2016, ISOCARP AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

CANAL PLAN BRUSSELS
an innovative transdisciplinary planning tool
for the Brussels-Capital Region
A STRATEGIC AREA FOR BRUSSELS

key figures:
- 14km long
- 15% of the regional territory
- 17% of the regional population
- fast growing young & multicultural population
CITY WE HAD
the cradle of the city

Source: Carte de J. van Deventer - 1550-1565 – Cartographie: Christian Dessouroux/ADI

industrial axis of Brussels
CITY WE NEEDED?

large-scale: monofunctional zones
• creation of CBD
• focus on offices
• port and urban industries

local level: neighborhood regeneration
• housing
• public amenities
• green and public spaces
• socio-economic development
CITY WE HAVE

diversity of landscapes, functions, neighborhoods

diversity of population
CITY WE NEED

a **mixed, productive** and **open** Canal Area:

- develop economic activity bringing workplaces and homes closer to each other
- create housing meeting population’s needs and suiting all household profiles
- create pleasant and unifying public spaces, and promoting the canal crossings
- create the conditions for a city opened to a strong diversity of functions, populations and landscapes
10 YEARS TO GENERATE A DESIRABLE FUTURE

**Canal Plan**: a coherent and global vision for the whole Canal Area

main principles developed by Alexandre Chemetoff (2012-2015)
- functional diversity
- densification
- focus on public space

“**Regional Estate**”
- Canal Area: 2.509 ha
- Regional estate:
  313 ha of public owned land
10 YEARS TO GENERATE A DESIRABLE FUTURE

implementation: sustainability, innovation and flexibility (2015-2025)

• sustainability in time: 10 years

• innovative governance
  • regional chief architect as the “promotor” of the overall vision
  • transversal project team gathering different public bodies:
    project leaders (3 persons) responsible for the operational implementation
    urban permits team (2 persons) assessing and delivering all permits
    research by design team (3 persons) converts Canal Plan’s ambitions
      into design proposals

• flexibility to respond to ongoing projects: research by design
A DAILY CHALLENGE

Citroën building
CONCLUSIONS

Tailor-made governance
- encourage a culture of transversality and collaboration
- build trust between actors and adherence to Canal Plan’s principles
- deliver projects
- achieve urban quality

Flexibility:
- more processes less procedure
- learning by doing/research by design

Canal Area: laboratory for management of urban complexity and future challenges

Brussels Planning Agency
Ann de Cannière
Deputy Director
www.canal.brussels