The World Health Organisation predicts that the balance globally between people living in rural areas and urban areas is set to shift from its current 50/50 split to 70% living in cities by 2050 (Hellig 2012).

HabitLib' provides an answer to the constant need for urban housing.

The social purpose of the project is to offer a cost-effective and efficient solutions to address the growing demand for temporary accommodation expressed by students, interns, singles, single parents with children, city travellers, workers and professionals and more, refugees, migrants, victims of natural disasters or other vulnerable populations such as the elderly, ethnic minorities or handicapped persons. New social and population trends are shaping a new demand for housing.

The project breaks with the supposed superiority of permanent architecture to suggest new densification scenarios and develop alternative housing modalities: instead of widening the city's periphery, HabitLib' makes it possible to “densify” it in a temporary and eco-sustainable way within its existing boundaries through the redevelopment of urban voids, fracture zones and abandoned sites.

A project articulated around temporariness and a mobile lifestyle, HabitLib' aims at creating easy to assemble and to dismantle "nomadic" housing units to meet temporary and short-term accommodation needs.
Engaging local governments in temporary strategies.

In co-operation with national, local or regional government authorities and public or private financial institutions HabitLib’s temporary residences are planned and managed by municipality in order to ensure equity and inclusion in urban planning, fostering the participation of all citizens, including those populations most prone to marginalization and exclusion.

The socio-cultural value of temporary-use can be summarized as enriching the infrastructure of the cities; strengthening the identity of the area under use; place-making; contributing to urban regeneration; engaging communities in planning processes and enhancing collaboration.

HABITLIB
NC ARCHITECTURE
Sustainable urban development

Another fundamental concept of the project is the vegetal scenography of which the housing units form an integral part of it in order to regenerate the preexisting in harmony with the traditional city. This innovative visual perspective reinterprets space and promotes urban regeneration by involving the residents in the preservation, maintenance, cleanliness and animation of shared green areas – a « creative workshop in the art of living together » that can germinate « the seeds of future forms of humanity ».

HabitLib realizes the dream of a tree house or a house with a garden in the city within a place that reconciles the legitimate desire of closeness to nature with the social and metropolitan requirements to which nobody wants to give up. In these residual spaces converted into urban housing units, personal privacy and participatory dimension combine to restore the balance between city and nature, to rebuild a physical environment favorizing humanizing urban life, to promote social change, and to create a collective identity.
HabitLib’ is a housing that consumes limited amounts of energy and is built from sustainable materials.

In its ideal configuration, it is self-sufficient and consumes only energy from renewable sources.

HabitLib’ modules can be quickly assembled, dismantled and reassembled several times before their obsolescence. Their functional and aesthetic characteristics meet all eco-compatibility standards regarding lightness, flexibility, sustainable development, portability, transformability, adaptability and recyclability. Their lightness (687 kilos), durability and eco-efficiency are secured thanks to the use of biocomposite materials combining natural flax and hemp fibers with resins derived from agricultural waste.

Every housing unit is fully furnished and serviced, and offers a space of reduced dimensions (13 or 16 square meters) accessible to all. Heating and hot water might be provided via a connection to the urban network.

**Linen fibre a “100% sustainable development” vegetation fiber**

- 65% of the world’s linen production is European.
- Socially responsible = generates employment.
- Economically viable.
- No irrigation = needs only rain.
- Needs no insecticides.
- Does not pollute water.
- Regenerates soil for the next cultivation.
- All parts of the plant are used.
- Products with a linen base are 100% recyclable.
- Heat-regulating.

HabitLib
NC ARCHITECTURE

#ASFAW