

Inside Out

a manual of inhabiting the urban space of Paris

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Paris transformations:
architectural, urban and metropolitan

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“Full of merit, yet poetically, man Dwells on this earth.”

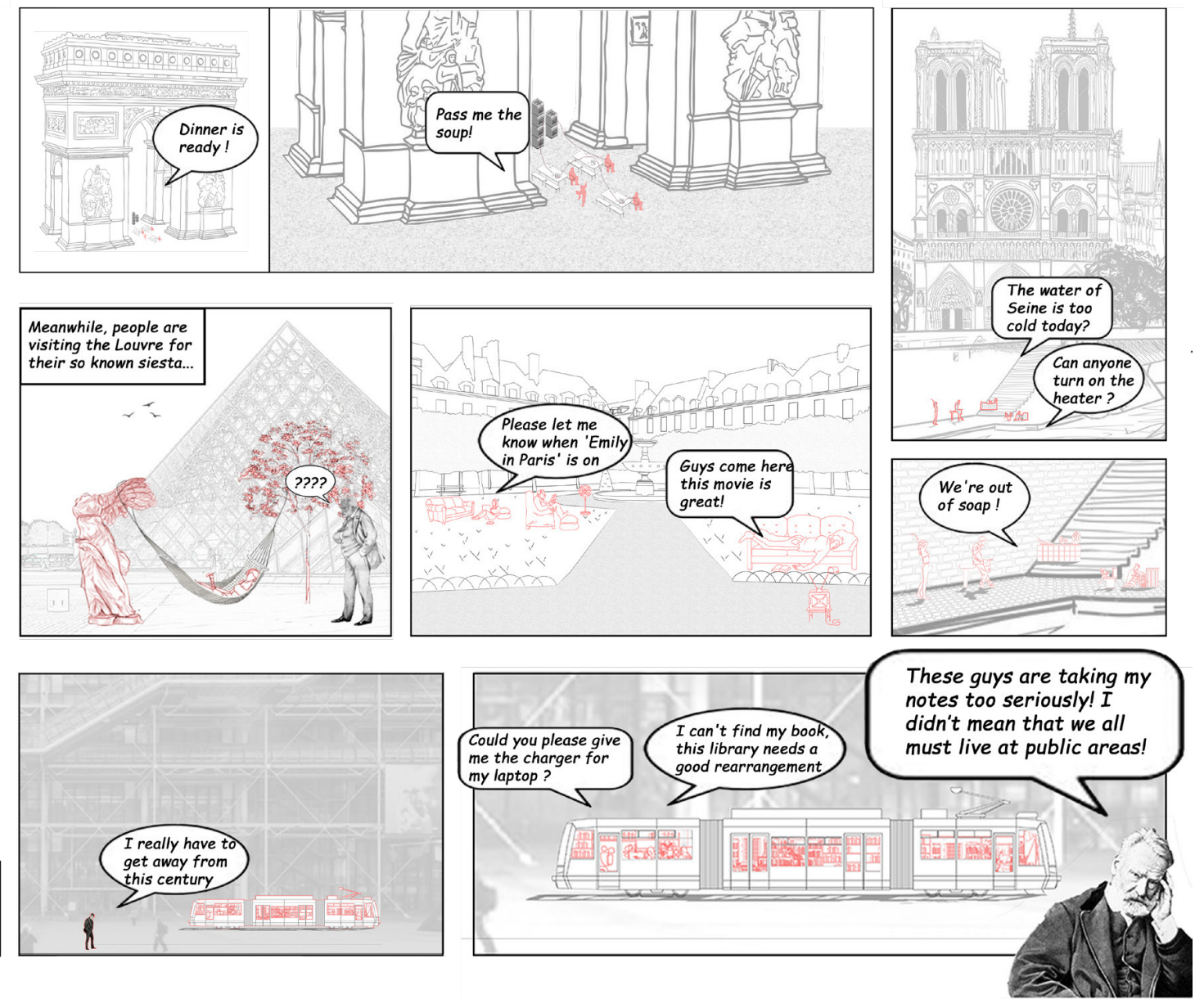
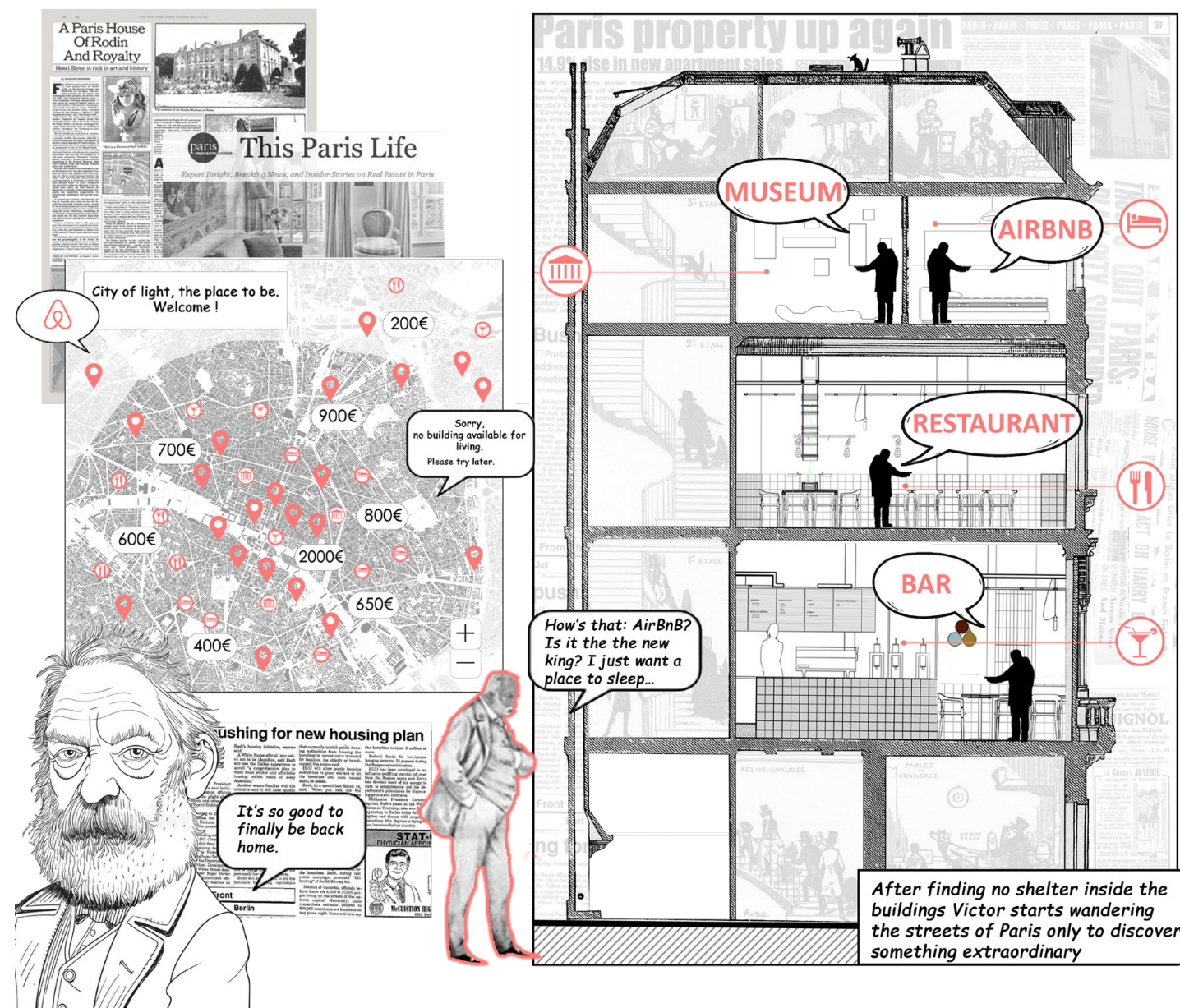
The above phrase of Hölderlin’s poem, urged Martin Heidegger to explore the notion of dwelling. How can the human dwelling be called poetic? Analyzing the poem, he concludes that Hölderlin does not assert that to dwell means to occupy a house, a dwelling place. For Heidegger, poetic dwelling is much deeper than ordinary living in an apartment. Following this approach of dwelling, our central idea is based in an alternative way of interpreting the act of inhabiting a place.

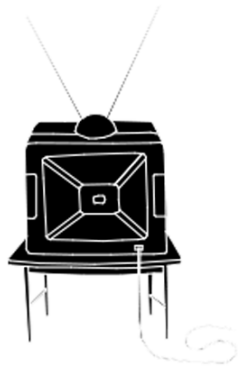
The city of Paris and more specifically its historical center, is flooded every day by hundreds of tourists. Its historic buildings have been occupied by commercial and recreational uses, making the finding of permanent housing for the average citizen, difficult to impossible. In an attempt to answer Heidegger’s question about dwelling, our poster investigates the role of urban space in the condition of living in a city. As contemporary flâneurs, we identify places of the urban fabric of Paris that offer the possibility of "inhabiting" to a permanent dweller. A dwelling is not an apartment. It is not even a building. A dwelling can be the park in front of the “Louvre”. A dwelling can be the shadow under the “Arc de triomphe” or the little square with the carousel in the area of “Montmartre”.

Victor Hugo once said, *“To err is human, to stroll is Parisian”*. Therefore, our narration of the city of Paris follows the writer, who – as time traveler - wanders in the urban space of the historic center discovering all the possibilities and the hidden secrets that it provides to its dwellers. Our storytelling consists of episodes describing an “alternative” everyday life of the citizens of Paris, where the public space is conceived as the place of residence of the collective. Hybrid forms of space, paradoxical and unexpected situations blur the boundaries between private and public, unveiling the different potentials of the urban experience.

According to Walter Benjamin, the experience of living in a city is made of the seemingly unrelated images that arise from wandering. Thus, our story is based on extraordinary situations occurring in different parts of the city, that – when put together, as a puzzle – they reveal the experience of the public space of the historic center. In our approach, the public space is transformed into a scene where every unreasonable, extravagant, and unexpected situation is possible. This poster is a manual of inhabiting the urban space of Paris. It attempts to guide a citizen, to show him all these possibilities that the urban space provides for reappropriation of the city by the people who live in it.

The poster functions as a critical comment on the residential condition of the historic center through a series of utopian micro-episodes of inhabiting the public space. Paris consists of a lively public space where every person can find what they long for just by walking through its streets





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