

# Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec

## Urban Daydreaming

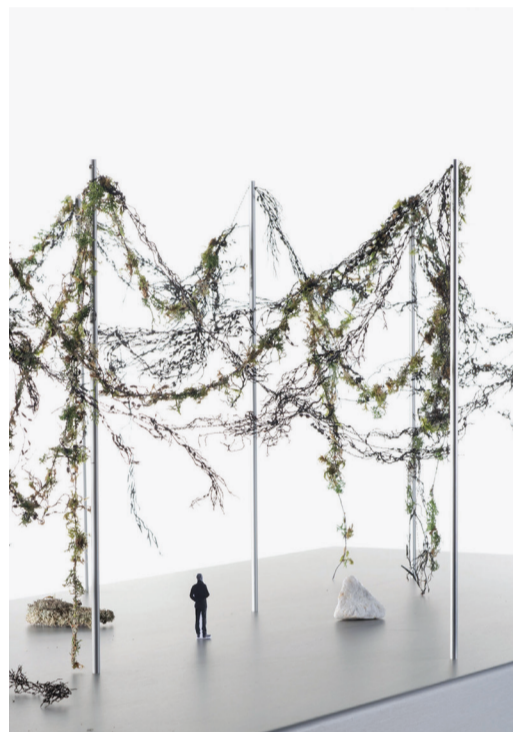
*Urban Daydreaming* is a wide-ranging study of possible development solutions for cities by French design industrial designers Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec, to create a repertoire of new forms imaginable in very different urban situations. Much like a large, open sketchbook, the solutions are presented as a meander through models and films. The immersive staging of this exhibition aims to transport the visitor into different scenarios; each model is like a separate act of an urban play. A significant number of ideas were produced over the course of a year. From this intense research, fourteen proposals were selected and turned into detailed study models. These spontaneously developed projects highlight the need to bring natural forms back into the city: plants, animals, water and fire. The concept behind the majority of these ideas is rooted in the way nature interacts with the city. The scenarios take into consideration urban functions and suggest a new direction in the relationship between buildings, the quality of a pavement, the positioning of a fountain, the planting of a jungle: all these human considerations that would make the city a place of enchantment.

*Urban Daydreaming* is an exhibition by the Vitra Design Museum in cooperation with Les Champs Libres in Rennes.

27.10.2018 – 17.02.2019  
d-mart @ Hong Kong Design Institute

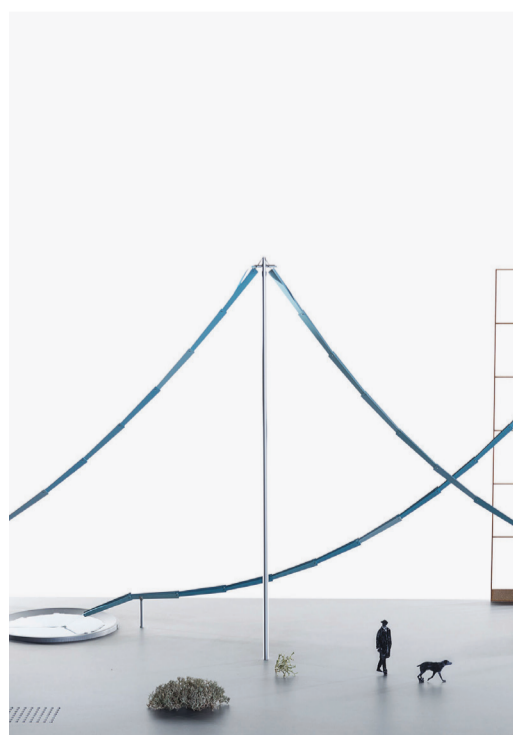
### 1 Vines

Greenery in the city. Pathways allow themselves to be invaded by nature. The idea behind the *Vines* is that of a jungle with long masts, in the image of street lights, with a system of ropes linking them together. There are plants ascending – clematis, ivy or vines – pushing through the earth to spread wildly between the masts and wandering freely along the tangled ropes. The *Vines* recreate the pure immensity of primal forests; we hear the symphonies, the wind, the sounds of insects and birdsong, all of which we find in greenery.



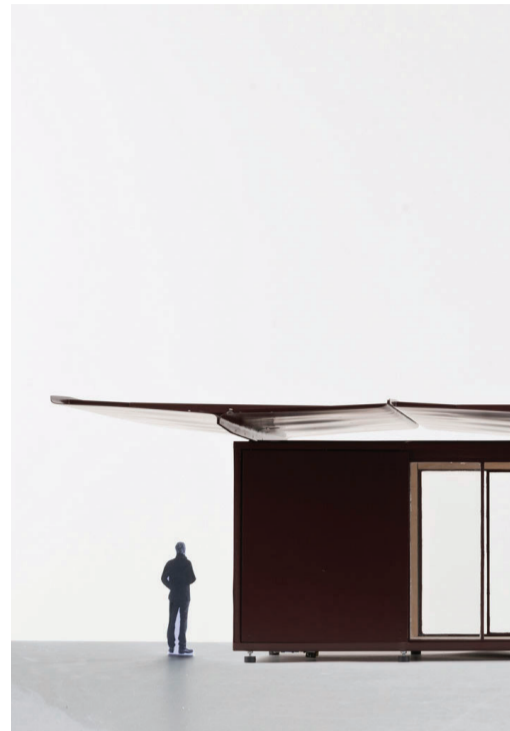
### 2 Waterfall

Water in the city. A fascination for the *Waterfall* is inspired by the noise of water, its movement and its presence in the city. From the top of the masts, the water runs down a succession of aluminium tiles, like a sparkling chain of fish scales. At ground level, large ponds welcome the waterfall, and its surface gives off tremulous reflections of the city. We are at the water's edge.



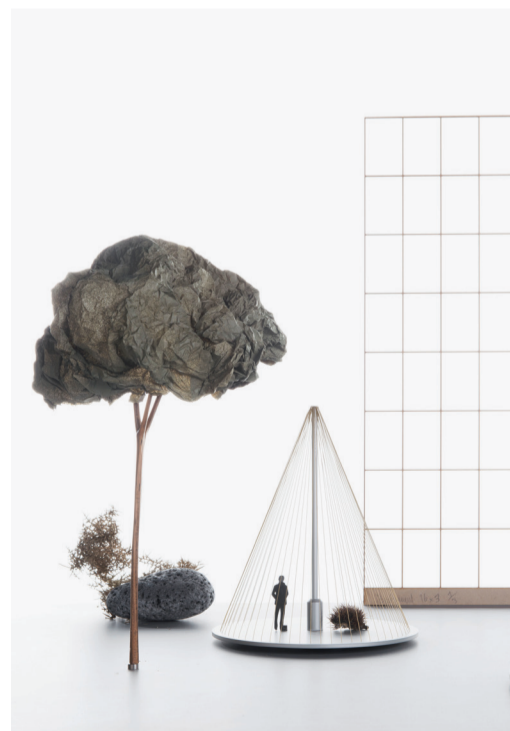
### 3 Kiosk

Nomadic architecture. A multi-purpose intermediate public space. The *Kiosk* is made of a steel structure with large bay windows and a roof that, when open, forms an external terrace. Lanterns are suspended at each end of the roof, diffusing light across the whole covered surface. The space, both an inside and outside area, can be used for a range of different activities.



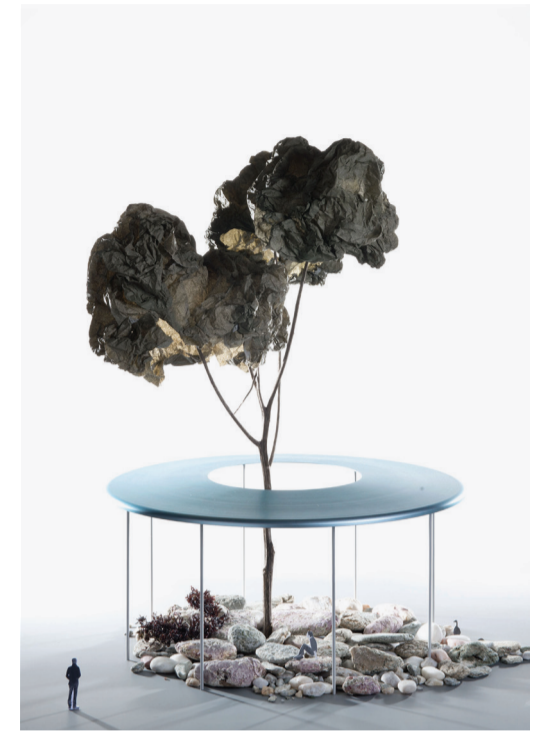
### 4 Turnstiles

Turning into the town – for enjoyment, movement or contemplation. The *Turnstiles* are large circular platforms, which turn slowly, giving the impression of a stationary journey. The discs and the ground are on the same level, creating a wonderful moment. The walker will perhaps return to the experience by chance, only to be met with the surprise of the unexpected rotation. On the plateaus, ropes extend radially from the top of the mast and visually intersect in motion. It is a game of optical vibrations. The *Turnstiles* give the impression of bowers, like little constructions that walkers come across on their journey, and providing places to observe or reflect. As they turn the city appears like an infinite panorama.



### 5 Shelters and Rocks

The scenic viewpoint made of natural features arising in the city. *Shelters and Rocks* is the dream idea of a hilltop, a gathering of rocks arranged like small mound and covered by an aerial roof that forms a shelter. Together it looks like a sort of belvedere, reminiscent of the follies found in parks during the 19th century. It is an invitation to climb up to this rocky point, to discover the urban horizon.



### 6 Hanging Forest

A journey through the city. This proposal embodies a meeting of opposites. The *Hanging Forest* is characterised by the unique relationship between the static and artificial nature of the masts and platforms in contrast with the movement and vivacity of the plants and trees. This solution, like a pergola, depicts both a path and a protected, well-ventilated space. The plants recreate the pleasant, fresh shade of forests. Analogous to the storeys of a building, nature rises upwards. The discs form a second level where the plants work together and intertwine, like a metaphor for contemporary networks.





## 7 Fireplaces

Fire in the city. At an event, *Fireplaces* are portable homes, warm shelters for protection, where people can huddle around the embers. The idea of taking fire to the heart of the city reminds us of gathering around bonfires. Contemplating the flames gives rise to moments of collective interaction and daydreaming.



## 9 Stream

The *Stream*, a small, deep groove, marks a path through the city. A corridor of water and plants winds its way peacefully along the middle of the road. The stream emits a sound, and the pedestrian can be guided by the songs of the river: wonderment or a melancholic pause.



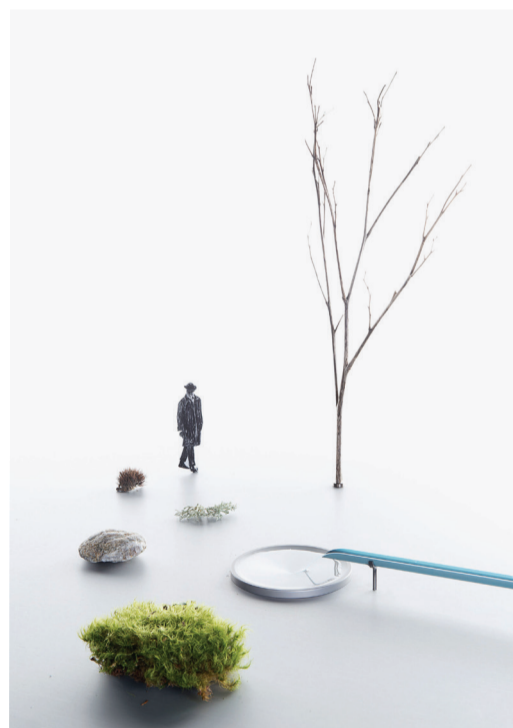
## 8 Clouds

Shelter in the city. Half pergola, half vegetal. The structure of the *Clouds* formalises an intriguing link between the geometric and the organic, between constructed and natural forms. A unit in the shape of a cloud, a signature motif in the work of Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec, creates a roof. The openings are filled in with soil and plants, creating a floating garden. The vegetation brings all of this together, defining an urban promenade.



## 10 Long Fountain

The *Long Fountain* is an enormous sloping pipe, which has been divided into sections. The water runs down the slope and flows into a basin. It acts as both a watering place for “urban wildlife”, and a new kind of stream, whilst also serving as a playground for children – where twigs and folded underground tickets become fragile floating vessels.



## 11 Bright Tent

Light defines extraordinary meeting points in urban spaces. The *Bright Tent* is made up of masts, which are arranged to look like the poles of a circus tent. The masts are linked by a bright garland that marks out the perimeter and covers the space in between. This lighting fills a void, crowning the space and emphasising the invitation to gather and interact. The light evokes the atmosphere of an open-air café, and the space becomes like an urban living room. People can come here to meet, go shopping or drink coffee. A new idea for fairgrounds.



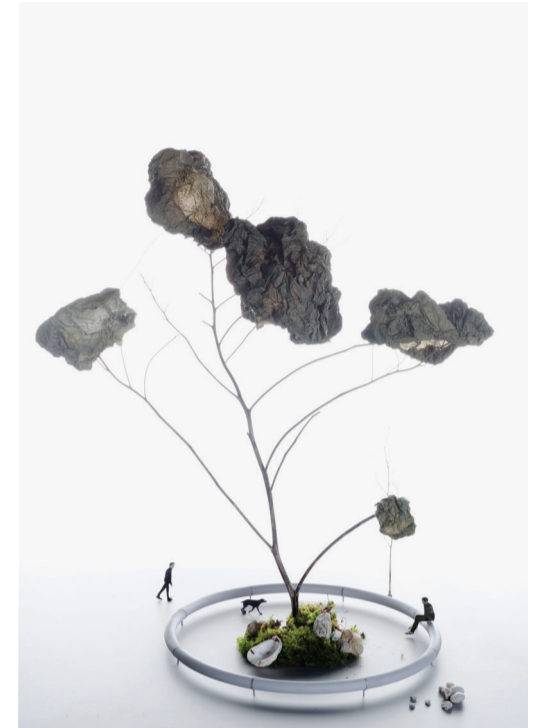
## 12 Pergola

The *Pergola* forms a shaded pathway. Step by step, the organic nature of the very long, high roof is confirmed by the vegetation. The surface is like an architectural chain mail made up of one single, repeating unit. Once assembled, the numerous forged components resemble an oversized piece of fabric. Some links are subdivided to form openings for the plants on the ground, allowing them to overrun the *Pergola* and creating a magical entwinement of metal and vegetation.



## 13 Platforms

The *Platforms* have many different uses. They act as pedestals or large collective benches. The first platform takes the form of a large, concave disc suited for sitting, reclining or skating. The second platform, a succession of slightly sloped surfaces in different colours, provides a place for meeting or relaxing in the middle of the city. The third type of platform consists of large concrete circles that appear to float above the ground, surrounding trees or other specific objects. People can sit, balance or slide on the rings.



## 14 Roofs and Trunks

The *Roofs* are stripped back to the basics. They resemble community shelters, like those in primitive civilisations: places to convene and make important decisions about the community, but also about communal living. The *Trunks*, made of concrete, are seats which evoke the stone furniture commonly found in gardens at the end of the 19th century.

