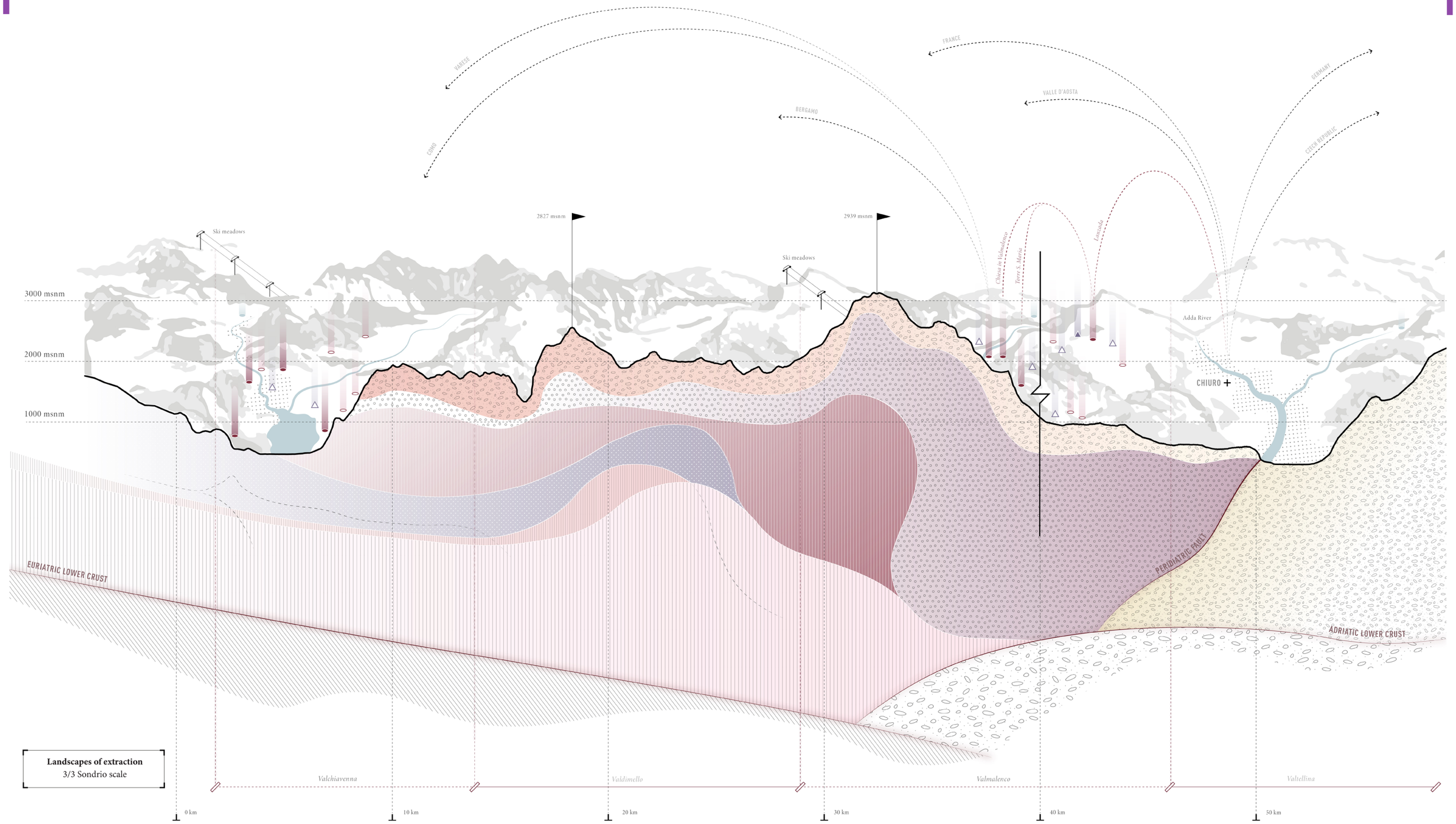


MSc in Landscape Architecture. Land Landscape Heritage AUIC School, Politecnico di Milano

Since 2017, the Politecnico di Milano has offered a two-years MSc in Landscape Architecture, now coordinated by Prof. Federico Zanfi. Design experience, understood as a critical form of knowledge rather than mere problem-solving, is foundational to the course.The program's name connects three terms: Land, Landscape, Heritage. Four themes clarify the relationship among them and guide the selection of the projects presented here, developed in multidisciplinary Design Studios.

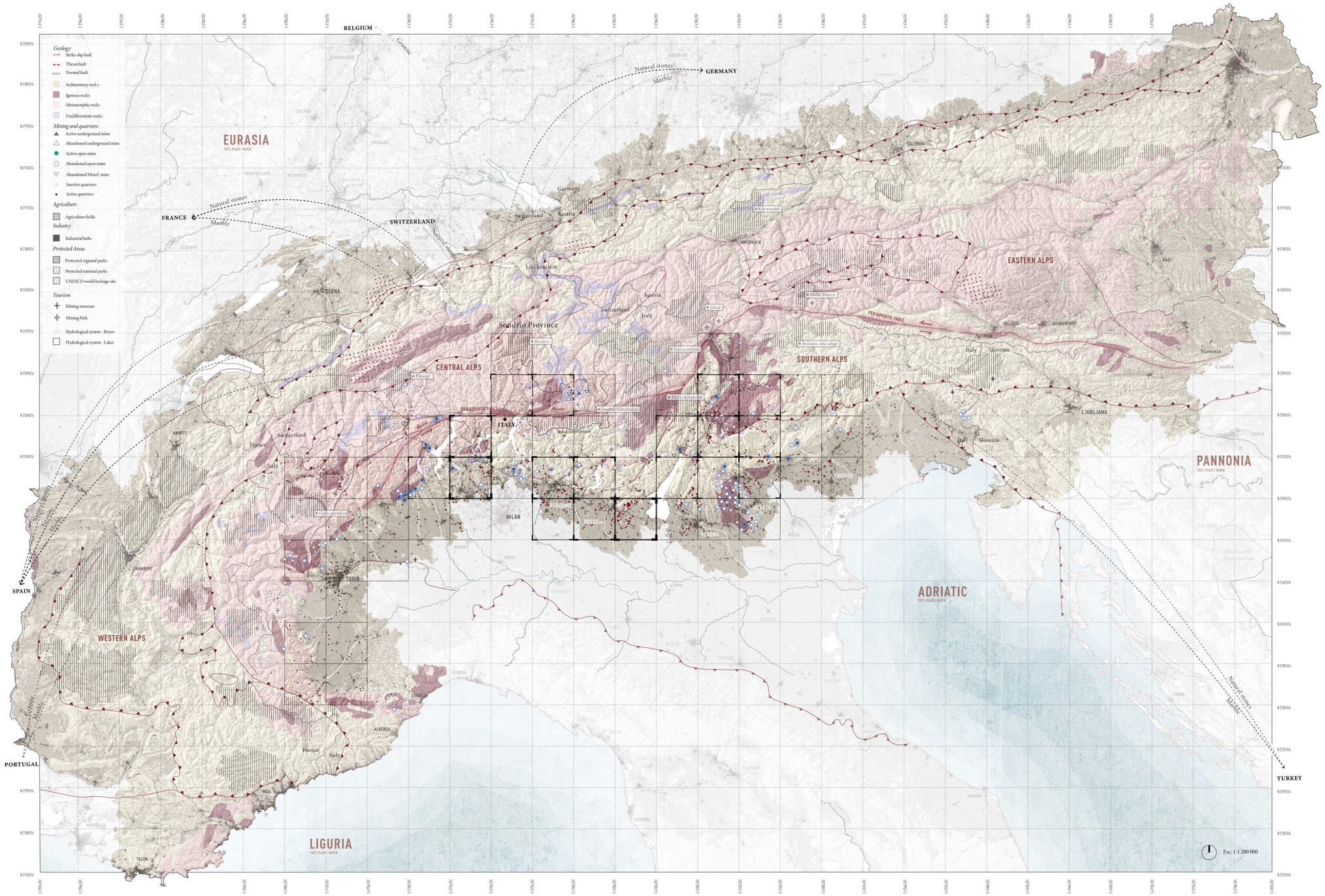
1. Landscape dimension as a fundamental component in urban and territorial design. The program acknowledges landscape design as a specific field of action in open and built spaces, while emphasizing its key role in contemporary urban and territorial designs.

2. Landscape design nourished by polytechnic culture. The training of landscape architects draws not only on landscape traditions but also on architecture, urban planning, environmental engineering, agricultural and forestry sciences, and natural, geological, geographical, and social sciences.

3. Landscape design as conservation, care, and modification. The course focuses on the care and critical modification of landscapes, integrating new elements while respecting the specific contexts undergoing changes.

4. Italy as an international experimental field. Italy's diverse and fragile territory offers a privileged testing ground for contemporary landscape design.

Dossier prepared by Professors Chiara Geroldi and Antonio Longo with Mattia Tettoni (research fellow) and Shizuka Sasaki (student)



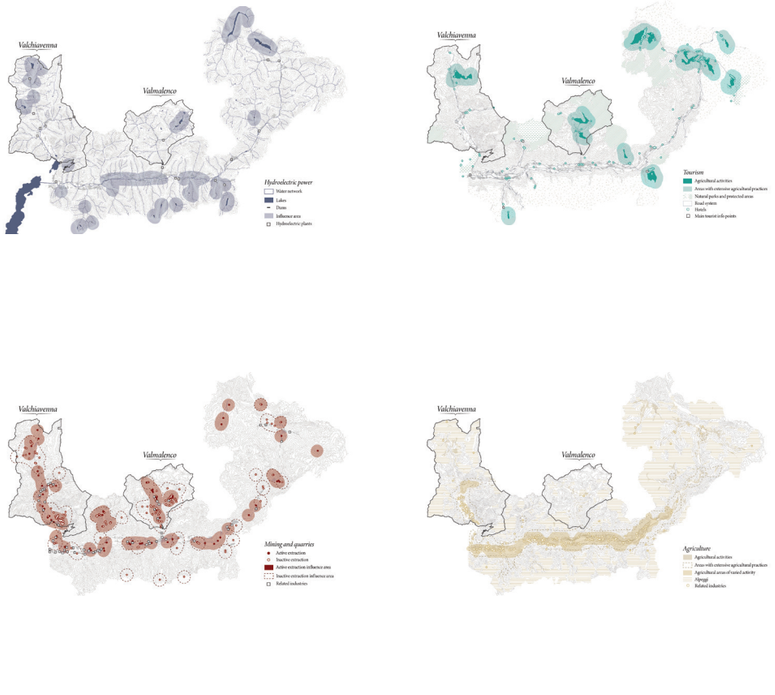
Country/City	Italy/Milan
University / School	MSc in Landscape Architecture - LLH, AUIC School, Politecnico di Milano
Academic year	2021/2022
Title of the project	***Alpine Instabilities. Regenerating former extractive sites in the Alps***
Authors	Stella Gelmini, M. Camila Katich, Luis M. Ocampo, Laura C. Parra

TECHNICAL DOSSIER

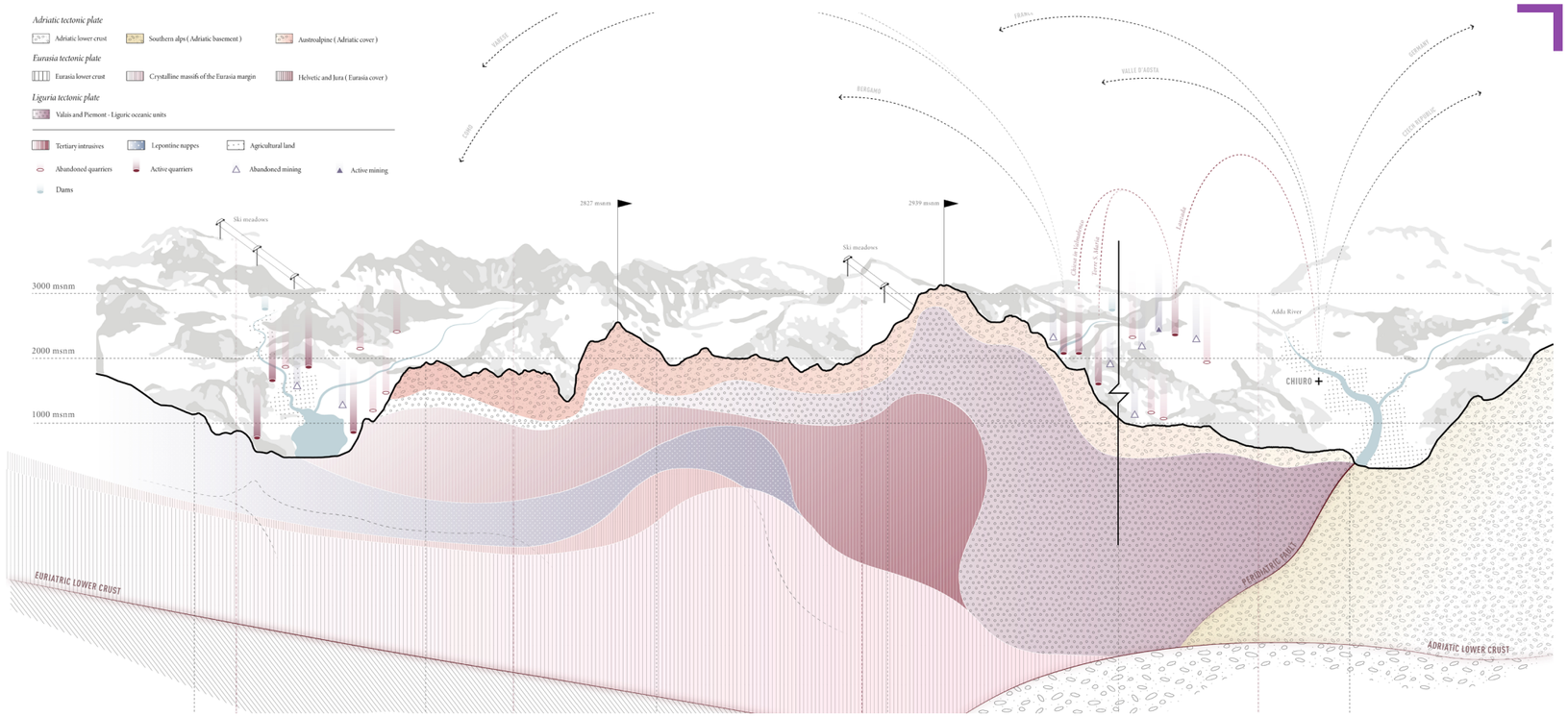
Title of the project	Alpine Instabilities. Reclaiming former extractive sites in the Alps
Authors	Stella Gelmini, M. Camila Katich, Luis M. Ocampo, Laura C. Parra
Title of the course	Landscape Design Studio 2 (Critical Grounds Lab-Alpine Instabilities)
Academic year	2021/2022
Teaching Staff	Professors: F. Garofalo, C. Geroldi; TA: L. Barcucci, E. Brusa, K. Venis
Program	MSc in Landscape Architecture - Land Landscape Heritage
University / School	School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering at Politecnico di Milano

13

This project explores the **spatial, material, and cultural dimensions of extraction**, often understood as the active and often forceful removal of resources from the Earth. It approaches this concept through three interconnected ideas: material, shape, and process. These terms help reveal extraction not just as an economic activity, but as a transformative force that reshapes land, affects ecosystems, and creates complex relationships between people and territory. Focusing on the Alpine region—often imagined as a natural and untouched landscape—the project highlights its deeply altered and human-made character. Far from being pristine, the **Alps are shaped by overlapping extractive systems: energy production, mining, agriculture, and tourism**. Together, these activities form a continuous and interconnected network that transforms the land both physically and socially. **The project aims to reclaim extractive and post-extractive territories** by bringing them back into public awareness and the collective imagination. These landscapes, often hidden or restricted, are reframed as places of memory, meaning, and future potential. Redefining these territories means giving them new value. This involves recognizing the **visible and invisible marks** left by extraction, while also proposing new ways to use and relate to these spaces. Through a flexible system of spaces, stories, and experiences, the project invites people to engage with these landscapes in meaningful ways. In doing so, it presents them as **critical sites for reflection**, where we can rethink our relationship with nature and envision new futures through the lens of landscape architecture.



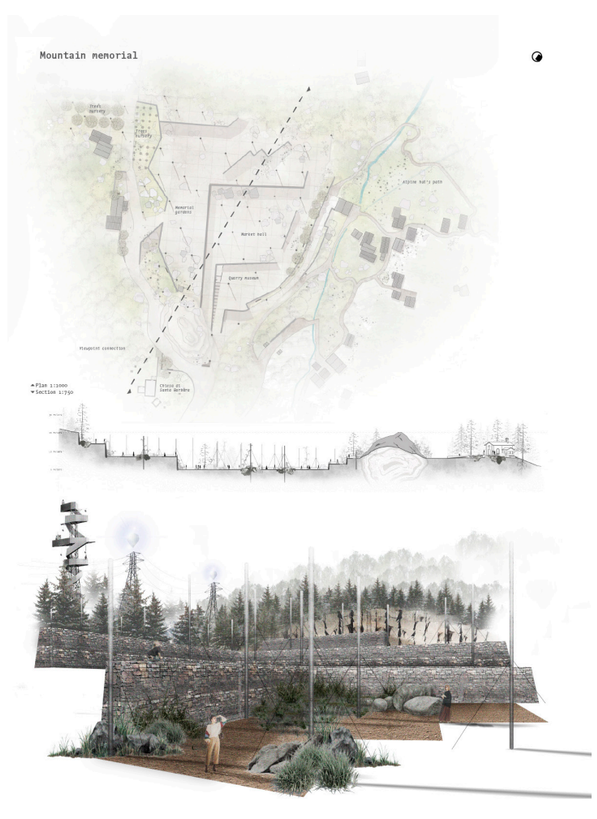
A. Extractive activities.
This diagram unveils the layers of resource-based practices, illustrating their spatial distribution and cumulative effects across the Valtellina landscape.

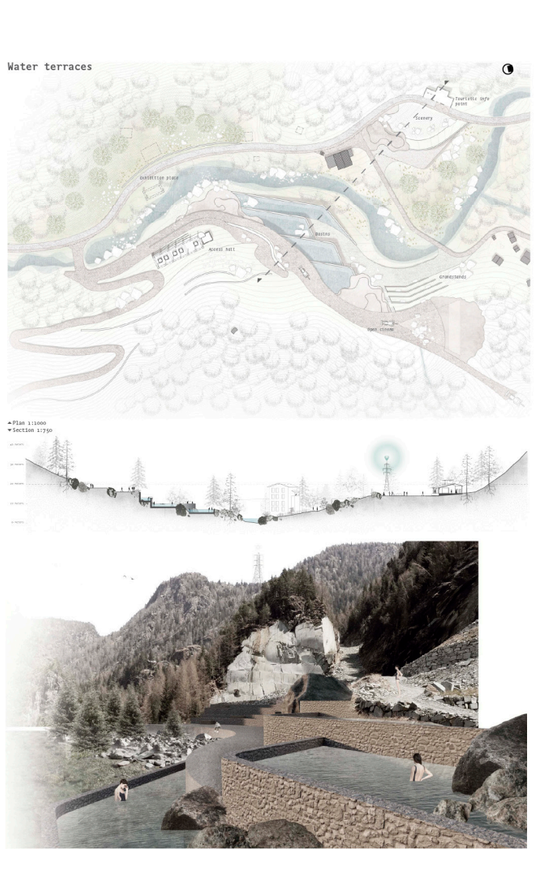


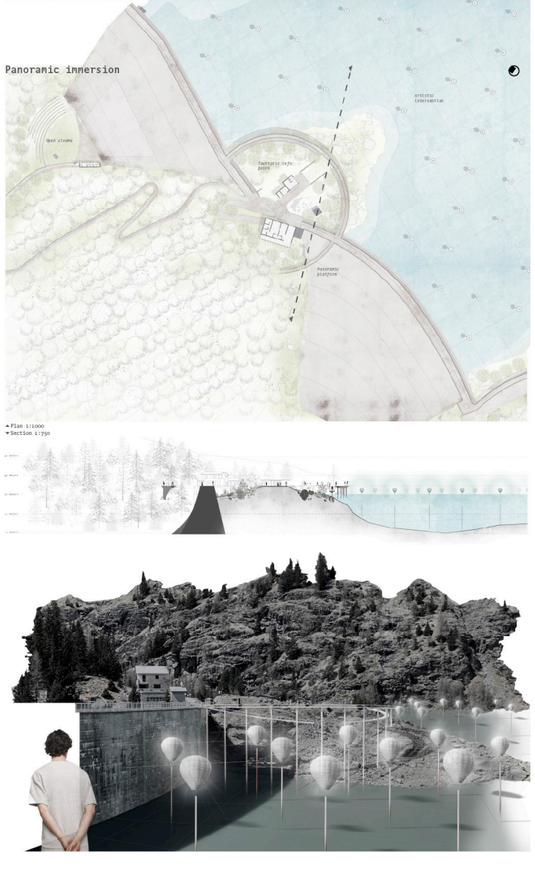
B. Section with material flows and exchanges.
A sectional analysis mapping the movement of materials, energy, and ecological flows, emphasizing interdependencies across the Valtellina system.

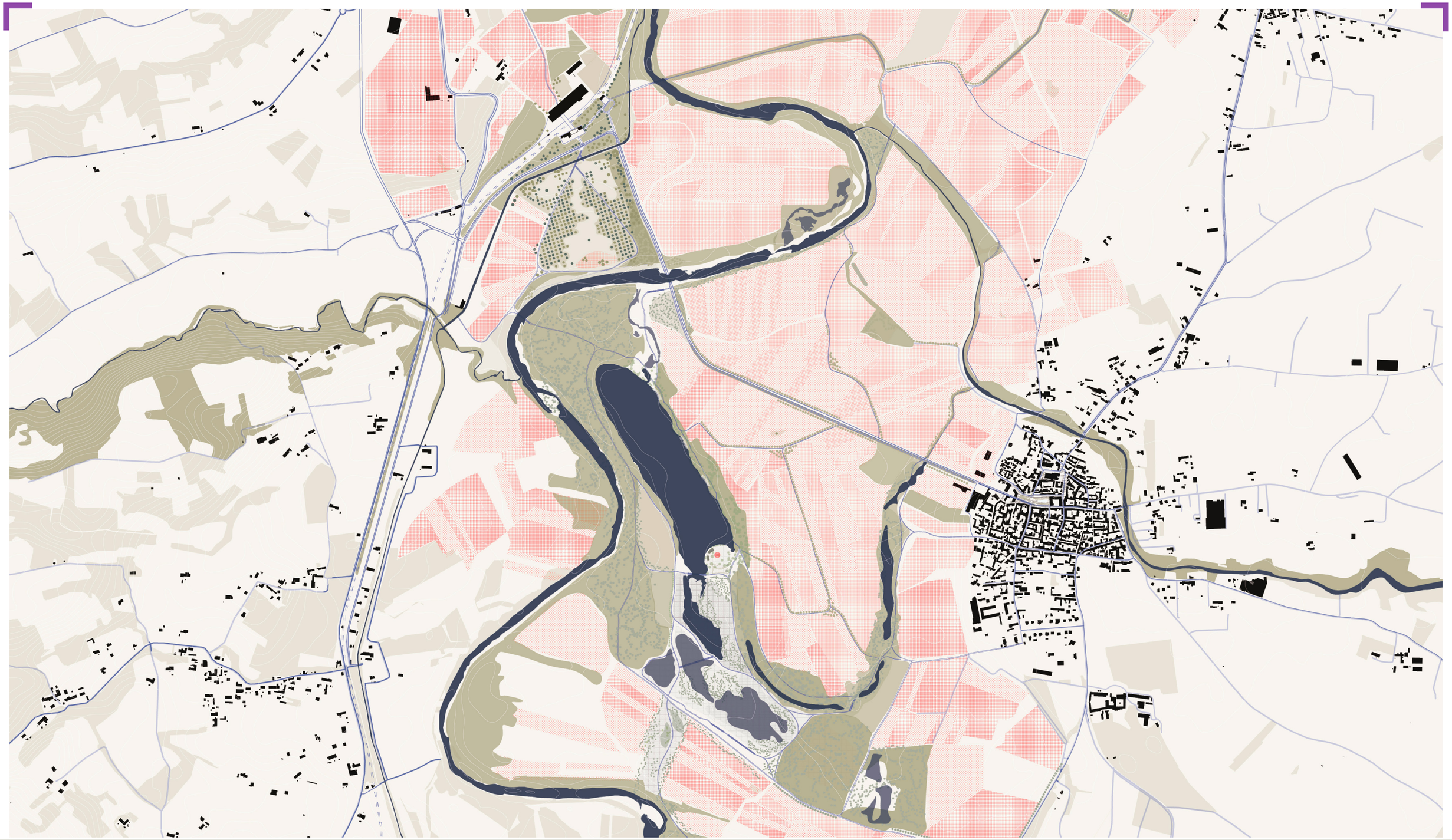
C. Key plan.
An overview identifying the three focal areas of intervention, each selected for its potential to reframe post-extractive landscapes through design.

D. Three projects illustrating how new activities can coexist with post-extractive landscapes, breaking the logic of monofunctionality.
Design strategies propose multifunctional futures where emerging uses engage with and regenerate the inherited logics of extraction, opening pathways to resilient and diverse landscapes.









Country/City	Italy / Milan
University / School	MSc in Landscape Architecture - LLH, AUIC School, Politecnico di Milano
Academic year	2024/2025
Title of the project	***Landscape-Based Regeneration in Shrinking Territories***
Authors	Veronika Brabcova, Robbe Van der Mynsbrugge, Sofie von Kauffmann

TECHNICAL DOSSIER

Title of the project	Landscape-based regeneration in shrinking territories
Authors	Veronika Brabcova, Robbe Van der Mynsbrugge, Sofie von Kauffmann
Title of the course	Landscape and Infrastracture Design Studio
Academic year	2023/2024
Teaching Staff	Professors: M. Secchi, S. Gangemi, G. Ravazzani; TA: G. Garrone, G. Zambon, N. Chaves Gonzáles
Program	MSc in Landscape Architecture - Land Landscape Heritage
University / School	School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering at Politecnico di Milano

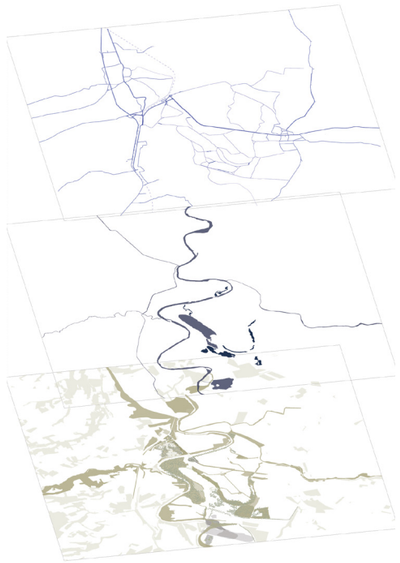
13

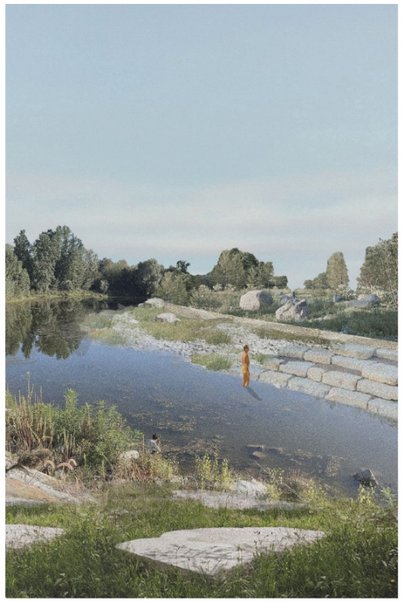
The Eastern Monferrato region, on the right bank of the Po Valley, is characterised by a **network of villages and small city centers**. The region's high-quality agricultural economy is known for wine production. Tourism has always played a role here, bolstered by the "food and wine" experience. However, **the population is decreasing and ageing, and seems to have been 'left behind'**, raising questions about service provision and mobility. Overall, infrastructural transformation follows the transnational reorganization of markets, with new high-capacity goods railways being built while **small railways serving villages are abandoned**. In this context of progressive landscape fragmentation, the water system and forest patterns are particularly relevant. The project aims to reconnect two small city centers through their shared rural landscape. **The project reclaims meaningful yet abandoned places**, such as an old factory, an abandoned railway station, and a decommissioned mining site. The project revolves around three main topics: 1. Genius Loci. The goal is to create a synergy between human activities and the natural environment without compromising the **territory's cultural and historical values**. Each design intervention takes into consideration the existing resources of the specific site. 2. The gradient of human. The proposal aims to create a **gradient between artificial elements and the natural environment** through buffer zones, corridors, and stepping stones, providing both biodiversity and multifunctional spaces for recreation. 3. **Materials reuse**. The reuse of materials goes beyond mere sustainability; it also creates a narrative connecting the past with the present, preserving the rural setting while embracing contemporary principles.

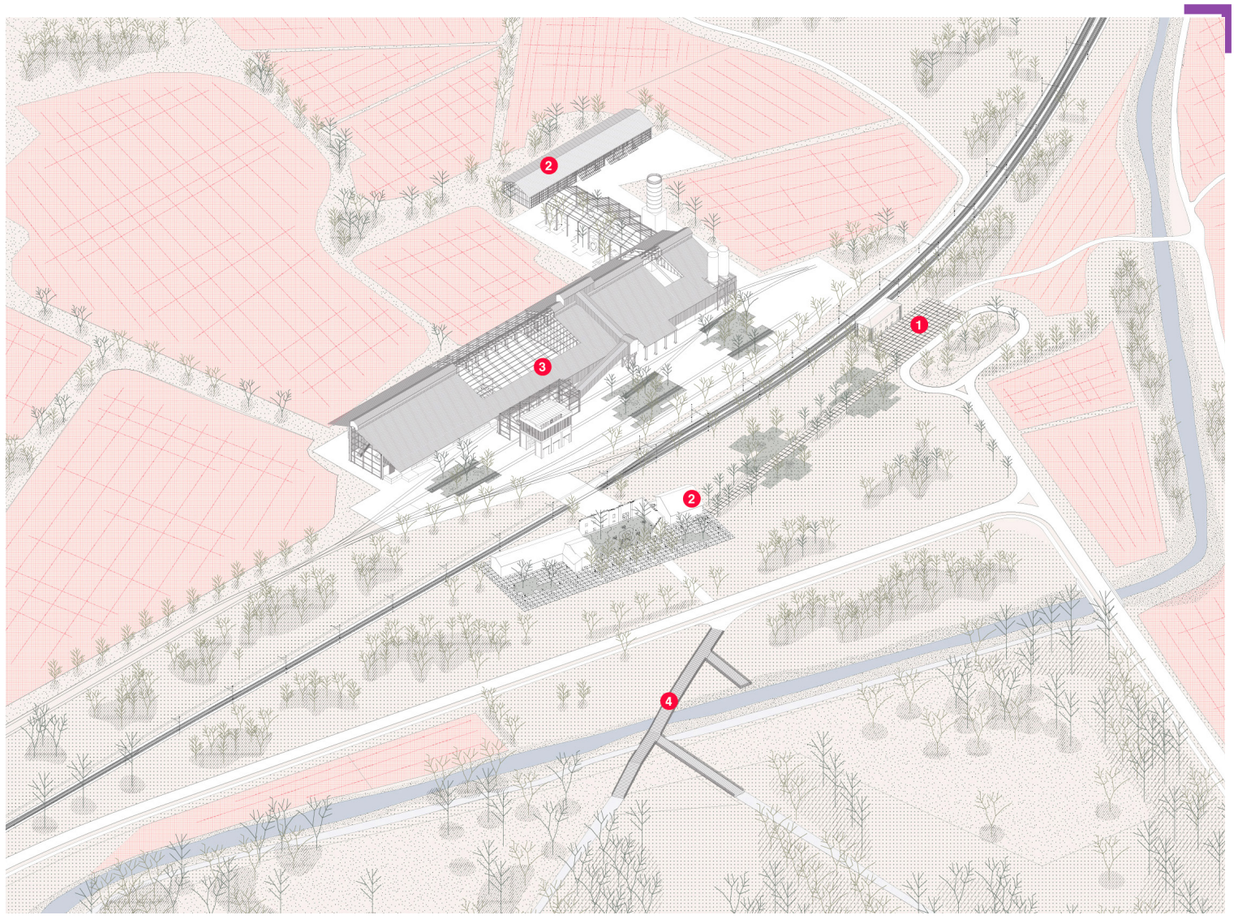
A. Three-layered system.
A spatial reading of the landscape through three overlapping ecological and infrastructural layers—mobility networks, hydrological systems, and green infrastructure—reveals their interrelations and spatial dynamics.

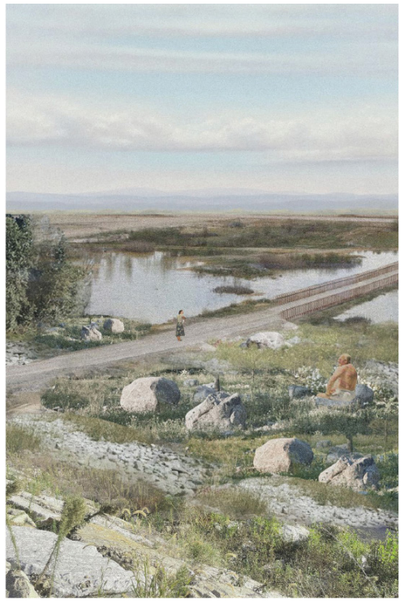
B. Spatial configuration.
A series of visual simulations illustrates the material and atmospheric qualities of the proposed landscape interventions, offering glimpses into new everyday ecologies and spatial narratives.

C. Pilot project.
A pilot intervention catalyzes broader territorial regeneration, testing principles of reuse, ecological transition, and multifunctionality at a local scale. Involving the underutilized infrastructure of a shrinking territory, such as an abandoned railway station.



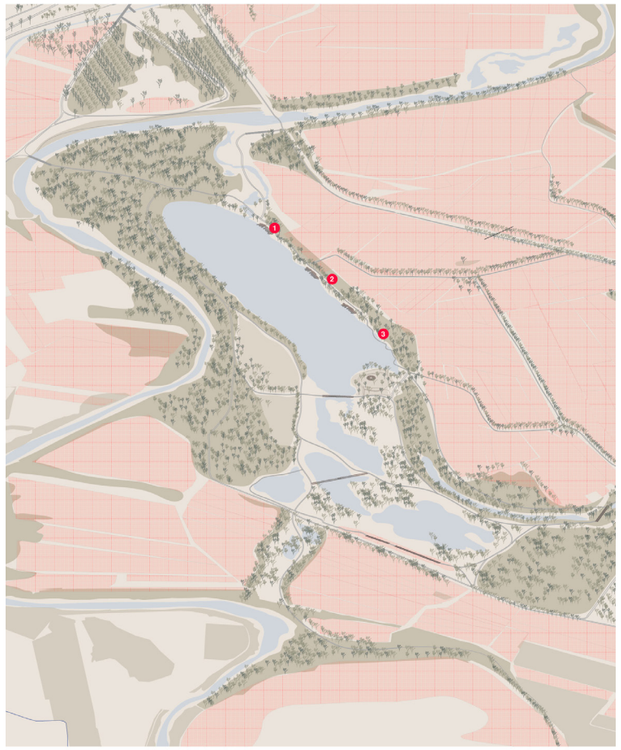


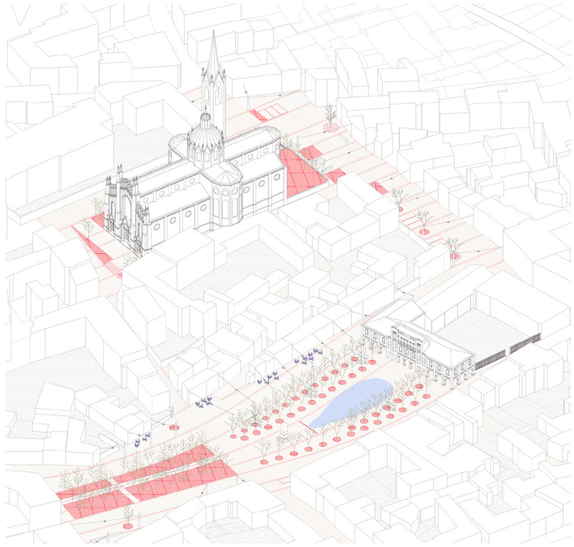


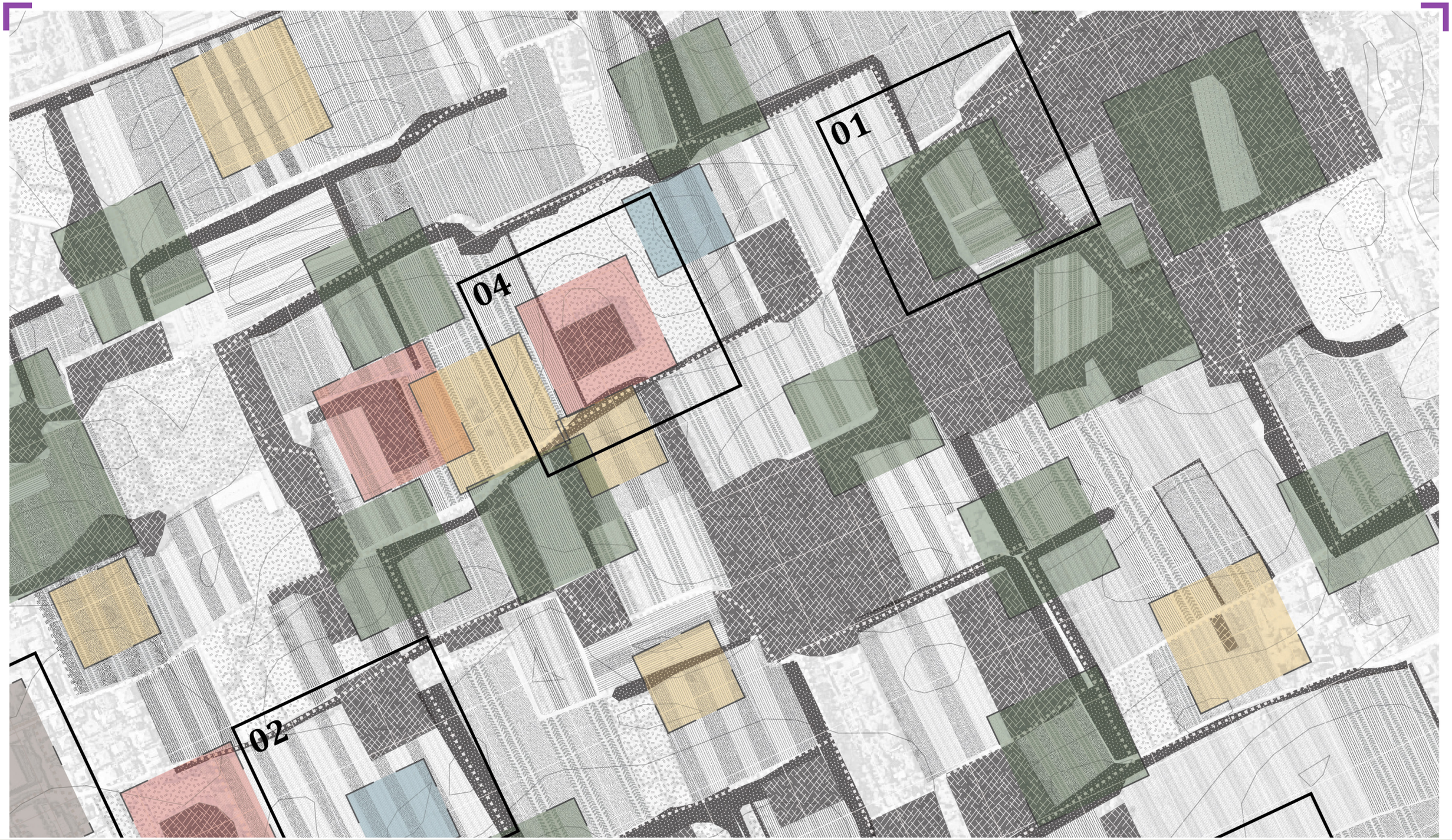


D. Relationship with water.
Adaptive strategies for design and management that engage with water, understood both as a resource and a risk.

E. Axonometric view depicting the relationship with the built environment.
The proposed interventions integrate with the existing settlements and architectural fragments, emphasizing continuity between past and future layers of inhabitation.







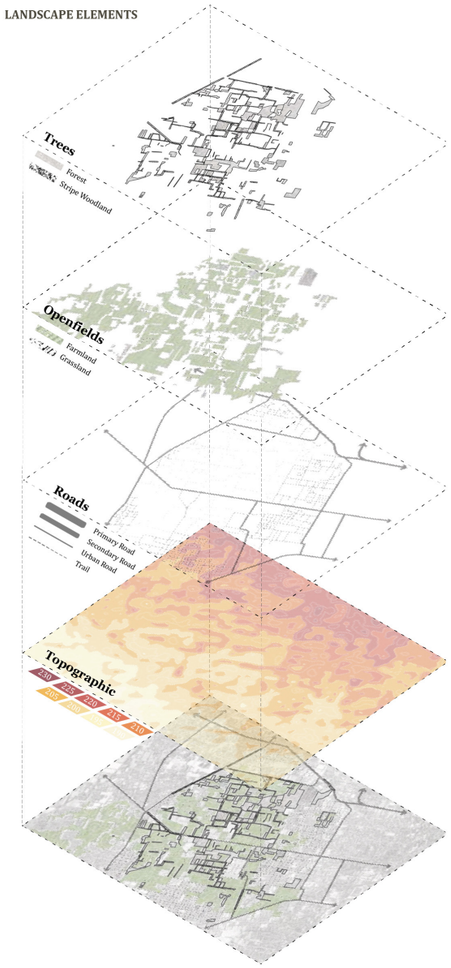
Country/City	Italy / Milan
University / School	MSc in Landscape Architecture - LLH, AUIC School, Politecnico di Milano
Academic year	2022/2023
Title of the project	***Environmental regeneration by exploiting agricultural traces and fragments***
Authors	Chia-Yu Hsu, Shengran Chang, Wei-An Chen, Jiang Li

TECHNICAL DOSSIER

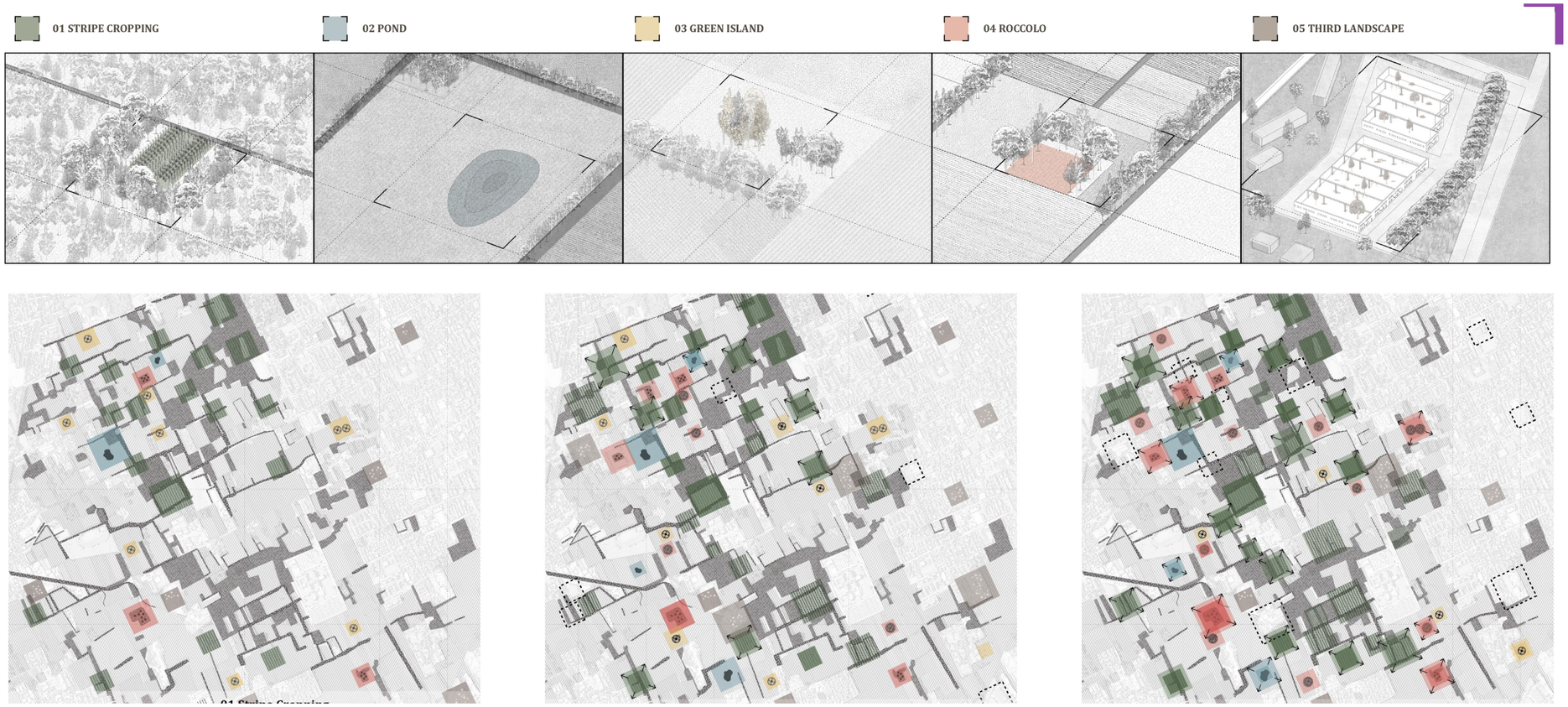
Title of the project	Environmental regeneration by exploiting agricultural traces and fragments
Authors	Chia-Yu Hsu, Shengran Chang, Wei-An Chen, Jiang Li
Title of the course	Open Space Systems and Park Design Studio
Academic year	2022/2023
Teaching Staff	Professors: A. Longo, A. Oldani, M. Gabrielli; TA: M. Lama, K. Nasretdinova, A. Borghi
Program	MSc in Landscape Architecture - Land Landscape Heritage
University / School	School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering at Politecnico di Milano

13

North of Milan, along the Olona River valley in the lowland plains, lies one of the most complex Italian metropolitan territories —marked by **urban sprawl, weakened agriculture, and polluted soils**. Here, the Open Space Networks and Parks Design Studio tackled the challenge of recovering and **rethinking peri-urban open spaces and their inherent fragility**, through a project on peri-urban agricultural landscapes. What forms can natural capital reconstruction take? **What role can agriculture still play?** And how can these spaces reconnect with the lives of citizens living in the diffuse metropolis of Milan? The project by the students made a radical choice: it makes neither sense nor is it feasible to reconstruct a lost structure or to rely on continuous green infrastructures—corridors, axes, borders—as a forced continuity. The project acts instead on the **patchwork of individual parcels, recognizing faint traces in the land**: canals, cultivated lots, cadastral boundaries, and the traces of the ancient Roman *centuriatio* that once shaped the agricultural grid. These subtle signs become **an active palimpsest for the reconstruction**—through time, decentralized rules, and voluntary actions by landowners, supported by European agricultural funding—of a renewed agricultural fabric, a living and productive landscape. This is not a nostalgic return, but a forward-looking vision where **agriculture becomes a tool for environmental regeneration** and a renewed connection between landscape and daily urban life.

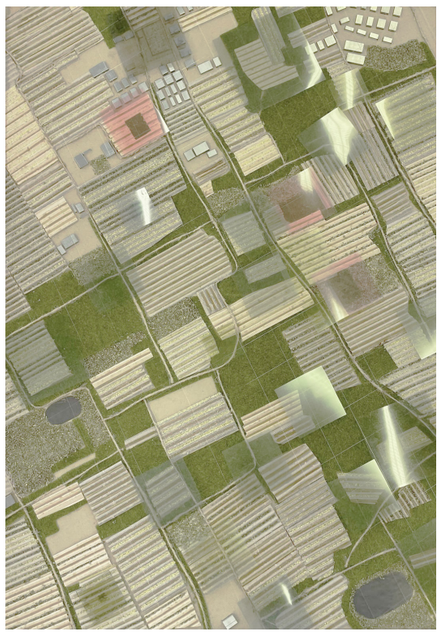


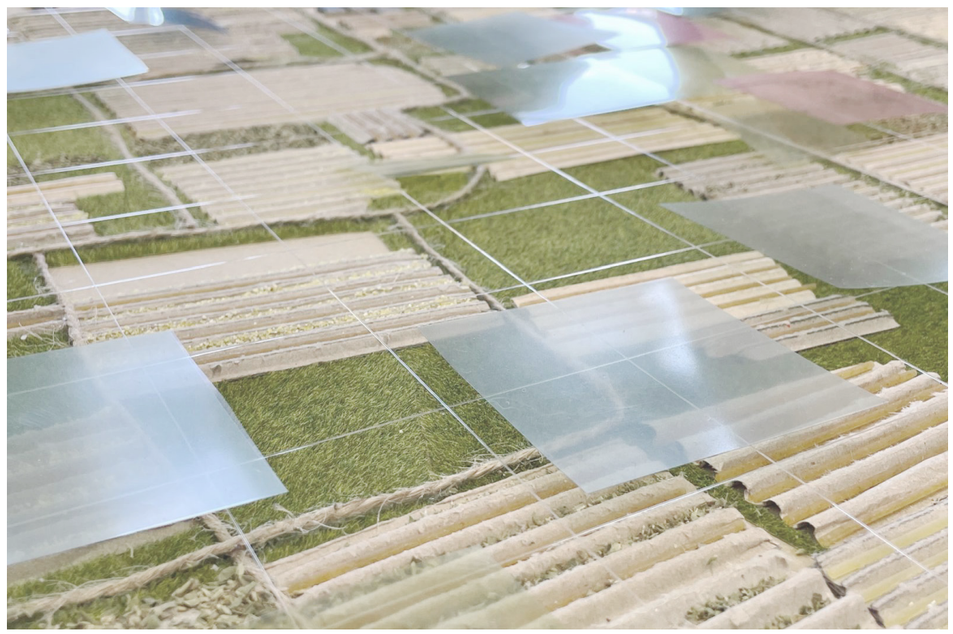
A. A layered reading of the territory.
This diagram illustrates the composite structure of the peri-urban landscape, where natural and anthropogenic elements intersect, interact, and create spatial complexity.



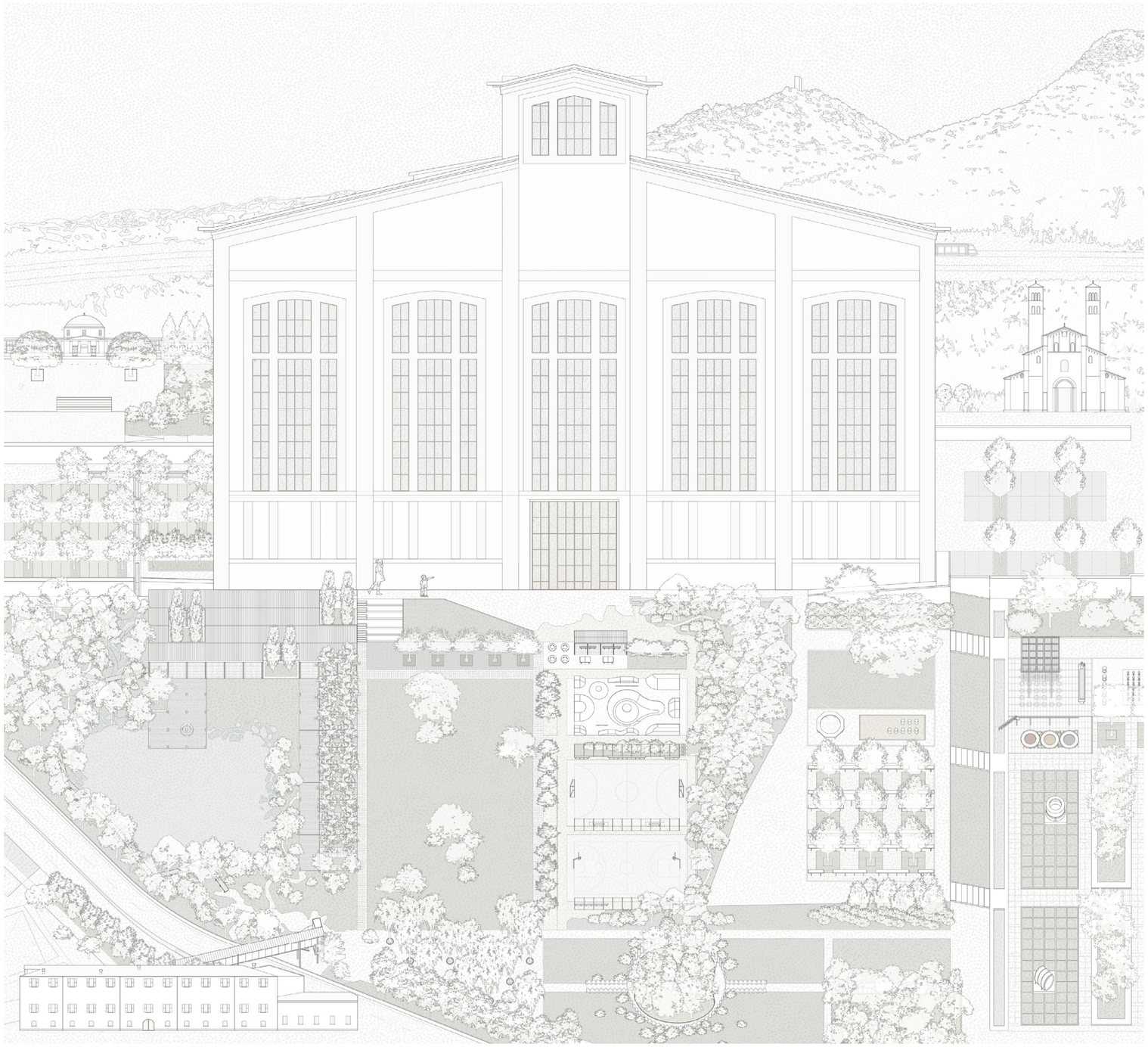
B. Five elements of the landscape.
A breakdown of the landscape into four essential components—each acting as a tile within a mosaic—is used to articulate a system of interventions rooted in existing traces and material realities.

C. Time, Traces, Agriculture, and the Changing Landscape.
The proposed design across the agricultural landscape maps the persistence and transformation of land patterns, productive cycles, and ecological structures over time.





D. A visual composition.
Photographs of physical models capture the atmospheric and material qualities of the proposed interventions, articulating an imaginative yet grounded vision of future rural-urban spaces.

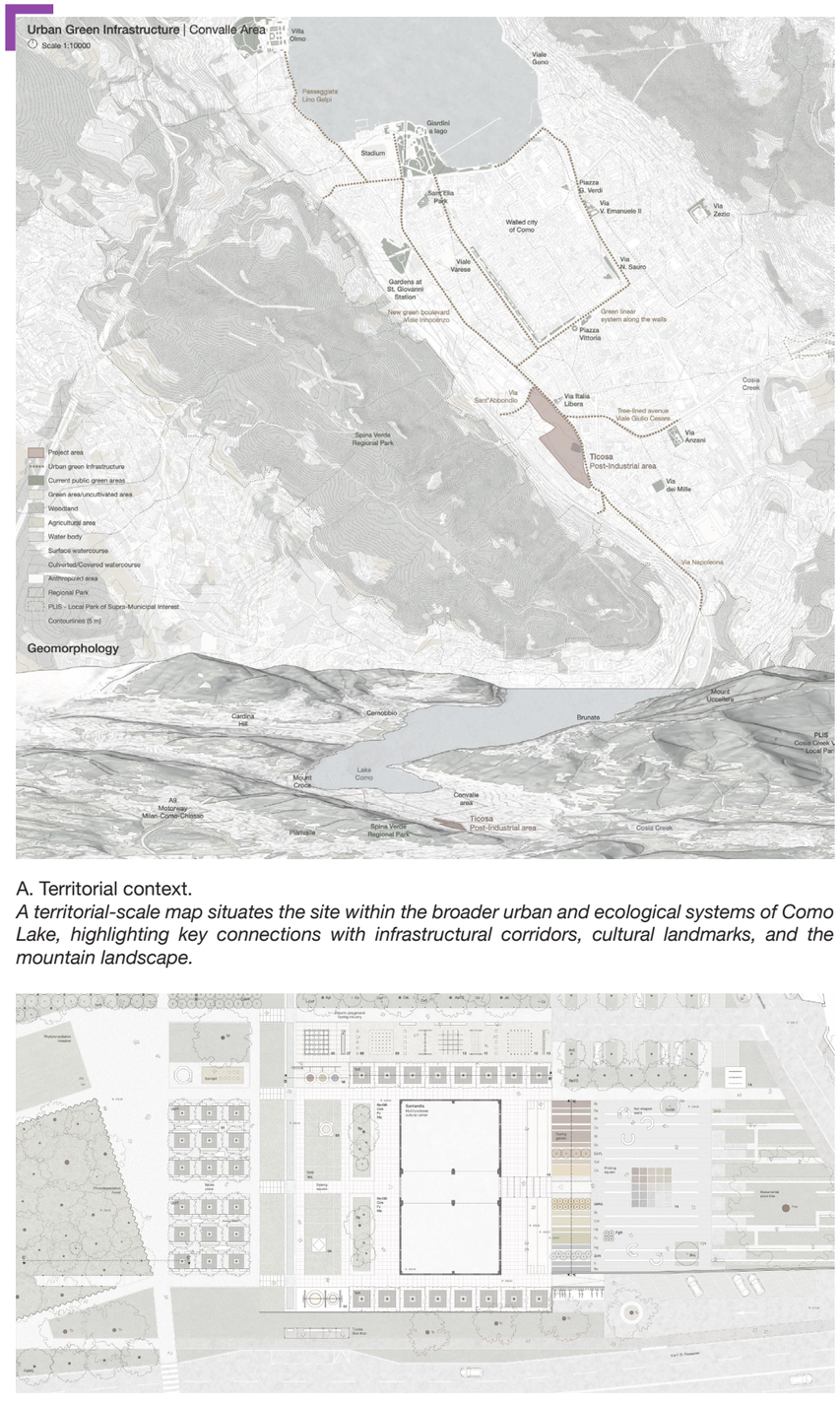


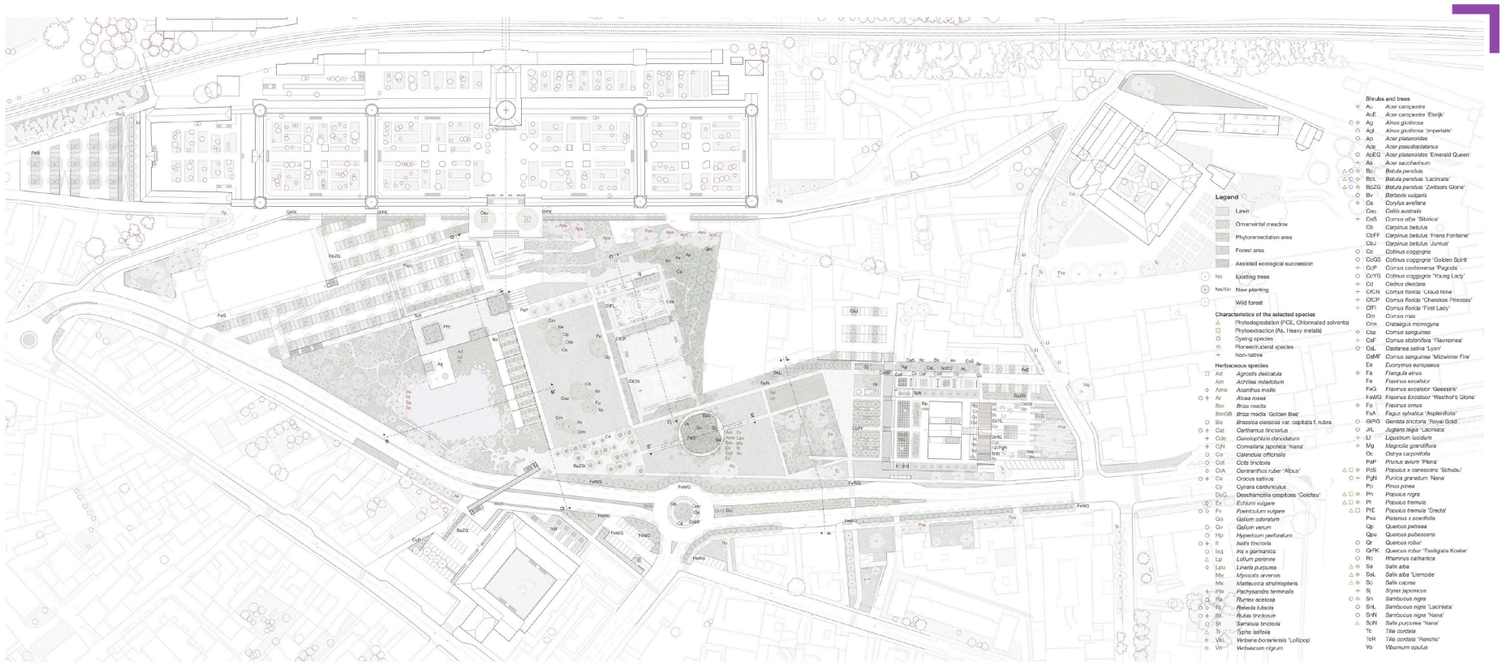
Country/City Italy / MIlan
University / School MSc in Landscape Architecture - LLH, AUIC School, Politecnico di Milano
Academic year 2022/2023
Title of the project ***Reclaiming 19th Century Industrial Heritage Landscape***
Authors Jonathan Arnaboldi

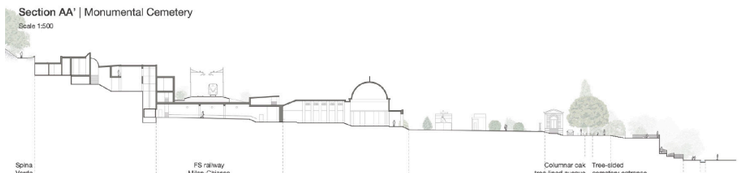
TECHNICAL DOSSIER

Title of the project	Reclaiming 19th century industrial heritage landscape
Authors	Jonathan Arnaboldi
Title of the course	Landscape Design Studio 2; project later developed as Thesis
Academic year	2022/2023
Teaching Staff	Studio Professors: H. Strode, S. Protasoni. Thesis Professors: S. Protasoni (Supervisor), S. A. Sapone (Co-Supervisor)
Program	MSc in Landscape Architecture - Land Landscape Heritage
University / School	School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering at Politecnico di Milano

The project addresses the regeneration of the “Ex-Ticosa” area, the largest **abandoned industrial site in Como**. Established in 1863 to serve the local silk industry, Ticosa became the **city’s main dyeing plant**, employing up to 2.500 workers after WWII. Since its closure in 1980, **the site has experienced prolonged neglect** and unfulfilled redevelopment plans. Following recent reclamation works, which left the area inaccessible and degraded, the project proposes a 4-hectare multifunctional **urban park rooted in the site’s industrial memory and enhancing the area’s ecological role in the urban context**. The intervention forms a new layer in Como’s urban palimpsest, enhancing the architectural historic Heritage, such as the Santarella building, the former Convent of St. Chiara, and the Monumental Cemetery, while revealing traces of lost elements like the “Corpo a C” and buried waterways. **An educational-interactive garden explores dyeing techniques and the historic role of water** for the site. Ecologically, **the project embraces the spontaneous wilderness** reclaiming the site, **supporting natural succession**, preserving existing trees, and **integrating phytoremediation processes**. Reclamation “scars” are reimagined as biodiversity hotspots and recreational sport facilities sit within a new reforested area, reinforcing the site’s new identity. Accessibility is key, reconnecting the park to the city (especially involving a large-scale urban regeneration process along the Via Milano axis, up to the lakefront) and to the nearby Spina Verde trails. The park envisions a future where **industrial Heritage and ecological resilience are woven together**, looking towards the environmental challenges of the present and future generations.

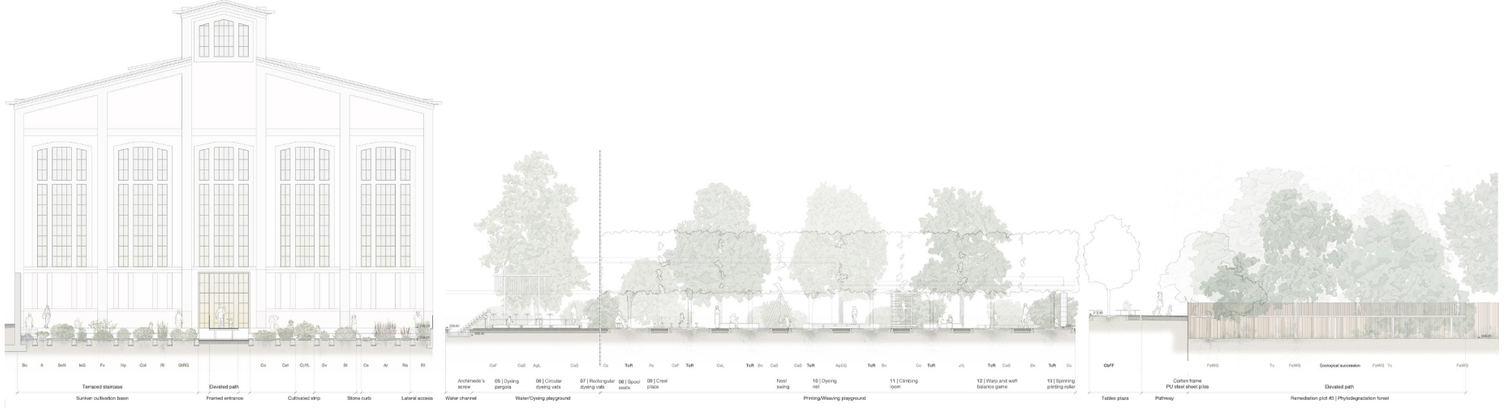




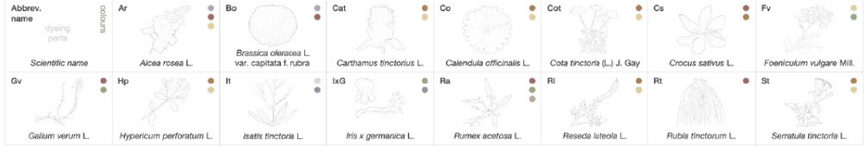


A. Territorial context.
A territorial-scale map situates the site within the broader urban and ecological systems of Como Lake, highlighting key connections with infrastructural corridors, cultural landmarks, and the mountain landscape.

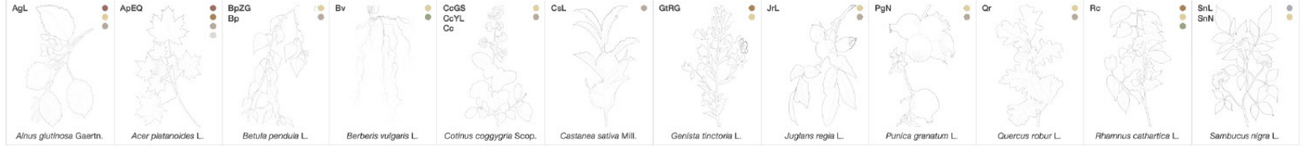
B. Masterplan.
The general plan and longitudinal section outline the spatial structure and main components of the intervention, articulating the interplay between open space, existing heritage, and new ecological strategies.



C. Relationship with the existing heritage.
A detailed reading of the site's built heritage – an abandoned dyeing plant – and its integration within the design proposal reveals how memory and material traces are reinterpreted as generative elements of the new landscape.



D. Plant selection diagram: dyeing species.
A diagram presents the palette of the species selected for their dual ecological and cultural functions.



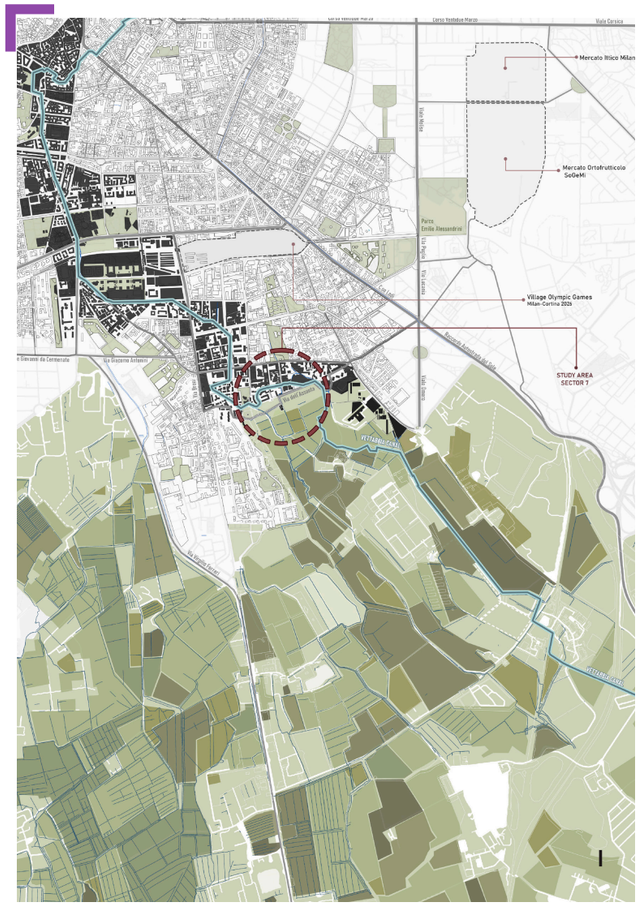
Country/City Italy / Milan
University / School MSc in Landscape Architecture - LLH, AUIC School, Politecnico di Milano
Academic year 2024/2025
Title of the project ***Reconnecting the City and its Periurban Landscape***
Authors Tatiana Cárdenas Sánchez, Vasiliki Giagkoula, Maria Paula Vega Gualdron, Spyridon Zouganelis

TECHNICAL DOSSIER

Title of the project	Reconnecting the city and its periurban landscape
Authors	Tatiana Cárdenas Sánchez, Vasiliki Giagkoula, Maria Paula Vega Gualdron, Spyridon Zouganelis
Title of the course	Landscape and Infrastructure Design Studio
Academic year	2024/2025
Teaching Staff	Professors: P. Bozzuto, C. Masera, M. Mancini; TA: T. Cabai, B. Falcone, L. Castellani
Program	MSc in Landscape Architecture - Land Landscape Heritage
University / School	School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering at Politecnico di Milano

13

Situated along the southern edge of Milan, where the urban fabric fades into the agricultural plains of the Parco Agricolo Sud Milano, **this proposal reimagines the threshold between city and countryside through landscape-driven infrastructure.** Anchored by the **'reopening' of the historic Vettabia Canal** and the regeneration of the abandoned Cascina Valle into an agricultural hub, the design stitches together ecology, heritage, and accessibility. **The project introduces orchards, community gardens, and a Flower Valley** that act as productive and seasonal landscapes. At the same time, **a newly proposed pond supports biodiversity** and functions as a humid zone essential for sustainable water management. Existing and new infrastructures are integrated into a holistic system to support irrigation, water circulation, and ecological resilience across the wider agricultural mosaic. The area becomes **a shared landscape, connecting urban residents with rural practices** through new soft mobility paths and open green networks. By **reactivating forgotten infrastructures** and restoring the cultural memory of place, the design provides a new interface between the city and the land: a living threshold where people, nature, and production coexist.



A. Territorial context.
A territorial reading of the site tracing the relationship between urban fringes, agricultural fields, and ecological infrastructures.

B. Masterplan.
Strategic spatial configuration and species distribution.

C. Design with plants and water.
Detailed drawings explore two key areas of intervention through plan and section, revealing the spatial strategies for integrating vegetation, water, ecological, and different functions.

D. Landscape components and materials.
A series of construction details illustrates the interface between soil, vegetation, water, and human use, highlighting how materials are integrated into the site's ecological and cultural context.