

A Four-pages Saga. An Attempt at Graphical Analysis of the Transformation of les Halles in the Late 20th Century, with Some Implications.

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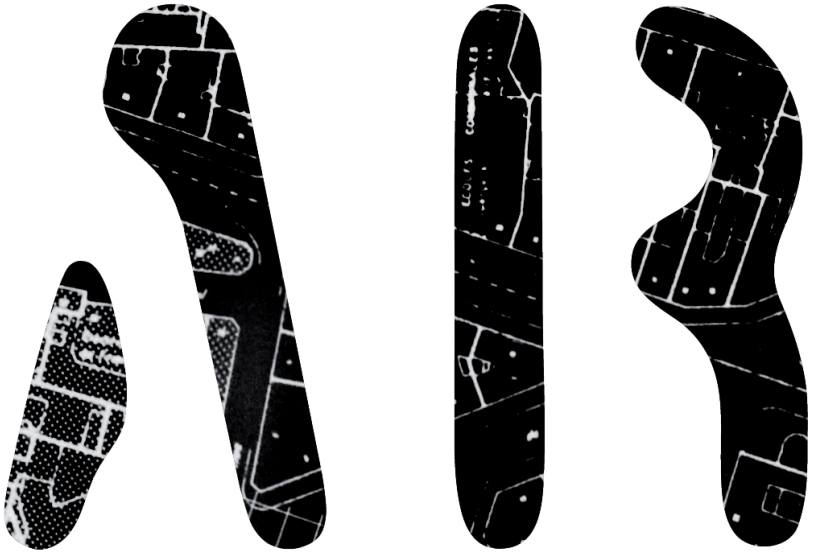
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# A Four-pages Saga

## An Attempt at Graphical Analysis of the Transformation of les Halles in the Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century, with Some Implications

**Daniele Campobenedetto**

Is it possible to represent exhaustively the design scales (Revel, 2006) of a thirty-years long urban transformation in just one scheme? Is it possible to consider such a thick description (Geertz, 1973) as autonomous and analytically useful?

The following scheme is an attempt to explore the answers at these questions through an overview of the Paris's les Halles saga during the Seventies and the Eighties, as a result of a three-year research

Even if the scheme may appear obscure to those who are not familiar with the les Halles saga it is meant to give an idea of the path traced by documents and material effects among different social entities, as policies, projects, conflicts and physical transformations. The arrows show the cause-effect relationship between events and mirror the continuous redefinition of strategic decisions, and the superposition of material effects. Almost every event has effects, which can shape the physical space (through building sites), the socio-technical space (through projects) and the social space (through negotiations and policies).

Exploring this path, is at least possible to highlight two elements:

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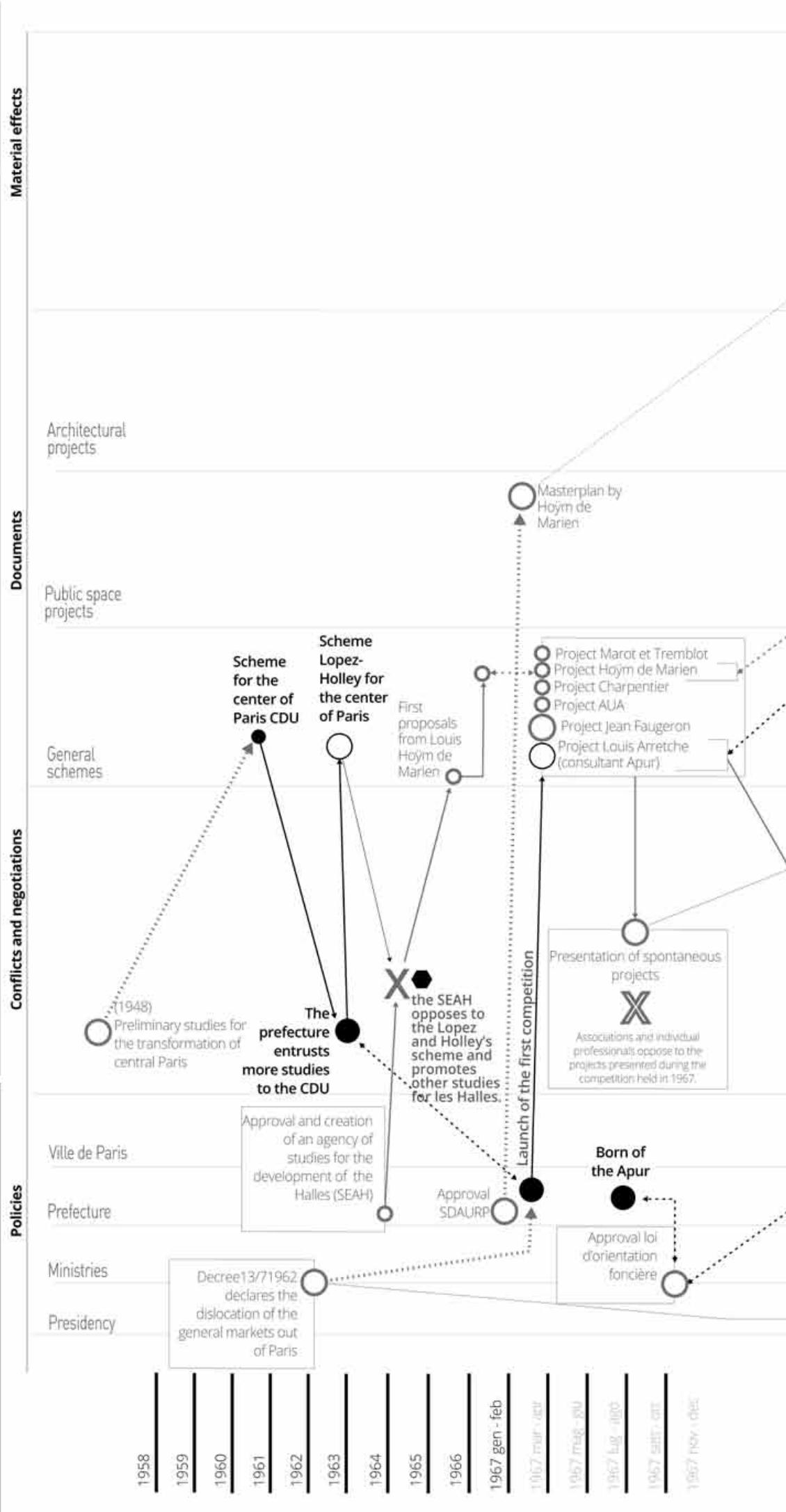
Legend

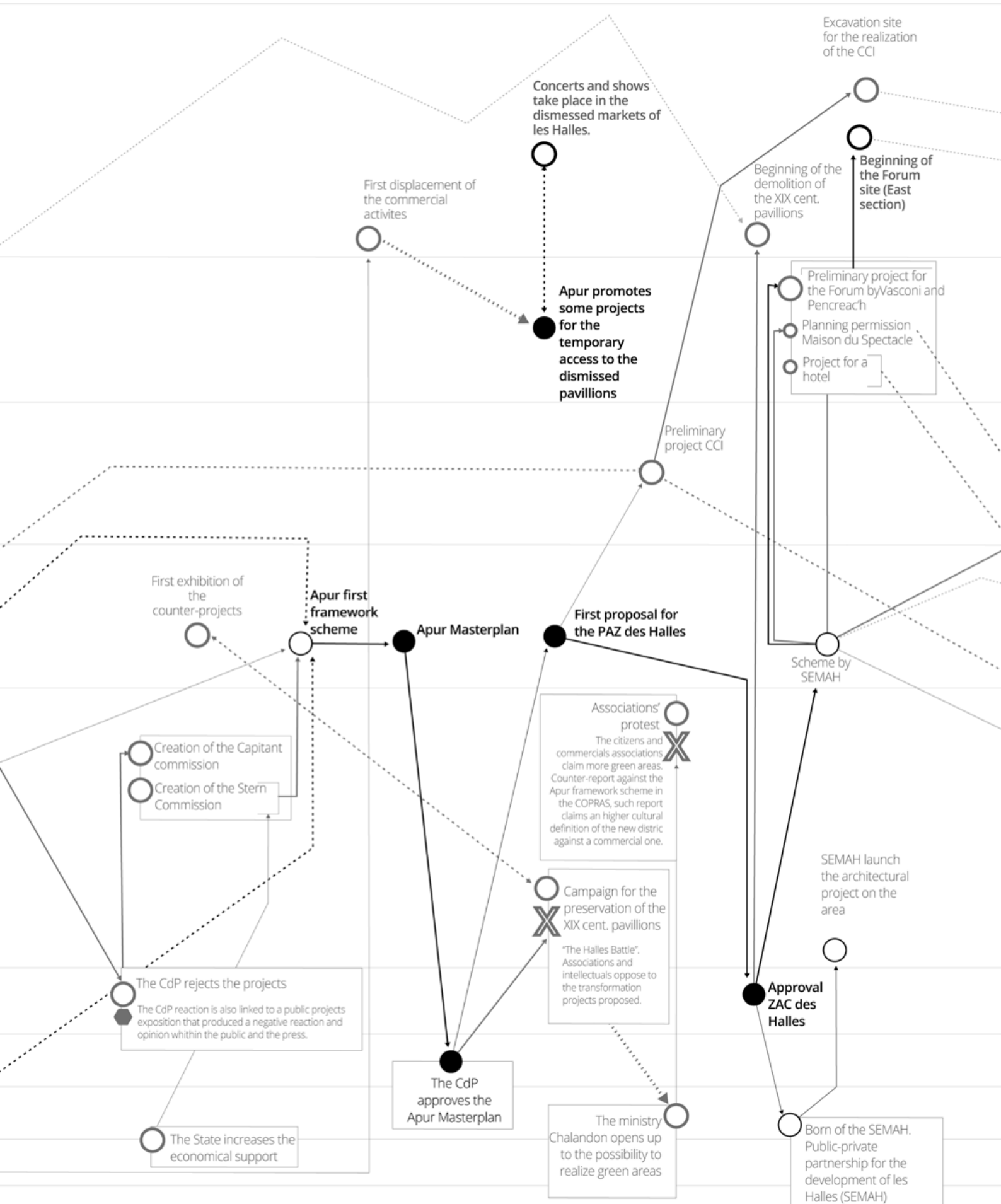
- Event/action of primary importance (referred to the process) in a casual chain
- Event/action of secondary importance (referred to the process) in a casual chain
- X Controversy generated within a formal context of Governance
- X Controversy generated informally and unpredicted
- Interruption of a process
- ↑ Direct cause and effect relationship of primary importance
- ↑ Direct cause and effect relationship of secondary importance
- ⋯ Indirect cause and effect relationship
- ⋯ Implication between events / actions which influences the process with no cause and effect relationship.
- ⋯ Casual chain without details

- First proposals ...
- Event/action of the process
- Scheme for the...
- Event/action related to the Apur process
- Relationship related to the Apur
- Event/action in which Apur plays a direct role
- Event/action in which Apur plays an indirect role
- Associations and individual professionals oppose...
- Description

Abbreviations

- Apur: Atelier Parisien d'Urbanisme
- CCI: Centre de Commerce international
- CdP: Conseil de Paris
- COPRAS: Comité Parisien de Recherche et d'Action Sociale
- CDU: Centre de Documentation et d'Urbanisme
- PAZ: Plan d'Aménagement de Zone
- SDAURP: Schéma Directeur d'aménagement d'Urbanisme de la Région de Paris
- SEAH: Société civile d'Etudes pour l'Aménagement des Halles de Paris
- SEMAH: Société d'Economie Mixte pour l'Aménagement des Halles
- ZAC: Zone d'Aménagement Concerté





1968 gen - feb

1968 mar - apr

1968 mag - giu

1968 lug - ago

1968 sett - ott

1968 nov - dec

1969 gen - feb

1969 mar - apr

1969 mag - giu

1969 lug - ago

1969 sett - ott

1969 nov - dec

1970 gen - feb

1970 mar - apr

1970 mag - giu

1970 lug - ago

1970 sett - ott

1970 nov - dec

1971

1972

1973

1974 gen

1974 feb

Creation of the Capitant commission  
Creation of the Stern Commission

The CdP rejects the projects  
The CdP reaction is also linked to a public projects exposition that produced a negative reaction and opinion within the public and the press.

The State increases the economical support

Apur first framework scheme

Apur Masterplan

The CdP approves the Apur Masterplan

Associations' protest  
The citizens and commercials associations claim more green areas. Counter-report against the Apur framework scheme in the COPRAS, such report claims a higher cultural definition of the new district against a commercial one.

Campaign for the preservation of the XIX cent. pavillions  
"The Halles Battle". Associations and intellectuals oppose to the transformation projects proposed.

The ministry Chalandon opens up to the possibility to realize green areas

First proposal for the PAZ des Halles

Approval ZAC des Halles

Born of the SEMAH. Public-private partnership for the development of les Halles (SEMAH)

Scheme by SEMAH

SEMAH launch the architectural project on the area

Preliminary project CCI

Preliminary project for the Forum by Vasconi and Pencreach  
Planning permission Maison du Spectacle  
Project for a hotel

Beginning of the demolition of the XIX cent. pavillions

Beginning of the Forum site (East section)

Excavation site for the realization of the CCI

Concerts and shows take place in the dismissed markets of les Halles.

First displacement of the commercial activities

Apur promotes some projects for the temporary access to the dismissed pavillions

Material effects

The Forum project is modified according to the variations of the proposals for the building in rue Lescot

Documents

Preliminary project of the garden y Russel Page and Bernard de la Tour d'Auvergne

Conflicts and negotiations

Administrative Court nullify the CCI project  
The cancellation was possible for a procedural defect, thanks to the lawsuit filed by the associations. The ministry will not renovate the permissions to modify the project.

Policies

The President of the Republic intervene in consultation process regarding les Halles

- Bofill Project
- Aillaud Project
- Vasconi-Pencreach Project
- Provost-Simon Project
- Other project from the consultation

Project Russel Page e Bernard de la Tour d'Auvergne

Bofill-Vasconi-Provost

ARC-Apur

Masterplan coordinated by Aillaud

Masterplan Collège des Architectes

PAZ June 1974

Project Apur

PAZ generated from the Bofill project

Professionals and institutions intervene with autonomous projects

Creation of a commission Ville-État  
The commission choses the projects Bofill, Vasconi e Pencreach, Provost, Russel Page and Bernard de la Tour d'Auvergne

PAZ integrates the remaining projects

PAZ may 1975

Negotiation between state and municipality to select an architect as coordinator of the PAZ: Emile Aillaud

Expulsion of Aillaud and designation of Henry Berbard and Marc Saitet as architect coordinators.

The CdP approves the PAZ

The CdP excludes the ARC-Apur project

II CdP rejects the project

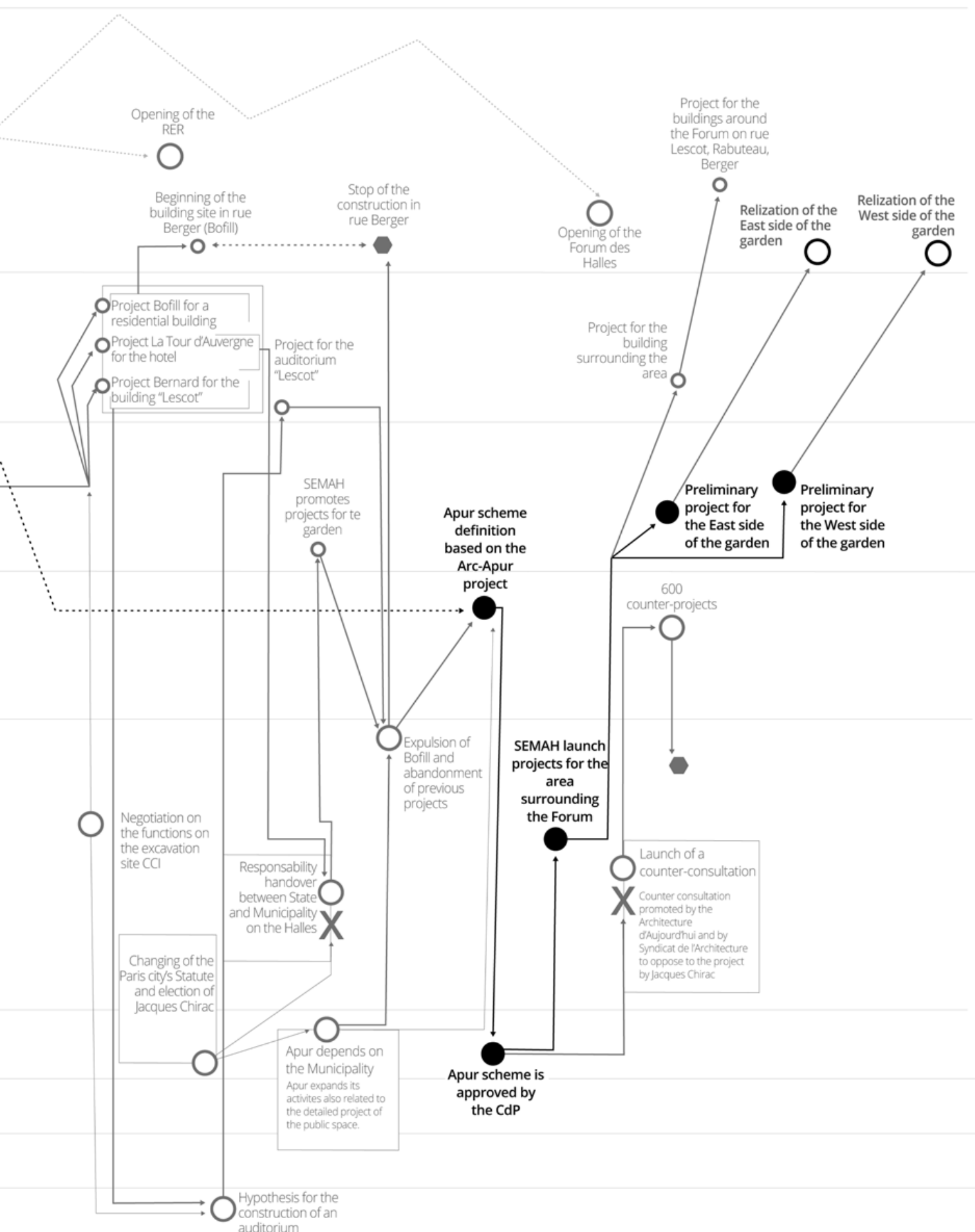
The prefect requires the approval of the PAZ generated from the Bofill Project

The other projects presented in the consultation Guy are abandoned

Lauch of the consultation Michel Guy: 9 projects presented

The President of the Republic Interjects





- 1976 lug - ago
- 1976 sett - ott
- 1976 nov - dec
- 1977
- 1978 gen - feb
- 1978 mar - apr
- 1978 mag - giu
- 1978 lug - ago
- 1978 sett - ott
- 1978 nov - dec
- 1979 gen - feb
- 1979 mar - apr
- 1979 mag - giu
- 1979 lug - ago
- 1979 sett - ott
- 1979 nov - dec
- 1980
- 1981
- 1982
- 1983
- 1984
- 1985
- 1986
- 1987
- 1988
- 1989



One is that les Halles saga is an over-stratified process, in which different urban paradigms overlap and superpose themselves going up and down between policies and material effects.

Another is the role of intermediate entities, as public bureaucracies (Myses 1944) – namely The Atelier Parisien d'Urbanisme (APUR) – which appears to be the translator of policies in plans and projects, through conflicts and negotiations.

The question if such a tool can be used not just to build up a rough “urban history” (Roncayolo 1976), but rather to picture an ongoing project, remains an open issue: the same energy which is more conventionally spent to communicate a design could, perhaps, be redeployed to design a process.

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