

# The Past as Valuable Source of Contemporary Meanings

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## Introduction

Europe and the whole Mediterranean area are spotted with sites where the relationship between archaeology, urban space and landscape represents the material and conceptual area for potential synergies. If the “past,” as stated by Salvatore Settis, is not only dead legacy but also valuable source of contemporary meanings, archaeology can represent a component for the foundation of new relational values.<sup>1</sup> The simultaneous presence of past and present in our habitat can in fact contribute to strengthening complex identities, integrating different cultural approaches and promoting economic and functional strategies. The active involvement of the territorial actors, the rising awareness of the importance of ancient heritage sites for residents and citizens, the cooperation between tangible and intangible resources and the interaction between functional and recreational services are some of the synergies that can support the territory organically by focusing on cultural and natural assets. In this frame, the preservation and the enhancement of archaeological landscapes becomes an important resource for economic growth, employment and social cohesion, offering the perspective to revitalize urban and rural areas.

Not only European countries offer a rich and diverse mosaic of archaeological remains. North Africa and the Middle East, Mesoamerica and the Andean Region, Indonesian, Chinese and Indian cultures,

<sup>1</sup> Salvatore Settis, *Il futuro del classico* (Turin: Einaudi, 2004).

Australia and North America present incredible legacies of important past civilizations, sites that make us understand that the valorization of ancient heritage is an important subject worldwide. In addition, these sites are quite frequently located in areas of outstanding natural resources, since the presence of archaeology has often also implied the conservation of the surrounding landscape, resulting in places that have biodiversity and rich environmental qualities. To the protection and management of ancient heritage resources should be granted the maximum possible vitality in terms of values and functions, which means a capacity for re-signification. To the benefit of current and future generations, we need therefore to attribute to these sites an important role in urban and territorial regeneration. To include archaeology in a comprehensive design process is an important task of our contemporary culture.

### **A New Dialogue Between Architecture and Archaeology**

The recently launched Erasmus Mundus Joint Master in *Architecture, Landscape and Archaeology* (EMJMD ALA), promoted by Sapienza University, Polytechnic of Athens, Coimbra University and Federico II University of Naples, aims to bring together three disciplinary fields – architecture, landscape and archaeology – which, although contiguous from an epistemological point of view, have frequently been addressed in a conflicting way in recent decades. Examples of this lack of dialogue between fields and malfunctioning in the valorization of sites can be tracked widely. Italy, for instance, boasts one of the world's most advanced ensemble of laws for the protection of cultural and landscape heritage. However, the rigid regulatory intricacies and, above all, the segmentation of competences, end up creating paradoxes and negative effects for the enhancement of archaeological contexts.

Protection usually refers to the physical site in itself. It would be instead necessary to think on a more extensive and comprehensive level, considering not only the individual monument but also its relationships at a wider scale. Most of the preoccupations are in fact directed towards the conservation of heritage, but equally important is the role that heritage plays in the contemporary city, its meaning as public space. These are all questions that need to be answered, since it is not enough to entrust the conservation of cultural heritage only to studies and restoration techniques, as if the mission of its preservation would be fully accomplished. The use and management of archaeological sites, their belonging to the social life and to the communities' instances are equally important issues for the maintenance of ancient sites' vitality and for keeping history alive. We, as architects, landscape architects or archaeologists, have to ask to ourselves what actions should be taken to pass on these heritage sites to the community and we need to find answers to these questions. We should be able to address topics that concern the transformative potential that

<sup>2</sup> *Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape*, UNESCO, Paris, November 2011.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

social dynamics can introduce in urban regeneration to keep the legacy of the places where the asset is located alive. Not all sites should be treated in the same way. For this reason, a project is required and before this, a strategic vision is necessary.

### **The Historical Urban Landscape**

A 2011 UNESCO document defines the concept of “historical urban landscape” and aims to integrate heritage and its vulnerability in the broader context of the growth of cities, promoting transversal actions between different stakeholders. According to the text: *the historic urban landscape is the urban area understood as the result of a historic layering of cultural and natural values and attributes, extending beyond the notion of “historic centre” or “ensemble” to include the broader urban context and its geographical setting. This wider context includes notably the site’s topography, geomorphology, hydrology and natural features; its built environment, both historic and contemporary; its infrastructures above and below ground; its open spaces and gardens, its land use patterns and spatial organization; perceptions and visual relationships; as well as all other elements of the urban structure. It also includes social and cultural practices and values, economic processes and the intangible dimensions of heritage as related to diversity and identity. [...] This definition provides the basis for a comprehensive and integrated approach. The historic urban landscape approach considers cultural diversity and creativity as key assets for human, social and economic development and provides tools to manage physical and social transformations and to ensure that contemporary interventions are harmoniously integrated with heritage in a historic setting and take into account regional contexts. The historic urban landscape approach learns from the traditions and perceptions of local communities while respecting the values of the national and international communities.*<sup>2</sup>

In the economic and environmental difficulties of our era, we are witnessing new threats to the conservation of urban heritage and historical sites, against which there is a lack of adequate ideas and instruments. While many countries have, in previous decades, established and adopted adequate legislation for the protection of historic centres, investment in cultural policies is rare and public and private commitment to conservation is far from adequate. The UNESCO recommendation *addresses the need to better integrate and frame urban heritage conservation strategies within the larger goals of overall sustainable development*, and suggests a *landscape approach for identifying, conserving and managing historic areas within their broader urban contexts, by considering the inter-relationships of their physical forms, their spatial organization and connection, their natural features and settings, and their social, cultural and economic values.*<sup>3</sup>

### **Public Space, Nature and the Contemporary City**

The lack of representativeness of the public space frequently affects expansion of contemporary cities. The disorderly growth of the global

- 4 Richard Ingersoll, *Sprawltown: Looking for the City on Its Edges* (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2006).
- 5 See Rem Koolhaas, “Junkspace,” in *Harvard Design School Guide to Shopping* (New York: The Monacelli Press, 2000).

metropolis and the ineffectiveness of modern planning, its being almost exclusively dominated by the logic of consumption, the more and more frequent reliance on “events” as the engine of any modification, and the mutation of lifestyles induced above all by the digital revolution are some of the reasons that cause the poor quality of the public space in the contemporary city. The commercial space that our socio-economic system produces is considered, somewhat cynically as some respected architects and urban planners claim (e.g. Koolhaas), the only inevitable and realistic product of our culture. Founded mainly on the profit-making dimension, current open spaces lack multilayered and complex significances, resulting in more ordinary, dull and monofunctional outcomes.

World capitals and art cities are mainly focused – at least until before the outbreak of the pandemic – on the reception of tourist flows of the present-day Grand Tour, since “the past” is a consumption good for international tourism. As Ingersoll pointed out, tourism has surpassed oil as the world’s first industry.<sup>4</sup> It is no coincidence that terrorism sees in it a privileged objective, as an emblem of international consumerism. The historical city is preserved according to idealized schemes that prevent those places from participating in current history.<sup>5</sup>

It is quite evident that many public administrations are substantially unable to control the results of urban transformations except with quantitative and normative parameters, concentrated as they are on satisfying functional or legislative requirements, but very rarely attentive to creating significant qualitative places and multifaceted spatial relationships.

However, we need to put the excellence of the urban space at the forefront again in our city-making processes and to do this we should meditate on more complex values that need to be included in the planning and design practices. It is proved that quality public space has many effects on lifestyles and contributes to improving people’s living and social conditions, influencing citizens’ health and also producing benefits in terms of savings for public administrations. A renewed interest in the quality of open spaces has made a path for itself from the 1980s on. Important transformations undertaken in Barcelona paved the way to an interesting worldwide trend. Many cities, especially in northern Europe (but not only) advocated that the demand for quality places has not been exhausted with the advent of the city of consumption and the digital society. On the contrary, sociology has already pointed out the problems that excessive isolation in the digital network causes to individuals and has recalled the importance of interpersonal relations and contact between people, which constitute one of the major attractions of urban life, together with the concentration of infrastructures, institutions and services.

Furthermore, the ongoing worldwide pandemic is a clear alarm signal of the current status of our planet, threatened by an unsustainable relationship of man to land. Nature is sending us a message, menaced by too many pressures, warning of the necessity of taking care of the world



- 6 Andreina Ricci, *Attorno alla nuda pietra. Archeologia e città tra identità e progetto* (Rome: Donzelli Editore, 2006).
- 7 Ibid.
- 8 Ibid.

and of ourselves. This crisis is an opportunity to push new trends of life and renovated ways of developing our territories. More than 50% of the world's population already lives in cities today. Reflecting on public urban space, and on the forms it can take, is not an obsolete exercise but a significant theme, not only for the specific field of urban studies.

In all ages, the shape of the city has been an important expression of society. The morphological connotations of urban agglomerations reveal not only functional principles, but also ways of communicating visions, symbolic and representative aspects of a society. Life is not limited to the fulfilment of practical functions linked to our daily activities, but needs areas in which one may feel that the spiritual side and the sense of our existence are represented. The relationship with memory and with nature are therefore two of the most important issues when addressing the quality of contemporary open spaces.

The isolation of archaeological sites, protected by fences or gates, causes not only a physical separation, but a real conceptual disconnection in urban continuity and therefore in the history of the city. The theme of the relationship between archaeological sites and urban context is therefore one of the main topics of consideration within the EMJMD ALA master's course.

As Andreina Ricci pointed out “(...) *beyond the frequent and mechanical use (especially on official and academic occasions) of concepts of identity and memory, the fragments of the ancient city manifest a clear otherness, resulting in most cases, indecipherable or even invisible.*”<sup>6</sup>

Ricci's considerations try to understand if and how “*the results of archaeological research can contribute to improving the relationship between city and citizen by tuning in with the fast-moving patterns of the contemporary city.*”<sup>7</sup> For her it is necessary to deal with the public use of history to orient the collective imagination. It is necessary to ponder on the pedagogical goals and on the aesthetical and communicative results of our heritage display. The aim is to seek a new urban quality, especially in those places that are peripheral. The attempt is to address “*a greater and different attention to sprawl archaeology, today prey to occasional slogans and prohibitions, increasingly ineffectively and constraining.*”<sup>8</sup> The objective is to familiarize the city users of different urban contexts with the ancient remains to promote a wider sharing of historical values, starting from the enhancement of places before than from musealization. Objects of the past must be able to speak and acquire a sense and a quality that makes them emerge from the overabundant quantity.

### **Rome: The Relationship Between Vestiges and Architecture in Urban Transformation**

In Rome, the reuse of archaeological remains was already fashionable at the time of Constantine, when sculptures, mostly from monuments of previous eras (Trajan, Hadrian and Commodus), were positioned on

- 9 Jose-Ignacio Linazasoro, "Rovine," in *Ricomporre la rovina*, ed. Andea Ugolini (Florence: Alinea Editrice, 2010).
- 10 The archaeologist Adriano La Regina was superintendent of cultural heritage when Giulio Carlo Argan was mayor of Rome; the architect Renato Nicolini was councillor for culture for the municipality of Rome in the 1980s; the architect Carlo Aymonino was councillor for the historic centre for the municipality of Rome between 1981 and 1985.

the triumphal arch dedicated to him. The Christian basilica of S. Sabina reused the dismantled columns of the Temple of Juno, while the church of S. Maria degli Angeli, designed by Michelangelo, was built in the Diocletian Baths and the Palazzo Orsini by Peruzzi was constructed over the theatre of Marcellus.

As Jose-Ignacio Linazasoro says, "*through the ruin the past is actualized, allowing its integration into the present.*"<sup>9</sup> When vestiges are incorporated into the contemporary space, the historical elements are redefined, changing not only in use and in spatial configuration, but also in meaning. This incorporation has constantly occurred before the advent of the archaeological science that determined the end of this symbiotic bond between architecture and ruins.

In 1802 Pius VII, a pope of open and enlightened ideas, probably influenced by Canova, who would soon become Commissioner for the Antiquities of Rome, issued an edict requiring the care of ancient vestiges and the prohibition of demolishing, altering, removing and selling any art object (including statues, tombstones, memorials and ruins). From that moment, in Rome the relationship between archaeological remains and the city changed. In this context an important project was carried out on the Appian way, the main ancient Roman Consular road, where the fragments of tombs and mausoleums located along its length were reassembled by Canina, with the intention of preserving them on site on specific supports and set up the first outdoor museum. Funerary inscriptions, friezes, capitals, busts and pilasters were collected with antiquarian taste and placed in a paratactic composition similarly to what Pirro Ligorio had done in the Casino of Pio IV.

In the twentieth century, Rome experimented with several other approaches concerning the relationship of the city with archaeology: the bold and ideologic reuse of antiquity operated during the Fascist regime, the institution in 1979 of the Fori – Via Appia Antica Archaeological Park endorsed by Adriano La Regina, the "ephemeral season" of the Roman Summer invented by Renato Nicolini, the projects for the archaeological areas conceived by Carlo Aymonino, aimed at introducing the new services into the ancient environment.<sup>10</sup> Since then many other projects have been undertaken. Just to mention a few: the octagonal room of the Diocletian Baths, used at that time as a planetarium, transformed into a museum area; pedestrian walks and exhibition spaces were introduced for the utilization of Trajan's Market; more recently metro stations along the C Line have been the occasion for interesting projects of interaction between archaeology and infrastructures.

### **Archaeological Parks**

We could certainly affirm that a first concept of "archaeological park" was born during Napoleon's dominance in Rome. An extended excavation season had started in the Fora. This general cognitive action called for

a project of urban transformation. As part of other grand transformations that aimed at upgrading Rome to the role of second Imperial capital after Paris, a vast park with ruins would have surrounded the area of the Forums and the Colosseum extending from the Campidoglio to the Appia Antica and the Alban Hills. The French wanted in fact not only to equip the city with structures that corresponded to the 18th-century criteria of efficiency, modernization and representativeness, but aspired to celebrate the past, especially in the main city of the Roman Empire. Several proposals were made, some more oriented to the conception of a flowering garden, others concerned with monumental emphasis and axialities. These hypotheses were criticized and new approaches were attempted to transform the art of gardens into an urban instrument.

However, the Napoleonic urban aspirations had to await the papal government of the mid-19th century to be partially developed. In 1853 a long monumental stretch from the city walls to Frattocchie was weeded out, monuments were restored and fragments placed in scenography settings. Canina executed the studies and the measured drawings of the Appian Way and adjacent memorials, following a comprehensive conception in which invention and conservation were part of an overall view to make an open-air museum, originating from his peculiar approach as archaeologist-architect. At the end of 19th century this project stimulated in Guido Baccelli and Ruggero Bonghi the idea of creating an archaeological promenade in the area between Porta Capena and Porta S. Sebastiano, where monuments were isolated and connected through paths and public gardens. This path in front of the Baths of Caracalla responded to the idea of uniting in a single system the Forum and Palatine Hill to the Appia Antica.

We need to wait for the 1931 Masterplan of Rome to see a more comprehensive archaeological system to take place. A great green wedge that extended from the Aurelian Walls to the southern Campagna Romana was inserted in the prescriptions. This area considered “zone to be respected,” meaning unbuildable, was welded with the archaeological promenade and included the antique ruins along the Appia Antica axis and the surrounding landscape. However, the legal establishment of the Fori-Via Appia Antica Archaeological Area happened only in 1979. And we still had to wait for the year 2000 to see a normative definition of ‘archaeological park’ adopted in Italy.

Ten years earlier, a document of the Ministry of Cultural and Environmental Heritage clarified that an archaeological park is to be understood as a protected area which, on account of the presence of archaeological monuments, can be defined of “particular value” or “as an open-air museum.” This definition included specialized archaeological sites and urban archaeological parks, but also vast protected areas, where the archaeological context goes hand in hand with that of a landscape-environmental ensemble of great importance, which often

# THE APPIA ANTICA PARK IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MARINO



ARCHITECTURE  
LANDSCAPE  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
ERASMUS+  
JOINT MASTER

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extends far beyond the area of the monumental remains. The Appia Antica Park in Rome is nowadays one of the best examples of this condition. It includes not only a series of monuments still preserved along the road and the remains of ancient suburban villas, which were arranged in the spaces behind the funerary structures delimiting the sides of the road, but also a historical landscape that represents one of the most distinctive features of the Roman countryside. In all these cases, the concern for conservation and restoration, as well as, of course, efficient maintenance, must be combined with the design and implementation of teaching tools that make the past landscape and artefacts appreciable for all those who wish to draw on it.

### **The EMJMD ALA Workshop in Rome.**

The area of the Appia Antica Park has been used by the EMJMD ALA as a case study to develop *a comprehensive and integrated approach* in the sense recommended by the UNESCO document on the historic urban landscape.

International teams of postgraduate students (architects and archaeologists) worked on three proposals for S. Maria delle Mole, an area of the municipality of Marino that is part of Rome's suburbs and has developed from the 1970s as a mostly informal settlement on the margin of the Appia Antica Park. For this reason, the neighbourhood lacks basic infrastructures (i.e. a decent train station), public spaces and services. Nonetheless the community is located in an incredible historical landscape setting, with interesting archaeological areas in a state of abandonment and degradation. The brainstorming concerning this territory was developed during a sixteen-day workshop under the supervision of a team of professors (A. Capuano, P. Carafa, A. I. Del Monaco, A. Giovannelli, D. Nadali, D. Palombi) and tutors (A. Azzolini, A. Sassù). In the archaeological sites of via della Repubblica (just in front of the current train station), Mugillae and in the parking area of Frattocchie (at the end of the Appia Antica Regional Park), the projects attempted *to better integrate and frame urban heritage conservation strategies within the larger goals of overall sustainable development*.

#### **1 The Archeo-Station Of S. Maria Delle Mole**

(D. Bonotulshi, J.P. Cardoso, M. Scarpatti, M. Pasia, D. Pedraza, N. Shiasy, W. Thaisuwan, A. Tsonidis). At the intersection with via della Repubblica, the straight line of the Ancient Appian Way is clearly visible with its large blocks of volcanic stone and funerary monuments, as well as the remains of a small Roman bath, a taberna and a villa. The fragments confirm the transitional character of this area as a post station and as an active node. This condition of being a place of transit is confirmed in the contemporary configuration of the area for the presence of the regional Roma-Velletri railway line and the relative train station and of the Appia Nuova road, which make this specific

fig. 1 [previous page]  
Areas of intervention in S. Maria Delle Mole.



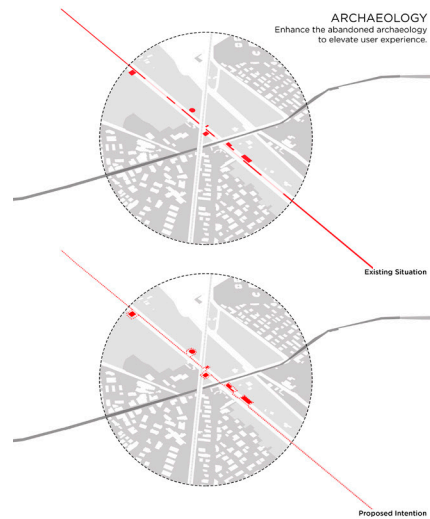
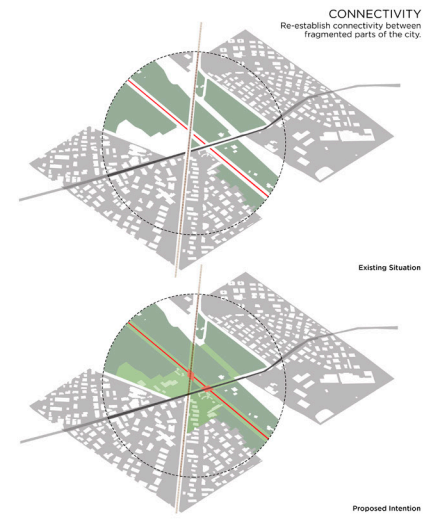
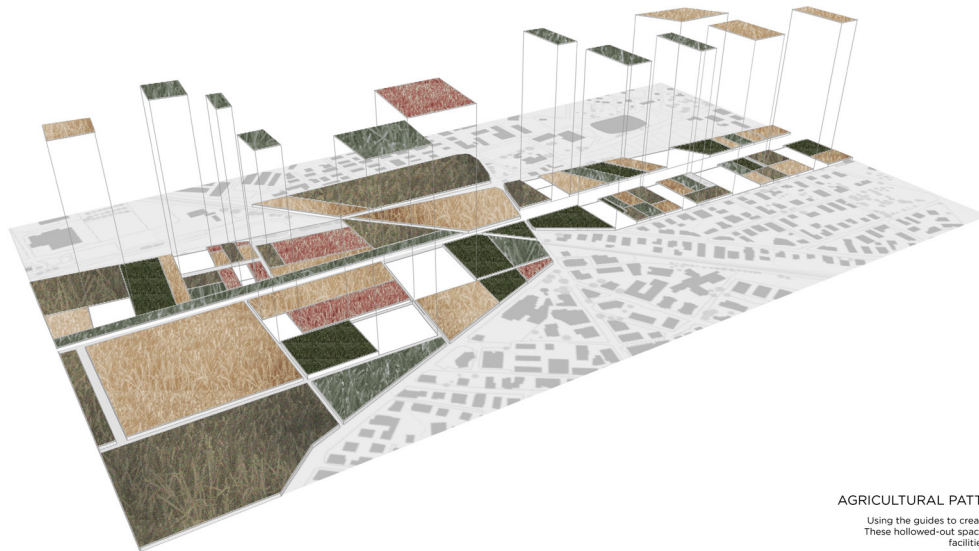


fig. 2 [pages 44–49]  
The Archeo-Station of S. Maria Delle Mole  
(D. Bonotulshi, J. P. Cardoso, M. Scarpati,  
M. Pasia, D. Pedraza, N. Shiasy, W. Thaisuwan,  
A. Tsonidis).  
a–b pictures of the area, c. the agriculture,  
d. design strategy, e. masterplan, f. sections  
of the area, g. architecture and archaeology.

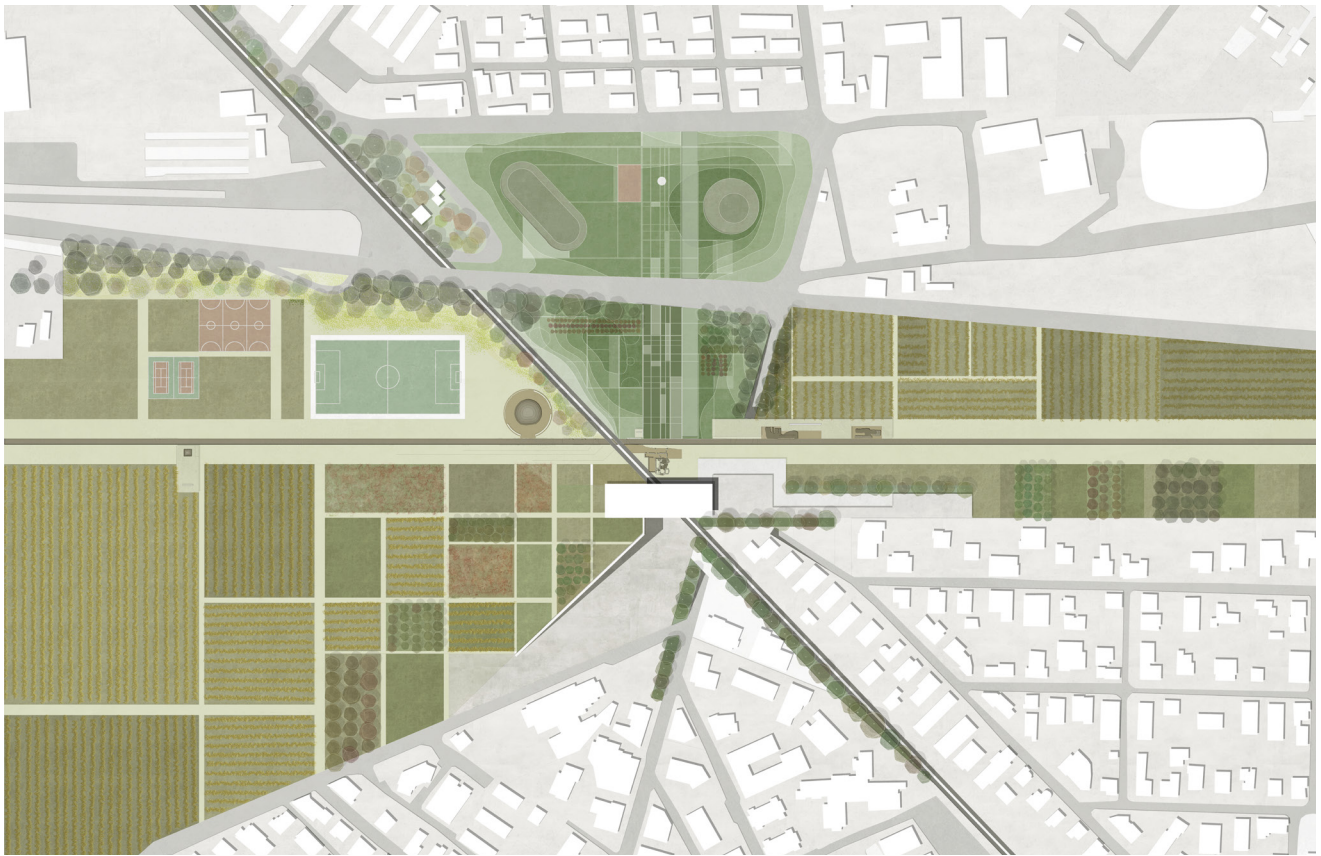


EXISTING AGRICULTURAL PATTERNS



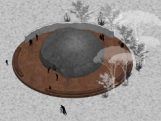
AGRICULTURAL PATTERN AS A DESIGN TOOL  
Using the guides to create negatives in the agricultural fields.  
These hollowed-out spaces will be used to accomodate urban  
facilities and archaeological enhancements.





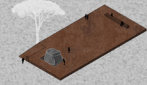
place an interesting intersection of fluxes and times. The level intersections of the various infrastructures result in a chaotic and dangerous condition for the people who use this interchange hub. Re-establishing an ordered connectivity and enhancing the legibility of the archaeological remains are the main objectives of the project, which aims to create a representative public space in front of the new train station which is capable of mending the fragmented and discontinuous landscape.

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTION



## SPACE FOR MONUMENTALITY

To bring back the ancient circum-ambulatory path of the Roman time, when they commemorated and celebrated their ancestors, by reviving the ancient geometry of this sacred place by the use of urban furniture and the creation of a public and intimate space.



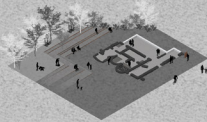
## SPACE FOR CONTEMPLATION

Through a platform that frames the archaeological remains and extends itself in the agricultural landscape working as a belvedere



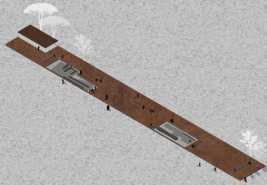
## SPACE FOR MEMORY

Through public art pieces that act as a memorial to celebrate the presence of previously existing artifacts and its relationship with Via Appia Antica.



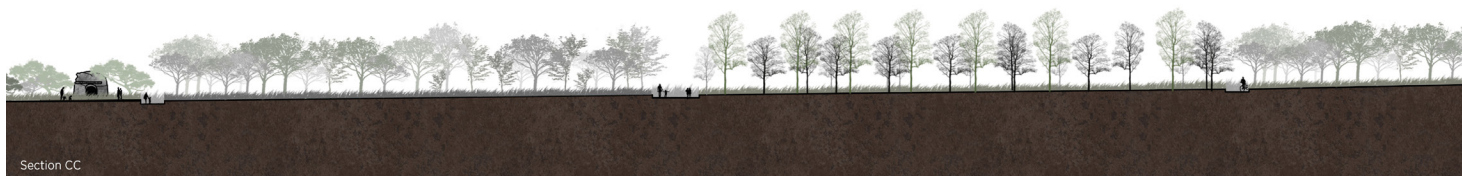
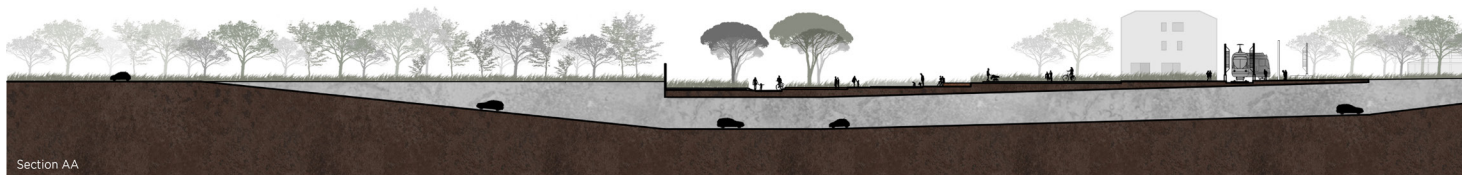
## SPACE FOR GATHERING

By restoring the Roman Baths located in one of the central points of this urban intervention, next to the Train Station and around an open plaza, that revolves around this monument creating a natural amphitheater, due to the difference in levels, and also making it accessible for visitors to explore this site.

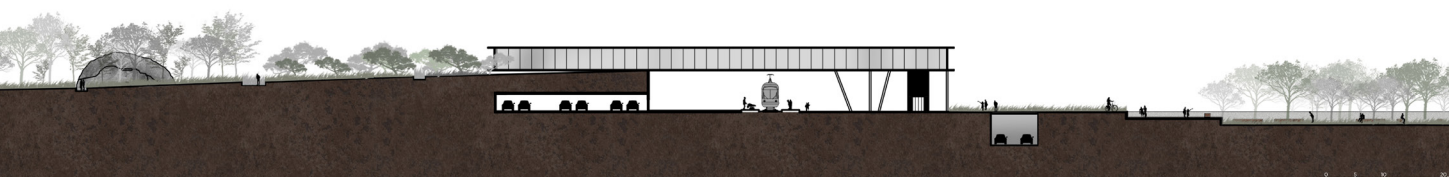
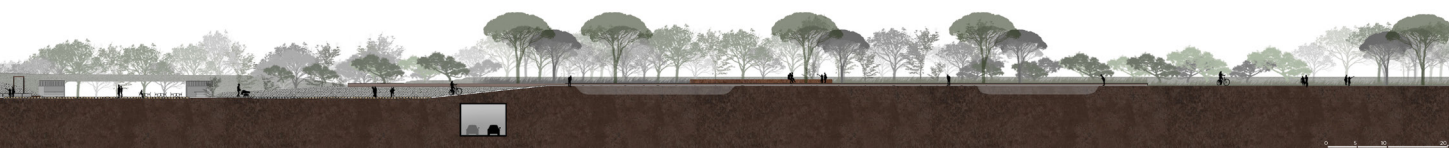
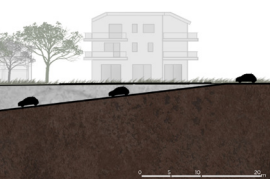


## SPACE FOR LEARNING

A platform that outlines the archaeological areas that require further studies, working as an open excavation and promoting the public involvement with facilities that will accommodate archaeological exhibitions and workshops.







## 2 *Mugillae Agricultural Park. Memory As Interpretation*

(D.A. Cabrera, F.R. Fiano, S. Islam, W. Lollino, P. A. Mancilla Lopez, M.V. Vieira Capote Gonzaga, R. Yousuf). Archaeologists tend to identify the site of Mugillae, a town founded between the 4th and 3rd centuries BC, between S. Maria delle Mole and Falcognana. The city was a fortified military outpost defended by square tufa walls. It stood near the border with the territory of the Latins and in a strategic position between today's Via Ardeatina and Via Appia. Nowadays the area has high landscape value, as it acts as a hinge between the Appia Antica Park and

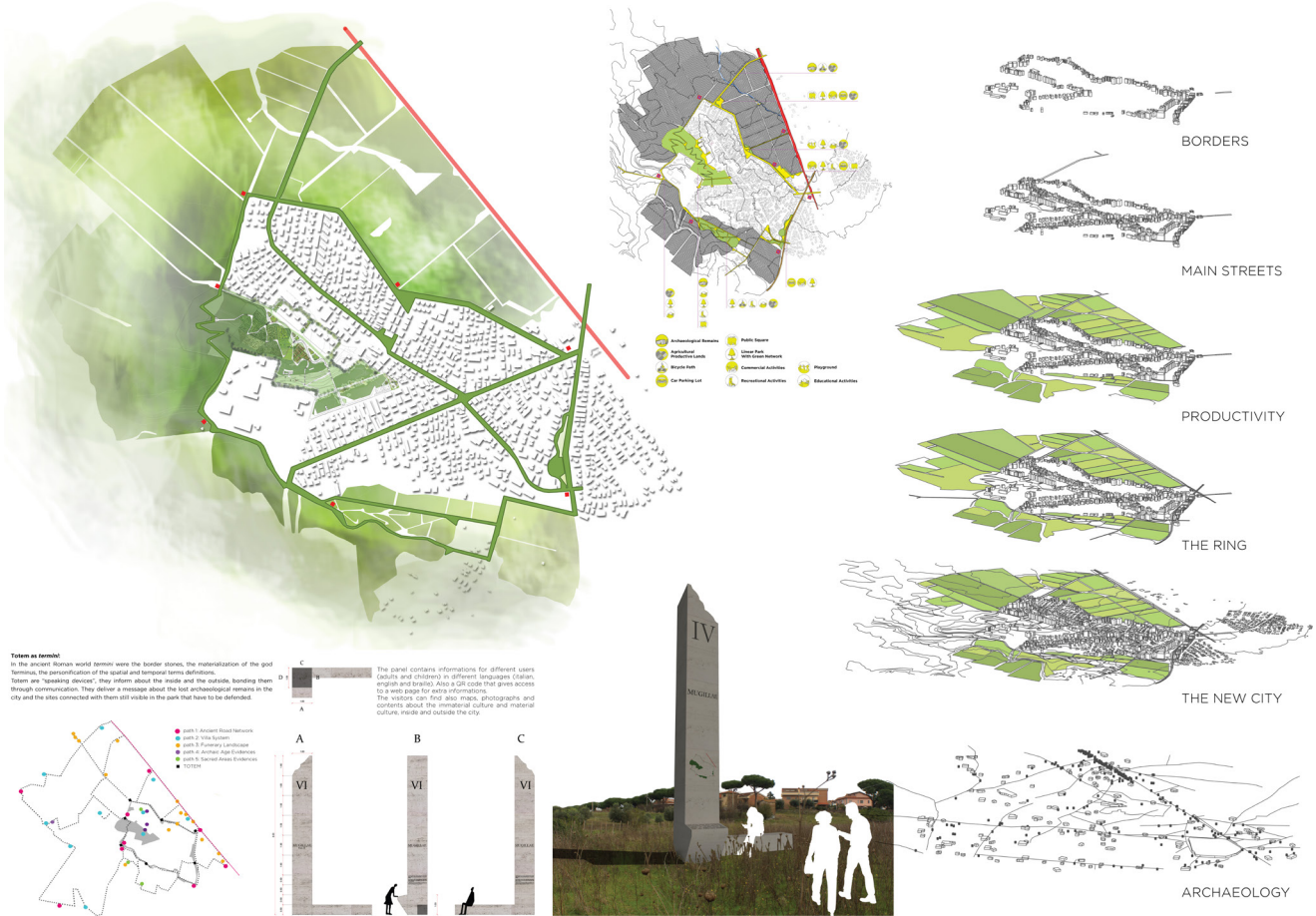


**Institutions** Appia Antica Park Heritage Interpretation Center Cultural **Heritage** Archaeology Landscape Agriculture Preservation Communication

**Activities** Educational Workshop Cultural Activities Exhibitions Guided Walks Conferences Museological Pathway

**Stakeholders** Spontaneous Local Communities Organized Student And Teachers Families Organized Adults

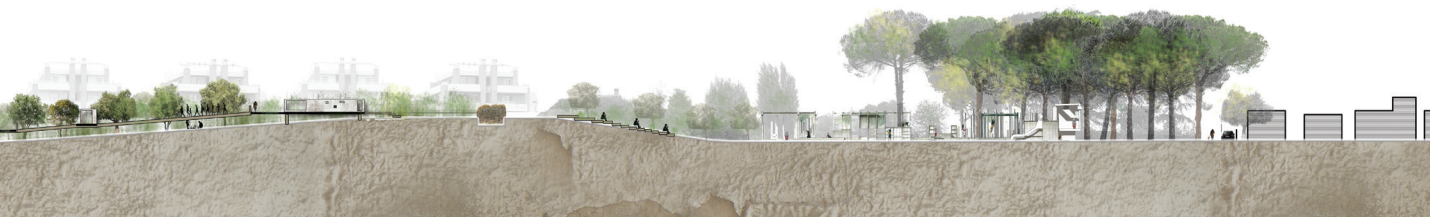
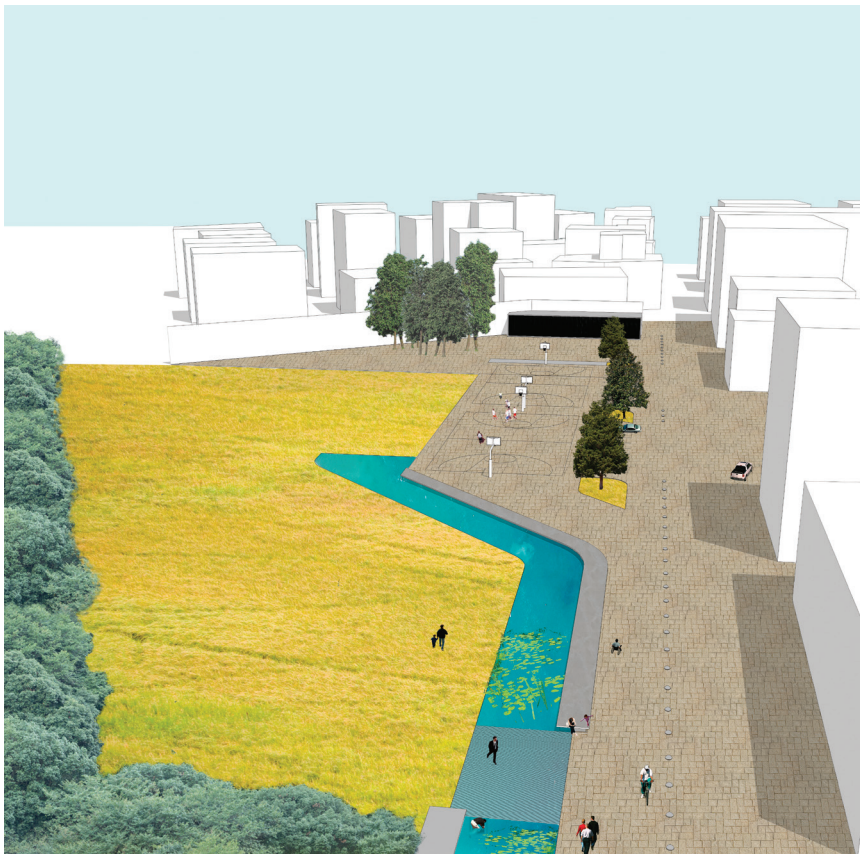
fig. 3 [pages 50–53]  
 Mugillae Agricultural Park. Memory  
 As Interpretation (D.A. Cabrera, F. R. Fiano,  
 S. Islam, W. Lollino, P.A. Mancilla Lopez,  
 M.V. Vieira Capote Gonzaga, R. Yousuf).  
 a. pictures of the area, b. analysis, c. design  
 strategy, d. the green ring, e. masterplan,  
 f. perimetral public space.











the Roman Campagna, and contains archaeological structures including a Roman cistern, a sepulcher and wall remains attributed to a Roman villa. The project aims to reinforce the public use of this area threatened by building speculation, by proposing an agricultural park or an Eco museum that on the one hand would enhance the current vocation of the land, characterized by the presence of vineyards and olive groves, and on the other hand would highlight its history and memory with a museum trail. The site would also be part of a European cycle route (Eurovelo route 7). A “green ring”, encircling the main town of Santa Maria delle Mole in the form of a public linear park, provides a direct connection to the Appia Antica area and creates relationships between the urban fabric and the site of Mugillae. Along the perimeter are located gathering spaces landmarked by information totems that give voice to 125 sites of historical significance.

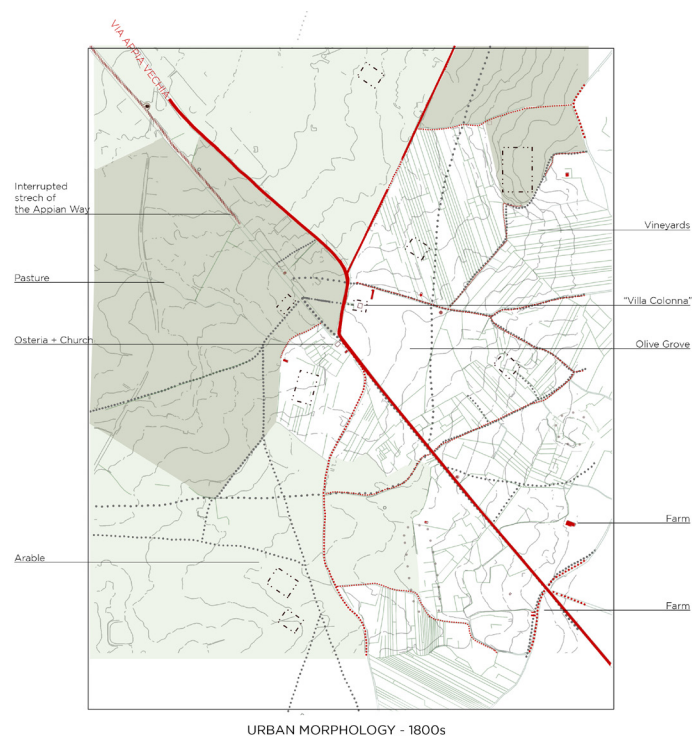
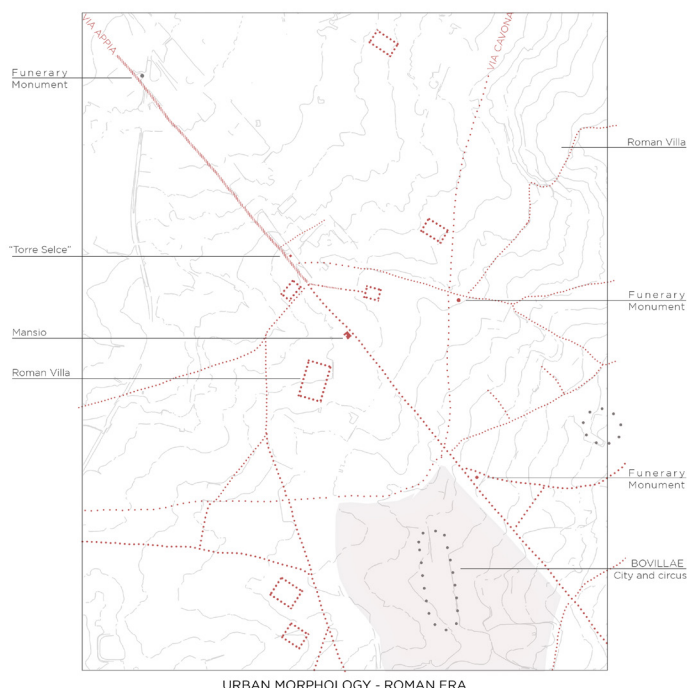
- 3 *Frattocchie: A New Gate For The Appian Archipelago* (S. Ahmed, J.C. Arias Tapiero, W. Arshad, B. Melaku, M. Malek, F. Ribeiro, F.K.B. Simi, K. Vasileiou). The current boundaries of the southern part of the Regional Appia Antica Park converge into an ordinary and dull parking lot at the intersection of via Appia Nuova and via Appia Antica. In this specific spot the archaeological remains of the road and its artefacts disappear, to give space to the contemporary traffic fluxes of the area of the Castelli Romani. The point that could physically and symbolically represent the gate from the metropolitan expansion area of southern Rome to the Appia Antica Park is completely neglected and ignored. The surrounding territory of this parking lot is nowadays a fragmented area, although it keeps still historical traces of the infrastructural system and interesting geographical views, as well as analogous agricultural uses of the past. The project aims to awake these hidden evidences by creating an awareness of their existence in the city users. The archaeological signs, the historical elements, the agricultural habits and the panoramic views are catalogued (uses, materials, perception, mobility) and classified to reconstruct continuities and connections to enhance the territory. The entrance to the Appia Antica Park is also designed as an interesting multifunctional space, capable of regulating different flows (pedestrian with a new bridge, bicycle and car traffic) that link diverse landscapes.

fig. 4 [pages 55–59]

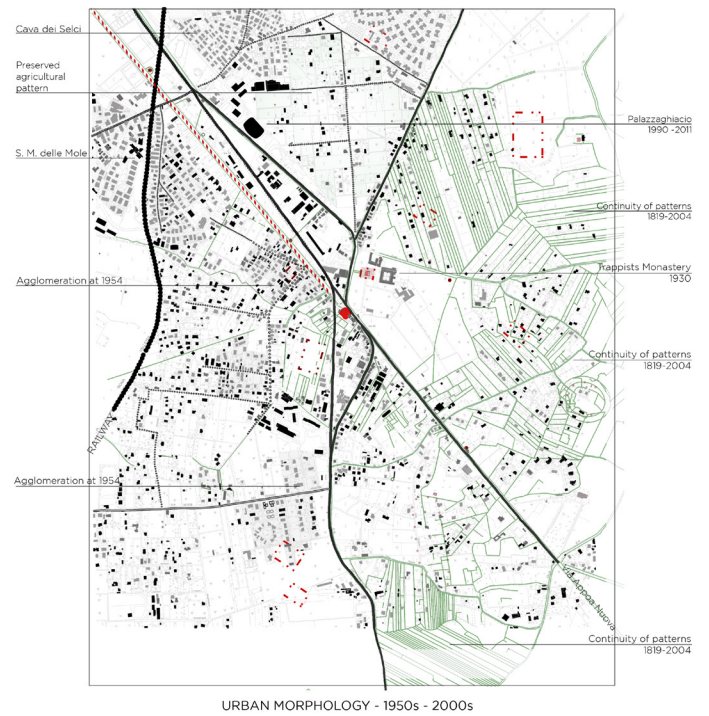
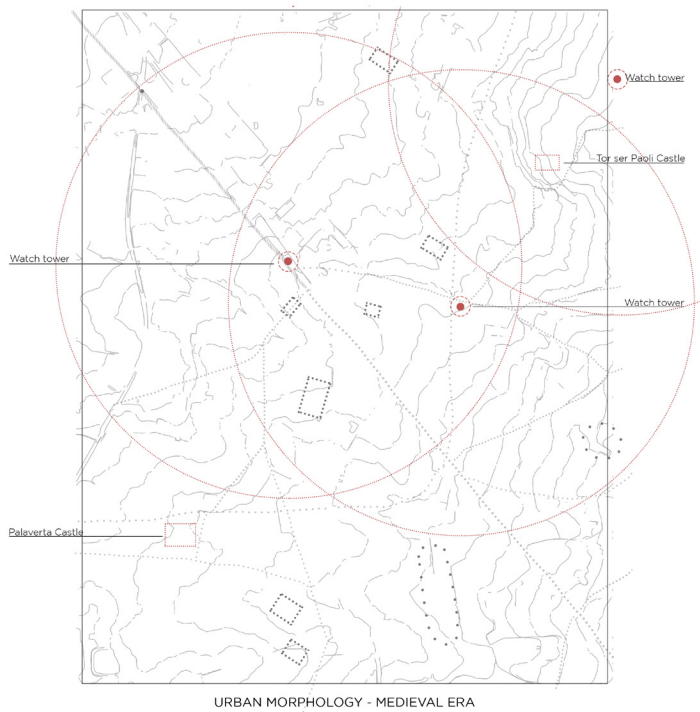
Frattocchie: A New Gate for the Appian Archipelago (S. Ahmed, J.C. Arias Tapiero, W. Arshad, B. Melaku, M. Malek, F. Ribeiro, F.K.B. Simi, K. Vasileiou).

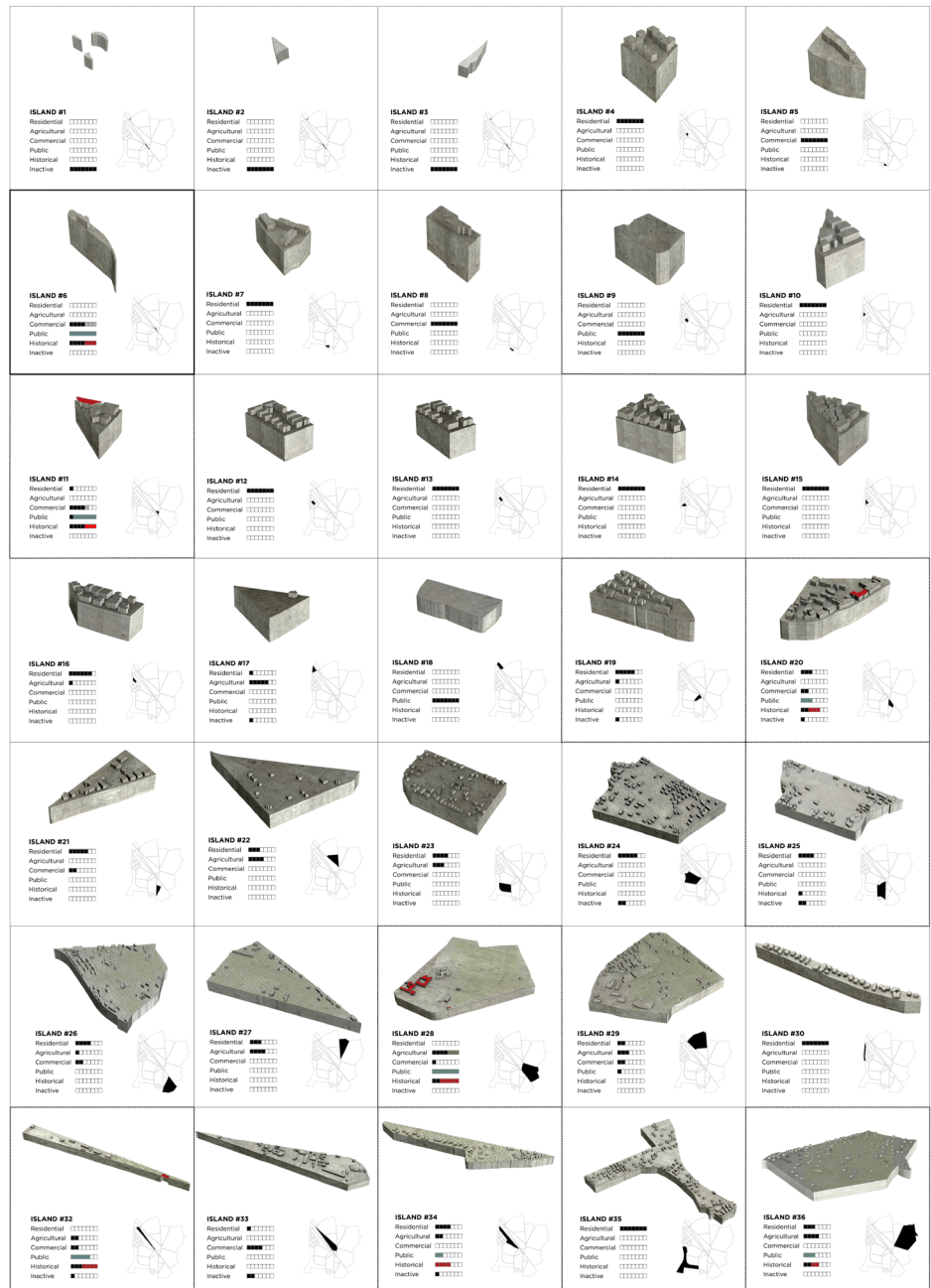
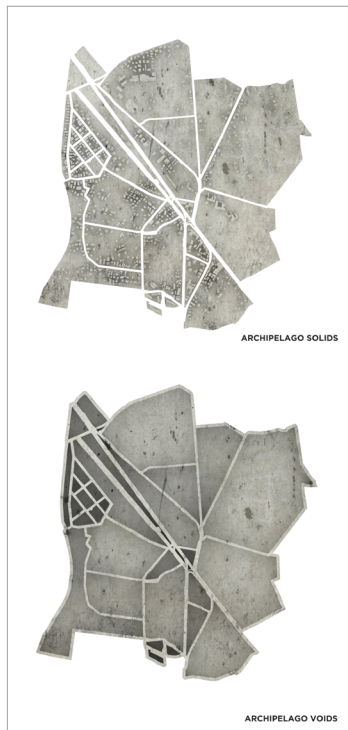
a/b pictures of the area, c. history of the site, d. territorial catalogue, e. masterplan, f. plan of the southern gate to the Appia Antica Regional Park.















### The Articles on Archaeological Parks.

This issue of *Joelho* collects also three articles concerning Archaeological Parks and Eco museums that offer different case studies and approaches of integration.

The *Archaeological Park of Egnazia* in Apulia (D. Falco, “A quiet, secluded little miracle. Some remarks on the territorial system and landscape of central Apulia twenty years after the European Landscape Convention”) is the concrete circumstance for trying to describe the new planning model that the Regione Puglia has developed through the *Piano Paesaggistico Territoriale Regionale* (2015) that is now under implementation. The plan is one of the most interesting models in Italy in recent years, since it keeps together the attention to the territory and the landscape and the stimulation of local actors in terms of preservation, conservation and transformation of the land. The plan is based in fact on the centrality of heritage and becomes one of the most important tools for acting on the territory since it has a design and strategic purpose. As stated in the initial introductory note of the document, it is “*a plan capable of developing a strong negotiation and participation process as a tool for building a neo-municipalism of active citizenship; a plan capable at the same time of defining a strong institutional framework of certain, clear, simplified rules, thereby establishing the preconditions for a bottom-up development process in the area.*” The Apulia Region has in fact introduced a series of innovations in its planning system aimed at moving from sectoral urban planning interventions in which territory, environment and landscape had an instrumental role, to integrated governmental interventions for the promotion of sustainable development models. Models that see in the structural interpretation of the territory and landscape and in their heritage values the constituting elements and the quality of the development itself, in the direction indicated by the European Landscape Convention and the Code of Cultural and Landscape Heritage.<sup>11</sup>

Similarly the paper entitled “The lower valley of Ofanto river: from landscape archaeology to landscape design” by A. La Notte, M. Cafagna, O.G. Paparusso and G. Tupputi points out a strategy of enhancement of the river valley. The Apulia Region has approved the establishment of ecomuseums within the governance tools of the already mentioned above PPTR.<sup>12</sup> At present, the largest number of these new generation museums has been developed in southern Puglia and mostly in Valle d’Itria and Salento areas, whilst in northern Apulia the ecomuseum of the Carapelle river has been created in a land culturally similar to the Ofanto valley. The more adaptable nature of ecomuseums, which don’t have a rigid institutional perimeter, allows the coexistence of different planning and governance tools, in this case study the Ofanto Park and the River Contract, which are integrated into an overall strategy with different possible outputs.

- 13 CM/REC (2008) 3, part I, point 5.  
 14 Simona Ceschin, Giulia Caneva and A. Kumbaric, "Biodiversità ed emergenze floristiche nelle aree archeologiche romane," *Webbia*, vol. 61, no. 1 (November 2006): 133-144.

The local heritage of archaeological and architectural landmarks, the historical infrastructural systems (the Roman *via Traiana* and *via Litoranea*, the medieval pilgrimage road of the *via Francigena*, the sheep-tracks), the unique landscapes of the river, the coast and the saltpan wetlands, the salt industry and the local agriculture specialized in vineyards and olive groves are all part of this ecomuseum, inspired by the principles of subsidiarity, sustainability, responsibility and participation, according to a "bottom-up" dynamic. The project intends therefore to reconnect several historical artefacts and different landscapes, including "marginal landscape" outside the touristic mainstream in order to recreate invisible connections by means of thematic itineraries: archaeology, historic villas and farmhouses, slow-food, watchtowers. Referring to the ancient transhumance and pilgrimage traditions that characterized the Ofanto valley, the aim is to encourage walking as an exploratory, relational and ludic practice. The project is oriented towards minimal architectural integrated and sustainable interventions, in order to respond to the territorial needs, the financial possibilities and the management capacity. Once again, the widespread cultural, historical and landscape heritage is considered as an active agent of territorial enhancement.

Finally, Joelho presents the case study of the Landscape Masterplan for the *Baratti and Populonia Archaeological Park*. The text "Cultivating archaeological landscape. Notes on a Mediterranean applied case study" by S. Guideri and T. Matteini proposes an innovative and integrated approach in the protection/planning/design/management of a Mediterranean archaeological rural landscape. The aim is to explore the concept of cultivation, intended as an inseparable connection between the practical and the poetic attitude of care, sustainable and balanced use. In this frame the aspects of continuity and evolution of a site have necessarily to be guided by an overall and strategic vision that is projective and experimental. In this active and inventive conservation, fostering biodiversity and temporal variety is also part of this holistic process, in which planning, design and management are coherent parts of the same vision. This is as suggested not only by HUL but also by the Guidelines of the European Landscape Convention, which specifies that "*Landscape action is a combination of protection, management and planning conducted over one and the same territory.*"<sup>13</sup> What is interesting in this paper is the concern with archaeological sites as reservoir of biological diversity, since "*low anthropic pressure, and the presence of peculiar and diverse environmental conditions, often favour the establishment of rare species finding a habitat favourable to their development in these spaces.*"<sup>14</sup> The authors call for the necessity of also considering the ecological implications and the relationship dynamics between vegetation and artefacts in order to avoid the common tendency of *desertifying* archaeological areas. This approach leads to the necessity of promoting active conservation, a purpose that can be achieved only by interdisciplinary teams integrating all the necessary

skills and considering the different scales of intervention in order to reactivate historical, cultural, ecological and functional relationships in space and time. Today the Val di Cornia parks system constitutes one of the fundamental factors for the conversion of the local economy, within which cultural resources, protected natural areas, landscapes and tourism services have become major phenomena, and have taken on strategic significance.

In conclusion, to operate in layered cities and territories means to respect their historical and environmental values. Cultural heritage is in fact a complex area requiring a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach. The European Community is committed to safeguarding and enhancing cultural heritage, to promote innovative practices encouraging heritage integration as well as enabling sustainable development of cultural landscapes. The case studies presented by the authors of the articles and the experimentations that we are carrying out in the EMJMD ALA aim to build a common language between archaeology, landscape and architecture, because the preservation and the enhancement of the past is an important resource for economic growth, employment and social cohesion, offering the perspective to revitalize urban and rural areas.

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