

Strasbourg is known for many things. Innovations, history, European capital, ... In the course of our editorial, we'll look at different aspects of the city to introduce it, and then present three innovative solutions to improve the daily lives of Strasbourg residents. We'll start with a presentation of the city and its history, then talk about the solutions to be implemented, and their context, before concluding.

Strasbourg began life as a Roman military camp, known as "Argentoratum" in 12 BC. It then became a free religious and commercial city between 842 and 1262. The city hosted major projects such as the construction of a cathedral (1015 to 1439). Its history was then marked by numerous wars, as it became German and French. Finally, in 1949, it became the capital of Europe, home to the European Parliament, and was finally listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988, thanks to its historic monuments and districts. Today, Strasbourg is a model French city, combining urban and ecological development projects. Thanks to public transport, bicycle paths, regulation of polluting cars, encouragement of car-sharing, etc., it maintains its image as a strong European city.

The question then is how three ideas can turn Strasbourg into a city of the present, a city of the future.

Looking back on what was said earlier, we realize that Strasbourg is a politically important city (8th largest in France), but also from a European point of view (capital of Europe). Striking this city marks France and Europe, which is why Strasbourg should be a leader in the field of security, to prevent any further acts (like December 11, 2018). I therefore propose equipping Strasbourg with cutting-edge security software, to support all security forces in their work. We could, for example, imagine software such as AIs, capable of reading and analyzing surveillance videos in real time. But these AIs shouldn't be limited to the security domain alone, they could also manage traffic, to keep it flowing smoothly, guide emergency vehicles to save precious seconds, etc. I therefore suggest the use of these AIs to optimize all public facets of the city of Strasbourg (transport, security, etc.). Such a security system would raise ethical and political issues that would need to be studied in advance.

Then, to ensure Strasbourg's future, I'll be launching projects to modernize and renovate university buildings and practices, so that we can continue to create the men and women in Strasbourg who will shape the science of tomorrow. Here, the examples are numerous and delicate. Take, for example, the HUS (Strasbourg University Hospitals). Modernizing and maintaining the faculty is essential, as it is falling into disrepair, despite being one of the best medical schools in France. Redoing some of the buildings, modernizing the interiors of the historic buildings, and pushing the professionals trained there to the forefront of research and innovation, so that tomorrow's treatments can be developed within the walls of these new premises. Of course, it wouldn't just be the Faculty of Medicine that would be concerned: law, mathematics, etc. all these faculties could be modernized, and brought into direct contact with companies in the target field, to train today the great minds of tomorrow. In this way, we can preserve the historical and cultural heritage of Strasbourg's old buildings, while maintaining the latest teaching and practice methods.

Secondly, we must not lose sight of the fact that Strasbourg continues to be an example of a city ahead of its time. To maintain this status, and even boost it, it could take part in a monumental ecological project. Such a project could involve covering the entire roofs of Strasbourg city center with hydroponic crops. Hydroponics, or soilless cultivation, means that plants can be grown high up, without the need for soil, by directly supplying what the plant needs in the form of liquids. These cultures not only purify the air and absorb certain types of pollution, but also produce foodstuffs that could be sold or given to people in need. It also helps to limit food imports from Germany and other regions of France, reducing the CO2 produced by food transport.

In conclusion, with these three ideas, we're preserving Strasbourg's position as a major French and European city in every domain, but we're also going one step even further, making Strasbourg a pioneering city, capable of producing its own food, cleaning up its own air, controlling its own security and making its own traffic flow more easily, while at the same time modernizing its school infrastructure, enabling Strasbourg to go further, even further. Today,

Strasbourg is already a city of the future, but will it still be tomorrow ? Even after tomorrow ? With these proposals, we can affirm that it will be, in the fields of safety and flow management, ecology and education, isn't that the essence of a city ? The essence of Strasbourg ?