

## Scientific Committee

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Qualité Urbaine, Environnement et Développement Durable (QUEDD) Team

## STUDY DAY

# Emblematic Projects

Between metropolitan ambitions and  
environmental challenges

APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup>, 2024

🕒 09:00AM 📍 KACI MAHROUR AUDITORIUM



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# SYNOPSIS

The evolution of contemporary cities is often marked by a constant quest for balance between urban development and environmental preservation. The emblematic projects that emerge in this context embody both metropolitan ambitions and environmental challenges that define the future of urban agglomerations. These projects, often large-scale, are generally intended to become urban icons (Guinand, 2015), symbols of the vitality and modernity of their city. They can take the form of waterfront development projects, new cities, iconic skyscrapers, residential complexes, ultra-modern facilities, innovative university hubs, or extensive transport infrastructures. While their primary objective is to enhance the city's reputation and influence nationally and internationally to stimulate economic growth (Bourdeau-Lepage & Huriot, 2005), they must also be part of a sustainable development perspective.

Throughout their lifecycle, emblematic projects have environmental consequences. Large-scale construction sites often generate greenhouse gas emissions, increased resource consumption, and partial or total destruction of fauna and flora. The construction of large buildings can impact energy consumption and waste management, increase the risk of agricultural land reduction, and ecosystem fragmentation. Similarly, mass transport infrastructures can impact local mobility, noise pollution, and consequently the quality of life of residents. The realization of these unique projects, often following partial approaches, contributes to reinforcing social and spatial segregations by marginalizing certain neighborhoods to the detriment of an ecological, inclusive, and supportive city.

Ranked 74th (out of 700) in the world's largest cities in terms of population (PopulationData.net, 2023), Algiers represents the country's primary non-oil economic activity hub, concentrating command functions (government, headquarters of large companies, etc.). Its strategic importance justifies a level of equipment superior to that of other national agglomerations, leading to the planning of a series of emblematic projects of various kinds. Among these are the development of the Bay of Algiers, the deployment of metro lines, Djamaâ El Djazaïr, the project for the new parliament building, as well as the various corporate headquarters in the Bab Ezzouar business district, some of which are under construction and others already completed. While this dynamic of projects and the funding allocated to it demonstrate a desire to renew Algiers' image, today metropolitan ambitions can no longer ignore the pressing environmental issues that jeopardize the ecological balance of our planet (J. Rodney Turner, 2018). These projects, due to their uniqueness and characteristics, deserve to be elevated to the status of conceptual and constructive models, in order to proactively address the challenges posed by climate change. They could thus serve as innovation laboratories, exploring novel architectural and urban solutions for a more ecological city, as suggested by T. Batten and G. Karlsson (2016).

In the context of a study and exchange day open to teachers, researchers, professionals, and students, the Urban Quality, Environment, and Sustainable Development Team (QUEDD) of the City, Urban Planning, and Sustainable Development Laboratory (VUDD) of the Polytechnic School of Architecture and Urbanism (EPAU) proposes to initiate a debate on the issue of emblematic projects in the national context, based on projects completed or underway within the Algiers metropolitan area. This day represents an opportunity to discuss initiatives that comply with international environmental standards. The construction of buildings meeting High Environmental Quality (HQE) criteria, smart urban space planning, the use of new technologies, and compliance with environmental standards and labels illustrate approaches that reconcile the overall objectives of metropolitan development with the imperatives related to environmental protection.

# PROGRAM OF THE DAY

09:00 AM	<b>Welcome address speech</b> <i>Pr Kahina DJIAR, Director of EPAU.</i> <i>Dr Mohamed BAKOUR, Director of VUDD, EPAU.</i>
09:20 AM	<b>Emblematic Projects: Reconciling Ambitions and Environmental Responsibility</b> <i>Dr Ouafida BOUALLAG- AZOUI, architect, teacher-researcher, EPAU.</i>
09:30 AM	<b>The environmental measures of one of Algeria's largest emblematic projects, Djamaâ El-Djazaïr</b> <i>Mrs. Marwa BELGHIT, architect, Project Manager, Etablissement de gestion de Djamaâ El Djazaïr.</i> <i>Mr. Mahfoud ALLOUCHE, architect, Department Head, Etablissement de gestion de Djamaâ El Djazaïr.</i>
09:50 AM	<b>An urban oasis near Djamaâ El Djazaïr for a harmonious transition between worship and leisure</b> <i>Mrs. Amel SBIA, architect, Technical Director, CNERU.</i> <i>Mrs. Lamia TLIDJENE, architect, Department Head, CNERU.</i>
10:10 AM	<b>Visit to the exhibition "Ecological Urban Interventions near structuring facilities". Final year projects, class of 2022-2023</b> <i>Dr. Ouafida BOUALLAG-AZOUI, architect, teacher-researcher, EPAU.</i> <i>Mrs. Isma ABDELATIF, architect, teacher-researcher, EPAU.</i>
	<b>10:35 AM: COFFEE BREAK</b>
11:00 AM	<b>The future headquarters of “Société Générale” Algeria, a symbol of a metropolis's ambition</b> <i>Mr. Brice PIECHACZYK, DPLG architect, co-founder and Partner of “enia ARCHITECTES”, France . Former student of Ecole Polytechnique and civil engineer of Bridges and Roads, teacher at Ecole Polytechnique, France (by videoconference).</i>
11:30 AM	<b>Reassessment of the emblematic and sustainable character of the new city of Boughezoul: some exploratory perspectives</b> <i>Dr. Mohamed HOCINE, architect, teacher-researcher, EPAU.</i> <i>Mrs. Abderrahmane CHAOUICHE, architect, consultant for CNERU.</i>
11:45 AM	<b>Creation of an eco-responsible envelope for the Mercure Hotel in Ain Beniane, a contribution to preserving the quality of urban life</b> <i>Mrs. Lamia Mouni ELBESSEGHI, architect, Project Manager, Nod Construction Système Company</i>
12:00 PM	<b>Study of the “POS Grand Vent”, a real duel between nature and the city</b> <i>Mrs. Amel SBIA, architect, Technical Director, CNERU.</i> <i>Mrs. Lamia TLIDJENE, Department Head, CNERU.</i>
12:15 PM	<b>Environmental management and monitoring of large construction sites: ISO 14001 standard implemented by Cosider Construction for a positive impact</b> <i>Mrs. Sonia CHEBLAL, architect, Project Manager, Cosider Construction.</i>
	<b>12:30 PM: DEBATE</b> with the honorable participation of: <i>Mr. Nassim MOKHTARI, General Director, Etablissement de gestion de Djamaâ El Djazaïr.</i> <i>Mr. Fateh ZEMMOURI, General Director, Etablissement public de la ville nouvelle de Boughezoul</i>
13:30 PM	Closing and distribution of certificates to participants.
14:00 PM	Lunch