

HIAP (Helsinki), City as a Space of Rules and Dreams (Finland), Myymälä2 Gallery (Helsinki), MeetFactory (Prague), the Jindřich Chalupecký Society (Prague), Mikser (Belgrade), Biennial of Youth (Belgrade), Académie des Arts de Molenbeek (Bruxelles), Zrenjanin Secondary School for Agriculture and Horticulture (Serbia), the Dessau Internation School of Architecture (Germany), ZAD (Notre-Dame-des-Landes), La Baraque (Louvain-la-Neuve), Zrenjanin Secondary School for Agriculture and Horticulture (Serbia)

OF MOVING GAZES AND HANDS GARDEN AS COLLECTIVE SPACE OF EMANCIPATION AND AESTHETICS

A manifold proposal built on score/mapping by Les Orangeries de Bierbais, in the frame of the Laboratory For Radical Peace, PhD In One Night

OF MOVING GAZES AND HANDS **GARDEN AS COLLECTIVE SPACE OF** **EMANCIPATION AND AESTHETICS**

is a proposal for crossing trajectories and disseminating permaculture knowledge based on Anni Laakso's work in dialogue with the vegetable garden of Les Orangeries de Bierbais.

It questions the relation between rural and urban areas and the production of emancipatory/aesthetic space through the experience of the garden, in relation to acts of alternative mapping/scoring (music/dance)

Conceived as rhizomatic collaboration plan(t), ever-growing through further partnerships.

Within the frame of temporary free territories as well as educational structures

Les Orangeries de Bierbais
Non-profit and Self-Organized Association
2 rue de Bierbais, 1435 Mont-Saint-Guibert
orangeriesdebierbais@gmail.com – 0488 86 42 55

INTRODUCTION

Les Orangeries de Bierbais is, at once, a historical place, its reconfiguration as a self-organized third space, and a non-profit organization. Started as a shared vision of art's potential to foster equality and emancipation, it pursues a new way of living together based on an ongoing discovery of the solidarity between man, nature, and society through the site-specific practice of the notion of sensible intelligence as developed within the creation and care of a vegetable garden and other aesthetic experimentations based on or related to principles and practices of permaculture.

Active as a center for research and an art residency, **Les Orangeries de Bierbais** invites artists and researchers to participate in this intrinsically collective process, open to multiple contributions. All the propositions do relate to the location, with major attention to its historical reverberations and spatiotemporal transformations. This place founded in 1828 and designed by Charles-Henri Petersen (German landscape architect) has been undergoing a series of shifts since its inception, and currently, the artistic activities aim at finally opening it to a wider public, after having been closed off from society, as a private property, for almost 200 years.

This proposal aims to find partners interested in collaborating to enlarge and nurture the potential of this space while pursuing the blossoming of the **Laboratory for Radical Peace**, which can be summarized as follows:

An idea of peace as radical dissensus in a world where war and state of exception make the unspoken consensus. It is a new idea of *nature as the active refuge* and place of a new reconfiguration of man and the world, of creation as a place of collective thought, hosting various experiments and meetings between migrants, refugees, and sedentary people around the idea of peace. *For our part, we have the image of an imperfect and unfinished garden in which nature and man can be reconciled and agree, cohabit, without the idea of human domination over nature, in a relationship of equality.*



Artist Petra Belc during her residency in front of the Orangerie building, March 2023. Experimentation with the constriction of optical instruments



Logo of the Laboratory for Radical Peace, installed in the garden as a printed flag. Design by Dragan Protić

SOLIDARITY SPROUTING BETWEEN ORGANIZATIONS

With an understanding of partnership as an exercise of solidarity and a choreographed mobilization of intentions, bodies, energies, and the creation of new forms, we look for allies whose trajectories intersect with ours. Such a call for reciprocal support builds on three levels of collaborative efforts:

VISIBILITY THROUGH SHARED NETWORK

Initiatives such as open calls and announcements can be spread within the web of solidary partners, to help messages reverberate and thus increase their scope and impact.

EXCHANGE OF RESIDENTS/PARTICIPANTS

The partners aim at fostering a reciprocal giving and receiving of “human energy”, through a program of friendly visits, facilitating and/or offering travels to and stays in each other’s locations, and participating within their institutional programs.

COLLECTIVE CREATION

The previous levels are meant to bring forth the realization of projects at the crossing of each partner’s singular institutional programming and/or trajectory. In the following paragraph is our suggested idea, also visualized with the mind map Structures of Emancipation.

A DREAM FOR COLLECTIVE AND ORGANIC CREATION

The idea for this collaboration started from Anni Laakso’s work made during her last summer residency at *Les Orangeries de Bierbais*. She produced the sculptural installation **Observatory for Bio and Human Diversity**, which sits in dialogue both with the physical permaculture garden and the theoretical layer underlying the general reconfiguration of Bierbais, offering more depth to notions such as free temporary territory, and collective and sensible intelligence.

Our desire is twofold: 1) to deepen the knowledge, visibility, and resonance of Anni Laakso’s work within its implications in relation to the philosophical and practical framework offered by *Les Orangeries de Bierbais* and 2) to grow the direct potential of the aesthetic emancipation offered by the experience of gardening within permaculture principles and methods by disseminating this knowledge within urban spaces, through the exchange of experiences and the development - mapping - of (in)visible connections.

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Overview of the vegetable garden from the Observatory for Bio and Human Diversity by Anni Laakso during the concert Chopin in the Potager by pianist Kosta Jakić, September 2023.

PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION

This proposal comprises several parts, their timeline is open to discussion:

1. Residency + Studio visit Anni Laakso for Preparation and Realization of public event/exhibition with her paper architecture/maquettes (Helsinki HIAP)

During a residency period in Helsinki at *HIAP* (proposed length: approximately 4 weeks), Elisabetta Cuccaro, an artist and collaborator of *Les Orangeries de Bierbais*, will have studio visit(s) and conversations with Anni Laakso around her work, to deepen the context knowledge. This residency period is to realize a **public event to present Anni Laakso's work** in connection to the notions of free temporary territory, sensible intelligence, production of collective space, and as the starting point for future collective creations of score/maps of joint experiences, in dialogue with the research of *City as Space of Rules and Dreaming* and the *Dessau International School of Architecture, Anhalt University*.

4 Ideally, it would be great to combine the presentation of her work with the realization of a small exhibition with Anni Laakso's maquettes (one reference for the exhibition is Isa Genzken at Kunsthalle Bern, 2019, but the idea has to be discussed with the artist). Within the event, there will be the launching of the research work done during the residency period (in the form of mindmaps, scores, poetic criticism, and other material forms).

2. Free Temporary Territory: An Architecture of the Impossible with visit to La Baraque (Louvain-la-Neuve) and Map/Score: an Indisciplinary Concert (Bierbais?/Helsinki?/Prague?)

Relating to the research group *City as Space of Rules and Dreaming* summer plans, *Les Orangeries de Bierbais* aims to organize **Free Temporary Territory: An Architecture of the Impossible**, a 2-days gathering comprising a visit to La Baraque in July 2024. Emphasis is put on thinking possibilities of different modes of inhabitation and space production, and it is open to inputs from the *Dessau International School of Architecture, Anhalt University*. Important to notice the formal proximity of some buildings realized in free zones with Anni Laakso's

structure in Bierbais.

The second part of the gathering, to realize on the same day of the visit or the following, is the actualization of the aesthetic space within the vegetable garden at *Les Orangeries de Bierbais* through the project **Map/Score: an Indisciplinary Concert**. Participating artists and musicians are still to be discussed, while the cohesive theme is the idea to play between map and score, sound and visuals for new cartographies of freedom and emancipation. Can we make a choreography from a map? How can sound liberate normative cartographic methods? These are some of the questions around the indisciplinary concert. This concert can be thought through different spaces, connecting partner institutions.

3. Guerrilla Permaculture in urban areas (Helsinki HIAP Villa Eläintarha, Suomenlinna/Prague MeetFactory/Bruxelles Académie de Molenbeek/Dessau School of Architecture)

The knowledge acquired during 2023 in Bierbais by creating the vegetable garden and other experimental zones through permaculture can be disseminated into urban areas. **Guerrilla Permaculture** is the idea of developing a noncontiguous (or distributed) shared permaculture-artistic space connecting organizations, people, and places, especially between urban and rural contexts.

Aesthetics permeates permaculture, with the latter being a projection into space and through organic matter of thoughts and dreams, drawings of organic forms, a geometry of life with soil, plants and flowers as colors. The aim is to start reverberations of the vegetable garden of *Les Orangeries de Bierbais* by sharing resources and bringing together similar instances of solidarity. Initially thought for *HIAP* in relation to the green spaces of Villa Eläintarha/Suomenlinna and *MeetFactory's* outdoors, it is open to more sites of discoveries. Artists-gardeners of Bierbais can come and collaborate with local artists to start guerrilla reconfigurations, as well as interested artists can come to Bierbais and share their knowledge, experiences and curiosity.



ANNI LAAKSO

Finnish artist Anni Laakso creates temporary, site-specific installations, which she constructs with hand tools, often from found and recycled materials. Laakso is interested in the various means of sculpture, that allow to deal with and bring out all kinds of issues, also political, through the production of a variety of spaces. Laakso lives and works in Helsinki. In 1995 she graduated as a sculptress from the Academy of Fine Arts in Helsinki and ever since, her works have been exhibited in various solo and group shows both in Finland and abroad. She has been an artist in residence in several countries, such as the USA (New York), Germany (Frankfurt am Main), France (Paris), and Belgium (Bierbais). In addition, she has made public installations at Espoo Centre, Leinelä in Vantaa, and Kivikko in Helsinki.

The artist during her first residency period, showing the maquette made for the project Observatory for Bio and Human Diversity, January 2023



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*Selection of relevant works by Anni Laakso.
Left: Windpavilion, 2022 Notgalerie, Seestadt, Vienna, Austria; Capsule, 2002, Southern Harbour, Helsinki, Finland. Right: Birch Pavilion, 2023, permanent sculpture at Nida Art Colony, Nida, Lithuania.*

OBSERVATORY FOR BIO AND HUMAN DIVERSITY AT LES ORANGERIES DE BIERBAIS

2023, Fondation La Nacelle, Orangeries de Bierbais, Mont St. Guibert, Belgium
Height 4m, diameter 2m. Material: recycled wood. Permanent sculpture.

This work plays a central role in developing this proposal; it serves as the juncture, both formal and conceptual, of different moments in time and space, each giving rise to spaces as collective production, made for the people and by the people. By connecting them, it is possible to imagine a new conception of space, related to emancipatory approaches and structures.

The spectator of the **Observatory for Bio and Human Diversity** is not simply a visitor, but a co-creator of the lived space through its use.

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At the same time, its forms enter into a dialogue with other architectural structures found in experimental spaces, such as ZAD and La Baraque. Not only do they share formal similarities, but also hand-made processes derived from a desire for simplicity, effectiveness, and freedom.

In the following pages, images of the work as well as of its process will be presented accompanied by two critical texts. Moreover, a gallery will visually associate all the constructions of free temporary territories that this proposal see connected with the Observatory, starting from the sculpture produced for the course *Indisciplinary Learning/ Art as Knowledge* (Finland), at Mäkelänrinne Upper Sports Secondary School, a course offered by PhD In One Night and with the support of HIAP.

This can help revealing the web of connections at the base of the proposal itself, open to more rhizomatic developments and contributions.

Inauguration of the installation Observatory for Bio and Human Diversity by Anni Laakso, September 2023 for the Journée Européenne du Patrimoine/Matrimoine.





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Anni Laakso - Production of Space

Anni Laakso is an remarkable artist who comes from Finland. As a sculptor by education, her sculptures always produce, in Lefebvre's sense, a space.

Lefebvre's argument in "The Production of Space" is that space is a social product, or a complex social construction (based on values, and the social production of meanings) which affects spatial practices and perceptions.

According to him, there are different modes of production of space: natural and social space. Lefebvre developed a conceptual triad of space.

-Spatial practice (perceived space): The physical organization of space, such as daily routines and activities;

-Representations of space (conceived space): The space created and imagined by urban planners, architects, and other professionals;

-Representational space (lived space): The individual, subjective experience of space, shaped by symbols, images, and personal emotions.

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Physical space is constructed by various actors, e.g. the state, landowners and architects. Discursive space is mentally constructed by the way the space is discussed and represented. This is separate from physical space as spaces can have discursive representations without physically existing. Representational space is socially constructed by the lived experience of the people who interact with it.

The space created by Anni Laakso's sculptures may be the next category, ie. the collective re-appropriation of the work made by artist and therefore offered for the collective division of senses and reappropriated by people, having a sense of collective impact and intelligence.

In the Orangeries de Bierbais, Anni built the "Observatory for bio and human diversity", a ball/ active shelter for meditation, sitting, reading and ... observing the forms of a constituent permaculture vegetable garden, which is a new page in the reconfiguration of the former English garden and the monumental greenhouse towards the construction of "third space". The gaze that emancipates the senses from the height of this observatory, made entirely of recycled wood from nearby waste, is a common gaze of unlearned amateur who is learning from observing and experimenting. It invites the emancipation that teaches to look in another way and direction: instead of a gaze towards an exemplar tropical winter and English garden in the domain of the Castle, it offers a gaze towards unexpected- various gracious

forms of permaculture vegetable garden. The Observatory is made in dialogue with Lighthouse in Zad, Bretagne, "zone à défendre", connecting 2 spaces, Zad and Park and Vegetable Garden of Orangeries de Bierbais, as two "free temporary territories", which take their freedom from putting in practice self-authorized liberty and liberation of spaces, using them in non-predictable sense of term.

From the Observatory of Anni Laakso, made during her one month residency in Bierbais, the connections between gaze, freedom, utopia, experimentation takes place in the momentum when from the top of her sculpture we could finally conceive the forms of an emerging radical new space on the ground: the reconfigured spaces on the ground, inviting the experimentation of all, mapping the new time and new emerging place.

text by Ivana Momčilović





Notes on Anni Laakso's Observatory for Bio and Human Diversity

In the constellation of temporary free territories spread around the world, a recurrent theme appears: that of verticality. The construction of towers (or the presence of trees sprouting and transforming the desert) is a symbol of both rebellion and hope, that embodies and represents the vision of a horizon defined by dreams of liberation. The power inherent in a structure soaring toward the sky has accompanied humanity since its inception, currently mostly used to show individual prestige or national prowess. But within constellations of activists, dreamers, and utopists, it is turned upside-down, back to becoming a sign of solidarity and shared resistance.

Anni Laakso's Observatory for Bio and Human Diversity brought such a powerful symbol into the garden of Les Orangeries de Bierbais, adding its modest yet mighty demeanor to the ongoing and experimental reconfiguration and decolonization of the space. The Observatory is a sculptural installation that produces a space of visibility and observation, at once of both protection and exposure. A sphere made of scattered and ragged recycled wooden pieces (also collected from a nearby landfill) rises of a few meters toward the sky, offering a vantage point to admire the beauty of the permacultural garden of vegetables and other edible plants.

The standing Observatory produces a space of human dimension and humane feelings. It plays with and challenges architectural paradigms, creating a space that does not delimit possession but makes itself available to others by its enveloping openness. The clear geometrical forms and the structure's scale speak of simplicity and necessity, being just that which is needed to exist and function. Its playfulness arouses curiosity and invites people to climb the unpretentious ladder and sit in the sphere. Vision is the key word here, as suggested by the title itself: the Observatory is a point to observe, from where to see as well as be seen (better: to be made visible because of the raised position).

The point of reference that the Observatory becomes within the geography of the garden also brings forth a reflection on permanence and temporariness. Contemporary architectural buildings share the implicit duty to last (and amaze). The Observatory does not fail to turn such paradigms too. Made of that which was discarded, it evokes human existence's transience, tackling it with humble acceptance. Its structure gives endless transformations stability, which brings forth the persistence of that which is ephemeral. In a playful ode to the resourcefulness of what remains and continues to make the impossible possible, Anni Laakso's work hones the transformation of dreams into reality.

text by Elisabetta Cuccaro



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Students of the Sport High School Mäkelänrinne during the course [Indisciplinary Learning / Art as Knowledge](#) by PhD In One Night, Helsinki, 2018. Projectual phase

Maquette by Anni Laakso for the [Observatory of Bio and Human Diversity](#), 2023

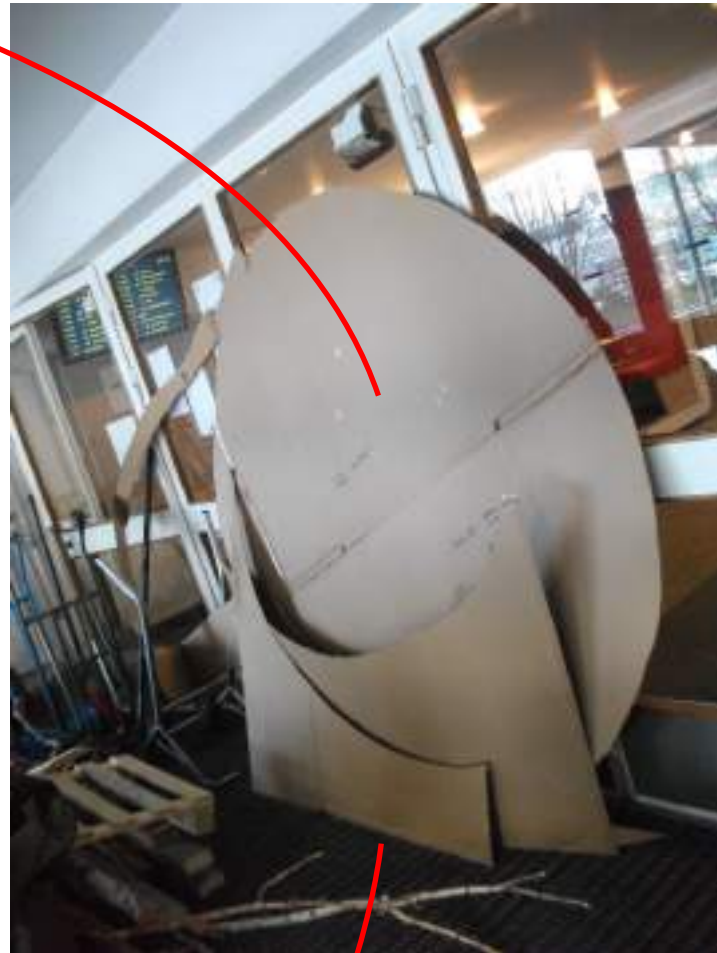
IN-VISIBLE CONNECTIONS OF FREE TEMPORARY TERRITORIES / ENTANGLEMENT OF LINES THROUGH ANNI LAAKSO'S WORK (visual gallery)

Here is a collection/connection of reverberations between Anni Laakso's [Observatory of Bio and Human Diversity](#) (2023), together with the structure she helped to create for the course [Indisciplinary Learning / Art as Knowledge](#) (2018), the [lighthouse in ZAD](#) (2016), as well as [La Baraque's "bulles"](#) (1968).





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Indisciplinary Learning / Art as Knowledge: final structure made by the students for performing Ionesco's play "Lesson"

Les bulles, alternative building units in *La Baraque*, Louvain-la-Neuve, 1968





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and in fact our best weapon is constructing.



Left: stills from the video Notre Flamme Des Landes: The Illegal Lighthouse Against an Airport and Its World, showing the construction of the *lighthouse in the ZAD*, 2018

Right: view of living area, *Les bulles, La Baraque*



Left: view of the [Observatory for Bio and Human Diversity](#), 2023

Right: stills from the video [Notre Flamme Des Landes: The Illegal Lighthouse Against an Airport and Its World](#), showing the construction of the [lighthouse in the ZAD](#), 2018

WORK
IN
PROGRESS

MAPS

MAP / SCORE SECTION

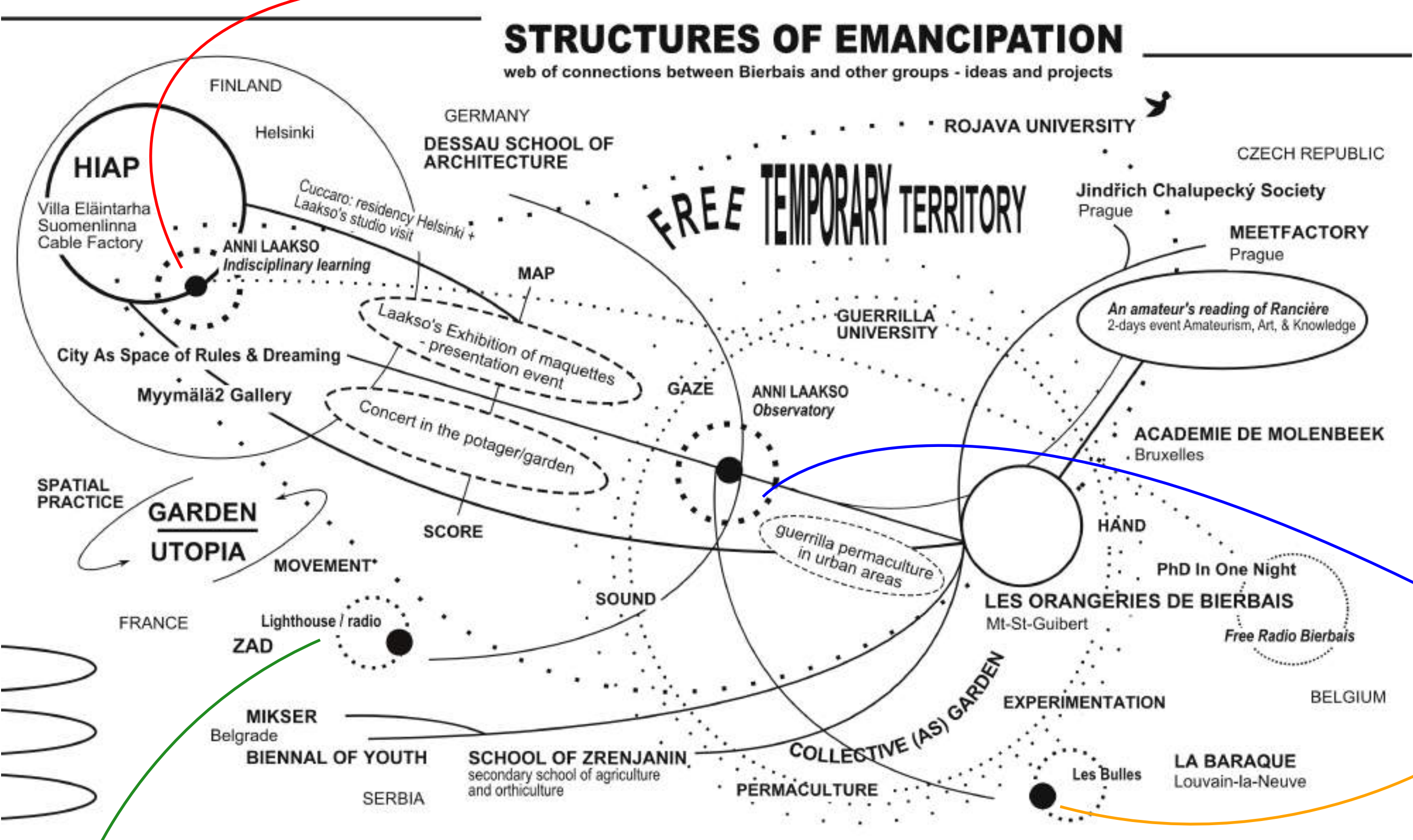
Following, a map that visualizes the connections activated by this proposal (or better: this proposal in the form of a mind map), with the most relevant projects, concepts, links, and places. After it, a draft as starter for a work-in-progress: how to map/score Bierbais. The idea is to be able to perform these and future maps in-the-making as music or dance scores, to present during concerts (see point 3.-4. in the proposal description, p. 4, for more details)

SCORE (MUSIC/DANCE)

WORK
IN
PROGRESS

STRUCTURES OF EMANCIPATION

web of connections between Bierbais and other groups - ideas and projects



RECIPE MAP FOR AN INDISCIPLINARY CONCERT

PAST

FUTURE

- 1790 Kant's Critique of Judgement
- 1789 French Revolution
- 1918 Foundation of the Orphanage with Horticulture School
- 2021 Visit of Zapatistas' delegation
- 2022 Inauguration of the Laboratory for Radical Peace with the Kurdish delegation and of the Collective Garden of Guerrilla Knowledge
- 2022 Rancière's The Time of the Landscape
- 2023 NPO Les Orangeries de Bierbais

elements

areas

- Historical Greenhouse
- Open Field
- The Pond
- The Small Hill
- Orchard/Vegetable Garden

DIY greenhouse

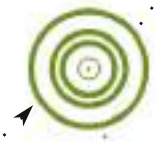
Collective Garden of Guerrilla Knowledge



Experimental permaculture circles



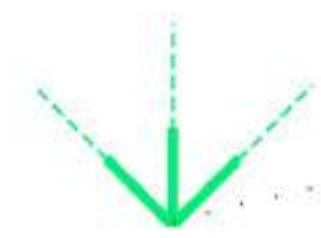
Olive of Peace



In connection to Rojava - Free Temporary Territory



Experimental permaculture zones



Experimental permaculture rays

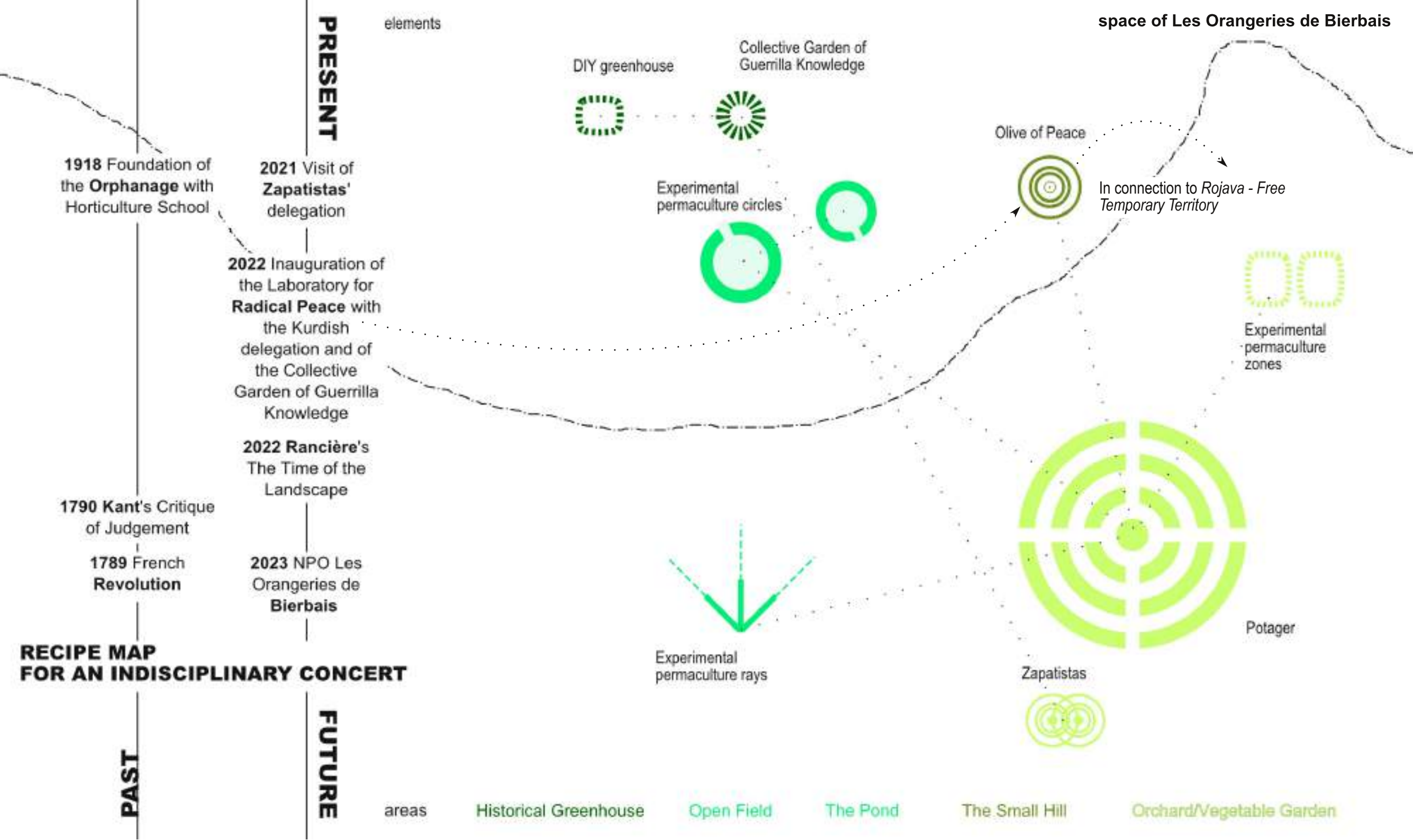


Potager

Zapatistas



space of Les Orangeries de Bierbais



GUERRILLA PERMACULTURE IN URBAN AREAS

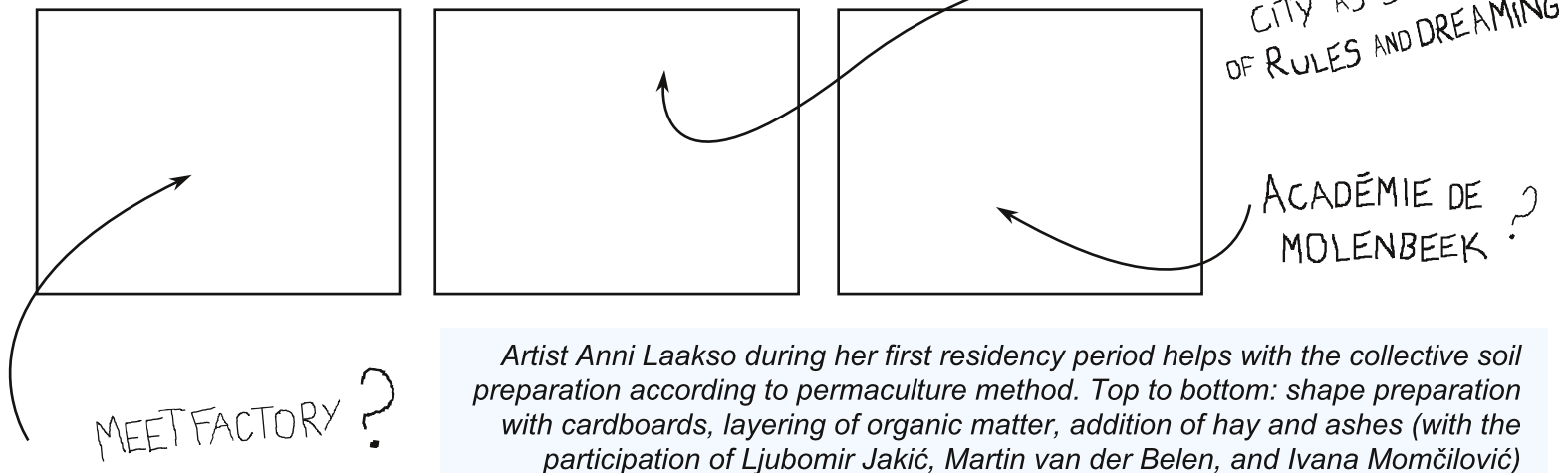
Noncontiguous and distributed shared permaculture-artistic spaces connecting organizations, people, and places, bridging between urban and rural contexts.

Like seeds transported by wind, Les Orangeries de Bierbais' permaculture ways of life travel through distances, adapt to various circumstances and grow solidary free territories of earth-friendly gardening, like it has already happened at the **Secondary School of Zrenjanin for Agriculture and Horticulture** (Serbia), where permaculture was integrated in their mandatory program after a visit to Bierbais.

Forming a net closer to mycelium than to that of the internet, **Guerrilla Permaculture** is an organic mass where active exchanges of energy and nutrients take place for feeding our culturally-starving society. A renewal through artists and practitioners who are not scared of getting their hands dirty, of finding pleasure in diffractions, variations, experimentations. Small patches of gardens suffice for starting a gentle revolution and instigate change and growth. Where are these blossoms going to bloom?

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We look for areas deserving of love and care in different cities such as Helsinki, Bruxelles and Prague for the dissemination of permaculture knowledges/practices/habits/anecdotes, through waves and reverberations: artists-gardeners of Bierbais can come and collaborate with local artists to start guerrilla reconfigurations, as well as interested artists can come to Bierbais, learn from it, and share their own experiences and curiosity.



Artist Anni Laakso during her first residency period helps with the collective soil preparation according to permaculture method. Top to bottom: shape preparation with cardboards, layering of organic matter, addition of hay and ashes (with the participation of Ljubomir Jakić, Martin van der Belen, and Ivana Momčilović)



On Moving Gazes and Hands - Garden as Collective Space of Emancipation and Aesthetics

is an artistic proposal realized as part of Elisabetta Cuccaro's personal ongoing artistic work about mapping between art, criticism and curation. In collaboration with PhD in One Night, for the programming of Les Orangeries de Bierbais (year 2024).

The project welcomes the contribution of other artists, art workers and thinkers, and is open to changes, further partnerships, and artistic developments.