**RADICAL CONSERVATION: Marchienne-Au-Pont**

This semester we aim to explore the western periphery of Charleroi, a decaying territory that will be the target of major investments in the years to come (e.g. a brand-new stadium or an industrial allotment developed on recently cleared wastelands). Our starting point is that those “big projects” will not help this place to leave dereliction, and that an approach based on a combination of different scales of actions, types of actors and strategic levers would be more effective to anchor the urban renewal operation in the dynamics of the local, social context.

Moreover, urban renewal should not assume conservation. In a context of drastic reduction of green-house gas emissions, is a systematic conservation of the built heritage the only way to go? Faced to peri-urban territories, known by a complex combination of an old, devalued built stock, low mobility integration, hazardous air and soil pollution, and a vulnerable position next to rivers, we should afford to choose “radically” what to keep and how to keep it.

Gery Leloutre + Nadia Casabella