

# Ecological and socially inclusive micro-farm

On the Ile de Nantes, Les 5 Ponts is a real estate project born from thinking about giving the homeless a place to stay. In addition to a socially inclusive restaurant, social housing units and a shelter, it has a micro-farm on the roof where oyster mushrooms and germinated seeds are grown to combine urban agriculture with job integration.

### MULTIPLE BENEFITS

On the Ile de Nantes, the 5 Ponts urban micro-farm multiplies its benefits: a natural area in the city, local agriculture, educational walks, return to the workplace training workshop, training space, place for chatting and sharing. It is all this all the time and at the same time. The 5 Ponts recreational, educational and socially inclusive farm produces micro-shoots for local restaurateurs, kitchen garden plants for city dwellers, and offers gardening workshops for the young and old. The diversity of audiences is added to the diversity of uses.

Distinguishing feature: agricultural production is associated with a return to the workplace component. The micro-farm, in fact, plays an integrating role in the 5 Ponts urban project, bringing together on one site a place of welcome and life for homeless people, an accommodation centre, a socially inclusive restaurant, an Emmaüs shop, offices for companies in the social and social inclusion economy, social housing units...

# KEY DATA

- > Two 700 M<sup>2</sup> greenhouses on the roof
- > 3,000 M<sup>2</sup> of growing space at ground level
- > 80 daytime places and 30 night-time places
- > 40 accommodation units
- > 72 collective housing units in rental or accession social housing
- > 504 M<sup>2</sup> of retail premises
- > 716 M<sup>2</sup> of offices
- > €159,350 of support from the City of Tomorrow Investment for the Future Program

### AN URBAN AND HUMAN ECOSYSTEM

This urban project is located on the île de Nantes, at the Les Marchandises triangle site near the future university teaching hospital, has 7,800 m<sup>2</sup> of space in total, and will be completed at the end of 2020 (see artist's impression above). Project management is provided by Nantes agency Tetrarc on behalf of Samoa, the Client Developer. The program is a real urban and human ecosystem. The urban farm on the île de Nantes is not just an ecological transition tool, but also a social inclusion tool bringing the poorest, the most fragile to the world of work and socialisation. The Les Eaux Vives association, which fights for the inclusion of the most disadvantaged, and Emmaüs 44 have jointly shouldered this  $\in$ 8.5 million project since 2009, and it is also supported



by the City of Nantes, Nantes Métropole and the European Union, which contributed €5 million within the framework of their "Innovative Urban Action" fund. It also benefited from €159,350 of support from the City of Tomorrow Investment for the Future Program.

## AN APPROACH WHICH IS BECOMING WIDESPREAD

In March 2018, as part of a call for applications, a jury made up of representatives from Samoa, Samo, Nantes Métropole, the City of Nantes and Les Eaux Vives chose to entrust the 5 Ponts urban farm to Antoine Devins, agricultural engineer, with the support of the La Sauge association. Whilst delivery of the 5 Ponts property complex is scheduled for the end of 2020, the association and the agronomist tested their concept on the former site of the Nantes Market of national interest by opening a 3,500 m<sup>2</sup>

# KEY FIGURES

- D pesticide / All products comply with organic farming specifications
- > 15 tonnes of micro-greens per year (i.e. 36 kg/m²/year)
- > 5 tonnes of vegetables per year
- > 15,000 kitchen garden plants per year
- > Hiring of 10 people on a return to work basis and 10 people under conventional contracts
- > 40,000 visitors per year to the educational spaces, of which 12,000 are children

# DIRECT

There is a twofold aim both placing food at the heart of the city and supporting the social project with people returning to the workplace. Right from the get-go the Nantes Saint-Nazaire EcoCity has the social inclusion of residents at all levels and over all the projects in its DNA. The wish of the metropolitan hub is to be able to develop agriculture across all parts of the metropolis, on all the roofs, to be able to bring to the whole population organic vegetables and fruit by the quickest possible routes."

**Stéphane Bois,** General Director of the Nantes Saint-Nazaire metropolitan hub

of productive, socially inclusive and recreational urban farm in the Agronaute, a forerunner of the 5 Ponts, in September 2019. Family activities, gardening lessons, disco & soup evenings and already back to the professional world training workshops have come one after the other with success. Even before its opening, the urban micro-farm on the île de Nantes is already starting to spread...

## A NEIGHBOURHOOD THAT IS MORPHING

Finally, this flagship project is also the first operation of a future neighbourhood, the République district of the île de Nantes, placed under the social mix and "living together" brand since the neighbouring 5 Ponts building will house more than 9,000 m<sup>2</sup> of Le Crous student accommodation and conventional living spaces. The 5 Ponts farm is also the embodiment of a sustainable urban project for the île de Nantes and mainland France.





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