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'Dancing to the Future'

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Editor

Jeroen de Vries

Main authors

Maria Beatrice Andreucci - Sapienza University of Rome

Meryem Atik - Akdeniz University

Oana Emilia Budau - University of Venice

Ellen Fetzer - HfWU Nürtingen-Geislingen

Maria Stella Lux - Politecnica di Milano

Adrian Noortman - Hogeschool Van Hall Larenstein

Deni Ruggeri - University of Maryland

Attila Tóth - Nitra Agricultural University

Roxana Maria Triboi - LE:NOTRE Institute

Jeroen de Vries - LE:NOTRE Institute

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Content

Preface	5
Regione Emilia-Romagna	5
Municipality of Rimini	6
1. Introduction	8
1.1 Aim and process of the Forum	8
2. Outcome statement: Towards a Rimini Landscape Observatory	9
3. A local landscape observatory	14
3.1. The function and role of landscape observatories	14
3.2 An analysis of landscape observatories	14
3.3 Conclusions for a local landscape observatory	16
References	16
4. Main themes of the Forum	17
4.1 An Integrated Landscape Vision	17
4.1.1 The significance of a landscape approach for sustainable development	17
4.1.2. An integrated landscape approach in the framework of sustainability	18
4.1.3. The framework of Sustainable Development Goals	19
4.1.4 Vision and strategy	19
References	21
4.2 Landscape Democracy	23
4.2.1. Framing Landscape Democracy as rights and responsibilities	23
4.2.2. Landscape Democracy and SDGs	24
4.2.3. Rimini: a place with a clear vision for the future	25
4.2.4 The Landscape Democracy working group focus and purpose	26
4.2.5. Landscape Democracy working group: visualising social and environmental justice	28
4.2.6. Landscape Change: promoting an ethos of stewardship and accountability	29
4.2.7. Findings: A kaleidoscope of ambitions and perceptions for Rimini’s future landscape	30
4.2.8 Landscape Democracy activation through art	30
4.2.9. Landscape Democracy transformations from the inside-out.	35
4.2.10 Toward a new Landscape Democracy citizenry for Rimini and its landscape	38
References	39
4.3 Rural Change and Foodscapes	40
4.3.1. Outline of the theme	40
4.3.2. Study and planning area	41
4.3.3. Spatial Changes in the Regional Landscape	42
4.3.4. Policy Framework Related to Food Systems	44
4.3.5. Foodscapes and Sustainable Regional Development	45
4.3.6. Landscape Vision and Strategy for Foodscapes and Food Systems	45
References	49
4.4 Sustainable Tourism	50

4.4.1 The concept of sustainable tourism	50
4.4.2 Tourism in the Emilia-Romagna Region	51
4.4.3 Tourism policy framework	53
4.4.4. Bellaria Igea Marina Municipality	54
4.4.5 Characteristics of the tourism sector	58
4.4.5. General approach (Vision and Strategy)	60
4.4.6. References	60
4.5 Heritage and Identities	61
4.5.1 Outline of the theme	61
4.5.2 Study and planning area	62
4.5.3. History of the Colonie	63
4.5.4 Methodology	67
4.5. 5. Vision and strategy	69
4.5.6 References	71
4.6. Landscape Economy	72
4.6.1 Introduction to the Landscape Economy theme	72
4.6.2. Study area	73
4.6.3. Exploring Landscape Economy Dimensions and Value Drivers	75
4.6.4 Positioning the Rimini Landscape Economy as a “force for good”	77
4.6.5 References	78
Acknowledgments	79
ANNEXES	80
Annex A. Background to the coast of Emilia-Romagna	81
Characteristic from Regional to Local	81
History Development of Land – Agri – Culture / Foodscapes	82
Territorial Dynamics and Landscape Change	83
References	85
Annex B. Policies and plans of Emilia-Romagna and Rimini	86
Annex C. Exhibition ‘Genius Loci’ at the Museo della Città in Rimini	92
Annex D. International student competition	95
Annex E. Posters of the Landscape Forum	98

Preface

The Emilia-Romagna coast, which extends from Po di Goro to Cattolica, is one of the most well-known coastal attractions in the northern Adriatic Sea in Italy. The coastal area of Emilia-Romagna is characterised by increasing tendencies for densification in existing built-up areas and high levels of development pressure on still open/unbuilt land. This presents threats to the remaining green areas and fragments of semi-natural landscape. At the same time, climate change is putting more pressure, particularly on urban and coastal areas. Summer temperatures are rising, and the area is experiencing longer periods of drought and water shortage. Addressing the wicked problems of our time requires extensive collaboration and a shared commitment of public authorities, academia and civil society to envision democratic landscape transformations across scales and geographies. During the Forum, teams of researchers, teachers, students, and professionals explored with the help of local experts and community members how to promote the sustainable development of this coastal area.

Regione Emilia-Romagna

The Emilia-Romagna Region, together with the Municipality of Rimini and the LE:NOTRE Institute, strongly wanted this event as an important moment to bring attention to the regional landscape. The landscape, in fact, is a theme that the Emilia-Romagna Region was the first in Italy to deeply develop with the adoption of the **Regional Landscape Plan** on 29 June 1989 and subsequent approval on 28 January 1993. This plan, currently under review with the collaboration of the Ministry of Culture, has the task of submitting the territory to specific regulations for use and enhancement, adapting to the principles and safeguards codified by the **Code of Cultural Heritage and Landscape** (Legislative Decree no. 42/2004 and subsequent amendments) and entrusts the Region and local administrations with the protection of the cultural identity and physical integrity of the entire regional territory, also responding to the more general objective of sustainability, favouring and ensuring integration the environmental and landscape dimension in urban and territorial planning. The concept of landscape expressed in the original document is now given a broader and more innovative meaning, thanks also to the assimilation in the document of the concepts of the **European Landscape Convention** (Florence 20th of October 2000).

The regional territory consists of a very varied landscape, from the Apennine Mountains to the Adriatic coast, passing through the Po Valley, one of the main places of food production in Europe. But it is also a landscape of natural parks that protect precious places from a naturalistic point of view, offering them to the attention and care of citizens, and of widespread cultural heritage (churches, villas, theatres, castles, gardens, villages, marine colonies) that they enrich the quality of the places and tell the stories that these same places have lived.

The organization's interest towards the Rimini area was deemed appropriate because it is here that, with the Romans, the landscape following the end of the last ice age undergoes the first radical changes, some of which are still evident today. In 268 BC the colony of Ariminum (Rimini) was founded as a bridgehead of the Roman expansion that had already reached the northern Adriatic coasts for some years, bringing with it substantial changes in the organization of the territory, first of all the regular order of the Roman Centuriation. Furthermore, the landscape of Rimini is, today, a complex place where nature, economy, tourism, cultural enhancement, agriculture are in very close and reciprocal relationships. The coast with its colonies and the tourism industry, the plain with quality agricultural productions and the hills with fortresses and castles are elements that allow for rich reflections and new ideas for studies and projects. In particular, the marine colonies represent a unique landscape, expression of a past that organized the territory on the basis of social needs different from today and

that now are bearers of historical-cultural values that must weave a dialogue with environmental emergencies and cultural needs.

The Region thanks LE:NOTRE Institute for choosing Rimini and the Regione Emilia-Romagna for its annual Landscape Forum. This event puts into practice what the **Council of Europe Framework Convention on the value of cultural heritage for society** (CETS no. 199) 27th of October 2005, **Faro Convention**, indicates for the knowledge and enhancement of cultural heritage: 1) develop synergies of skills between public and private actors in order to enhance the cultural heritage of the territory using all the patrimonial characteristics of the cultural environment, 2) promote an integrated approach to policies regarding cultural, biological, geological and landscape diversity aim to obtain a balance between these elements and 3) encourage interdisciplinary research on cultural heritage, heritage communities, the environment and their correlation. The results of this experience are the proof that demonstrates how much the activities, the surveys, the conferences, the lectures, the exhibitions of these five days have stimulated new territorial analyses and original landscape projects capable of enhancing and spreading the importance that the landscape has from an economic, social, cultural and environmental point of view.

Fabio Falleni

Head of Landscape and Nature Promotion Office

Cultural Heritage Sector – Emilia-Romagna Region

Municipality of Rimini

On behalf of the Municipality of Rimini, I would like to welcome everyone to share the results of the LE:NOTRE 2022 Landscape Forum, which has been held in Rimini from April 26-30 this year. We are also very happy to see so many students, researchers, scholars, professionals and stakeholders from all landscape-related disciplines participating from different countries to this event, where Rimini and its territory's landscape has been taken as a case study, to compare, discuss and generate ideas, knowledge and projects.

The international student competition has been a first step in this process and has generated fascinating projects by young planning and design talents teams from many countries. Green corridors, forestscapes, electric city, eco-journey are just some of the innovative proposals which deserve great attention by our city in order to face current and future challenges in a sustainable way.

I would like to tell you something about Rimini taking the title 'Rimini - Dancing to the future' as the perfect starting point. An astrological coincidence connects Rimini with the sign of the Cancer that may identify its contradictory identity: whilst being provincial it also has a world view which makes it attractive to a wider range of cultures and people, especially due to its melting pot nature.

From its foundation 2285 years ago, Rimini has changed its face many times. Roman Ariminum, feud of the Malatesta Family, therapeutic and tourist centre with the first bathing establishment of the XIX century; destroyed during the Second World War and then reborn as mass tourism capital and icon of a particular way of living and opening up to human relations; birth place and home of Federico Fellini.

We must certainly continue on this trajectory. However, we must ensure that it becomes a driving force for contributions, investments and ideas from the whole community.

People, businesses, social enterprises, schools and professions need even more trust, support, freedom and participation. With a common future planning, public and private together.

The Faro Convention - the Council of Europe's framework convention on the value of cultural heritage, which also Italy has ratified - has shown us a way that has never before become so dramatically topical: to affirm the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society, in sustainable development processes and in the promotion of cultural diversity.

History has given to Rimini and its territory the role of "exchanger", a meeting point of arrivals and departures, as represented by the two symbolic monuments of the city: the Tiberius Bridge, from which the Via Emilia starts, and the 'Arch of Augustus, where the Via Flaminia ends. Rimini being a land of encounter and relationships, it is the core of the strategic vision which has redefined the city's development trajectories.

The city's strategic planning, starting from the enhancement of Rimini's cultural, historical and social identity, has indeed restored centrality to the historical, artistic and environmental wealth of the city, proposing it as a key lever for development, giving back to the community cultural spaces that have not been used for decades and replacing the driving mechanisms of real estate income with a network of urban cultural containers of international importance.

We need "long thoughts" that bring together knowledge, create connections between the notum that is in our monuments, in our history and the novum that we are asked to invent. In other words, comparing and combining the lessons and the experiences we have gained up to now with the future we demand.

Let's work together to find the best way forward for our citizens, society, the environment and the economy.

Anna Montini

Assessore for Ecological Transition and Blue Economy

Municipality of Rimini

1. Introduction

1.1 Aim and process of the Forum

The 10th LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum was hosted by the Regione Emilia-Romagna and the municipality of Rimini. The Forum addressed the nexus of climate change, sustainable development, heritage and ecological conservation, foodscapes, and landscape infrastructure. The study area was the complex agglomeration of the Romagna coastline, a conurbation stretching from Riccione to the South to Ravenna, in the north, with a focus on the stretch between Rimini and Cesenatico.

The beautiful coastline of Emilia-Romagna is one of Italy's greatest environmental assets, which is facing a wide range of challenges, from landscape fragmentation to sea-level rise and coastal protection, from heritage conservation, urban redevelopment, reinforcement of green infrastructure to urban sprawl. It has to deal with densification, the contrast of gentrification and landscape democracy. It needs to balance the global, regional and local processes of production and consumption. The landscape along the coast of Emilia-Romagna offers a window into the type of transformations required for coastal regions across Europe to balance ecological, socio-cultural, economic, and environmental justice factors in the face of increased uncertainties.

The Forum builds upon the results of the International Student Competition "Dancing to the Future" in which students developed concepts, visions and spatial plans for addressing the challenges of the coastal landscape in Rimini (Annex D). Forum participants and students provided posters with reference studies (Annex E).

Emilia-Romagna has a low and sandy eastern coastline, which extends for about 130 km between Cattolica to the south and the mouth of the river Po di Goro to the north. It is characterised by long stretches of intense urbanisation, with a concentration in the southern sector, and by more limited natural areas, such as a part of the Po Delta Park, in the northern sector. During the twentieth century, this coastal system underwent profound anthropogenic transformations that led to the disappearance of most of the original landscape-environmental characteristics: the dunes were largely levelled, several valley areas reclaimed, and the wooded and uncultivated areas were heavily reduced in size.

Transdisciplinary landscape transformations for wicked problems

Addressing the wicked problems of our time requires extensive collaboration across paradigms, epistemologies, and knowledge, and a shared commitment to bridge the gap between academia and civil society to envision democratic landscape transformations across scales and geographies. During the Forum, six teams of researchers, teachers, students, and professionals explored with the help of local experts and community members how to promote the sustainable development of this coastal area.

The Regione Emilia-Romagna has a well-defined policy toward sustainability and democracy, addressing issues of climate change, rural development, mobility, and sustainability. The LE:NOTRE Forum aims to support systemic, integrated, and holistic approaches to landscape transformation by elaborating planning and design proposals for the coastal landscape of Emilia-Romagna and its hinterland.

This report presents the outcome statement of the Forum, with more detailed information on the thematic approaches.

2. Outcome statement: Towards a Rimini Landscape Observatory

The coastal area of Emilia-Romagna is characterised by increasing tendencies for densification in existing built-up areas and high levels of development pressure on still open/unbuilt land. This presents threats to the remaining green areas and fragments of semi-natural landscape. At the same time, climate change is putting more pressure, particularly on urban and coastal areas. Summer temperatures are rising, and the area is experiencing longer periods of drought and water shortage. In the recent past, the Rimini landscape has been perceived as mundane or of low value. Today, the city is rediscovering the potential and beauty of its urban and coastal landscape.

The 2000 European Landscape Convention (ELC) highlighted the importance of protecting, planning and managing the urban and peri-urban landscape. These landscape elements provide the backbone for sustainable development, based on a potentially effective green infrastructure network with multiple benefits to society, economy and the environment.

The Regione Emilia-Romagna and the Municipality of Rimini are active in developing strategies, projects and plans for the sustainable development of the coastal area, based on participatory processes involving stakeholders, authorities, and residents. Participation and collective action is necessary to the sustainability and future resilience of this unique landscape and it entails, as the [ELC reminds us, rights and responsibilities](#) for all levels of society.

Key messages for dancing to the future

Against this background, the 2022 LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum has been considering the potentials of the coastal landscape resources and makes the following recommendations.

1. Develop an integrated landscape approach (§ 4.1)

In order to ensure long-term growth, the use of natural systems in which the tourist industry, local businesses, local farmers, multinationals and other stakeholders operate needs to become fully sustainable while stopping exploitation. Competing claims from a large variety of stakeholders converge on a landscape level. When individually addressed, the approaches taken to reach these goals could have negative trade-offs, by conflicts of interest. The idea of landscape approaches is to find cross-sectoral solutions as this will lead to synergies that are better than the sum of each sector-specific solution (Horn, van der & Meijer 2015).

The landscape approach aims to contribute to sustainable development by supporting economic and social development combined with local biodiversity conservation, in which landscape resilience is regarded as a foundation for sustainable growth. A key element of present-day landscape approaches is the involvement of participants in decision-making on how we use the landscape. By involving participants from all concerned interest groups and developing approaches on how to include those who may not be represented or organised as groups, changes can be started that promote common benefits. By a multi-level governance approach that integrates the objectives of different participants into landscape quality objectives a solution may be found for competing claims on a landscape level.



Figure 1. An integrated landscape approach

An integrated landscape vision for Rimini builds upon its identity and (agri)cultural heritage. Tourism needs to be transformed in a way where landscape does not start and end with the coastline and serves as an interface of rights and responsibilities. We envision a landscape for Rimini that will be inclusive, accessible, interconnected, multifunctional and open to changes.

2. Building the Rimini Landscape Observatory (§ 3.3)

Establishing a Rimini Landscape Laboratory would provide an innovative platform for locals and tourists to communicate, reflect and experience the Rimini landscape. Locals, especially those with the greatest need (differently-abled, unheard, marginalised), should be offered more accessible and more diffused access to their environment and its ecology to derive delight, health, and spiritual nourishment from it. Tourists should be bound to a covenant of respect, protection, and care as if the landscape of Rimini were their own and asked to continue to exercise this responsibility once they return home, in a true spirit of landscape democracy. The landscape observatory brings different dimensions of local landscape knowledge together: experts, residents and visitors. This creates an innovative framework for knowledge creation and a shared understanding of the values and challenges of Rimini’s landscape. If accompanied by a process of collaboration and co-creation, the landscape observatory can simulate not only innovative business models that enhance landscape values. It can also strengthen the local democratic culture and activate community assets for sustainability.

The Rimini Landscape Observatory

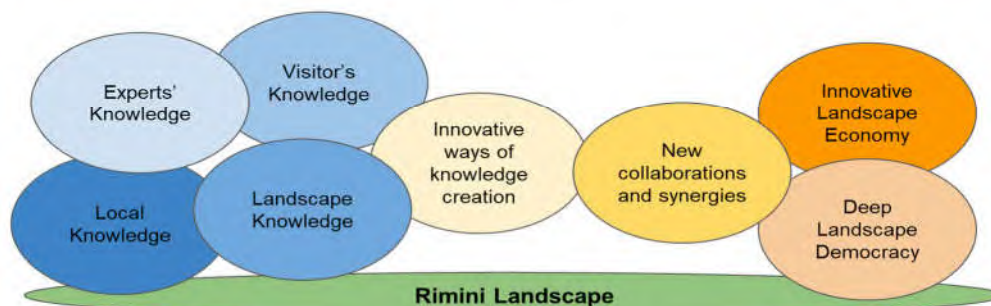


Figure 2. Aspects of the Landscape Observatory

Developing the Landscape Observatory in a bottom-up approach will allow any citizen to participate in the formulation of landscape quality objectives. This could be the heart of a continuous visioning and strategy process on the Rimini Landscape.

3. Connecting landscape and democracy (§ 4.2)

This landscape beauty of Rimini should not be made available to just anyone as a cheap commodity to be consumed. All who use, recreate, live, and are inspired by the beauty of Rimini and its coastal area should recognize that this beauty is a right and a responsibility. At the very lowest level of engagement, tourists should be encouraged to protect its most fragile landscapes and the communities these landscapes support in deeper and more meaningful ways, by treading light as they explore the landscape. They also should learn to appreciate and prefer quality of experience over quantity, and fair price payment over low prices, that encourage reliance on cheap products and demean the landscape and those who dwell in it.

Future policies and investment of resources should be oriented toward slower and more sustainable tourism. This will require saying no to 'hit and run' or "mordi e fuggi" forms of engaging with the landscape or offering highly immersive and respectful forms of interaction that elevate the place, its people, and their identities. This also means giving more agency (and more significant funds) to those who help this landscape thrive, from the non-human members of the ecosystem that help it remain a prosperous and ecologically productive armature for future adaptation to the locals who are true ambassadors and stewards of its long-term resilience. To engage participation in plans and projects new ways of communication are called for to bring forward those voices which are generally not heard in these processes: by using photo voicing, art installations and performances, and other interactive tools of communication for making challenges, dreams, goals visible. A local landscape observatory could offer a platform for these voices, stories and images that represent them.

4. Rural change and Foodscapes (§ 4.3)

Emilia-Romagna is one the most productive landscapes of Italy. A food strategy for the coastal area could be developed with quantitative and qualitative objectives for re-territorialisation of the food system. Elements of this food strategy can be: (1) strengthening the connection between local producers and local consumers by creating short chain networks, for which some of the former colonie can have a function as a food hub. (2) Transforming current agriculture along nature reserves, nature development zones and landscape development areas into multifunctional, inclusive, and organic farms to help to protect and develop green infrastructure corridors. (3) Giving people the opportunity to grow their own food in the (peri) urban landscape for their physical and mental well-being.

Installing a Food Council with participants of various sectors can support the implementation of the food strategy and help to integrate the goals for food system resilience into the Rimini Landscape Observatory.

5. Sustainable Tourism (§ 4.4)

A shift is needed from mass beach tourism to a more diverse range of recreational and touristic activities with a year-round offer of activities. The region and municipalities are developing coastal parks to enhance landscape quality and attractiveness of the coast and branding Rimini as a cultural city. Key messages for sustainable tourism are: (1) to promote and make accessible local authenticity, not only the highlights but also other elements that contribute to the cultural and landscape value such as the arena in Rimini, the areas in and around the former holiday colonie, and historic sites. Connecting these sites and places by green infrastructure and recreational routes helps to diversify the landscape. (2) Make a differentiation of touristic offer in combination with green and cultural narratives about Panzini, the function of the colonie, the Romans, Saracens, green infrastructure (3) improving accessibility by expanding the use of green networks, cycle routes, overcoming barriers of infrastructure and opening up closed areas (such as the fenced in colonie).

The Landscape Observatory can periodically assess the impacts of tourism on landscape and people's life, promote public involvement, communicate findings to the decision-makers and to the public, and play a critical role on the education for landscape.

6. Heritage and identity of the former *colonie* (§ 4.5)

The *colonie* (the former holiday colonies) and their surroundings represent unique, important and interconnected coastal heritage landscapes of Italy. The landscapes of the *colonie* should be cherished and protected against unregulated urban development. The existence of these heritage landscapes should be seen as an opportunity for community building, ecological development and enhancement of landscape quality and not as a problem. Development of the *colonie* should always be approached in relation to the wider landscape context.

The Landscape Observatory can have an important role in mapping existing ecological and landscape qualities as well as societal wishes and needs, related to the heritage landscapes of the *colonie*. Carefully mapping the tangible and intangible landscape of the *colonie* is essential for a better understanding of these landscapes and as a foundation for vision building for future development.

7. Landscape Economy (§ 4.6)

For sustainable development it is essential to link core assets and values with an integrated framework of key topics and proposals by: (1) Transforming existing urban fabrics, through regenerative plans leveraging on diversity, multifunctionality and the local (circular) economy. (2) Mobilising Rimini's social and economic capitals through shared agile and flexible strategies based on community involvement ('activation') for the implementation, as well as on a long-term stewardship (3) Place-making, to reinforce Rimini's 'unique-selling-proposition', its values and local characters (4) Planning and design for flexibility, to face climate change and social ecological challenges through adaptive environments, communities, and economies, and (5) Increasing biodiversity through multifunctional green-blue infrastructure, fostering a green economy.

The transformation of the coastal landscape for a sustainable future will require innovative partnerships between sectors, political entities, societal groups and disciplines. As a consequence, landscape strategies need to be communicated to as many societal groups as possible by means of an integrated approach combined with an educational strategy.

The **landscape observatory** could co-ordinate the collaborative formulating and monitoring of landscape quality objectives related to a multifunctional and interconnected green infrastructure system, integrating all above-mentioned principles.

Context of this document

This outcome statement summarises the main findings of the 11th LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum 'Dancing to the Future' held in Rimini from April 26 – 30, 2012. The forum was organised by the Regione Emilia-Romagna, the city of Rimini in cooperation with the LE:NOTRE Institute.

The ideas presented here may support local and regional stakeholders in shaping more sustainable landscape development processes. The forum outcome statement may also inspire democratic landscape transformation in other coastal areas in Europe and beyond.

Relevant supranational policy documents and agreements supporting a sustainable future of the coastal landscape, all valid or in force in Italy, include the following:

- Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (United Nations)
- New Urban Agenda (UN Habitat)
- New European Bauhaus
- Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (United Nations)
- European Landscape Convention (Council of Europe)
- Communication on Green Infrastructure (European Union)
- Water Framework Directive (European Union)
- European Floods Directive (European Union)
- Common Agricultural Policy (European Union)
- European Biodiversity Strategy (European Union)
- The European Green Deal (European Union)



Background of the Landscape Forum and the LE:NOTRE Institute

The LE:NOTRE institute has been established under the auspices of ECLAS, the European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools, as an umbrella organisation for interdisciplinary collaboration between education, research and innovative practice in the landscape field. The goal of the Institute is to develop and strengthen the links between landscape education, research and innovative practice, in the public, private and not for profit sectors. It aims to achieve this by furthering and facilitating communication, collaboration and cross-fertilisation of ideas on an interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral basis, to promote the wider and deeper understanding of the cultural, environmental, social and economic role of the landscape for the benefit and well-being of society as a whole.

The Forum is preceded by an international student competition, supported by a series of presentations, which generates ideas, concepts and possible planning and design solutions for the Forum landscape (Annex D).

What makes the LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum different from other European landscape events is the focus on dialogue, debate and discourse. It provides a unique opportunity to interact creatively with colleagues from a range of landscape disciplines in informal workshop and field visit settings. The aim is to create stimulating environment to promote the generation of new ideas and projects for teaching and research and to enhance cross fertilisation between theory and practice. To date, the Forum has been organised ten times: Antalya (2012), Rome (2013), Sarajevo (2014), Bucharest (2015), Paphos (2016), Freising (2017), Gozo (2018), Zagreb (2019), Bratislava (2020), Gdansk (2021), and Rimini (2022). An art exhibition on the Port Island in Gdansk is presented in Annex C.

LE:NOTRE Institute: <http://www.le-notre.org>

Landscape Forum Website: <http://www.forum.ln-institute.org>

International Student Competition with Lectures and Entries:

<https://forum.ln-institute.org/international-student-competition-2021-2022/>

For feedback on this document contact: office@ln-institute.org

4.5 Heritage and Identities



Panoramic view from the Colonia Novarese

Lead-authors: Maria Stella Lux, Adrian Noortman. **Co-authors:** Agnieszka Durejko, Dominika Golebiewska, Dorota Wojtowicz-Jankowska, Ingrid Schegk, Karl-Heinz Einberger, Mahashta Mahfouzi, Minghui Chen. **Local experts:** Silvia Capelli, Il Palloncino Rosso and the municipality of Rimini.

4.5.1 Outline of the theme

Italy is one of the richest and most complex countries in terms of cultural heritage. Out of the 1154 sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List, Italy has the largest number of sites (Patrimonio Mondiale | UNESCO Italia: 58 sites, including 5 natural sites and 8 cultural landscapes). In addition to the officially recognised heritage, the Italian territory offers an extraordinary diversity and complexity due to the historical stratifications that have occurred over the centuries.

The area of Rimini, which was chosen as a case study by the Working Group “Heritage & Identities” (WG-H&I), clearly shows this layering of different ages and cultures. Indeed, heritage along the coast consists of multiple layers of landscape patterns, buildings, infrastructure dating from the Roman times, the Malatesta period (between 1295 and 1500), the 19th century development of seaside and wellness resorts, to modern times the development of social housing, the holiday camps for children in the first half of the 20th century and modern extensions of towns. These different layers can be seen in the actual landscape, the street patterns of the cities, the historic and modernistic buildings. They are part of our collective memory, the stories of our communities, families and youth. These stories are important for the connection of local communities to place, for the sense of identity and belonging and even to rethink the touristic exploitation of the coast in a more sustainable way.

In the framework of the 11th LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum, this working group focused on a particular category of heritage, namely the system of abandoned holiday camps for children (in Italian: *colonie*, pl.) built in the early decades of the 20th century. Today these structures represent an important challenge as they offer the opportunity to reflect on relevant questions:

- How can modern heritage be redeveloped while offering benefits to the city and the community?
- How can the *Colonie* and the areas around them strengthen a sustainable landscape framework along the coast?
- Which functions can contribute to a sustainable development of the *colonie* and make them resilient to changes in conjuncture?

The Forum has been an opportunity to approach the topic in a landscape perspective, joining the expertise, backgrounds and points of view of many students, researchers and scholars from all Europe. As this was an intensive work of a short duration, the result of this forum is intended as an overview that complements experiences and considerations developed over time by local experts and actors.

The main outputs provided by the working group Heritage & Identities are:

- A concept for the development of the heritage of the Colonia and their landscape context that contribute to landscape quality and social inclusion.
- A vision and strategy of how the Colonia can be developed in an economically feasible, that is resilient to changes in conjuncture, in a way that also contributes to the collective history, identity of the region and links to the personal stories of the inhabitants and visitors.
- A set of objectives that can be used for guidance of spatial development of the Colonia and their surrounding landscape.

4.5.2 Study and planning area

The theme of the reuse of holiday camps and large abandoned tourist infrastructures concerns various places in Europe, but in particular those places that have been configured as summer locations since the end of the 19th century. The phenomenon of villeggiatura concerns various seaside or mountain locations, selected on the basis of their climatic and environmental characteristics, healthiness, but also ease of reaching the main urban centres. The case study of Rimini fully meets all the requirements: the Romagna coast has a wide stretch of sandy beach, easily exploitable for tourist infrastructures, and overlooks the Adriatic Sea, which is a calm sea accessible to all. Above all, Rimini is easily accessible from the entire Adriatic region, but also from the large cities of northern Italy and the production centres of the Po Valley. In the 11th LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum, the area investigated more in-depth by the WG-H&I is the southern part of the Rimini coast to the border with the municipality of Riccione.



Figure 39. The study area (Sources: LLF2022, WG-H&I)

Travelling along the coast from the centre of Rimini southwards, a progressive transformation of the character of the landscape is clearly perceived, moving from the densely built-up urban centre to the marginal fringes of the city, to an intermediate part between Rimini and Riccione (where many of the colonie examined are located) that represents an area with a decidedly more natural character and almost constitutes a green corridor connecting the coast and inland areas (Figure 39).

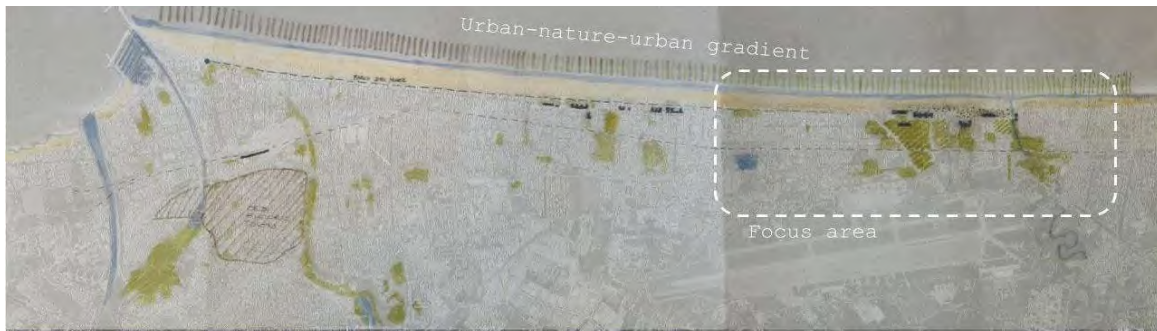


Figure 40. The urban-nature-urban gradient identified along the coast of Rimini and Riccione and the focus area (Sources: LLF2022, WG-H&I)

This last part was chosen as the focus area (Figure 40), as it is particularly interesting when reasoning on the reuse of soil and land. It comprises three important colonie (Bolognese, Murri, Novarese) and many other abandoned structures, whose huge dimensions make it difficult to create economically and socially sustainable projects. Moreover, there is a social problem of integration between this area as a suburb and the adjacent centres of Rimini and Riccione. These preliminary considerations link the research topic of this working group with the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in particular with SDG11 “Sustainable Cities and Communities”.

4.5.3. History of the Colonie



Figure 41. The Tourism Institute of Rimini in the former Colonia Forlivese, previously named Colonia degli Industriali di Bologna (Sources: left image - Il Palloncino Rosso; right image - Maria Stella Lux)

Following the coastline from the centre of Rimini southwards, in the direction of Riccione, many colonie from different historical periods are located along the way. The oldest buildings dating back to the first decades of the 20th century can still be found in the urban area of Rimini. Some of these have been given a new function and were reintegrated into the urban fabric, such as the former *Colonia Forlivese* transformed into a Tourism Institute in 1978 (Figure 41), while others are now abandoned.



Figure 42. Colonia Murri, Rimini (Source: Maria Stella Lux)

In this first group of “urban colonie”, the most monumental building is undoubtedly the *Colonia Murri* (Figure 42), also known as the Provincial Marine Hospice of Bologna. Built by the architect Giulio Marcovigi in 1911 and named after the famous pathologist Augusto Murri of Bologna University, it was used between the two World Wars to house and treat children suffering from tuberculosis, later simply housing poor children. The structure of the Murri colony represents the late application of a hospital architectural typology based on the medical theories of the late 19th century, according to which the different medical and surgical specialities, the rooms for administration and staff, the dormitories and the services had to be clearly separated. The complex consists of a central body and four two- to three-storey pavilions arranged perpendicularly to the beach. The orientation of the pavilions allows maximising the exposure to sunlight, increasing the benefit for the health of the hosted children. The pavilions are connected by shallow corridors characterised on both sides by sequences of arcades. These connecting structures, which today have no windows, represent an extraordinary opportunity to restore permeability between the city and the seafront. The building is made of load-bearing masonry, but recent consolidation works have included the construction of concrete anti-seismic reinforcements and the remaking of the roof. Currently the structure is completely neglected and abandoned. The surrounding area is closed by a high fence which represents a strong division with the city, but at the same time protects a space for wild vegetation to grow freely.

Continuing along the coast, on the border between the municipalities of Rimini and Riccione, there is another area densely dotted with ‘colonia’ buildings. Here most colonie are in a state of abandonment and the overall character of the area is deeply different. The dense urbanised fabric gives way to an area of undecided character, barely urbanised, with a decidedly prevailing natural component but nevertheless with several infrastructural elements that constitute strong divisions in the landscape. The *colonie* in this area date mainly from the years of Fascism.



Figure 43. Colonia Bolognese, Rimini (Source: FAI - Fondo Ambiente Italiano)

The *Colonia Bolognese* (full name: Colonia del Fascio Bolognese) was designed by the Italian engineer Ildebrando Tabarroni between 1931 and 1932, repeating the pavilion model used twenty years earlier for the colonia Murri. The use of a largely outdated architectural language is made even more evident by a direct comparison with the colonia Novarese, situated nearby. It is a monumental building with a built surface of 4.232 square metres and a surrounding green area of 18.348 m². The complex consists of four pavilions arranged perpendicular to the beach, which housed the dormitories and refectories in the basement, and three smaller buildings used as offices, services and staff rooms. The pavilions are crossed by a connecting corridor 169 metres long, which allows access from each pavilion to the outside areas. The late nineteenth-century inspired layout corresponds to the treatment of the façades, still marked by eclectic elements referring to the Bolognese tradition, with string courses, decorative cornices in terracotta underlining the openings and pictorial decorations in the crowning strip of the service buildings. The façades are clad in brick and are characterised by the alternation of rectangular openings on the first floor, ribbed on the second floor and twin on the short sides of the dormitories, while the corridor is pierced on both sides by a double row of arches, separated by pilasters on the upper floor. The structure is currently owned by a private real estate company, although attempts are being made to sell it at auction. In recent years, there have been several proposals for new functions and ideas for reuse. In addition, the Association Il Palloncino Rosso has promoted a temporary reuse experience for the summer period, which was very successful although short-lived. The temporary reuse involved around 10,000 people in a series of concerts, workshops and other activities and raised political and media attention to the unexpressed potential of these places.



Figure 44. Colonia Novarese, Rimini (Source: Spazi Indecisi - Lorenzo Mini 2014)

Not far from the Colonia Bolognese, there is another building, the *Colonia Novarese* (Figure 44) from the same years but radically different. The colonia of the Fascist Federation of Novara was built between 1933 and 1934, designed by engineer Peverelli. The building is an example of a single-block heliotherapy colony. The elongated volume develops horizontally, parallel to the beach, and is defined at the two sides by rounded heads, recalling in plan and elevations, the shape of a ship. The formal reference is that of futurism and Italian avant-garde movement. The two symmetrical, four-storey wings, raised by another floor with a terraced roof, housed the dormitories and refectories, while the services occupied the central part of the building and the basement, where a small theatre was also built. The continuous bands of windows and the large open-plan rooms, crossed by two rows of pillars and without internal partitions, make the most of the possibilities of the reinforced concrete structure to allow maximum air circulation and natural light. The building is currently owned by Regione Emilia-Romagna and has been abandoned for years. The local association Spazi Indecisi is active in pointing out the interest of the building and in engaging local people to push for its reuse.

Nearby, just after the border of Riccione municipality, there is the Colonia Amos Maramotti, also known as *Colonia Reggiana* (Figure 45). It was built in 1934, in just three months, to a design by engineer Costantini. It consists of three buildings, arranged diagonally with respect to the coastline, so that the main elevations face east and west. The two pavilions used as dormitories have large horizontal windows corresponding to the large dormitories, with balconies facing the sea, while the service rooms, located on the short sides, have circular windows in a naval style. The Reggiana's architecture is given a strictly functional interpretation, which makes an extreme simplification and reduction of rationalist compositional elements. Built of anti-seismic reinforced concrete, the building's plan allows it to be enlarged by simply adding new parts of the building without upsetting the overall design. This colony is located right on the beach and in one of the few remaining areas with natural sand dunes that host protected bird species.



Figure 45 - Colonia Reggiana, Riccione (Source: Maria Stella Lux)

In addition to the coastal strip, also the inland strip, separated from the coast by a major road, is full of mostly abandoned former colonies. The biggest is probably the Colonia Dalmine. It was one of the most important buildings that have marked the history of Riccione (Figure 46). The Dalmine Company (now Tenaris) was a steel industry founded in the early twentieth century in Milan, also active in the promotion of social welfare initiatives. The company has always invested in this coastal area, starting with the construction in 1936 of the colonia marina in Riccione. The building was designed by the architect Giovanni Greppi. The inauguration was a huge event, strongly emphasised by regime propaganda because of the presence of the Duce himself. In 1940, like other holiday camps, it was temporarily converted into a military hospital. At the end of the Second World War, the colony intensively resumed its activities and it had to be further enlarged in order to accommodate an increasing number of children. Subsequently, from the 1960s, the advent of mass tourism and the economic boom, together with a considerable demographic drop, led to the closure of the colonia. In the 1980s, it was transformed into a conference hotel and then abandoned again. Two of the three service rooms were demolished and replaced by a discotheque, also closed, while the other was converted into a private medical facility.



Figure 46. Colonia Dalmine, Riccione (Source: Fiorenza Giometti)

In addition to the specific history of each colony, the on-field visit, the discussion with experts and the dialogue with the local population made it possible to understand the complexity and multiplicity of levels of interpretation of these buildings. The connection of many of the buildings with fascist propaganda certainly makes this architectural legacy heavier and more unpleasant. Moreover, the large dimensions have severely complicated the processes of sale and reuse, causing in many cases the bankruptcy of private actors who have embarked on the enterprise. If the mass tourism of the 1970s-1990s could find interest in these huge structures, the new tourism of recent decades has more than anything else struggled to find proposals compatible with these buildings. At the same time, tourism is not the only option and, as underlined by the activities of local associations, the first users should be the local citizens. The younger generation, however, has never seen these buildings in function and is basically used to considering them inactive and abandoned.

4.5.4 Methodology

The methodological approach adopted by WG-H&I is based on the framework for geospatial design theorised by Carl Steinitz over a period of thirty years, from the first version in 1995 that referred to landscape planning to the updated version of 2012. The method is based on the use of six models (Representation - Process - Evaluation - Change - Impact - Decision Models) to understand, describe and design the complexity of landscape and spatial systems. The original method involves reiterating the six questions three times with different levels of detail (Figure 47). In the 11th LLF2022, Steinitz's method was adopted as a flexible framework and each question was addressed only once.

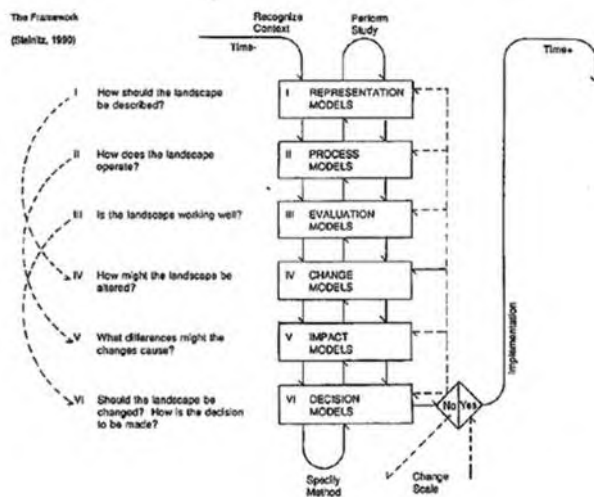


Figure 47 - Steinitz Framework for geospatial design (Source: Carl Steinitz, 1990)

The different steps were also associated with different experiences and external inputs. The first two questions were addressed with the contribution of two local experts, namely Silvia Capelli, architect of the association Il Palloncino Rosso, and Fabio Falleni, representative of the Emilia-Romagna region. The third and fourth models were associated with on-field exploration, which in turn was structured into four main aspects: physical landscape, social landscape, sensory landscape and the relationship of the colonie with the context. Finally, the last two steps were developed through the reporting of the experiences gathered up to that point and through collective discussion.

Going further into the details of the central phase, i.e. the on-field exploration carried out in the focus area, it is important to highlight that the four lines of investigation developed in parallel returned complementary and consistent results; the analysis of the physical, sensory, social landscape and the relations of the colonia with the context.

The analysis of the *physical landscape* highlighted the naturalistic and environmental interest of the area in which uncultivated and wild areas abound, but at the same time found extreme physical fragmentation of the landscape due to heavy infrastructure, differences in land use and the abundant presence of fences (Figure 48).



Figure 48. The physical landscape: barriers in the focus area (Source: LLF2022, WG-H&I)

The analysis of the *sensory landscape* confirmed the impact of the infrastructure especially with regard to noise pollution and also traced the oscillation of sensations when travelling along the coast, highlighting strengths and weaknesses (Figure 49).



Figure 49. The sensory landscape: mood fluctuations along the coast (Source: LLF2022, WG-H&I)

The analysis of the *social landscape* mapped through 7 interviews with randomly selected local people (individuals and small groups that were encountered on-site) the sensations most commonly associated with the theme of abandoned colonie and related issues/actions (Figure 50).



Figure 50. The social landscape: feelings (left side) and related topics (right side) reported by seven interviewed people (Source: LLF2022, WG-H&I)

The analysis of the *relations between the colonie and the context* once again underlined the lack of integration due above all to anthropic barriers (Figure 51).



Figure 51 Relations: view from the terrace of Colonia Novarese (Source: Ingrid SCHEGK)

4.5. 5. Vision and strategy

In conclusion, a general strategy was developed for the enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage linked to the colony system along the Rimini coastline.

All the previous considerations and the results of the different analysis were summarised in a SWOT analysis (Figure 52), which was the base for the definition of the overall vision and future development strategy for the area.

<p>STRENGTHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many unbuilt green spaces - Colonie are landmarks - Views to the hinterland/hills - River Marano with natural banks - Historic relation Colonie with landscape (beach and green areas) - Airport blocks city development - Situation at distance from city centre - Open public beach area without commerce. - Recreational opportunities for neighbours 	<p>WEAKNESSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many undefined areas - No coherent routing structure - Main infrastructure obstruct landscape relations - Fences obstruct views and hinder access - Colonie are neglected - Airport and closed functions obstruct landscape relations - Many different landowners/ no over-all plan or vision - Insecurity for residents - Lack of facilities and services
<p>OPPORTUNITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Colonie and open spaces are almost connected - Nature development coast and hinterland (vegetation, birds, dunes, wetland) - Connect fragmented green structure - Colonie as trigger(s) for development - Landscape development as trigger for redevelopment Colonie - Possibilities for connected paths/routes - Marano as a gate to hinterland. - Link of Colonie with cities/areas in Italy 	<p>THREATS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further urban extension (urban sprawl) - Location in two different Municipalities - Development of uniform 'Parco del Mare' - No relation of the Colonie and landscape – no landscape embrace - No clear identity - Management of the ruined building, lost grey energy - Expensive/impossible renovation for use - Homeless people, uncontrolled uses

Figure 52. SWOT analysis (Source: LLF2022, WG-H&I)

The general vision is linked to ongoing projects such as the Parco del Mare (realised in the first stretch of Rimini's seafront near the centre). The hypothesis of continuing the project southwards must consider the evolution of the urban-nature gradient and adapt accordingly to leave space for a more naturalistic linear park. The proposed strategy also distinguishes two areas with distinct characteristics (Figure 53):

- the group of older colonie (with Colonia Murri at the centre) located in the urban area of Bellariva and suitable for reintegration into the surrounding urban fabric
- the group of more recent colonie (after the 1930s) which are located in the transition area of Miramare between Rimini and Riccione and whose abandonment has helped to preserve the surrounding natural space.

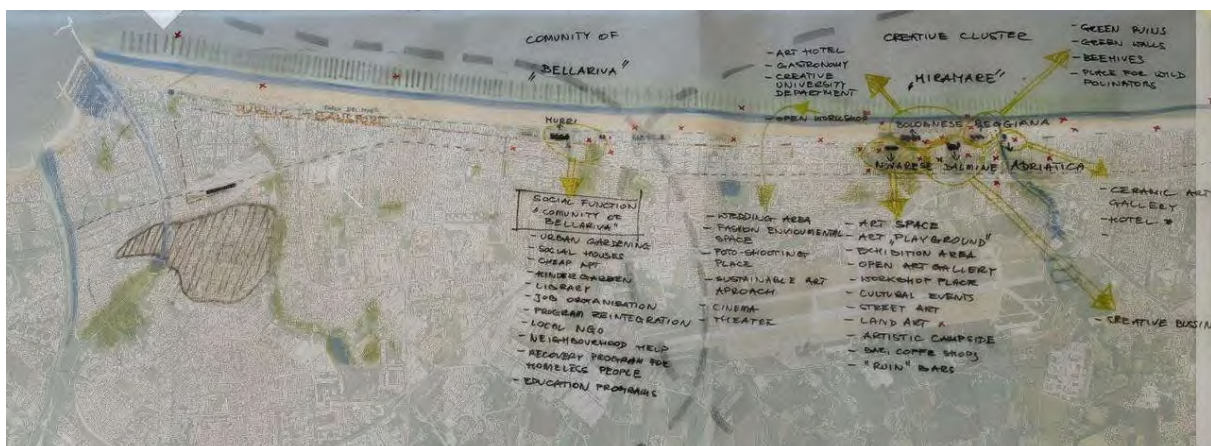


Figure 53. The overall vision and the two clusters (Source: LLF2022, WG-H&I)

For the first group, the creation of a social cluster is suggested through the reuse of the structures with new social and collective functions, such as urban gardening, educational activities and social integration, also through the adaptation of the structures and their division into multiple functions. This would make it possible to reconnect the urban fabric, currently interrupted by the presence of large disused structures, and to foster social cohesion around the cultural heritage.

For the second group, on the other hand, a *creative cluster* was hypothesised, characterised by softer and more temporary functions related to the world of art and creativity. In this case, the aim is to reactivate the area and bring the attention and interest of the local community back to it, without, however, inducing a radical transformation that would risk threatening the natural values that also represent important heritage of this area. In this second area, in fact, in addition to the new functions, the importance of strengthening the ecological and landscape connections and spatial relations (such as views and sight lines), especially along the coast and between the coast and the hinterland through the rethinking of the road infrastructures and cycle and footpath systems is emphasised (Figure 54).



Figure 54. The ecological enhancement of the focus area/creative cluster (Source: LLF2022, WG H&I)

4.5.6 References

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