

Scand'Halles

343 TREES BUTCHERED FOR NOTHING

The most important objective of the Halles redevelopment project was to upgrade the RER (Paris Rapid Transit System) station. Why, then, completely destroy the garden rather than renovate it? We were told that in the end, there would be fifty additional trees. So why not plant them right away? We were told that the garden space was needed for the construction site. What mayor of a capital city would sacrifice 20,000 square metres of public garden during 4 years to accommodate construction equipment to build a shopping complex? Already, 250 perfectly healthy trees have been savagely butchered. This is unprecedented in Paris!

ABSURD AND HIDEOUS The « Canopée » is a hideous and massive structure, which will clog up the perspectives onto the Saint-Eustache church. Its metal and glass courtyard will be a maintenance nightmare and will close up the open-sky feel of the former Forum des Halles. This roof will let wind and rain in, but not sunshine. Furthermore, the use of this space will be limited because safety regulations require complete accessibility to evacuate the shopping complex, in case of emergency. Nobody at City Hall is able to say what purpose this glass house will serve!

EXORBITANT The announced cost of the Halles redevelopment project is of 1 billion euros, which is equivalent to the annual investment budget of the City of Paris. By comparison, the Millau Viaduc, tallest bridge in the world, cost approximately 400 million euros. The bulk of the 1 billion euros required for the Halles redevelopment project will be paid by taxpayers, because the Unibail-Rodamco group, manager of the shopping complex, has dictated its conditions: it will pay only 163 million euros cash for its purchase, without any competition, of the new commercial surfaces and public ways. It will acquire full ownership of the shopping complex, without having paid anything for the construction.

FALSE AND MISLEADING Since the beginning, a cynical disinformation campaign concerning the current garden has prevailed. This garden was used and appreciated by a great diversity of persons and was NOT dangerous. By contrast, the future layout of the garden is likely to be problematic. The RER and public ways upgrade did NOT require a reconfiguration of the garden. The garden and Canopée project were formally recognized as providing public benefits by the Préfet of Ile-de-France, in spite of the fact that with 10,000 square metres of commercial surface, it clearly serves private interests!

UNENDING Started in 2003, poorly conceived, poorly managed, this project will not be completed before 2016! The work began in 2010 and the centre of Paris, after undergoing 10 years of construction thirty years ago, is penalized again for years. Temporary construction fences have been hired for a duration of ... 7 years!

More information : www.accomplir.asso.fr – +33(0)1 42 21 99 32 - +33(0)6 75 21 80 34

The citizen organization “Accomplir” continues to fight against this ruinously expensive and controversial project. The objections presented by Accomplir were ignored during the “consultation” phase. Accomplir has since filed several complaints against the City of Paris in the administrative tribunal.