

# Urban agricultural heritage: Looking back to move forward

# Eye-opener

## Yedicle Bostans, Istanbul

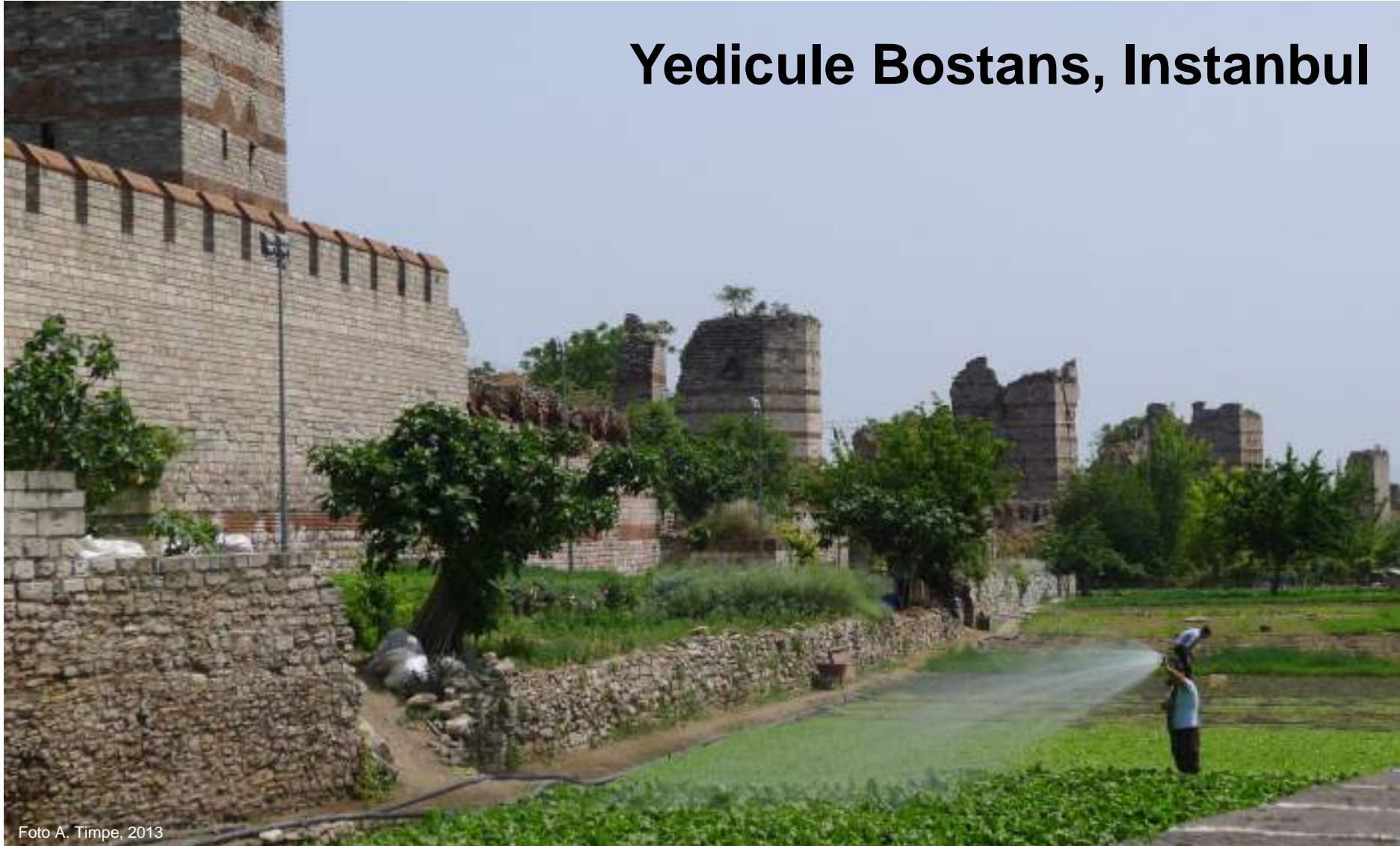


Foto A. Timpe, 2013

Istanbul: Theodosian Wall and Yedikule Bostans



# Yedicule Bostans, Istanbul



Abb. 14: freigegebene landwirtschaftliche Fläche, <https://onedio.com/haber/son-5-yilda-tuz-golu-nun-2-kati-buyuklugunde-tarim-arazisi-imara-acildi-408117>, 2014

# What is heritage? “Faro-Convention”



*Council of Europe Treaty Series - No. 199*

## **Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society**

Faro, 27.X.2005

### **Article 2 – Definitions**

For the purposes of this Convention,

- a cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time;
- b a heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.

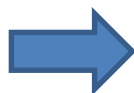
## **Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society**

Faro, 27.X.2005

### **Article 5 – Cultural heritage law and policies**

The Parties undertake to:

- a recognise the public interest associated with elements of the cultural heritage in accordance with their importance to society;
- b enhance the value of the cultural heritage through its identification, study, interpretation, protection, conservation and presentation;
- c ensure, in the specific context of each Party, that legislative provisions exist for exercising the right to cultural heritage as defined in Article 4;
- d foster an economic and social climate which supports participation in cultural heritage activities;





# Heritagisation

Heritagisation encompasses the production of the cultural meanings of the heritage and the framing and explaining the fragments of history to the contemporary audience.”

Kalakoski, I., S. Huuhka, O-P. Koponen, 2020: *From obscurity to heritage: Canonisation of the Nordic Wooden Town*, International Journal of Heritage Studies, (26:8), 790-805

# Heritigisation from an RWTH Aachen perspective

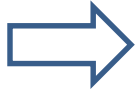
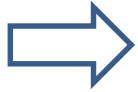
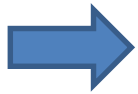
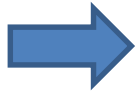


	Bonta phases	Davallon phases	This book's activities
<b>Pioneering</b>	<i>Blindness</i> : few pioneers recognize [the heritage's] significance	[early] <i>Recognition of value of the object</i>	(Herrenhausen Conference)
<b>Precanonical knowledge-building</b>	<i>Precanonical responses</i> : different but equal interpretations	<i>Production of knowledge about the object</i>	Linking urban agricultural heritage to historical research, concepts of cultural memory and practice, and of cultural landscape
<b>Canonical interpretation</b>	<i>Canonical interpretation</i> : a consensus about the object of study		Integrative introduction to urban agricultural heritage
<b>Authoritative interpretation</b>	<i>Authoritative interpretation</i> , where the prestige of a recognized authority affirms the correctness of the interpretation		Showcasing and reflecting active heritage approaches, both universal and local
<b>Activation and designation of heritage</b>		(official) <i>Declaration of the heritage status, Public access to a site or object</i>	Showcasing and reflecting active heritage approaches, both universal and local
<b>Mainstreaming</b>	<i>Dissemination</i> , where the canonical interpretation breaks free from the academic circles to the consciousness of the general public	<i>Transmission of the object to the future generations</i>	
<b>Reiteration and reinterpretation</b>	<i>Silence or oblivion</i> , as the reiteration of the same interpretation/ reinterpretation, which restarts the interpretation process		

Fig. 1 Steps of heritagization

# Heritigisation from an RWTH Aachen perspective

	Bonta phases	Davallon phases	This book's activities
Pioneering	Blindness: few pioneers recognize [the heritage's] significance	[early] Recognition of value of the object	(Herrenhausen Conference)



The Herrenhausen Conference on Urban Agricultural Heritage  
May 5-7th 2019, Hanover  
Herrenhausen Palace

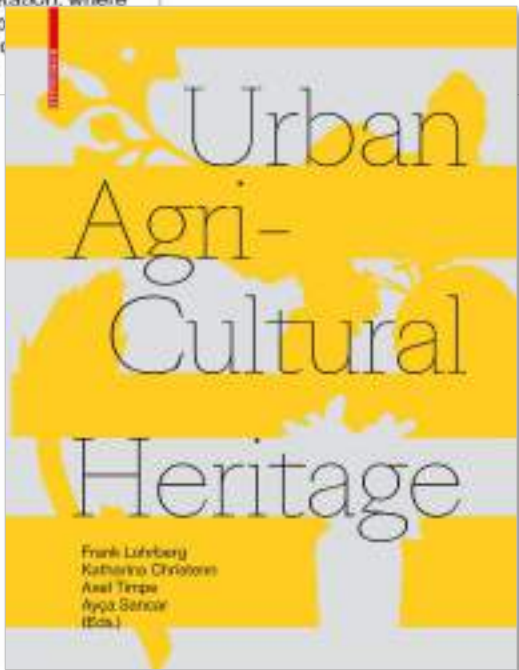




# Heritigisation from an RWTH Aachen perspective



	Bonta phases	Davallon phases	This book's activities
<b>Pioneering</b>	<i>Blindness</i> : few pioneers recognize [the heritage's] significance	[early] <i>Recognition</i> of value of the object	(Herrenhausen Conference)
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<b>Authoritative interpretation</b>	<i>Authoritative interpretation</i> , where the prestige of a recognized authority affirms the object of the interpretation		Showcasing and reflecting active heritage approaches, both universal and local



# Looking back to move forward

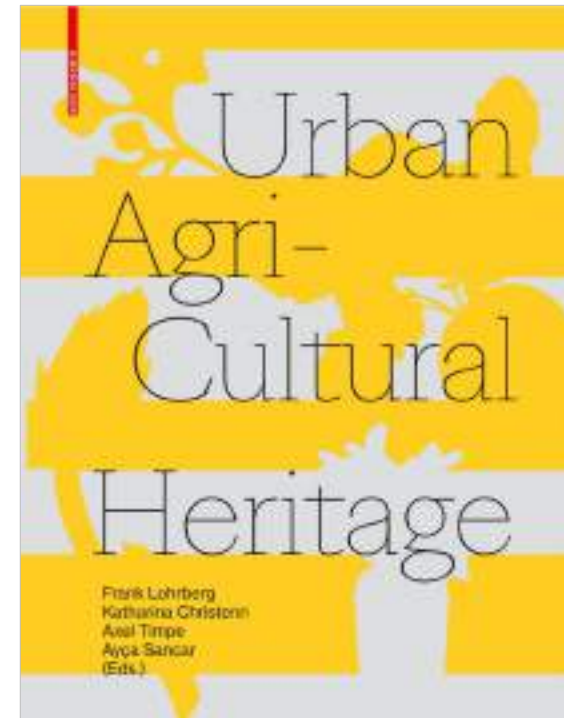
**Linking Urban Agricultural Heritage to Historical Research and Food Policies**

**Linking Urban Agricultural Heritage to the Concept of Cultural Memory and Practice**

**Linking Urban Agricultural Heritage to the Concept of Cultural Landscape**

**Showcasing and Reflecting Active Heritage Approaches**

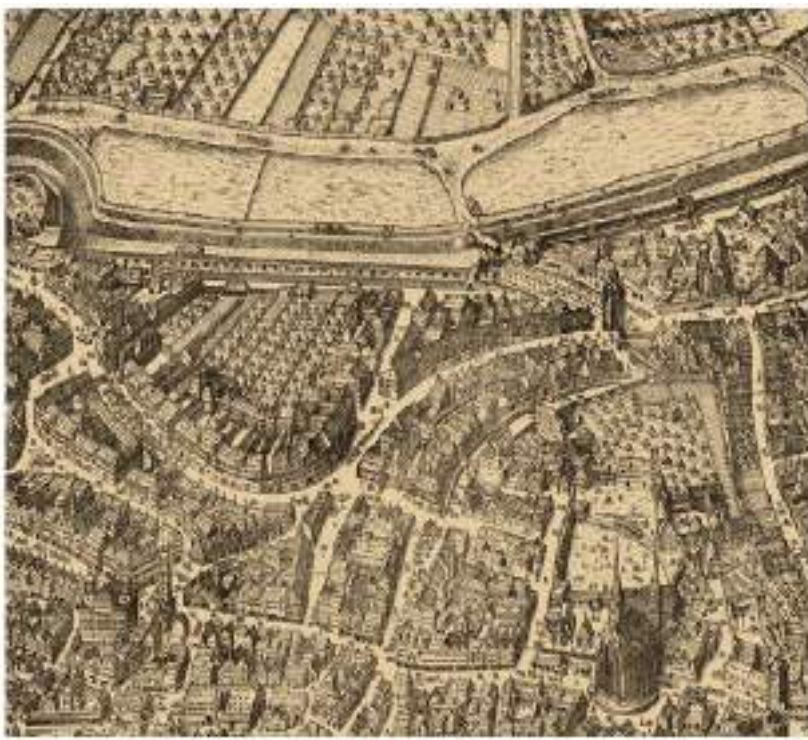
**Informal and Local Approaches to Urban Agricultural Heritage**



## Linking Urban Agricultural Heritage to Historical Research and Food Policies

- Agriculture as a constant companion of urban development!
- Local agricultural policy!
- City as a driver of agricultural innovation!





Figs. 1a-b Wolfgang Kilian, "Augusta Vindelicorum/Augsburg," 1626 (detail)



Fig. 3b Harvest on the Haage cress basin fields after modernization, ca. 1961. To increase yields, the strips between the basins were removed.



Fig. 3 Cucumber production at the Sofia thermal power station greenhouse, 1981



Fig. 4 Agricultural land and Sofia's green belt



# Linking Urban Agricultural Heritage to Historical Research and Food Policies

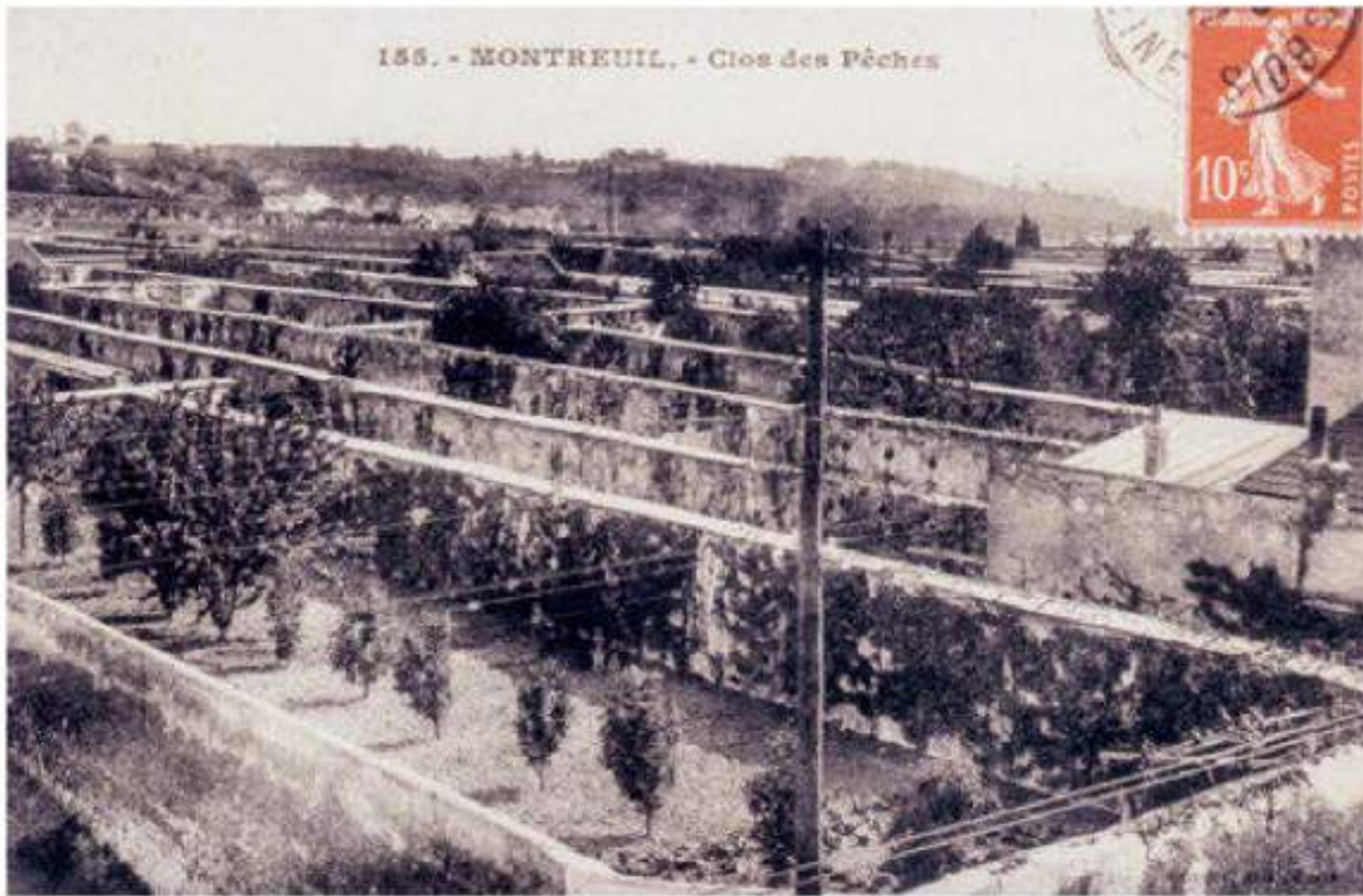


- Agriculture as a constant companion of urban development!
- Local agricultural policy!
- City as a driver of agricultural innovation!
  
- Urban agriculture flowering in the early modern period with close economic, spatial, material and social links between agriculture and the city
- Intensification of agricultural use towards the city centre (Thünen Rings) with regional supply, direct marketing, diversification



Murs à Pêches de Montreuil (Paris)





**Fig. 1** Peach wall compartments (stamp in use from 1907 to 1922)

Murs à Pêches de Montreuil (Paris)

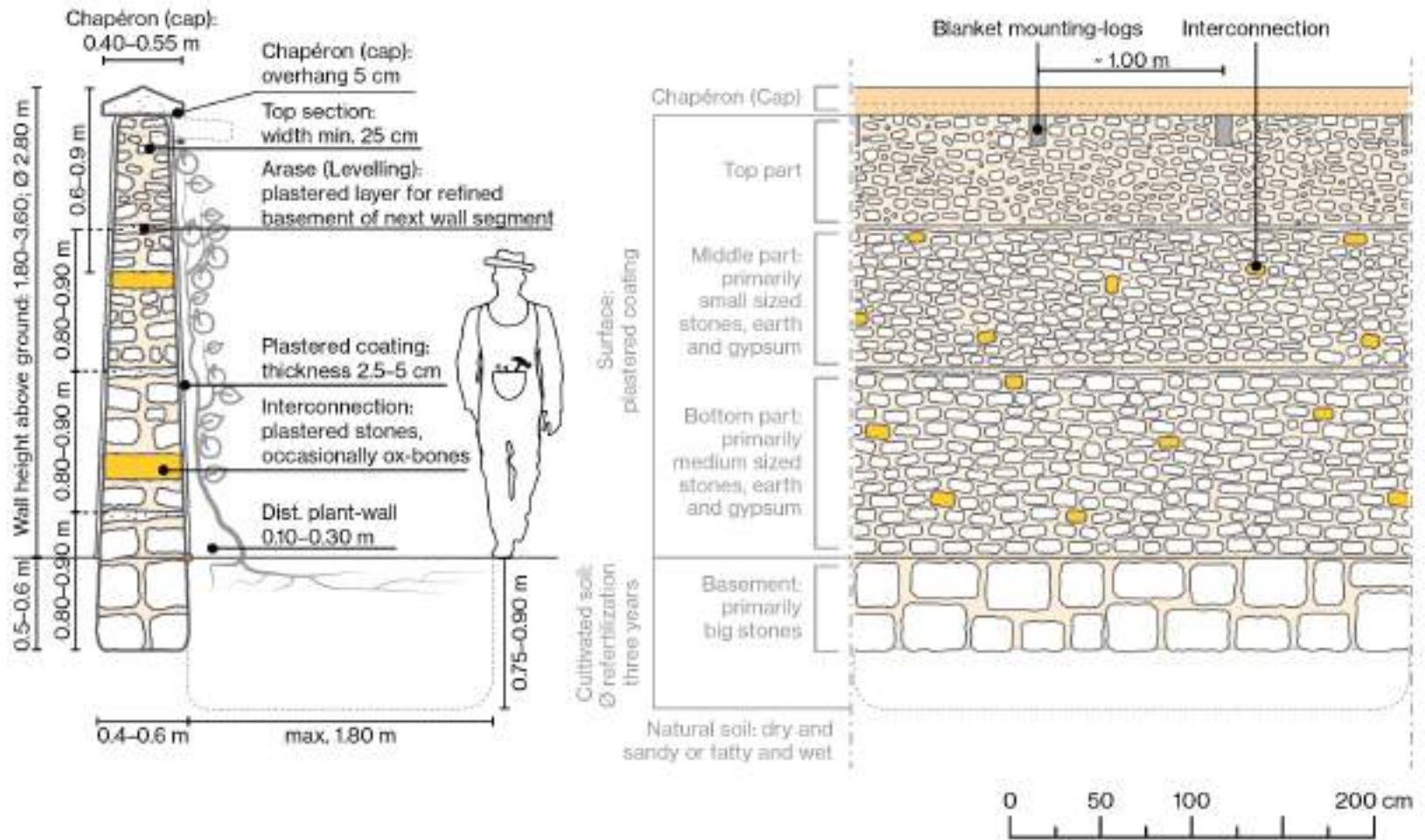


Fig. 5 Peach wall constructive details

Murs à Pêches de Montreuil (Paris)



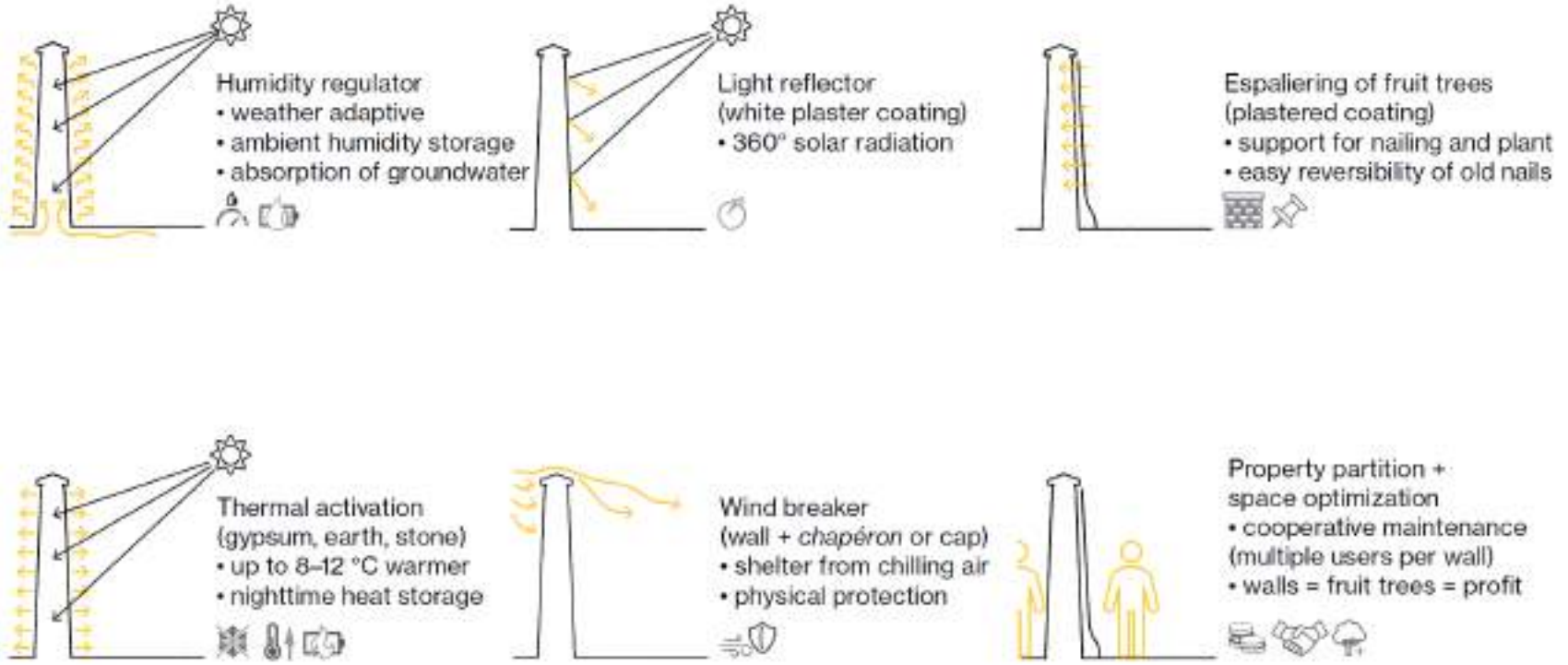


Fig. 2 Peach wall functions

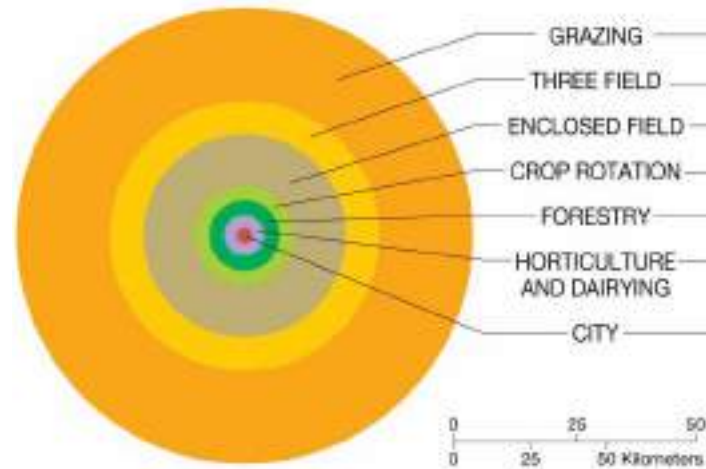
## Murs à Pêches de Montreuil (Paris)

# Enlarging the repository of knowledge on urban agriculture

regional marketing  
direct saling  
diverse crops  
place based solutions

global marketing  
wholesaling  
few dominating crops  
type based solutions

?



Von Thünen Model

© 2014 Pearson Education, Inc.

?

1750  
sun-fueled period

1850  
fossil-fueled period

1950  
2050  
de-carbonized period

## Linking Urban Agricultural Heritage to Historical Research and Food Policies



- Agriculture as a constant companion of urban development!
- Local agricultural policy!
- City as a driver of agricultural innovation!
  
- Urban agriculture flowering in the early modern period with close economic, spatial, material and social links between agriculture and the city
- Intensification of agricultural use towards the city centre (Thünen Rings) with regional supply, direct marketing, diversification.
  
- Urban agriculture has lost importance due to industrialization
- Modernity has seen agriculture as contrast to the city!

## Linking Urban Agricultural Heritage to the Concept of Cultural Memory and Practice

- Agriculture as a carrier of collective memories
- Collective practices important to understand urban agriculture
- Agrobiodiversity bound to a „community of practice“
- Urban Agriculture as a living heritage





## Linking Urban Agricultural Heritage to the Concept of Cultural Landscape

- Agriculture shapes the urban landscape
- Spatial patterns of urban agricultural heritage can be identified, such as
  - Embedded production (fruit gardens, ...)
  - In-niched wall gardens (e.g. bostans)
  - Suburban farms
  - Suburban horticultural areas (e.g. vegas)
  - Allotments
  - Squatter gardens



## Showcasing and Reflecting Active Heritage Approaches

- FAO heritage approach: „Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems - GIAHS“
- GIAHS focus on rural areas with a high biodiversity
- Up to now, urban areas are not in the focus of GIAHS





Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

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Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

Globally Important  
**AGRICULTURAL  
HERITAGE**  
Systems



# GIAHS

## Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems



Background

GIAHS around the world

Become a GIAHS

GIAHS Contributions

**News**

Resources

Partners

FAQ

<http://www.fao.org/giahs/en/>

GIAHS criteria:

- (1) Food and livelihood security
- (2) Biodiversity and ecosystem function
- (3) Knowledge systems and adapted technologies,
- (4) Cultures, Value systems and social organizations
- (5) Remarkable landscapes



# Saffron Heritage System





# Oases of the Maghreb





# Chinampas of Xochimilco, Mexico City



[https://cdn-images-1.medium.com/max/2400/1\\*alhJuUvcBmaejfjVgFmn\\_g.jpeg](https://cdn-images-1.medium.com/max/2400/1*alhJuUvcBmaejfjVgFmn_g.jpeg)

## Informal and Local Approaches to Urban Agricultural Heritage

- Grassroots discover urban agricultural heritage
- Heritage as an entry point for sustainable development paths
- Working on the heritage allows to valorise seemingly ordinary places







Figs. 4a-i Traveling photographic exhibition on Fuenlabrada, with photographs provided by residents, farmers, and findings from the municipal archive



Fig. 5 Historical plots in the Fuenlabrada Agrarian Park. Each color represents the property of a different landowner.



Fig. 1 View of the huertos at Fuenlabrada (Metropolitan region of Madrid); in the foreground, a farmer harvests chard, a traditional and high-quality crop in this city.

## Fuenlabrada Agrarian Park (Madrid)





Fig. 8 Pas à Vendre (not for sale) protest, 2020



Murs à Pêches de Montreuil (Paris)





Murs à Pêches de Montreuil (Paris)

F. Lohrberg 2022





F. Lohrberg 2022

Murs à Pêches de Montreuil (Paris)

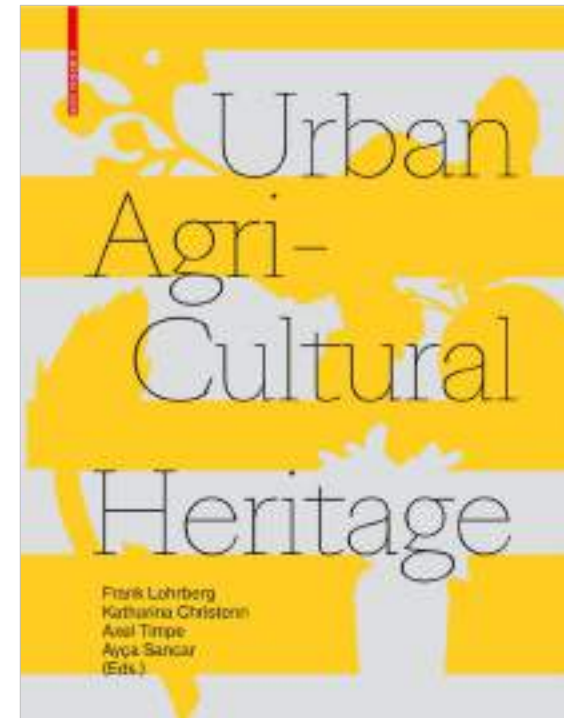


Murs à Pêches de Montreuil (Paris)



# Looking back to move forward

- **Agriculture as a constant companion of urban development**
- **Cities as drivers of agricultural innovation**
- **Early modern low-carbon and place-based solutions as a source of knowledge for today's challenges**
- **Urban Agriculture often shaped by collective practices**
- **GIAHS as an important instrument also to highlight urban agriculture as heritage**
- **Local urban agricultural heritage as an entry point to paths of sustainability**





**Thank you for your attention**







# INSUAH Integrated Study on Urban Agriculture as Heritage

Metastudy on Urban Agricultural Heritage (2022-26) based on 5 regional studies



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