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.

spectacles with ease.

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





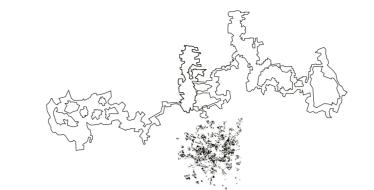




Map detail from Bollate with the "canale scolmatore"

Position

(Milano)



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.

From greenbelt to commons -Chair of Günther Vogt

Varietà boschiva - Florian Baumgartner, Raphael Fitz

Superparco del popolo -**Christoph Hess, Nadine**

Aqua Groane - Leon Faust, Manuel Maibach, Basil Witt

www.vogt.arch.ethz.ch

Parchi delle Groane -Alessandra Gava, Tommaso Giovanoli, Jie Li

Position VI Pluvia/Fluvia - Daniel Itten, Michael Stirnemann

Position VII Milan's Urban Park - Basil

Bolliger, Rainer Tscherrig

take position! www.position.la

to the respective student

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Chair of Günther Vogt, ETH 2000 copies

Pairi-daeza: Choreography Parco delle Groane

The elective course (Pairi-daeza: Choreography.) on the Parco delle Groane, stands in the context of a series of teaching formats at the Chair of Professor Günther Vogt which deal with metropolitan territories of the major cities that lie around the Alpine arc, starting with Milan. The elective course focuses on the territory to the North of Milan and looks at the metropolitan greenbelt. The northerly

metropolitan region is a mosaic of small cities, industrial facilities, infrastructure and parks, which vie for the last available plots of land. A prospec-

tive unifying network of different kinds of parks is idealistically laid out as a greenbelt, but in reality it is still barely noticeable or used. This is

where the elective course comes in: working with the (Parco delle Groane) it asks for a park that has the possibility to become embedded in one's awareness and everyday life. Taking choreography) as their theme, the students designed a park at two scales: local and metropolitan. The goal was that the students develop their own positions.

> or manner whatsoever without the prior consent of the publisher. Printed in Switzerland, 2015, edition of

From greenbelt to commons

The province of Milan has a system for its (Green) (Sistema dell Verde). Not that there is anything special about this in today's metropolitan regions, but the Milanese system seems to be especially complicated. There are 5 Parchi Regionali, 16 PLIS (Parchi locali di interesse sovracomunale), and 3 Riserve Regionali. Just like the Parco Agricolo Sud that dominates the South of Milan, the Parco delle Groane belongs I-VII to the category of the Parchi Regionali, which themsleves are subdivided into several different types according to what is regarded as most worthy of protecting in each park: the river; the agriculture; the

forests; or nature either in its most basic or in a very specific form. Furthermore, there are three overarching concepts that attempt on the one hand to bring these park fragments together and on the other to bring this mixture of relationships between park, landscape, agriculture and city into a larger theoretical and formal whole: the projects Raggi verdi, Metrobosco and Dorsale verde. One might already feel disorientated amidst all these different landscape protection categories, but when one also considers the various relevant political layers that are associated with this only one thing is clear: that today's situation is no longer clear. And one wonders sometimes not only how planners and politicians find their bearings in today's landscape, but also its various users – and after all they are what this should really be about. Perhaps the time has come for a new choreography. We consciously understand

the theme of choreography here in its widest possible sense: as the inscription of movement and space. Here one is almost tempted to argue for an etymological misinterpretation, where the Greek word choreography would be derived not just from χορός (choros): dance, chorus, but also from χῶρος (choros): space. In this sense the course was not just about a notation or an inscription (cf. γράφειν : to inscribe) of the user's everyday movement, but was also about an inscription of space that in turn determines this movement: about a spatial staging of metropolitan landscape which at the same time creates a stage set for every day life. And perhaps in the same way the Parco delle Groane can also become part of a larger inscription of space, which can be understood as an alternative to the greenbelt ideology that is so stubbornly adhered to. The simplistic relationship between city and landscape, and their clear division, have either lost or never attained the clarity of Modernist visions. Here the idea of the greenbelt as a green city wall, as an instrument of controlling urban growth, has become obsolete, while its value as a mere ecological offsetting strategy is called into question. Today's reality has however become so complicated that one longs for an alternative (simplification) or a new reading (see newspaper Position (Milano) No. 5). At the core of the new reading that we propose is an understanding of landscape as (commons.) As urban resources for different users and uses, which are accessible at different scales from the local to the metropolitan. We are convinced that, rather than the one-sided understanding of protection and the park, one should rather talk about new depictions and qualities of the landscape in line with complementary and overlapping uses. Several examples of this are in this newspaper.

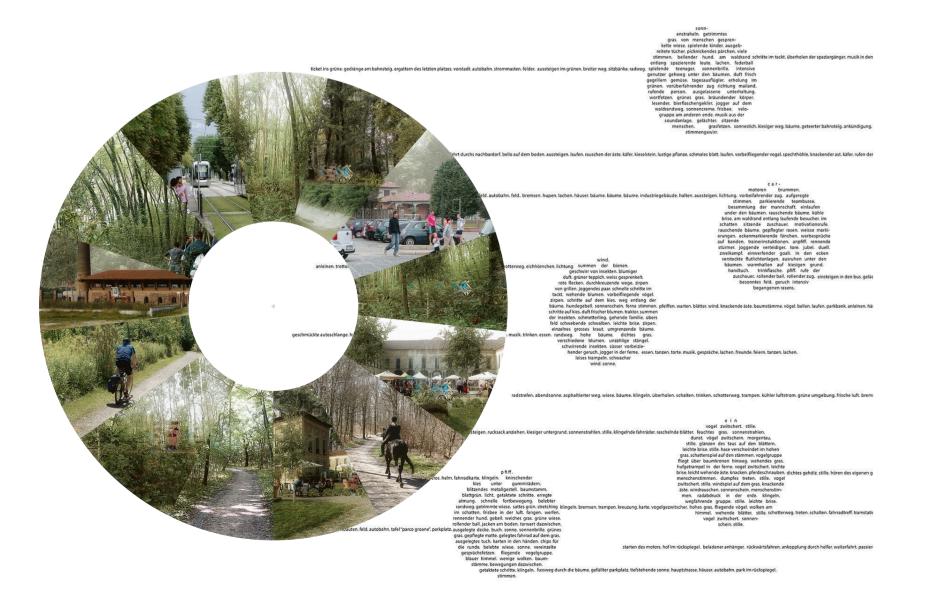
Superparco del popolo

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

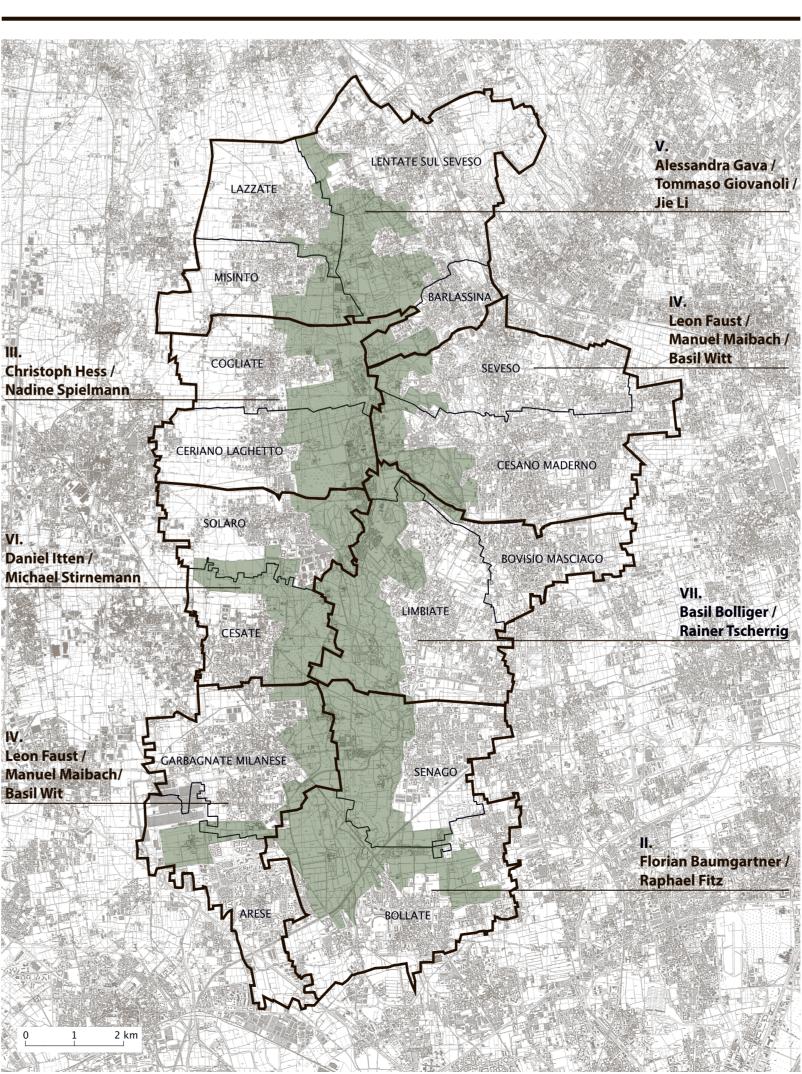
stops where the streets intersect improves accessibility both on a local and on a metropolitan scale. This both reduces car traffic in the park and acts as a spatial and tem-This transformation and the new tram line enhance the visibility of the park and its boundaries, possibly prohibiting further sprawl,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

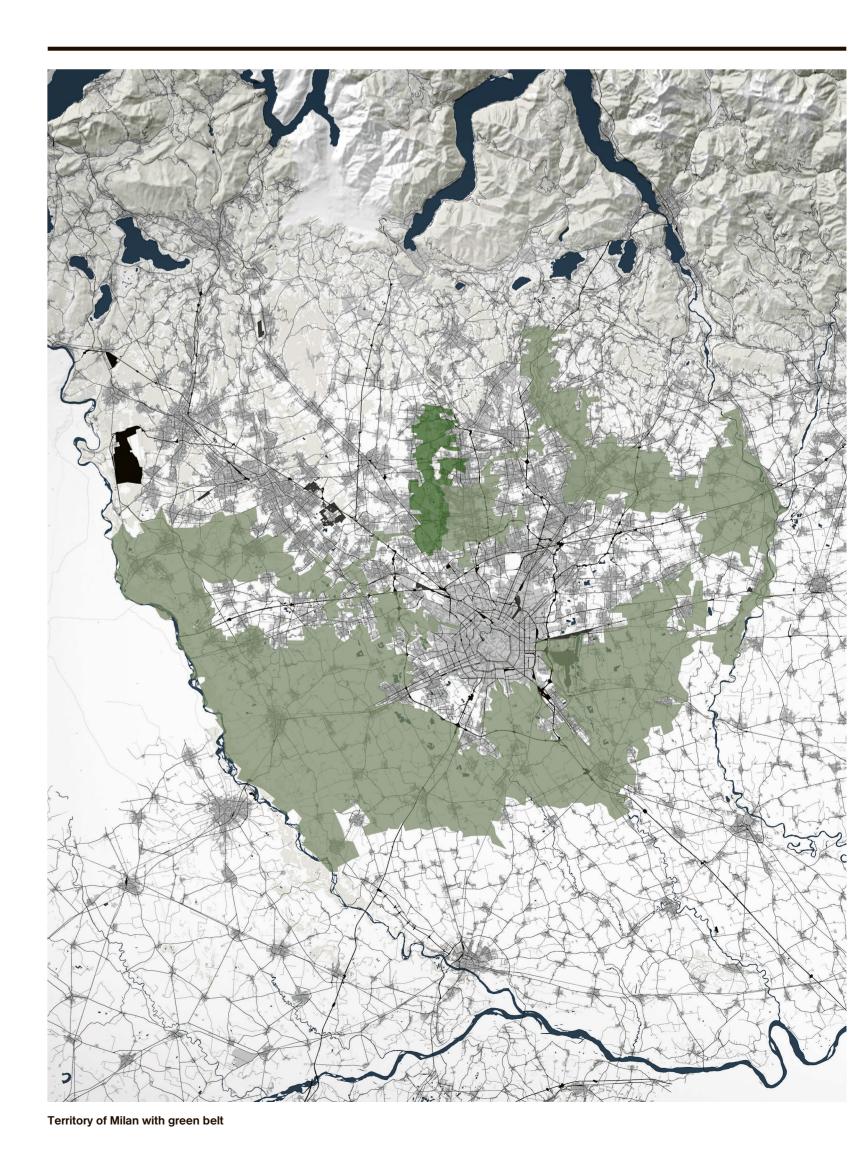
public park that can be used by everyone.





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





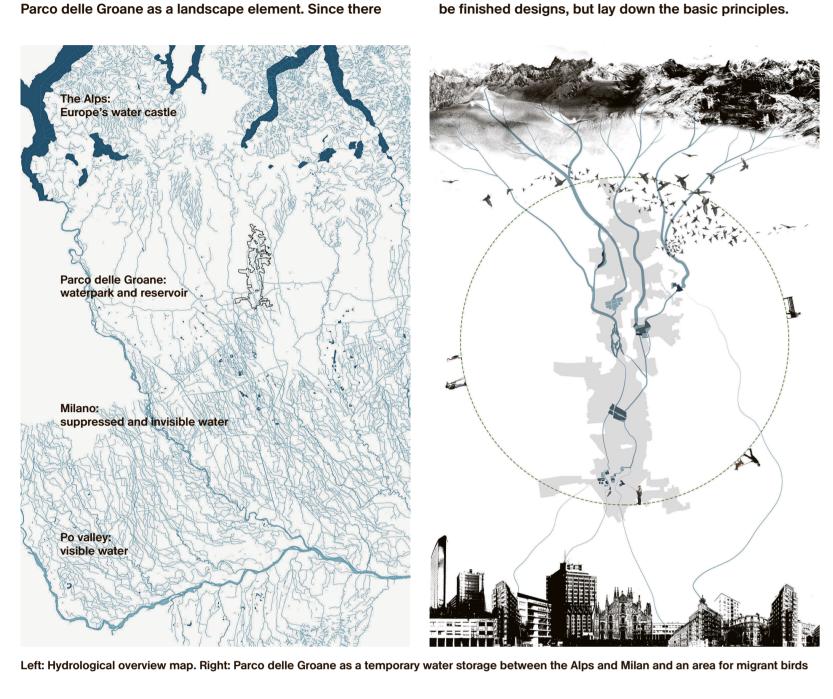
Perimeter of the Parco delle Groane with neighbouring communes

Aqua Groane

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

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



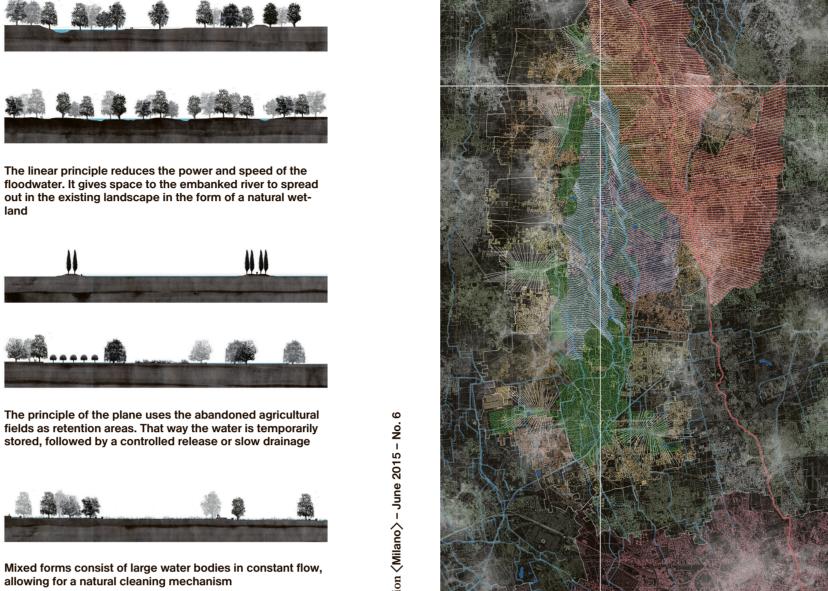
Lake / Commons dry





allowing for a natural cleaning mechanism





Hydrological overview map

Pluvia / Fluvia

behind a natural choreography.

The fragmented form of the Parco delle Groane is the re-

sult of a large push for residential areas to the north

because the loamy soil does not allow for drainage.

of Milan. There are often large flash-floods in the region

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

The floodwater problem to the north of Milan is

landscape. Rain and river become the driving force

dealt with by creating a topographical park



reservoirs: firstly, deep stormwater retention tanks are

heavy rainfall but can otherwise be used as recreation

to the park, which can accommodate a part of the

tural interventions with leisure activities makes for a

that switches between nature and technology.

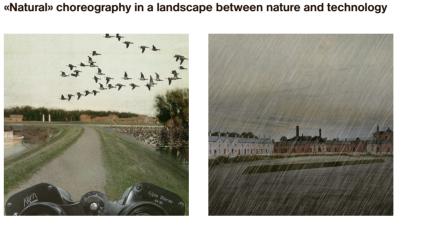
ter inscribe a «natural» choreography into a landscape

to be dug out near the residential area, which flood under

grounds. Secondly, lake landscapes are to be designed in-

overspill from regional rivers. The overlap of this infrastruc-

park landscape that changes with time. Rivers and rainwa-



experience of the park as a public urban space for Milan.

nature reserves, recreation areas and plots for agriculture.

For this reason, a simplified approach was taken that

Areas that have till now been wasteland have the

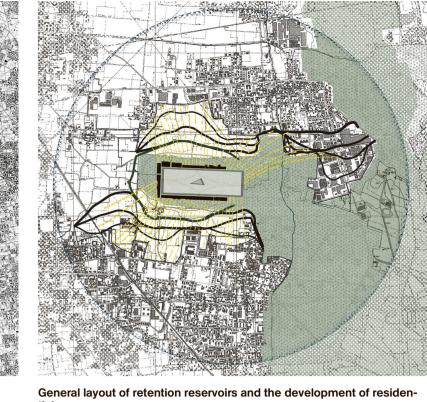
thereby providing the funding for two projects to

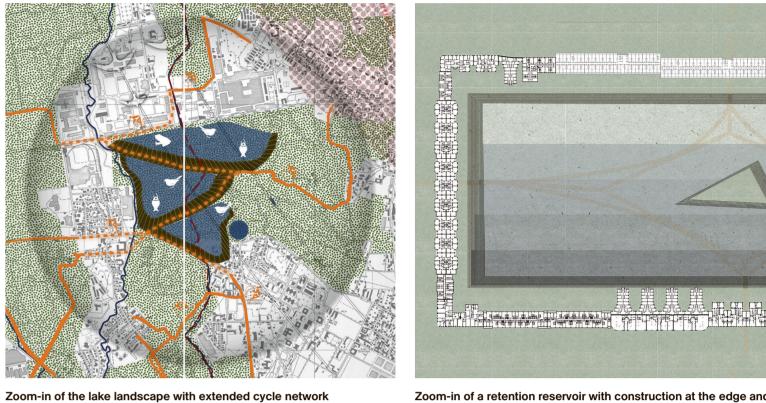
is infrastructural: a central avenue becomes the

divides the park into three landscape/ useage groups:

potential to become landscapes of industrial extraction,

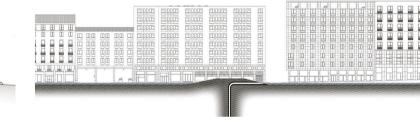
heighten interconnectivity. One is an app and the other





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



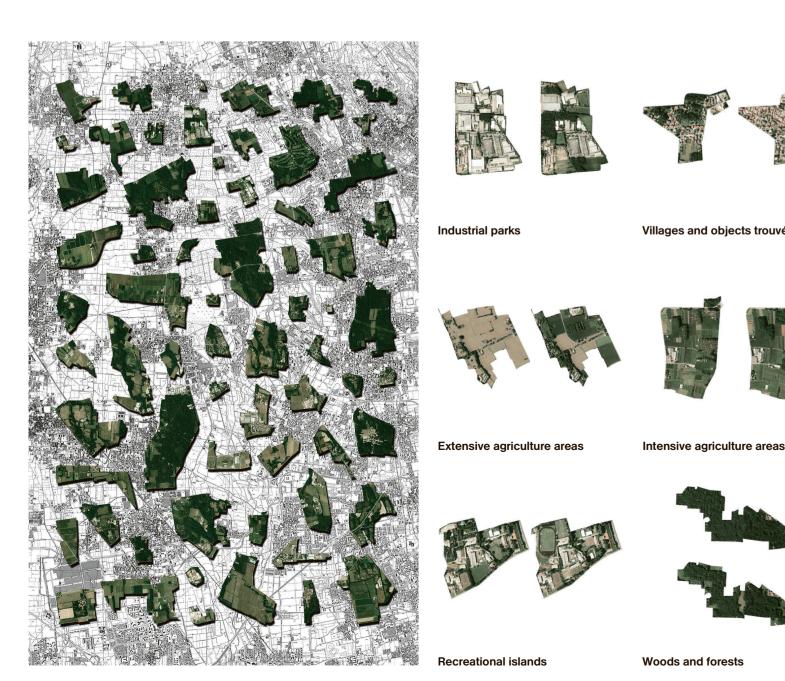


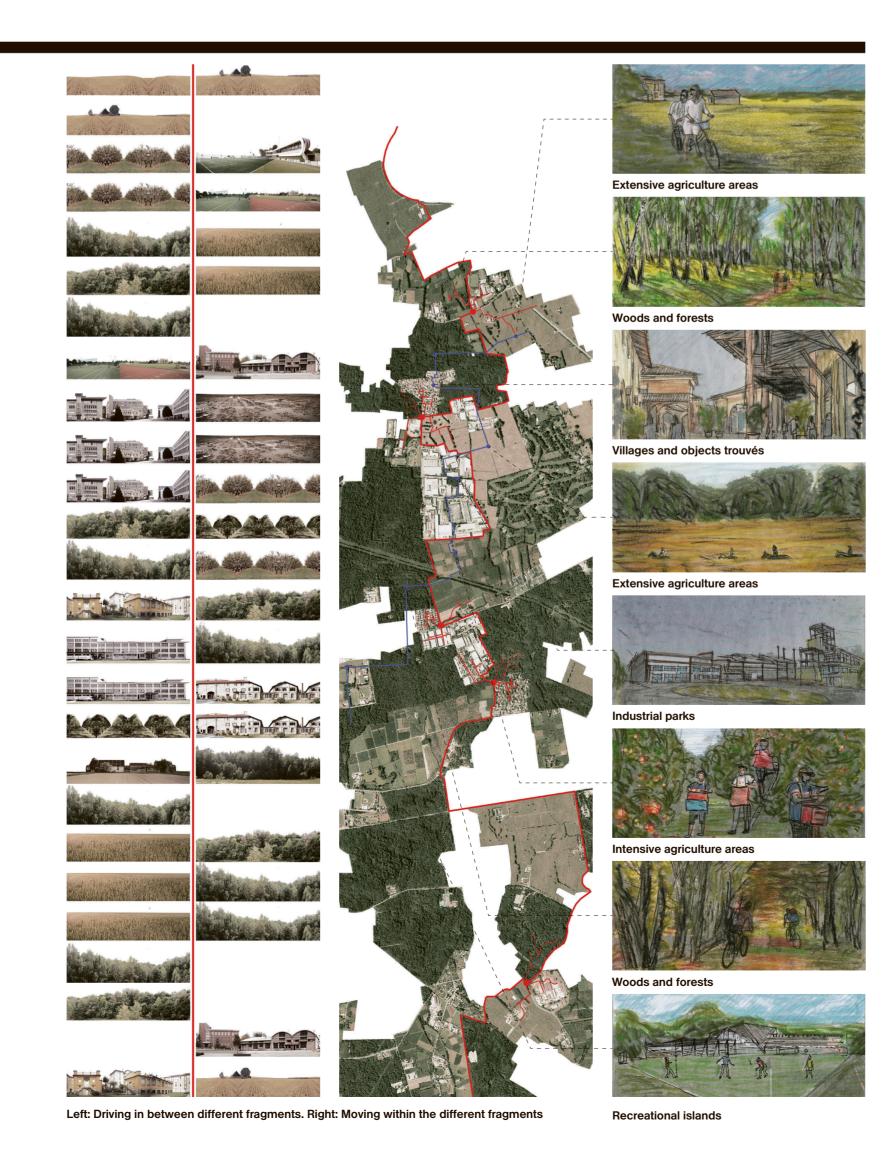
Parchi delle Groane

The park is intended as a mosaic of parks: a park formed by discontinuities and sharp fragments showing the fractures of a peripherical 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

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-together of these various fragments happens without formal bondages. On a practical level, we try to clarify and reinforce the identity of the individual fragments and their various frictional forces, without seeking to achieve an overall harmony. The Parco delle Groane will look more like a mosaic of parks than like a coherent overall figure; its structure stresses the cutting presence of the Milanese periphery, rather than proposing an aesthetical and pleas-





Left: Masterplan showing water bodies. Right: Linear and planar methods of water retention as integrated park landscapes

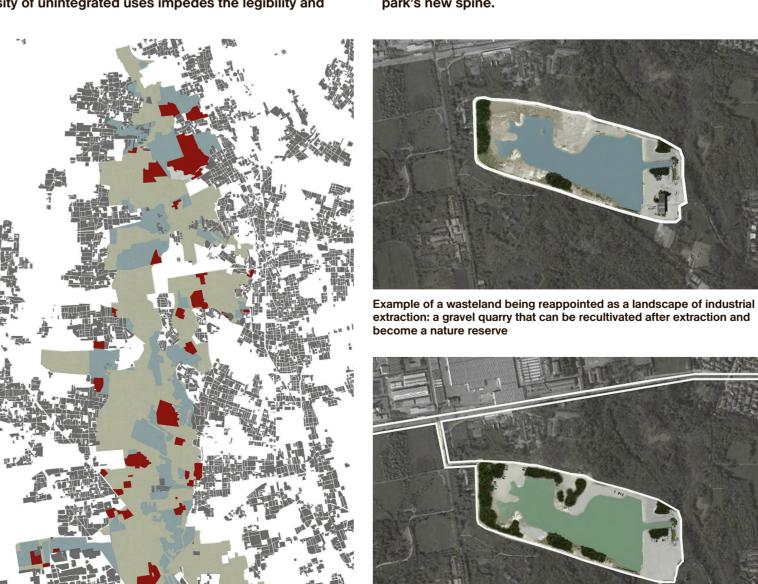
Milan's Urban Park

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

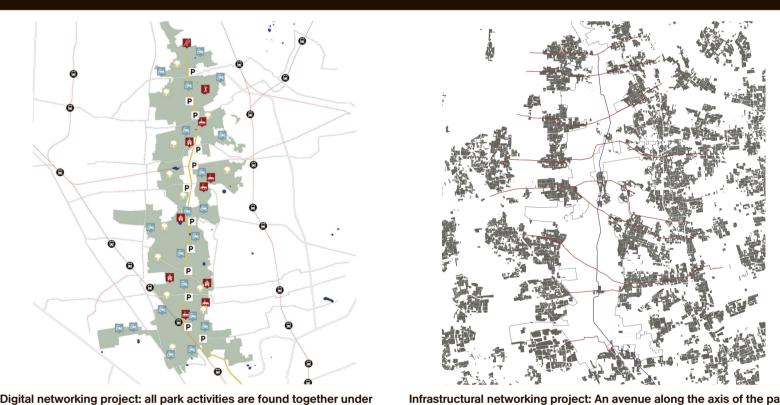
A new approach to the park makes categories according to landscape and/or usage groups: nature reserves (green), recreation areas (red) and

plots for agriculture (blue)









(blue) forms a new linear centre and joins with its surroundings through intersecting streets (red)

