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CONOSCERE
MILANO
I Parchi della trasformazione

In its transformation, the city becomes greener

Conoscere Milano **I Parchi della Trasformazione**

Presentazione della storia e delle caratteristiche di alcuni parchi di Milano e dintorni, realizzati o ancora in progetto su aree ex industriali diventate o in procinto di diventare nuovi quartieri, nuovi luoghi di incontro, di lavoro e di tempo libero.

Le Guide e gli itinerari di "Conoscere Milano" sono una proposta per scoprire la Milano che si sta profondamente rinnovando nel territorio e nelle sue funzioni. Dopo aver esplorato, con la serie delle Guide di Conoscere Milano, i nuovi quartieri residenziali e terziari, il Passante Ferroviario, le Università nelle sedi antiche e più recenti, i molti edifici nati da precedenti strutture industriali, proponiamo ora una panoramica di Parchi e aree pubbliche a verde nate all'interno di quartieri esito di una trasformazione da un recente passato industriale o da processi di riuso.

Tutti i testi di questo fascicolo e dei precedenti della collana "Conoscere Milano" sono pubblicati anche on line, in italiano e in inglese, al sito: www.conosceremilano.it

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Over the last few years, more and better green areas have been made available to the residents of Milan. A city's appeal and its quality of life are affected, among other things, by the environmental quality it offers to its people. This new "Conoscere Milano" booklet is dedicated to the main projects in the city's urban planning development, that includes new neighbourhoods and large public parks. Whilst in the past new green areas were only created around the city, today there are new parks inside the city proper, mainly on former industrial sites.

Most of these projects concern the transformation of former production facilities into new residential neighbourhoods, that also include office, retail and service areas. These urban improvement schemes involve large public parks as well. In particular, the City of Milan is committed to finding a solution for the Garibaldi-Repubblica area, with the creation of the Giardini di Porta Nuova, and will engage in the redevelopment of Villaggio dello Sport at the former Porto di Mare site. Also, the Nosedo and San Rocco water cleaning facilities will be accompanied by large public green areas, within the boundaries of Parco Sud.

At the same time, memories from the distant past are also redeveloped, such as the Parco Archeologico at the Roman Amphitheatre site.

We decided to open this review of Transformed Parks with Monte Stella, because it was the first project designed to rebuild our future, after the painful events of World War II. The same type of project, i.e. the reuse of land and material from large-scale construction sites, allowed for the creation of Parco dei Ciliegi at Bicocca and will be applied to the new Parco del Portello.

Milan is now engaged in a new wave of urban planning and redevelopment: a new city is being created, with new neighbourhoods and parks that enhance both community life and environmental quality.

Gianni Verga
*Milan City Councillor
for Land Development*

Riccardo De Corato
Milan Vice Mayor

Strategies and planning tools for the new urban parks

I progetti di aree verdi che si stanno concretizzando nella nostra città sono molti, più di quanti si potesse sperare solo una decina di anni fa, quando sembrava che sul nostro futuro pendesse la minaccia di una mancanza di sensibilità sui temi dell'ambiente. O almeno alcuni lo temevano. Non è andata così.

Proprio dieci anni fa, nel 1995, nacque il progetto "Nove parchi per Milano", che disegnava i parchi da realizzare in aree industriali e ferroviarie dismesse.

Con i Programmi di Riqualificazione Urbana (PRU) alcuni sono divenuti realtà, come i parchi Certosa, Maserati, Bisceglie e Quartiere Ravizza, tutti presentati in questa pubblicazione.

In continuità con questa linea è andato il Documento di Inquadramento "Ricostruire la Grande Milano", approvato nel 2000, che ha dato ai Programmi Integrati di Intervento (PII) anche l'obiettivo, tra gli altri, di promuovere interventi che incrementino la dotazione e la qualità degli spazi verdi.

Pur non citando gli oltre cento PII presentati dai privati in questi cinque anni, per oltre 6.000.000 di mq di territorio comunale, si può dire certamente che questo strumento di negoziazione ha prodotto i progetti di Santa Giulia, Conca Fallata, Parco Lineare nonché Portello, Fiera, Porta Nuova, progetti anch'essi commentati nelle schede di questa pubblicazione.

Gli interventi pubblici sono stati altrettanto importanti e hanno permesso di conseguire risultati che solo la visione della foresta, e non del singolo albero, può permettere. Valga per tutti l'esempio della greenway tessuta con i piani di Romolo, Sieroterapico, Argelati, Autari-Barsanti, Magolfa.

Osservando Milano dall'alto è sempre più visibile l'arcipelago formato dalle aree trasformate a parco, molto più consistente di quelle poche isole di ombra e natura su cui ha contato la nostra generazione. L'Amministrazione ha cercato di ottenere questi risultati con un lavoro, fatto da molte persone, di collaborazione e mediazione con enti e privati, in modo da gravare il meno possibile sui cittadini, anche per la manutenzione, e di integrare sempre i nuovi progetti urbanistici con spazi a verde fruibile da tutti. A Roma, molti secoli fa, chi voleva la gratitudine dei propri concittadini lasciava in eredità l'uso pubblico dei propri giardini (horti), salvaguardandoli da mire meno attente ai bisogni della collettività. La presenza del Parco Archeologico tra queste nuove aree a verde dovrebbe ricordarci la lungimiranza dei nostri antenati. Ci racconterebbero che nella loro lingua il termine verde, "viridis", viene da "virere", che significa anche progettare il futuro, con il crescere della natura, con la sua perseveranza, con la sua forza.

La nostra cultura, riscoperto questo significato, si è impegnata a dare alla nostra città un patrimonio di vita, di verde. Un impegno che deve continuare e il cui scopo è migliorare la qualità della vita di una città in crescita.

Se la città cresce, è viva e vitale, è in pieno vigore, fiorisce.

Paolo Simonetti
*Director Building Plans
and Programmes
City of Milan*

Green areas hold multiple functions for people and their city

A city park is beautiful even if it is empty. It is correct to have it even if it has a limited use. In other words, greenery must be there, regardless of how it is used. It is something that is owed to residents, because it is part and parcel of human life. It is not a decoration, an accessory people could do without.

The English expression "urban forestry" explains this idea well. Green areas are seen as a piece of rural land within cities, and have a bio-climatic purpose as well. Greenery performs some functions for people, regardless of whether people actually go there or not. Suffice it to think of plant transpiration, that helps lower the temperature in the summer. Or of what is known as health-care function: in some urban areas, especially in the proximity of hospitals, greenery helps convalescing patients, also through providing a psychologically relaxing view. Also, we might mention its aesthetic-architectural function, i.e. greenery embellishes the urban landscape and improves the quality of city life. In other words, we want to point out that green areas also have an aesthetic, gratuitous purpose that is just as important as their more functional side. The social, entertainment, cultural, and teaching functions of green areas are not the only viewpoints that should be adopted in assessing their usefulness.

The combination of all these purposes - symbolic, aesthetic, decorative, climate control, social and entertainment - has marked the history of green areas from the Greek-Roman era until today. In ancient times, greenery mostly existed in the large gardens of noble family villas, in the Middle Ages it was mainly used for growing produce, in the 15th century it served to control humidity and temperature, today it is seen as a provider of more humane city areas; all those functions have come one after another, but they have also coexisted at the same time.

Paolo Del Debbio
*Teacher of Media Ethics
and Social Ethics,
IULM University*

CONOSCERE MILANO

I Parchi della trasformazione

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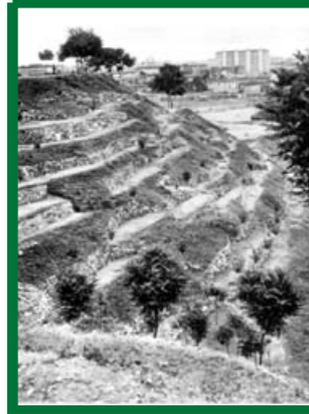
the parks growing out of the city's transformation



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Monte Stella

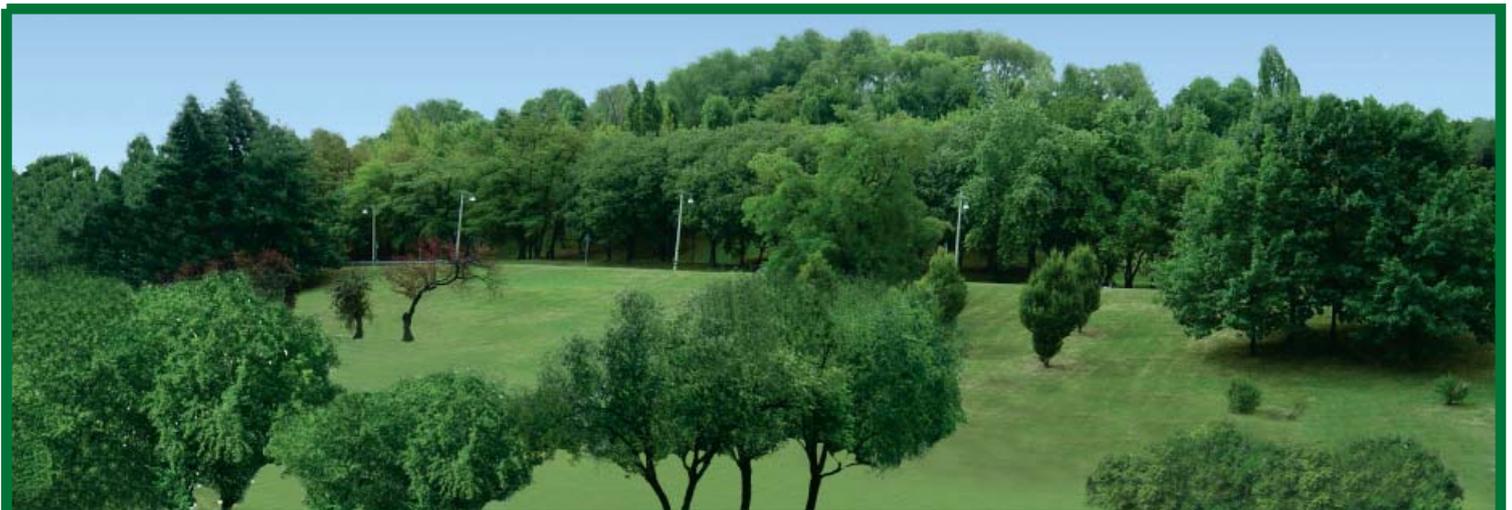


MONTE STELLA

Where: QT8
How to get there:
M1, QT8 station;
bus 68
How large: 370,000
sqm
Designer: Architect
Piero Bottoni
Facilities: XXV
Aprile sports centre:
track and field,
tennis, bowling

Monte Stella is the first modern-era example of a green area built on an abandoned site, a city-owned stretch of land where only miserable huts existed immediately after World War II. It was an abandoned site, where the railway filled unused quarries with the debris of buildings destroyed by bombings. Monte Stella is an integral part of the QT8 scheme, the 1947 experimental neighbourhood designed by Piero Bottoni. QT8 was seen as a laboratory where to experiment with new urban planning, architectural and building methods. Between 1945 and 1946, different solutions were suggested: from two small hills, to a "large lake" in an abandoned quarry, which was later filled with the war's debris. Hence, the idea was presented of a 100-metre "mountain", which was later sized down to 50 metres. What was first known as "Montagnetta di San Siro" was called Monte Stella by Bottoni himself in the late 1950s, as a tribute to his late wife.

After the first three years, the QT8 project was sharply slowed down, and by 1966 Monte Stella was left in a state of desolation. However, in 1971 the area was declared a urban park, trees were planted and the situation greatly improved. After further improvements in 1996, today the "Montagnetta" is a spectacular green area on four different levels, with unpaved roads, tracks, stairs and rainwater drains. It is planted with many different species and very popular with joggers. From its top, it allows a pleasant city view. At its base, there are some important service facilities: from the XXV Aprile sports centre, equipped for track and field, tennis and bowling, to the church of Santa Maria Nascente, designed by Vico Magistretti.



Parco Nord



From the Breda factory to a 600-hectares park

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Where: Milan North, area Niguarda, Bruzzano, Bicocca
How to get there: tram 11; bus 42, 51, 83
How large: 6,000,000 sqm (of which 4,000,000 already existing)
Designers: Consorzio Parco Nord Milano, Architect Francesco Borella and Architect Andreas Kipar

The first significant greenery was planted at Parco Nord in 1983, on a part of the area where the Breda factories used to be. Initially, this was done to redevelop a stretch of land occupied by abandoned industrial sites, sheds, barren fields and illegal huts. Today, Parco Nord extends over more than 6,000,000 sqm North of Milan, in six different cities. This location is one of the most densely urbanised areas in Europe, with huge (now largely unused) industrial facilities and large-scale housing projects.

The first idea of creating a large park North of Milan dates back to the late 1960s; however, Consorzio Parco Nord Milano was only established in 1970, and it was awarded the status of a regional park in 1975. In its early years, the park's design and planning was done by the Consorzio and by the park's first director, Architect Francesco Borella.

In the early 1980s, the first vegetable gardens were planted, in order to meet a widespread need and to stop the installation of illegal vegetable gardens. Later, the park was equipped with cycling and pedestrian lanes, street-crossing flyovers, children's playgrounds, bowling lanes, volleyball and basketball courts, and water ponds.

One of the most typical sites at Parco Nord is the outdoor theatre below the "montagnetta", which was built using material from the Breda disposal site. The theatre kept fourteen concrete pillars from the previous industrial facility and symbolises the large-scale reclaim scheme that transformed a previously barren site into a public green area.

In recent years, further improvements were made in the park, in particular a pedestrian and cycling connection was built between the neighbourhoods of Affori, Niguarda and Bruzzano.

Also, starting in 2001, the Seveso river was reclaimed in the park's area, with sports and recreational facilities built near the waterway.

Today, Parco Nord attracts over 2 million visitors each year and is one of the most successful examples of a city-border park. Important teaching activities are organised here in co-operation with schools. Also, the park hosts many parties and events, that attract thousands of visitors.



Parco delle Cave



Parco delle Cave is one of the most surprising and important new large urban parks in Milan. It extends over 135 hectares in the West of the city and is characterised by four small lakes that fill in former quarries, that were used in production between the 1920s and the late 1960s. Later, the site was left barren, with illegal landfills and settlements, until the local community heavily protested against the situation in the 1970s. The park's plan was first approved in 1986, but redevelopment only went on very slowly and the area's security problems became even worse. In 1990, the area became a part of the Parco Agricolo Sud Milano scheme. In 1997, the City signed an agreement with Italia Nostra, that already created and manages the neighbouring public park "Boscoincittà", for the park's creation and management. 46 hectares of public land were given as a concession, and public funds provided for the scheme. The strategy here involves the preservation and enhancement of existing natural features, reclaiming, cleaning, and the redevelopment of the area to accommodate more visitors. The early works were started immediately to enhance accessibility, and a general plan was passed that identified expropriated areas.



From the quarries, a park all around lakes

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Where: Milan West
How to get there: bus 64, 67, 72, 78
How large: 1,350,000 sqm
Designers: Centro Forestazione Urbana - Italia Nostra
Facilities: bowling, football, basketball, vegetable gardens, cycling lanes

Italia Nostra later presented three separate projects for the three entrance areas; the area around the South lake was totally reshaped, with pedestrian lanes, access to water and a small beach.

North-east of the quarry, a very important wildlife wet area is located: it is a shallow pond that lends itself well to the reproduction of some aquatic birds. The areas closer to the city have lawns and leisure time facilities, such as bowling lanes and vegetable gardens.

The northernmost area, Cascina Caldera, has large open spaces organised with the regular shape of the previously existing farmland. This area has sport facilities, wildlife areas and, closer to the entrance, vegetable gardens, bowling lanes, children's playgrounds and parking lots. The entrance on Via Forze Armate creates a continuity between the park and its surroundings, with a large water tank at the entrance piazza.

Parco delle Cave is especially important because it allowed to reclaim an area that was seriously degraded through a great work of co-operation with the community; people were involved in the creation of the park, which enhanced community life and a sense of belonging with the park itself.

Many works were done with the co-operation of volunteers. Today, more projects are under way for the finalisation and extension of the park.



Parco Certosa in the Certosa neighbourhood



Autumn 2005: the "Giardino dei Giochi" is inaugurated, a large strip of reclaimed land that forms the first part of the future Parco Certosa.

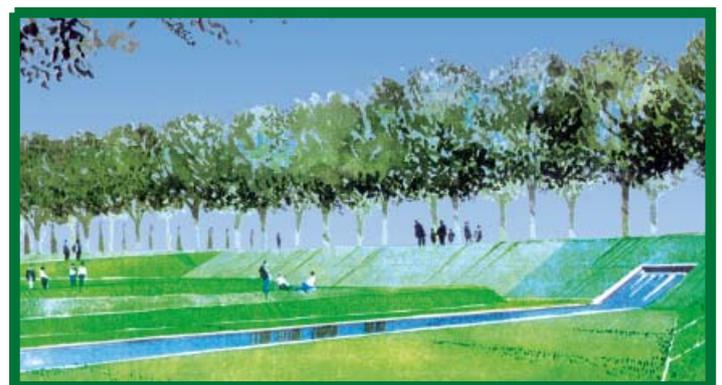
This location is at the heart of a 450,000 sqm stretch of land in north-west Milan, next to Bovisa, formerly occupied by the Fina refinery and currently under redevelopment.

The main project is Parco Certosa: a 20-hectare ground surrounded by residential buildings, a shopping centre, a university residence and other neighbourhood services.

The former refinery site has been environmentally reclaimed starting in 1999. About 150,000 m³ of land were extracted and mixed with additives to get rid of pollutants. This complex three-year operation was managed by EuroMilano, and it cost 6 million Euros.

Parco Certosa was designed by British studio Armstrong Bell Landscape Design; the main design theme is water, and it has four canals, a man-made lake and fountains. A large piazza will be built in the centre, dedicated to art and music, with a large green amphitheatre. The park will be crossed by an elevated walkway, and three more piazzas will be at each entrance, all with outdoor bars. The easternmost piazza will be reserved to children, and equipped with both traditional and innovative playgrounds. To encourage people to actively use the park, an area will be reserved to vegetable gardens.

The park is divided in three parts, with different building schedules: "Giardino dei Giochi" opens in 2005, "Giardino delle Piazze" will be completed in 2006, "Giardino dell'Anfiteatro" will be started in 2006.



PARCO CERTOSA

Where: Via Eritrea, North-West Milan
How to get there: Passante, Certosa station;
tram 12, 19; bus 40, 57
How large: 200,000 sqm
Designers: Studio Armstrong Bell
Landscape Design

The three parks at the Ravizza neighbourhood



Parco della Cultura



The area that used to host Officine Meccaniche (OM), an industrial vehicles manufacturing company, has now been redeveloped as the new Ravizza neighbourhood. This neighbourhood has residential, office, retail and commercial facilities, and is built within a large public park area. The park's scheme was first designed by French landscape designer Christophe Girot and Studio Land followed its construction.

The new 160,000-sqm park is divided in three parts; they are like three separate parks, subdivided by transportation lines and by the new buildings.

The northernmost park will be Parco della Cultura, the only one yet unbuilt. It will serve as a connection with the existing city, and relate to historic Parco Ravizza, on the opposite side of the ring-road. Parco della Cultura will be the most equipped area in the site, with piazzas, playgrounds, a large amphitheatre, an orchard and the water garden; all these facilities will enhance the redeveloped former industrial buildings.

The Parco delle Memorie Industriali is just South of it, beyond the railway and connected by underpasses. This park exploits some signs from the area's industrial heritage, in particular an old OM overhead crane.

The third park, Parco della Vettabbia, is at the South border of the neighbourhood, all the way from the new buildings to the Vettabbia irrigation canal. This park has a long walkway along the canal, with observation terraces and wooden-floor piazzas. High-quality furnishing elements are scattered all over the park.

The new road that cuts through the built part has also been lined with trees, so much so that it is called Strada-Parco.

Parco delle Memorie Industriali



Parco della Vettabbia



THE THREE PARKS AT THE RAVIZZA NEIGHBOURHOOD

Where: New Ravizza neighbourhood, Milan South
How to get there: bus 79, 90, 91
How large: 160,000 sqm
Designers: Società Land srl
Facilities: playgrounds, amphitheatre

Parco Maserati at Rubattino neighbourhood



The large area that used to host the Innocenti Maserati manufacturing plant is now being redeveloped. It is a 600,000-sqm rectangle in the East of the city, cross-cut by river Lambro and by the Tangenziale Est motorway overpass. The overall redevelopment plan is scheduled in two phases: the first, westernmost part, closer to the city, has already been built with the new Rubattino residential district and a large part of the park. In the second phase, a production centre will be built East of the motorway, and the park completed. Parco Maserati and its greenery are the key element in connecting the two districts at each end of the area; it occupies over 320,000 sqm.

The landscaping project in the new Rubattino neighbourhood, all the way to the motorway overpass, revolves around a large central boulevard starting from a piazza with a fountain; this road connects the various parts of the new neighbourhood to each other and to the new park.

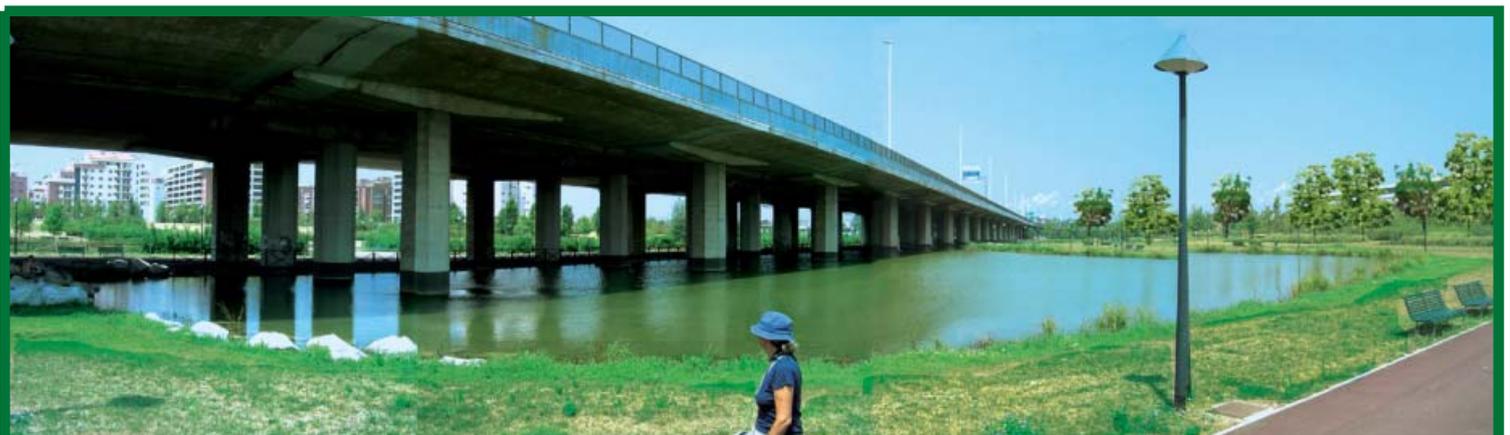
The part of the park that has already been built has been carefully designed especially in the areas near river Lambro and the motorway, that both interrupt its continuity.

The park was completed in July 2004; under the overpass, it has green areas, a roller skating lane and a shallow pond. This water expanse is actually the most distinctive feature in the park: 9,000 sqm that mirror the motorway's pillars, with a solemn effect.

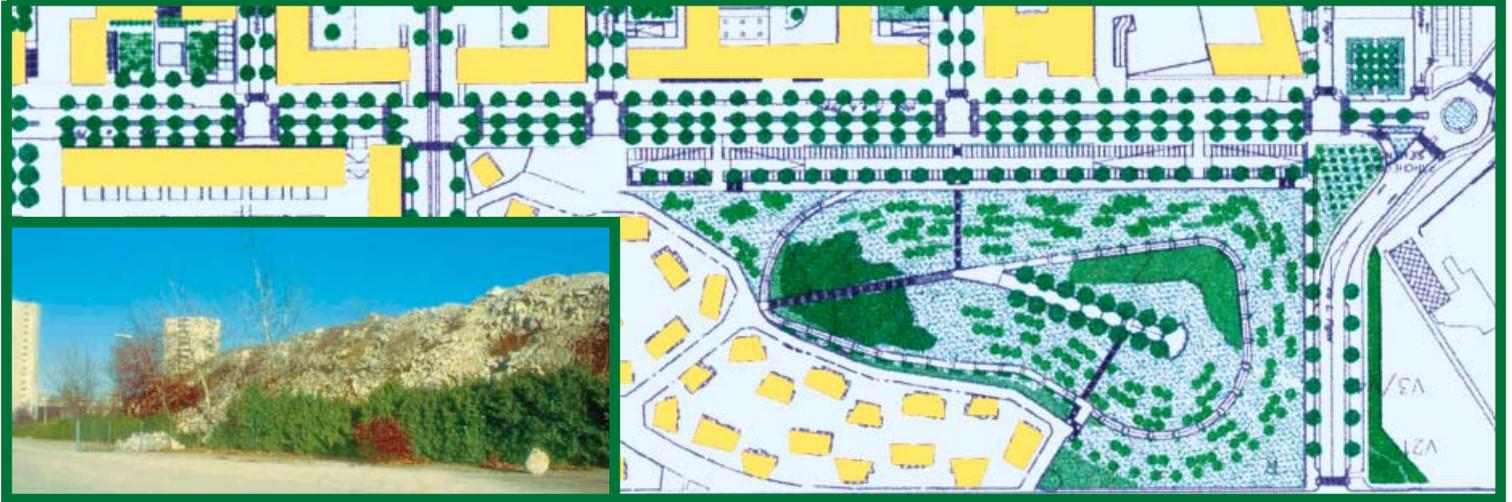
Besides the lake, there are large lawn areas, isolated patches of trees, tree lines, large shrub areas, a children's playground and 3 km of pedestrian and cycling lanes. The second step in the project will only be started after the last industrial facilities are removed; a production centre will be created in the East side of the area, and the park completed. Once finished, this park will be the green heart of this new city area.

PARCO MASERATI

Where: New Rubattino neighbourhood, Milan East
How to get there: bus 54, 75. By car, Tan. Est, Rubattino
How large: 89,000 sqm already built (total 320,000)
Designers: Società Land srl
Facilities: roller skating



Collina dei Ciliegi at the Bicocca neighbourhood



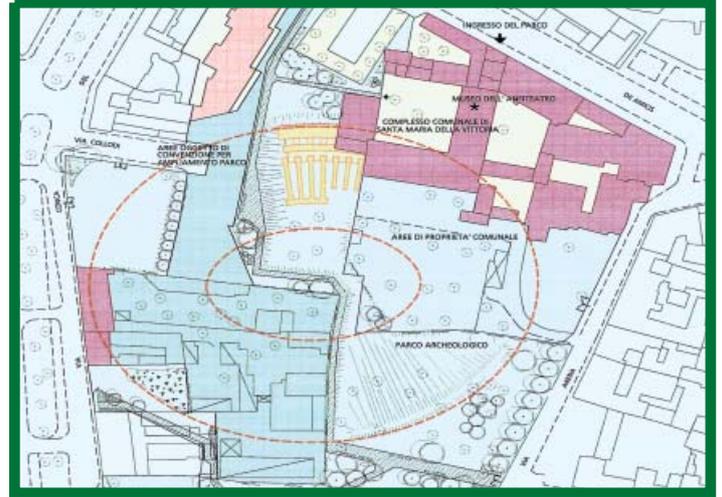
The main symbol of landscaping at the new Bicocca neighbourhood is the Collina dei Ciliegi, Cherry Hill, built with the debris from the old Pirelli factories that used to be here. It is a pretty large public area, 40,000 sqm with a maximum height of 25 metres. Circular pedestrian lanes climb to the top of the hill and allow for connection with the new local buildings. The Società Land design is meant to create different scenarios on each side of the hill, with about 240 trees and over 6,000 plants over 6,500 sqm. The hill is planted with different varieties of cherry trees, that offer a spectacular and colourful bloom in springtime. However, the hill is just a part of the public parks in new Bicocca. The second large park is Giardini dell' Esplanade. It is in front of the eponymous residence and gently slopes down towards Viale Sarca. This green area is marked by its sharp geometry, with two tree-shaded pedestrian lanes criss-crossing it.

Another important public park is the 13,500-sqm pedestrian tree-shaded piazza in front of the Humanities Department of University Milano Bicocca, the Piazza dell'Ateneo. It has about 100 maple trees and many green walkways. Also, the residential-retail complex at the centre of Bicocca is carefully landscaped, and more green areas exist at the Teatro degli Arcimboldi, at the University, and at the Pirelli Headquarter; overall, it is a green system that connects piazzas and gardens to the built areas. Another important project is the connection between Bicocca and the future Parco Nord: a pedestrian and cycling lane over Viale Sarca.



LA COLLINA DEI CILIEGI
Where: New Bicocca neighbourhood, Milan North
How to get there: tram 7; bus 40, 44
How large: 40,000 sqm
Designers: Landi Srl

Parco Archeologico de ll Anfiteatro Romano



Hidden in a block along the Navigli ring-road, straight in the city centre, there is a small but valuable green area, the Parco Archeologico dell'Anfiteatro Romano. The park was created between 1999 and 2002 by the Archaeology Superintendent of the Lombardy Region. It occupies 12,000 sqm, including part of the remains of Milan's ancient Roman amphitheatre.

Indeed, this is the location of a large elliptical amphitheatre, 155 metres long and 125 wide, that could sit up to 35,000 spectators, which was destroyed during Barbarian invasions around the 5th century AD. Some of the foundations of this ancient arena were unearthed in 1931, but only in the 1970s a new archaeological campaign allowed to appreciate its full size.

Currently, most of the area is public; the archaeological park has been planned a long time ago, but it was created only in 2002. In 2004, a large part of the park was inaugurated together with the Museo dell'Anfiteatro, located within the monumental complex of Santa Maria della Vittoria in Via De Amicis. From here, a paved lane leads to the excavation area and the ancient foundations; on the Via Arena side, an elliptical walkway is reminiscent of the amphitheatre's original shape.

Other remains were found on private areas. An agreement has already been signed to convert these areas to public use, so as to extend the current park.



PARCO ARCHEOLOGICO DELL'ANFITEATRO

Where: city centre

How to get there: tram 2, 3, 14; bus 94

How large: 12,000 sqm already built
(with planned expansion 22,600 sqm)

Designers: Archaeology Superintendent,
Lombardy Region

Facilities: Museo dell'Anfiteatro within the
monumental complex of Santa Maria della Vittoria

Parco della Valle della Vettabbia



The transformation of a very large area in south-east Milan into a park is connected to the Nosedo water treatment facility. Some of the works for this large new park have already been completed, and it is scheduled to be finished by 2006.

The Parco della Valle della Vettabbia is located in a boundary area, between the built city and the farmland South of Milan, near the Chiaravalle Abbey. It is a location rich in landscaping and historic value, with an articulated irrigation system first created by the Abbey's monks in the past centuries. The large scale of the Nosedo plant, that cleans water for 1,250,000 residents, prompted a careful landscaping scheme. The project, designed by a team of professionals led by Architect Marco Prusicki, involves the creation of a 100-hectares park around the water treatment facility, within the boundaries of Parco Sud. Also, the idea is that of encouraging the development of a large inter-city park all along the Vettabbia canal, which will form an environmental corridor. The park will also include stretches of farmland, so as to create different habitats and enhance biodiversity. The scheme includes a large forestry ecosystem and a kind of theme park on water regeneration; many pre-existing waterways and cultivation systems will be redeveloped, and cycling and pedestrian lanes will allow people to enjoy the park.



PARCO DELLA VALLE DELLA VETTABBIA

Where: south-east Milan
How to get there: bus 77, 93
How large: over 1,000,000 sqm
Designer: Prof. Arch. Marco Prusicki

Parco San Rocco



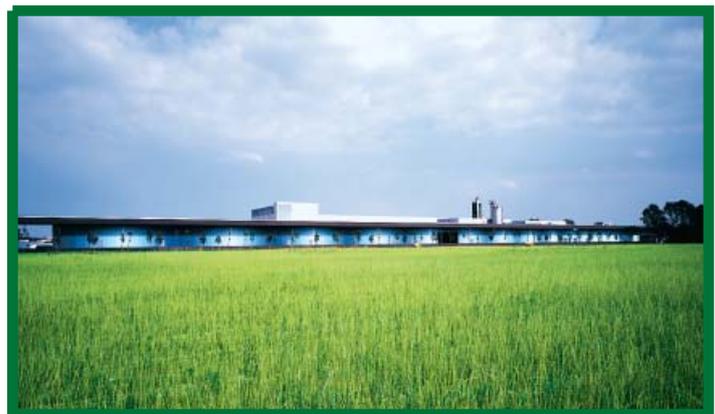
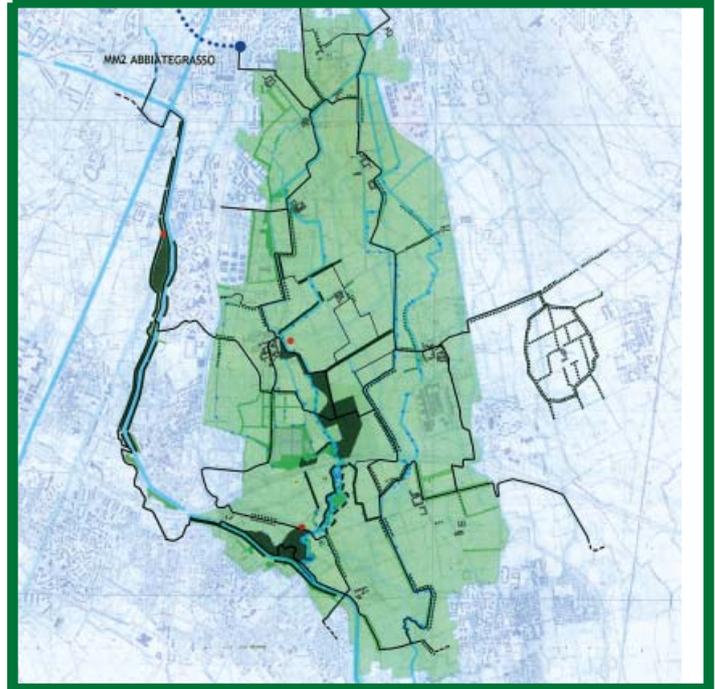
South of the city, at Ronchetto delle Rane, a 32-hectares park was created; its mainly comprised of farmland and serves as an environmental offset for the Milan San Rocco water treatment plant, the second largest in the city with a capacity to serve 1,050,000 residents.

The park's project was designed by a team of professionals led by Professor Renato Vismara of Milan's Politecnico University. The first tree was planted in spring 2004 near the San Rocco chapel.

Parco San Rocco is a part of the large area of Parco Agricolo Sud Milano, and is one of its main entrances as you come from the city. One of its strongest design features is the enhancement of the typical local farming landscape, by means of lines of trees planted along the waterways and irrigation canals. Interesting wetland areas are also present in the site.

Over 5,000 grown plants have been planted, including many species of bushes, for a total 5 hectares of forestry and 5 km of linear trees. Another important feature of the new park is the cycling and pedestrian lane between Ronchetto delle Rane and the nearby shopping centre, that is an add-on to the lanes network of Parco Sud. The purpose of this park scheme is that of creating many different environments, to encourage local fauna to settle here and increase biodiversity in this city-limits area. Parco San Rocco is the first of a series of environmental schemes in the large area around the water cleaning facility.

The overall plan includes the creation of a large multi-city park, called "Parco delle Acque della Valle del Ticinello", that will protect and enhance the farmland South of Milan for recreational, teaching and cultural purposes.



PARCO SAN ROCCO

Where: Milan South
How to get there: by car
Tangenziale Ovest, Via dei Missaglia exit
How large: about 300,000 sqm
Designer: Prof. Renato Vismara

Giardini di Porta Nuova

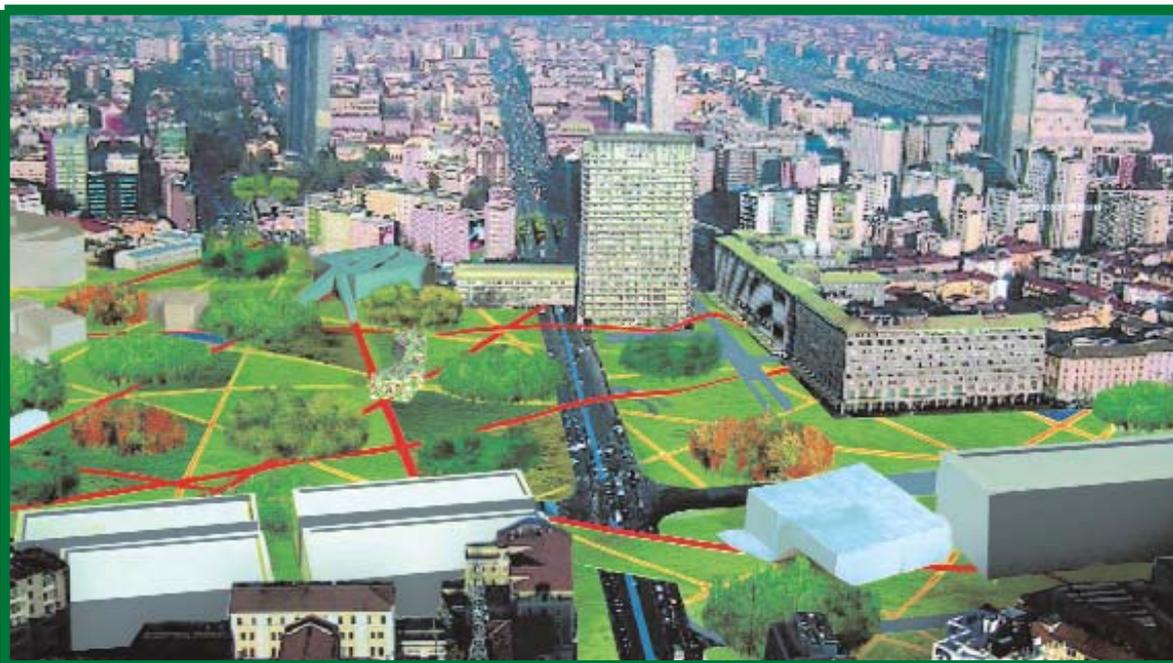


Giardini di Porta Nuova are at the heart of the important scheme designed to redevelop the Garibaldi-Repubblica area, that has been under the spotlight in urban planning discussions in Milan for the last 50 years and suffers from abandonment now.

Around the large central park, new buildings will be located: the new offices of the City of Milan, the "Alternate headquarters" of the Lombardy Region and the Fashion City complex.

The scheme for this new park is the winning project in a competition won by Dutch team Inside-Outside in 2004, called "The Trees Library". The project is scheduled to be completed within the next five years, in successive steps. Giardini di Porta Nuova will extend over more than 100,000 sqm and will be a botanical library, "La Biblioteca degli Alberi", that offers a new way to get to know plants, herbs and flowers through information in the park, including the Flowers and Insects Museum.

The walkways in the park create an irregular grid, each part having different herbs, shrubs or flowers, with circular lines of trees all over. Some of these patches of land will be covered in water, or paved, so as to accommodate different activities. Besides the Flowers and Insects Museum, other buildings and halls will host exhibition spaces for art and fashion, galleries, restaurants, cafés, bookshops, a sports centre with swimming pool and a large tent for events. These buildings are to be the "doors" to the park, connecting it to its surroundings. Also, they will help to liven, define and protect the park, which will become an actual urban campus.



GIARDINI DI PORTA NUOVA

Where:
Garibaldi-
Repubblica
area, city
centre
How large:
107,000 sqm
Designers:
Studio
Inside-Outside

Parco Portello at the Portello neighbourhood



The Portello Project is a large redevelopment scheme for an area of 386,000 sqm, once occupied by the now abandoned Alfa Romeo production factories. The scheme involves a new urban planning with housing, offices, retail and crafts, and a large urban park.

Parco Portello, with its 80,000 sqm, is a part of the urban refurbishment of the whole north-west part of the city, from the old Fair ground to its new location in Rho-Però; it will be a landmark and an entrance door to the city, being located on the way from the motorway to the city centre.

The new green area, designed by Architects Charles Jencks and Andreas Kipar, looks on to the city and is characterised by its "double S" tentacle shape. Its design creates a large urban sculpture, with elevations created by reusing material from the destroyed buildings. Concave and convex shapes alternate and create different spaces: an amphitheatre, a water pond, a children's garden and a skateboarding area.

The park will be equipped with pedestrian and cycling lanes that will serve as a connection between it and other parks, Monte Stella in the north-west and Parco Sempione in the south-east.

The park's borders are sharply defined, also on the South side where a triangular parking lot is integrated in the park's design.

Also part of the project are the optimisation of surface and groundwater systems, the underpass of Viale Gattamelata under the park, the use of high-quality urban furnishing.

PARCO PORTELLO

Where: new Portello neighbourhood, north-west Milan
How to get there: bus 48, 90, 91
How large: 80,000 sqm
Designers: Arch. Charles Jencks, Arch. Andreas Kipar



Parco di Milano Santa Giulia



A large area in the south-east side of the city is the site of the largest redevelopment project ever approved by the City of Milan, which will transform 1,200,000 sqm occupied by the Montedison and Acciaierie Redaelli factories until the 1970s.

The developer is Risanamento (Zunino Group), that appointed British architect Sir Norman Foster to design the scheme. The main development axis is the large central park, that cuts across the main road leading here from the city centre.

The Parco di Milano Santa Giulia runs from East to West on a 333,000-sqm surface, and it divides the area in 700,000 sqm northwards for retail and 500,000 sqm southwards for housing.

The park is designed by Studio West 8 landscape architects; it includes green areas for sport and leisure, connected by piazzas, gardens, pedestrian and cycling lanes. The park will also be very lively and animated thanks to other high-quality services and facilities, including a conference centre, kindergarten and pre-school, a community centre, a church, a students' residence, a health care facility for the handicapped.

The quality of life and social relations here will also be enhanced by the many sport, recreational and environmental activities hosted in the park.

The scheme designs an urban landscape defined by large open areas, forests and theme gardens that will give rise to new perspectives.

Studio West 8 will also design the green areas at Residenza Santa Giulia: 45,000 sqm of protected garden within the high-quality elliptical buildings. A "forest" will be at the centre, on a slightly undulated green carpet. The greenery in this part of the park will house a gym, two tennis courts and a children's playground, with many walkways winding through the trees.

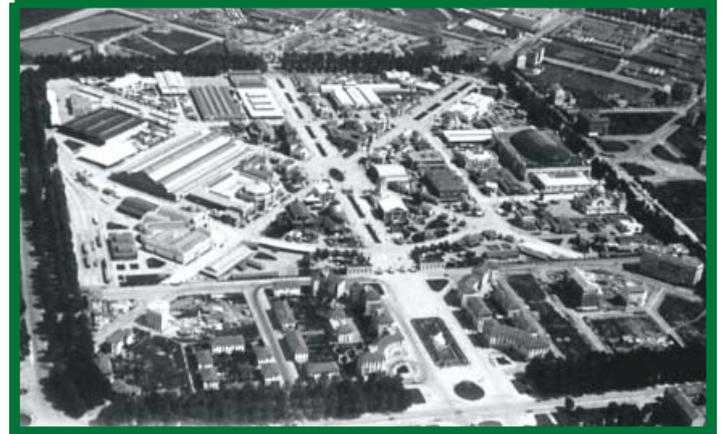
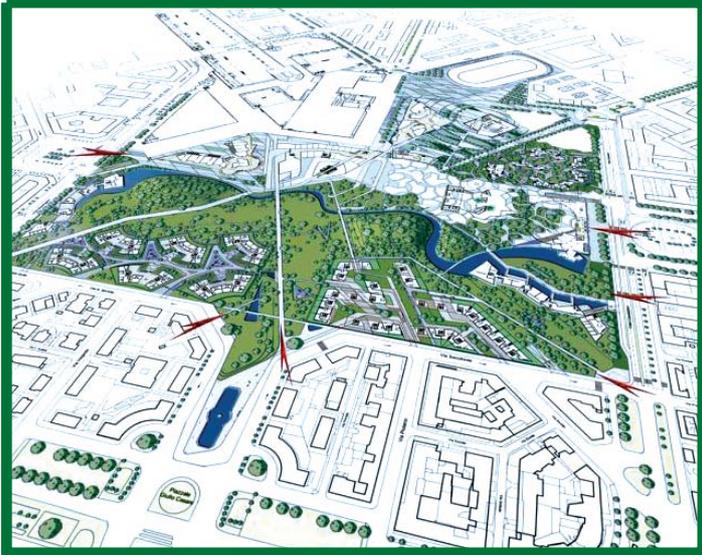


PARCO DI MILANO SANTA GIULIA

Where: South-east Milan
How large: 333,000 sqm
Designers: Studio West 8
Facilities: recreational, sports and cultural activities

Parco Fiera Milano

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A new, large park for Milan will be created where the current Fair is located since 1923. The exhibition halls have been relocated to Portello, that will remain as a city address for "light-weight" exhibitions, and above all to the wonderful new facility of Rho-Pero, designed by Massimiliano Fuksas and inaugurated in spring 2005; the large area thus vacated has prompted one of the largest and most important redevelopment projects in the city. The area to be redeveloped is 255,000 sqm of the 440,000 now occupied by the Fair. This will be the location of CityLife, the new neighbourhood designed by Zaha Hadid, Arata Isozaki, Daniel Libeskind and Pier Paolo Maggiora. This project won an international competition in 2004. Among the characteristics of this scheme, there is a central piazza that hosts the Three Towers, five residential areas, the Design Museum and Centre, the refurbishment of historic Hall 3 of the Fair.

However, the connecting element in the scheme will be its large urban park that, together with public spaces, will occupy 50% of the area, i.e. about 130,000 sqm. The park will serve as a connection in the new neighbourhood and will provide continuity with the other parks in north-west Milan, from historic Parco Sempione to the future Parco Portello, all the way to Monte Stella, Bosco in Città and Parco delle Cave. A waterway will connect the two ends of the park. The landscaping principles used here are inspired to landscaping ecology and urban ecology, with the aim of combining environmentally sound design and ease of use. Great care has also been devoted to the protection of existing greenery and to mobility in the area. Works are scheduled to begin in 2006, and the whole project is planned to be completed by 2014.



PARCO FIERA MILANO

Where: within the CityLife project in the Fiera Milano neighbourhood
How to get there: the area is well served by buses, subway and railway
How large: about 130,000 sqm including public areas
Designers: CityLife designers for landscaping; for environmental aspects (Ingegnoli); for botanical aspects (Gatti)
Facilities: equipped areas, walkways, playgrounds, cycling lanes

Villaggio dello Sport e del Divertimento



The City of Milan has worked out a preliminary plan for the creation of a multi-functional sport centre, the Villaggio dello Sport e del Divertimento, in the Porto di Mare area, in the south-east of the city.

This new scheme will deal with the urban outskirts and the different kinds of landscape existing in the South area of Milan; it will serve as a hinge between the built city and the countryside, and will help improve an area that is currently abandoned.

Also, this area is very easily accessible, both with public transport and by car.

The Master Plan for this project covers about 2,000,000 sqm of public land and will be used for many large sport facilities, a village for sport organisations, leisure time and retail activities, and a large park - which, together with the neighbouring green area around the Nosedo water cleaning plant and the Santa Giulia project, will give rise to a whole great environmental area.

The park will be characterised by water, large green areas with lawns and trees, and a wide avenue going out towards the countryside. The latter is a key element in the park's design, extending from the densely built urban environment to its neighbouring farmland, and highlighting its historic memories, such as the Chiaravalle Abbey. The future park is a part of a wider system of city outskirts parks within Parco Agricolo Sud Milano.

The whole scheme will be built in several steps through project financing, and the developers will be chosen through an international competition. The purpose is that of obtaining high quality both in its construction and in its management.



VILLAGGIO DELLO SPORT E DEL DIVERTIMENTO

Where: Former Porto di Mare-Rogoredo, South-East Milan
How large: 2,000,000 sqm
Designer: consultant for the Master Plan: Riccardo Dell'Osso
Facilities: sport and leisure centres

Parco Bisceglie



The south-west part of the city, along via Bisceglie, is the site of an important redevelopment plan. Most new developments will be housing complexes, but the plan also includes a retail centre, some service facilities, a new underground public parking and one above ground, and a new railway overpass.

Parco Bisceglie, over 70,000 sqm of surface, is cut in two by Via Lorenteggio. Near the San Cristoforo railway station, the park becomes wider; here, the new residential buildings will rise. At the centre of this wider part of the park, there is a red asphalt ring, that serves as a roller skating, cycling or track and field facility. Also, green areas are equipped with a cycling lane and a children's playground. At the southernmost tip of the area, a new railway overpass will be built.



Parco Argelati



Parco Argelati lies in the densely built urban fabric along the Naviglio Grande canal. It is a small park that belongs to a plan designed to redevelop a very characteristic area of Milan, which was suffering from abandonment before the plan's implementation.

The new 47,000-sqm park is an important public area in a neighbourhood that lacked greenery so far.

It is a green oasis equipped with resting spots and space for playing, sports and public events, furnished in harmony with its neighbourhood.

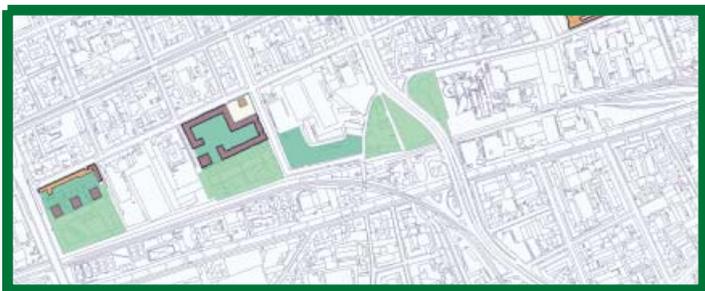
The redevelopment plan includes 21,000 sqm of buildings for housing and crafts.

The neighbouring city block is also being redeveloped, and will eventually serve as an entrance from the Naviglio to the park. The Parco Argelati project is a part of an overall redevelopment plan for the whole Naviglio area.



Parco Lineare

Many projects are under way to redevelop the whole urban area along the Naviglio Grande canal. In particular, the redevelopment of the former Osram and Loro Parisini factories will create a 16,000-sqm public park. Besides its immediate landscaping and environmental value, the park will be especially important as a part of the Linear Park that will occupy the current 60,000 sqm of railway tracks that are scheduled to be discontinued within the next four years. This project will allow for the connection of the Porta Genova area to the Navigli, through an urban greenway. This green area will be dedicated to leisure and sport activities, with pedestrian and cycling lanes. The refurbished Porta Genova station will serve as an "urban gateway" at the park's entrance.



Parco WJC World Jewellery Center

The area is located along the city's north-west axis, leading from the historic Fair site to the new Rho-Però exhibition site. The whole area is undergoing a major redevelopment of the former industrial sites (see page 32 and 33). This scheme, now in its design phase, is to be built on a part of the large former Alfa Romeo facility. Parco WJC is a key part of the scheme, that will host an important centre aimed at accommodating and enhancing companies and at promoting innovation in the jewellery industry: the World Jewellery Centre. This project will combine architectural quality and environmental compatibility: the park, designed by Architect Andreas Kipar, is an important component in the large green area extending from Monte Stella to the future Parco Portello.



Parco della Conca Fallata

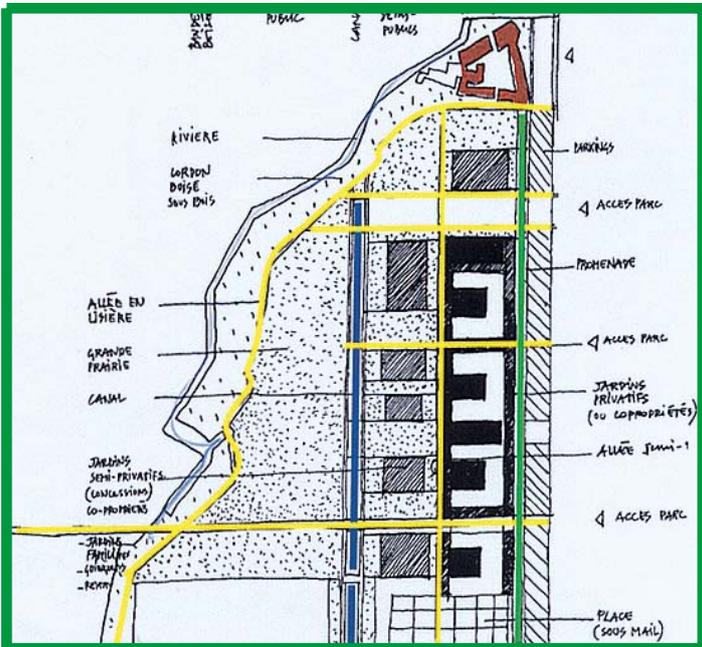
Along the Naviglio Pavese canal, in the South of the city, a redevelopment scheme will transform the areas and facilities of the former Binda paper mill into a new residential neighbourhood; the historic buildings along the Naviglio will be restored, and a new park will be created. Indeed, 65,000 sqm of the total 120,000 will be used for public spaces and greenery. The developer is EuroMilano. This area belongs to the site that will become the first greenway in the city. Actually, Parco della Conca Fallata is the last in the urban fabric, before the greenway connects to the large green area of Parco Agricolo Sud Milano. It is connected on the North side to the Cascina Caimera green area, and will be planted with the same tree species. At the centre of the park there will be a kindergarten, playgrounds and sport facilities. On the West side, a line of oak trees will be planted along the Lambro river, with a cycling lane, and lawns will extend uninterrupted from there to the residential buildings. This area will be connected to the future walkways along the Naviglio. Also, the canal lock is being refurbished for reuse, by means of placing a modern turbine where energy for the paper mill was produced in the 19th century: this site will also have some public and exhibition spaces.



Ex Istituto Sieroterapico



The Istituto Sieroterapico Milanese Serafino Bonfanti was established in 1896, and it produced serum and vaccine products until the 1980s. After that, its westernmost part was totally abandoned. Today, following major works, this stretch of land between the two Naviglio canals in Milan will be transformed into an urban park. The City's project entails the redevelopment of the area by means of a 99,000-sqm park designed by landscape architect Michel Desvigne, and of some residential buildings. Also, Cascina Argelati will be refurbished and the park will be equipped with an interactive centre for kids on wildlife and the environment. The park will also have a cycling lane connecting it to the other parks now being created in the Navigli area.



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EUROMILANO EuroMilano è una società di promozione e sviluppo immobiliare che, attraverso le attività di property management e real estate development, interviene in programmi di recupero e di valorizzazione urbanistica di grande impatto che incidono positivamente nel tessuto cittadino nel quale si collocano.

I quartieri EuroMilano nascono inseriti armoniosamente in un contesto integrato nel quale trovano spazio le residenze, i servizi, i trasporti, le aree di aggregazione e i luoghi di culto. Aree storiche, dimenticate e dismesse, vengono così restituite ai cittadini nel rispetto del territorio e della sua identità, non come freddi spazi da abitare, ma come luoghi da vivere.

EuroMilano realizza i suoi interventi tenendo conto del verde, delle risorse idriche ed energetiche, e del tessuto sociale esistente, facendo ricorso a materiali all'avanguardia e biocompatibili. Gli edifici rispettano i più elevati standard europei e, per la loro costruzione, ci si avvale in tutto il corso d'opera -dalla progettazione urbanistica al prodotto finito- dei migliori risultati ottenuti dalla tecnologia e dalla ricerca applicata.

In questi anni di attività EuroMilano ha lavorato esclusivamente nell'area milanese, e sono suoi i progetti di Certosa, Bovisa Politecnico ed ex Cartiere Binda. Oggi, forte delle diverse esperienze realizzate, della competenza acquisita in ogni segmento della filiera immobiliare e dei risultati ottenuti, è pronta ad operare in Italia e in Europa, ovunque vi siano opportunità di recuperare spazi di città, quartieri dimenticati o aree abbandonate.

EuroMilano è a Milano in Via Eritrea 48/8.
www.euromilano.it

Milano



Urban Center

L'Urban Center del Comune di Milano, il primo in Italia,

è stato inaugurato nel 2001 dall'Assessore allo Sviluppo del Territorio. Urban Center, come le altre analoghe strutture europee, ha l'obiettivo primario di comunicare ai cittadini le grandi trasformazioni che interessano il loro territorio ed illustrare le politiche urbanistiche e le forme attuative che l'Amministrazione comunale mette in atto per realizzarle. Si rivolge inoltre ad un pubblico esteso, italiano ed internazionale, che comprende operatori economici, di settore e non, studenti, turisti, amministratori pubblici, ai quali fornisce informazioni e dati sull'assetto territoriale della città, sulle sue potenzialità evolutive e sulle sue eccellenze. L'attività del centro si svolge attraverso esposizioni di progetti e realizzazioni, conferenze, workshop, negli spazi in Galleria Vittorio Emanuele, e con la organizzazione di iniziative sempre finalizzate alla conoscenza e promozione del territorio, come gli itinerari di visite tematizzate o l'edizione di dossier. Oltre all'esposizione permanente della Carta dei Luoghi delle Trasformazioni, della Carta delle Strategie e delle politiche urbanistiche e di un Fotopiano che restituisce una suggestiva visione aggiornata della città, Urban Center dispone di un Infopoint, di postazioni informatiche per la consultazione diretta delle banche dati e cartografiche territoriali e di un sito internet.

www.comune.milano.it/urban_center



L'Associazione Interessi Metropolitan è un centro culturale no-profit fondato nel 1987 da un importante gruppo di imprese e banche milanesi per promuovere ricerche, studi e progetti con l'intento di aiutare Milano nel suo sviluppo culturale, sociale ed economico. In quasi vent'anni di attività, AIM ha pubblicato più di settanta studi, ha promosso manifestazioni e convegni, seminari, mostre e ha organizzato corsi con la partecipazione di migliaia di cittadini. Ha curato iniziative speciali quali la progettazione della Mediateca di Santa Teresa, il progetto "Milano per la Multimedialità", quello del centro di ricerca Biopolo, ha progettato e gestisce "Internet Saloon" per i senior nelle sedi di Milano, Sondrio e Venezia, ha promosso il ciclo di visite guidate ai Musei "Fuori Orario" e, in collaborazione con Urban Center, la serie di Guide "Conoscere Milano" con itinerari alla scoperta della città in trasformazione. Sono Soci dell'AIM (2005-2006): AEM, BANCA INTESA, FALCK, FONDAZIONE 3M, FONDIARIA SAI, GRUPPO BANCARIO CREDITO VALTELLINESE, PIRELLI RE, SCENARI IMMOBILIARI, TELECOM ITALIA.
www.aim.milano.it