

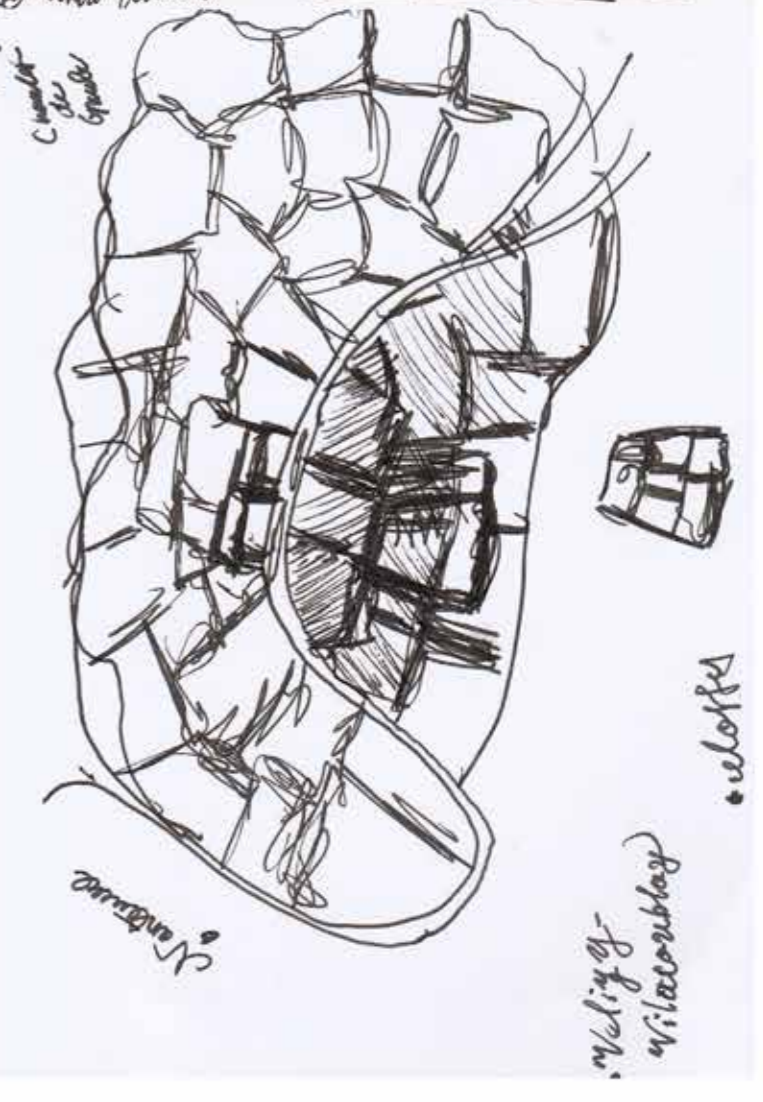
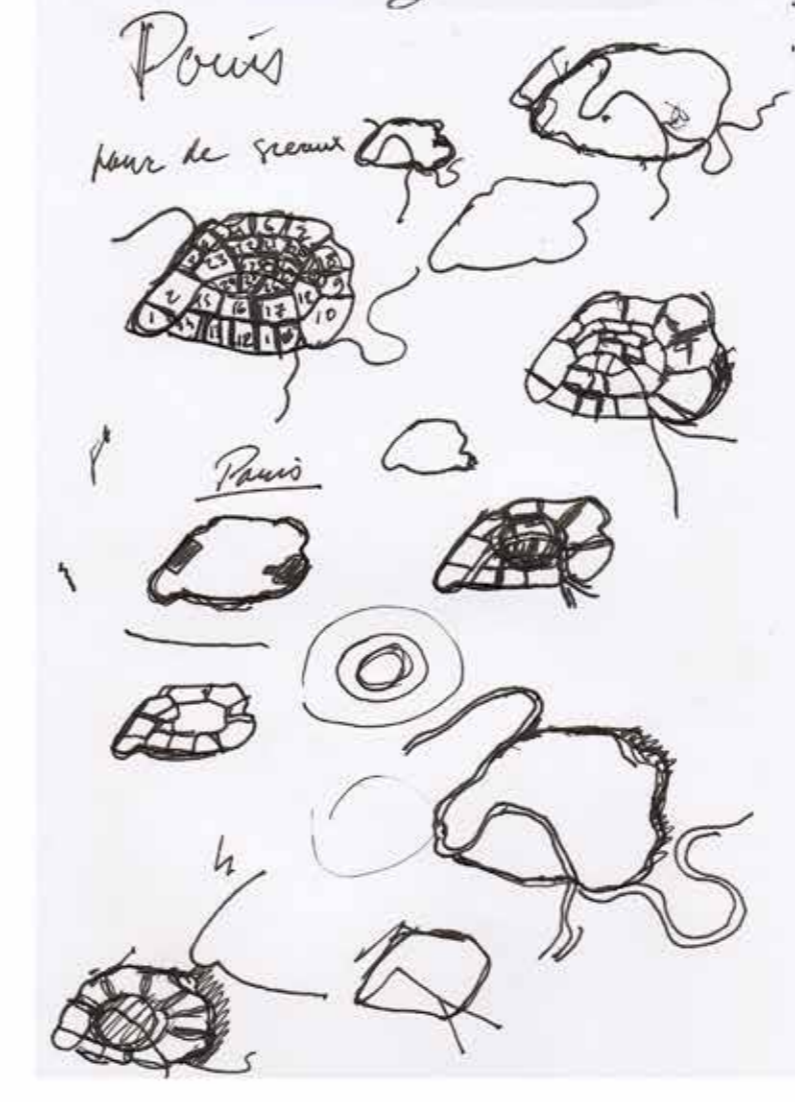
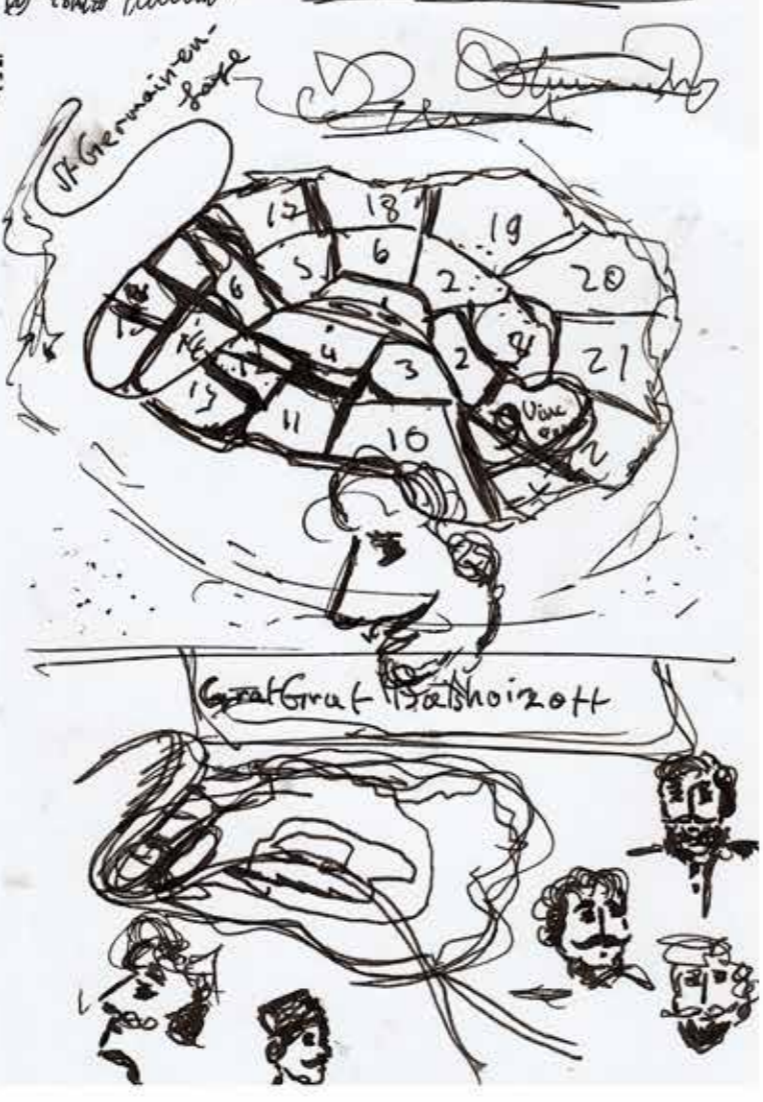
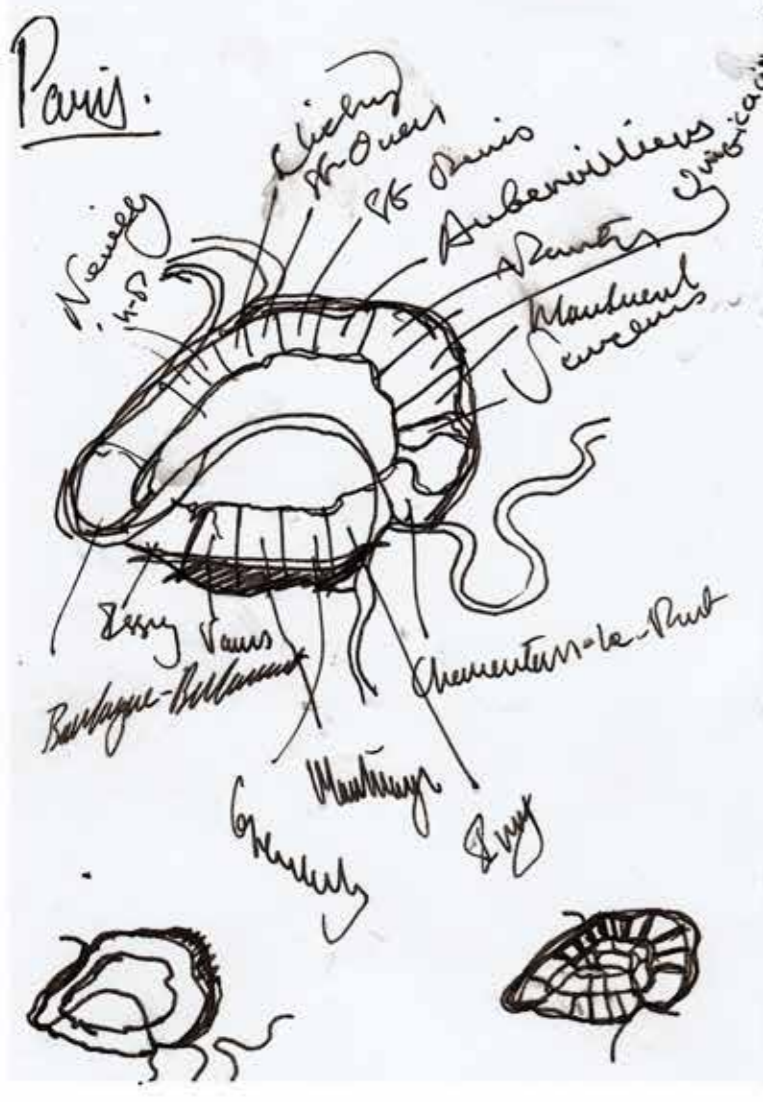
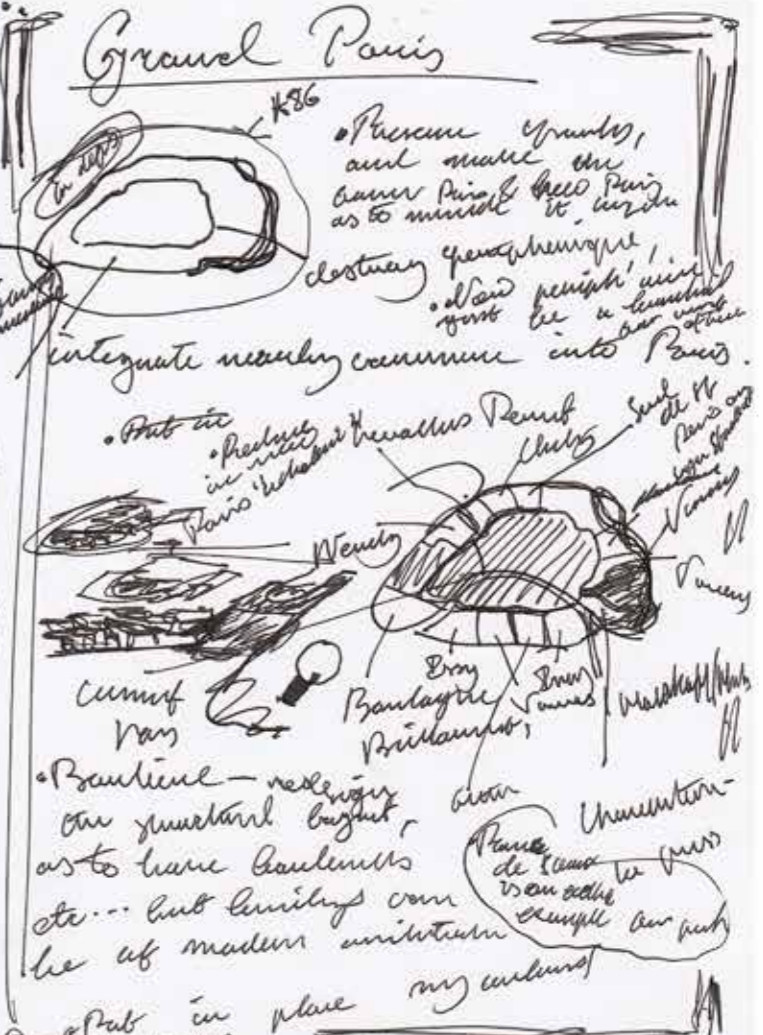
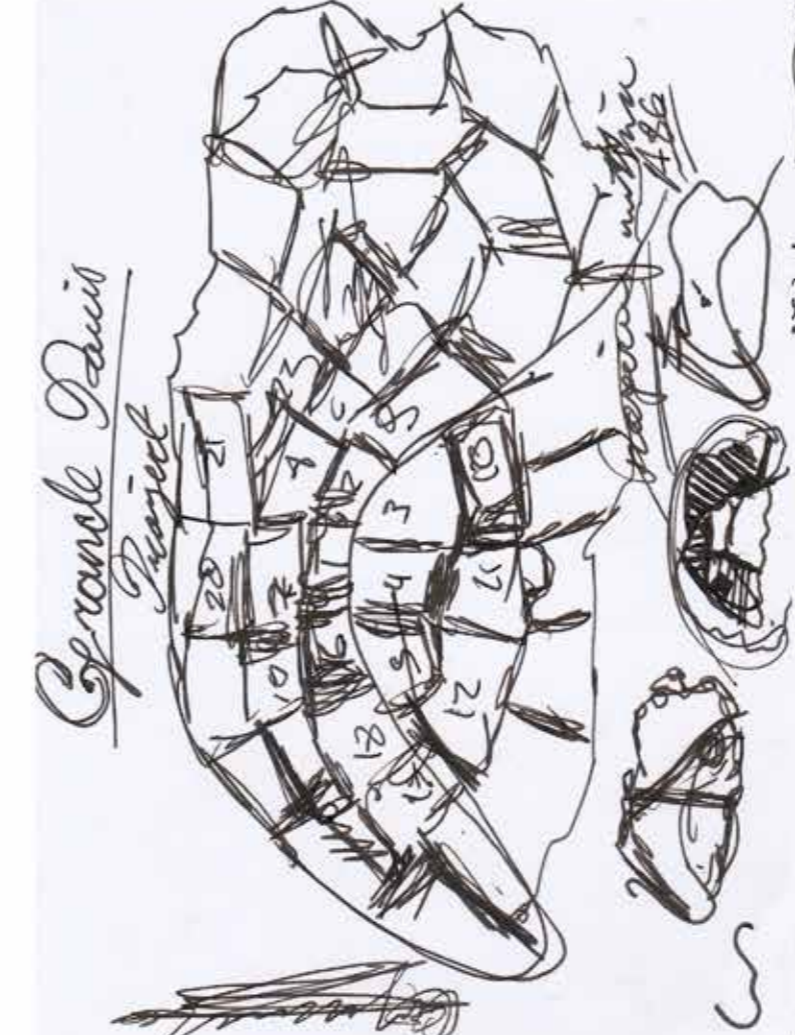
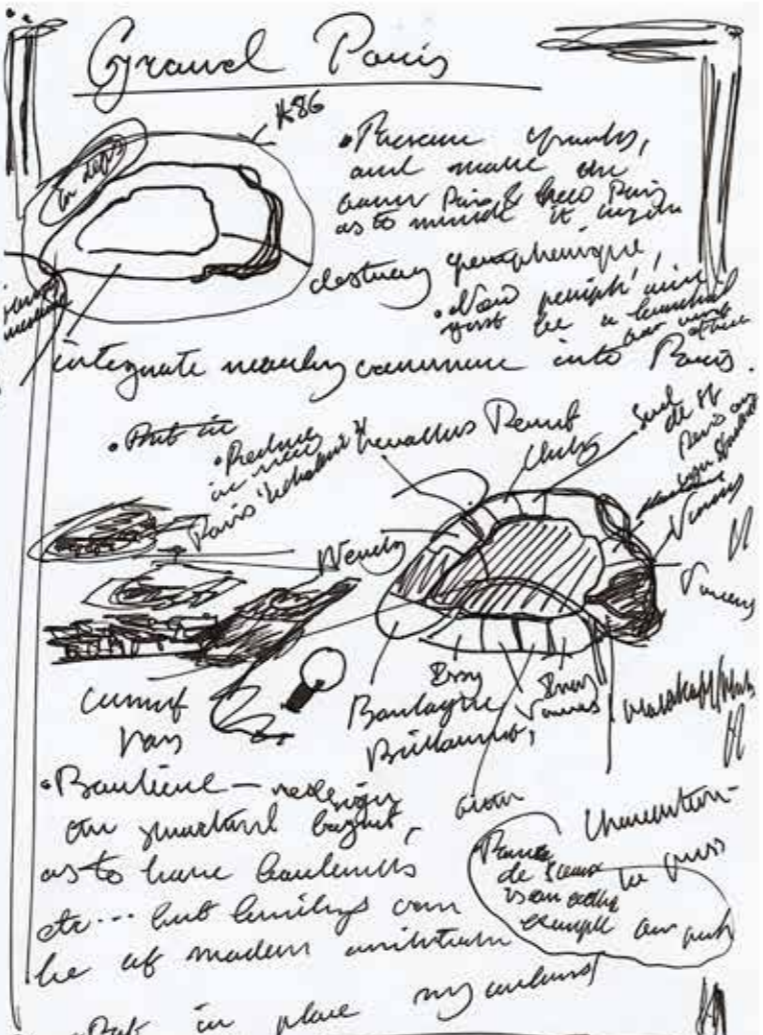
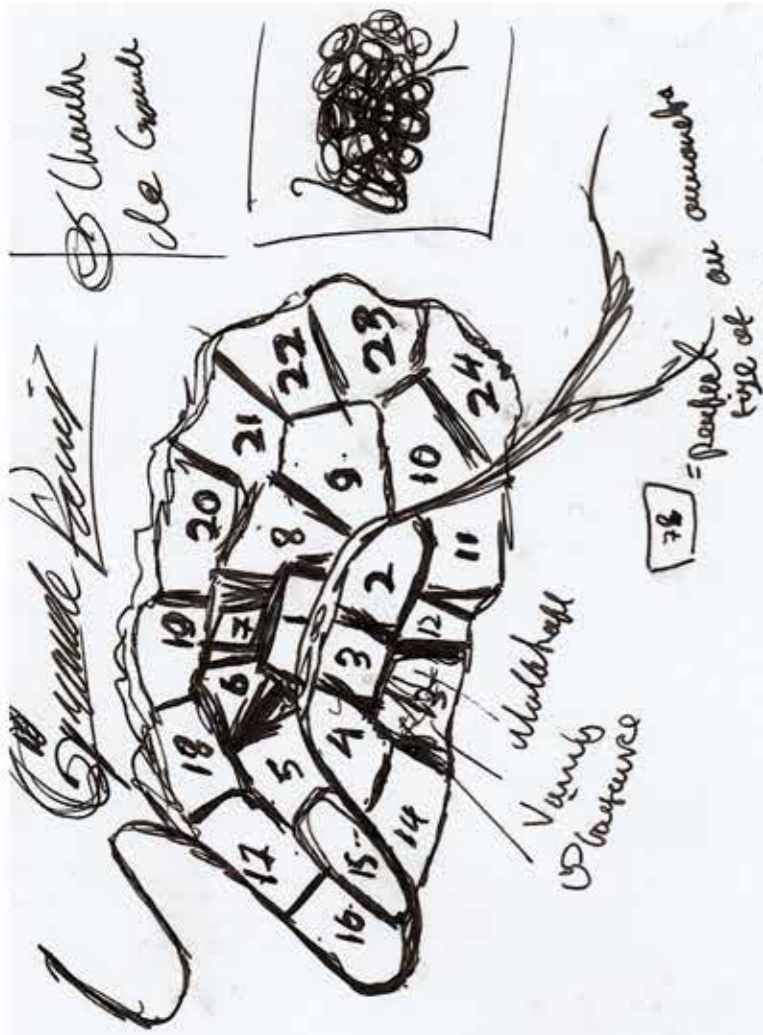


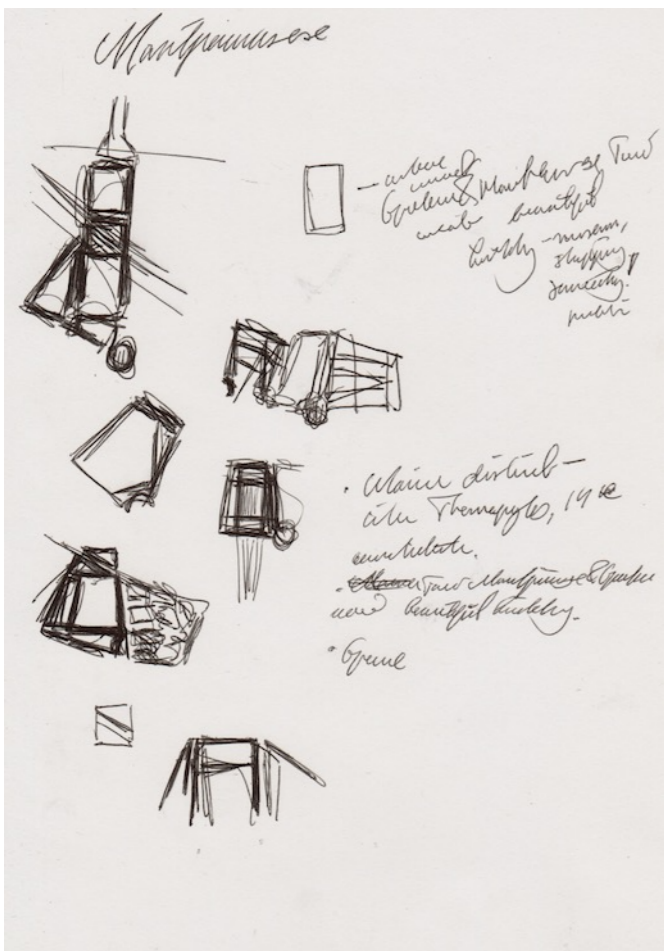
AN URBAN PLANNING PROJECT

Grand Paris

Paris has been the home of my childhood. Henceforth why I have always had plans of ameliorating Paris, from the tiniest little detail to the largest one. One of my plans was to stop the chaotic urbanism found in Paris and its environs. I want to reduce the large land taken up by low-densified regions of just suburb houses and cul-de-sac. The forests outside the city have shrunk due to constant urban expansion and a political reluctance to densify the center. For me this is one of the greatest architectural catastrophes in 21st century Paris, after the construction of the Tour Montparnasse.

This is why my idea is to free up the land and give way to the forest, parks, and countryside, while the nearby villages, which at the moment are surrounded by urban sprawl, will be freed up again and independent from the city.





AN URBAN PLANNING PROJECT

Tour Montparnasse

Having lived in Paris, I have walked around Montparnasse my home district in Paris and the Quartier Luxembourg numerous times, and had always had my view spoilt by the Tour Montparnasse, for amongst the medieval streets all picturesque here it popped out like some black dagger in the heart of the french Capital. It is a pity to think that before was a beautiful train station in the middle of an urban-densed artists neighbourhood flourishing with art studios and life – now nearly all the small cafes and one-hall cinemas have disappeared and 250 art studios have been destroyed – not to forget many small shops, with Algerians and Portugese bars, and loads of Breton. The place was simply overcrowded with artists, film makers, sculptors, fashion designers, painters, models, writers, poets – in the latter half of the twentieth century the french president George Pompidou decided to modernise the french capital because he saw that Manhattan had more skyscrapers than Paris.

Hence, he destroyed the historical market Les Halles in the medieval center with many small business to replace with a ghastly-looking retromodern shopping centre. He built the Centre Pompidou, nearly had the riverbank filled with highways though succeeded in having the 150 years old picturesque of Montparnasse completely wiped out to have purple skyscraper completely inhumane to its surroundings. The new skyscraper had also meant that the old station had been moved and because of the tower a lot of of the neighbouring district was destroyed to have large car-filled roads with modern hotels with simply no life, no people, no shops. My plan is to destroy the Tour Montparnasse, to build a new train station in the neoclassical style, and overall rebuilding the lost neighbourhood fit to its environment, for the Tour Montparnasse has after all destroyed all the small bistros, cafes and brasserie, not to forget completely wiping away that Bohemian, irregular, casual ambiance of many flaneur and lounging about to replace with this Robotic, atrocious, stressed atmosphere to have its inhabitants now always hurried, never relaxed, always passing by slaves to their jobs. It had been the atmosphere of joie de vivre and insouciance in the neighbourhood, with small provincial houses and small shops, irregular streets and cosmopolitan society that had attracted so many artists worldwide, ranging from Pablo Picasso, Soutine, Modigliani, Zadkine, Emile Zola, Balzac, Chateaubriand, noo name but a few.

The idea I have is to swipe away the tower, rebuild the train station to a less intimidating style in a neoclassical manner similar to Gare St Lazare of Gare du Nord and rebuild with the similar parisian vernacular and classical architecture in the surrounding neighbourhood to replace the tyrannic oppression one feels as they sense the tower watching, overshadowing them to put back some life, bring back the small shops, bistros, brasseries and to make a neighbourhood good enough to have artists to come back and reinstall themselves, with a more debonair air wafting about the place.

