

PROJECTS

Atelier 2 Land - Contrary motion

atelier 2  
LAND  
WATER  
AIR

LAND

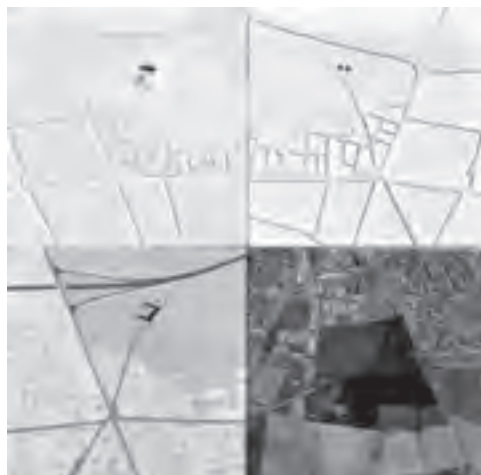
## CONTRARY MOTION

from countryside to city, from city to countryside

*introduction by Flavia Zaffora*

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Within the general strategy of the projects coordinated by Sandro Rolla and Marina Tornatora, the project of "Land" thematic pavilion is settled on the edge of Piacenza south expansion. The main idea is that, operating by meaningful fragments, the specific intervention is able to generate long term and wide-range transformations, overcrossing the specific area limits and having an effect on a territory scale.

It focuses on the main issue of the peri-urban space, whose ambiguity has been at the center of contemporary architectural debate. This is approached by the design of the soil, in order to tie up areas of the city and make them the enhancement key of the future urban development.

The specific area is composing with the other two, where the projects of "Air" and "Water" pavilions are developed, and it belongs to a complex design: it is the re-project of pedestrian and car paths defining the "new belt" of Piacenza; this is far beyond the roman original settlement of roman cardo and decumano (nowadays via Roma and via X Giugno) and the ancient walls, and it

diagram of main operations

00. Existing situation



01. Demolition



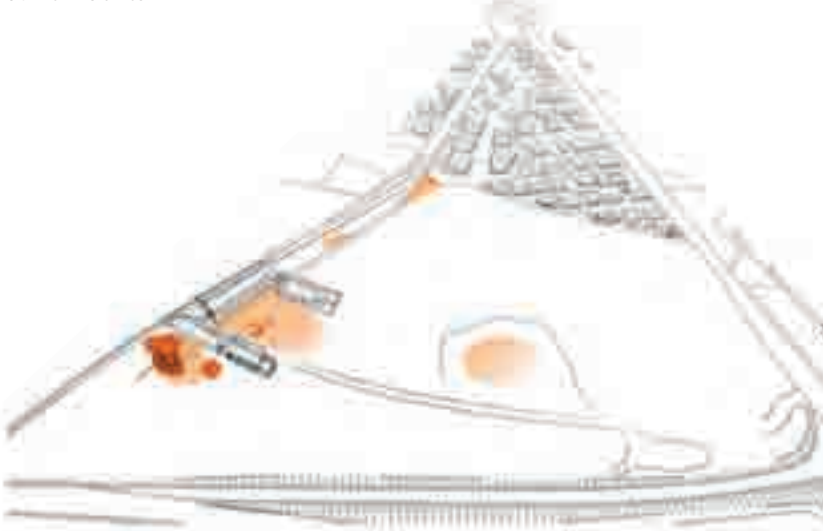
02. Excavation



03. Tracing



04. New volumes



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# atelier 2

LAND

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masterplan

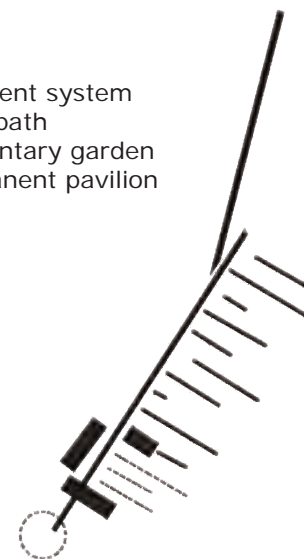


LAND

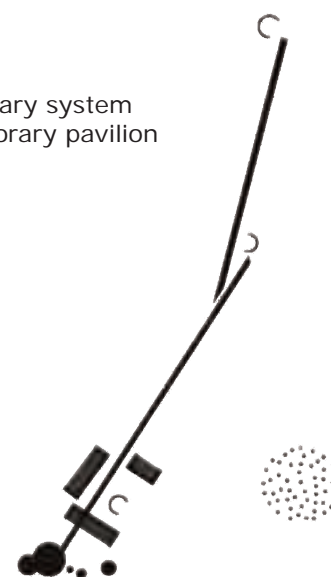
mediates between the urban areas and the agricultural countryside, extending down-south. The place is an in-between space, a fragment of rural territory, remembering memories of ancient customs, and wide sweep of plantations, and the long strip of the highway, that there it is climbing down and going underground. The horizon is the flat extension of Piacenza rural territory. The boundary is defined by a quite triangular and wide parcel, where we can find a traditional farmstead now dismantled, with its characteristic courtyard plant. We can go in through by a narrow pathway. On the border of the little built complex there are two big silos in concrete, standing like the last strongholds toward the plain. Here, the last urban fringes of Piacenza are facing with the countryside extension; it seems time has been stopped fifty years ago in this agricultural tile remained closed between the highway cut and the housing quarters.

The project [1] chooses to catch the nature of the place, both urban, because it holds the last built fringes and crossed by several infrastructural traces, and rural, as a fragment of a rural life still alive in the close proximity. It chooses to operate like a musical contrary motion, where one of the two melodic lines moves up, and the other moves down: the project defines a crossing flux attracted from the countryside and, conversely, it comes back towards the city, tracing a bike and pedestrian path; proceeding from and towards the farmstead, it excavates the ground and gets the internal courtyard from a lower level, open air. Along this strip, we can find one of the side of the farmstead: as a built preexistence, this is the sign on which we can align the main pathway. On this trace it has been designed a system of elementary gardens, where it is likely to settle an agricultural laboratory and co-working spaces

permanent system  
- main path  
- elementary garden  
- permanent pavilion



temporary system  
- temporary pavilion



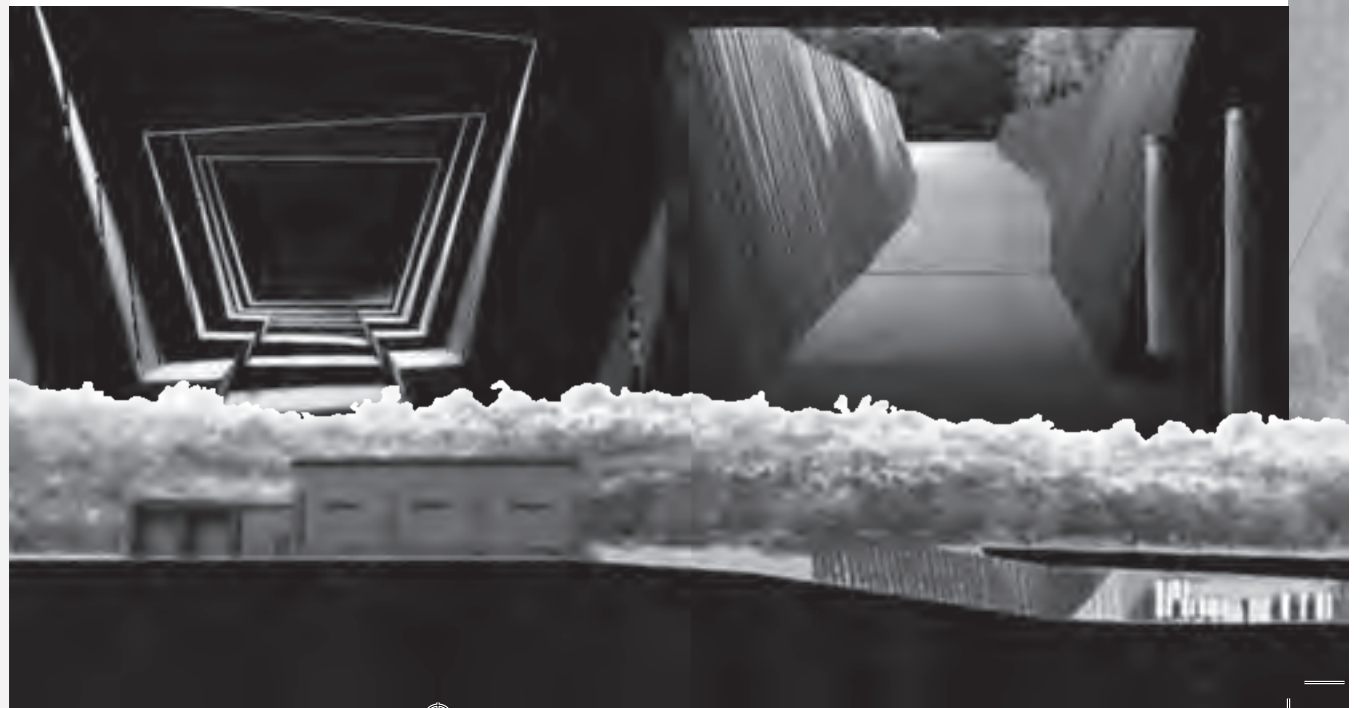
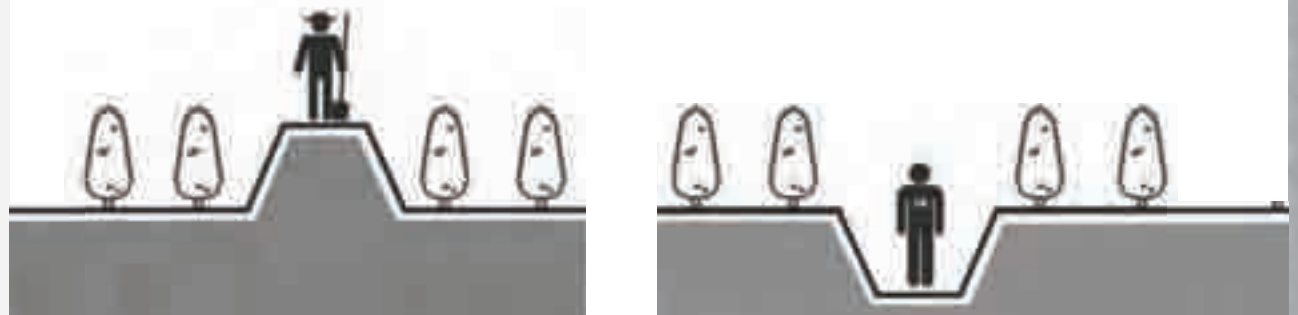


# atelier 2

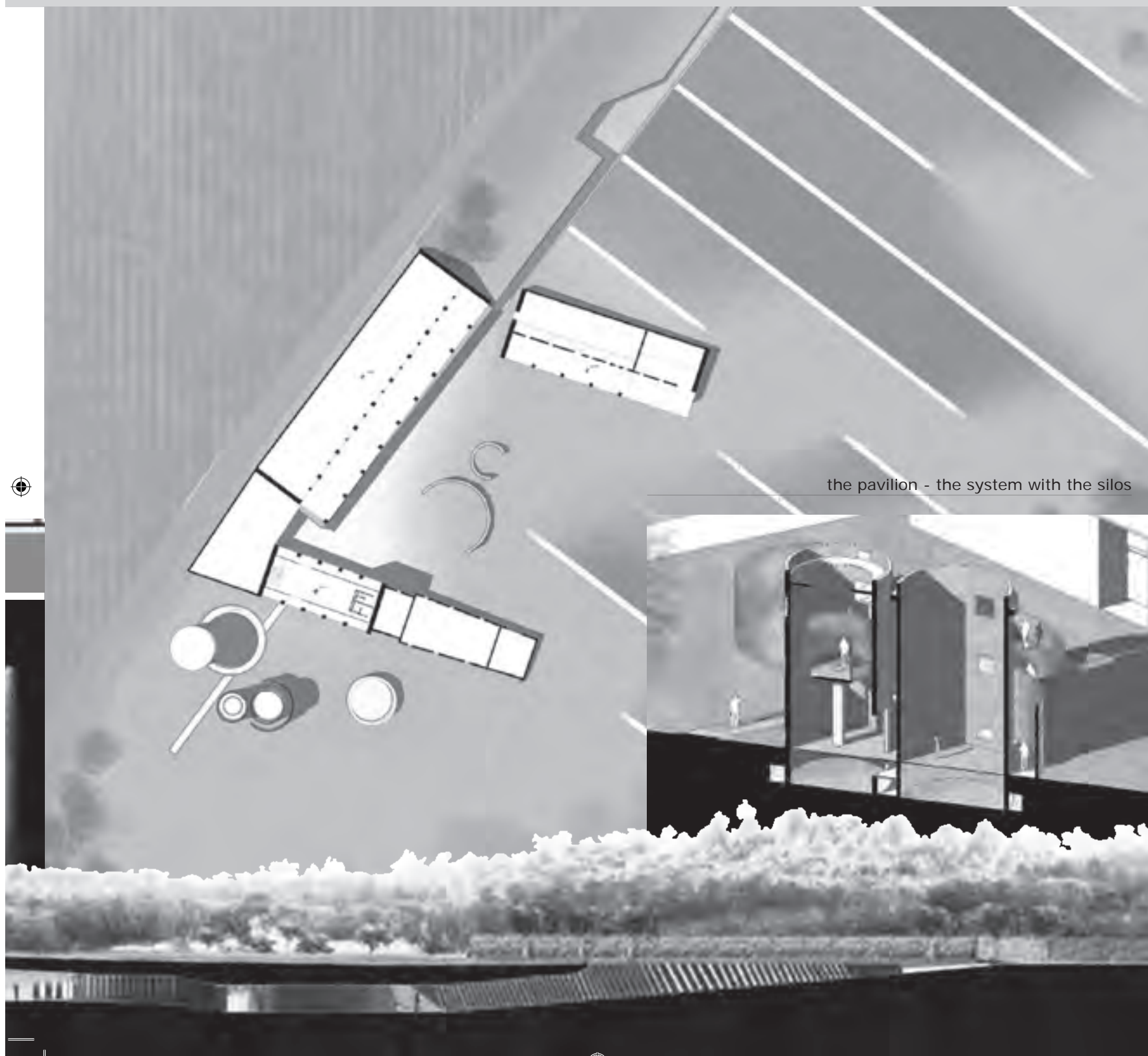
LAND  
WATER  
AIR

on the issue of the traditional and experimental agriculture. The point is a recovery of the agricultural practice in a modern and clever way to activate a process urban and social regeneration. The farmstead, recovered, can host space for exhibitions and a market of biological products. From the courtyard, which has been opened on the side towards the plain through the demolition of obsolete buildings, the pathway goes further and, underground, gets a circular space recalling the near silos shape, both open-air rooms and the stairway device. Here is the temporary pavilion, actually thought as a complex of circular volumes, partly excavated and

the path (countryside part)



LAND



the pavilion - the system with the silos

# atelier 2

AIR WATER LAND

partly outside joining with the existing cylinders of silos. Therefore, as a both temporary and permanent settlement, it is recovering the silos architecture and making them two watchtowers, because they are the only vertical elements in the clear horizontality of the place. The urban regeneration process, like in the other two projects, sees a double dimensions of the space scale and the time scale. The issue of the "land", specific theme of this pavilion, makes this intervention a soil architecture, both in the EXPO 2015 point of view and relating with Piacenza agricultural tradition. For this reason, the excavating operation is the central element of this project approach, where there are little sculptural buildings just leaned upon the ground, that are some flexible spaces to be differently composed. At the same time, this approach is again related to the issue of the time of the intervention. Being aware of the temporary nature of the pavilion, the project wants to define what it will happen when the event ends, when these elements are eliminated: the excavation, as a permanent action, and the open air rooms, temporary for their shapes and the used materials, along with the social permanent practices to be activated, have as main target the recovery of a dismantled area, in order to make it again part of the development dynamics both of the town and of the countryside nearby Piacenza.

views of the pavilion



LAND

