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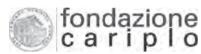
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OC - Open City INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL

Piacenza 2016

from ecological landscape to architectural design

LANDSCAPE IN MOTION



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OC INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL - PIACENZA 2016

atelier 1 Land trouvé

THE SHAPE OF THE WATER

Luciana Macaluso



METHODOLOGIES AND STRATEGIES

The Po River is a living organism that breathes: it inhales and swells; it exhales and releases its energy. Between two extreme phases of overflow and shallows, there are endless variations, which are precisely noted every day. In Piacenza, at the riverside, hydrometric instruments also took size and shape of a special building in reinforced concrete crowned by conical elements. When the water level rises, it floods the earth gradually; it deletes some marks lapping, and then reveals other things. The water clears and continuously constructs, in a surreal atmosphere of expectation, always in the balance between the catastrophe and the regeneration of a soil that emerges like an archaeological plan [1].

Visible volumes are like the iceberg tips: clues to an underwater world. The human contemplation of this *landscape in motion* stops instants in a time that seems eternal. But a picture from the same point of view never is identical. During the OC International Summer School 2016, our design team represented these hypothetical temporal fragments through models and drawings. Models have been made only with one material (white cardboard). This choice [2] allowed representing a whole solid orography including both land and water. In this way the altitude variation of architectural, infrastructural, and geographical elements on the ground and water line was emphasized without any other data. The complexity of the reality has been discretized into frames to be mounted in order not to lose the dynamic sense of the place. Every frame showed a perfect horizontal surface (the water) and, in counterpoint, heterogeneous arising volumes (land and buildings). The buildings and the topography defined the specific shape of water that was different from frame to frame. Thus, like the building mentioned above, the solid elements were a reference system of the river"s heights.

From those frames, a metaphor used in one of the Camilleri's crime novel by engineer Luparello's wife comes to mind: «"What are you doing?" I asked. And he, in turn, asked me "What is the shape of the water?". "But the water has no shape!" She laughed: "It takes the shape that has been given"»[3]. Various contours have been given to the intricate murder of her husband. However, there were some clues on the culprit, the motive, and the circumstances of the crime that were stronger and solid and finally led to an adequate interpretation of the facts. Comparing the clues to some architectures of Piacenza"s riverside, that were earlier defined like tips of icebergs, a "resistant" system around which the landscape always moves came out.

It was a discontinuous dotted line of existing and, in a few of cases, proposed objects, which established visual, acoustic, pedestrian and bicycle relationships. Our plan did not pretend to build a unique order; rather it was opened to hold the ever-changing conditions. Thus it could not be a defined "masterplan", but a flexible system of *object trouvé* able to evoke memories

ateller 1

and identities. A combination of images and reality made the planned route. Besides that, in the river basin the wayfarer rarely has perception of the whole system: between the vegetation or behind the road infrastructures, he does not even see the river few meters away. This fragmentation wanes when he inhabits the inter-scalar *object trouvé* and captures essential rites (the passage of the fishing vessel, a flock of birds) that put together an identity.

The light, the water and the fog were the materials of the project that was like a "container soil" of those. It was somewhere visible and, at times, so slight to disappear leaving unchanged the existing ground. Like in the bronze "Contoured playground" (1941) by Isamu Noguch, the idea was a single volume moulded into hillsides and protuberances. The mud of the shore from

Isamu Noguchi, Contoured playground, 1941 (detail)



METHODOLOGIES AND STRATEGIES

which *object trouvé* - beached driftwood, scrap, and stones - appeared, has been imagined like a territorial sculpture: the stones were the buildings; the mud was the soil or the water. Wide and small dimensions have been put together: the river basin such as a bench or a pier. The simultaneity of the scale was also simultaneity of situations and meanings: in a phase of overflow a proposed architecture was a pier; in a phase of drought the same dock was the roof of a building. It was the case of Genius Pontieri Water Museum, an existing building reused and modified to become an "archaeological outcrops" to be inhabited in different flood stages, with functions connected to the shapes of the river. In the wellness centre of the former industrial area, the water took more complex figures because it was channelled in communicating vessels. Either old or new, the *objects* did not dominate the river space that is the protagonist: without that landscape the proposal would have lost meaning and function. Consequently these *objects*, with the ground, and the water are a single system that we called *Land trouvé*.

Favignana, underwater quarries



atelier 1

Beats, overlapping, and sequences

At the end of the workshop, the exhibition of the project *Land trouvé* took place in the central nave of Vegezzi pavilion at the Campus Arata. It was an opportunity to continue our exploration of the themes of the sequences, the movement, the superposition of horizontal and vertical planes in the perception of the landscape, of the use of the pencil and painterly effects to describe the light conditions explaining the flexible use of the proposal. The nave was distributed into three parts: the entrance (north) and two "rooms" between a translucent installation hanging from above. At the entrance, each one of the three models in scale 1:20000 showed the whole project into three phases: the average level of the Po, the overflow and the disaster. In the white boxes the old town of Piacenza had been cut away from the surface in order it became evident as a shady cavity. Thus the void

Michelangelo Antonioni, Il grido, 1957 (opening credits)



was the most massive urban part. Conversely, infrastructures, water, vegetation, warping of agricultural fields around the river had been made as volumes. This abstraction explained an approach based on architectural construction of open spaces, where sidewalks, tree rows, roads were tectonic elements of the composition just like the ceiling or the walls of a building. This synthesis at a territorial scale anticipated the general idea, more precisely illustrated in the "first room" in a large format plan (about 3x2 meters). These models especially clarified the spatial role of dams and the mighty volume of the elevated highway line, ultimate limit and route of escape in the event of disaster.

Facing the floor plan just mentioned, the "first room" included a video in which the movement of the river was represented through multiple overlapped plans integrating the first panel. In fact it was not a comprehensive representation of the project but a reference for reading the relative positions of the architectures and the limits of the three areas between the four corridors, according to the request processed by the scientific committee of the Summer School. In the video the life force of the river was described through a breath that mingles with the wind and the rustling of the reeds. In the project this sound is amplified through the placement of giant parabolic acoustic screens [4].

Therefore, those sounds and the variations of the water and of the use of the architectures have been combined. Like in the piece "Heat Miser" by Massive Attack [5], the breath was at first a beat, then a rhythm, and at the end, in the video, a spatial sequence also explained in the central installation, where the strip of the river basin has been fragmented into eight double panels (one for the phase of shallows and the other for the overflow). The sixteen panels printed on acetate have been hung in two rows (shallows - overflow) visibly overlapped from afar and frontally, and also individually and closely along the passage between the two rows. From here the individual architectonical interventions could be seen in a larger scale (1: 1000) without sacrificing the whole.

The double grey transparency on the sides, filtered by intricate black ink lines, also should have brought the imagination of the guests in that nebulous and fantastic world illustrated by Antonioni in "Il grido" [6] where bare trees with thin branches in the fog follow the film"s opening credits. A plastic constructed the third layer of the sequence. Similarly to the panels, it was composed of tiles and it made the background of the installation. It showed the architectural consistency of the parts also thanks to its illumination enhanced by the use of only white cardboard. This second corridor gave access to the other "room" where, on the first wall, various sketches by the design team were collected to testify individual impressions, multicultural identities, design

ateller 1

chooses, but also some ingenuous readings that we tried to bring into our reflection. This wall testified a experimentation very shared between about thirty students from the most different countries and the tutors.

In the middle of the "second room" three models with an architectonical scale illustrated an overlook between fields and farmhouses (area 1 - *Trebbia Scape*), the water museum (area 2 - *Maggi Island Scape*), and the east urban waterfront (area 3 - *Industrial Scape*). Twenty-nine cross sections of the river mounted on their section planes (everyone perpendicular to the centre line of the riverbed) led again the project in its landscape giving back, together, the winding river trail and explaining the elevation relationships between the water and the ground. A last change of scale characterized multiplied sequences (five for three stages of the river) of pictorial views suspended between dream and project. The eternity of each contemplative image was denied in the next picture taken in another time from the same point of view. Therefore those visions lacked a strong definition: none demonstrative conclusion or solution. *Land trouvé* is just like a mysterious crime novel: some fix elements, the architectures, and many uncertainties.

Notes

- [1] Cfr. Didi-Huberman G. (2010). *Cosa significa conoscere attraverso il montaggio*, Interview with Georges Didi-Huberman, «Giornale di filosofia. net», November.
- [2] Manual work (plastics and drawings) allowed an immediate comparison and, finally, a cohesion between multicultural students.
- [3] Camilleri A. (1994). La forma dell"acqua. Palermo: Sellerio, p.120.
- [4] Like other elements of the project, parabolic acoustic screens have multiple functions depending on the water level and needs. Thus, the screens are big walls, but in one case it is part of an open-air theatre.
- [5] Massive Attack, Heat Miser, in the album Protection, 1994.
- [6] *Il grido* is a film by Michelangelo Antonioni of 1957 shot between Veneto and Emilia-Romagna in the countries of Stienta, Occhiobello, Pontelagoscuro, Ravalle, Copparo, Porto Tolle, Porto Garibaldi and Francolino, along the Pocoast.

"Land trouvé"

Exhibition in the central nave of Vegezzi Pavilion, Campus Arata, Piacenza



ateller 1 Land trouvé

PROJECT INTRDUCTION

by Luciana Macaluso



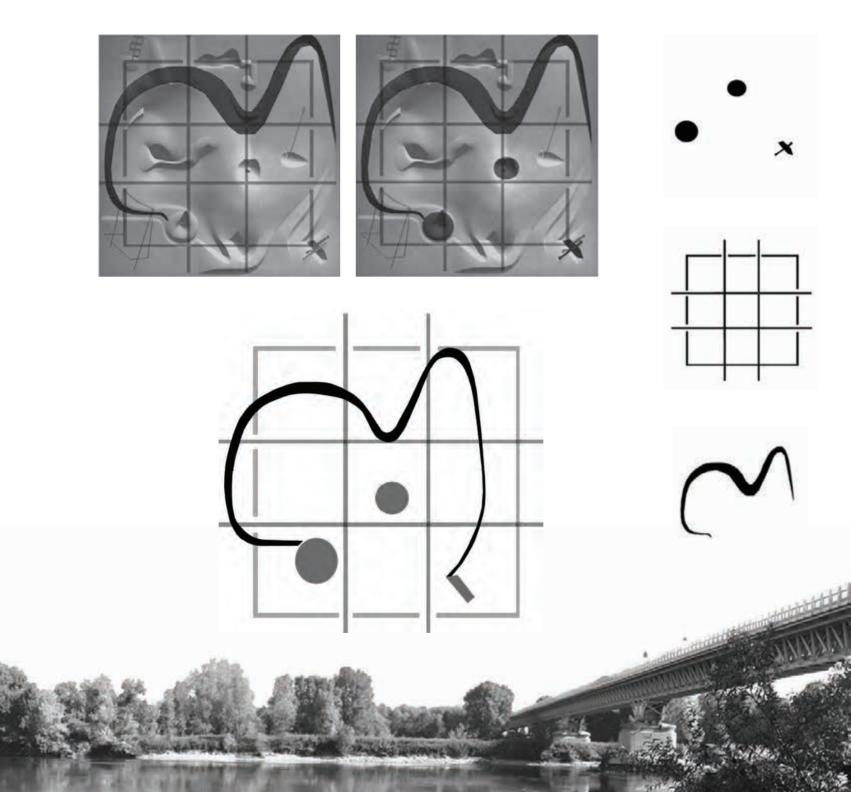


The Po river has an inflection near the centre of Piacenza. In the riverbed (Maggi islets) and on the two shores, there are peculiar places with historical-naturalistic values (wetland areas near to Trebbia river; farmhouses; Genio Pontieri barrack; old industrial traces; canals; rural fields). You can imagine the curve of the river like an expanded strip that extends and compresses itself into a sinusoidal mud (Playground design by Isamu Noguchi represented this idea).

Railway and roads cross the river defining, together with the adjacent

railway bridge, the gateway to the city but also the connection with a large scale of the territory. Between local and global levels, pre-existing elements are reference of distances and heights in a changing system that can be measured through a grid made by longitudinal paths and transversal sections.



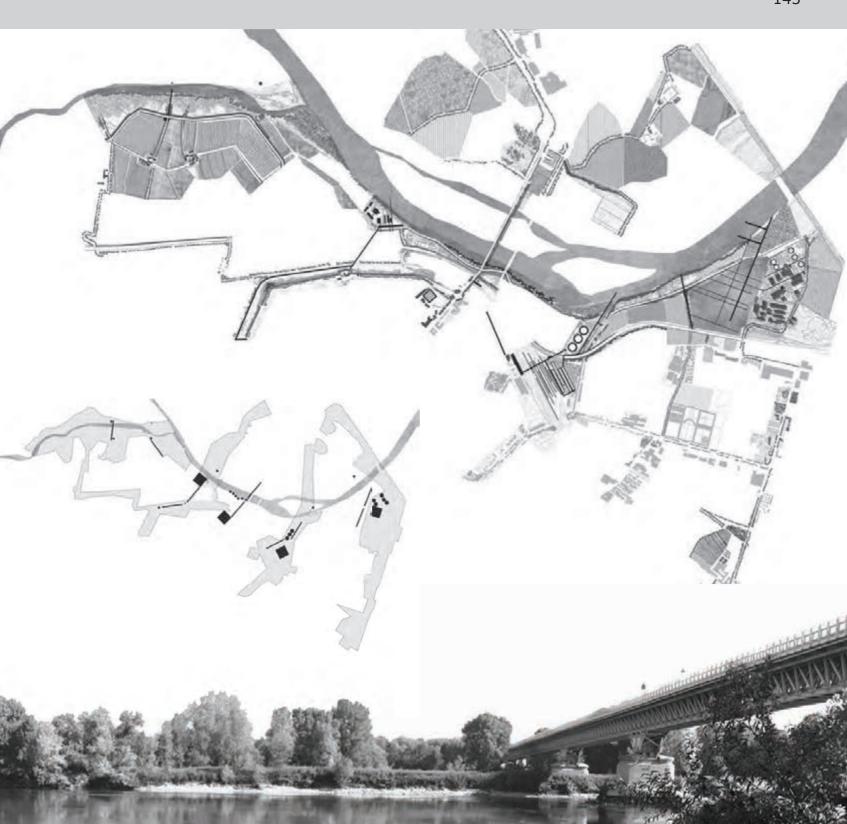


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Longitudinal paths follow the dams and the infrastructures. Transversal passages cross the depth of the riverfront from a shore to the other linking significant places, identified by important gaps. These are entrances to the old town (Palazzo Farnese, ancient walls, railway and industrial areas), "filters – rooms" between heterogeneous parts of territory and very different scales; transversal and longitudinal strips interact along the southern stretch of the river route between them and also with the flood changings as part of a mobile limit sensitive to the different water levels; a place of crossing where the size is regenerated each time through the different trend of the flood, that transforms and builds various landscapes.

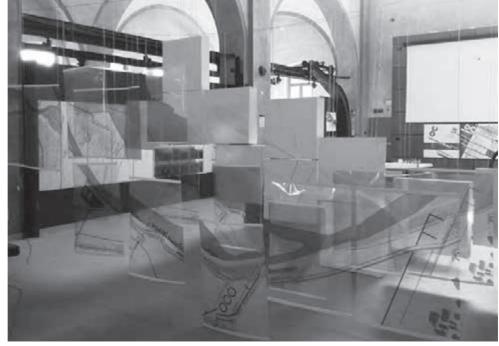


METHODOLOGIES AND STRATEGIES

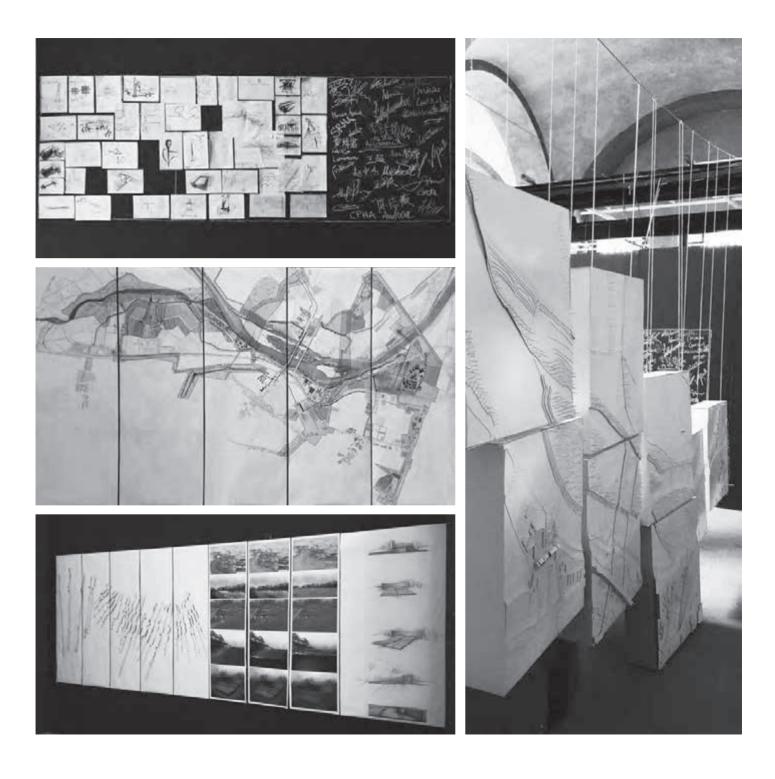


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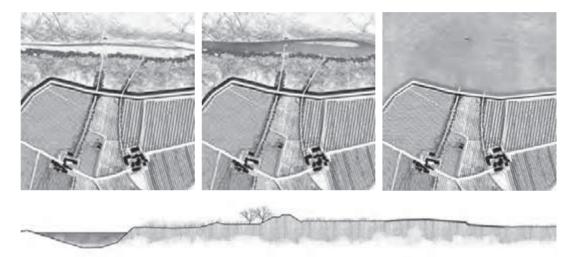
METHODOLOGIES AND STRATEGIES



teller 1 Land trouvé

TREBBIA SCAPE

texts by Federico Bressanelli



The landscape close to the confluence between Po and Trebbia is structured by the rhythm of fields, rows of trees and farmhouses, enclosed and dominated by the line of the highest embankment, with a panoramic bike and pedestrian path on the top. This earth-made wall divides this anthropic-productive horizon from the wild one belonging to the rivers. The rivers are indeed accompanied by a thick riparian vegetation, and further, surrounded by uncultured lands, temporary small fields and small buildings mostly in ruins.

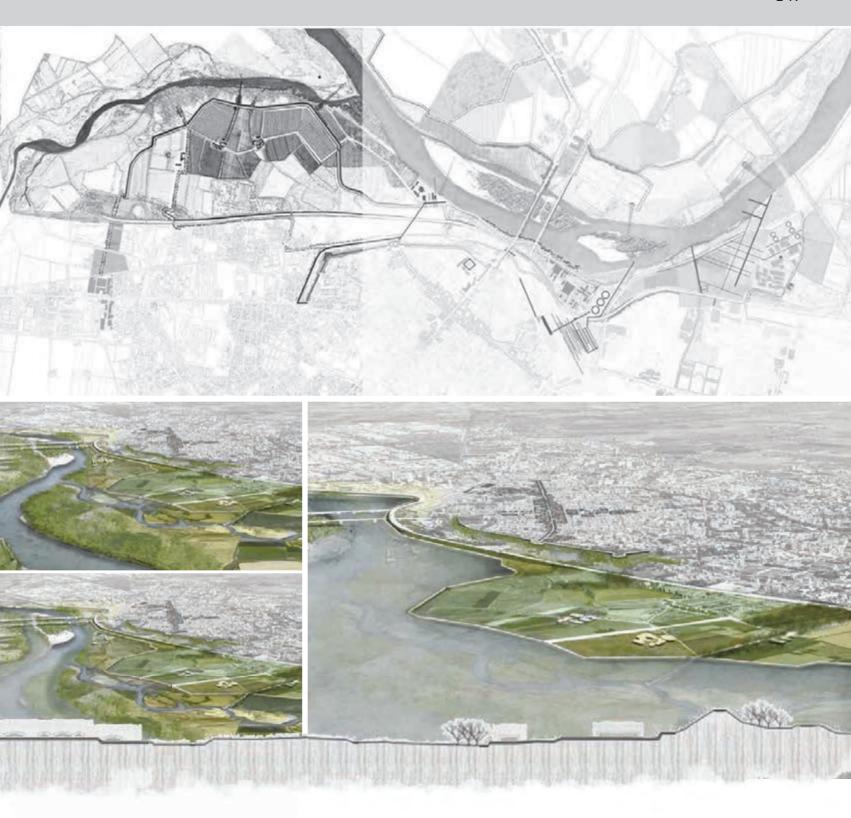
The idea of the project is to emphasize the importance of this division line, as a respecting margin for the river, both strengthening some points on the embankment, and acting in the wild overgrown, establishing a connection with the waters that even cross the wide Po.

These strategies represent the will of leaving the proper distance from the nature, respecting the space needed for the waters to flood. On the other side, this becomes the occasion to find new connection with the landscape and the natural environment, which avoids to modify aggressively the wilderness and the river itself.



GROUP 01 TREBBIA SCAPE





atelier 1 Land trouvé









GROUP 01 TREBBIA SCAPE



The idea led to identify specific spots with the potential of building these new ways of approaching to the important vein of Pa valley. Concrete brutal structures, as the most significant project elements, change the perception of the area, stressing views and sounds with variable uses and shapes that depend on the water itself. This way they become tools to bring the river closer to people, to measure the waters and the landscape, while being already ruins of human presence.

Main axes in the cultivated landscape are reinforced with rows of trees and bigger streets, in order to have the sufficient strength to approach to the embankment line with ascending structures, expressing the incumbent stop. In order to continue the course, mostly in visual ways, some paths cut the wild vegetation and permit to approach to the river and even a partial cross of it, with the detection of similar structures on the other side. These consist in constructions not reachable physically by men; they manifest themselves as devices involving human interaction like a big aviary and a curved wall, reflecting and amplifying the sound of waters. Travelling along the embankment leading to Piacenza, from the ascending spots allowing the view of the river and bird watching, it is found a long pier descending in the water, showing the maximum point until which it is possible to walk. Then, getting closer to urban environment, it is built a small concrete theatre, facing the river as the main stage and with a curved wall in the back, collecting the sound of the nature for spectators. The materials and shape themselves interact and measure the level of the water, letting it cover its own parts but showing what is left outside of the rush of the river.



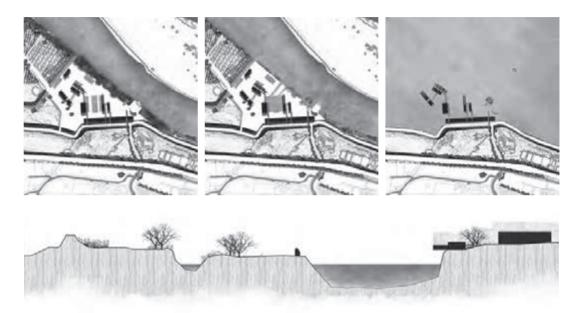




Helier 1 Land trouvé

MAGGI ISLAND SCAPE

texts by Cristiana Penna



Maggi Island Scape - part of the project *Land Trouvè*, the fluvial park for the city of Piacenza - is delimitated between the old military zone and part of the industrial one, long the Po River. The morphology of this area is characterised by important *signs*, divided in: *longitudinal* ones which are the highway, the railway, some secondary streets and by the end the ancient wall of the city; *transversal* ones which are the two bridges, connecting Emilia Romagna and Lombardia regions; and the *object trouvè* which are the military building, the industrial area, the rural houses and the indicators of the rising of the River"s water.

Within this scenario, the Po River is the protagonist of the project and the Maggi Island Scape is the most complex area to deal with, because own fragmented reality and its unclear role in the city and landscape context of Piacenza.



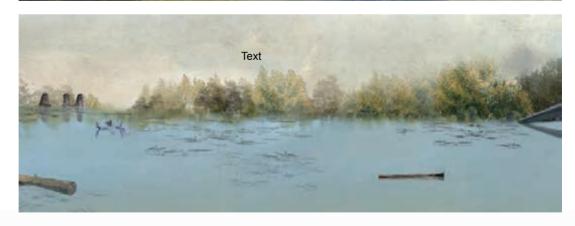
GROUP 02
MAGGI ISLAND SCAPE



atelier 1 Land trouvé









GROUP 02 MAGGI ISLAND SCAPE

The goal of the project is to make the fluvial park able to be used from the citizen during the rising of the Po River"s water, applying the strategy of "adaptation" in which architectural transformations are dealing in a soft way to "the contemporary concept of *Landscape in Motion*". Thus, for the Maggi Island Scape, there are three visions in which the combination of the levels of the River and the objects trouvè will show three different scenarios of the same landscape.

- 1. The military zone, it"s a building located at the same level of the riverbed and where its top is at the same hight of one contemporary street, parallel to the River. Because it"s position and the close relationship to the water, the idea is to transform it into a "Museum of the water". The project is to reuse the existing building, adding some pedestrian bridges to continue to visit it also during the highest level of the River"s water. In this way the building itself will be part of the landscape in motion being museum of itself.
- 2. The central area under the two bridges, currently is an empty pick-nick and jogging area without any relation to the River and also to the city, cause it doesn"t have direct connection to them in terms of accessibility and view. Thus, the project is about the design of the waterfront of the River, improving the quality of the current functions, opening the view to the River and building, at the end, some breakwater to protect the all area during the time of the rising of the water.
- 3. Finally about *the industrial area*, the approach is to keep its industrial shape changing the function in a beauty and sportive center, in which the main transformation its about the silos. They will have a double function: from one hand they will be pools of the beauty center and on the other hand they will be box to contain the excess of the water when the level of the River will be highest.



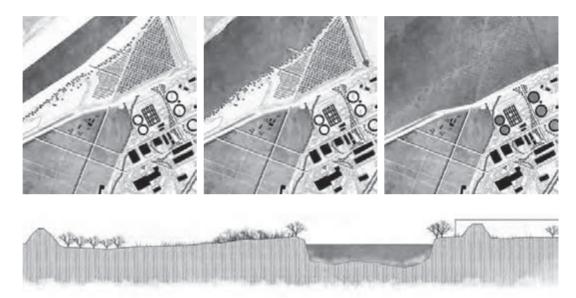




atelier 1 Land trouvé

INDUSTRIAL SCAPE

texts by Andrea Bosio



The strategy chosen for the last area of the river strip still works with the three considered stages of the river breath - low tide, normal tide, high tide reaching the embankment. The initial scenario appears characterised by a rural landscape on the river side of the embankment, with a mix of cultivated fields, grassland, and artificially planted forest landscape; and an industrial landscape on the other side, with a still functioning incinerator and a disused water purifier, which still shows the water tanks, the artificial canal cutting through the embankment, and the old buildings of the water dam regulating the water flow. The final masterplan choses to utilise the already present agricultural traces of the cultivated fields to connect the two sides cut by the embankment, with the creation of paths going through the vegetation or artificial passages in form of light pedestrian and cycling passages which cut through the incinerator and the water purifier.



GROUP 03
INDUSTRIAL SCAPE

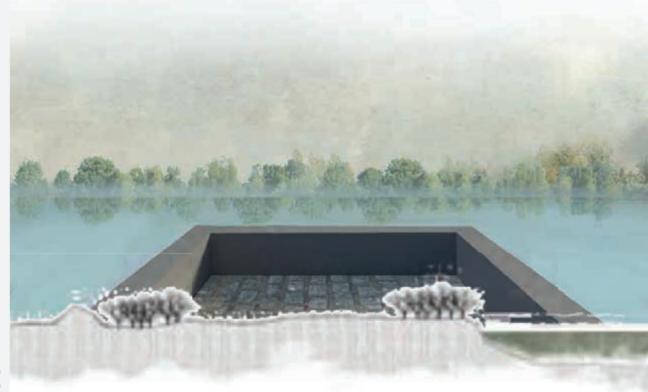


Itelier 1 Land trouvé









The agricultural traces already present in the landscape along the river are then utilised to merge the agricultural landscape with the industrial one, enabling and generating the construction of a more nuanced landscape in which the industrial compound would not stand as a hostile presence, but, on the contrary, as an active presence within the landscape. Both the incinerator and the water purifier are then planned to be renovated and revamped, with the water tank in particular being utilised as a fishing farm, with the idea to attract tourists - in particular cyclists and hikers, within an area which has already potentials for an eco-friendly type of tourism but which has been considered only for productive purposes. The newly renovated industrial compound/fishery is then linked to the main street on the embankment through the construction of a the open public spaces located between the buildings, which, through the design of tree lines and difference piazzas emerging from the intersection of agricultural traces, appear now more functional not only for productive purposes, but also for recreational ones. Along the river, those agricultural traces slowly become an artificial pathway which enables the fruition of the river as a pontoon for small boats and as a lookout which virtually connects with the shores on the other side of the river. Furthermore, they become a sort of touchstone for measuring the height of the water of the river, enabling, in some points, even the inhabitation during high tides. The intention here was to allow the fruition of the river for boats by utilising the landscape and thus by building the less as possible; and to allow the perception of the landscape from various vantage points, thanks also to the aid of the sound devices positioned on the other side of the river, which reflect the sound of the landscape allowing a more immersive experience.

PIACENZA PRIZE 2016

promoted by

FONDAZIONE DEGLI ARCHITETTI P.P.C. DI PARMA E PIACENZA



1st PRIZE ATELIER 1 | LAND TROUVÉ

Aboudeif ABDELRAHMAN
Federico AILI
Maria ALDEA
Sunay ALTINTEPE
Greta BENELLI
Amina CHOUAIRI
Valentina CONTINO
Ujjwal DAWAR
Maria Anna DI IORIO
Lorella DIMITROVA
ByungHak GANG
Zhuojon HUANG
Fares IVANOV
Anastasia LEVCHENKO
Shuyang LI

Xie LI
Srgjana MANASIEVSKA
Carlo ORIENTE
Valerio PIGHETTI
Marina PROTCIUK
Ivana RAIMO
Sara SALA
Abdelmoniem Hassan Mohamed
SAMIR
Anil SEVIL
Isabella SPAGNOLO
Maddalena Verrillo
Guoqing WANG
Chan YANG
Zhuojon ZHAO

OC from landscape to exterior design





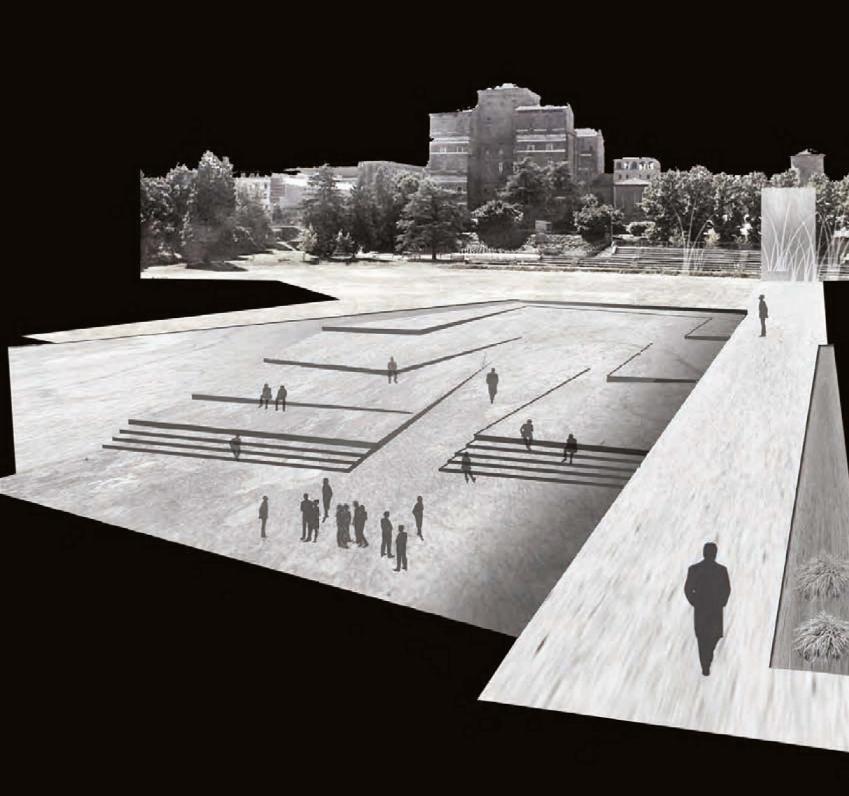
2nd PRIZE ATELIER 3 | FARNESE SCAPE

Donald ADITYA
Maria Rosaria IMPERATORE
Claudia PORCELLI
Martina SIMEONE
Matthias WECHSLER
Megi GUNI
Quanxu LI
Maria GEROGIANNAKI
Xiao Feng HE
Junwen XUE

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL

OC from landscape to exterior design









Il Po e la città, disegni di 130 studenti Politegnico; la Summer School lavora alla progettazione dell'area Nord

Siè conclusa ieri la prima intensa settimana di Oc Open City International Sum-

Summer school di architettura, 130 studenti da 25

studentificanchemistra all avoto

ir in progetti abbozzati, itto di pochi giorni di lavo-è una realtà territoriale versa, più affascinante, più Jina alle esigenze di citta al e turisti.

A partire da lunedi eli stu-nti tornerarino al lavoro r una seconda settimana cui saranno chiamati ad inare i loro progetti, punndo soprettutto sui plastici me strumento della prottazione architettonica e esaggistica, e recependo i oti commenti e suggeri enti avuti nella giornata di

netol. Parallelamente, continua comunicato, prosequira il comunicato, prosequira il clo di conferenze e di lezio-(aperte e ad ingresso libe-) che porterà al Campo-

film, che mi hanno fatto capire che il Po non è solo un luogo

geografico, ma anche un con tenitore di storie di questi pe-scutori, definiti auche sacerdo

ti del fiume. Come Giannino che parla del famoso Pesce siluro, che è innocente perché non è per colpa sua che molti pesci non ci sono più, ma la colpa è in realtà dell'uomo.

Questa è la storia che dà il titolo al films. Secondo la regista se

importante che questi ragazzi conoscano l'esperienza che ho

visano. Piacenza ha infatti

molto a che vedere con il Po, e

per loro è materia di studio, un

territorio che può dare vita a

grande letteratura. E poi cine-

ma e architettura vanno dipari

passo, così come si regista in-

quadra il mondo con i suoi film

l'architetto lo fa con i progettis.

Gabriele Faravellt

metterà a confronte t ...

CENTE ELPADIGLIONE NICELLI tino, ar Stasera (ore 20.30)

catalanoc'e Aldo Grasso ma dell'alla Summer School tempora del Politecnico diversi pu

La mayocasa, intia oggi inneli is (marted) setumber la term cultima set 10) uno delmana di Cope City later lesi della speking programare seloni, il testi della speking programare seloni, il con genua edurgio celanta orgile Con genua edurgio celanta orgile Cobe ved standoddi scotta di Architette legistar più una Uhani.

regista Elisaca Ingo-suo receritaria delle tografico "P.Ostransoni dedicato all'ivarente del

rie umane e n Minos il percorso d'edis sele Si toccano od Campas visiva anche il mate

MSIVO anche Divis

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con il confrontade optis
con il confrontade optis
Chiaramonte de sinane channat, nella
Velasco Vitali, giorani cedanta di visuelo
Velasco Vitali, giorani cedanta di visuelo
noti della Scruppi lecienzi sigliorani
contemporane/palara ambigrata, passaggio
è indaggia et attra dela contantida di poso
è indaggia il abb. cele contantida al l'acon
produzione di labo cele constituciona il l'acon

della famone refund carrie
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colla sera e di cui colla colla colla di cui
colla conditra colla colla di colla di cui
colla conditra colla colla di colla

to kinger. Preto Mesteris histories e Manistro fromatini, the mest addis point formatini, the mest will come the families professio-mains diverse (appet de conti-liure el terra della wiste. Un historie della sociata e un disa tra praversia, e nicapassioni. rea transcerade, e nicarremente affascinante, milo possibilità dell'architettura di antare dese mae e comini a "sum bene". O

dell'architectura di a latare den
ne e constiti a "state den
hembre di serio dei
princi dei principa principa di
principa principa principa di
principa principa di
prin

Elisabetta Sgarbi: vi racconto il Po da dietro l'obiettivo Protagonista di un incontro alla Summer School del Politecnico, ha parlato della sua esperienza da regista

il rumo e le stazioni. «Ho visto hiogia iantastici - ha raccomato la regista - grazie a questo

um «L'architetto è come il re-pista: entrambi utilizzano il proprio lavoro per inquadrare proprie lavoro per inquadrare il mondo». Eproprio da una re-spista come Hisabetta Sgarbi che arrivano queste parole, ri-volte appunto al giovani archi-tenti che in questi giorni sono ospiti della Summer School di Piscoria. Propinta a scripto di Piacenza. Regista e scrittrice, direttrice editoriale della Bompiani fino al novembre dello scorso anno, fondatrice della casa edarice La Nave di Tesso e curatrice della rassegna cul-turale La Milanesiana, Spathi e stata l'ospite d'ouore di uno del "parallel events" più attesi della Summer School: l'inconlli che la ty l'avevano h tro che si è tenuto ieri mattina al Padiglione Nicelli grazle al quale ha illustrato e prolettato un suo lavoro del 2014, il documentario "Il Pesce siluro è in-nocente", seconda parte di "Due Volte Delta", opera cinematografica dedicata alle storie

umane che sul Po nascono e si



sviluppano. Per i 130 studenti incritti al workshop si e trattato ecitti ai won spiop si ettatato dunque diuno spiardo inedito e di straordinario fascino sul-relemento prografico eterito-riale, il Po, che fa da sfondo alle sperimentazioni progettuali. L'incontro, introdotto e mode rato da Bartelomeo Corsini (di rettore del Centro Sperimenta-le di Cinematografia di Milano

docente del Politecnico) e Gancado Zappoli (critico cine-matografico, direttore respon-sabile di Mymovies it), si è svolto in due momenti: la protezione del documentario e una discussione apena agli studenti sui te mitrati ati che ha coinvolto anche Doriano Cazzola, protapouista e ispiratore del film, uno degli ultimi nomi



Elisabetta Sgarbi, negista e scritrico, al Politocnico di Pacenza (foto Lunini)

ni che vive sul Delta, e l'aiuto regista Espenio Del Rio. "Il Pe-sce siluro e innocente" fornisce un ritratto inedito di due pescatori di anguille nella sacca di Goro e di un uomo dediti alla raccolta delle vongole e delle cozze, nel Delta del Po, in una delle ultime resistenti valli da pesca: sono vite che si svolgo-no lungo i fiume, seguendone

dell'asino