



By its 'natural inclination', the landscape project is transdisciplinary, interscalar, sensitive to the dynamics of living entity. At whatever spatial and temporal scale it operates or whatever category of intervention it is called upon to deal with, the landscape project represents - today more than ever - a device, both powerful and subtle, capable of detecting, revealing, accompanying, changes in places, territories, habitats, ideas of nature. The five selected master's thesis intend to compose a minimal but significant repertoire of types of Landscape Architecture projects, where the processes of transformation and management of open spaces and widespread naturalness are investigated in function of some increasingly urgent quality objectives. Attention to climate change, ecological revitalization, environmental regeneration of post-industrial areas, active conservation of heritage sites, production of individual and collective well-being in everyday places, increase in ecological connectivity, biodiversity and widespread naturalness in urbanized territories: these are the main topics explored in the chosen students works. Furthermore, the proposed selection intends to show a pedagogical work in the field of Landscape Architecture based on "research by teaching": an approach envisaging that research and teaching activities are closely intertwined, with the aim of nourishing each other giving rise to opportunities for innovative practical/theoretical explorations. Three of the five thesis works were developed in the framework of collaboration agreements between teachers and public or private bodies. Moreover, one of the five was awarded with 2023 IFLA EUROPE Student and Young Professionals Competition.



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Garden of Villa La Quiete | 8 Garden of the Villa di Poggio Imperiale |
| 2 Garden of the Royal Villa of Castello | 9 Garden of Palazzo Medici Riccardi |
| 3 Garden of Vila La Tocaia | 10 Garden of Palazzo alla Crocetta |
| 4 Garden of Via La Retraia | 11 Botanical Garden |
| 5 Garden of the Royal Villa of Careggi | 12 Garden of Villa Medici in Fiesole |
| 6 Cascine Park (former Medici estate) | 13 Medici Park in Prato |
| 7 Boboli Gardens | |

Fig.1 Villa la Quiete: a tessera in the foothills between Monte Morello and the Piana

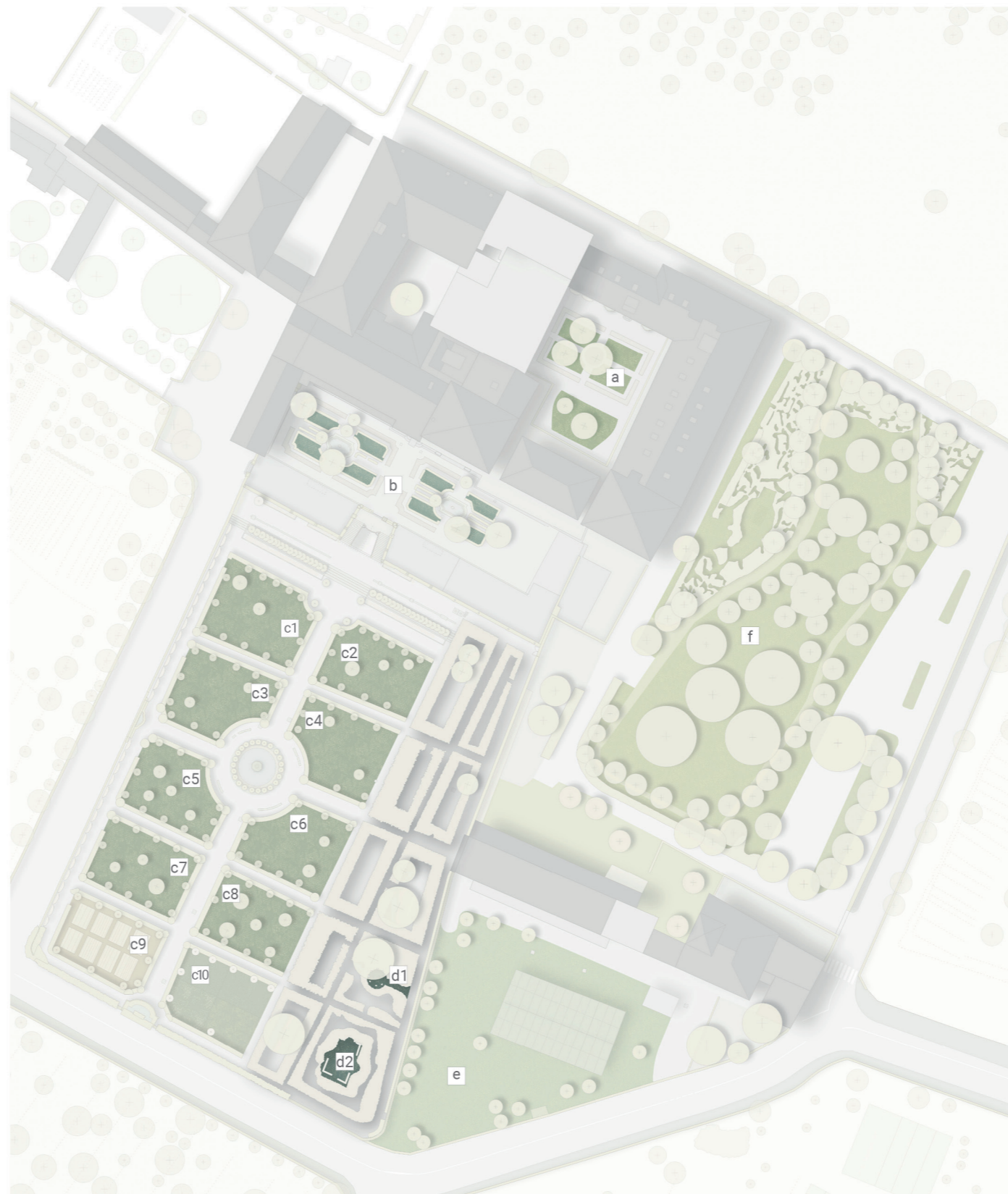


Fig.2 The meadows of Villa la Quiete's garden



a - Orange Tree Courtyard Meadows



b - Terrace Meadows



c - Meadows of the Lower Garden Squares



d - Meadows of the Stanze nella Ragnaia



e - Pomarium Meadows



f - Meadows of the Landscape Park

Country/City

ITALY / FLORENCE

University / School

UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE

Academic year

2023-2024

Title of the project

THE MEADOWS OF VILLA LA QUIETE. A METHOD FOR THE STUDY AND MANAGEMENT OF MEADOWS IN A HISTORIC GARDEN

Authors

SERENA LO MONACO

Title of the project	THE MEADOWS OF VILLA LA QUIETE. A METHOD FOR THE STUDY AND MANAGEMENT OF MEADOWS IN A HISTORIC GARDEN
Authors	SERENA LO MONACO
Title of the course	MASTER'S THESIS, GRADUATION PROJECT
Academic year	2023-2024
Teaching Staff	TUTOR PROF.SSE TESSA MATTEINI, LUISA GHELARDINI / CO-TUTOR PROF. BRUNO FOGGI; PROF. GIORGIO GALLETTI; DOTT.SSA VIRGINIA CASTELLUCCI; DOTT.SSA CATHERINE GOODRICH
Department / Section / Program of belonging	DIDA • DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE, MASTER'S DEGREE IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
University / School	UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE



A few kilometres from the historic centre of Florence, nestled in the foothills of Monte Morello, Villa La Quiete, together with Castello and Petraia, forms a system of three Medici villas, which constitutes a resilient historical and landscape fabric of extraordinary importance. By choosing Villa La Quiete as a case study for a targeted application that takes into account the challenges of climate change, the thesis addresses the theme of contemporary design for historic gardens, focusing on a unique and often underestimated component: the meadow. Proposing an interpretation that re-evaluates its meaning beyond the modern vision of a generic, monochromatic “green carpet”, the meadow is explored as a plant pattern rich in aesthetic, ecological and symbolic values linked to Tuscan tradition and the Renaissance imagination, as evoked in Botticelli’s “Primavera”.

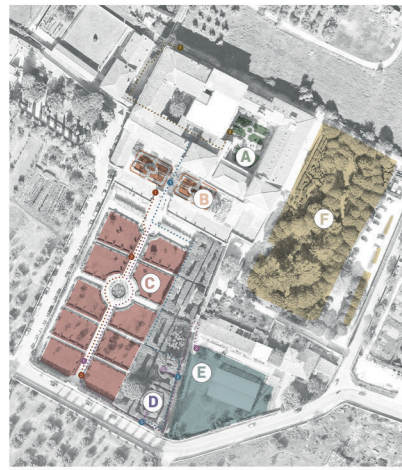
Through an in-depth historical, iconographic and botanical investigation, the study therefore proposes a differentiated management model for heritage landscape meadows. Surveys carried out in the gardens of the three Medici villas have made it possible to develop strategies compatible with the vocation of each area, promoting biodiversity and enhancing historical and environmental specificities.

The meadow, once a marginal space, is thus transformed into a poetic and ecological manifesto, capable of preserving cultural memory and promoting biodiversity, presenting itself as a central element of a historical landscape management project.

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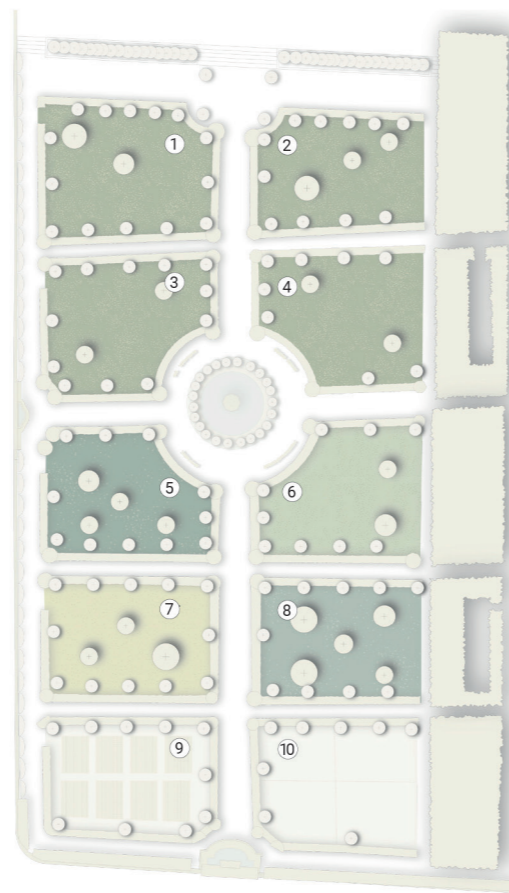
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OBJECTIVES
The planned interventions aim to pursue four main objectives: promote biodiversity, adopt conscious management, evoke the historical context, and work on cultural and scientific dissemination. These objectives respond to species poverty in the meadows, uniformity of use, adherence to a static ideal of a meadow, and excessive stalking, offering solutions that enhance the historical and botanical heritage of the Villa La Quiete garden.

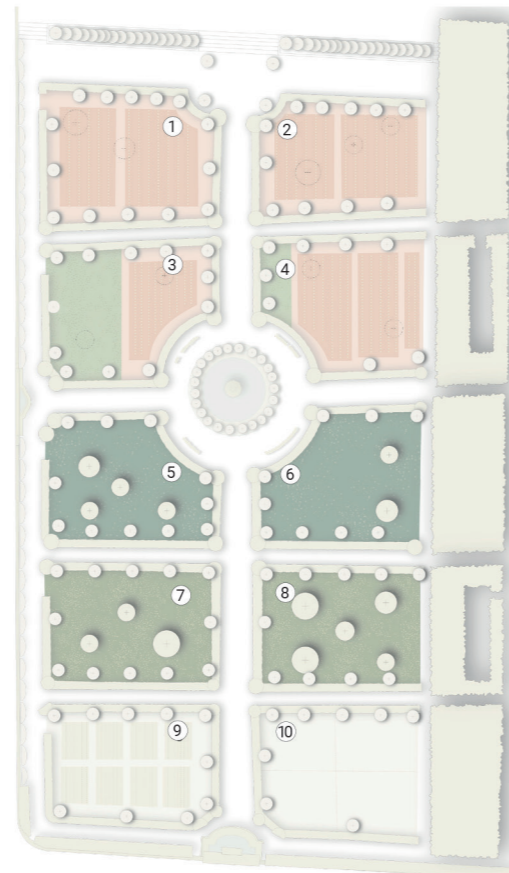


I SCENARIO COMPARISONS BETWEEN MEADOWS



- Flower meadows
1,2,3,4
- Bulbs in meadows
5, 8
- Tall meadows
6
- Lower meadows
7
- Ongoing experimentation (9,10)

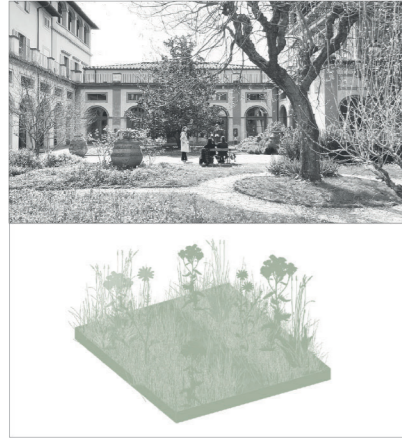
II SCENARIO FROM FLOWER CULTIVATION TO BLOOMING MEADOWS



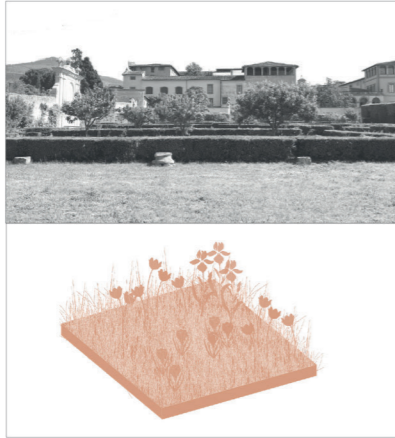
- Cultivated flowers
1,2
- Tall meadows and crops
3,4
- Bulbs in meadows
5,6
- Tall meadows
7,8
- Ongoing experimentation (9,10)



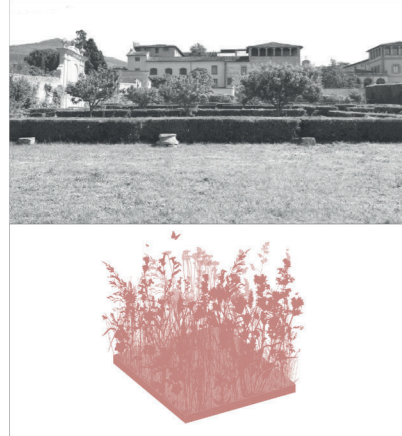
A - Orange Tree Courtyard Meadows



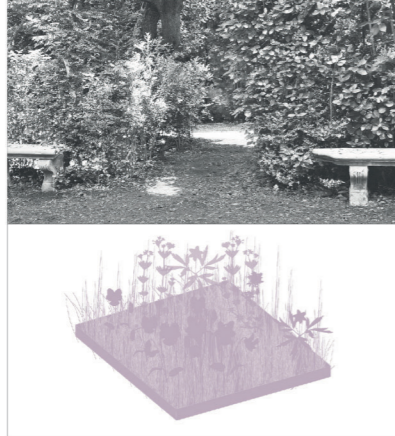
B - Terrace Meadows



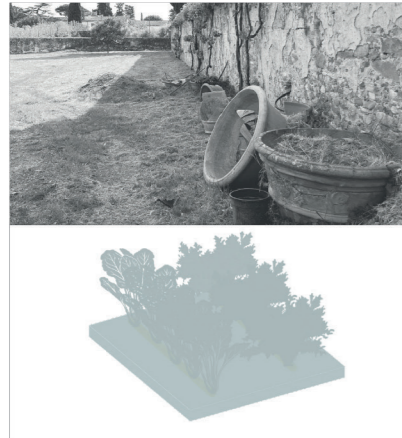
C - Meadows of the Lower Garden Squares



D - Meadows of the Stanze nella Ragnaia



E - Pomarium Meadows



F - Meadows of the Landscape Park

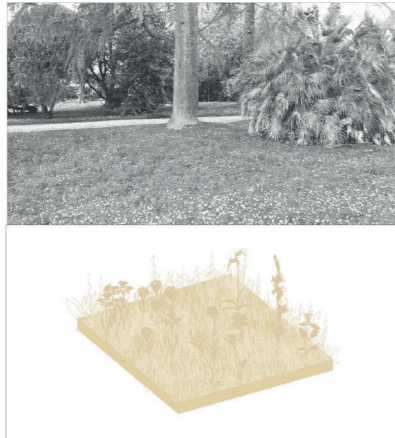
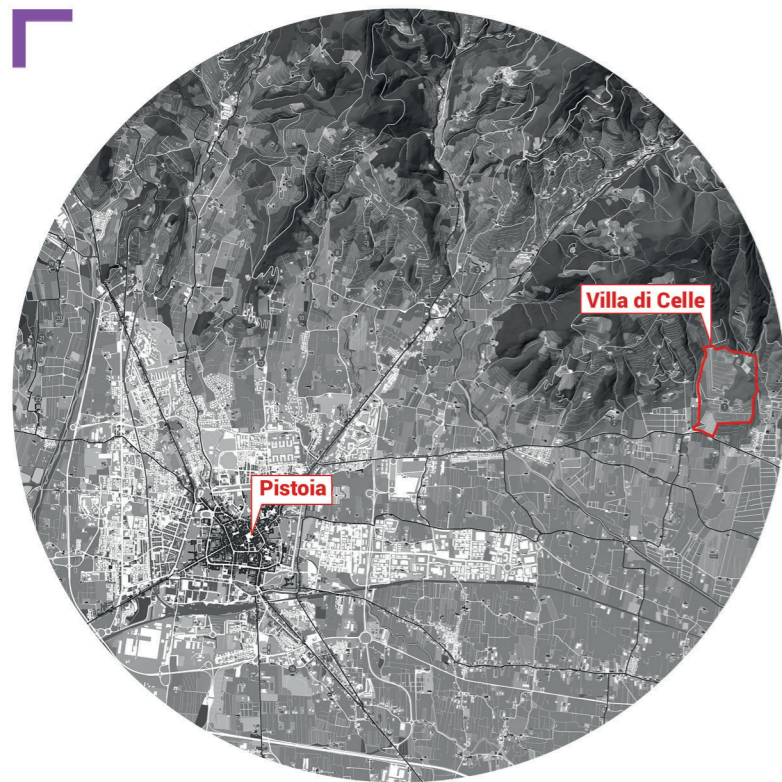
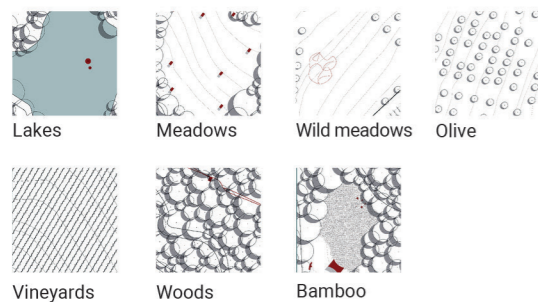


fig.3 From right to left. Master plan for differentiated management of the six meadow areas, proposals for distinctive meadows; two scenarios for the meadows in the lower garden; a mixture to create a Medici biodiverse meadow (excerpt)



Landscape Pattern



Architectures (extract)

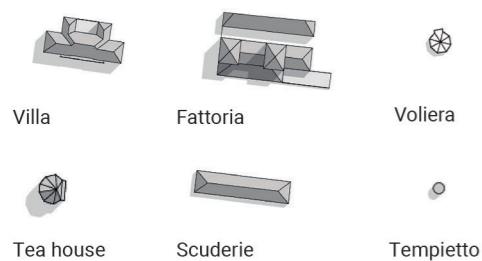
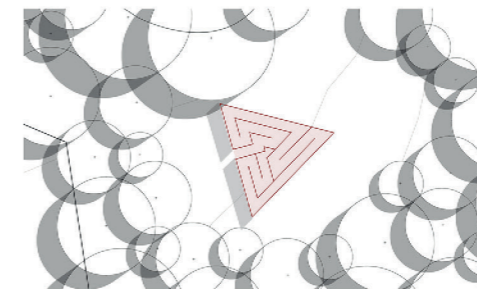


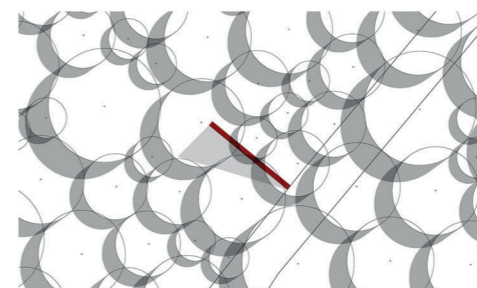
Fig.1 Villa di Celle. Context and plan with landscape pattern and architectures

Robert Morris



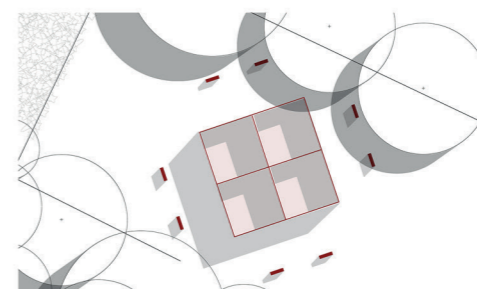
Labirinto, 1982

Mauro Staccioli



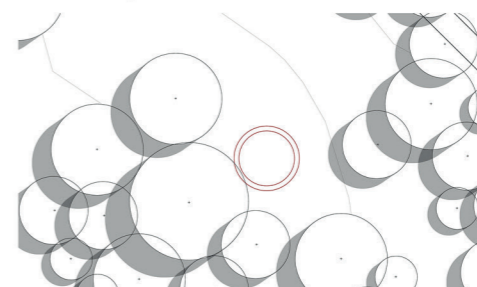
Scultura Celle, 1982

Daniel Buren



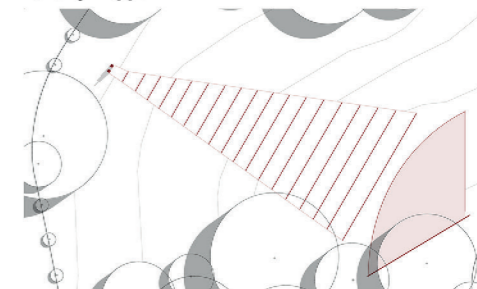
La Cabane Éclatée aux 4 Salles, 2005

Richard Long



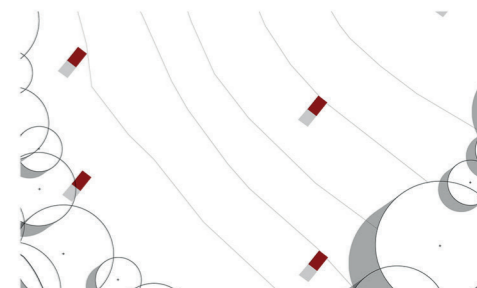
Cerchio di erba, 1985

Beverly Pepper



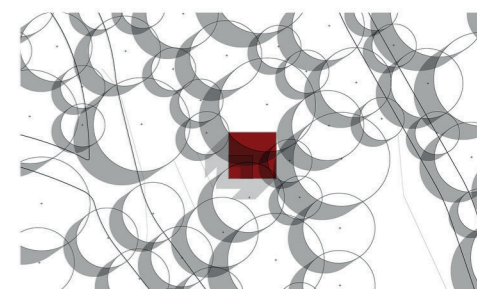
Spazio teatro Celle - Omaggio a Pietro Porcinai, 1992

Richard Serra



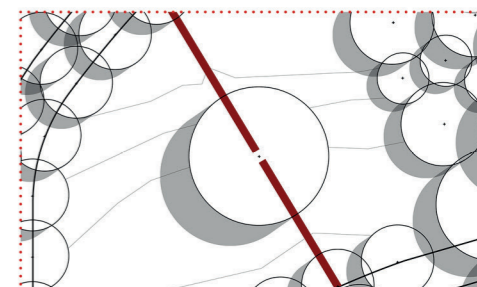
Open Field Vertical Elevation, 1982

Sol LeWitt



Cubo senza cubo, 1988

Dani Karavan



Linea 1-2-3+4+5, 1982

Fig.2 Some of the environmental artworks of the Villa

Title of the project VILLA CELLE, GORI COLLECTION. A LANDSCAPE DESIGN PLAN
Authors CRISTIAN FARINA
Title of the course MASTER'S THESIS, GRADUATION PROJECT
Academic year 2022 / 2023
Teaching Staff TUTOR PROF.SSA ANNA LAMBERTINI / CO-TUTOR PROF.SSA LUISA GHELARDINI DOTT.SSA STEFANIA GORI DOTT.SSA MIRANDA MACPHAIL
Department / Section / Program of belonging DIDA • DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE, MASTER'S DEGREE IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

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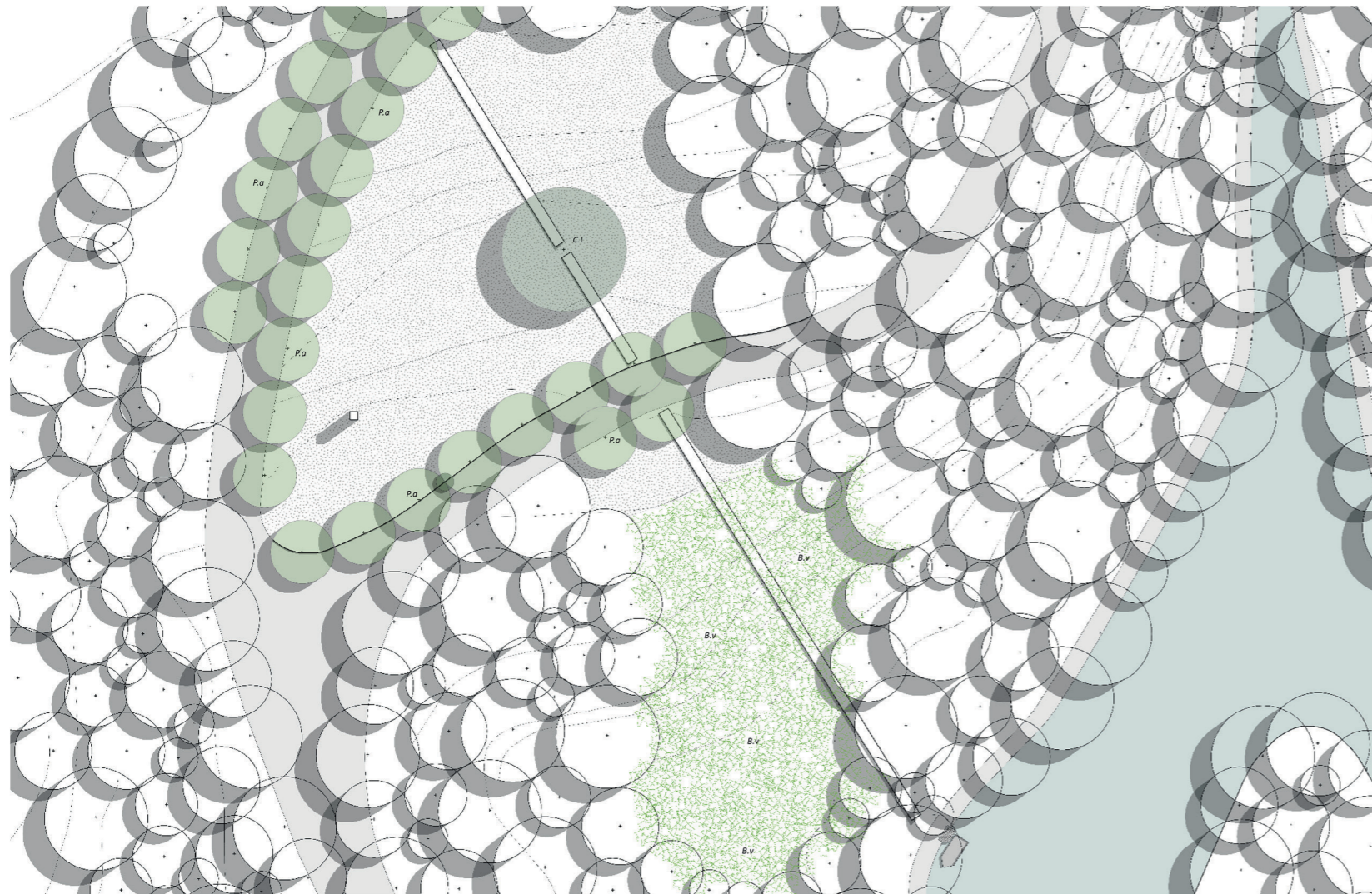


The Villa-Fattoria di Celle is one of the most significant examples of 17th- and 18th-century garden culture in Tuscany. Today, however, it is internationally renowned for its important collection of environmental artworks commissioned by Giuliano Gori, a cultured patron who purchased the complex in the 1970s. Thanks to Gori, since 1982 Celle has been home to a constellation of more than eighty site-specific works by artists of the calibre of Robert Morris, Richard Long, Beverly Pepper and Alan Sonfist (to name but a few), who were invited to interpret the “genius loci” and the characteristics of a layered landscape based on the motto “The rights of art end where those of nature begin”. In the Celle Park, each work has a close relationship with its context, the morphology of the site and the surrounding vegetation. The thesis, developed following an agreement with the Celle Foundation, stems from a specific request by Giuliano Gori: to identify criteria and guidelines for the public enjoyment and active conservation of the art spaces scattered throughout the park, also in view of the transformations of the vegetation due to climate change. A landscape management plan was drawn up following an integrated analysis of the ecological, historical, environmental and scenic aspects of the entire complex. An analysis of the layout of the individual “rooms” in the first group of works, based on extensive fieldwork and specific microclimatic studies, has also made it possible to formulate targeted management proposals (as in the case of Dani Karavan’s work “Linea 1 2 3 + 4 5”).

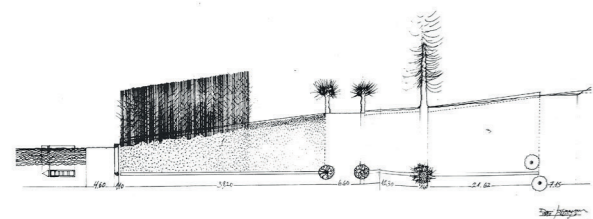
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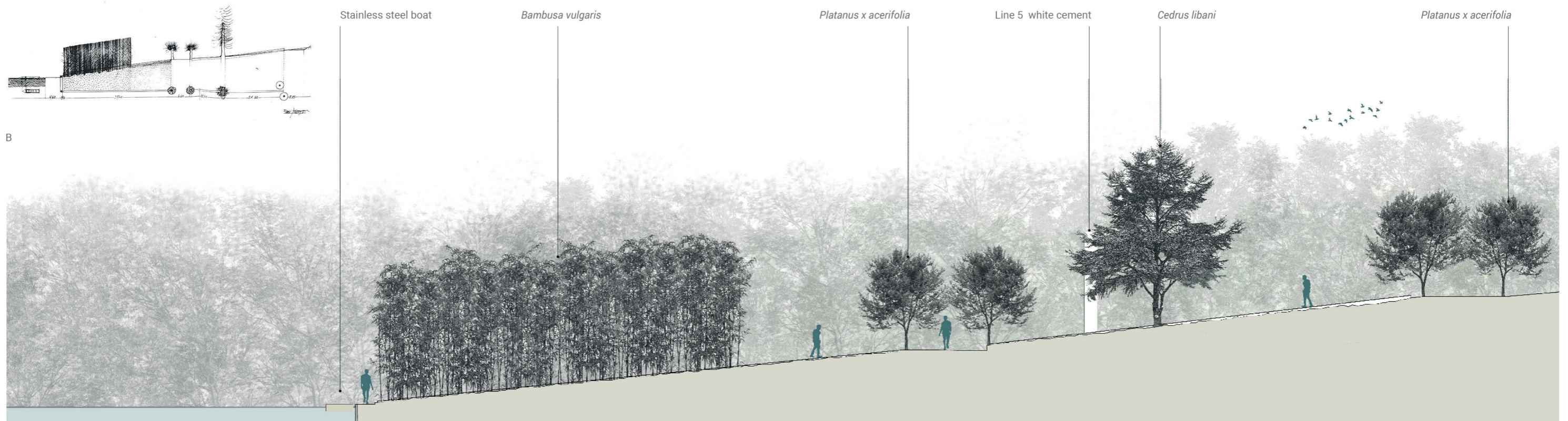
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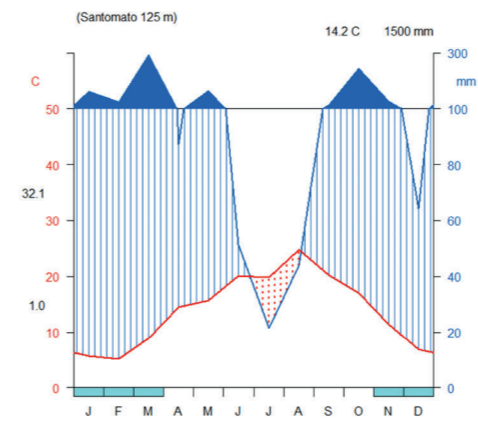
A



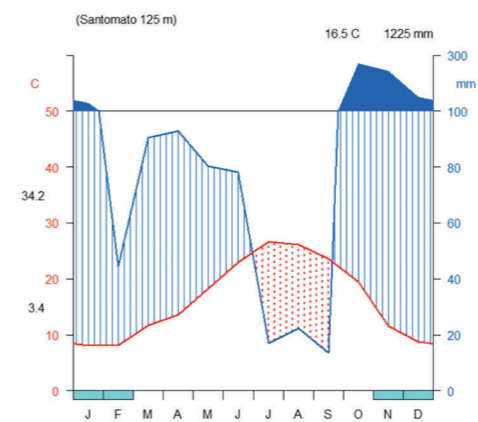
B



Years 2013



Years 2023



C

Removal of tree and shrub species that are not consistent with the Gambini forest park and that obstruct and alter the view of the landscape

A grass mowing schedule designed to allow observation of the entire rich flowering of the numerous herbaceous species present.

Careful attention is paid to containing the bamboo, which could otherwise quickly invade the entire area.

Creation of rockfill curbs on steep slopes to facilitate the fall of organic material following weather events

Biological treatment for the maintenance of the large lake to maintain a constant oxygen level and decompose organic pollution residues.

D

Fig.3 Guidelines for active management of Line 1-2-3+4+5. Plan (A), Section inspired by Dani Karavan's sketch (B), Walter and Lieth diagrams generated in R via the Santomato weather station (C) used as integrated basis for suggesting "landscape quality objectives" (D).

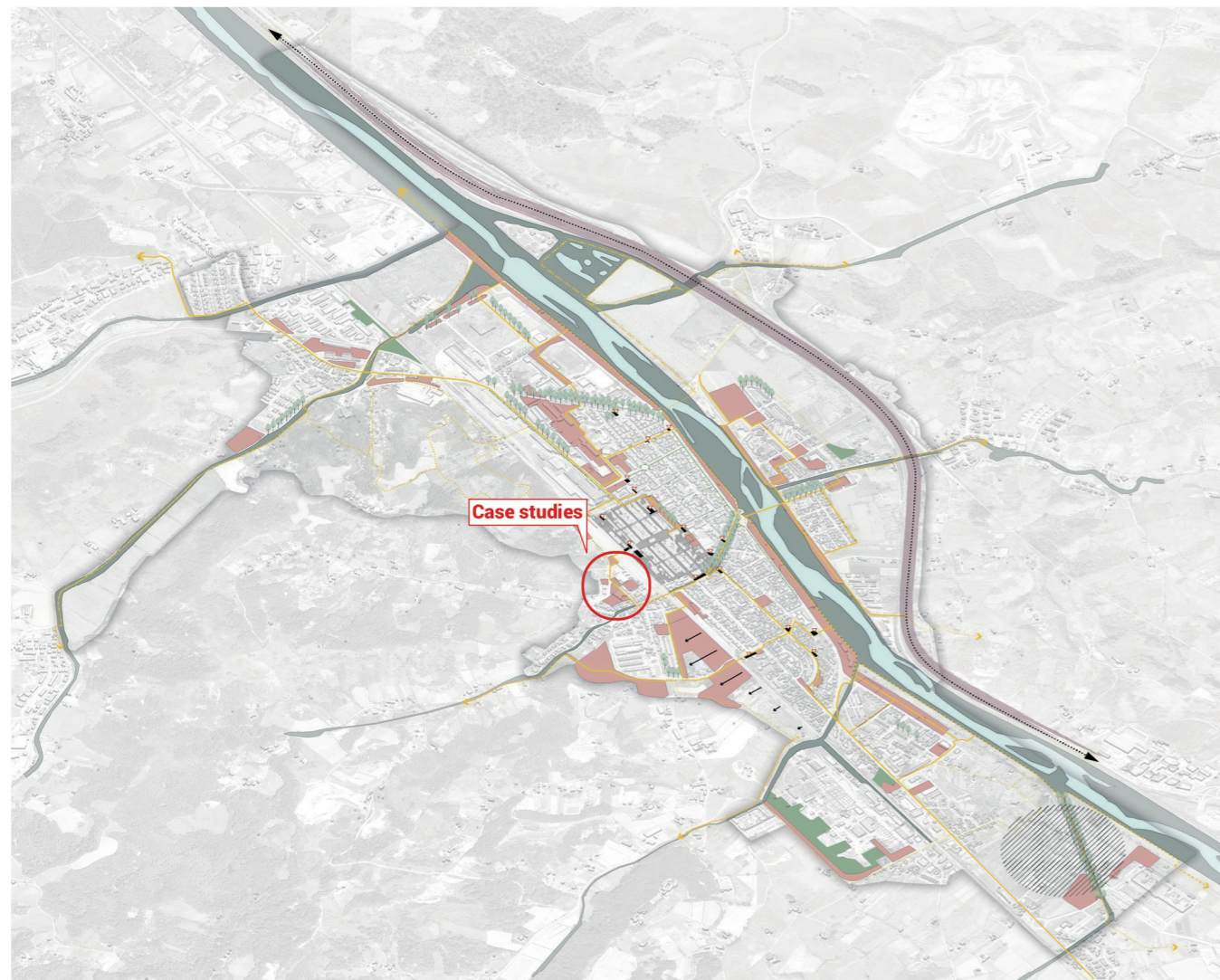
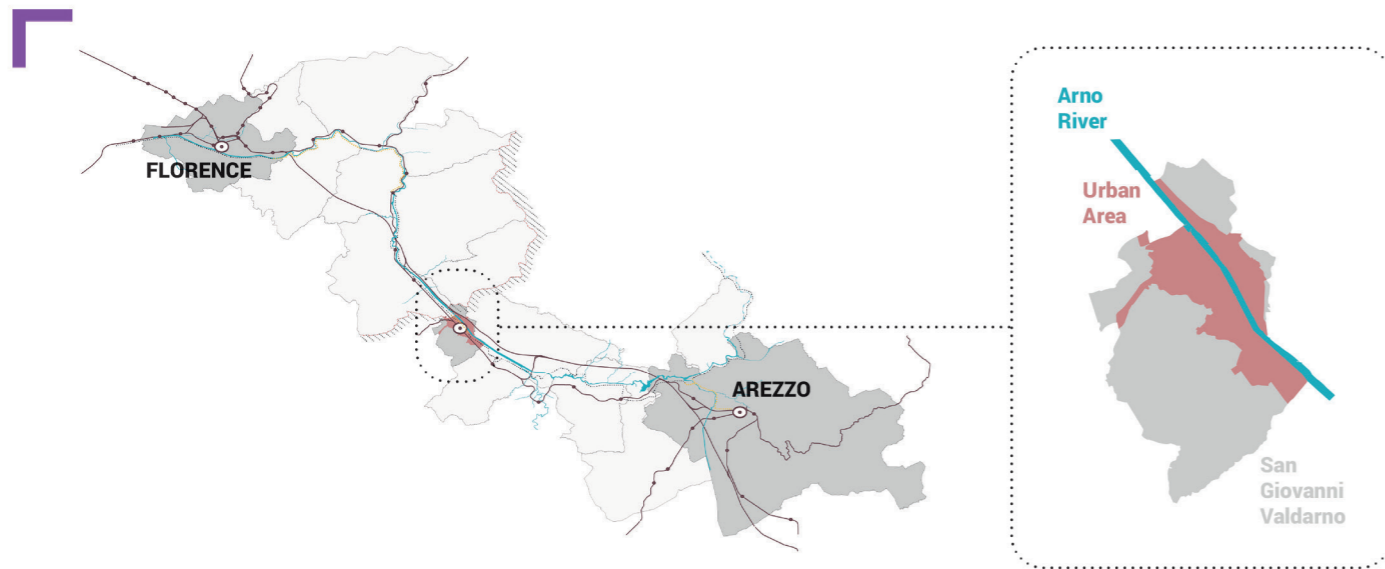


fig.1 Overview of the municipal area of San Giovanni Valdarno and strategic master plan for the urban area



fig.2 Landscape-based Solutions (LBS)

Title of the project STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS FOR AN ADAPTIVE CITY: A NEW SYSTEM OF URBAN OPEN SPACES FOR SAN GIOVANNI VALDARNO
Authors BENEDETTA PAVONE
Title of the course MASTER'S THESIS, GRADUATION PROJECT
Academic year 2021 / 2022
Teaching Staff TUTOR PROF.SSA ANNA LAMBERTINI / CO-TUTOR DOTT.SSA ELEONORA GIANNINI, ARCH. PAOLO PINARELLI
Department / Section / Program of belonging DIDA • DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE, MASTER'S DEGREE IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

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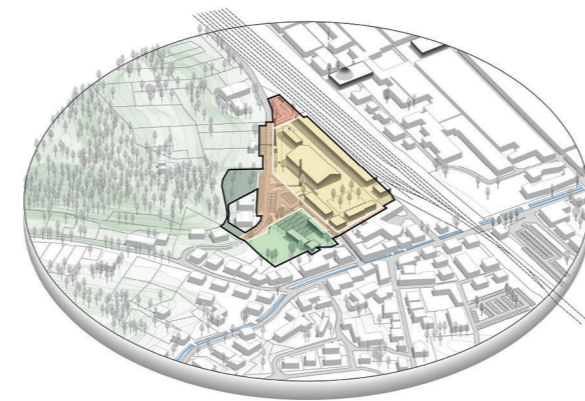
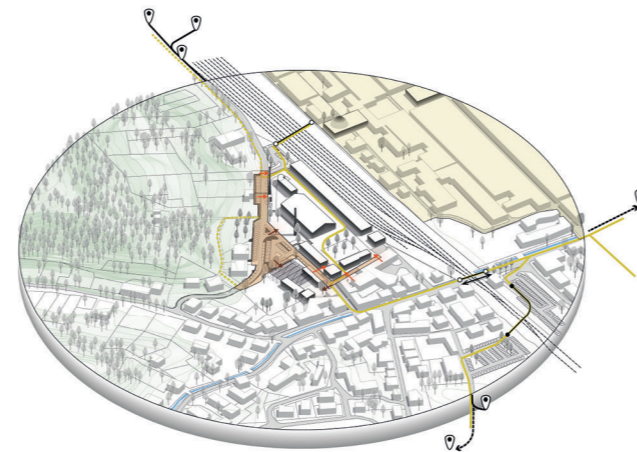
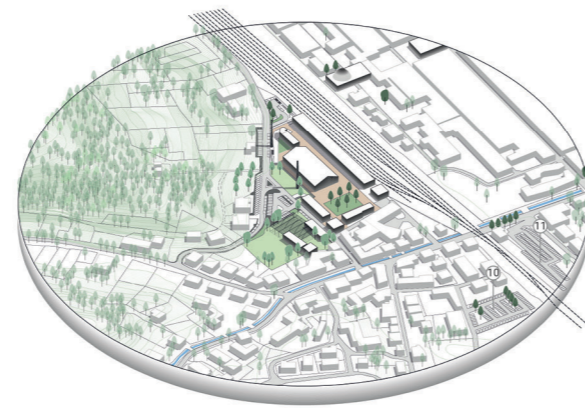


The thesis aims to experiment an urban landscape plan-project path which, adopting an inter-scalar approach, aims to develop strategies and actions for the reconfiguration of a multifunctional system of open spaces and diffused naturalness, understood as essential endowment for an adaptive and resilient city. The area chosen as an application case study is the urban area of San Giovanni Valdarno, a municipality located in Tuscany, between the city of Florence and Arezzo. It is a significant portion of the urban landscape, which includes the core of the historical foundation, the river belt of the Arno and the heterogeneous settlement system, mainly located between the two railway tracks that cross the municipality. In compliance with the urban planning forecasts that the administration proposes, and the peculiarities of the municipal landscape, a strategic masterplan has been developed for a cohesive system of urban open spaces. The proposed design interpretation, identified under the innovative category of the Landscape-based solutions, aim to promote processes of sustainable transformation of open spaces by including a holistic and cyclical approach to urban nature in relation with the urban landscape context. The thesis concludes with the formulation of a design scenario for “Piazza Olivetti and the system of proximity open spaces”, an area once dedicated to industrial production, now partly abandoned and partly used as a branch of the University of Siena. Through the application of LBS, the proposed project scenario attempts to reactivate abandoned sites, promote pedestrian-cycling paths, increase biodiversity and socio-cultural relations.

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Existing conditions areas

- Piazza Olivetti
- Vegetation / public management
- Wild vegetation areas
- Public trees
- Spontaneous trees

Slow mobility

- Cycle paths
- New access points
- Area 30 km/h
- New pedestrian walkway

Project scenarios (LBS)

- Olivetti university hub
a, b, d, p, q, u
- Area 30 km/h
a, d, e, g, h, t, x
- Under railway bridge / Proximity open space
a, c, d, e, g, h
- Community garden
a, e, i, s, u
- Borgo Barulli
a, b, d, e, g, i, p, r, u



fig.3 The case study of Piazza Olivetti and the system of open spaces in the neighbourhood: current layout, project scenarios, draft project plan and section

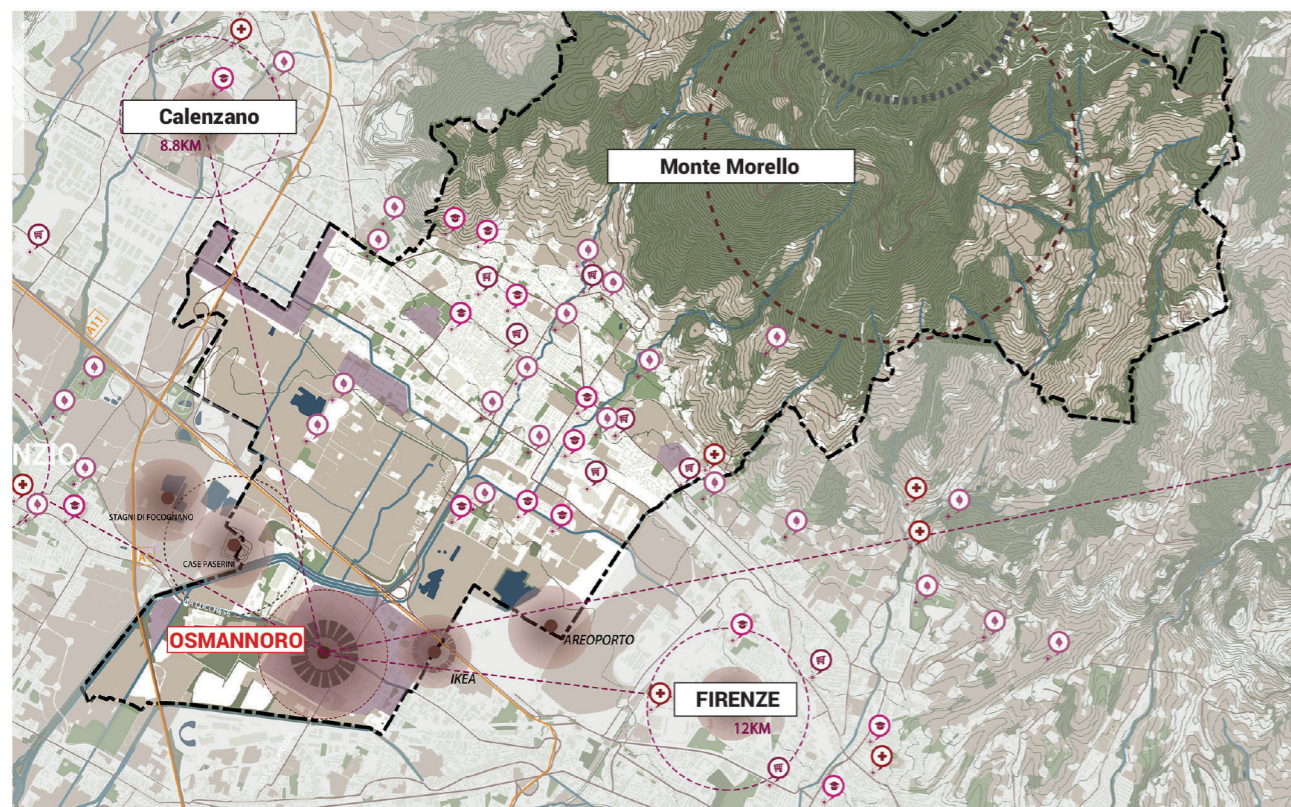
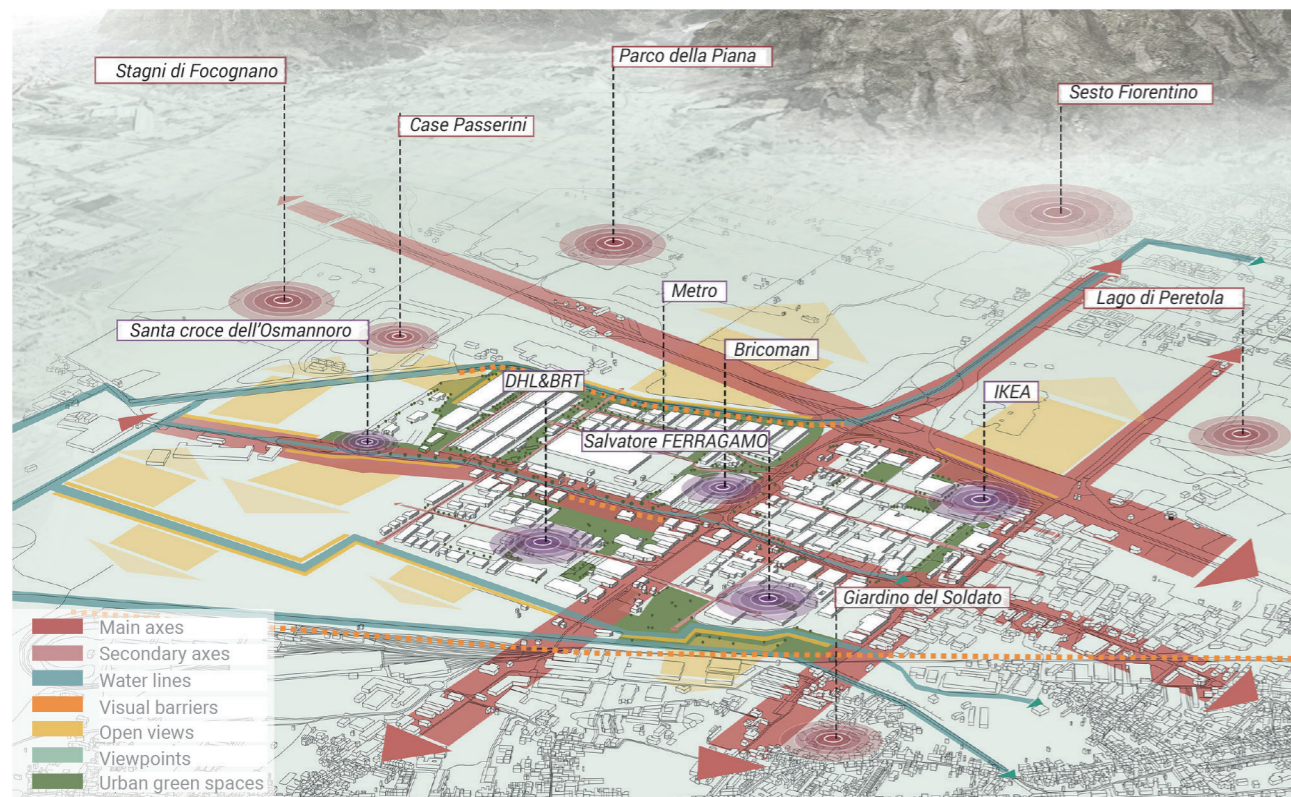
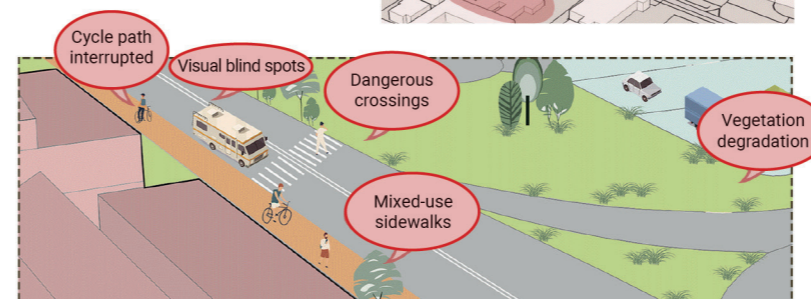
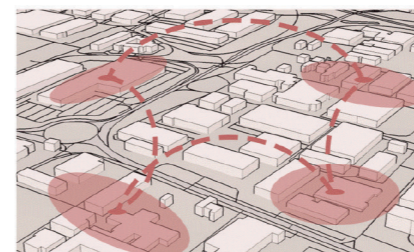
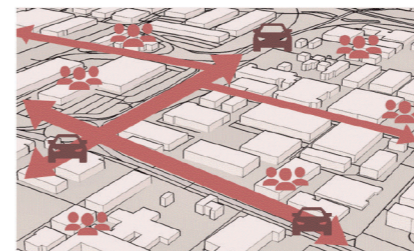


Fig.1 Context of Osmannoro

INFRASTRUCTURES



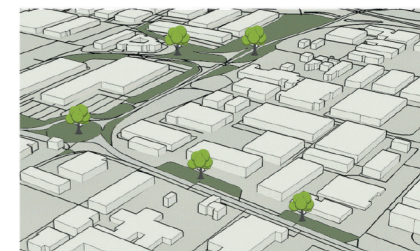
There are problems with transport infrastructure and accessibility for people and vehicles needs to be resolved



URBAN GREEN SPACES



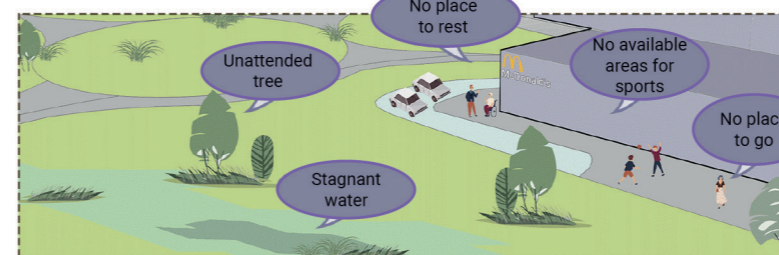
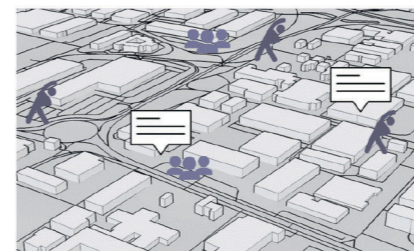
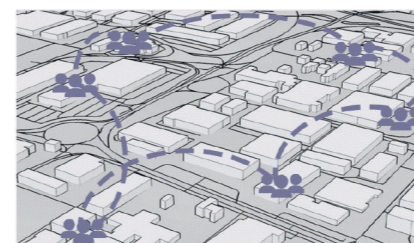
Public green space is fragmented and abandoned green space is not considered valuable.



PLACES



There are no places for activities and socialising among community residents.



HABITAT



There are problems with industrial wastewater disposal, water pollution and air pollution.

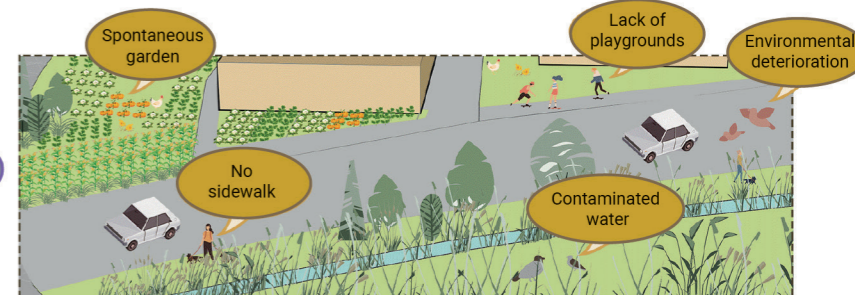
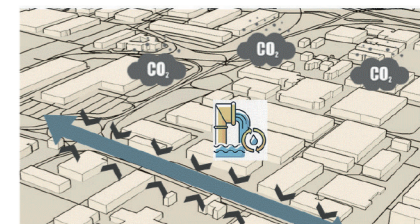


Fig.2 Project issues

Country/City

ITALY / FLORENCE

University / School

UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE

Academic year

2022 / 2023

Title of the project

DESIGN STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING THE OSMANNORO LANDSCAPE AS A MULTICULTURAL, EDIBLE, PRODUCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE PLACE

Authors

TINGLU MOU

Title of the project DESIGN STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING THE OSMANNORO LANDSCAPE AS A MULTICULTURAL, EDIBLE, PRODUCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE PLACE
Authors TINGLU MOU
Title of the course MASTER'S THESIS, GRADUATION PROJECT
Academic year 2022 / 2023
Teaching Staff TUTOR PROF.SSA EMANUELA MORELLI
Department / Section / Program of belonging DIDA • DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE, MASTER'S DEGREE IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

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The Osmannoro industrial area, between Sesto Fiorentino, Florence and Campi Bisenzio, is a hybrid and layered landscape: once agricultural and now heavily industrialised, where open wilderness coexists with the urban-industrial fabric.

Through readings and analyses, carried out in the field with the help of interviews with residents, it has been possible to highlight some critical issues in the urban environment, mainly related to the lack of infrastructure for cycling and walking, environmental pollution, poor management and maintenance of urban open spaces, and a shortage of services and spaces for outdoor activities.

To compensate for these shortcomings, a spontaneous social phenomenon of great intensity has emerged in recent years: the multi-ethnic population living in the area has moved towards an inventive management of public space, transforming flower beds and uncultivated spaces into spontaneous vegetable gardens, giving rise to a widespread practice of urban gardening.

The proposed project aims to highlight the ecological and social value of these spontaneous gardens, transforming the industrial model of the area into an inclusive “edible landscape”.

The design solutions include hanging gardens, urban farms, fruit and vegetable markets, vegetable gardens and play areas. A system of lived-in urban open spaces interconnected by an improved network for soft mobility and diversified urban biodiversity.

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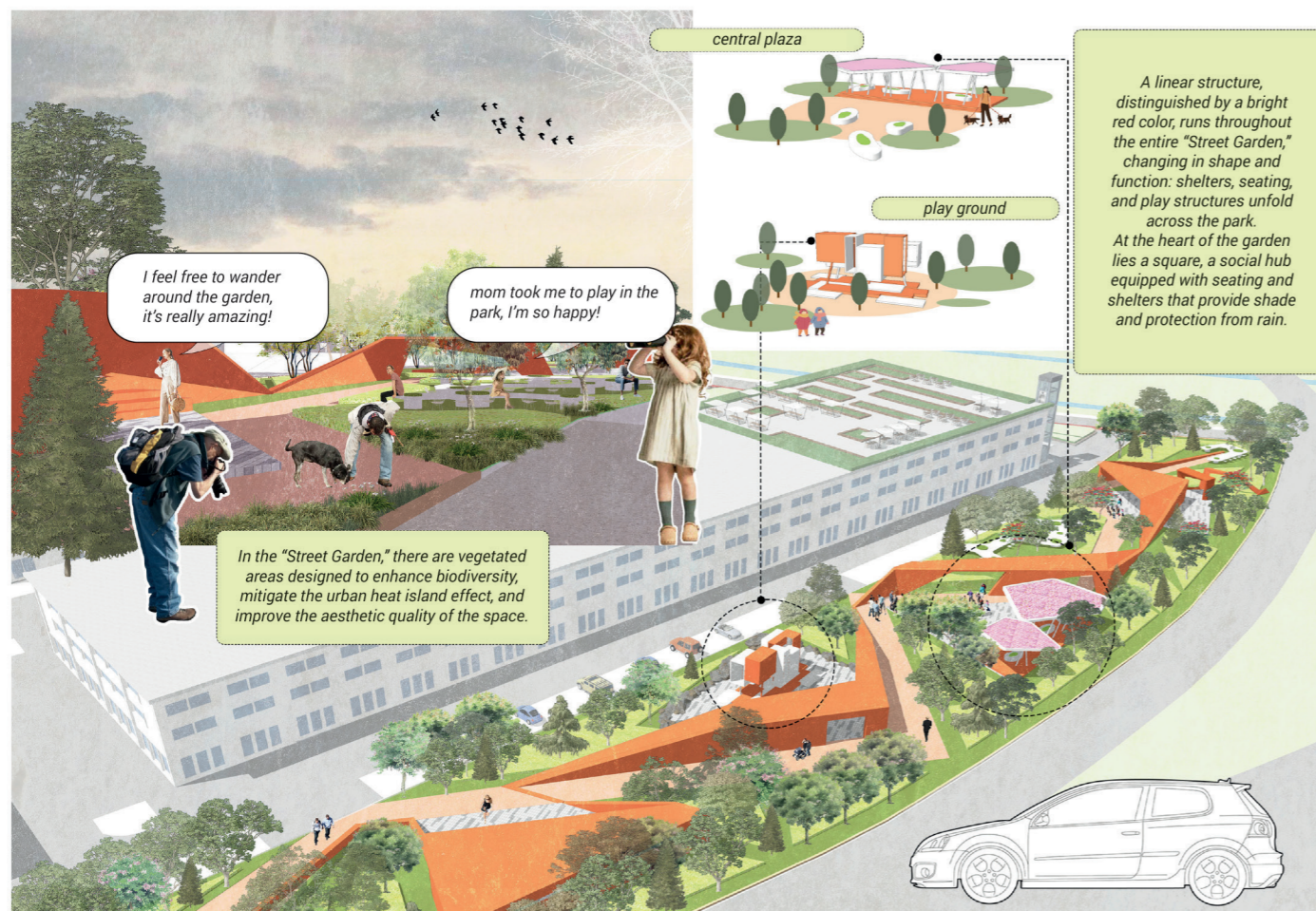
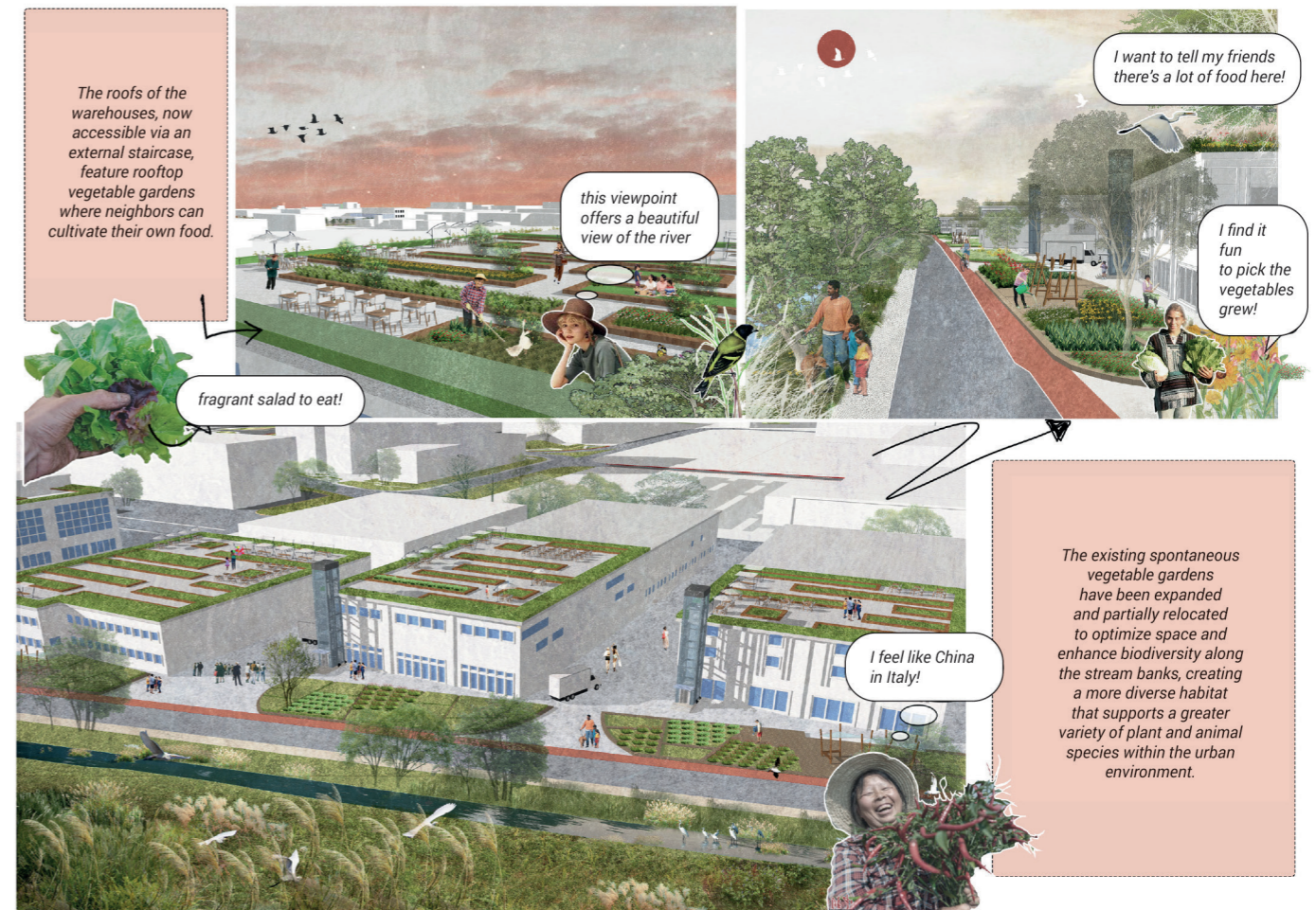


fig.3 Aerial view and design suggestions

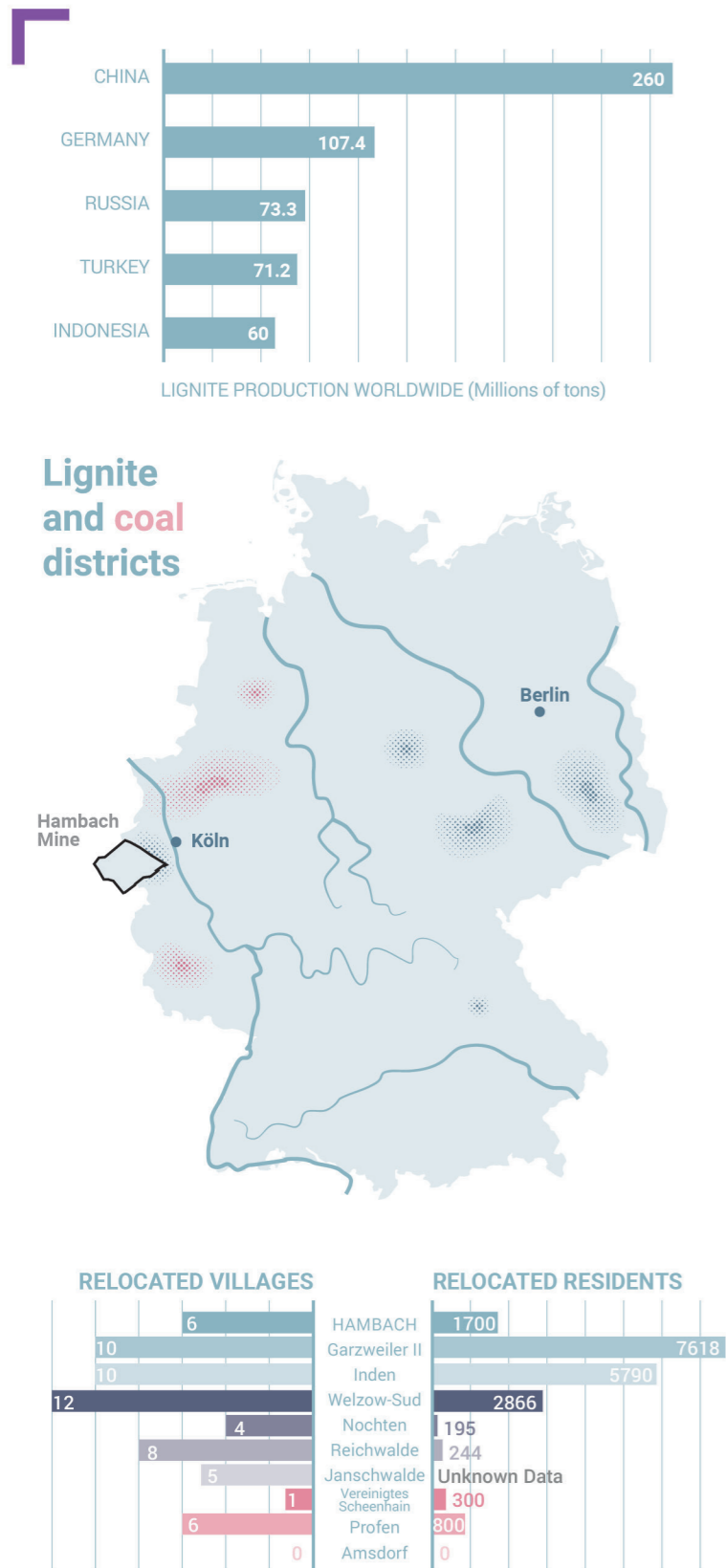
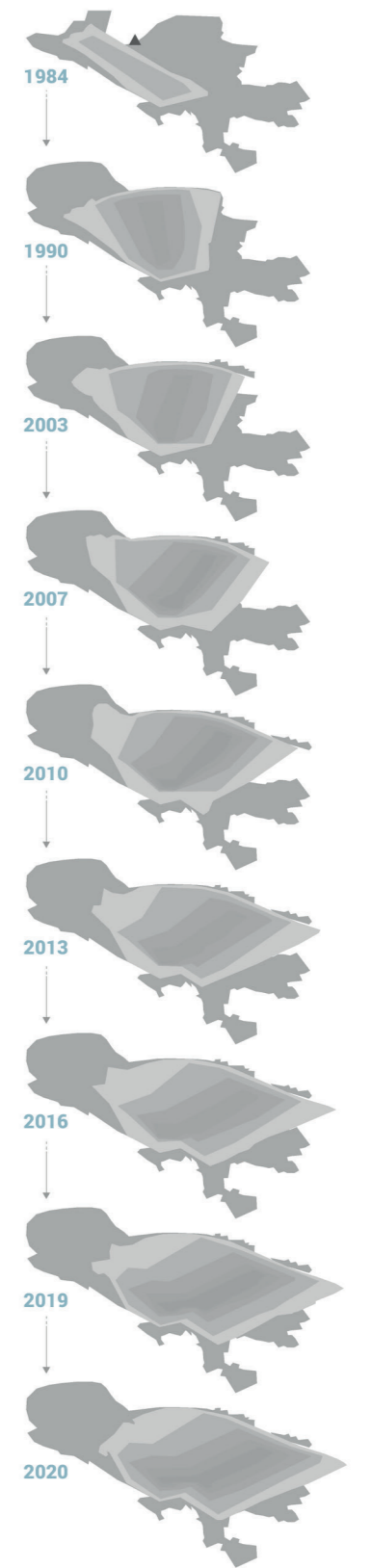


Fig.1 Mining landscape's data worldwide and in Germany



Fig.2 The Hambach Mine: site plan and evolutionary process until current condition



Title of the project THE HAMBACH MINE. PERSPECTIVES FOR THE REGENERATION OF A POST-MINING LANDSCAPE
Authors SILVIA IELMINI, GIULIA SCIORTINO
Title of the course MASTER'S THESIS, GRADUATION PROJECT
Academic year 2021 / 2022
Teaching Staff TUTOR PROF. GABRIELE PAOLINELLI / CO-TUTOR PROF. FABIO SALBITANO, PROF.SSA LUISA PUDDU
Department / Section / Program of belonging DIDA • DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE, MASTER'S DEGREE IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

University / School UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE



The Hambach lignite mine in Germany covers an area of 44 km² and reaches a depth of 300 metres below sea level. It is a disturbing hyperobject, representative of a socio-economic model that is markedly extractivist and destructive of habitats and natural-cultural systems, and which has at the same time been adopted internationally as a symbol of environmental struggles and eco-social activism.

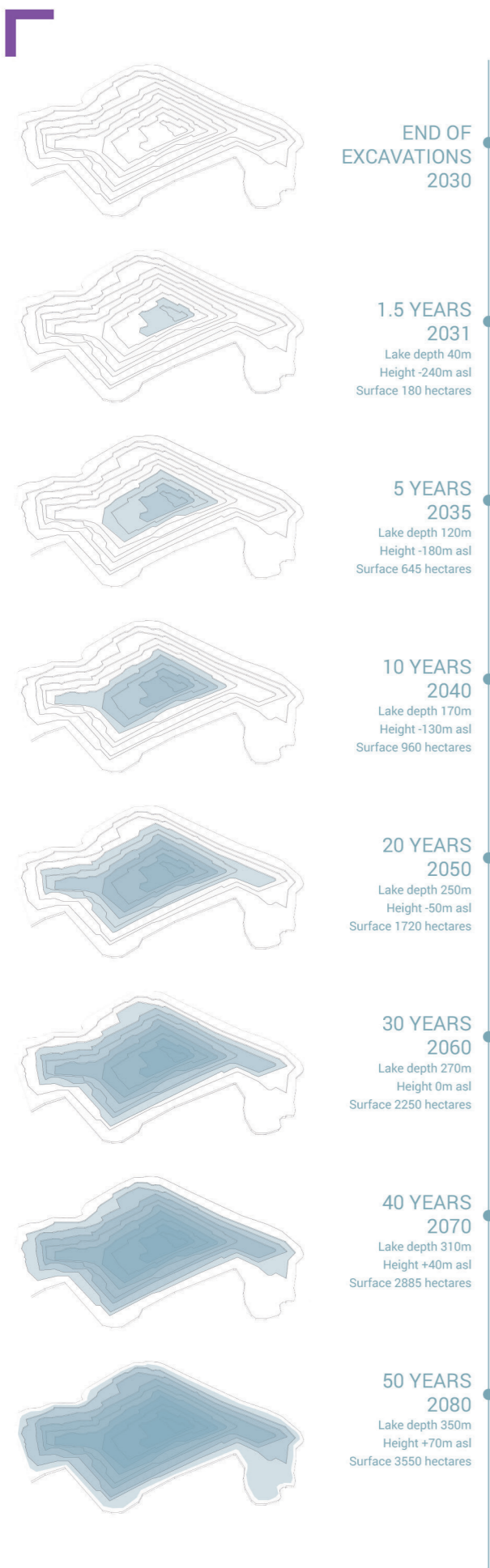
In accordance with energy transition policies and climate agreements, the German government is preparing to close the mine. A new post-mining landscape is planned, with the enormous mining chasm transformed into a lake. According to the most optimistic estimates, the process of flooding the frightening quarry area will take at least half a century. However, this solution raises questions about the sustainability of the operation in terms of water use and environmental impact. The thesis explores alternative transformation options, proposing a set of actions to reinvent the post-mining landscape without resorting to complete flooding. The use of phytoremediation systems is suggested to counteract the acidification of the water caused by the oxidation of minerals in the soil. Careful stabilisation of the mine slopes, using accumulation and ridge creation techniques, will not only combat erosion but also promote vegetation succession and the creation of diverse habitats.

This design interpretation not only meets climate and resource management objectives but also invites us to explore a different path for the regeneration of post-industrial territories.

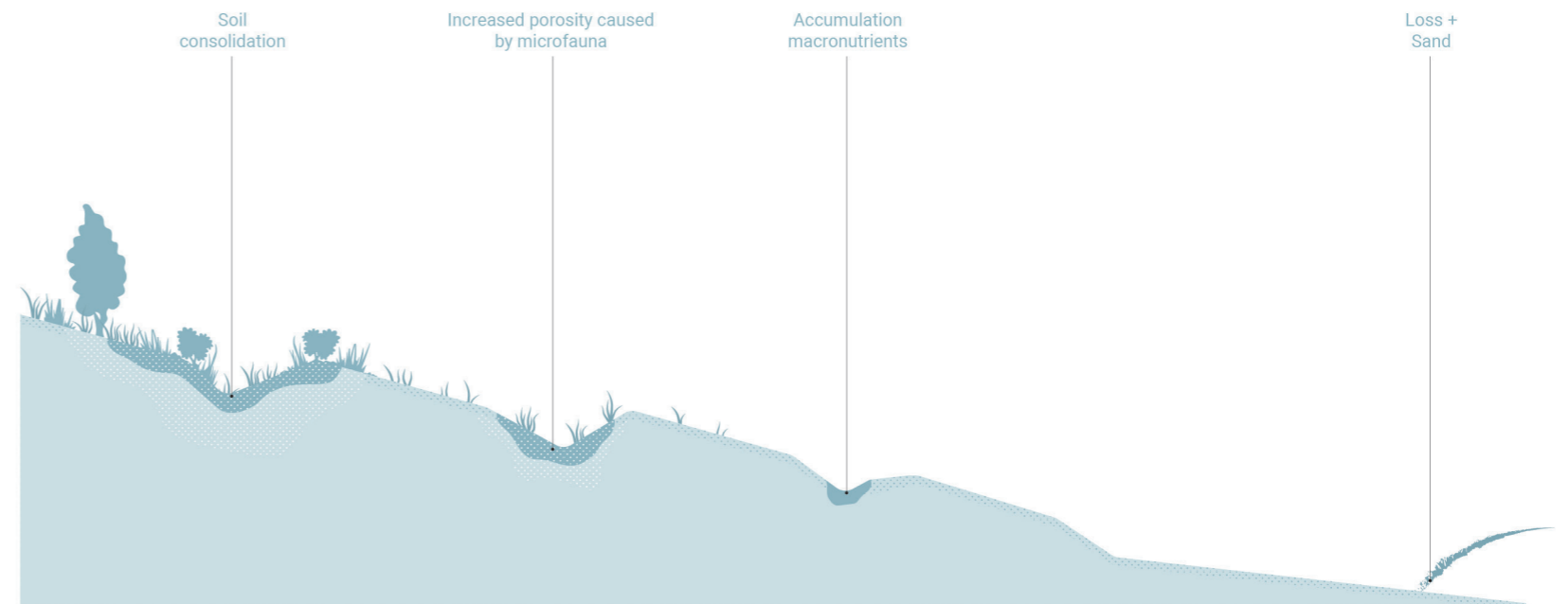
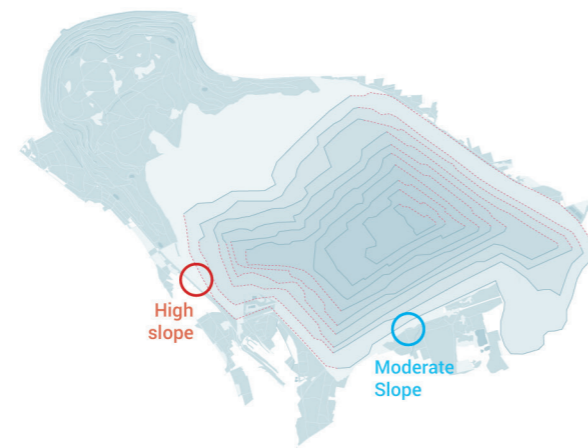
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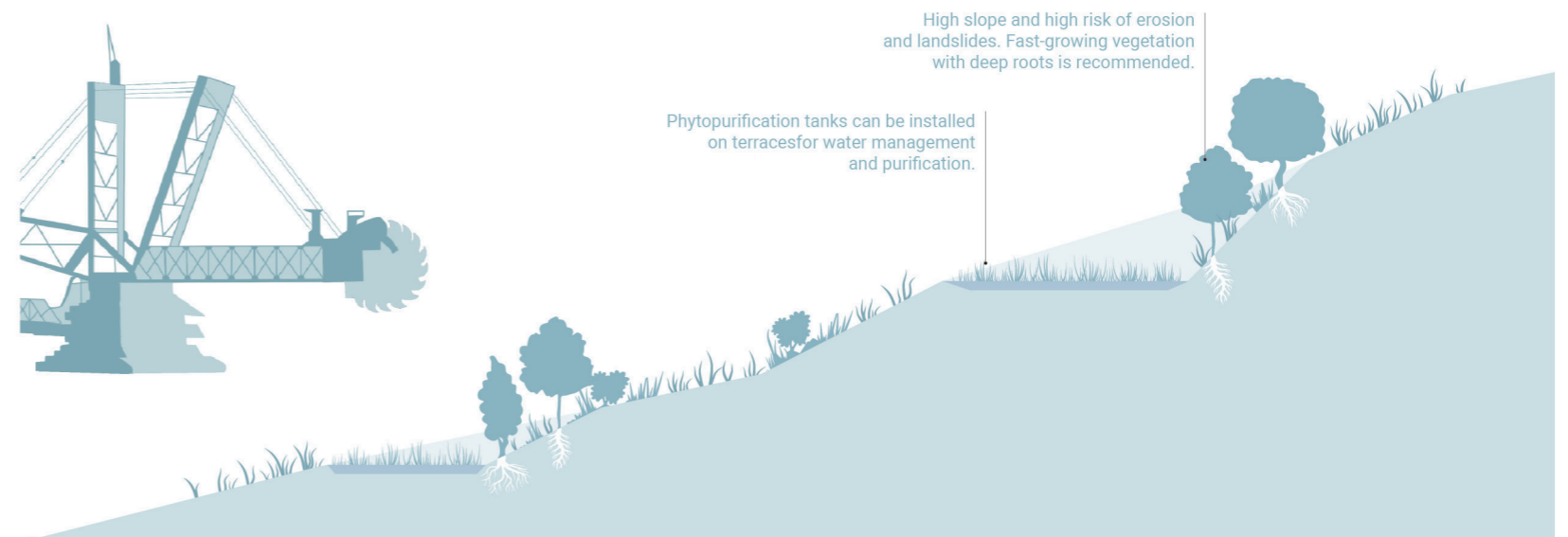
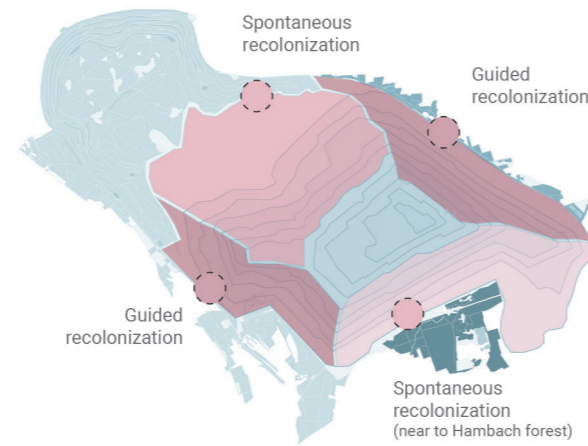
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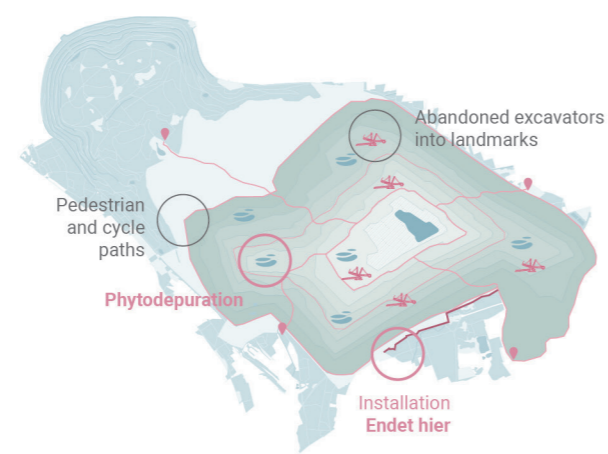
1 • Slope consolidation



2 • Vegetation management



3 • Diffused actions



Phytodepuration

AMD TREATMENT



AMD

PHYTO-PURIFICATION

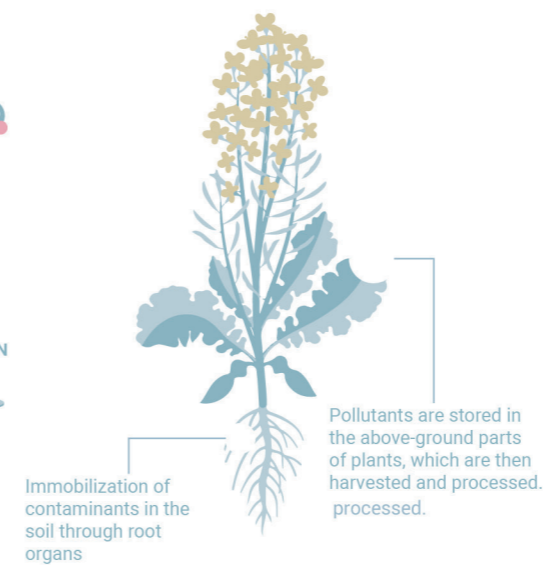
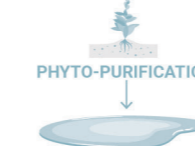


Fig.3 Flood estimation in transformation scenario

Fig.4 Landscape Strategies and design solutions suggested within the planning transformation process