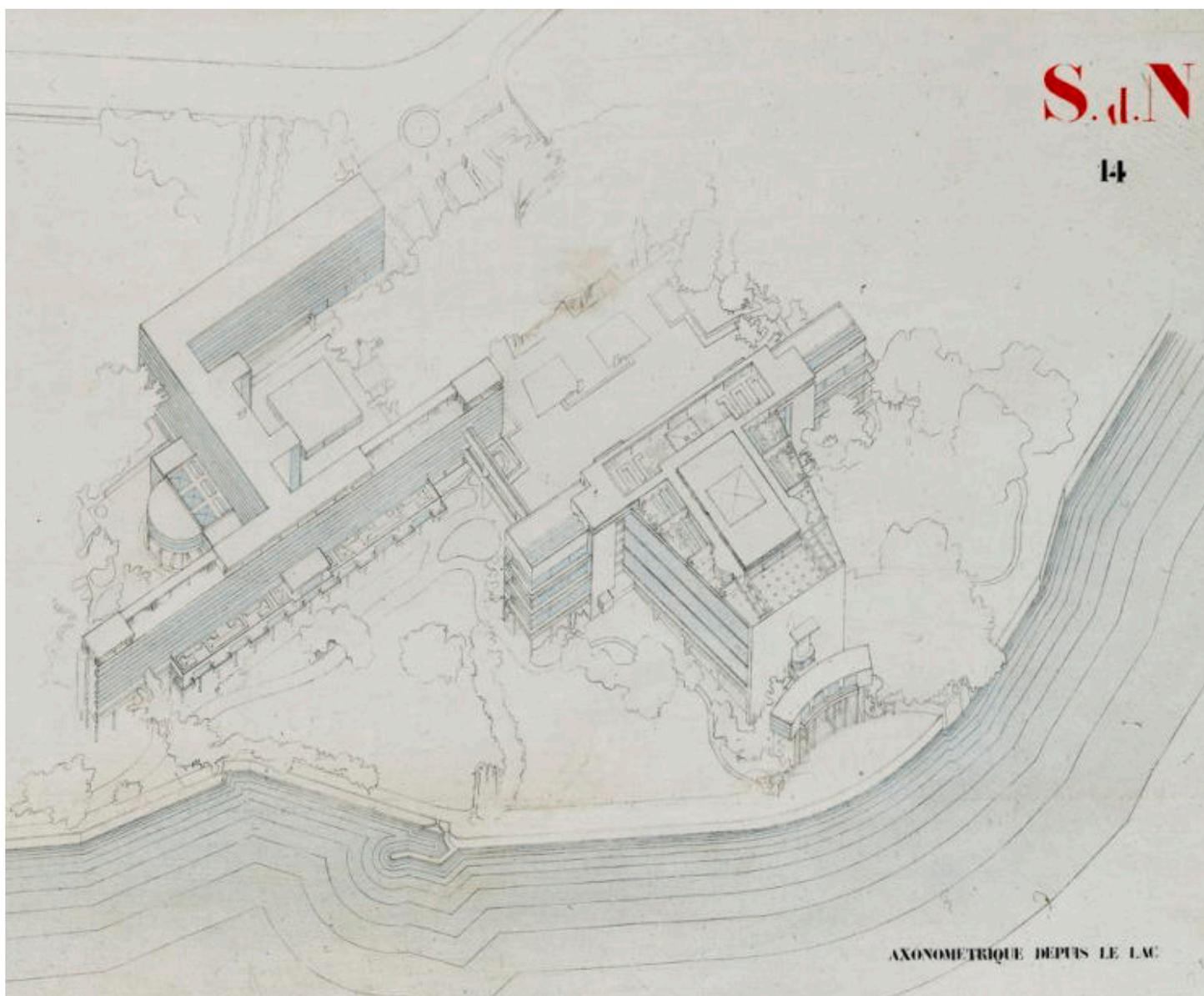


Le Corbusier & Pierre Jeanneret, Competition design for the Palais des Nations in Geneva, 1927

Group photograph in the Atelier Le Corbusier in front of the competition plans, gta Archive

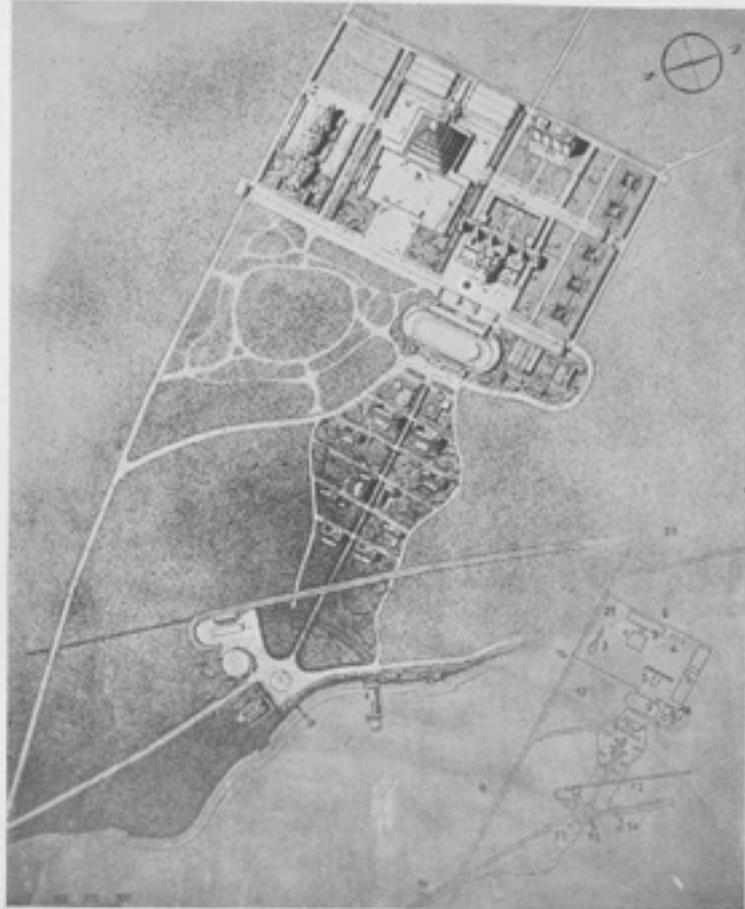






MUNDANEUM 1929

1. Musée Mondial
2. Halles des Temps modernes
3. Associations internationales
4. Bibliothèque
5. Université
6. Cité universitaire
7. Stade
8. Annexes du centre sportif
9. Démonstration Exposition: continents, nations, villes
10. Cité hôtelière et résidence
11. Chemin de fer: Halle internationale  
Garage du Centre de Tourisme
12. Autoroute. — Centre vers Lausanne, Berne, Zurich
13. Débarcadère
14. Centre nautique
15. Siège actuel du Bureau International du Travail
16. Phares
17. Jardins botaniques et géologiques (Extension de l'Ariana)
18. Route de France (par la Faucille); raccordement au Quai Wilson
19. Quai Wilson: liaison de Genève avec la Cité internationale
20. Réserves pour aéroport et station de T.S.F.
21. Emplacement réservé



Le Corbusier, Oeuvre Complète I, Mundaneum, 1929  
 Le Corbusier, La Cité Mondiale, Fondation Le Corbusier, 1929

# Cité Mondiale, Paul Otlet, Le Corbusier, Pierre Jeanneret, 1928-29

World Capital Projects, Text by Dr. Andreas Kalpakci

“The *Cité Mondiale* is the project for a new city near Geneva that Belgian lawyer Paul Otlet (1868–1944) commissioned to then-Swiss architects Le Corbusier (1887–1965) and Pierre Jeanneret (1896–1967). While being an initial supporter of Andersen and Hébrard, Otlet saw in the quest for a world capital the response to an organizational problem, rather than an aesthetic triumph. Together with his associate, the Belgian Nobel Peace Prize winner Henri La Fontaine, Otlet critiqued the knowledge fragmentation of the modern world, arguing that the Nineteenth Century brought to an accelerating accumulation of international congresses and publications which undermined the general ability to understand current debates, favouring instead Only narrow specialists. A world capital would have therefore established permanent connections between the different aspects of international life, leading eventually to world democracy, albeit still within colonialism. More concretely, it would have provided the Union of International Associations founded by Otlet and La Fontaine in 1907 with a permanent seat. The uncertainty opened by the Palais des Nations controversy of 1927 was the opportunity to bring these issues under the spotlight and reimagine Geneva’s internationalism beyond just one building.

The *Cité Mondiale* pivots on a rectangular campus nested between the Ariana Park, Pregny, and Le Grand-Saconnex. Its main feature is the pyramidal Musée Mondial, a museum that displays humanity’s history as the linear unfolding of a single spiroid hall. Nearby, two blocks contain changing exhibitions for the world’s cities, nations, and continents; a series of other buildings host the auditoria, offices, and deposits of Otlet’s Union, of an international library, and of a university. A road connects the campus to the Palais on the lake shore—omitted from the drawings—and aligns along this axis an Olympic stadium, a hotel quarter, and a roundabout between a train station and the pre-existing International Labour Organization headquarters. When the League of Nations moved its future Palais to Ariana Park to match American industrialist John D. Rockefeller Sr.’s donation of a library with a larger site, a second version of the project was drafted, relocating the hotels and adding such features as a radio station, high-rises for a business sector, and an airport.

In 1929, a diorama was temporarily installed near Palais Wilson to lobby diplomats for the *Cité Mondiale*’s vision of urban internationalism. This drawing showed the new city’s independence from Geneva, stressing instead its embeddedness in the Alps: a view of the landscape was supposed to have a positive effect on international negotiations, as this was said to instil in delegates a contemplative attitude. Beyond this drawing, however, cohesion was also expressed by the project’s architecture. The massing of all buildings conveyed their inner programmatic requirements, and although this resulted in heterogeneous structures spatially isolated from one another, the proportioning of the rectangular plan after the golden ratio interrelated them geometrically as a whole. Ignored by the League, the project faced local opposition, and divided avant-garde architects, after the Czechoslovak critic Karel Teige accused Le Corbusier of betraying functionalism in favour of monumentality. Nevertheless, in 1933, Otlet, Le Corbusier, and Jeanneret revised the *Cité Mondiale* for Antwerp. The search for a world capital was eventually resolved in 1946, when the debate shifted again to the building scale, after John D. Rockefeller Jr. donated to the newly established United Nations the site in New York City currently occupied by its headquarters.”



Aerial View, 1950

# United Nations Office at Geneva 1946 until today

The name United Nations, coined by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt, was first used in the Declaration by the UN of 1 January 1942, during the Second World War, when representatives of 26 nations pledged their Governments to continue fighting together against the Axis Powers. In 1945, representatives of 50 countries met in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference on International Organization to draw up the United Nations Charter. The main agreements aim to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, achieve international cooperation, and be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations. The Charter was signed on 26 June 1945 by the representatives of the 50 countries, and the UN officially came into existence on 24 October 1945, when the Charter had been ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and by a majority of other signatories.

Today, with its 193 sovereign member states, the UN is the world's largest intergovernmental organization. The UN and its specialized organizations have often been the target of criticism - but although disagreements have occasionally led member states to a temporary withdrawal, none have ever threatened to leave permanently, on the contrary: All countries are eager to belong, as membership imparts legitimacy, while the UN's technical organizations serve as vehicles of influence.

The headquarters of the UN was placed in the United States - as one of the great powers on the winning side - and more specifically in New York, because the Rockefeller family provided the site. The European headquarters of the United Nations were established in the Palais des Nations in Geneva, after the former League of Nations had been dissolved. Even though Switzerland only became a full member of the UN in 2002, Geneva was chosen because of its neutrality and humanitarian tradition. It attracted a dozen UN bodies to choose Geneva for their headquarters too.

The Palais des Nations has seen several extensions since the League of Nations left the building to the UN. In 1966, a first extension was commissioned towards the north. The aim was to extend the Palace without transforming it, renewing its architectural language while preserving the spirit of the existing complex. After two years of proposals and counter-proposals, Eugène Beaudoin and Basil Spence finalized plans for a seven-storey office block next to the library, in line with the Secretariat. A three-storey structure next to the extension facing the lake accommodated ten conference rooms, including three large rotundas. Since 2015, the Palais des Nations building is being renovated at a cost of nearly 850 million Swiss francs. The office block of Beaudoin and Spence will therefore be partly transformed, and a new building is being constructed for another 700 employees, extending the complex yet again towards the north.

The Palais des Nations is today one of the most active centres for multilateral diplomacy in the world, comprising 34 conference rooms and hosting approximately 12,000 meetings per year for over 75,000 delegates and 100,000 visitors. How this high activity of multilateral diplomacy will develop in times of the global pandemic has yet to be found out.



Genève, Cointrin in 1924, Photo by Walter Mittelholzer

Swissair at the Airport of Geneva in 1966, Photo Swissair

# Cointrin Airport

## Jean Camoletti and Jean Ellenberger, 1946-1949

Geneva International Airport – or Cointrin Airport – adjoins the Jardin de Nations on the west. It lies on the frontier of Switzerland and France and is accessible from both sides of the border. It was first established in 1920 as a small runway with wooden sheds. As part of the Swiss government's post-war planning for the nation's airports, Geneva was identified as one of four main urban airports to be constructed, besides Zürich, Basel and the never realized construction of a new international airport in Bern. Cointrin was noted as being well suited for further extensions and did not require a triangular runway arrangement, as the prevailing winds are very regularly along a single axis. In 1946, the construction of the new terminal by Ellenberger and Camoletti – which is today used as Terminal 2 – started, and the runway was enlarged to a length of 2000 m.

When passenger numbers raised again towards the 60s, another new terminal was built and replaced the former as the main hub. Again, the runway was prolonged, and finally reached the length of 3900m. In order to realize the runway extension, land that was then belonging to the french commune of Ferney-Voltaire was needed. An international agreement induced the therefore necessary land transfer from France to Switzerland, and territory of identical size, also adjacent to Ferney-Voltaire, was transferred in the opposite direction.

The Geneva Airport itself is an autonomous public institution since 1994. Geneva and its region are today connected to 149 destinations operated by 57 airlines. In 2019, more than 17,9 million passengers used the Genève Aéroport infrastructure. That same year, the airport achieved a net profit of CHF 84.1 million and generated an economic added value of more than 4 billion. The airport company pays half its yearly profit to the canton, which is as well the owner of the whole property. On the entire site of the Airport, about 11'000 employees are working for around 200 different companies.

For Genève Internationale, the Cointrin Airport is one of the backbones that allows the City to be well-connected within a globalized world. Its proximity to the many residing international institutions and to the Jardin de Nations makes the airport a key infrastructure for keeping up the continual coming and going of diplomats and international representatives in the last decades. The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic to the future of the airport and it's function as an international hub have not yet been clearly visible.



On 17 May 1954, the first shovel of earth was dug on the Meyrin site in Switzerland under the eyes of Geneva officials and members of CERN staff.

One of the early plans for CERN campus

# CERN European Organization for Nuclear Research, Rudolf and Peter Steiger, 1954

At the end of the Second World War, European science was proclaimed to be no longer world-class. Following the example of international organizations, a handful of scientists imagined creating a European atomic physics laboratory. Such a laboratory would not only give the opportunity to unite European scientists, but also allow them to share the increasing costs of nuclear physics facilities. At an intergovernmental meeting of UNESCO in Paris in December 1951, the first resolution concerning the establishment of a European Council for Nuclear Research was adopted.

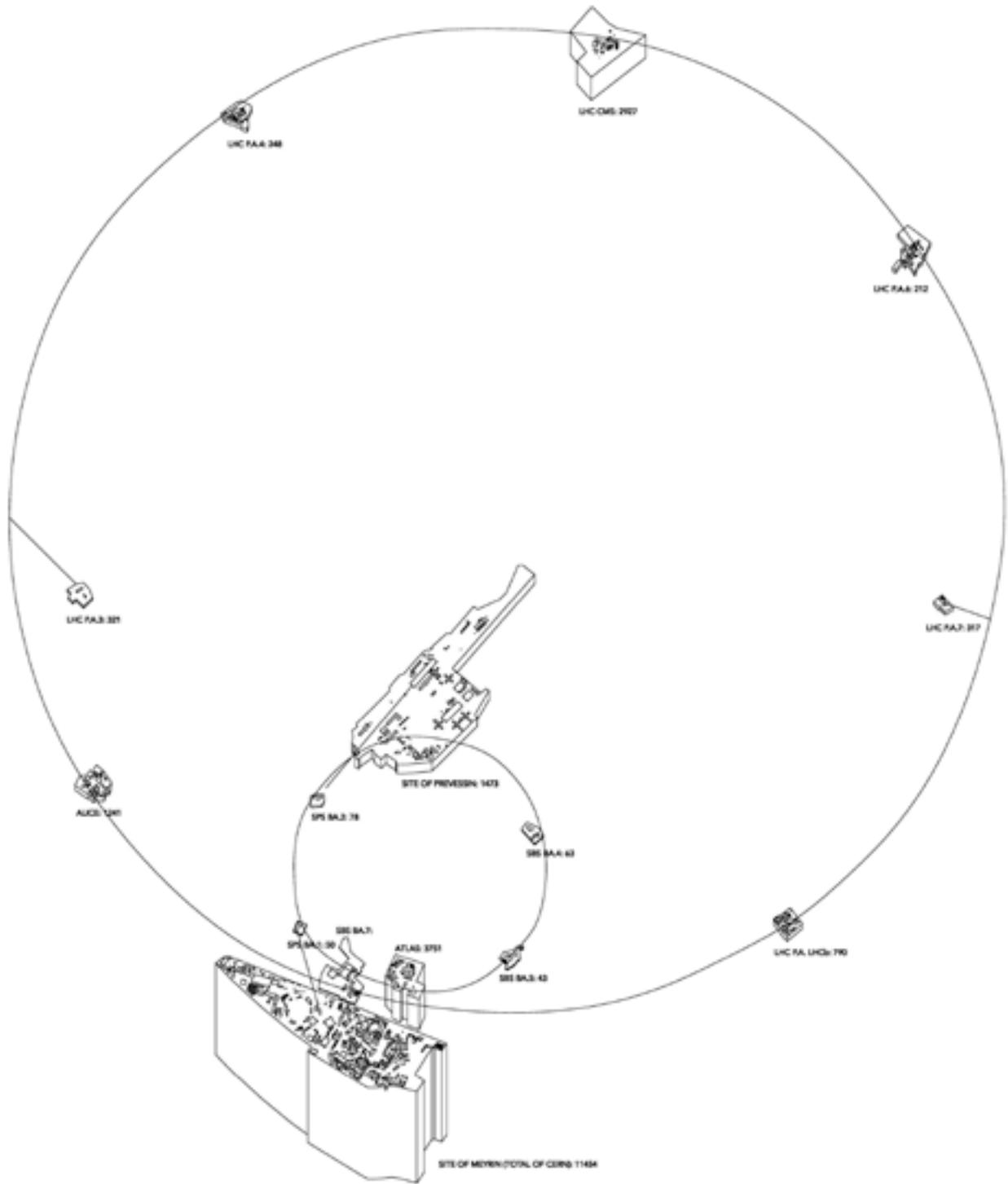
The decision to locate the European Nuclear Research Laboratory in Geneva was made in October 1952, after several countries had agreed to join forces in the field of particle physics research. Officially founded in 1954, the CERN Convention states that the nuclear research “shall have no concern with work for military requirements and the results of its experimental and theoretical work shall be published or otherwise made generally available.”

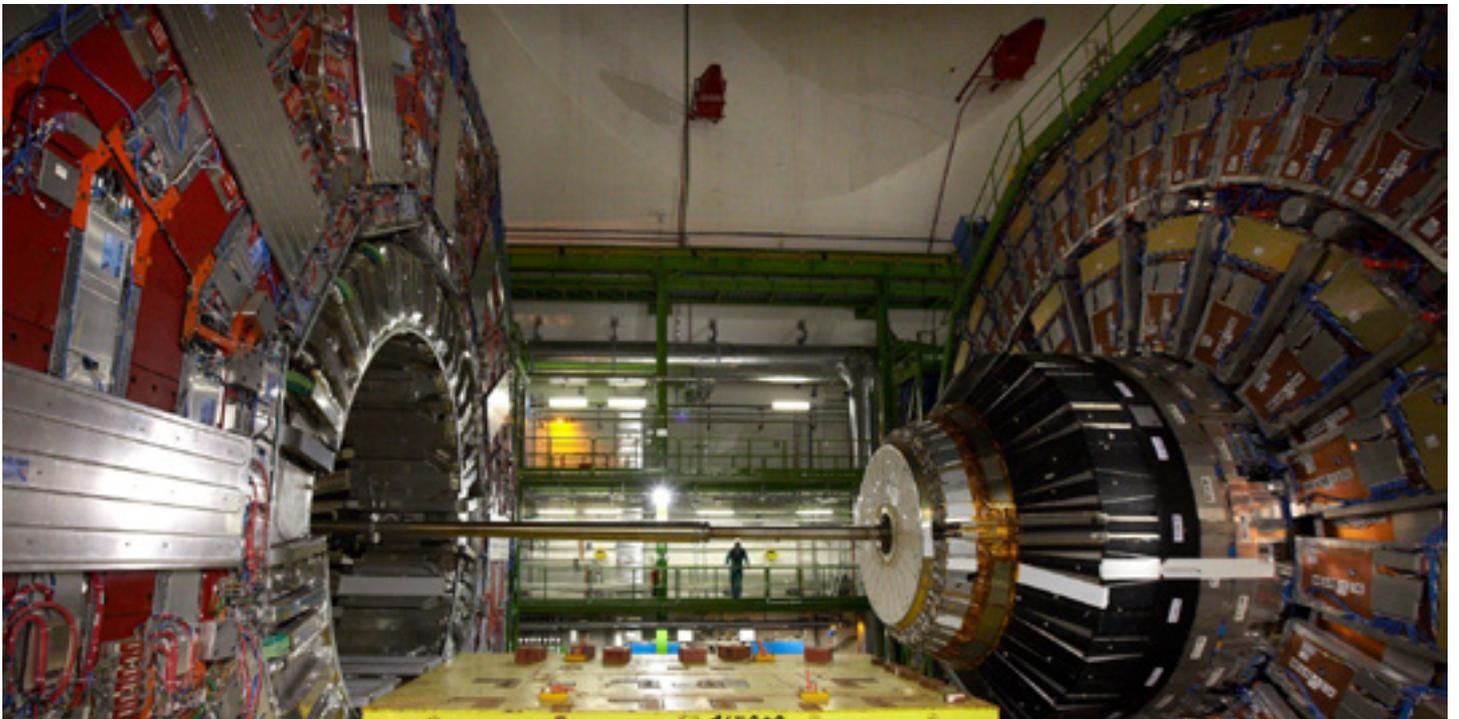
The commission for the CERN was awarded to Rudolf Steiger, who was running his practice in Zürich together with Max E. Häfeli and Werner M. Moser, and who happened to be a cousin of the UNESCO official who had overseen scientific cooperation in Europe since 1949. Busy at the time constructing the University of Zurich Hospital, however, Steiger delegated the CERN project to his son Peter Steiger, who was at the time just 21 years old and had recently returned from working at Frank Lloyd Wright in the United States.

In 1954, construction began with the particle accelerators, since their contingencies would dictate the buildings' configuration. Due to their weight and the risk of radiation, the synchrocyclotron and proton synchrotron were buried deep underground. The Main Building of CERN in Meyrin, which is located east of the Geneva Airport, comprises several symmetrical volumes connected by walkways and bridges, containing the administration, auditorium, cafeteria and a lobby with a monumental double staircase and mushroom-shaped columns. Peter Steiger had to discretely intervene with the Swiss government to avoid the amputation of the Main Building's social areas, when construction costs turned out higher than expected.

Over the course of time, hangars, workshops, storage facilities, offices, sheds, prefabs, shipping containers, and many other new structures sprang up, further congesting a complex ruled by urgency. CERN currently houses 400 buildings on the Meyrin portion of the site, straddling the border with France, and 670 in total across both countries. An underground tunnel 27 km in circumference comprising the Large Hadron Collider, completed in 2008 and until today the worlds largest machine.

Today, CERN has 23 member states and an annual budget of roughly 1 billion Swiss francs, of which Switzerland contributes 4%. CERN's scientific-research facilities attract thousands of international scientists and visitors. Besides scientific achievements and discoveries, the CERN also managed to produce technological breakthroughs such as the World Wide Web.





Cartoon by Michael Moreu, 2018



Walter Bruggler, Bureau International du Travail (ILO), 1969-1974  
Walter Bruggler, Organisation Mondaiel de la Santé (WHO), 1960-1966

# Landscape Design Genesis, Walter Brugger, 1960-74

Text by Lloyd Broda

“One of the major landscape architects in the post-war period, Walter Brugger (1924-2002) had a decisive impact on Geneva’s landscape at a time when the city was expanding into the countryside through large housing and infrastructural developments. Working on projects across Switzerland and abroad, he opened in Geneva the country’s first landscape counselling office in the early 1950s and soon became the key landscape figure in the city’s most consequential projects, such as the Lignon, the ILO or the Geneva-Lausanne motorway. He thus bequeathed the canton – city and countryside throughout – with numerous designs ranging from public parks and playgrounds to private gardens, as well as to important infrastructure and the landscaping of grands ensembles or international offices.

Having first trained in Sweden, then in England, and having also worked on large-scale projects in the U.S.A., Brugger combined three particular qualities in his oeuvre : respectively, the importance of generous space and careful design for public programmes; the characteristic composition of the English landscape garden; and the significance, in any project, of early-on collaboration between landscape architects and engineers, architects, as well as other specialists, to address properly the complexity of both the programme and the site.

The quartier des Nations happens to hold some of his most striking contributions such as his landscaped parks for the ILO, the WHO and the WCC. Further towards the Jura, he also designed the outdoors spaces of the Airport’s terminal, the ICC, and even the CERN in the 1960s. Conscious that the building plots were large, often already landscaped and richly planted estates, with a subtle topography to play with and a set of views towards the Lake and the Mont-Blanc, Brugger worked with the architects right at the start of any project to help embed the future buildings into the site and within the existing vegetation. As to the composition of the landscape around it, carving and remodelling of the terrain in order to create deep, wavy, open views became a leitmotiv of his, as well as the use of a rich palette of ornamental plants. Meticulously designed borders in the parts close to the buildings would set off the more naturalistic background planting and the existing bosky contours of the site. Besides, the planting did not merely start “outside” the building: terraces, roofs, walls, balconies and indoor alleys were also part of his design scope – elements he would tackle by means of, on the one hand, an expert use of plants he could draw from his steady horticultural knowledge and personal research on trees, and on the other, more technical details he would devise, such as the deep concrete containers for planting trees on roofs.

Because he worked on the main buildings in the Nations and because his designs carefully integrated the rich 19th-century estate substructure as well as the bocage, a certain coherence and continuity in the landscape have still been holding the whole quartier together, despite the somewhat less considerate projects or office extensions of the recent years. What is more, those qualities have diffused into the surrounds, especially since Walter Brugger had also been in charge of the landscaping and planting of important neighbouring housing developments for international workers, namely Parc De-Budé and Plein-Soleil.”



Picture of the WHO building, designed by Jean Tschumi (portrait at the model of the previously built Nestlé headquarter)

# WHO World Health Organization Jean Tschumi and Pierre Bonnard, 1960- 1966

The World Health Organization was founded in 1948 on the principle that health is a human right and all people should enjoy the highest possible standard of well-being. WHO's primary role is to direct international health within the United Nations' system and to lead partners in global health responses. The institution's objective stands for a collective struggle: humanity's battle against disease. The WHO has today 7000 people working in 150 country offices, in 6 regional offices and at their headquarters in Geneva.

On 24 May 1962, Sergei Kurashov, the Russian president of the World Health Assembly of the WHO, announced the program for the building site he was inaugurating in the Jardin des Nations in Geneva: "The building to be constructed here shall stand as a symbol and focal point for the hope of all humanity to some day be free from disease". The design of the new global Headquarter of the WHO should correspond to an image of total well-being, physical as well as mental, aesthetic and social. The finalists of the competition were two famous names of the modernist movement: Eero Saarinen and Jean Tschumi. It was the project of the Geneva-born architect Tschumi that won in 1960. When the project started to be built in 1962, the lead of was taken over by Pierre Bonnard, because Tschumi had unexpectedly died a few weeks earlier. If the close-by Palais des Nations from 1927 stood for the great polemic between modernist and classical architects in the inter-war period, the new WHO headquarters represented the final triumph of modernism after the Second World War.

The World Health Organization operates today in an increasingly complex and rapidly changing landscape. The boundaries of public health action have become blurred, extending into other sectors that influence health opportunities and outcomes. The corona virus has put the WHO back in a very prominent position in the world public: Collecting and communicating health data has become a balancing act between the different geopolitical positions about the right way to counter the spreading of the virus. In April 2020, this controversy culminated in the suspension of the 500 million dollars of funding from the United States, which was decided in order to assess the WHO's "role in severely mismanaging and covering up the spread of the coronavirus", as Donald Trump had proclaimed.



The Advisory Committee of architects and politicians in front of a model for the new ILO building, late 1960s

The biggest construction site in Switzerland at the time and one of the largest in Europe finished in 1974

The ILO's facade by Beaudoin, Nervi, and Camenzind, covering Switzerland's largest administration building, *ILO archive*

# ILO International Labour Organization Eugène Beaudouin, Pier Luigi Nervi and Alberto Camenzind, 1969-1974

Text by International Labour Organization

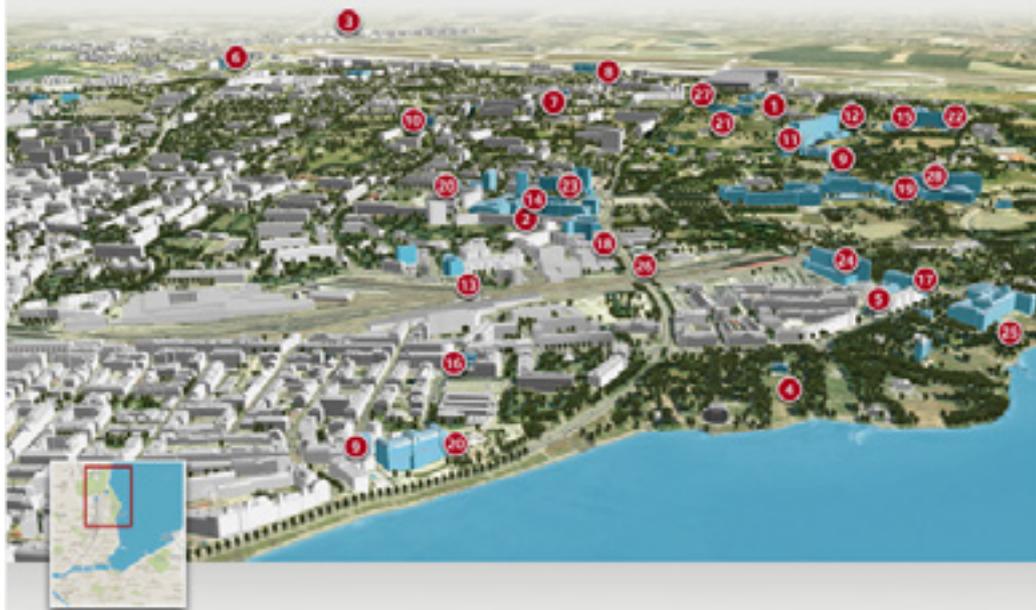
“The International Labour Organization was created in 1919 as the Part XIII of the Versailles Peace Treaty ending World War I. It grew out of nineteenth-century labour and social movements which culminated in widespread demands for social justice and higher living standards for the world’s working people. In 1946, after the demise of the League of Nations, the ILO became the first specialized agency associated with the United Nations. In structure, the ILO is unique among the UN organizations in that the representatives of the workers and of the employers have an equal voice with those of governments in formulating its policies.

The ILO Office in Geneva, Switzerland, is the Organization’s secretariat, operational headquarters, research center, and publishing house. The William Rappard Centre, the first building specifically constructed to host an international organization in Geneva, became the first ILO headquarters. It is hosting today the World Trade Organization (WTO). Today’s headquarters of the ILO are situated in the enormous complex east of the Palais des Nations, which is Switzerland’s biggest administration building, comprising 1250 office rooms. The complex was built in the late 60s by the architects Eugène Beaudouin, Alberto Camenzind and Pier Luigi Nervi. It has three main parts: the south wing, with the meeting rooms and library; the north wing, which includes general services, and, between the two, the central office building. These three blocks shall embody the three groups of representatives: governments, workers and employers - the underlying structure of the Organization.

Over the course of the decades, the amount of treaties and conventions that were initiated and negotiated by the ILO sum up to a 190. They generally aim towards a rise of world wide labour standards. The conventions target the abolishment of child labour and forced labour, the equal treatment at work, and the ensuring of collective and individual workers rights. The ILO is the only one of all the international organizations created by the Treaty of Versailles to have survived until the present with its name and basic configuration intact.”

# International Geneva

## The main organisations



- 1 European Broadcasting Union (EBU)
- 2 European Free Trade Association (EFTA)
- 3 European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)
- 4 Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights (AICD)
- 5 GAVI Alliance
- 6 Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund)
- 7 Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPIU)
- 8 International Air Transport Association (IATA)
- 9 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- 10 International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
- 11 International Labour Organization (ILO)
- 12 International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- 13 International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- 14 International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- 15 Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- 16 Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)
- 17 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- 18 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- 19 United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)/Palais des Nations
- 20 United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- 21 World Council of Churches (WCC)
- 22 World Health Organization (WHO)
- 23 World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- 24 World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- 25 World Trade Organization (WTO)
- 26 Maison de la Paix
- 27 Campus Santé
- 28 New UNOG building

Source: Bureau de la Genève internationale, République et canton de Genève



(Kai Reusser / swissinfo.ch)

# 41 international organisations

## 179 diplomatic missions

### 750 non-governmental organisations

Text by Simon Bradley, swissinfo.ch, 21.11.2019

“Geneva’s role as host to the world’s countries and institutions dates back to the founding of the International Committee of the Red Cross (1863). Swiss neutrality and its humanitarian tradition later made it the obvious choice for the League of Nations – the forerunner to the United Nations – and the International Labour Organization (ILO), whose arrival in 1919 marked the birth of International Geneva.

The city is now home to the UN’s European headquarters, 36 international organisations such as the World Health Organization (WHO), around 700 non-governmental organisations and 179 diplomatic missions. The number of institutions, especially NGOs, and staff continues to rise steadily. Around 9,500 staff work for the United Nations family in Geneva, which is the largest concentration of UN personnel in the world. According to March 2019, almost 34,000 people – 26,645 civil servants and officials, 4,203 diplomats and 3,109 NGO personnel – work in International Geneva.

Officials say Geneva is also the world’s biggest centre for international conferences and a key location for peace talks, most recently on Cyprus, Yemen and Syria. Last year there were 3,236 conferences and meetings, attended by 207,147 people.”



The Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room, formerly Room XX, is one of the largest conference rooms (754 seats) in the Palace of Nations. It was completely renovated as part of a Spanish donation, the main feature being a ceiling sculpture by Miquel Barceló.

The first meeting of the Assembly of the League of Nations took place on November 15th 1920 at the Salle de la Réformation in Geneva.

# 7'312 diplomats and NGO personnel 26'645 civil servants and officials 207'147 conference guests

## International Organizations

Arbitration and Conciliation Court within the OSCE  
CERN - European Organization for Nuclear Research  
DCAF - Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces  
GFATM - Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria  
GCSP - Geneva Centre for Security Policy  
EBU - European Broadcasting Union  
GICHD - Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining  
IATA - International Air Transport Association  
IBE - International Bureau of Education  
ICRC - International Committee of the Red Cross  
IEC - International Electrotechnical Commission  
ICDO - International Civil Defence Organization  
IFRC - International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
ILO - International Labour Organization  
IOM - International Organization for Migration  
ISO - International Organization for Standardization (ISO)  
ITU - International Telecommunication Union  
CYBERPOL - The International Cyber Policing Organisation  
UNITAID  
UNCTAD  
UNOG - United Nations Office at Geneva  
WHO - World Health Organization  
WIPO - World Intellectual Property Organization  
WMO - World Meteorological Organization  
WTO - World Trade Organization

## Human Rights NGOs

ABHR - Arab Bureau for Human Rights  
AI - Amnesty International  
AI - Groups in Geneva  
AI in Switzerland  
AIDH - Association internet pour la promotion et la défense des droits de l'homme  
Alkarama for Human Rights  
APT - Association for the Prevention of Torture  
Arab Commission for Human Rights  
ARC International  
Art for the World  
Baha'i International  
BICE - International Catholic Child Bureau  
BIRDHSO - International Bureau for the Respect of Human Rights in Western Sahara  
Bread for All  
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies  
CCPR Centre - Centre for Civil and Political Rights  
CETIM - Europe-Third World Centre  
CODAP - Youth resource center on Human Rights  
COHRE - Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions  
CSI - Christian Solidarity International  
DoCip - Indigenous Peoples' Center for Documentation, Research and Information  
EAFORD - International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination  
EIP - World Association of Schools as an Instrument for Peace  
FES - Foundation Friedrich Ebert

Human Rights  
NGOs

Fondation DiDé (Dignité en Détention)  
GHR - Geneva for Human Rights  
GIHR - Geneva Institute for Human Rights  
HRW - Human Rights Watch  
Human Rights Tools  
HURIDOCS - Human Rights Information and Documentation Systems  
IBJ - International Bridges to Justice  
ICHRP - International Council on Human Rights Policy  
IMADR - International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism  
ISHR - International Service for Human Rights  
Ligue Suisse des droits de l'Homme  
NCBI - National Coalition Building Institute

Nord-Sud XXI - ONG des Droits de l'Homme  
OIDEI - The Right to Education and Freedom of Education  
OMCT - World Organization Against Torture  
Quaker United Nations Office  
RADDHO - African Assembly for the Defense of Human Rights  
SGI - Soka Gakkai International  
Soroptimist International  
SRI - Sexual Rights Initiative  
TRIAL - Track Impunity Always  
UFER - International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples  
Union of Arab Jurists  
Vivat International

Humanitarian, Refugees &  
Migration NGOs

Action for the Support of Deprived Children  
AHA - Africa Humanitarian Action  
AI - Amnesty International  
AI - Groups in Geneva  
AI in Switzerland  
CARE International  
Caritas Genève  
Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue  
CHP - Center for Humanitarian Psychology  
Cimera  
Elisa - Asile  
EPER/HEKS - Swiss Interchurch Aid  
FHI - Food for the Hungry International  
Geneva Call  
HAP - Humanitarian Accountability Partnership  
Henri Dunant Society

ICMC - International Catholic Migration Commission  
ICMH - International Centre for Migration and Health  
IDMC - Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre  
MRI - Migrants Rights International  
MSF - Médecins Sans Frontières  
ORAM - Organization for Refugee, Asylum & Migration  
RET - Refugee Education Trust  
SCA - Save the Children  
Shelter Centre  
Swiss Solidarity  
Terre des hommes Switzerland  
The Sphere Project: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response  
World Vision Switzerland

Peace & Disarmament  
NGOs

Bangwe et Dialogue	Henri Dunant Society
Bread for All	ICT for Peace Foundation
Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue	Interpeace / International Peacebuilding Alliance
Cimera	IPB - International Peace Bureau
EIP - World Association of School as an Instrument for Peace	NCBI - National Coalition Building Institute
EPER/HEKS - Swiss Interchurch Aid	Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs
Femmes Africa Solidarité	Quaker United Nations Office
GCI - Green Cross International	Right For All
Geneva Call	Small Arms Survey
GIPRI - Geneva International Peace Research Institute	United Nations Watch
Grains of Peace	

Justice & International  
Law NGOs

CIEL - Center for International Environmental Law	IPA - International Publishers Association
ICJ - International Commission of Jurists	TRIAL - Track Impunity Always

Health, Population &  
Food NGOs

WMA - World Medical Association	Foundation
AHA - Africa Humanitarian Action	Enfants du Monde
AIFOMD - Association Internationale de formateurs en objectifs du millénaire des Nations Unies pour le développement	FHI - Food for the Hungry International
Antenna Technologies	FNIF - Florence Nightingale International Foundation
ASF International - Acupuncture Without Borders	Fondation du Devenir - Fondation suisse pour la qualité de vie
Association Stop Suicide	Fondation Pro Specie Rara
ASSP - SCP - Swiss Care for the Palestinians	G.R.A.F.E. - Generation, Research, Action and Training for the Environment
ATD Fourth World	GBCHealth On HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria
Bread for All	Geneva Foundation for Medical Education and Research
CARE International	GIFA - Association Genevoise pour l'Alimentation Infantile
Caritas Genève	GIWEH - Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health
CHP - Center for Humanitarian Psychology	Groupe Sida Genève
Dialogai	Health on the Net Foundation
ELA (Suisse) - European Leukodistrophy Association	IAM - International Assistance Mission
Elisabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS	IAS - International Aids Society

Health, Population &  
Food NGOs

IAS - International Aids Society  
ICMH - International Centre for  
Migration and Health  
ILGA - International Lesbian and Gay  
Association  
International Association for  
Humanitarian Medicine Brock Chisholm  
International Osteoporosis Foundation  
ISSA - International Social Security  
Association  
IUAC - International Union Against  
Cancer  
Medecins du Monde Suisse  
MSF - Médecins Sans Frontières

MVP - Meningitis Vaccine Project  
oriGIn - Organisation for an International  
Geographical Indications Network  
PATH - Program for Appropriate  
Technology in Health  
Prévention.ch  
PSI - Public Services International  
SRI - Sexual Rights Initiative  
THP - The Hunger Project  
WAWLC - World Alliance for Wound &  
Lymphedema Care  
YWCA - World Alliance of Young  
Women's Christian Associations

Youth, Women &  
Seniors NGOs

Action for the Support of Deprived  
Children  
Aide et Action Suisse  
AIFOMD - Association Internationale de  
formateurs en objectifs du millénaire  
des Nations Unies pour le  
développement  
American International Women's Club of  
Geneva  
Association Anna Di Giusto pour  
l'enfance  
Bangwe et Dialogue  
BICE - International Catholic Child  
Bureau  
Caritas Genève  
Casa Alianza Suisse  
Children Action  
Cimera  
CODAP - Youth resource center on  
Human Rights  
Earth Focus Foundation

Enfants du Monde  
FCEM - World Association of Women  
Entrepreneurs  
Femmes Africa Solidarité  
FNIF - Florence Nightingale International  
Foundation  
Geneva World  
GIFA - Association Genevoise pour  
l'Alimentation Infantile  
Global Alliance Against Female Genital  
Mutilation  
ISS - International Social Service  
OCAPROCE Internationale  
Soroptimist International  
Terre des hommes Switzerland  
World Organization of the Scout  
Movement  
WWSF - Women's World Summit  
Foundation  
YWCA - World Alliance of Young  
Women's Christian Associations

Education, culture &  
religion NGOs

Action for the Support of Deprived Children  
ACUNS - Academic Council on the United Nations System  
Aide et Action Suisse  
AIFOMD - Association Internationale de formateurs en objectifs du millénaire des Nations Unies pour le développement  
Al-Hakim Foundation  
Appel spirituel de Genève  
Art for the World  
Association Anna Di Giusto pour l'enfance  
Baha'i International  
Brahma Kumaris  
CCIG - International Catholic Centre of Geneva  
Enfants du Monde  
Foundation for Dialogue among Civilisations  
Geneva International School Foundation  
Globethics.net  
Grains of Peace  
IAC - International Academy of Ceramics  
IBO - International Baccalaureate  
Interfaith International  
International University in Geneva  
IPA - International Publishers Association  
IPS - Institute for Planetary Synthesis  
ISA - International Schools Association  
Lucis Trust  
OIDEL - The Right to Education and Freedom of Education  
Pax Romana - International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs  
RET - Refugee Education Trust  
SCI - ICS International Civil Service  
SGI - Soka Gakkai International  
Traditions for Tomorrow  
Vivat International  
World Barua Organisation

Environment &  
Climate NGOs

Pro Natura  
ACME - Association suisse pour le Contrat mondial de l'eau  
Agir 21  
AIFOMD - Association Internationale de formateurs en objectifs du millénaire des Nations Unies pour le développement  
Antenna Technologies  
ASL - Association for the Protection of Lake Geneva  
ATE - Association Transport and Environment  
Borneo Tropical Rainforest Foundation  
CIEL - Center for International Environmental Law  
Earth Focus Foundation  
Equiterre  
Fondation Pro Specie Rara  
G.R.A.F.E. - Generation, Research, Action and Training for the Environment  
GCI - Green Cross International  
GIWEH - Global Institute for Water, Environment and Health  
Greenpeace Swiss  
IETA - International Emissions Trading Association  
IRHA - International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance  
Noé21 - Economie, énergie et société  
Nos Oiseaux

Environment &  
Climate NGOs

PSI - Public Services International  
Terragir  
The Forest Trust

WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature  
International  
WYPO - WYPO for the preservation and  
upgrading of ports and marinas

Economy, Labor &  
Development NGOs

AHA - Africa Humanitarian Action  
AIFOMD - Association Internationale de  
formateurs en objectifs du millénaire  
des Nations Unies pour le  
développement  
AIIC - International Association of  
Conference Interpreters  
AIT - International Alliance of Tourism  
AITC - International Association of  
Conference Translators  
Antenna Technologies  
Bread for All  
C.E.A. - Coopération Equatoriale  
Amazonie  
Caritas Genève  
Cimera  
Convention of Independent Financial  
Advisors (CIFA)  
DAG - Development Alternatives Global  
Earth Focus Foundation  
ECCLA - Exchange and Cooperation  
Centre for Latin America  
EPER/HEKS - Swiss Interchurch Aid  
Ferdous International Foundation  
FES - Foundation Friedrich Ebert  
G.R.A.F.E. - Generation, Research,  
Action and Training for the Environment  
GCI - Green Cross International  
Geneva Association - International  
Association for the Study of Insurance  
Economics  
Geneva Financial Center  
Genève Tiers Monde - Association de  
Solidarité  
GreyCells - Association of Former

International Civil Servants for  
Development  
ICTSD - International Centre for Trade  
and Sustainable Development  
IISD - International Institute for  
Sustainable Development  
IOE - International Organisation of  
Employers  
IRED - Development Innovations and  
Networks  
ISSA - International Social Security  
Association  
oriGIn - Organisation for an International  
Geographical Indications Network  
Philias - Business & Society  
PSI - Public Services International  
Quaker United Nations Office  
SMP - Swiss Microfinance Platform  
Terre des hommes Switzerland  
The Business Humanitarian Forum  
WEF - World Economic Forum  
World Vision Switzerland  
YWCA - World Alliance of Young  
Women's Christian Associations  
Philias - Business & Society  
PSI - Public Services International  
Quaker United Nations Office  
SMP - Swiss Microfinance Platform  
Terre des hommes Switzerland  
The Business Humanitarian Forum  
WEF - World Economic Forum  
World Vision Switzerland  
YWCA - World Alliance of Young  
Women's Christian Associations

Indigenous Peoples &  
Minorities NGOs

AI - Amnesty International  
Art for the World  
Baha'i International  
Cimera

DoCip - Indigenous Peoples' Center for  
Documentation, Research and  
Information  
Traditions for Tomorrow  
World Barua Organisation

Governance &  
Democracy NGOs

ACUNS - Academic Council on the  
United Nations System  
AIFOMD - Association Internationale de  
formateurs en objectifs du millénaire  
des Nations Unies pour le  
développement

DAG - Development Alternatives Global  
IPU - Inter-Parliamentary Union  
Quaker United Nations Office

Media, Communications &  
Transport NGOs

AIT - International Alliance of Tourism  
Association Roue Libre  
ATE - Association Transport and  
Environment  
CCIG - International Catholic Centre of  
Geneva  
ECMA - International European-Based  
Industry Association for the  
Standardisation of Information and  
Communication Systems  
FIA - Fédération Internationale de

l'Automobile  
Fondation Hirondelle  
GMEDIA CENTER  
IATA - International Air Transport  
Association  
ICT for Peace Foundation  
ICVolunteers - International Conference  
Volunteers  
Pro vélo Genève  
Worldwide web foundation

Science, Energy &  
Intellectual Property NGOs

AGICOA - Association of International  
Collective Management of Audiovisual  
Works  
Antenna Technologies  
ARA - Africans Refiners Association  
Contratom  
ECMA - International European-Based  
Industry Association for the  
Standardisation of Information and  
Communication Systems

Energy Pact Foundation  
IPA - International Publishers  
Association  
Traditions for Tomorrow



# Planning process for the site— Plan de quartier Jardin des Nations, 2005

Translated text of Laurent Moutinot, Préface Plan directeur de quartier, 2002

“The hosting and development of international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, is undoubtedly a major challenge for Geneva and its region. Geneva’s international profile is an integral part of Geneva’s identity and contributes to its influence.

At the territorial level, the vast historical sector of international organizations is an exceptional site as well as a “piece of the city” whose planning and development are fundamental. As such, it has been identified as a Coordinated Planning Perimeter (PAC) within the framework of the cantonal master plan: it therefore represents one of the strategic areas of the canton.

Two years ago, Geneva therefore initiated a development study with the major objectives of facilitating the establishment and hosting of international organisations, enhancing a large group of green spaces and improving the multimodal accessibility of the site. This work was carried out in coordination with all interested partners: municipalities, international organisations, nature and heritage protection organisations, inhabitants, etc., with a constant concern for information and dialogue.

The present document finalizes this study phase and proposes a draft neighbourhood master plan, a reference instrument that will guide the management and development of this “Garden of Nations”. A public consultation, together with a series of communication activities, will make the project known as widely as possible and will stimulate public debate.

While a framework project such as this is necessary to define the objectives, implementation must translate them into concrete action on the ground. This is obviously a long-term task, to be carried out over a long period of time. However, short-term actions and measures, identified by the study, will make it possible to start the process and, we hope, to generate support. Some of them are already under way, demonstrating a willingness to promote this site and make it a “shared place”.

land use  
to be defined in future

agriculture land

projected  
"Route des Nations"

projected publicly  
accessible spaces

publicly accessible  
spaces

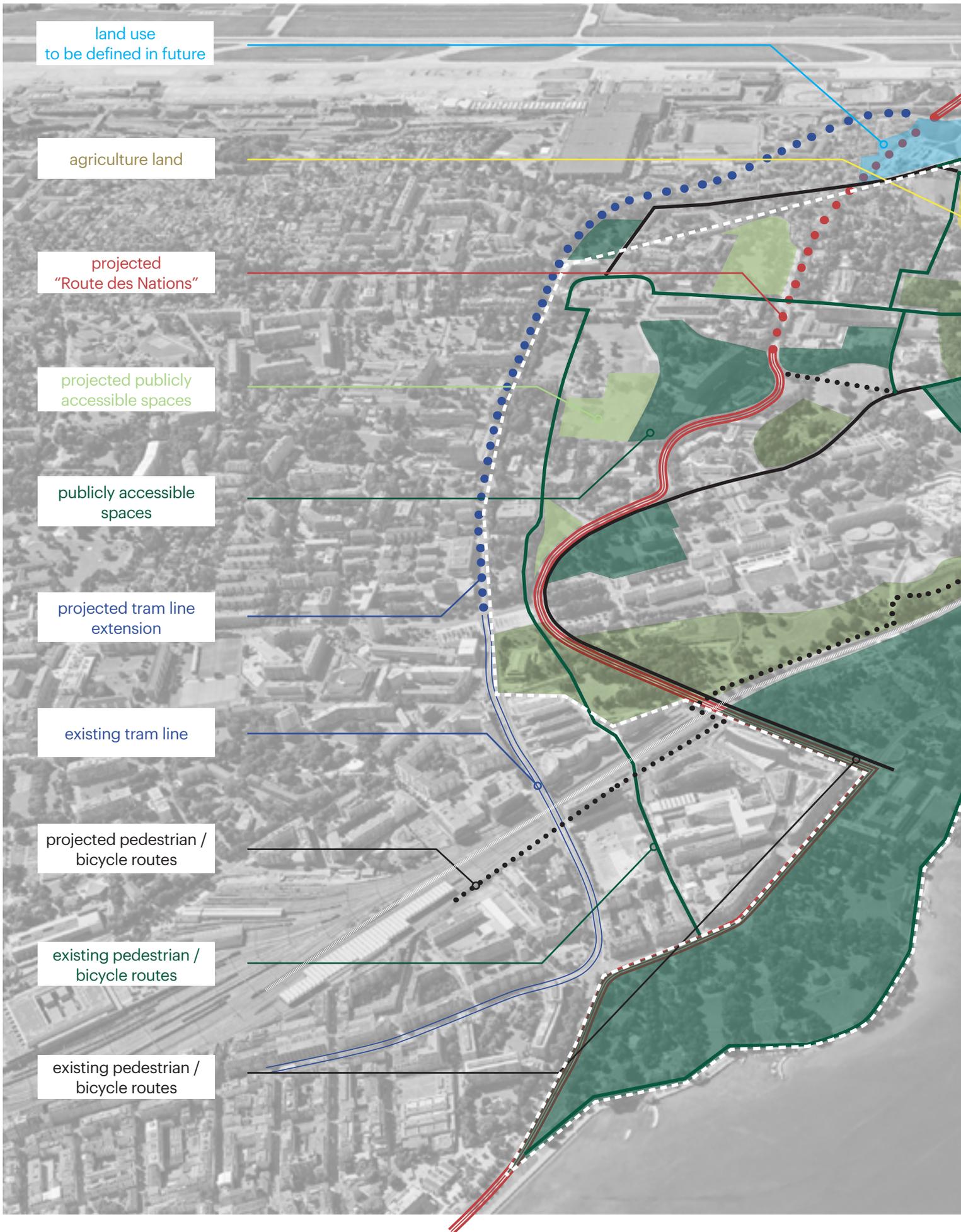
projected tram line  
extension

existing tram line

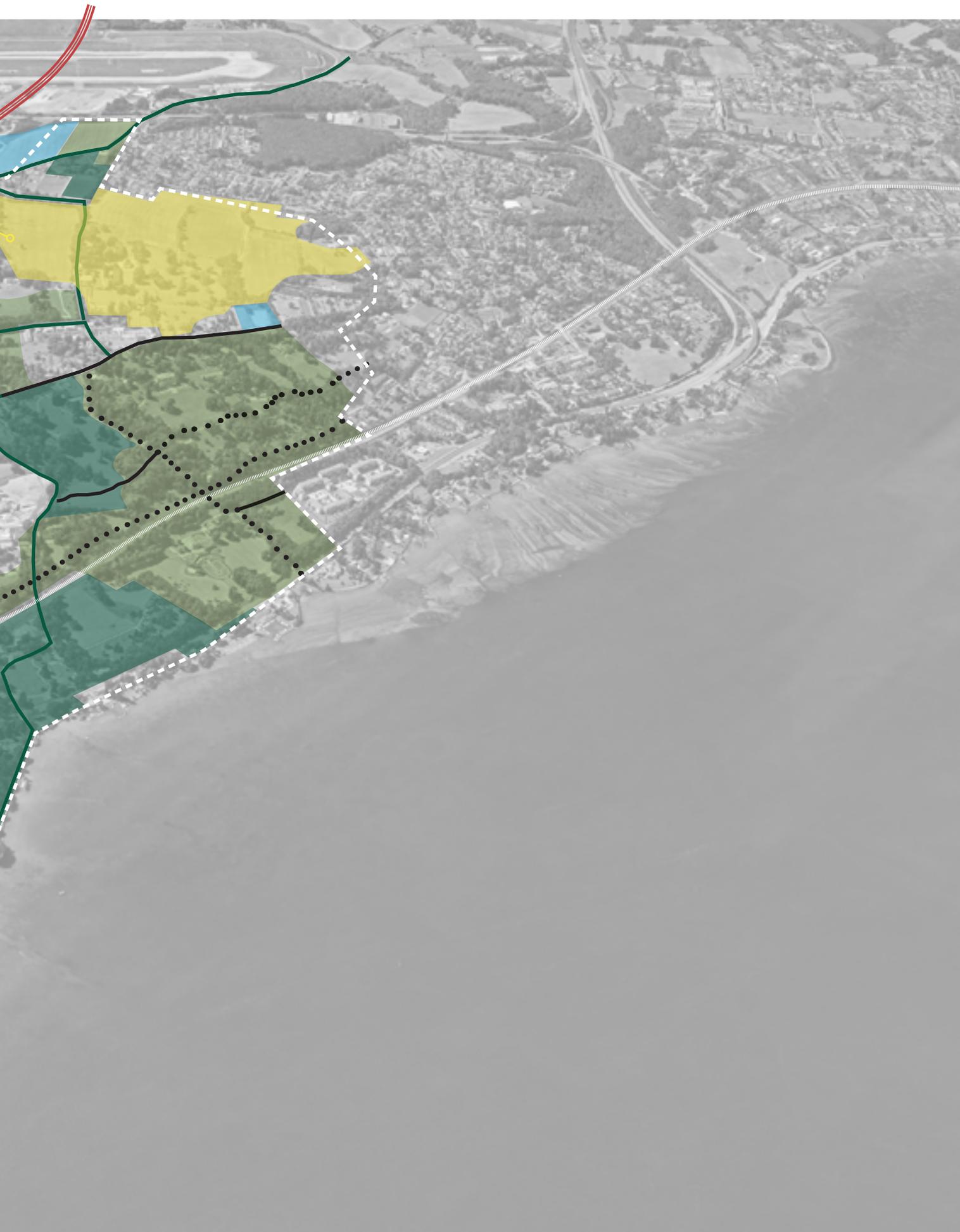
projected pedestrian /  
bicycle routes

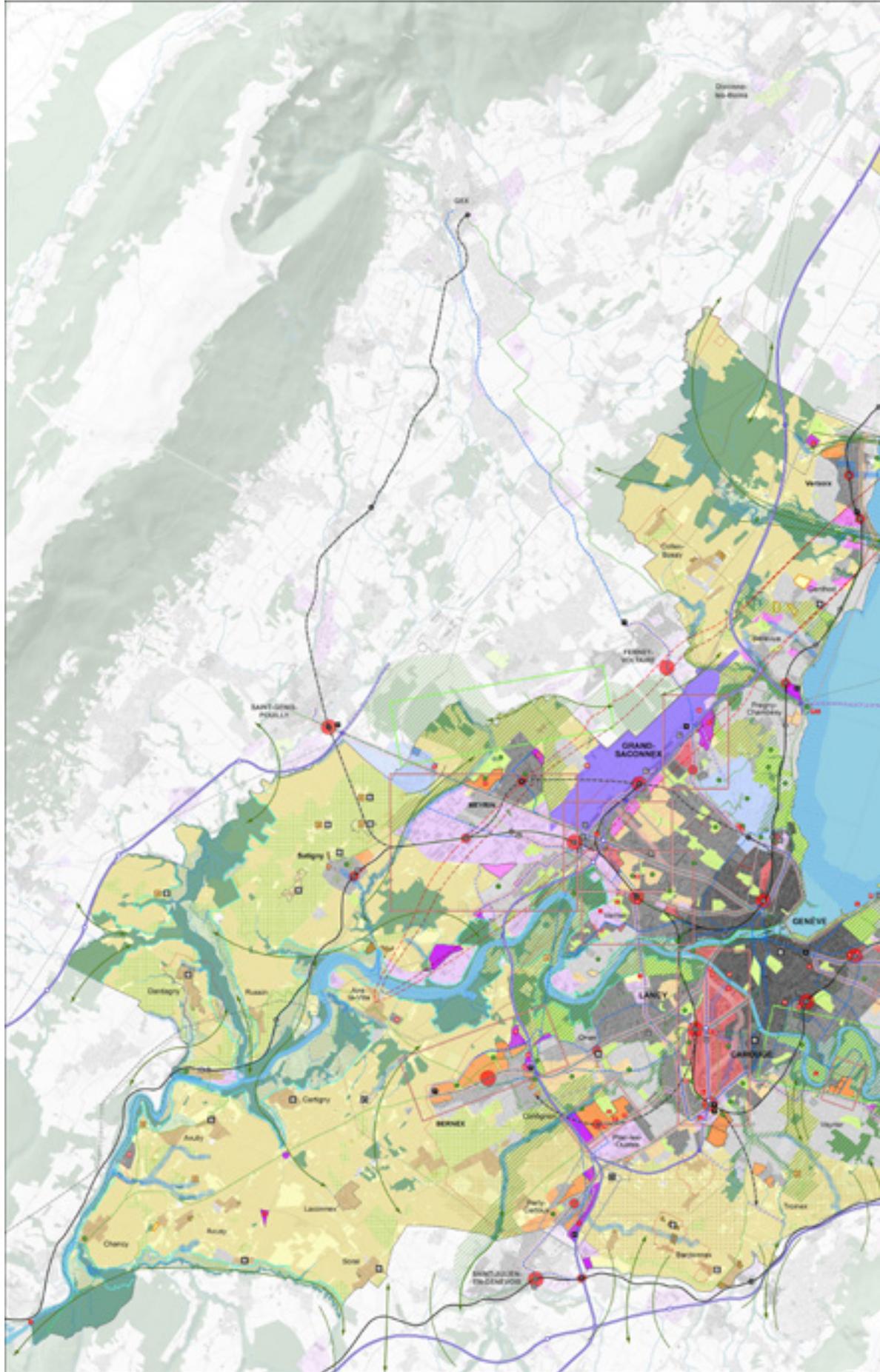
existing pedestrian /  
bicycle routes

existing pedestrian /  
bicycle routes

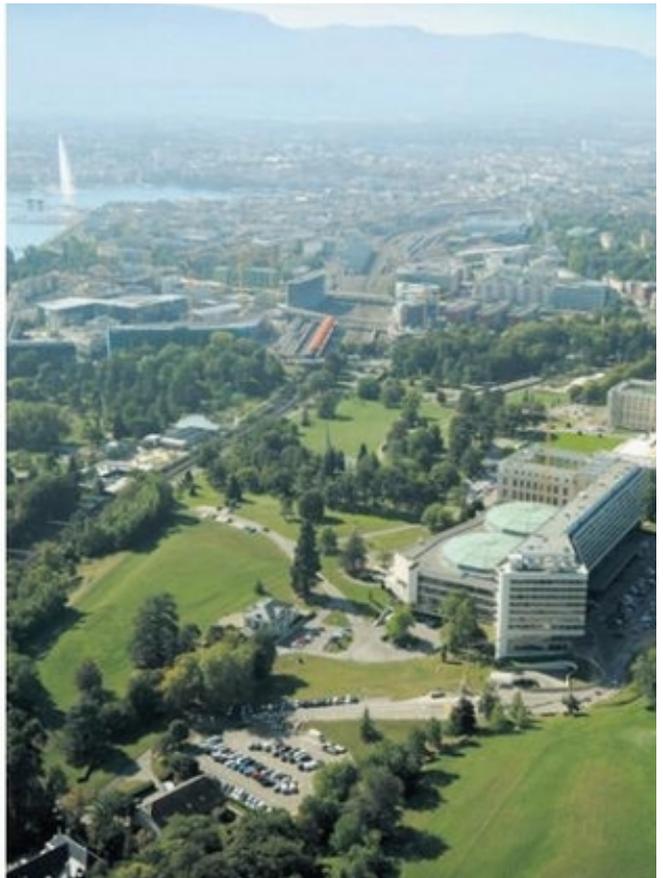


# Urban potentials for the site









# “La Genève Internationale va grandir et se rénover”

Text by Chloé Dethurens, La Tribune de Genève , 16.12.2013

“Le projet de rénovation et d’agrandissement peut aller de l’avant. Il couvrira 130 hectares. Les trois communes concernées (Pregny-Chambésy, Le Grand-Saconnex et Genève) ne s’y sont pas opposées. Mais elles ne cachent pas certaines inquiétudes. Ainsi Rémy Pagani note que le projet permet aux organisations internationales de spéculer sur ces terrains en créant des propriétés par étages. Car «Jardin des Nations», destiné prioritairement à répondre aux besoins des institutions, vise aussi à leur donner la possibilité de construire des logements.

Pour Isabel Girault, directrice générale de l’Office de l’urbanisme, il est important que «les projets futurs prévoient une certaine mixité, afin d’éviter que ce quartier ne devienne un ghetto de bureaux». Le périmètre du projet, environ 130 hectares, est immense. Il s’agit du deuxième plus grand déclassement de l’histoire récente du canton, après le secteur Praille-Acacias-Vernets.

Accueillant aujourd’hui 30 organisations internationales et 250 ONG (Organisations non gouvernementales), le quartier sera traversé par un couloir de verdure. Quid du prolongement du tram en direction de Ferney? Pas avant 2020, précise le département. Il aura fallu près de dix ans pour parvenir à ce déclassement.

Plusieurs projets sont déjà sur les rails :

La réhabilitation des bâtiments des grandes organisations internationales coûtera plus d’un milliard de francs.

- Le Palais des Nations se prépare à subir une rénovation globale.
- Le budget, d’environ 850 millions de francs, a déjà été approuvé par la Confédération. Un nouvel édifice sera construit, indique-t-on du côté de l’Office des bâtiments.
- L’Organisation mondiale de la santé (OMS) pourrait entamer son lifting dès 2015. Tous les pavillons provisoires seront détruits et un nouveau bâtiment verra le jour. L’édifice historique, lui, sera aussi rénové. Coût du projet? Environ 220 millions de francs.
- Le Bureau international du travail (BIT) connaîtra lui aussi une rénovation globale pour 280 millions de francs, probablement dès 2015.
- Le bâtiment de la Fédération de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge, de son côté, sera démoli et reconstruit à neuf pour un montant de 50 millions.
- La Tour des Feuillantines, qui sera édiflée au bas de la route de Ferney, accueillera des locaux destinés aux organisations internationales et aux missions permanentes.
- Le bâtiment de l’Union internationale des télécommunications (UIT) sera démoli et reconstruit à neuf.”



## Construire la Genève internationale **Projets immobiliers soutenus**



Le canton de Genève soutient de nombreux grands projets, qui vont sortir de terre ces dix prochaines années et métamorphoser le Jardin des Nations.

Le canton de Genève [soutient et accompagne le pilotage des projets immobiliers](#) de la Genève internationale, de concert avec la [Confédération](#) et la [FIPOI](#). Ces projets sont, pour la plupart, développés par les organisations internationales installées dans le secteur du quartier des Nations.

L'[OMC](#) avait lancé le mouvement en entreprenant des travaux de rénovation et d'extension de son site, achevés fin 2012.

A présent, c'est l'[OIT](#), dont le siège est l'un des plus grands bâtiments

# Ongoing projects for the site— A metamorphosis without an urban vision

Until today, the urban transformation of the area of International Geneva, has been steered by individual building projects (extensions and renovations of WTO, WHO, UN, ..), but without an overarching urbanistic vision. The cantonal and federal interests are lacking in ambition and possibly power, to take the process in a different direction. The ideas put forward in the Plan de quartier Jardin des Nations are still on the table for the cantonal institutions who are planning to take them forward.

Text by swissinfo.ch, April 24, 2018

“Over CHF2 billion (\$2.05 billion) is being invested over the next ten years in the district, which is home to 37 international organisations and 380 non-governmental organisations. Much of the finance consists of federal and cantonal loans. The biggest chunk is for the historic United Nations Palais des Nations building, which is being renovated at a cost of CHF836.5 million – half financed by interest-free loans from the government and canton Geneva. A new building is also being constructed in the UN complex for 700 staff.

At the World Health Organization (WHO) a nine-storey office block is replacing an ageing wing in a style that mirrors the original Sixties design of Swiss architect Jean Tschumi. Since 2015, construction has also been underway on Campus Santé, a new building to house 1,500 staff from the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and GAVI, a global vaccine alliance.

In the same neighbourhood, the imposing International Labour Organization (ILO) headquarters, built between 1969-1974, is also getting a major facelift. Asbestos is being removed and the interiors are being remodelled. Near the ILO, a major building site is due to sprout for the “Cité internationale du Grand Morillon” – a new headquarters for Médecins sans Frontières, as well as Graduate Institute student lodgings and apartments for international staff.

The Red Cross family is also getting a makeover. The historic Carlton headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is being refitted to ensure it meets modern safety and energy standards. Nearby, work on a new headquarters for its sister organisation, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, began in 2016.

To top it all, a stunning new concert hall complex known as the “Cité de la Musique” is set to open in 2022 next to the Place des Nations square. The modern pointed glass and concrete building will house four concert halls, including a 1,700-seater octagonal philharmonic hall.

The local authorities are also investing CHF500 million by 2025 in mobility for the international district. This will include an underground road tunnel from the nearby motorway, an extension of a tram line north of the Place des Nations to Grand-Saconnex and eventually to the town of Ferney, just over the border in France.”



WHO Extension  
2015 - 2020  
140 Mio. CHF

Plot 4057 (40'000 m<sup>2</sup>)  
2024 - 2027  
sold for 150 Mio. CHF



ILO Renovation  
2015 - 2019  
300 Mio. CHF



Cité de la Musique  
2017 - 2022  
250 Mio. CHF

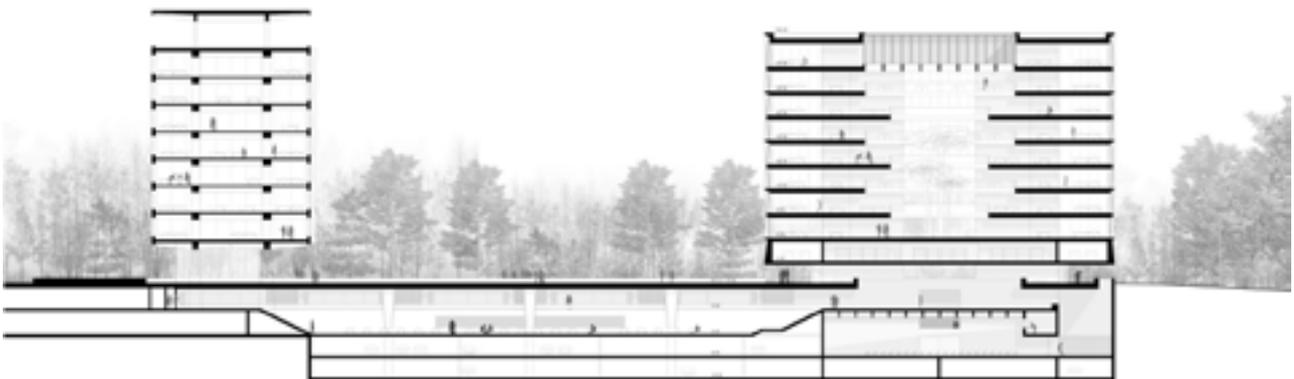


Palais des Nations  
Renovation + Extension  
2018 - 2024  
836.5 Mio. CHF



# Overview of ongoing projects





# WHO Headquarters building extension, Berrel Berrel Kräutler Architekten, 2015-

Text by Holly Giermann, Archdaily.com , 13.05.2015

“Berrel Berrel Kräutler has won the World Health Organization’s (WHO) two-stage international design competition to expand its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Employing a restrained approach, their design for a cubic office building will replace numerous temporary structures and unify the complex’s permanent infrastructure.

The addition to the WHO headquarters will play a supplemental role to its immediate surroundings, namely the Main Building – a competition-winning design by Jean Tschumi completed in 1966. Similar applications of scale, tectonics, and materiality will form a strong visual connection between the new and old constructions, while a platform will physically link them for improved accessibility. Furthermore, the placement of the new facility will define the complex along the street, opening it toward the neighboring woodland to frame views of the natural surroundings.

Beneath the platform on the connecting level, several congregation spaces -- including an exhibition and reception area, restaurant, and cafe -- will transition occupants from the Main Building and underground parking to the new building. Additional meeting space is to be provided by a central courtyard garden, which will provide scenic views for the rest of the floor. Offset from the meeting spaces is the crisis room, the WHO’s operation and data center, which will maintain access points to both the new and Main buildings, as well as the 700-car underground parking garage.

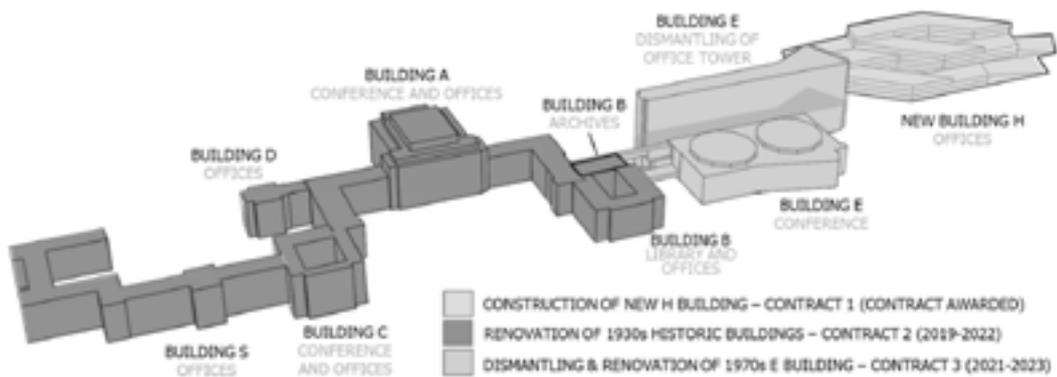
Above the connecting level, eight floors of open-plan offices are to be housed within the cubic addition. The design seeks to maximize customizable area by combining vertical circulation with load-bearing functions to reduce structural interruption and enable flexible programming. Additional adaptability is achieved through a ground-floor modular conference area that can be divided to accommodate changing occupancy demands. To maximize natural daylight and create sightlines across floors, the volume will be punctuated by a lofty atrium.

Embodying the WHO’s commitment to sustainable development, the extension aims to minimize its environmental impact by incorporating solar panels for energy production and water recycling from the nearby lake.”

before



after



European headquarters of the UN, currently being renovated and extended by SOM & Burckhardt + Partner

## European headquarters of the UN, SOM/Burckhardt + Partner, 2015-2024

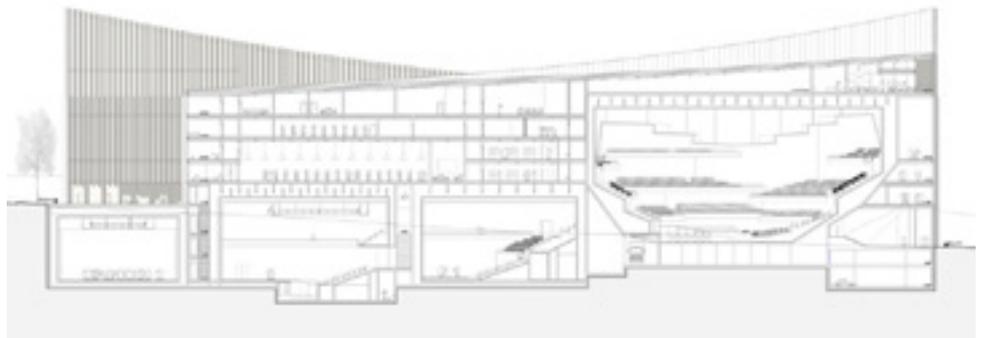
Text by unog.ch

“The Palais des Nations is home to the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), which serves as the representative office of the Secretary-General in Geneva. It is a focal point for multilateral diplomacy and services more than 10,000 meetings and conferences every year, making it one of the busiest conference centres in the world. With more than 3,100 staff from the United Nations Secretariat, it is the biggest duty station outside of United Nations headquarters in New York. Once the Strategic Heritage Plan (SHP) is completed in 2024, an additional 700 UN staff members will relocate to the Palais des Nations.

The SHP was approved by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. The project, which includes the construction of a new permanent office building, will extensively renovate the main Palais des Nations complex of buildings, much of which dates back to the 1930s. The historic buildings will be fully renovated, with priority given to protecting the heritage of the Palais des Nations, while modernizing the core building and conference support systems, improving working conditions and safety, and accessibility for persons with disabilities. The total cost of the project, scheduled to be completed in 2024, is estimated at 836.5 million CHF.

The project includes the construction of a new sustainable office building, the comprehensive renovation and modernization of the historical buildings and the dismantling of the office tower above conference Building E.

The renovation, which extends over an area of 170,000 square meters, will include major modifications and upgrades to the UN's historic buildings. A new administrative building will create an additional area of 24,000 square meters, including open-plan workspaces to accommodate approximately 1,500 staff members, terraces, and outdoor space on every floor for staff to use. Work on the construction of the new building is well under way and the building is due to be completed in 2020.”



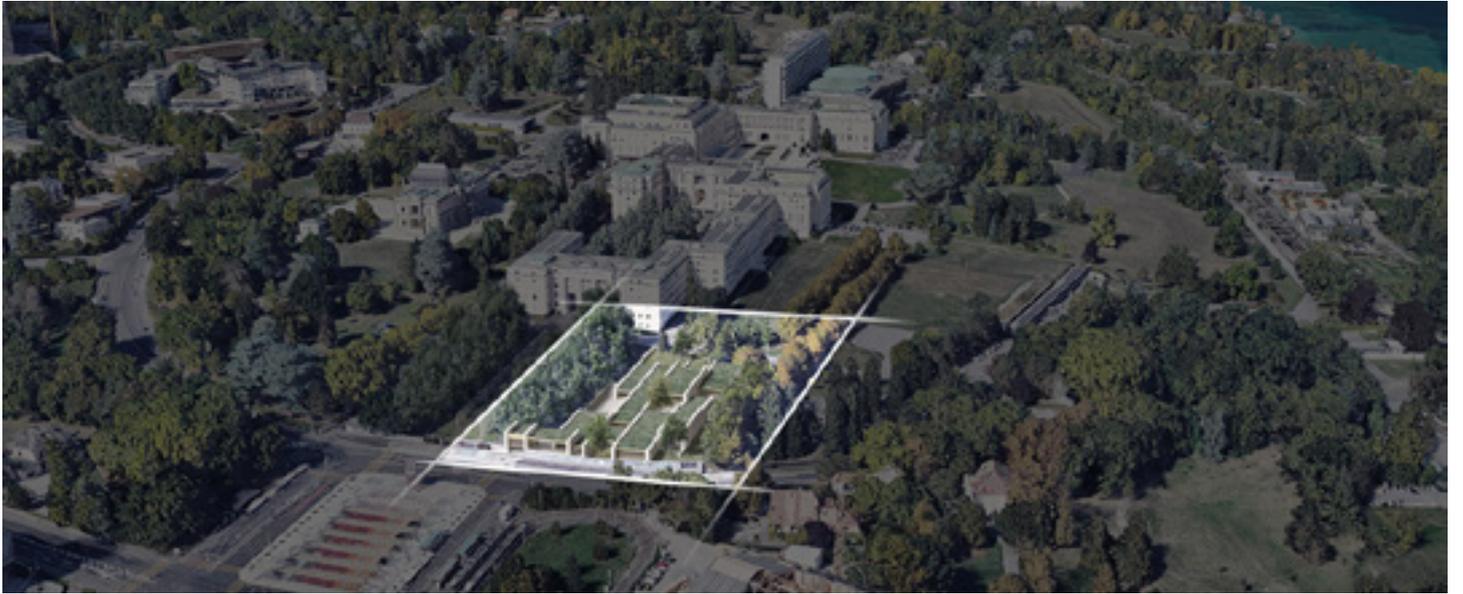
# Cité de la musique, Pierre-Alain Dupraz, 2017-2023

Translate text of Marcel Bächtiger, Hochparette, 03.11.2017

“The Geneva architect Pierre-Alain Dupraz and his Portuguese colleague Goncalvo Byrne won the competition for the construction of the “Cité de la Musique” in Geneva. They prevailed against 17 teams, including global players such as Norman Foster, Renzo Piano, Kengo Kuma and the Office for Metropolitan. The “Cité de la Musique” will have a large concert hall with 1750 seats and three smaller halls used by the “Orchestre de la Suisse Romande” (OSR), as well as classrooms for 515 students, 190 professors and 40 staff members of the Geneva Conservatory, a restaurant, a library, etc.

The building project, budgeted at 250 million Swiss francs, is 85 percent financed by a private patron who prefers to remain anonymous. A plot of land in the immediate vicinity of the Palais des Nations is available for construction.

The prize-winning project by Dupraz and Byrne blends subtly and sensitively into the context, writes the jury. Two intersecting structures with curved roofs describe the two parts of the programme: In the front volume, oriented towards the Place des Nations, are the public spaces, while the rear accommodates the music academy. Despite its strong form, the jury said that the project is characterized by a “great modesty”: it is so precisely shaped that it does not at any time have a negative effect on the surrounding urban space or the neighboring buildings. Obviously the jury did not want a spectacle: the “simplicité intemporelle” of the winning project, it says, was considered by the jury to be of great quality. More unusual ideas such as those from BIG or OMA did not make it to the top.”



Le Portail des Nations Unies, Charles Pictet Architectes associés, 2019

# Portail des Nations, UN Visitor Center, Charles Pictet, 2019-2023

Text by Stéphane Bussard, Le Temps, 29.06.2019

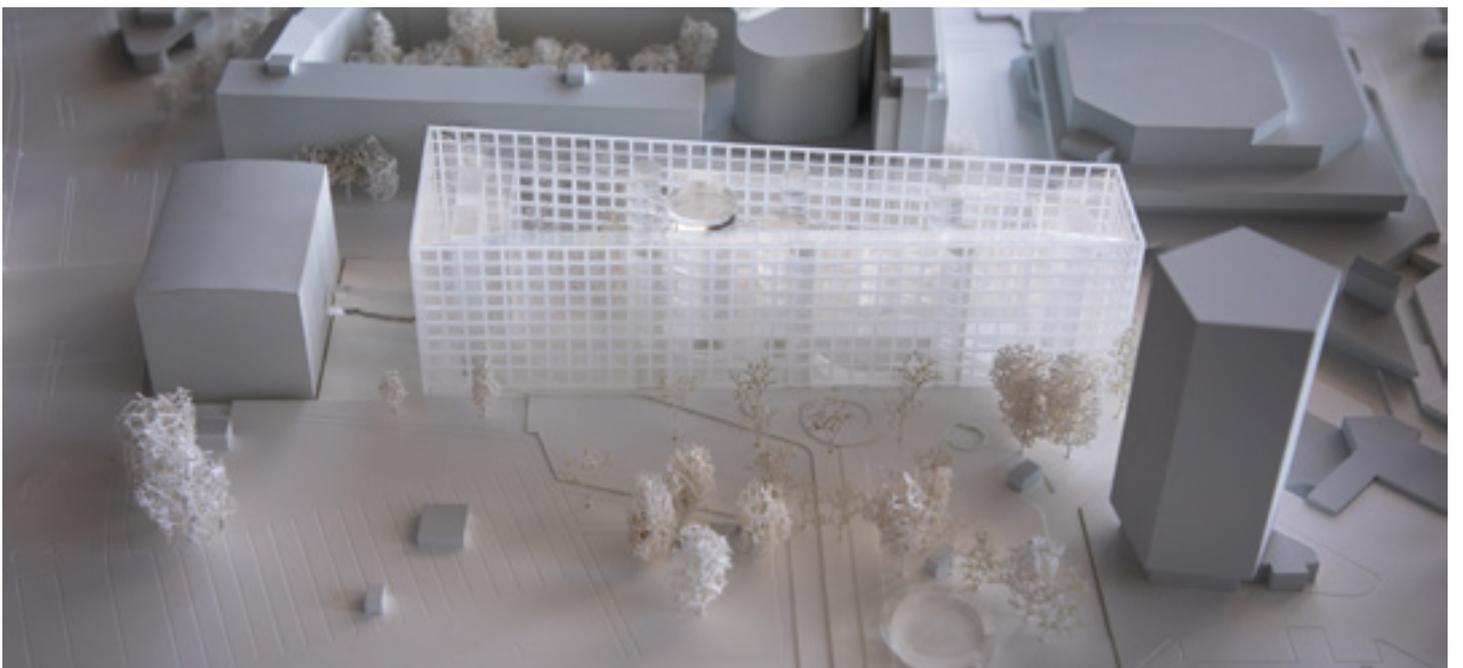
“All gathered in the office of the outgoing director-general of the United Nations Office Michael Møller to sign a framework agreement to build the UN portal. After much slowness and indecision, UN boss Geneva and Geneva philanthropist Ivan Pictet finally succeeded. The latter is now optimistic that the authorisations to build this reception centre for International Geneva will be filed by January and that the centre will be open to the public on 1 January 2023.

The idea matured in the mind of the philanthropist as early as 2008. He created the Pictet Foundation for Sustainable Development, and in 2011 he has made CHF 13.5 million available to the Fondation Portail des Nations, which is responsible for a CHF 27.5 million project that is also financially supported by a private foundation in Geneva and the Loterie romande. The Portail des Nations should, it is hoped, attract some 300,000 visitors a year.

The visitor centre will be the work of architect Charles Pictet and will be built as an extension of the Place des Nations. Its mission will be to raise awareness of multilateralism, which is going through difficult times, and to inform and train visitors. It will be linked to the UN virtual museum “UN live”. “Communication is the key to any success,” says Ivan Pictet. It is important to let people know what International Geneva is doing. It is essential that Geneva is open to the public. This is all the more important as the UN itself is trying to communicate better. The philanthropist would like to see the centre offer virtual immersions in a refugee camp in Sudan, for example, or even have senior UN officials explain their work to school classes.

Switzerland’s ambassador to the UN, Valentin Zellweger, said he was delighted with the gesture, which reflects “the commitment of the (Geneva) city to the United Nations”. Michael Møller himself is convinced that the Portal of Nations will help to strengthen Geneva’s image on the international stage.

But reaching this framework agreement has not been easy. At 4 a.m. on Friday morning, the project managers in Geneva were still working out the final details with New York. In the future, agreements on the security and management of the centre will have to be concluded with the UN, which, in a communiqué, remains extremely cautious, revealing the laborious internal processes: “The UN Geneva could have the Portal of the Nations by 2023”.



Microcosme, Christian Dupraz Architecte, 2018

# ITU Headquarters, Christian Dupraz Architecte, 2022-26

Text by The Federal Council and Federal Department of Foreign Affairs , 22.04.2020

“On 24 April 2020 the Federal Council approved a loan of CHF 95.6 million to the Foundation for Buildings for International Organisations (FIPOI) to finance the demolition and reconstruction of one of the headquarters buildings of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Geneva. The works are scheduled over the five-year period from 2022 to 2026.

Founded in 1865, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the specialised United Nations agency for information and communications technologies. The ITU allocates satellite orbits and parts of the global radio spectrum, develops the technical standards that ensure networks and technologies interconnect seamlessly, and strives to improve access to information and communications technologies to underserved communities worldwide. First established in Bern in 1868, the ITU moved its headquarters to Geneva in 1948, where it currently comprises three buildings – Varembe (built between 1959 and 1962), the Tower (inaugurated in 1973) and the Montbrillant building (inaugurated in 1999).

The oldest of these buildings, Varembe, is outdated and no longer meets today’s fire, earthquake and thermal insulation standards, nor does it comply with accessibility standards for people with reduced mobility. The Varembe building project will make it possible to regroup the ITU’s activities in two buildings instead of three to allow more efficient use of the site. In addition to allowing the ITU to meet its long term needs, the project will enable more efficient running of the buildings and provide modern, sustainable and environmentally-friendly facilities, reducing maintenance costs. The demolition and building works will start in January 2022 with the furnishing of temporary office space and are scheduled for completion in late 2026.

As host state, Switzerland is committed to the proper maintenance of the buildings of International Geneva. It is in Switzerland’s interests to support the project of the ITU in order to ensure that it can operate in optimum working conditions and allow it to continue its activities in a building which is functional, safe and adapted to current standards. By hosting international actors based in International Geneva and providing them with optimal conditions, Switzerland contributes significantly to the smooth functioning of international relations.

Subject to approval by Parliament, the CHF 95.6 million interest-free loan – which is repayable over 50 years – will allow the demolition/reconstruction work to begin in 2022. In December 2016, Parliament approved a loan of CHF 12 million to finance the survey costs of the construction project. The Canton of Geneva will contribute CHF 42.4 million to the project.

Strengthening International Geneva is one of the priorities of the Federal Council’s foreign policy strategy for 2020–23. One of the key thematic pillars of Switzerland’s policy for International Geneva is to maintain and strengthen the city as a digital hub. This support is also essential to strengthen the image of International Geneva as the principal centre of global governance, in particular with respect to issues related to global internet governance.”



# Underground extension Gare Cornavin, Guillermo Vazquez Consuegra, 2016-30

Text by Espazium, 20.06.2018

“We experience it every day and perhaps even more intensely in the Lake Geneva region than elsewhere in Switzerland: railway stations are becoming the new centres of attraction. Once gateways to cities with emblematic architecture, whose immediate surroundings have gradually been transformed into an urbanistic catch-all, they are now experiencing a new golden age.

Increasing demands in terms of mobility and densification - whether linked to environmental concerns or profitability - make the extended perimeter of stations (when land availability permits, as in Zurich, Lausanne, Renens or Morges) the preferred area for urban development. As small concentrates of urban projects, they are perfect observation posts for the current trends and processes that make up the city: flow management, pedestrianisation, greening, pacification of public space (for trends) and participation, complexification and multiplication of forms of competition (for processes).

Taking advantage of the major infrastructure works of the Léman 2030 project led by the CFF, which modernises, enlarges and commercialises stations, the public authorities are rethinking the surrounding public space. This is particularly true of Lausanne, where the results of the competition launched after a long period of participatory work are expected to be available shortly, and Geneva, where the authorities announced the results of parallel study mandates at the end of April. Launched on 20 September 2016, it will have taken nearly two years, punctuated by an initial selection of seven offices (see opposite) and three intermediate rounds, to find out the guiding image, the implementation plan and the team that will have the heavy task of accompanying this long and profound restructuring of the urban centre of Cornavin.

Of the three projects selected for the second and third phases of the MEP, the jury opted for the one that best succeeded in integrating an architectural vision in a convincing and simple manner with the urban planning and functional issues that the MEPs had to resolve. While the “Open Station” project presents a clean image of a large void and focuses its intervention on the Place Cornavin and the “Context” project develops an attractive but complex idea of urban connectors between “an underground world” and “a world on the surface”, the winning project is based on three simple but highly structuring principles.

The project entirely redefines the Place Cornavin into a large void structured by the facades that surround it, a reference to the harbour or the Plainpalais plain. Following the reorganisation of the transport interface recommended by the City and the Canton - the Place Cornavin should now be crossed by only three tramway lines and four bus lines - the winning team is stripping the space of all obstacles to pedestrian movement and is seeking to homogenise the space through the materiality of the floors.”



New MSF Headquarters, Steven Holl, 2017

New student residence, Grand Morillon, Kengo Kuma, 2018

# Cité Internationale du Grand Morillon, Kengo Kuma, Steven Holl, Bonnard & Woeffray, 2018-2021

Text by International Labour Organization

“The Confederation is loaning CHF70 million and canton Geneva has donated land. To help fund the operation, the ILO has also sold land it owns close to the building – one 7'000m<sup>2</sup> plot to Saudi Arabia to build luxury flats and another for Graduate Institute student lodgings.”

Text by Geneve Internationale

“A new district of buildings will be created in the heart of the Jardin des Nations with the Cité Internationale du Grand Morillon, a plot of land located at the corner of the Route de Ferney and the Route des Morillons. It will include :

a residence for 700 students from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID)

the headquarters building of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)

a building of 80 flats for internationals from the Terra et Casa Foundation

In 2017, each of these three projects was the subject of an international architectural competition. The winners are: the American architect Steven Holl for MSF, the architect Kengo Kuma for IHEID, and the Valaisan firm Bonnard and Woeffray for Terra & Casa.

The project owners have joined forces to create a common, harmonious landscape design, open to the public.”



# Site photos— A walk through the site





Quai Wilson along Lac Léman

# Parc de La Perle du Lac





Pavillon Plantamour in the Parc Mon Repos

# Parks on former private estates





View from the Parc Mon Repos towards La Rade

# Rare trees and tree diplomacy





Serre tempérée and the WTO building (former ILO)

# Horizons





Serre tropicale in the Conservatoire et Jardin Botanique

# Glasshouses





Palace of the League of Nations behind the Conservatoire et Jardin Botanique

# Signs and symbols

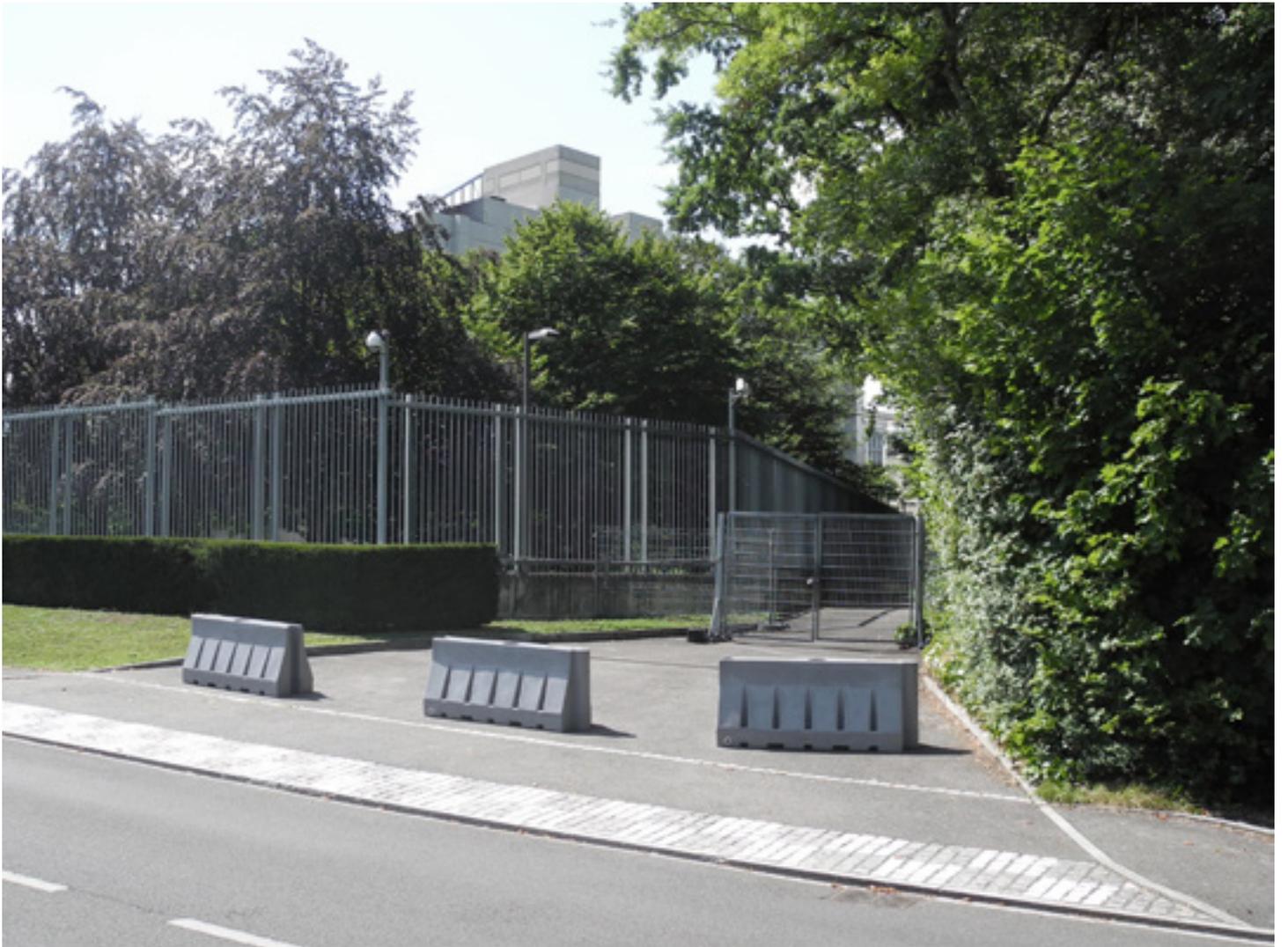




Barrier in front of the WTO (Photo: David Matthiessen)

# Wall barriers





# Fence barriers





The Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room with a ceiling sculpture by Miquel Barceló (Photo: Jean-Marc Ferré)

# Spaces of formal political making





Musée Ariana

## Spaces of informal political making





Jacques Kaufmann; Murs: Installation in front of Musée Ariana, 2019

# Art in public space





Fruit trees in the gardens of Pregny

# Agricultural lands and land banks





# Project assignment

155	Project assignment
157	Focus areas
181	Schedule and field trip
183	Ancillary discipline
187	Experts contacts



Focus area 5 - Promenade de la Paix

Focus area 2 - Esplanade de la Santé

Focus area 1 - Parc des Nations

Focus area 4 - Place des Nations

Area of the Jardin des Nations

# Project assignment



Focus area 3 - Parc Rural de Tournay

The notion of Jardin des Nations invites the student to engage with the urban space of International Geneva, in order to rethink the constitution of urban political spaces, and the urban and architectural representation of institutions of global governance in the 21st century. How does global political cooperation and decision-making work in times of decentralised societies, media and information technologies? How do globalised political spaces, such as the space of the Covid-19 politics, intersect with the physical space of the city? Should international political institutions such as the UN and the WHO, engage with the city and its everyday life? How and where can democracy be exercised in public? What kind of values do we want institutions of global governance to represent? How can those values be projected and represented in public space and landscape? Can this site with high security demands become open, public and diverse? Finally, can the metaphor of the Garden — as in Jardin Planétaire by Gilles Clément — inspire a vision of a space and society, based on the principles and values of diversity, inclusivity, and Nature? Can the Garden metaphor inspire a new design approach to Geneva's international quarter?

The students are invited to depart in their research and design from the following themes —

### **Accessibility**

Much of the site is publicly owned land, but major parts are fenced off due to the privacy and security arrangements. The scenic location and the sheer size of the area, spanning one fifth of the municipal surface, contrasts its secluded character. Largely inaccessible, the site currently presents a disjunction in the city fabric between the airport and the lake shore. Public transport in the area is scarce, and ways to cross the site on foot or by bicycle are few and scattered. Thus, this trajectory of investigation will deal with the accessibility to the site aiming to return considerable parts of it into the public realm. The specific public space and landscape design tools are explored.

### **Public space**

Albeit the Place des Nations, with its monuments and extensive fountain system can be considered the representative public core of International Geneva, its value as a public space is arguable. Critical tongues say that the carpet fountain has been implemented to disperse demonstrating crowds. It is further surrounded by four lanes of car traffic and its connections to other important axes in the quarter are limited. This trajectory of investigation asks the students to identify potentials for (new) public space(s) within the international quarter and to design them.

### **Nature and Ecology**

Since the early nineteenth century, landscape at the site has been a powerful tool that corroborated and staged political interests of institutions and private enterprises represented here. Various ideologies and relationships can be traced in the political rituals of tree planting, or in the exotic floral collections of the conservatories across the site. Surprisingly, one of the largest agricultural land reserves in Geneva is located at the north east of the area. The students are invited to think about the value of nature and landscape for International Geneva, for the city, and for society as a whole. How do ecological aspirations of urban sustainability, and the threats of climate change and biodiversity crisis intersect with global governance in Geneva? Can the values of Nature and ecology be represented in the architecture of institutions, and in the public spaces and landscapes across the site?

### **Diversity of programs**

Apart from the numerous international organisations, the area of the Jardin des Nations offers several other destinations to its inhabitants and visitors. One finds museums, such as the Musée Ariana, other cultural spaces and importantly, restaurants — all appearing to form an extended space of international institutions, a space of informal politics. The area almost completely lacks housing and housing services, exerting enormous pressure on the rest of the city and on the French Geneva. Thus, the student may choose to research a possibility of introducing new and diverse urban programs across the site, including housing.

### **Virtual and embodied spaces**

In times of accelerated digital technologies, and shifting geographies of power in societies throughout the world, the urban and architectural spaces of world governance in Geneva may appear ossified and hegemonic. The UN offices and other international organizations are represented in several locations worldwide and their employees are increasingly mobile and largely disconnected from the local environments in which their office are housed. International politics is usually performed either behind closed doors, or through media — the public spaces of the city are rarely engaged. Thus, the student is invited to question the authenticity of International Geneva as an “urban” space. Should spaces of work and power be virtual and mediated, or should they retain a physical, urban dimension? What should be their link with the city?

Departing from the five described themes, the students may opt for different project strategies—

#### **—Territorial project**

The large scale offers a possibility to engage with the site through a series of maps, plans, and other visual materials, forming a research argument. A project can be formulated across several scales, from territorial to urban and architectural, addressing select themes and conditions of the site (accessibility, public space, etc) Thinking that binds urban and landscape design is indispensable.

#### **—Urban design project**

The urban design scale offers a possibility of creating a project for public space, landscape, and architecture at one of the five selected focus areas of Jardin des Nations.

- Focus area 1 – Parc des Nations
- Focus area 2 – Parc Rural de Tournay
- Focus area 3 – Esplanade de la Santé
- Focus area 4 – Place des Nations
- Focus area 5 – Promenade de la Paix

Taken together, all diploma works will have a cumulative value, describing a common vision and a new urban framework for the quarter.



Jardin botanique  
Chemin du l'impératrice

# Focus area 1 – Parc des Nations

## Focus

With the construction of the railway line between Geneva and Lausanne in the mid-19th century, the generous lands outside the city limits were divided. Since then, the railway tracks separate the Botanical Garden from the UN site, presenting both an insurmountable urban obstacle and a safety barrier serving the UN institution. Only a narrow route, the Chemin de l'Impératrice, connects today the lakeshore and the hillside.

In the 2004 Plan directeur de quartier Jardin des Nations, Geneva's municipal planners saw great potential in linking the lakeshore with the interior landscapes of the area, along a wide green arc that would extend all the way to the Château de Pregny in the northwest. The aim was to create a mediating promenade between the local and the international, between the city and international organisations.

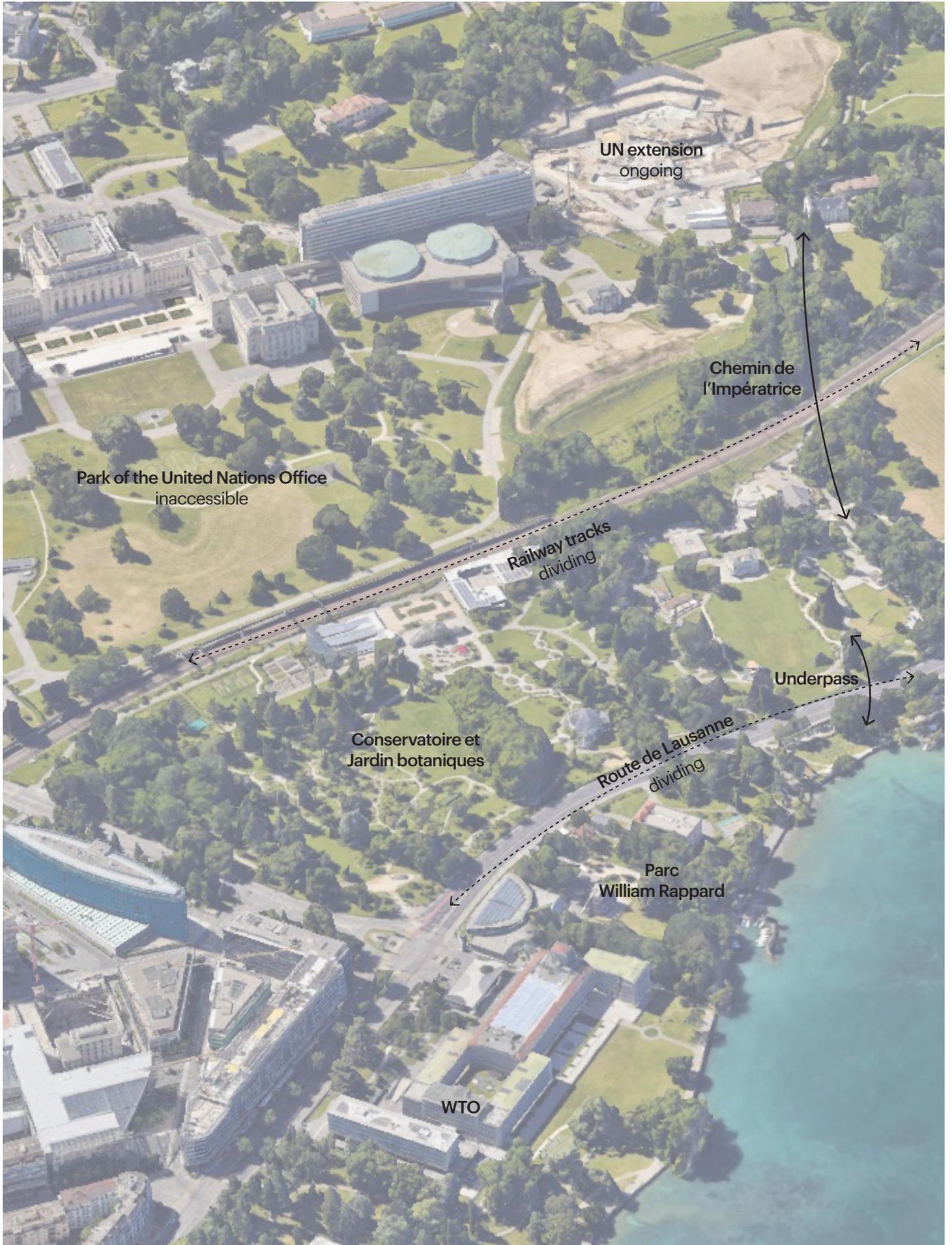
The task focuses on the first hurdle along the route, the connection between the lake and the UN palace: a scenic public landscape linking among several historic gardens and buildings. This site is the symbolic center of the Jardin des Nations.

## Assignment

The project calls for a landscape design, a park or a garden, linking the site of the United Nations Office to the lake, incorporating the Jardin botanique.

## Themes to explore

- Specific role of the landscape in this context
- Public accessibility and permeability
- Crossing of railway and road axes (under-/overpass)
- Connections among several remarkable gardens and buildings
- New public spaces and architectures



Satellite imagery, Landsat / Copernicus

# Focus area 1 – Parc des Nations





Serres de Pregny

Agricultural fields of Pregny-Chambésy

## Focus area 2 – Parc Rural de Tournay

### Focus

In contrast to dense quarters of central Geneva, the fields at Château de Tournay offer a glimpse into historic countryside around Geneva and an unexpected spatial dimension in this part of the city, with views across the border into the Jura. This large agricultural area is today owned by the city who intended to develop it. However, in 2019, in a public vote, Genevans rejected a plan for a new sports centre, opting to keep the fields in the city.

At the southern tip of the site, in a historic village of Pregny, one finds remarkable glasshouses, Les Serres de Pregny, built around 1860 by Joseph Paxton for Baron Rothschild. The glasshouses are owned by the city and used by the Jardin botanique, but remain inaccessible to public.

Taking the glasshouses Serres de Pregny as starting point, the project proposes to rethink the site as an educational center dedicated to sustainable food systems and to agroecology. The task asks the student to rethink the use of glasshouses, to consider addition of possible news buildings, and to think the surrounding agricultural landscape as a field of experimentation and new practices — creation of biotopes, restoration of hedges (bocage), regenerative agriculture, cultivation of local species, etc.

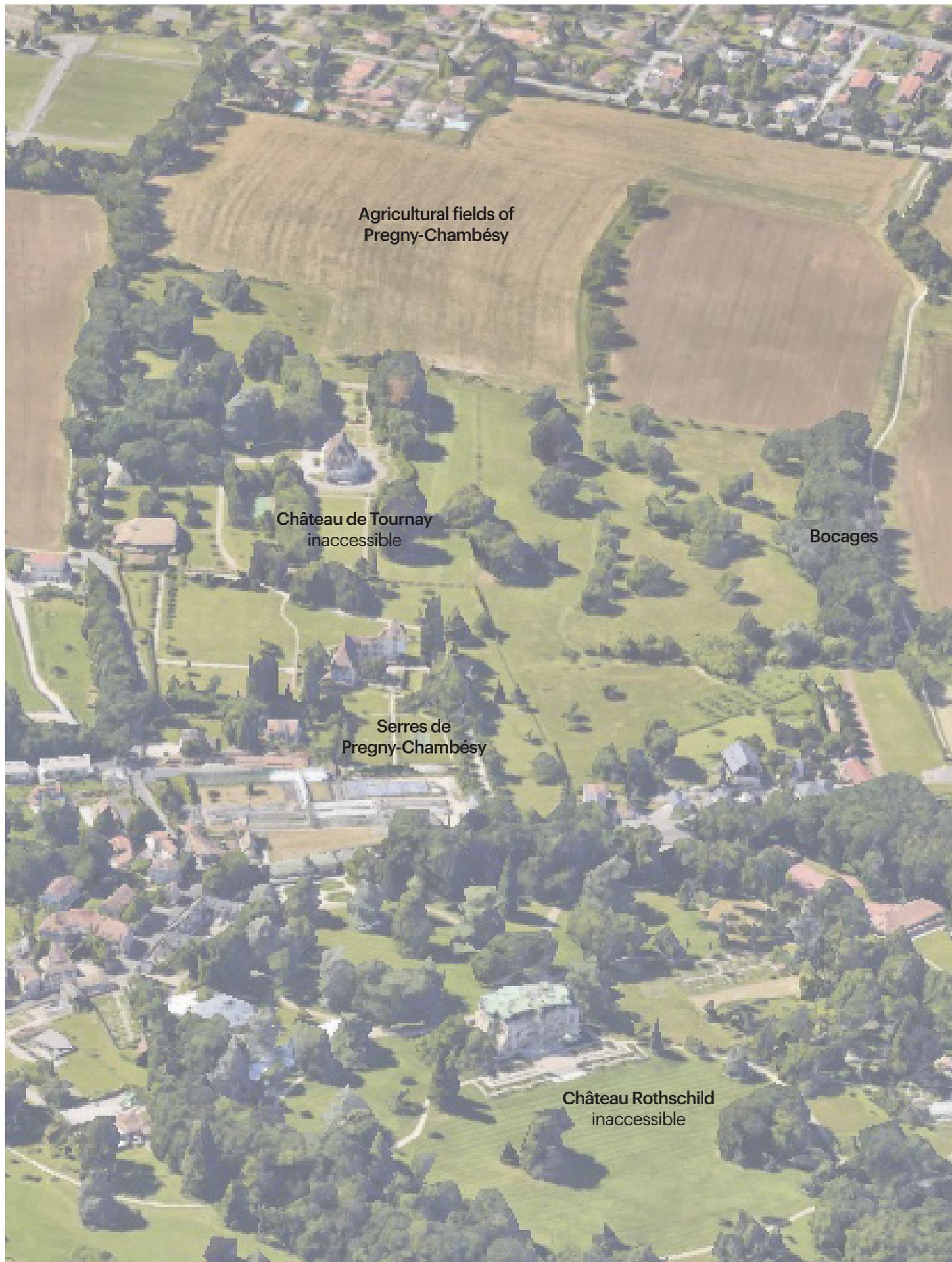
The site offers an ideal opportunity to rethink the potentials of agriculture in the city in relation to International Geneva: Could this new educational centre be part of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation? Park Rural de Tournay was included in the Plan directeur de quartier Jardin des Nations in 2005.

### Assignment

The project is an educational centre for agroecology and sustainable food systems, linked to International Geneva. It comprises architectural, urban design a landscape intervention.

### Themes to explore

- Integration of the glasshouses *Les Serres de Pregny*, by Joseph Paxton, 1860
- Link to UN FAO and other organisations in Geneva governing food and agriculture
- Landscape of agroecology
- Historic landscape typologies: bocages
- Reuse and integration of other buildings in the vicinity
- Places to eat and to buy food in and around the site:  
link between food culture and sustainable agriculture



Agricultural fields of  
Pregny-Chambésy

Château de Tournay  
inaccessible

Bocages

Serres de  
Pregny-Chambésy

Château Rothschild  
inaccessible

## Focus area 2 – Parc Rural de Tournay





Main Entrance to WHO, Geneva

Esplanade on the northern side of the WHO

## Focus area 3 – Esplanade de la Santé

### Focus

Covid-19 has catapulted the World Health Organisation into the focus of the world's media attention, but outside its headquarters in Geneva, the street is calm and serene. The urban space betrays no evidence of dramas unfolding behind the facades of the building.

Since the publication the Plan directeur de quartier Jardin des Nations in 2005, which draws a transverse axis from the Ecumenical Center, past the WHO headquarters, to the glasshouses Serres de Pregny, other institutions have arrived in the area, notably the headquarters of UNAIDS.

This new east-west axis would connect the northern parts of the international quarters and link them into a framework of main public routes and public spaces in the area.

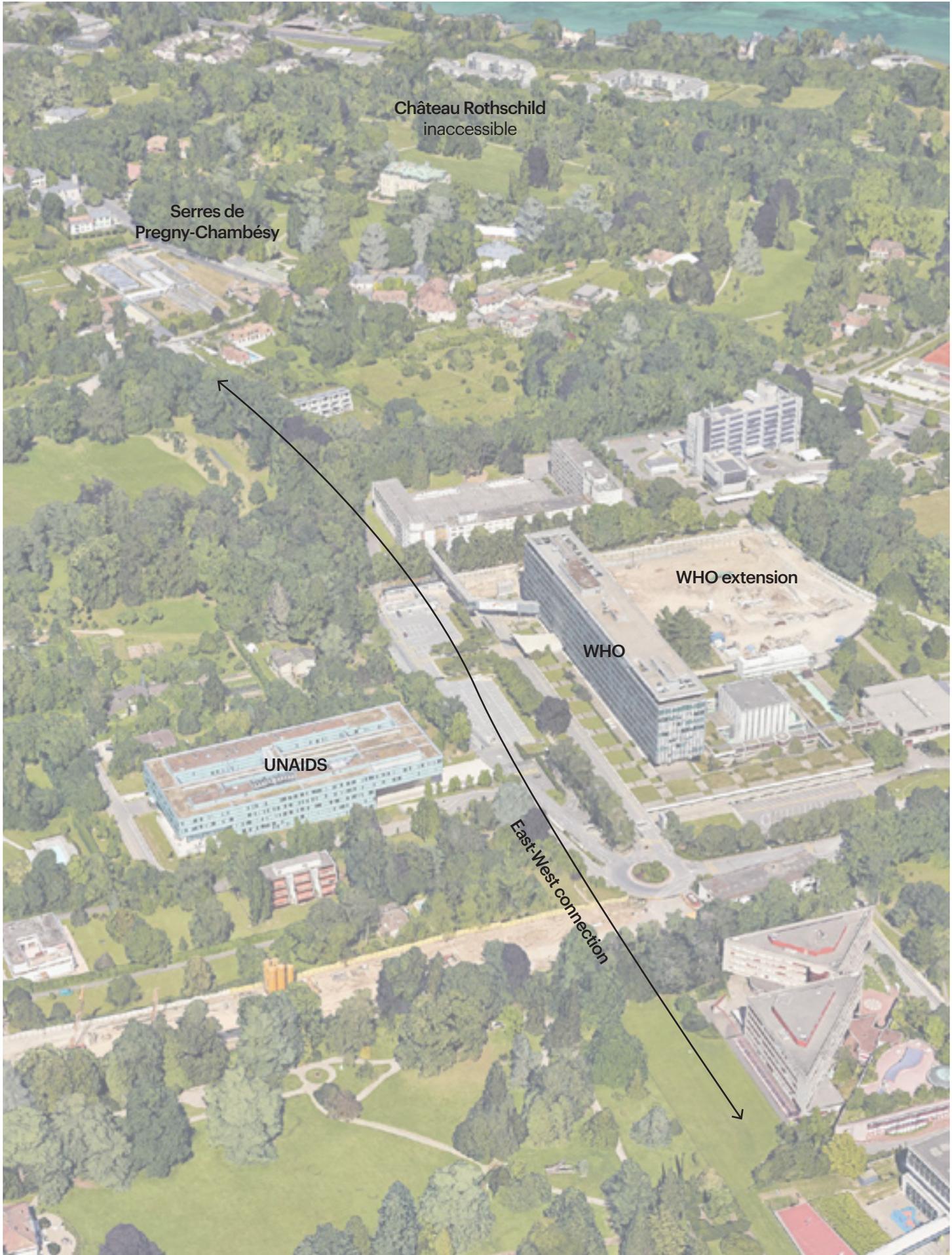
This task asks for a design that plays on this very heterogeneous axis with urban design and landscape tools, rethinking its character. The building of the WHO, designed by Jean Tschumi and Pierre Bonnard, and in particular the gardens of the WHO designed by Walter Bruggler, can serve as a starting point.

### Assignment

The project calls for a public esplanade running east-west between the World Health Organisation and the UNAIDS, towards Île Calvin in Pregny-Chambésy.

### Themes to explore

- east-west connection from WHO to Pregny-Chambésy: pedestrians, visitors, cars
- esplanade as public space and space for gathering
- accessibility of institutions
- connection among several remarkable landscapes and buildings



Château Rothschild  
inaccessible

Serres de  
Pregny-Chambésy

WHO extension

WHO

UNAIDS

East-West connection

# Focus area 3 – Esplanade de la Santé





Alley of Flags, United Nations Office in Geneva

Broken Chair Monument on Place des Nations, Geneva

## Focus area 4 – Place des Nations

### Focus

The Place des Nations is not a single square, but rather an assemblage, a heterogeneous spatial sequence comprising several parks, gardens and plateaus. Within this assemblage, one encounters Le jardin de l'OMPI, gardens of the World Intellectual Property Organisation, designed by Pierre Brillard and Roberto Burle-Marx between 1974-78; the Broken Chair monumental sculpture as the central motive, and the Alley of the Flags leading to the UN headquarters, among other motives. The Alley of the Flags is inaccessible and it is separated from the central square by four lane traffic and security installations.

The square can be read as an intricate political theatre of symbols and gestures, captured in artworks, architectural elements and signage. Take for example the Broken Chair, crafted as a metaphor for the suffering of landmine victims, which is placed in front of the UN Head office as a secular counterpart to the ceremonially hoisted flags of the world community. It serves as a permanent reminder that, to date, 32 UN states including US, Russia and China have not signed the Ottawa Treaty, the convention on the prohibition of use of land mines.

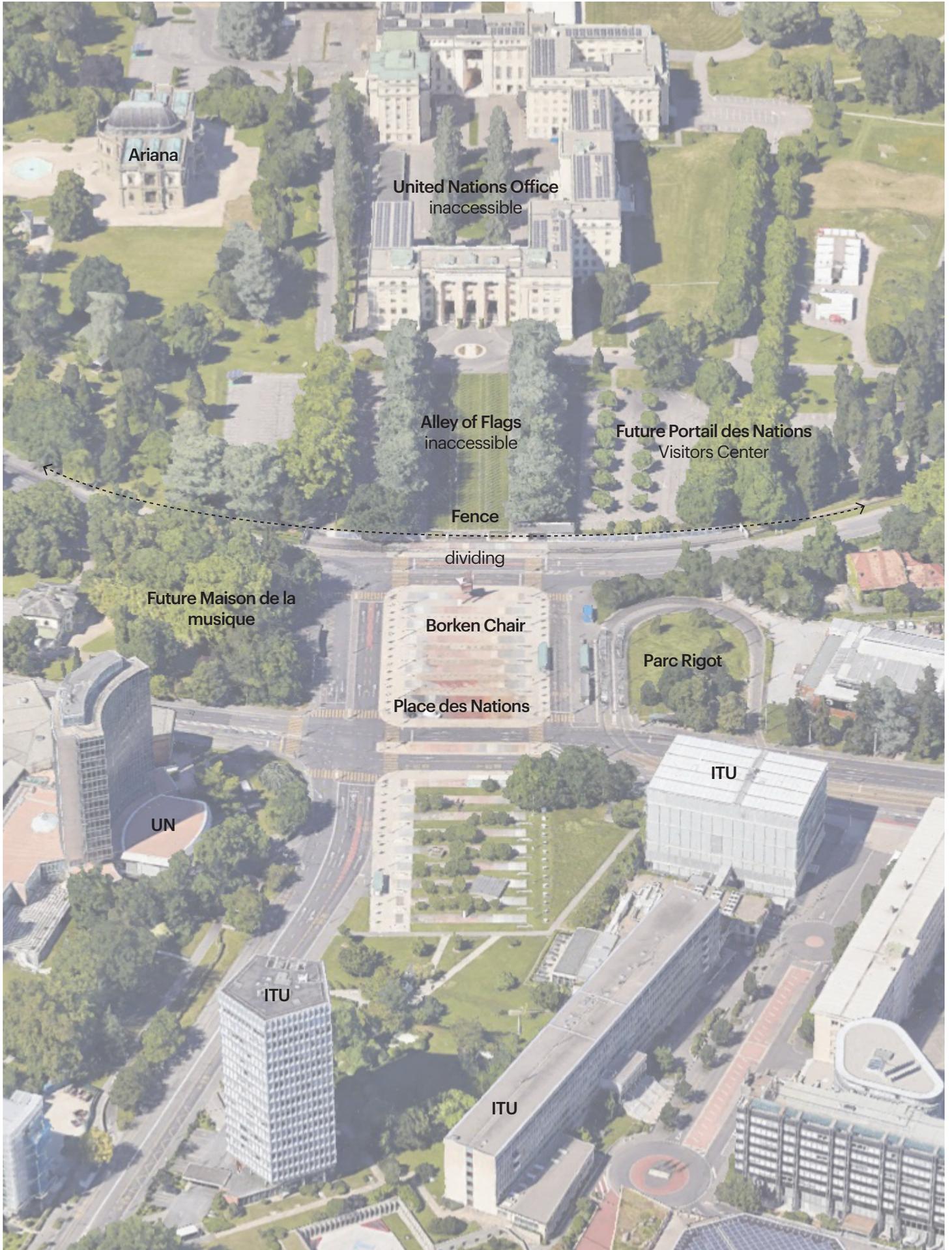
Several significant projects around the square are in the planning process, notably, Cité de la musique. Can we rethink the Place des Nations as a key political space, and a public stage for International Geneva and beyond?

### Assignment

The project is a new urban configuration, a public square, that links existing public spaces on the Place des Nations, including the Alley of Flags and Le jardin de l'OMPI by Roberto Burle-Marx.

### Themes to explore

- the public accessibility of the Place des Nations and the UN headquarters
- the use of Place des Nations as a public stage and a space to speak-up
- the integration of existing and new institutions and programs around the square
- the symbolic and aesthetic language of institutional representation space (logos, flags, fences)
- the meaning of the Garden metaphor in relation to Place des Nations:  
Can the Place des Nations convey aspirations of social diversity, inclusiveness and ecological governance in the 21st century?



Satellite imagery, Landsat / Copernicus

# Focus area 4 – Place des Nations





Route de Ferney near WTO, Geneva  
Construction site of the future Route des Nations

## Focus area 5 – Promenade de la Paix

### Focus

The Route de Ferney is stitching line between the city and the international quarters extending from the Sécheron in the south to the Grand-Saconnex in the north. The distinction between the two urban neighbourhoods on the either side of the route has been blurred by several recent projects and developments, which did not establish or follow any common urban rules.

Promenade de la Paix is an invitation to rethink the Route de Ferney as a promenade, or a parkway, which would integrate, into a wider street section, vegetation, paths for pedestrians and cyclists, and sites for new buildings, possibly housing. The tramway from Place des Nations could potentially be extended in the direction of Grand-Saconnex and Ferney to link the international quarters with the residential areas. Several open plots along the route, in particular around International Labour Organisation and the Cimetière du Petit-Saconnex, promise a possibility of a wider landscape structure enveloping the north-south infrastructure corridor.

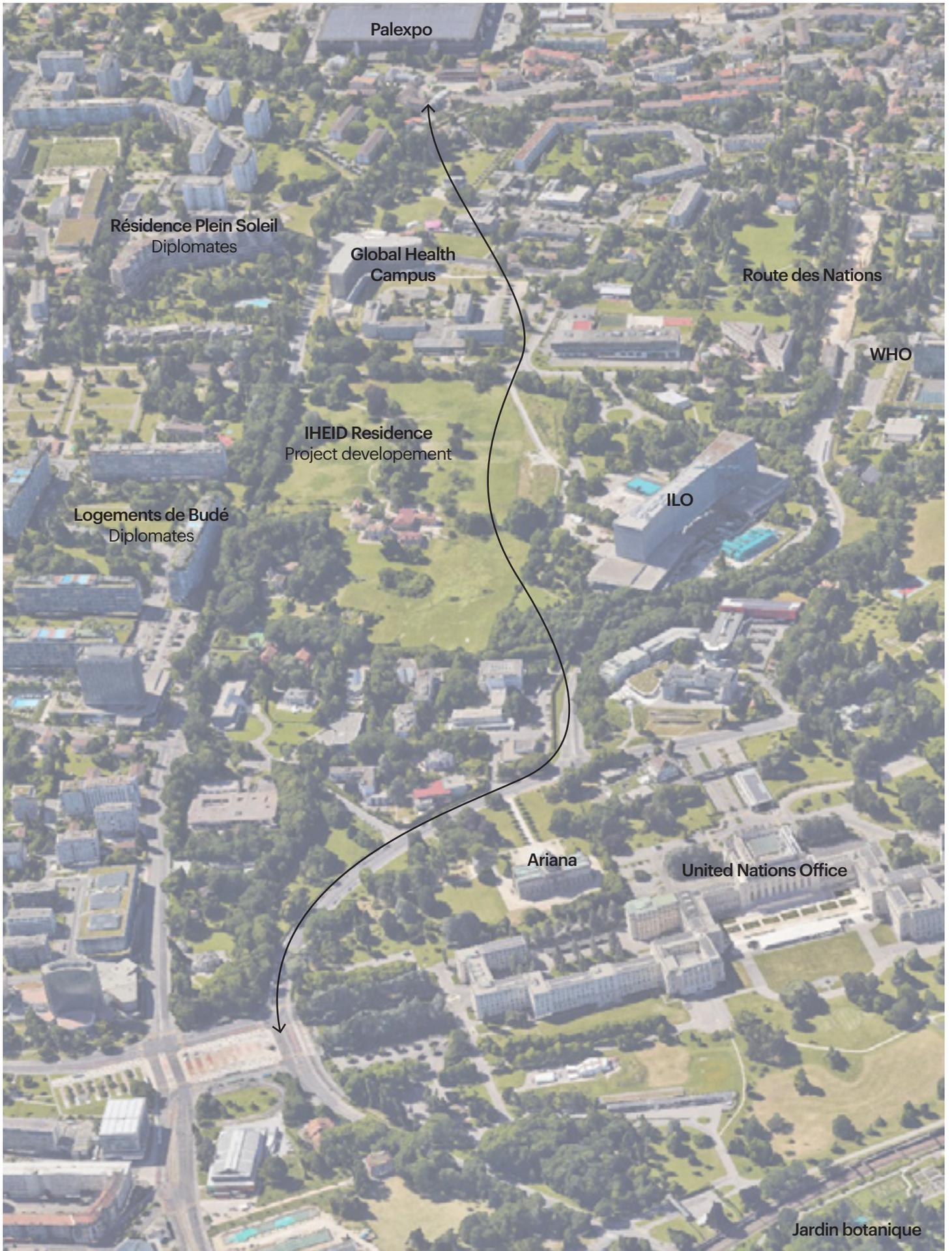
The promenade has been explored as part of the municipal Plan directeur Jardin des Nations.

### Assignment

The project rethinks the north-south promenade or a parkway, which accompanies the Route de Ferney from the Palexpo to the Place des Nations and further to the lake.

### Themes to explore

- hybrid landscape between ecology and infrastructure
- walking and biking along the route
- choreography of public spaces
- choreography of existing parks
- sites for new mix-use or housing buildings



Satellite imagery, Landsat / Copernicus

# Focus area 5 – Promenade de la Paix





Satellite imagery, Landsat / Copernicus

# Schedule and Field Trip

	<b>September 16. 2020</b>	<b>Input lectures</b>
	1530 – 1540	Introduction by Prof. Milica Topalovic
	1540 – 1625	Lecture by Dr. Andrea Kalpakci, World Capital Projects
	1625 – 1645	Break
	1645 – 1730	Lecture by Lloyd Broda, Evolution of the perception of landscape in Geneva
<b>Inputs</b>	<b>September 21. 2020</b>	<b>Field Trip</b>
	0703 – 0947	Train, Zurich HB to Geneva
<b>Dr. Andreas Kalpakci</b> Temporary pavilion, Le Corbusier	1000 – 1230	Parc Mont Repos Parc de La Perle du Lac WTO and Parc William Rappard Jardin Botanique ( <i>Focus area 1</i> )
<b>Evelyn Riedener</b> Heritage Guide		
<b>Florent Agat</b> Current planning of Place des Nations	1230 – 1330	Lunch Break, Château de Penthes
<b>Nicolas Freyre</b> Current use of Serres de Pregny	1400 – 1630	Serres de Pregny ( <i>Focus areas 2 and 3</i> ) Champs des Nations ( <i>Focus area 2</i> ) Route des Nations ( <i>Focus area 5</i> ) WHO + ILO ( <i>Focus area 3</i> ) Route de Ferney ( <i>Focus area 5</i> )
<b>Lloyd Broda</b> Walter Brugger landscape projects		
	1630 – 1700	Coffee Break, Musée Ariana
	1700 – 1800	Places des Nations ( <i>Focus area 4</i> ) Parc Rigot ( <i>Focus area 4</i> )
	1800 –	End of the Guided Tour Time for questions and independant visit
	<b>December 3. 2020</b>	<b>Hand-in Master Projects (D-ARCH)</b>
	<b>Dec 4. – Jan 8. 2021</b>	<b>Exhibition Master Projects (D-ARCH)</b>

# Ancillary discipline Architecture and Territorial Planning, Prof. Milica Topalovic

Architecture of Territory investigates phenomena and processes of urban transformation of contemporary territories. This approach comprises a shift of interest from cities to wider environments, once considered non-urban: they include resource hinterlands, extraction zones and wastelands, agricultural peripheries, and remote nature areas.

In the Diploma Begleitfach, students focus on critical urban-territorial analysis of their sites, in order to inform and situate their projects in relation to wider social, political or environmental contexts and priorities. We will support each student in shaping his or her own unique research trajectories. For example, the work may be focused on urban transformation and landscape change through GIS, the metabolism of resource flows, photographic portraits of territory, or it may include psychogeographies or ethnographic engagements. The methods and techniques used encompass ethnographic fieldwork, cartography and artistic representations.

## **Atlas**

Description of the site through a series of maps and plans, linked to form a research argument. This atlas may include a cartographic thesis, a map that shows risks and potentials and argues toward a project intervention.

## **Territorial Concept**

The territorial concept can be formulated across several selected scales, from territorial to urban, addressing different conditions of the site (such as public space, accessibility, security, landscape ecologies, material flows, and so on). Thinking that binds urban and landscape design is encouraged.

The outcomes can be presented in mixed-media formats including booklets, photographic series, videos, maps, sketches and found objects.

## **Registration, consultations, submission**

In addition to the regular registration, diploma students must register by sending an e-mail to [djurdjevic@arch.ethz.ch](mailto:djurdjevic@arch.ethz.ch) with the following information: Name, first name, diploma professorship

Students present their research to the professor three times during the semester. Additional meetings with assistants can be arranged individually.

The final concept must be submitted to the professor by 18.30 on 3 December. The report must be submitted both in printed form and as a digital upload to the professor's server.

## **Contact**

Assistenz: Muriz Djurdjevic, Michael Stünzi

E-Mail: [durdjevic@arch.ethz.ch](mailto:durdjevic@arch.ethz.ch), [stuenzi@arch.ethz.ch](mailto:stuenzi@arch.ethz.ch)

Webseite: [www.topalovic.arch.ethz.ch](http://www.topalovic.arch.ethz.ch)

Büro: ONA G35 (Mo – Di, 09:00 Uhr – 18:00 Uhr)

# Ancillary discipline Landscape Architecture, Prof. Günther Vogt

## Leistungen

- Das architektonische, städtebauliche Projekt soll in einen landschaftlichen Kontext gesetzt und um landschaftsarchitektonische Aspekte erweitert werden.
- Alle Leistungen sind in die Präsentation des Architekturentwurfes zu integrieren. In Modell, Lageplan, Schnitten, Grundrissen und Perspektiven sind die raumbildenden Elemente der Landschaftsarchitektur und das Freiraumkonzept darzustellen.
- Projektrelevante, landschaftliche Informationen müssen den Plänen entnommen werden können. Es werden Aussagen zur Topografie (Geländehöhen), Vegetation, Einbauten, Verkehrsführung und Materialisierung erwartet.

## Voraussetzungen / Abgabe

- Empfohlen sind entsprechende Grundkenntnisse: die Teilnahme an einem Wahlfach Landschaftsarchitektur oder an einem landschaftsarchitektonischen Entwurf.
- Es sind drei Zwischenkritiken beim Begleitfach zu absolvieren. Die Teilnahme an einer Kritik kann nur aus wichtigen Gründen abgesagt werden (Krankheit, Unfall). In diesen Fällen ist die Professur des Begleitfachs sofort zu informieren.
- Der Schlussbericht Landschaft muss vollständig mit der Präsentation des Architekturentwurfes am offiziellen Tag der Abgabe bis 18:30 Uhr abgegeben werden.
- Die digitale Dokumentation der gesamten Arbeit ist am offiziellen Tag der Abgabe bis 18:30 Uhr auf den Server der jeweiligen Professur zu laden (Schlussbericht, PDF-Dateien aller Pläne und Visualisierungen, zuzüglich Fotodokumentation der Modelle).
- Bei verspäteter Abgabe erfolgt die Noten-Beurteilung aufgrund der rechtzeitig abgegebenen Teile des Projektes.

## Anmeldung

Neben der regulären Anmeldung beim Studiensekretariat müssen sich die Diplomierenden bei der Professur Günther Vogt anmelden.

Per E-Mail an [andreas.klein@arch.ethz.ch](mailto:andreas.klein@arch.ethz.ch) mit folgenden Informationen:

- Name, Vorname, Diplomprofessur.
- Besuchte Kurse im Fach Landschaftsarchitektur inkl. Angabe Professur, Lehrformat, Semester und Umfang der Arbeit (Entwurfssemester, Wahlfach, Wahlfacharbeit, integrierte Disziplin).

## Termine

Freitag 18.09.2020, 17:00 Uhr	Anmeldeschluss
Montag 28.09.2020, 11:45 Uhr	Einführung GIS
Donnerstag 03.12.2019, 18:30 Uhr	Abgabe Master-Arbeit

Die Termine für die Kritiken im Verlauf der Masterarbeit werden nach der Anmeldung durch die Professur kommuniziert (voraussichtlich: KW 41, 44 & 47).

## Information

Bei einer erhöhten Anzahl von Anmeldungen für das Begleitfach Landschaftsarchitektur behalten wir uns vor zusätzliche Lehrpersonen für die Betreuung der Studierenden hinzuzuziehen.

## Contact

Professur Günther Vogt  
Assistenz: Andreas Klein  
E-Mail: [andreas.klein@arch.ethz.ch](mailto:andreas.klein@arch.ethz.ch)  
Webseite: [www.vogt.arch.ethz.ch](http://www.vogt.arch.ethz.ch)  
Büro: ONA J25 (Mo – Di, 09:00 Uhr – 18:00 Uhr)

# Ancillary discipline History of Art and Architecture, Prof. Dr. Philip Ursprung

At the chair of art and architectural history, our fundamental concern is that students develop a critical historical awareness and that they are able to use this awareness to take positions within the field of architecture. We encourage students to see the processes of change in which they participate in a broader cultural and historical context and to situate their actions in a political, social, economic and cultural context. We are interested in the students' attitude towards their subject. The Jardin des Nations presents an extraordinary opportunity to engage with such contextual questions at a variety of spatial and temporal scales. With regard to the interrogation of projects, we believe individualised questions are more productive than general sweeping statements, but at the same time, there are obvious starting points. We will ask students to engage with how their project deals with both local and global histories. How are institutions and representations entangled and disentangled? What are the relationships between representations, political processes, and physical space? And does the project seek to offer solutions, or to articulate as-yet unimagined problems?

The representation of territory has its own history, including the history of graphic representation, photography, film, video, model and different text genres. We assess how the respective project representation is related in format and execution to the design concept and how the attitude taken by the students is expressed in draft, word, visualization and model. We welcome students who develop independent solutions for the project presentation and choose a title for their project.

The supervision of the students takes place in the form of joint colloquia as well as, if desired, individual short discussions before the submission. We evaluate the finished project. Short contributions to the colloquia (e.g. a manifesto related to your own project) are required, but no separate submission at the end.

Lecturers: Prof. Dr. Philip Ursprung; Dipl.-Ing. Tim Klauser, M.F.A. Dipl. Ing./M.F.A. Berit Seidel, Dr. Adam Jasper, Dr. Nina Zschocke.

Course inscription: Please send an email to [tim.klauser@gta.arch.ethz.ch](mailto:tim.klauser@gta.arch.ethz.ch) until September 26. 2020

## **Contact**

Tim Klauser  
[tim.klauser@gta.arch.ethz.ch](mailto:tim.klauser@gta.arch.ethz.ch)

ETH Zürich  
Institut für Geschichte und Theorie der Architektur  
Professur für Kunst- und Architekturgeschichte  
Prof. Dr. Philip Ursprung  
HIL D 63.1  
Stefano-Frascini-Platz 5  
CH-8093 Zürich

# Ancillary discipline Sociology, Caroline Ting, Assistant to Prof. Dr. Christian Schmid

In this ancillary discipline, a sociological analysis of the site and/or design brief is conducted. It aims to situate the spatial or architectural project in its social context and to enrich design approaches with sociological factors, as related to the assigned task. A selection of various qualitative social research methods are utilized to gain insight into site-specific qualities and actors. This can be particularly useful in determining the constellation and number of public spaces and functions, as well as the characteristics and configurations of these spaces.

## **Urban Strategy**

The design process is facilitated by articulating objectives and developing an urban strategy. An important aspect of this is providing a logical justification for these intentions. Furthermore, an attempt should be made to assess the unintentional consequences of the strategy developed.

## **Final Report**

For the final submission, each of the steps in the development of the urban strategy are evaluated and a coherent final report is produced from the entire body of material. The final report will be included in the Master's thesis exhibition.

## **Deadlines and Registration**

Mandatory introduction with an explanation of the task and research methodology on Thursday, 17 September 2020 at 12:00 noon, remote via Zoom.

Registration for the ancillary discipline per e-mail by Friday, 18 September 2020 at 11:00 a.m. to Caroline Ting, [ting@arch.ethz.ch](mailto:ting@arch.ethz.ch).

Two additional meetings will take place; in these, a preliminary version of the final report should be submitted in advance. Depending on the number of total participants, these meetings will take place as plenary or individual meetings.

## **Submission**

The final version of the report is due by Thursday, 3 December 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Details for submission will be given at the beginning of the semester, also depending on then applicable D-ARCH guidelines.

## **Contact**

Caroline Ting  
[ting@arch.ethz.ch](mailto:ting@arch.ethz.ch)

ETH Zürich  
Departement Architektur  
Dozentur Soziologie  
HIL E 61.2  
Stefano-Franscini-Platz 5  
8093 Zürich



World Health Organization (WHO) assembly on May 19, 2008 in Geneva. Food security, climate change and pandemic flu are three global crises looming in the horizon. Photo by Fabrice Coffrini, AFP PHOTO

# Experts

The experts on the project are available to take part to the reviews and consultations. The chairs can contact them directly for appointments.

**Ariane Widmer**

**Director, Office d'urbanisme, République et Canton de Genève**

Will advise on the cantonal territorial planning strategies

**Florent Agat**

**Architect-Urbanist, Office d'urbanisme, République et Canton de Genève**

Will advise on the current urban planning projects

Florent.Agat@etat.ge.ch

**Nicolas Freyre**

**Chief Gardener, Conservatoire et Jardin botaniques, Genève**

Will advise on the Jardin botanique and serres de Pregny

Nicolas.Freyre@ville-ge.ch

**Dr. Andreas Kalpakci**

**Lecturer, Chair of the Theory of Architecture, ETH Zurich**

Will advise on the history and projects of internationalism

andreas.kalpakci@gta.arch.ethz.ch

**Lloyd Broda**

**Landscape-architect at Atelier Descombes Rampini SA, Genève**

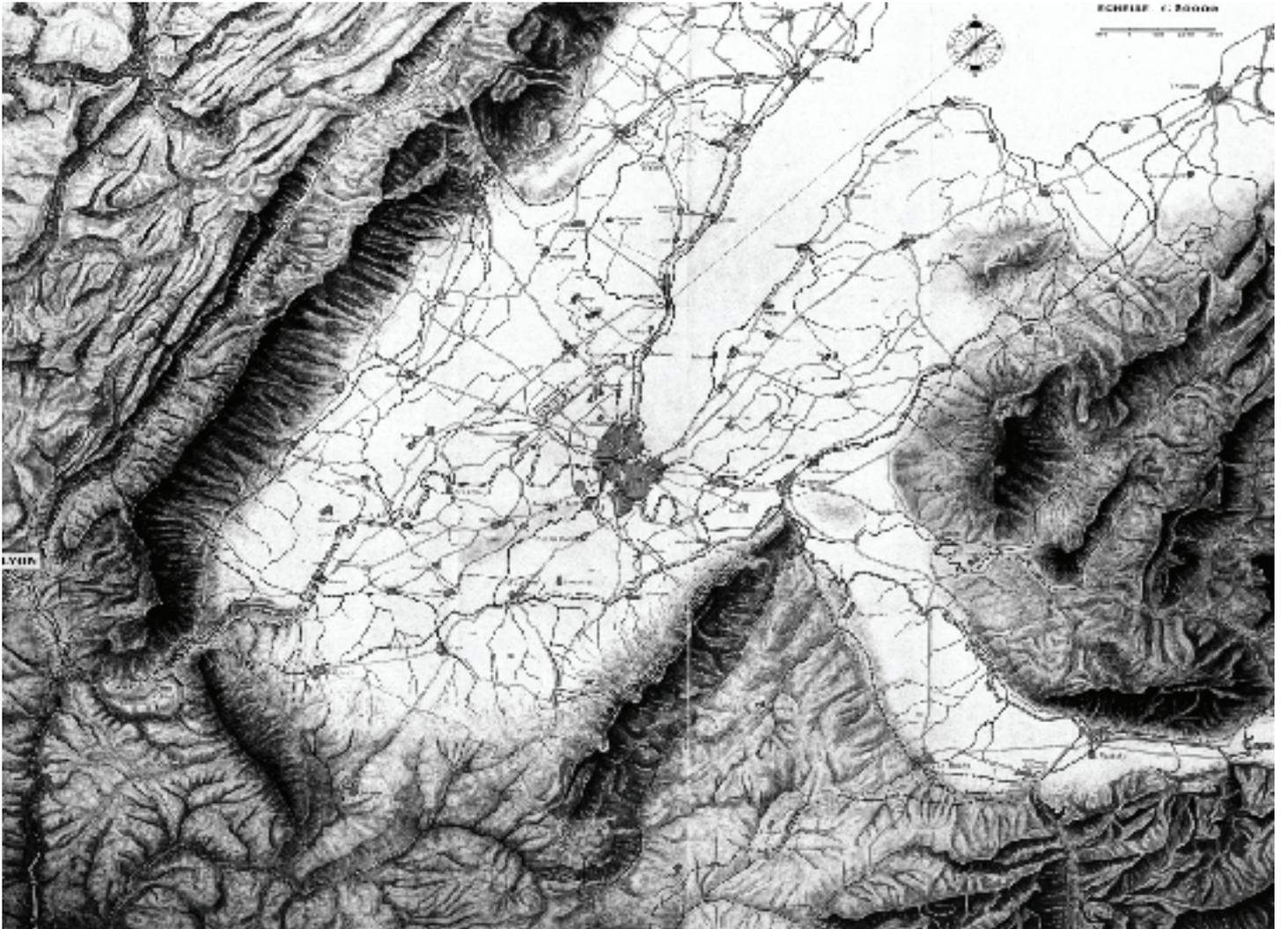
Will advise on the history and landscape projects

lloyd.broda@protonmail.ch



# Resources

189	Reference maps and images
197	Reference projects and plans
203	Selected bibliography
207	Text sources and web data



Topographic map of the Cuvette Genevoise, 19th century

# Reference maps and images



ATLAS TOPOGRAPHIQUE  
DE LA SUISSE

CANTON DE GENÈVE

Echelle 1 : 25 000



4<sup>me</sup> Edition

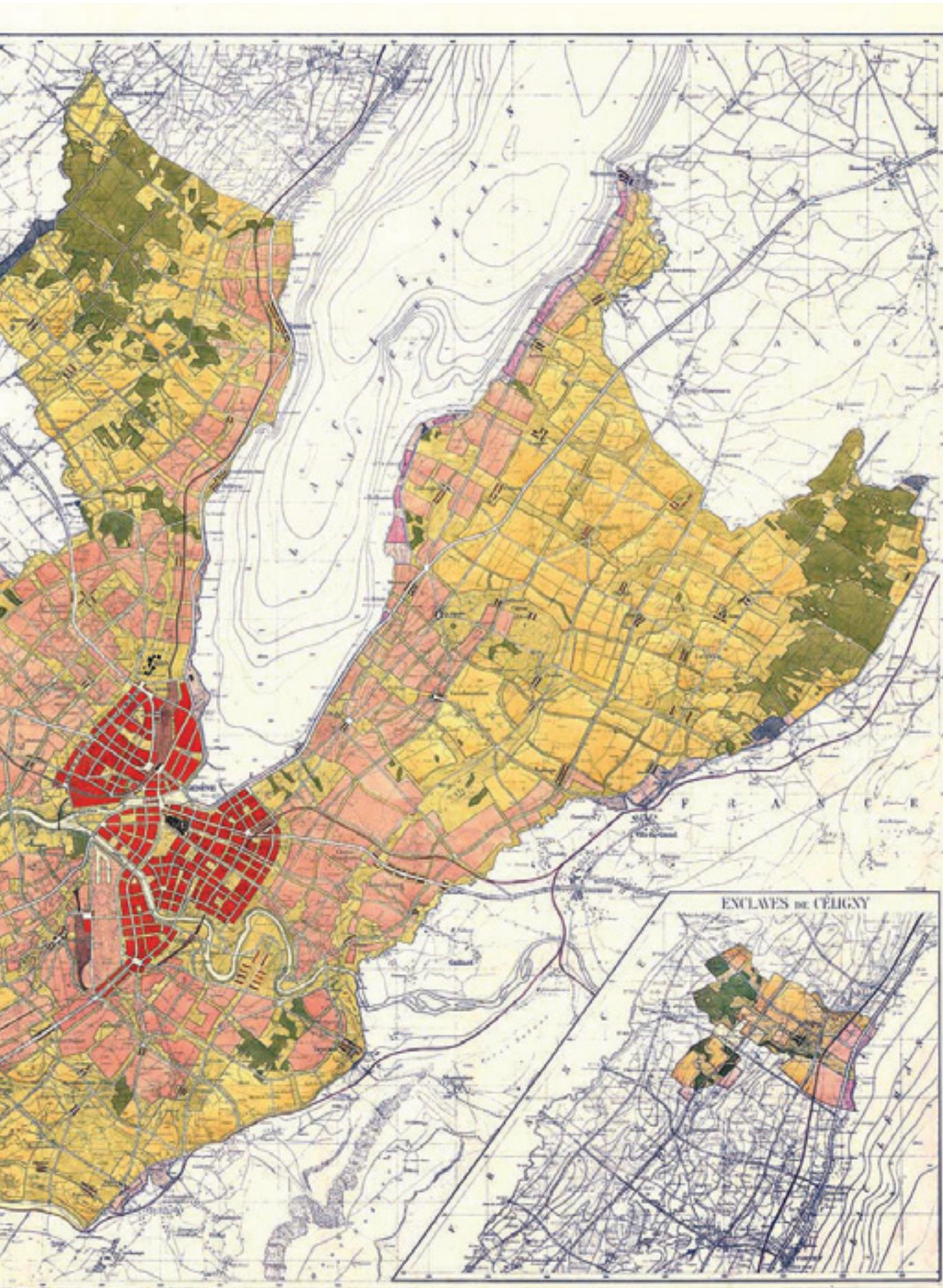
Cartographie aux droits réservés de l'Etat de Genève

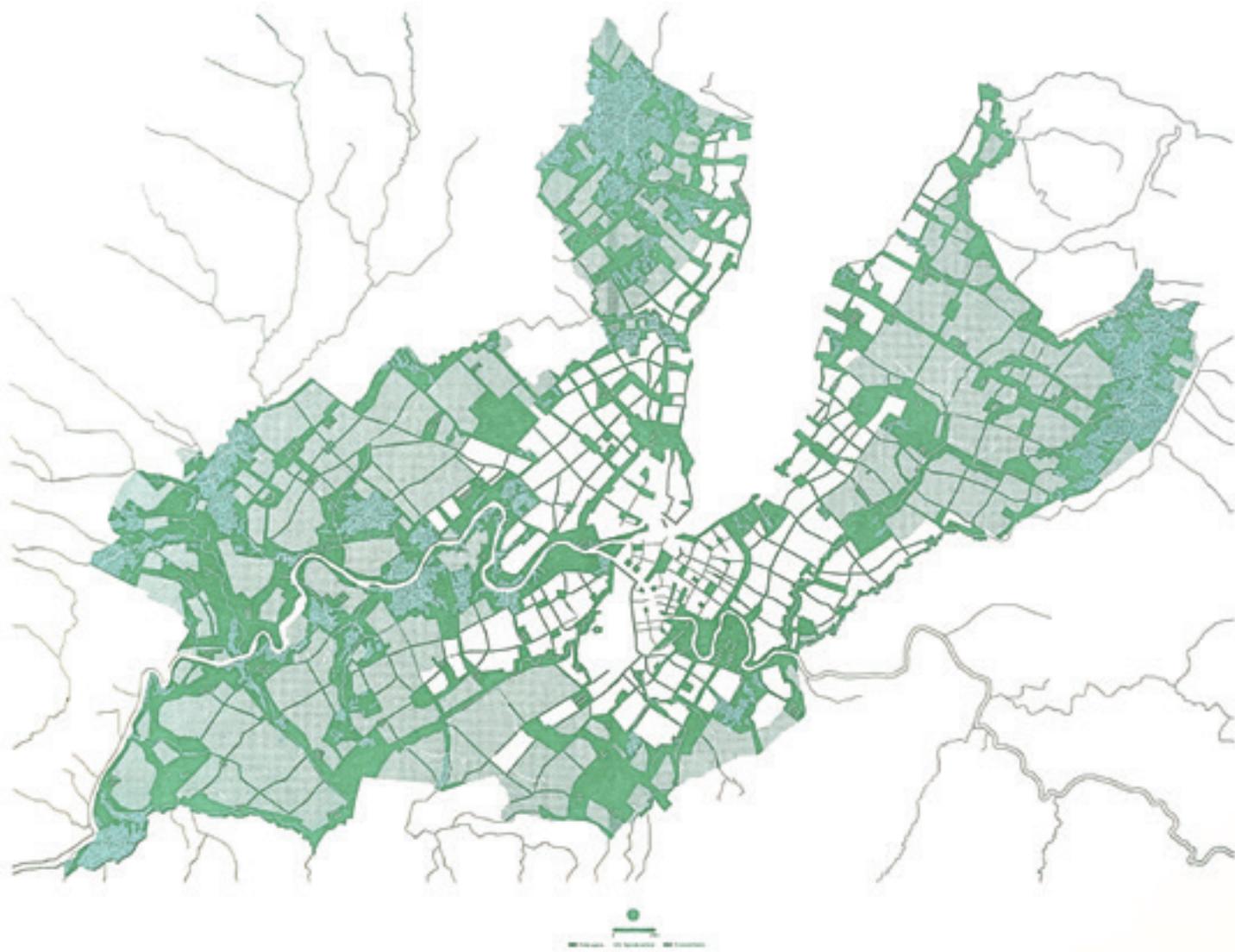
**Légende**

- Densités urbaines
- Densités urbaines moyennes (ville)
- Densités urbaines faibles (village)
- Densités de forêts
- Forêts
- Cultures, prairies, jardins
- Terrains agricoles ou garrigues
- Bois de haute et moyenne altitude



# Maurice Brillard, Plan directeur regional Canton de Genève, 1936



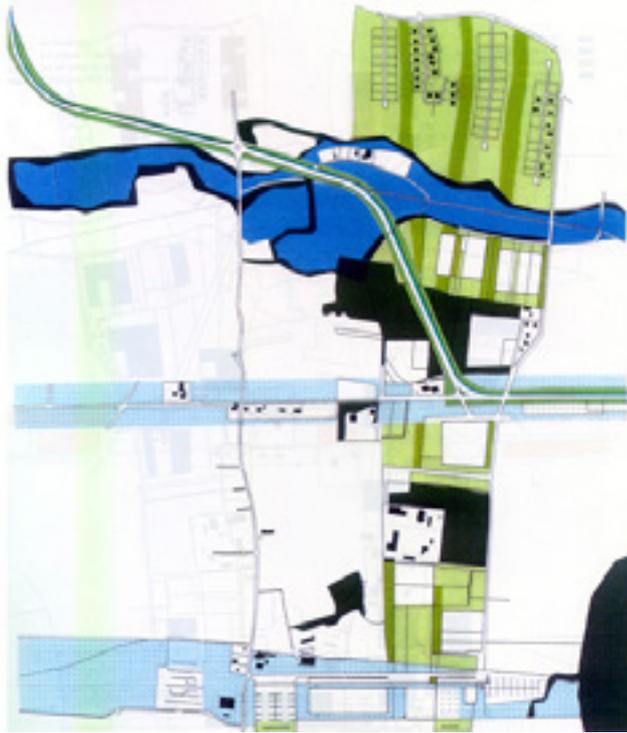






Canton de Genève, Plan directeur, 1966





# The Golden Rectangle

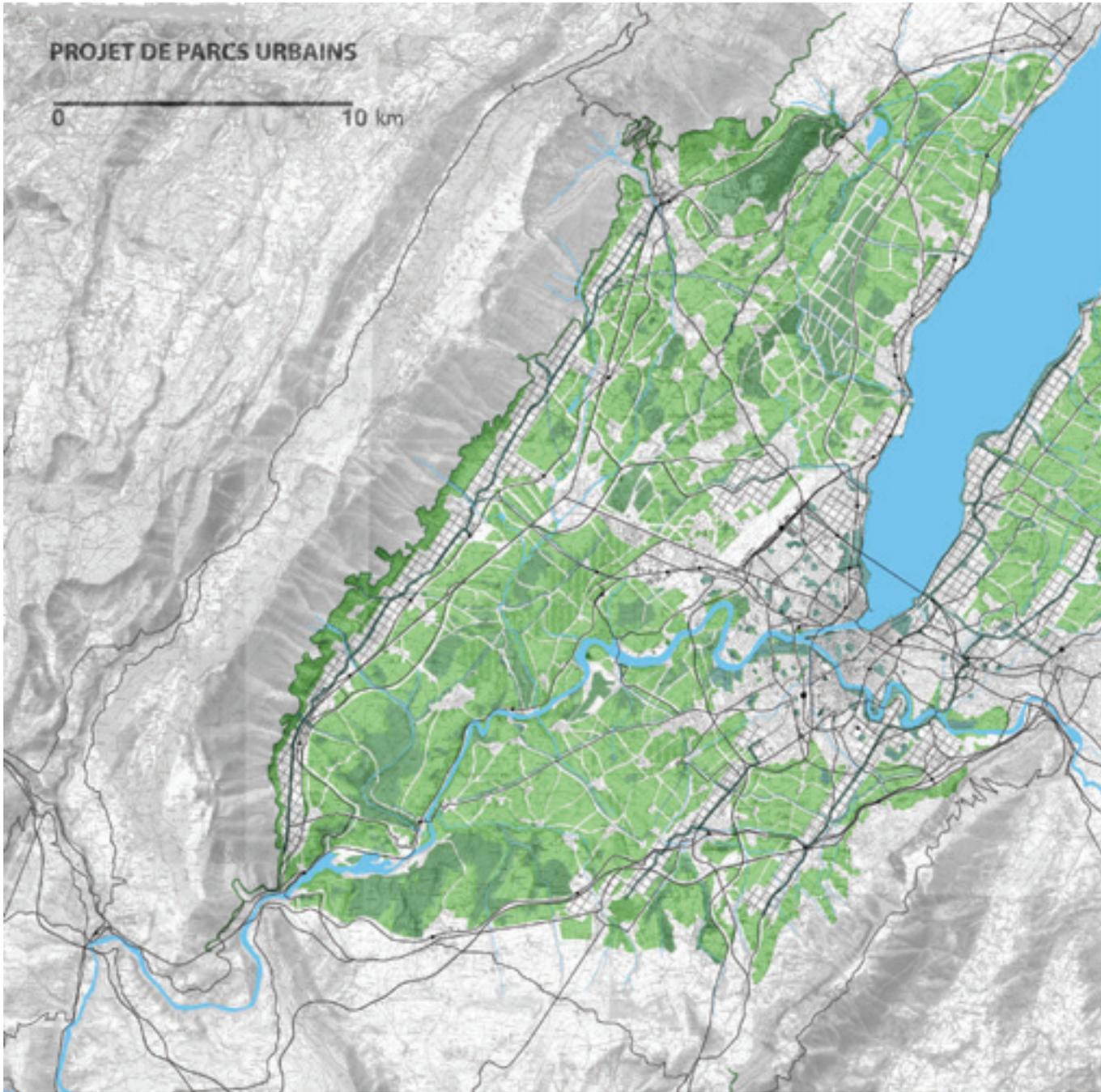
B. Secchi, P. Viganò, A. Corboz, G. Descombes, C.Lopez, F.Ascher, J. Busquets, M.Desvigne, 1996

Text by Studio Associato Bernardo Secchi Paola Viganò, Urban Study, 1998

“The wide ‘franc-valdoise’ region around Geneva airport is part of a city with a vacuum at its center. The city is easily structured around a few lines of connection where certain elements of the region offer some resistance: groves, woods, water, the shape of the slopes, the landscape, etc. The landscape is made up of different materials: large individual objects as well as large ensembles, individual houses and sequences of public spaces. To structure these built spaces, the project proposes to have a large diagonal park where the village and the existing neighborhoods can profit from a distance. Then, some new programmatic connections could link many functions such as the CERN, the international schools, the research centers and the new office buildings and workshops.

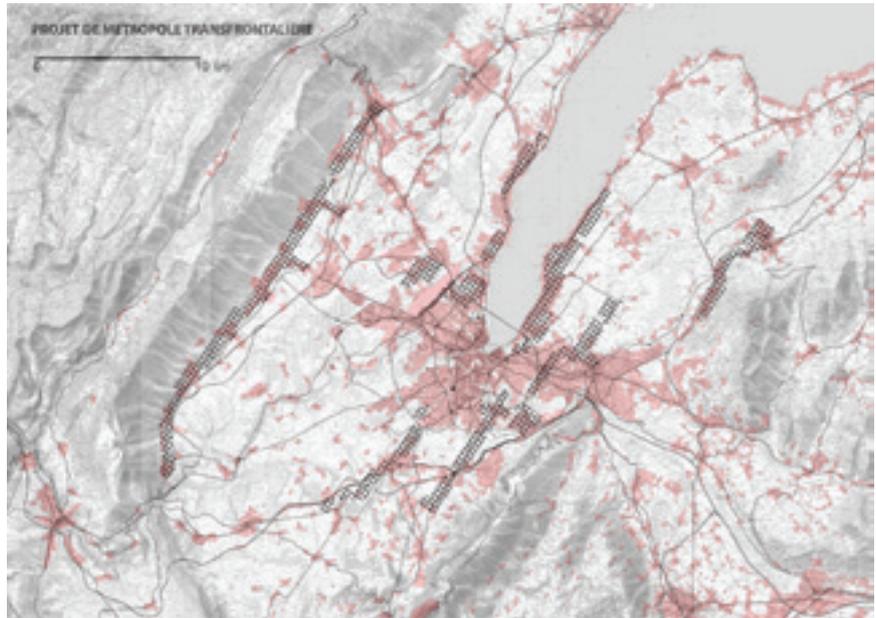
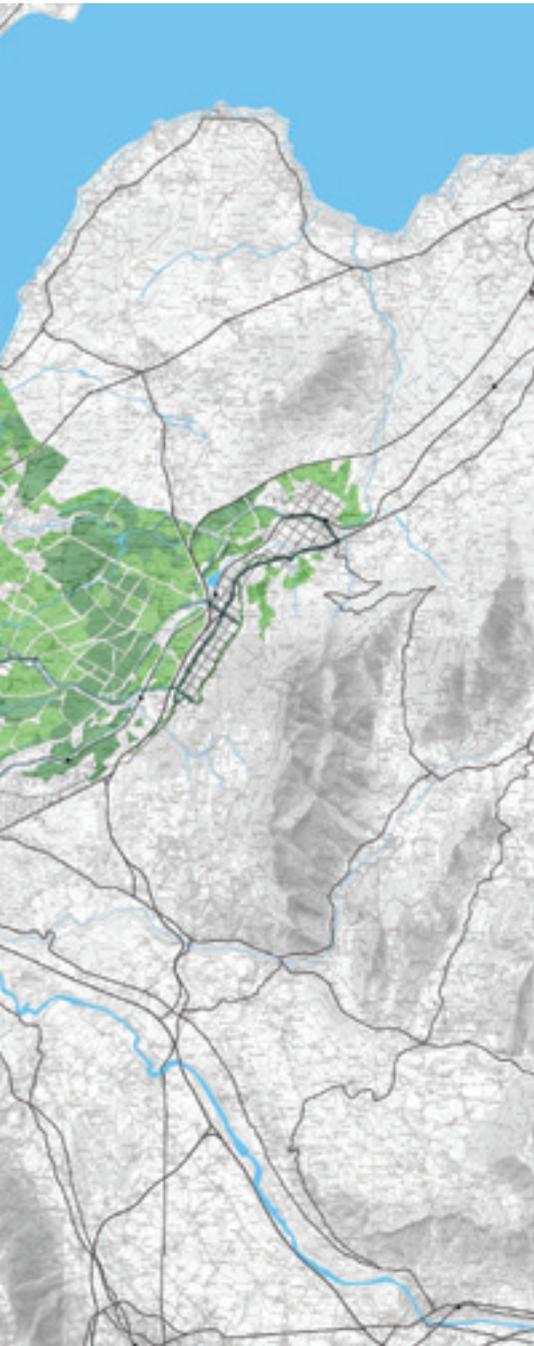
The proximity of the airport and recent constructions have a significant impact on the organization of the project.

The project of “Golden Rectangle “ in Geneva is the result of a contest held in 1996 by the Canton of Geneva. This contest was won by the following group : F. Ascher , J. Busquets, A. Corboz , G. Descombes , M. Desvigne and B. Secchi.”



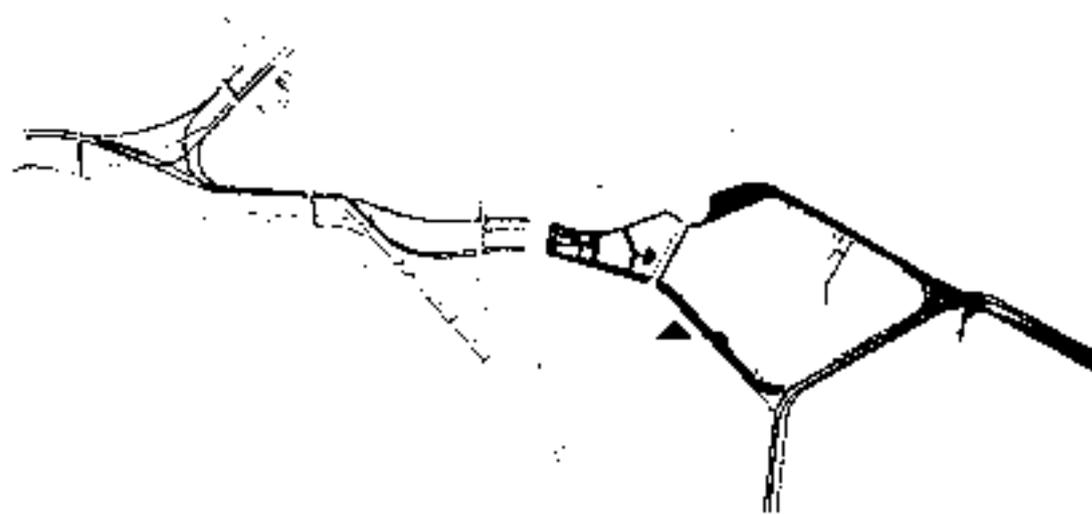
projet de parc urbains

# Geneva500, Projet pour une métropole transfrontalière, 2013



projet de métropole transfrontalière

Geneva is considered as one of the three Swiss cities, alongside Zurich and Basel. The project approach for Geneva began in the 1980s with the birth of the group "Geneva, 500 metres from the city in addition". The latest project presented in the book *Geneva*, a project for a cross-border metropolis, is the ultimate evolution of this approach.



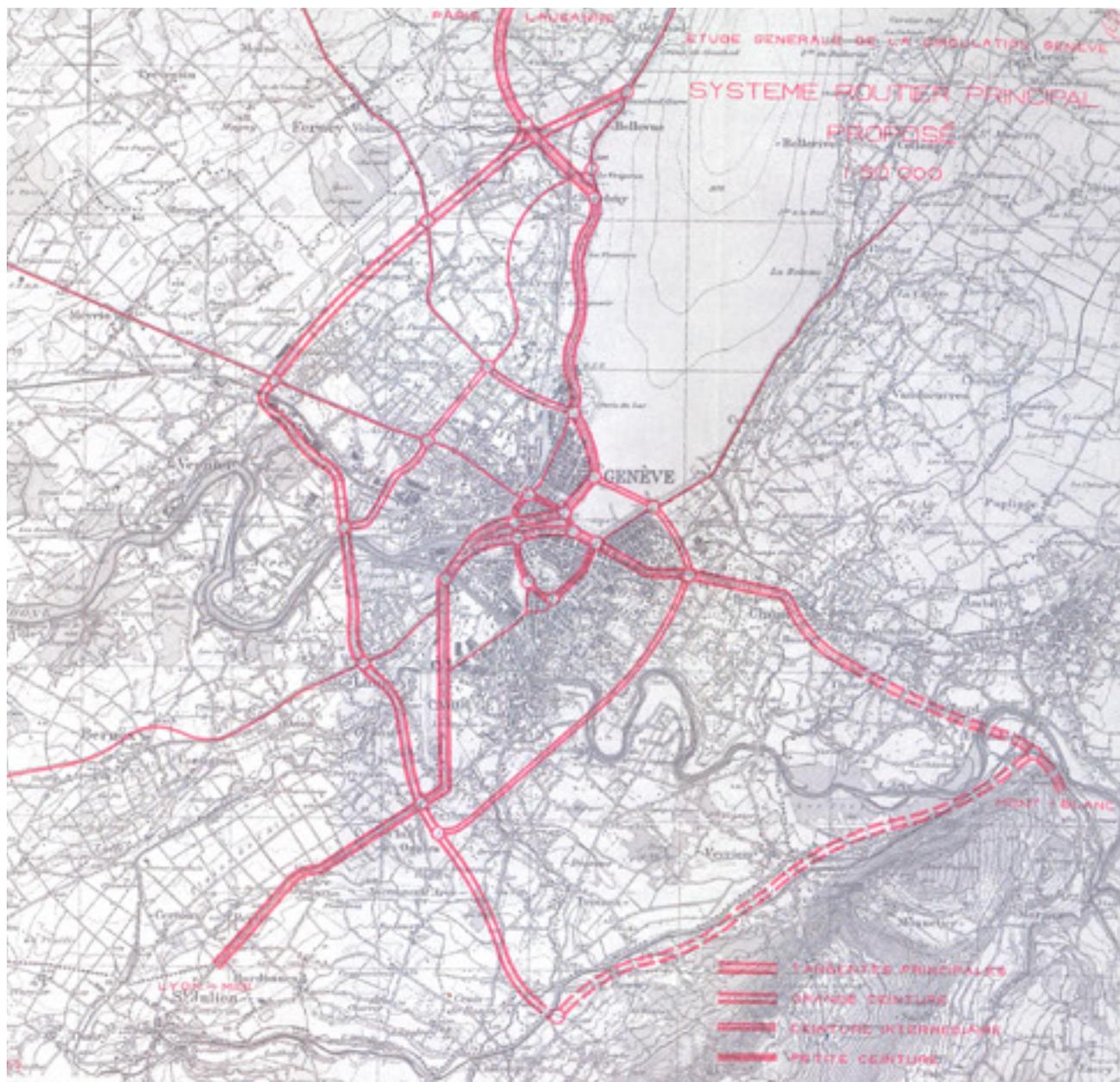
*Georges Brera - Pierre Nervi et Paul Waltenspöhl - projet d'aménagement des voies expressos à Genève, 1955*

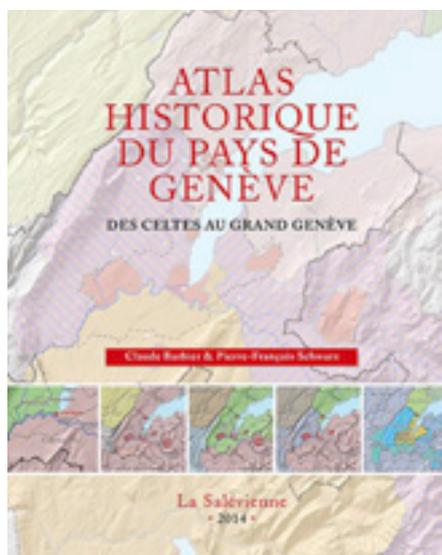
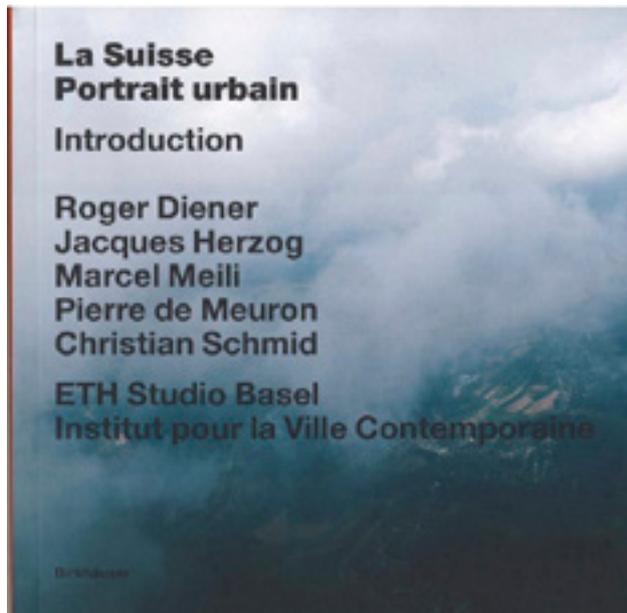
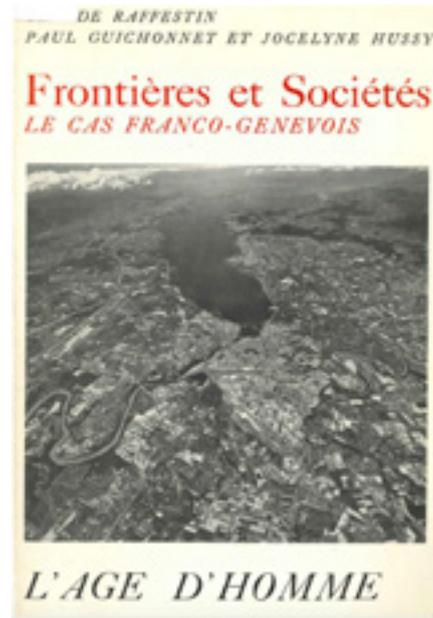
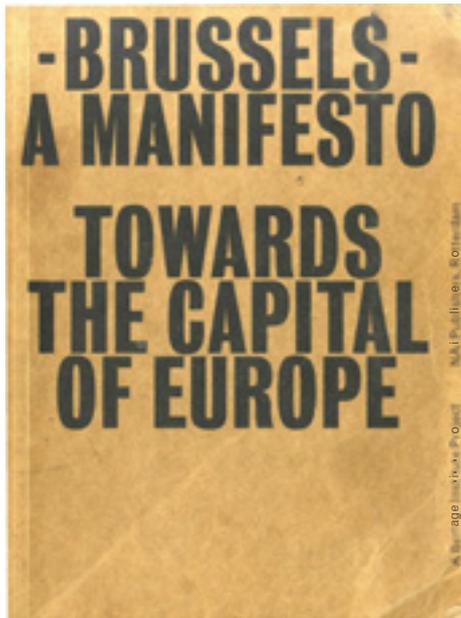


URBAT maquette

# Traversée de la Rade

Marc J. Saugey, 1991, Georges Bréra  
architecte, 2019





# Selected bibliography

## **Geneva City and Region**

— Barbier Claude & Schwarz Pierre-François,  
Atlas historique du pays de Genève: Des Celtes au Grand Genève, 2014

— Canton de Genève,  
Plan directeur, 1966

— Cogato-Lanza Elena,  
Une nouvelle solidarité entre la ville et la campagne, 2002

— Geneva500,  
Projet pour une métropole transfrontalière, 2013

— Hesse Markus & Wong Catherine,  
Geneva+ : A Relational City, 2019

— Raffestin Claude,  
Frontières et Sociétés: Le cas Franco-Genevois, 1975

## **Territory and Urbanisation**

— Diener et al., ETH Studio Basel,  
Switzerland - an urban portrait, 2006

— Herzog et al., ETH Studio Basel,  
Achtung: die Landschaft, 2015

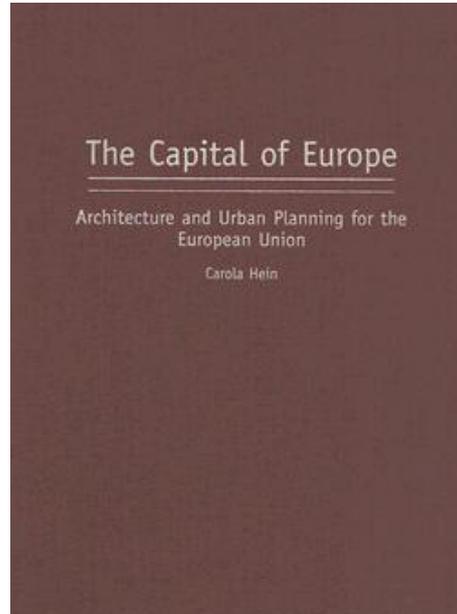
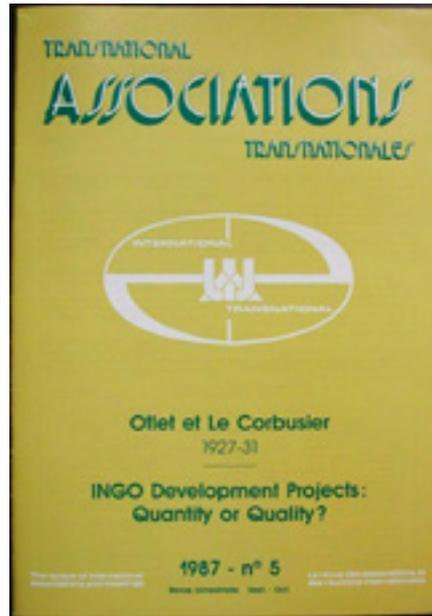
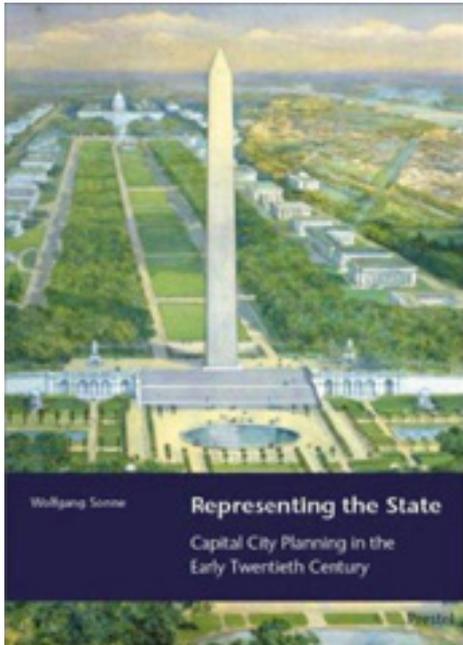
## **Capital City Projects**

— Aureli Pier Vittorio,  
Brussels: A Manifesto Towards the Capital of Europe, 2007

— Courtiau Catherine  
La Création d'une ville internationale autonome selon Paul Otlet. *Transnational Associations*, no. 1-2 (June 2003): 60-71

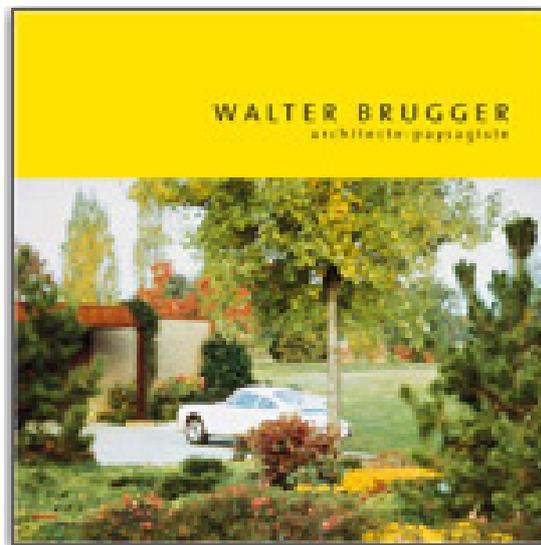
— Hein Carola,  
Envisioning the Center: World Cities and International Buildings as Precursors to the European Capital Debate. In *The Capital of Europe: Architecture and Urban Planning for the European Union*, 17-36. Westport, Conn.: Praeger Publishers, 2004

— Kuntz Joëlle,  
International Geneva. *100 Years of Architecture*, 2017



**Votation  
cantonale**

24 novembre 2019



— OMA AMO,  
Atlas of Europe, 2001-

— Ponte Alessandra,  
Thinking Machines: From the Outlook Tower to the City of the World. Lotus International II, no. 35 (1982): 46–51

— Sonne Wolfgang,  
World Centre of Communication 1913: The Futile Invention of an International City of Peace. In *Representing the State: Capital City Planning in the Early Twentieth Century*, 241–85. Prestel, 2003

— Van Acker Wouter,  
The Crisis of the Modern Cosmopolis: Paul Otlet (1868-1944) and the Utopia of the World Capital City. In *Transcending the Discipline*, edited by Bruno De Meulder, Michael Ryckewaert, and Kelly Shannon, 161–72. Leuven: OSA-K. U. Leuven, 2009

### **Garden as an Social and Spatial Metaphor**

— Burckhardt Lucius,  
A Walk in Second Nature, 1992

— Clément Gilles,  
The Planetary Garden, 2015

— OMA AMO,  
Manifesta 12 The Planetary Garden: Cultivating Coexistence, 2016

— Rousseau Jean-Jaques,  
Eloisa or a Series of Original Letters, 1761

### **Landscape Designs for Genève Internationale**

— Canton de Genève,  
Documentation votation cantonale, Acceptez-vous la loi modifiant les limites de zones sur le territoire de la commune de Genève – section Petit-Saconnex (création d’une zone de développement 3 au lieu-dit «Les Crêts»), 24 novembre 2019

— Faces n°21,  
Marc J. Saugey, 1991 & Georges Bréra, architecte, 2019

— Jakob Michael, Audéoud William,  
Walter Brugger architecte paysagiste, Infolio Editions, 2005

Print  
Draw & Measure on map  
Advanced tools

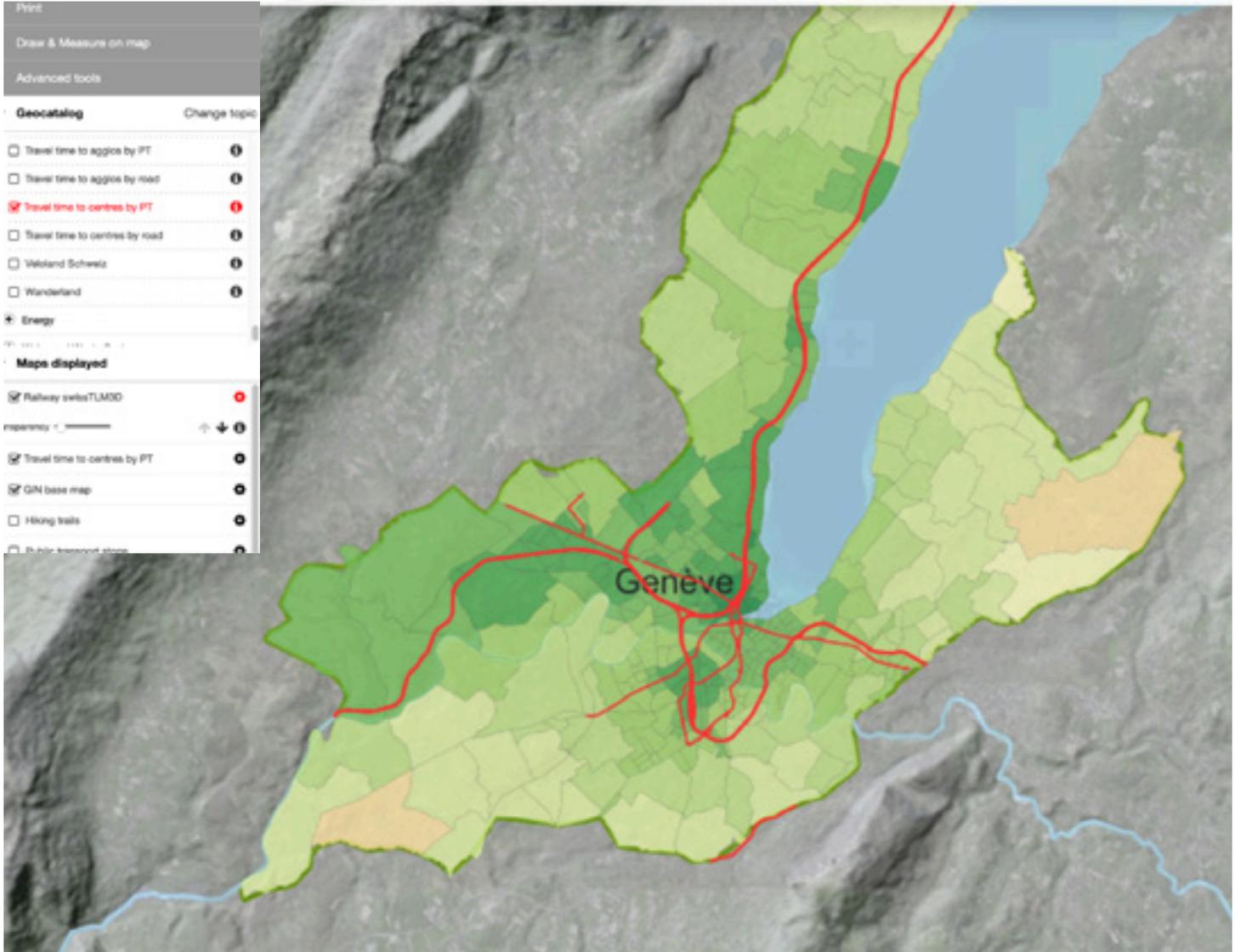
**Geocatalog** Change topic

- Travel time to aggios by PT ⓘ
- Travel time to aggios by road ⓘ
- Travel time to centres by PT** ⓘ
- Travel time to centres by road ⓘ
- Wetland Schweiz ⓘ
- Wanderland ⓘ

✦ Energy

**Maps displayed**

- Railway swissTLM00 ⓘ
- reparatur ⓘ
- Travel time to centres by PT ⓘ
- GN base map ⓘ
- Hiking trails ⓘ
- Public transport stops ⓘ



## Text sources and web data

	<b>Text Sources</b>
p 13, 15	— Geneva and the Call for Internationalism—A History, Joelle Kuntz, 2011
p 15	— Zone Franche, Master thesis, Charlotte Schaeben, ETH Zurich DARCH, 2018
p 55	— ICRC / Joëlle Kuntz / Canton of Geneva
p 57	— SHAS / Rothschild Archive / Finews
p 59	— Musée suisse de la céramique et du verre / Canton de Geneve (geneve-int.ch)
p 67, 77	— UN / Canton of Geneva
p 79	— Geneva Airport / Sandro Fehr / Werk Bauen + Wohnen
p 81	— CERN / Canton of Geneva / Joelle Kuntz
p 85	— Amsler, Christine ; Bovay, Isabelle ; Thomaïdes, Miltos. Jardin, Jardins : 3 Siècles d'Histoire des Jardins à Genève. Infolio, Gollion, 2008.
	— Graf, Franz (Dir.), Addor architecte. MétisPresses, Genève, 2015
	— Jakob, Michael ; Audéoud, William, Walter Brugger, architecte paysagiste. Infolio, Gollion, 2005
p 87	— WHO / Joelle Kuntz / Canton of Geneva / FT

**GIS Data and maps**

- <https://ge.ch/sitg/>
- <https://geovite.ethz.ch>
- <https://map.geo.admin.ch>
- <http://www.geoportail.gouv.fr>
- <https://www.grand-geneve.org>
- <https://www.ge.ch/dossier/geneve-2050>
- <https://www.openstreetmap.org>

**Statistics**

- <https://www.ge.ch/statistique>
- <https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home.html>





