

The great diversity of views on the city of the future.

An overview of resources by Jacques Theys, teacher at EHESS and member of the Scientific Council of Positive Future.

The city is one of the best ways of projecting oneself into the future. In fact, it has four 'qualities' for this: it concerns almost all human activities, it is a major economic and technological challenge for the future, it continues to experience strong development in the world, and it is, at the same time, a concrete object that stimulates the imagination and can easily be represented by image.

It is therefore no coincidence that the theme of the city of the future is now everywhere - from college curricula to the declarations of almost all the founders of GAFAS, including filmmakers, science-fiction writers, the media, architects, town planners, public works, energy and digital companies, local authorities, residents, universities, a few futurists, etc. As one example among many others, the Federation of Urban Planning Agencies (FNAU) has just organised its annual conference in 2020 on the theme «Exploring our happy futures».

In spite of this great diversity, the discourse on the cities of the future is nevertheless very much dominated by a very small number of themes: mainly the integration of digital technology ('The smart city') and the ecological transition. The increasing number of consultations with residents at the local level does not really succeed in broadening the visions to other, more social or cultural themes. Above all, these visions do not, or only to a limited extent, take into account the very long-term developments in which the cities of the future will have to develop and the lives of those who live in them.

For example, a world with three degrees more. There is little work on urban foresight in the very long term and, above all, this foresight remains too isolated in its specific field. The following contribution does not, of course, aim to evaluate this great profusion of visions of the future city, but is limited to illustrating the multiplicity of views - each time by giving a few examples or resources available (among many others) ... These views, examples or

resources are grouped into broad categories that cross both types of actors and forms of exploration of the future.

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Utopias and science fiction

- > Dossier *Futuribles sur les Utopies Urbaines* (coordonné by Jean Haentjens), N°416, 2016.
- > Olivier Jonas, *Rêver la ville – Utopies Urbaines, de la cité idéale à la ville numérique*, Centre de Documentation de l'Urbanisme, Ministère de l'Équipement, 2003 (very rich but published in early 2000).
- > J. Haentjens, *Urbatopies, ces villes qui inventent l'urbanisme au XXI^{ème} siècle*, éditions de l'Aube, 2010.
- > Thierry Paquot, *Utopies et utopistes*, collection Repères, seconde édition, 2018 (with a chapter on urban utopias).
- > France Culture, *Série Utopia : architecture et utopies urbaines* (4 themes: La ville féérique- Silicon Valley sur mer - Dessine-moi une prison - Quand l'architecture s'efface), 2019.
- > Uzbek et Rica, *Les villes dans la science-fiction*, 2 articles, 2013.
- > Science Post : les villes du futur imaginées par le cinéma.
- > Catherine Dufour, *Les villes dans la science-fiction : de la ville morte à la ville douce*, on YouTube, 2020.

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Architectural utopias and major futuristic projects

It is part of the work of architects or schools of architecture to propose utopias for future cities, and for public or private leaders to imagine with them large futuristic urban projects - Masdar, The Line, Neom (Saudi Arabia), Chengdu ... Floating or underground cities ... Biomimetic cities ... All this is strongly relayed by the media or social networks, for example YouTube or the media BRUT.

- > View all Callebaut projects, for example: *Demain Paris en 2050* (projet Babylone de smart city végétalisée)
- > *Chengdu, la ville chinoise de science-fiction*, Brut (YouTube)
- > Catalogues of the 2019 Venice Biennale of Architecture: « May you live in

interesting times ».

> Exhibition on *la ville du Futur* at Futuroscope de Poitiers, 2018.

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Competitions and imaginary vision factories - especially in the world of education

Lots of initiatives in secondary schools (6th year classes), but also some aimed at students - grandes écoles, universities or schools of architecture (for example: Challenge on the city of tomorrow or the sustainable city of tomorrow - see Sydeka, the best « student challenges, challenge of the Strasbourg School of Architecture ...).

> CNET « cartographie au collège », La ville de l'avenir sous le crayon des collégiens (very imaginative drawings)

> Work on the 'Urban future studio' of the University of Utrecht - a university structure entirely dedicated to the city of the future. See in particular: Pelzer, Versteeg, *Imagining for change*, *The post fossil city contest*, *Revue Futures*, 2019 et 2050, *an energetic Odyssée*, *Understanding techniques of Futuring*

M. Hajer, Versteeg *Imagining the post fossil city : why is it so difficult to think of new possible worlds ?*

> Sites of structures that develop prospective design practices (Plurality University, Institute of Desirable Futures, etc.).

> Forum *Vie mobile*, *En 2061, que préféreront les jeunes, mobilité physique ou virtuelle ?* Une enquête de 2019.

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Consultation of the inhabitants :

There is a great deal of consultation with the inhabitants on the future city they want, mainly up to 2030 (within the framework of urban plans) and more rarely 2050 - and this for all sizes of city ...

> Ville de Paris, *Comment imaginez-vous Paris en 2030 ?* Consultation launched in 2020.

> *Ma ville demain*, Nantes 2030.

- > Rennes 2030 (dedicated site, with, for example, children's drawings, etc.).
- > Le futur .org, Participatory workshops to invent the city.

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Visions of companies: Think Tanks, Smart city projects...

Nearly all major companies in the public works, energy, automotive, transport and digital sectors have think tanks (laboratories, think tanks) or projects concerning the cities of the future - with a focus on the smart city, the energy and environmental transition of cities.

- > See the websites of the *Fabrique de la cité* (Think tank de Vinci) and « La ville demain » (Bouygues)
- > Proceedings and conclusions of the PUCA Seminar on the smart city (Urban Planning, Construction and Development Research Programme of the Ministry of Ecological Transition).
- > Bouygues, *Demain la ville, La ville du futur désirable et connectée*.
- > Eiffage, Phosphore, *Une vision de la ville de demain*
- > Groupe ARC , *les villes de demain*, series of 5 videos
- > GDF Suez, *Scénarios pour la ville du futur*
- > IBM, *A vision of smart cities*
- > New city projects from Microsoft (Belmont), Google (Sidewalk, Toronto).
- > Visions of the city of the future and projects by Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos (« Amazon city of the future »), Zuckerberg (Facebook)
- > Samsung, *The city in 2116, Future living report*.
- > Toyota project at the foot of Mount Fuji : *Woven City*.

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Vision of town planners or geographers and local prospects

Over the past twenty years at least, there has been a multiplication of normative visions of the future city, the 'sustainable', 'inclusive' and 'intelligent' city, 'creative', 'sober', 'to live', 'short distance', 'coherent', 'slow', 'fertile', 'resilient', 'biomimetic', 'in transition', 'ecological' (Biopolis), 'post or low carbon' ... This has been accompanied by a strong development of foresight exercises at the level of cities, especially in the largest cities ...

- > FNAU, *Explorer nos futurs heureux*, colloque annuel de 2020.
- > Jean Haentjens, *La ville frugale*, FYP éditions, 2011.
- > Gilles Fumey, Thierry Paquot (dir), *Villes voraces et frugales*, CNRS éditions 2020 (11 cases of cities, Rosario, Détroit, Denver, Grande Synthe, Amiens, Lyon ...).
- > *La ville biomimétique*, programme VIBIOM, IMU, Université de Lyon, 2014.
- > Cyria Emelianoff, *Durabilité urbaine, modes de vie et solidarités à long rayon d'action*, in *Ecologies Urbaines* (under the direction of Olivier Coutard and JP Levy), Economica, 2010.
- > Euro Cities, *30 Visions for cities*, 2016 (by 30 different authors).
- > Eric Vidalenc et Jacques Theys (dir), N° spécial de *Futuribles sur les villes post carbone*, N°392, 2013 (with examples: Bristol, Hanovre, Tours) - actualisé updated in the most recent issue of the magazine *Urbanism on low carbon cities* (« Scénarios pour une ville bas carbone, 2020).
- > Local foresight exercises: Montpellier 2050, Paris 2050, Tours 2050, Lyon 2040, 3D Saint Nazaire ..., but also a large number of global cities such as Göteborg (Göteborg 2050), New York (New York's adaptation to climate change by 2050), Tokyo (Tokyo Fibercity – City greening project) ect.
- > Baratier, Beauvais, Métais, *le facteur 4 dans les territoires*, Trajectoires 2020, 2030, 2050 dans l'agglomération de Tours.
- > Frédéric Lefevre et Nathalie Ebahiri, *Programme de prospective urbaine de la fondation 2100*.
- > Rob Hopkins, *Manuel pour les villes en transition*.
- > Cochet, Sinai, Thevard, *La biorégion Ile de France en 2050 : l'Ile de France après l'effondrement*, Forum Vie Mobile et Institut Momentum.

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Prospective 1 : Scenarios

At a non-local level, there is relatively little recent foresight work on cities in general - at least in France. But there is an obvious connection to be made with foresight exercises on other themes - which is not often done ...

- > Government Office of Science, Grande Bretagne, *The future of cities over the next fifty years*, 2013- 2016
- > Eric Vidalenc, Jacques Theys, *Repenser les villes dans la société post carbone*, Ministère de la Transition écologique et ADEME, 2014 / see the 6 scenarios,

including «Biopolis» and «Sober Urbanity».

- > Société Française de Prospective, *La Grande transition*, FYP Editions, 2018 (see, in particular the article by Fabienne Goux Baudiment)
- > Thierry Gaudin (dir) 2100, *Récit du prochain siècle*, Payot, 1992 (one of the few very long-term foresight exercises) .
- > Future IQ, *The next industrial revolution, Towards a new era*, 2018.
- > AGORA 2020 vivre, habiter, se déplacer en 2020, Mission prospective du Ministère du développement durable, 2008.
- > FING, *4 scénarios pour les villes du futur*, 2015.
- > ARUP (a consultancy firm specialising in urban forecasting) – *Future of cities* ...

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Prospective 2: Reports and colloquiums on the prospective of cities.

At the end of the first decade of 2000, several think tanks on urban foresight were set up. They have the disadvantage that they focus more on the medium term and do not take into account the changes which occurred in the second decade ... Their advantage is that they take into account the political and social dimensions of the city - which is not as well done in more recent work ...

- > Commission européenne, *Les villes demain*, rapport du groupe de prospective, DG Régions, 2011.
- > Commission prospective du Senat, *Villes du futur, futur des villes*, rapport au Senat sous la direction de JP Sueur, 2011.
- > Commission prospective du Comité 21 (sous la direction de Bettina Laville), *La ville, nouvel écosystème du XXI ième siècle*, 2012.
- > Groupe Caisse des Dépôts, *prospective de villes – villes 2030 – (outils de prospective pour la prospective urbaine)*
- > Thérèse Spector, J Theys (dir) *Villes du XXI ième siècle*, actes du Colloque International de la Rochelle, 2 tomes, 2000.

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The city of the future in (digital) media

In addition to articles in magazines and journals, the theme of future cities has

been frequently addressed by digital media and platforms, notably by ARTE, France Culture, France Bleue, BRUT, Babylon 2050, UZBEK and RICA ... There are also specialised blogs. We will limit ourselves to a few examples:

- > Les villes du futur, ARTE, 2015 (série), le dessous des cartes
- > La ville du futur sera t'elle durable ? France Culture, émission Planète Terre, 2015.
- > Série de France Culture sur les utopies urbaines.
- > Série du média BRUT sur les villes du futur.
- > Plusieurs articles, plutôt critiques, dans la revue Urbanisme et le site CITEGO .

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