

Varietà boschiva

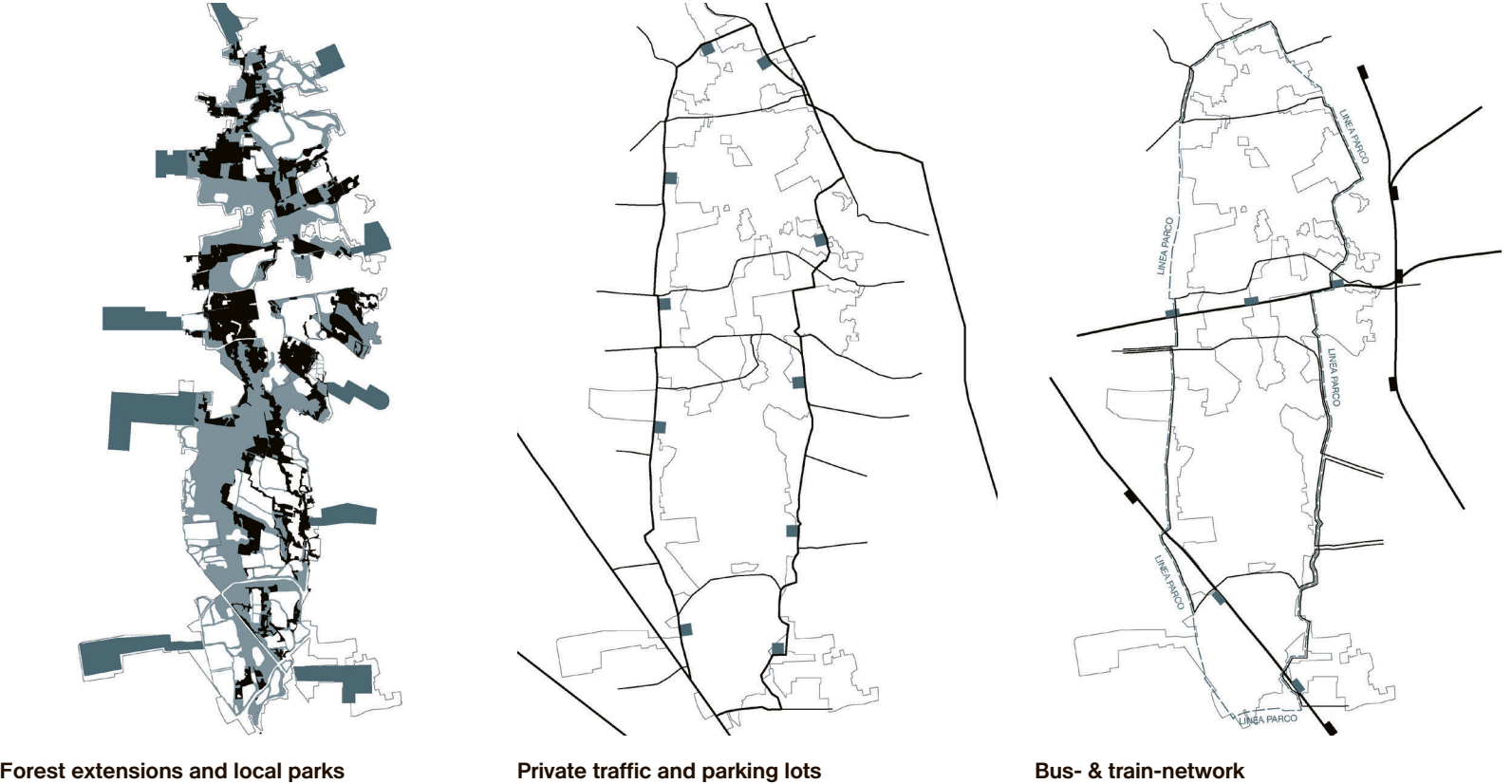
A cabaret of different forest atmospheres forms the tessellated backbone of the metropolitan park. Visitors reach a colourful variety of landscape spectacles with ease.

In the middle of the metropolitan region of Milan the existing forest and park structures of the Parco delle Groane transform into a cabaret that links up the forest for today's urban inhabitants. 20 kilometres of very distinct forest atmospheres and open spaces are strung together within each reach of public and private transport. This forest offers the whole region valuable local space for recreation as well as for special events in the metropolis.

The neighbouring boroughs obtain landscape identities through local parks, which form the regional anchors of the metropolitan park. A new bus line, the «linea parco», makes its way around the park landscape in under an hour and links all boroughs and regional train stations with the different zones of the park. In this cabaret show local ramblers come face to face with amateur athletes from the city, and romantic people delight in looking at the landscape next to restless openair visitors.



Choreography of a stroll through the park



Forest extensions and local parks

Private traffic and parking lots

Bus- & train-network



Map detail from Bollate with the "canale scolmatore"

Position

<Milano>

Pairi-daeza: Choreography Parco delle Groane

From greenbelt to commons

The term «pairi-daeza», Persian for «a wall that encloses a garden», is the starting point for a series of elective courses at the Chair of Professor Günther Vogt at the ETH Zurich, which address the basic elements and typologies of landscape architecture in the urban context at the small and large scale. The themes of the series are enclosure, threshold, water, vegetation, topography, choreography and metaphor.

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Superparco del popolo

A forest element brings the park together and forms its new backbone. Enclosed by a tram line and interspersed with clearings that form commons, the Parco delle Groane becomes a public park.

The Parco delle Groane is to become a vast, easily accessible park forest, right in the middle of the city. The agricultural plots are transformed by the planting of trees in the park forest, whilst several glades are left as they are. The latter are to be made freely accessible around the clock as commons for the general public. In this way, the glades could be read as counterparts to the piazzas of the city, yet they form the cultural meeting places of an urban park. A new tram line along the edge of the park with

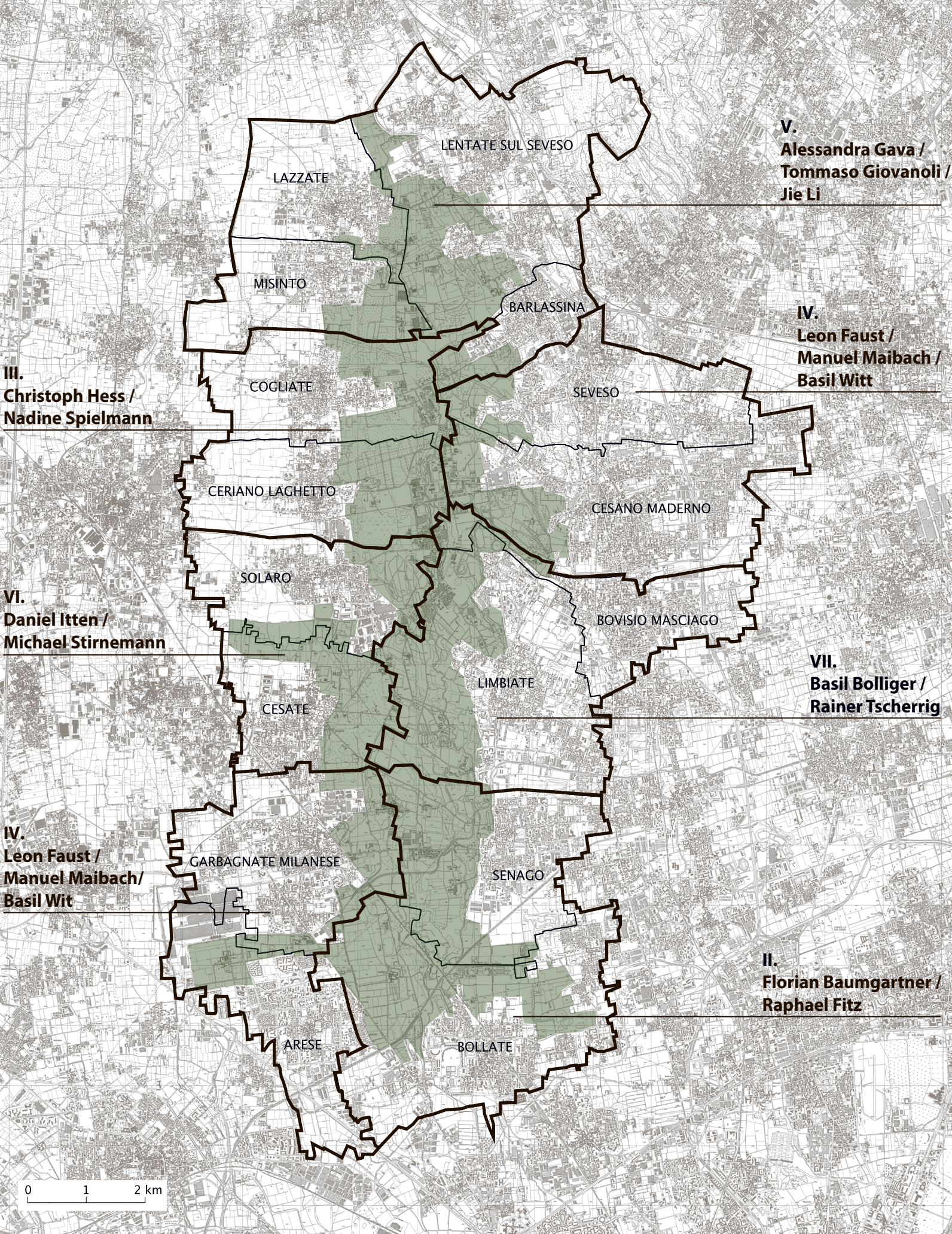
stops where the streets intersect improves accessibility both on a local and on a metropolitan scale. This both reduces car traffic in the park and acts as a spatial and temporal reference point. This transformation and the new tram line enhance the visibility of the park and its boundaries, possibly prohibiting further sprawl, but they also manage to achieve a new understanding of the Parco delle Groane as a public park that can be used by everyone.



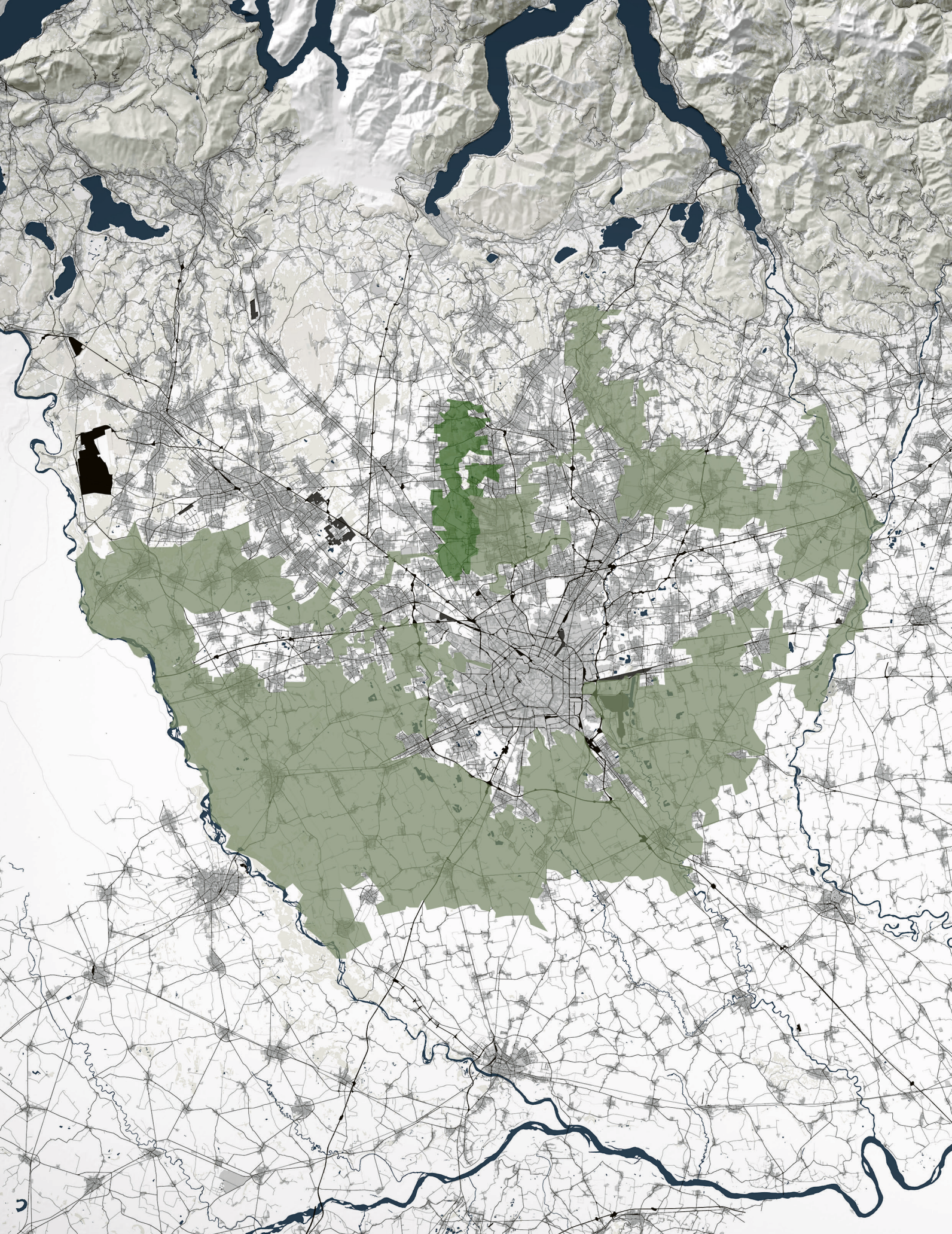
Choreography of a stroll between park forest and glade



Left: New tram line with time schedule and park forest with glades. Right: Scenes of forest glades used as commons



Perimeter of the Parco delle Groane with neighbouring communes



Territory of Milan with green belt

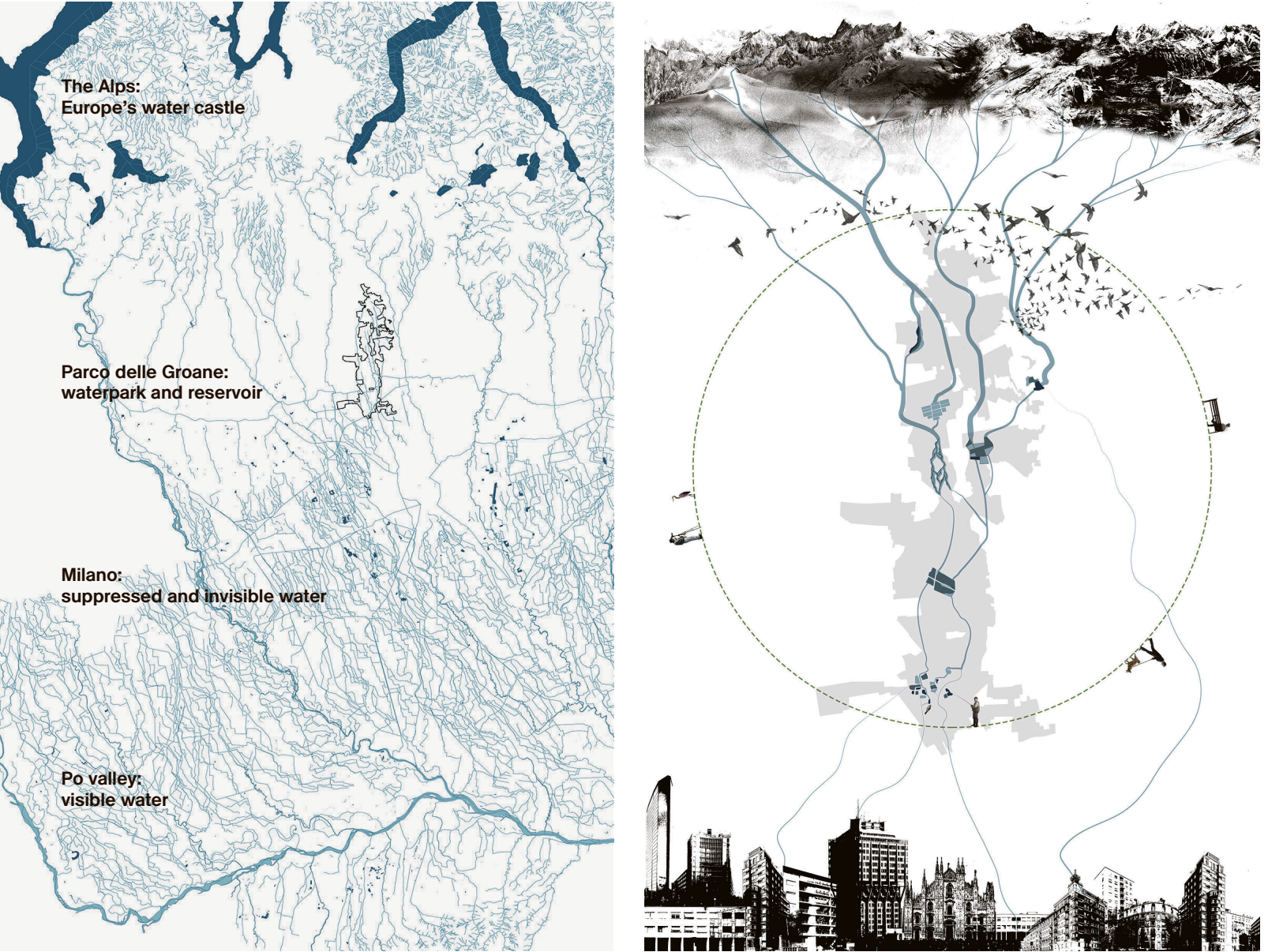


# Aqua Groane

# IV

The problem of floodwater in Milan has only become worse over the past few decades. Water retention surfaces in the Parco delle Groane are to respond to this whilst being integrated into the landscape.

The metropolitan area of Milan has been confronted with a floodwater problem for some time. The River Seveso, has broken its banks several times over the past few years, causing great harm. The current approach to containing the flood water involves using urban wasteland as storage basins. Here, water is considered purely from the point of view of an engineer, with the excessive measures one would expect. As an alternative to this purely technical approach, this project proposes to integrate water into the Parco delle Groane as a landscape element. Since there are synergies at play on several layers, the whole region enjoys an added benefit. Water is controlled, but at the same time fulfills a new spatial and aesthetic potential as a design element in the landscape. Investment in the Parco delle Groane is no higher than the strategies that are currently being planned to protect against the water. In addition, the alternatives illustrated here generate a sustainable and high quality water landscape for those who use the park. The proposed interventions are not meant to be finished designs, but lay down the basic principles.



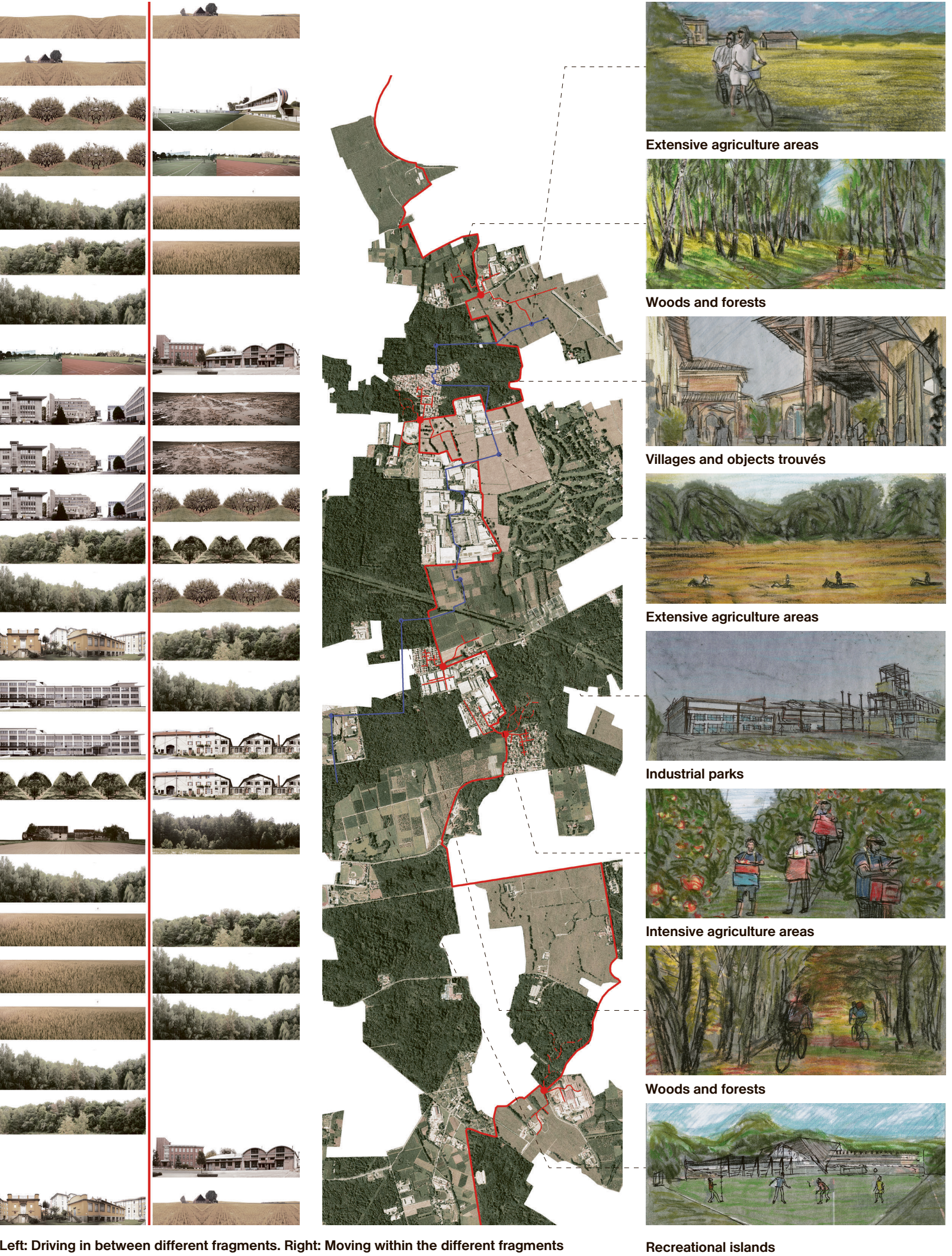
Left: Hydrological overview map. Right: Parco delle Groane as a temporary water storage between the Alps and Milan and an area for migrant birds

# Parchi delle Groane

# V

The park is intended as a mosaic of parks: a park formed by discontinuities and sharp fragments showing the fractures of a peripheral landscape rather than proposing an aesthetic reconciliation.

At a metropolitan scale, the structure of the Parco delle Groane can be described as a nebula; but from closer by, it resembles a complex mosaic. This mosaic of sharp fragments is like the discontinuous image of a fractioned surface. We think this as a quality rather than a physical defect; our project is based on the conceptual idea of the subdivision of the parts, and on their absence of cohesion. According to the principle of juxtaposition, the coming-to-



Left: Driving in between different fragments. Right: Moving within the different fragments

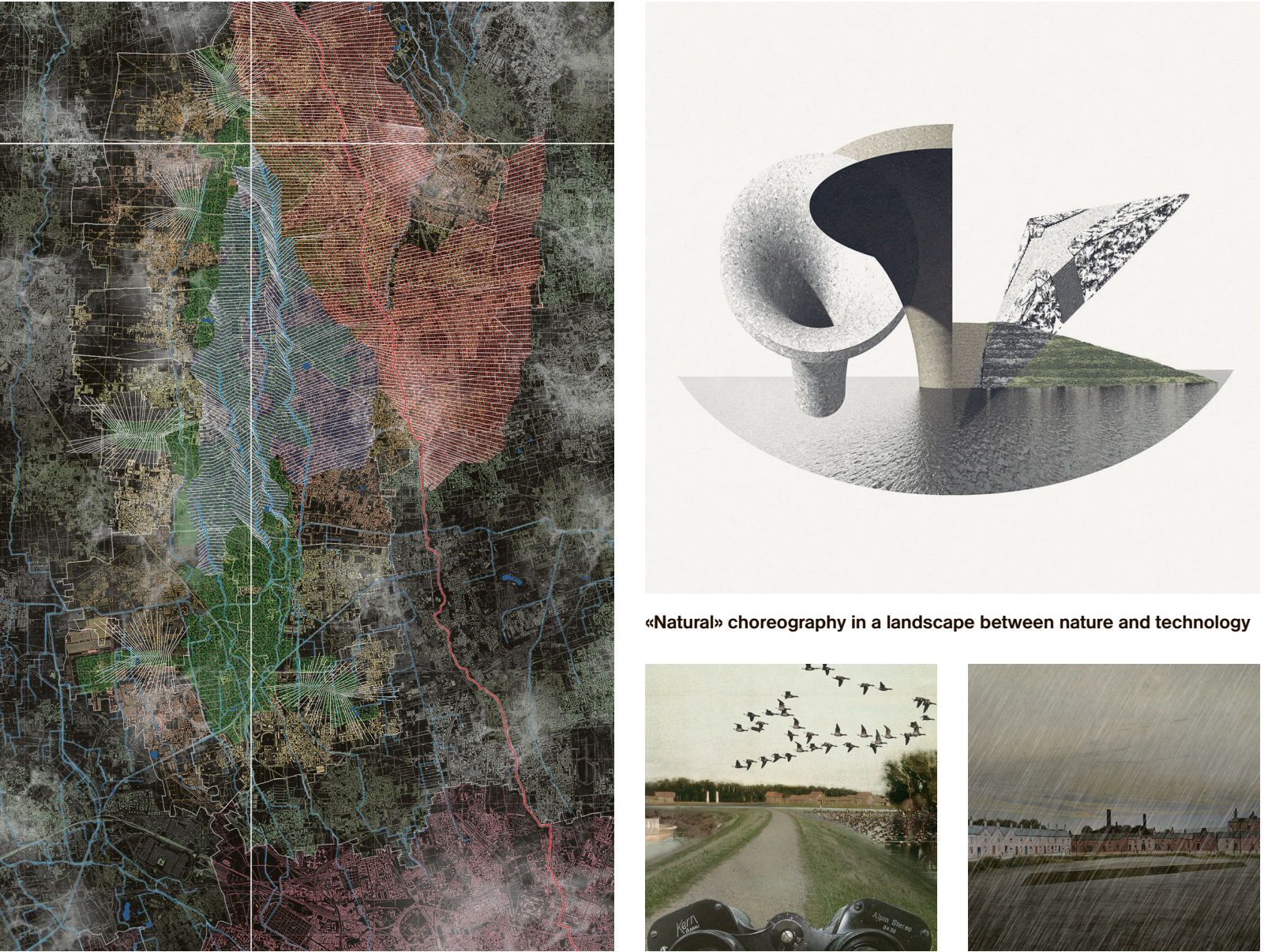
# Pluvia / Fluvia

# VI

The floodwater problem to the north of Milan is dealt with by creating a topographical park landscape. Rain and river become the driving force behind a natural choreography.

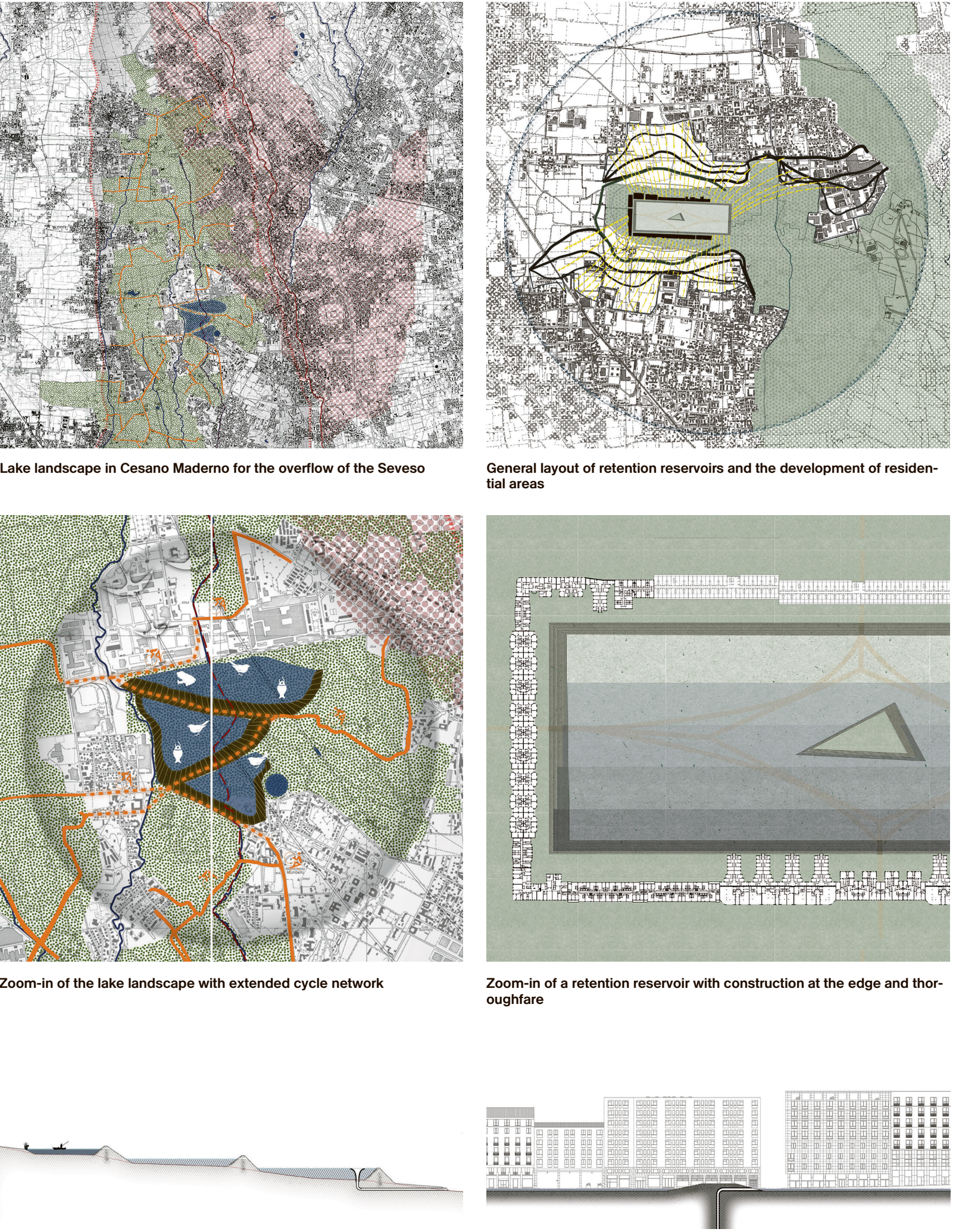
The fragmented form of the Parco delle Groane is the result of a large push for residential areas to the north of Milan. There are often large flash-floods in the region because the loamy soil does not allow for drainage. The park sits high on top of a moraine and manages to stay for the most part out of the reach of flood water, but the surrounding boroughs are affected by it almost every year. The proposal aims to mitigate the borough's floodwater problem from within the Parco delle Groane. This is made possible with two types of flood detention

reservoirs: firstly, deep stormwater retention tanks are to be dug out near the residential area, which flood under heavy rainfall but can otherwise be used as recreation grounds. Secondly, lake landscapes are to be designed in-to the park, which can accommodate a part of the overspill from regional rivers. The overlap of this infrastructural interventions with leisure activities makes for a park landscape that changes with time. Rivers and rainwater inscribe a «natural» choreography into a landscape that switches between nature and technology.



Hydrological overview map

«Natural» choreography in a landscape between nature and technology

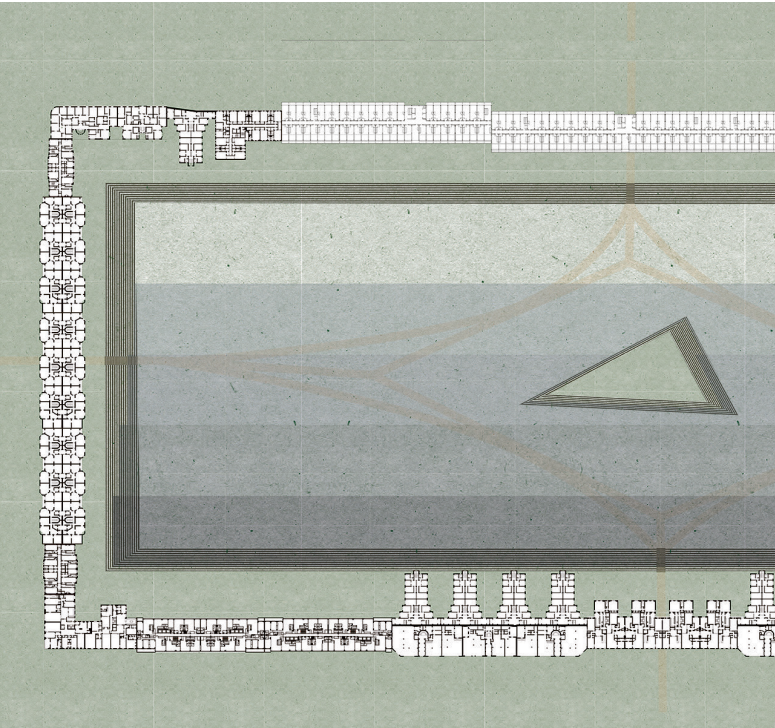


Lake landscape in Cesano Maderno for the overflow of the Seveso

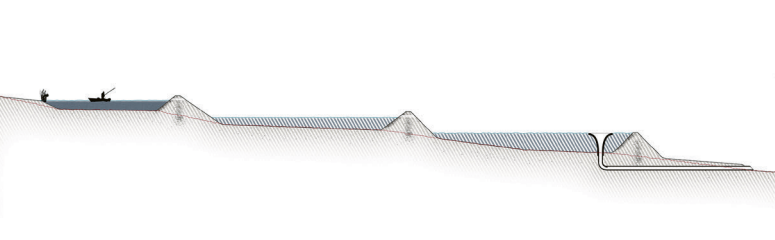
General layout of retention reservoirs and the development of residential areas



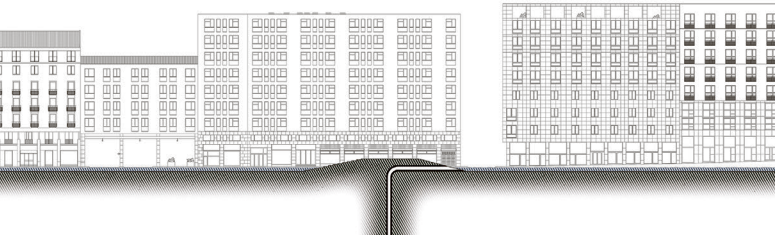
Zoom-in of the lake landscape with extended cycle network



Zoom-in of a retention reservoir with construction at the edge and thoroughfare



Schematic section along the Garbogera stream



Schematic section through a retention reservoir

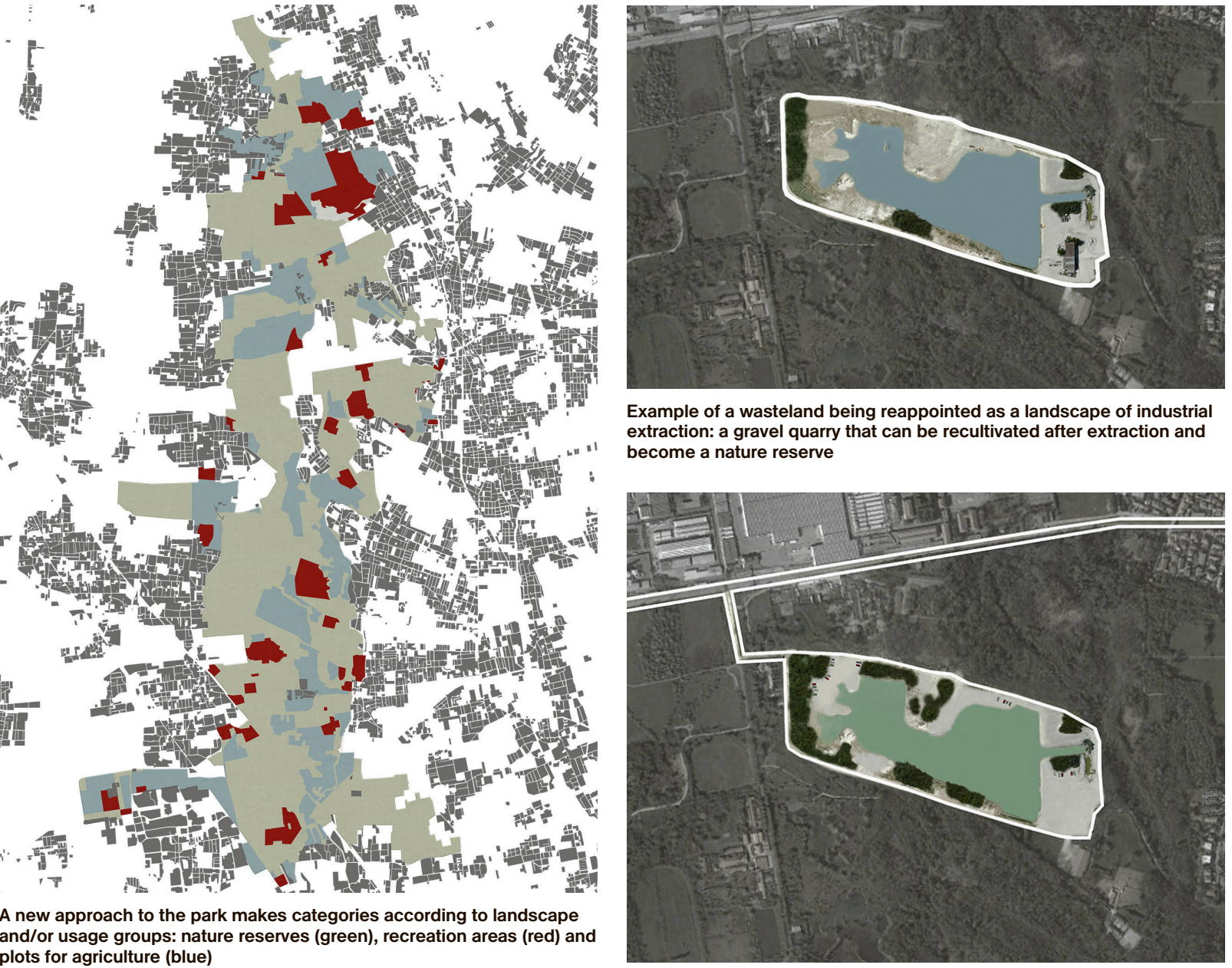
# Milan's Urban Park

# VII

The Parco delle Groane becomes an urban park for Milan. Its new organization provides better connections both through the internet as well as on an infrastructural level in the park.

The Parco delle Groane is a landscape composed of many different, self-contained and autonomous parts. There are, protected areas, forests, cultural institutions, leisure centres, agricultural, industrial and recreational areas as well as a distribution centre for groceries. Concentrated in such a small space together, these elements form a highly diverse cluster-like system that both informs the park and forms a multifaceted landscape that is already heavily in use. At the same time, this diversity of unintegrated uses impedes the legibility and

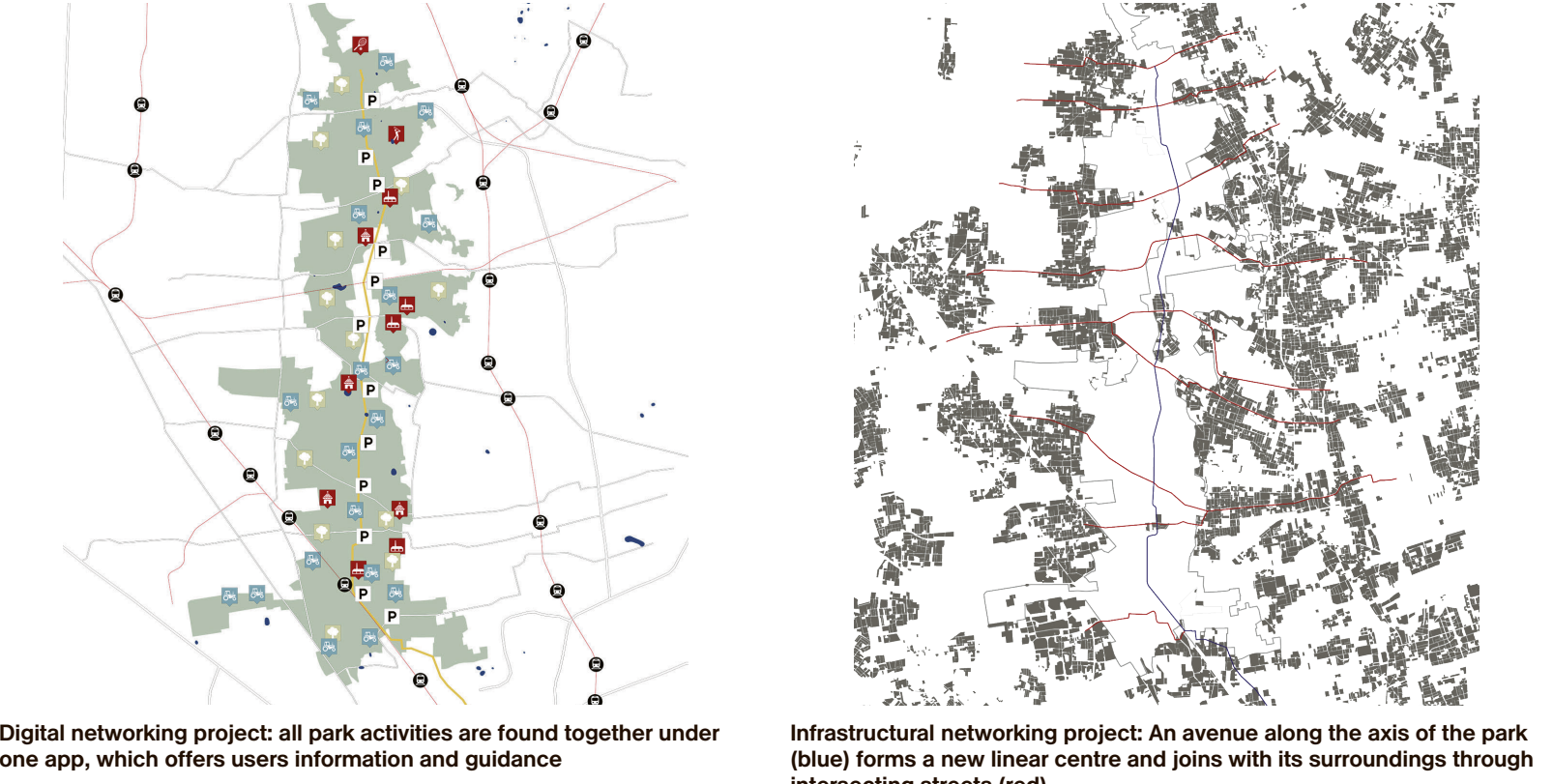
experience of the park as a public urban space for Milan. For this reason, a simplified approach was taken that divides the park into three landscape/ useage groups: nature reserves, recreation areas and plots for agriculture. Areas that have till now been wasteland have the potential to become landscapes of industrial extraction, thereby providing the funding for two projects to heighten interconnectivity. One is an app and the other is infrastructural: a central avenue becomes the park's new spine.



A new approach to the park makes categories according to landscape and/or usage groups: nature reserves (green), recreation areas (red) and plots for agriculture (blue)



Example of a wasteland being reapointed as a landscape of industrial extraction: a gravel quarry that can be recultivated after extraction and become a nature reserve



Digital networking project: all park activities are found together under one app, which offers users information and guidance

Infrastructural networking project: An avenue along the axis of the park (blue) forms a new linear centre and joins with its surroundings through intersecting streets (red)

