

# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

## Contradictions Shaping Urban Futures

Sustainable vs. Unsustainable Urban  
Development and Growth vs. Degrowth.

The EURA Conference 2021  
May 6 & 7



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Author: Silje Hvilso Kvanvik (ed.)

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Abstract: The abstracts explore how contradictions related to sustainable vs. unsustainable urban development and growth vs. growth are shaping our cities. Together the abstracts show how themes and contradictions intersect, are interrelated, but often contested among actors who seek, in their own way to shape their cities. The book contains 68 abstracts organised under six sections: Environmental sustainability, climate change and mobility, Social sustainability and inclusiveness, Urban economic sustainability, degrowth and smart city, Urban governance and participation, Urban and regional planning, Urban planning and design.

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OsloMet – Oslo Metropolitan University  
Postboks 4 St. Olavs plass  
0130 OSLO  
Telephone: (+47) 67 23 50 00  
E-mail: [post-nibr@oslomet.no](mailto:post-nibr@oslomet.no)  
<http://www.oslomet.no/nibr>

# EURA Online Conference 2021

*Contradictions Shaping Urban Futures*

## **Sustainable vs. Unsustainable Urban Development and Growth vs. Degrowth**

At a time when an increasing share of the global population is living in urban areas, there is a need to re-examine the role(s) cities take in coping with contemporary challenges and contradictions. The EURA conference takes as its inspiration Robert A. Beauregard's book (2018) '[Cities in the urban age](#)' as well as increasing polarizations and protests in cities, accelerated by the pandemic, where different groups take to the streets to make their voice heard. Both the book, the protests and the ongoing pandemic underline that urban policies and issues matter, have impact beyond the urban sphere and are worth fighting over.

In this online event, on May 6 – 7, we will explore how contradictions related to *sustainable vs. unsustainable urban development and growth vs degrowth*, are shaping our cities. The contradictions are not fixed, but intersect and are contested among actors who seek, in their own ways, to shape their city.

Sustainable urban development models, strategies, policies and tools are operating in nearly every geographical and political context around the world. Urban spatial development and growth measures of cities are essential as they influence economic performance, public health conditions, and determine social cohesion and segregation. These measures vary widely in different geographical contexts as regards available approaches, policy instruments and forms of implementation. Compact city policies, for instance, focus on reducing the negative impacts of urban development on the surrounding environment, while green cities place emphasis on green infrastructure and local self-supply within cities themselves. Differences in policy interventions and planning practices are largely due to the miscellaneous drivers that urban regions experience today: multi-locality of live-work arrangements, migration, economic pressures, concentrated growth and transport challenges.

With this point of departure, we welcome and look forward to presentations and engaged debates and possibly contradictions and disagreements about our urban futures.

Oslo, May 2021

Cecilie Sachs Olsen  
OsloMet

Susanne Søholt  
OsloMet

Gro Sandkjær Hanssen  
OsloMet

Per Gunnar Røe  
University of Oslo

Silje Hvilsum Kvanvik  
University of Oslo



<b>EURA conference 2021 - Contradictions shaping Urban Futures</b> Sustainable vs. unsustainable urban development - growth vs. degrowth						
Time zone CEST	Thursday May 6					
9- 9.15	<b>Welcome session Susanne Søholt OsloMet</b> <b>Valeria Fedeli President of EURA</b>					
9.15-10.15	<b>Key-note speaker 1: Robert A. Beauregard</b> Q&A. Moderator: Per Gunnar Røe					
10.15-10.30	Break					
	<b>A. Environmental sustainability, climate change and mobility</b>	<b>B. Social sustainability and inclusiveness</b>	<b>C. Urban economic sustainability, degrowth and smart city</b>	<b>D. Urban governance and participation</b>	<b>E. Urban and regional planning</b>	<b>F. Urban planning and design</b>
10.30-12.15	<b>A.1 Mobility</b> <u>Moderator:</u> Le Anh Nguyen Long  <u>Participants:</u> Lejoux Patricia, Joanna Stępień, Brian Garcia, Maja Karoline Rynning	<b>B.1 Housing policy</b> <u>Moderator:</u> Ignazio Vinci  <u>Participants:</u> Ignazio Vinci, Walker Toma, Lina Zhang, Aleksandra Marinkovic	<b>C.1 Smart City</b> <u>Moderator:</u> Trond Vedeld  <u>Participants:</u> Carolin Schroeder, Matteo Basso, Ute Vees, Dr. Tamás Kaiser	<b>D.1 Urban municipalism</b> <u>Moderator:</u> Filipe Teles  <u>Participants:</u> Büşra Meriç, Alba Alexander, Patrícia Romeiro, Victoria Taranu	<b>E.1 Regionalism and Metropolitan Governance</b> <u>Moderator:</u> Vibeke Nenseth  <u>Participants:</u> Kamil Glinka, Sally Torres, Gro Sandkjær Hanssen, Antonia Stratmann	<b>F.1 Cultural heritage and transformation I</b> <u>Moderator:</u> Paula Russell <u>Participants:</u> Grete Swensen, Bartosz Ślosarski, Claudio Martani
12.15-13	Lunch					
13-14	<b>Key-note speaker 2: Ayona Datta</b> Q&A. Moderator: Gro Sandkjær Hanssen					
14-14.15	Break					
14.15-15.45	<b>A.2 Climate mitigation and leadership</b> <u>Moderator:</u> Gro Sandkjær Hanssen  <u>Participants:</u> Wolfgang Haupt, Carolina Giaimo, Lionel Epiney	<b>B.2 Neighbourhood and local communities</b> <u>Moderator:</u> Susanne Søholt  <u>Participants:</u> Sonia De Gregorio Hurtado, Hyung Rae Cho, Carla Tedesco			<b>E.2 Urban-rural</b> <u>Moderator:</u> Einar Braathen  <u>Participants:</u> Maria Antónia Almeida, Alessandro Frigerio & Alice Buoli, Arian Heidari Afshari	<b>F.2 Cultural heritage and transformation II</b> <u>Moderator:</u> Alistair Jones  <u>Participants:</u> Gillian Foster, Federica Fava,

Friday May 7						
9-10.45	<b>A.3 Migration, densification, and mobility transition</b> <u>Moderator:</u> Susanne Søholt  <u>Participants:</u> Stefan Fina, Song Hee Kang, Vafa Dianati, Biyue Wang	<b>B.3 The spatiality of social inclusion</b> <u>Moderator:</u> Paula Russell  <u>Participants:</u> Rebecca Cavicchia, Cristiana Mattioli, Sohail Ahmad, Yingying GAN	<b>C.2 Urban economic sustainability under pressure</b> <u>Moderator:</u> Valeria Fedeli  <u>Participants:</u> Fernando Ortiz-Moya, Ruiying Liu, David Klepej, Valeria Fedeli	<b>D.2 Urban strategies and planning</b> <u>Moderator:</u> Alistar Jones  <u>Participants:</u> Irfan Safdag, Johanna Hoffman, Mathias Reinar, Stefanie Dühr	<b>E.3 Governance and change in polycentric Oslo</b> <u>Moderator:</u> Per Gunnar Røe  <u>Participants:</u> Ragnhild Dahl Wikstrøm, Trond Vedeld, Vibeke Nenseth, Per Gunnar Røe	<b>F.3 Urban design I</b> <u>Moderator:</u> Peter Hammersam  <u>Participants:</u> Alessandro Frigerio & Simona Galateo, Simran Singh, Ipek Kastas-Uzun Marichela Sepe
10.45-11	Break					
11-12.30			<b>C.3 Growth - degrowth</b> <u>Moderator:</u> Jurlina Alibegovic Dubravka  <u>Participants:</u> Patricia Feiertag, Ipshita Karmakar, Anastasiya Matyushkina	<b>D.3 Governing sustainability</b> <u>Moderator:</u> Carla Tedesco  <u>Participants:</u> Kat Martindale, Dabin Ruby Lee, Adamantia-Maria Lazopoulou & Konstantinos Dimitriou		<b>F.4 Urban design II</b> <u>Moderator:</u> Marichela Sepe  <u>Participants:</u> Shile Zhou, Harry den Hartog, Michele Roda
12.30-13.20	Lunch					
13.20-14.30	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Young Scholars Award</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>EURA Conversations:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The generative potential of urban contradictions – growth vs. degrowth</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Participants:</u>            Ayona Datta, University College of London            Karen O’Brian, University of Oslo            Hugh March Corbella, Universitat OBerta de Catalunya  <u>Moderator:</u> Cecilie Sachs Olsen, NIBR</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Final words</b></p>					

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# Milano Expo 2015 regeneration process: between times, legacy and visions.

Michele Roda and Sara Protasoni

Politecnico di Milano

## Abstract:

Paper main goal is a critical discussion about methods of the development – intended simultaneously as regeneration, redevelopment and reuse - of Expo 2015 area, in Milano northern periphery.

The asset – considering its own history (although recent), dimensions and implications - seems to be an exemplary and contradictory case-study, where three interacting aspects could be highlighted, capable of defining a specific focus, along the complex ridges among architecture, planning and landscape:

- the emerging need to design a city ex novo, in a very brief time frame, with the constraint / opportunity to define new role and new meaning for the exhibition site, in relation to the original context and coherently with the post-COVID dimension;
- an overlapping of highly attractive public and private functions, with a strong international vocation;
- a close integration among urban design and landscape project, key factors of the quality, regarding infrastructures (gray, green, blue) and their functional, ecological and landscape value.

The reading sounds topical in an historical moment when Great Events are critical and uncertain factors able to address cities' development (and Milano is paradigmatic in this sense) and it wants to stress, within a complex evaluation, 5 nodal elements:

- the time, intended as a key element in the progressive overlapping of functional destinations and assets;
- the urban structure and tissue with its strong and recognizable shape;
- the design of open spaces as essential element capable of bringing quality;
- the integration of functional assets (facilities for living, production activities, services, infrastructures);
- actors involved, in a dense variety of destinations and interests, so stressed in this era.

# Contradictions Shaping Urban Futures

**EURA Conference 2021**

**Oslo, May 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Milano Expo 2015 regeneration process:  
between times, legacy and visions**  
speech by  
paper with



**POLITECNICO  
MILANO 1863**

SCUOLA DI ARCHITETTURA URBANISTICA  
INGEGNERIA DELLE COSTRUZIONI

**Michele Roda  
Sara Protasoni**



# The reasons of a topical case-study about the concept of 'contradiction'

## ABOUT TIMES AND LEGACY

In 15 years from an environment of agricultural fields to a connected and technological citadel.  
Case-study or paradigmatic and contradictory site/event?  
Urban condition or et heterotopia?

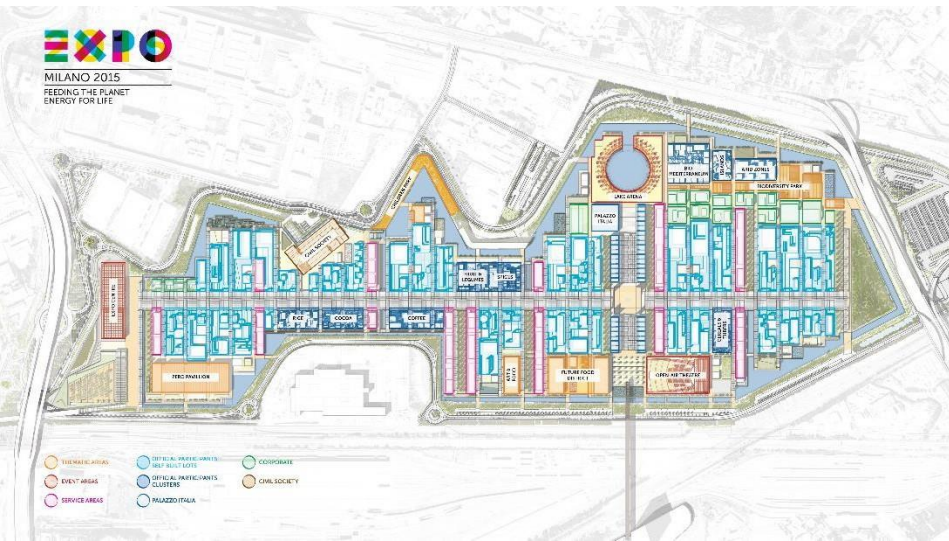
## 3 main topics

1. the emerging need to design a neighborhood / city *ex novo*, in a very brief time frame
2. an overlapping of attractive public and private functions, with a strong international vocation
3. a close integration between urban design and landscape project, as key factors of the quality

2015



2026





# Great-events opportunities

Expo experience as a legacy, also in its paradoxical and contradictory points



# Great-events opportunities

An experience through different and diverse key-words



**A possible handbook** for mega-projects landscape and architecture focused

1. The preliminary projects - or the application dossiers, in the case of Great Events - must contain specific aspects, and not mere declarations, with respect to spatial quality issues.
2. The theme of the large scale has to be discussed on ecological and environmental assets. The environmental footprint of the great transformation must emerge at the various scales of interaction and must become a necessary element of reference and direction.
3. Some “natural” actions, such as planting trees and plants have to be programmed as the first operation, in order to allow the development of essences in the time of construction.
4. The physical and spatial impacts of the different functions are different and require different strategies and actions and an attention to balance and hierarchies.
5. The very dimension of involvement of stakeholders must be an opportunity for a wide sharing of choices, that means definition and comparison on a precise mission.
6. The local realization of the works, both in terms of buildings and of open spaces, should be the result of extensive competition and call paths, capable of comparing - within a clear and defined framework - the best solutions.
7. Megaprojects can - and must probably - develop in the redevelopment, regeneration and re- use of the existing, both in terms of buildings and, more generally, of spaces.
8. It is in these special processes that the constructive culture can grow by experimenting with innovative solutions. The megaprojects today are in a position to play that role.
9. The first factor of hospitality is configuring a series of connections capable of constructing a condition of marked permeability between places and spaces.
10. An integration at different scales of interaction is a necessary condition precisely in order to seize the opportunities posed by the transformative processes.



# 2015

A temporary citadel

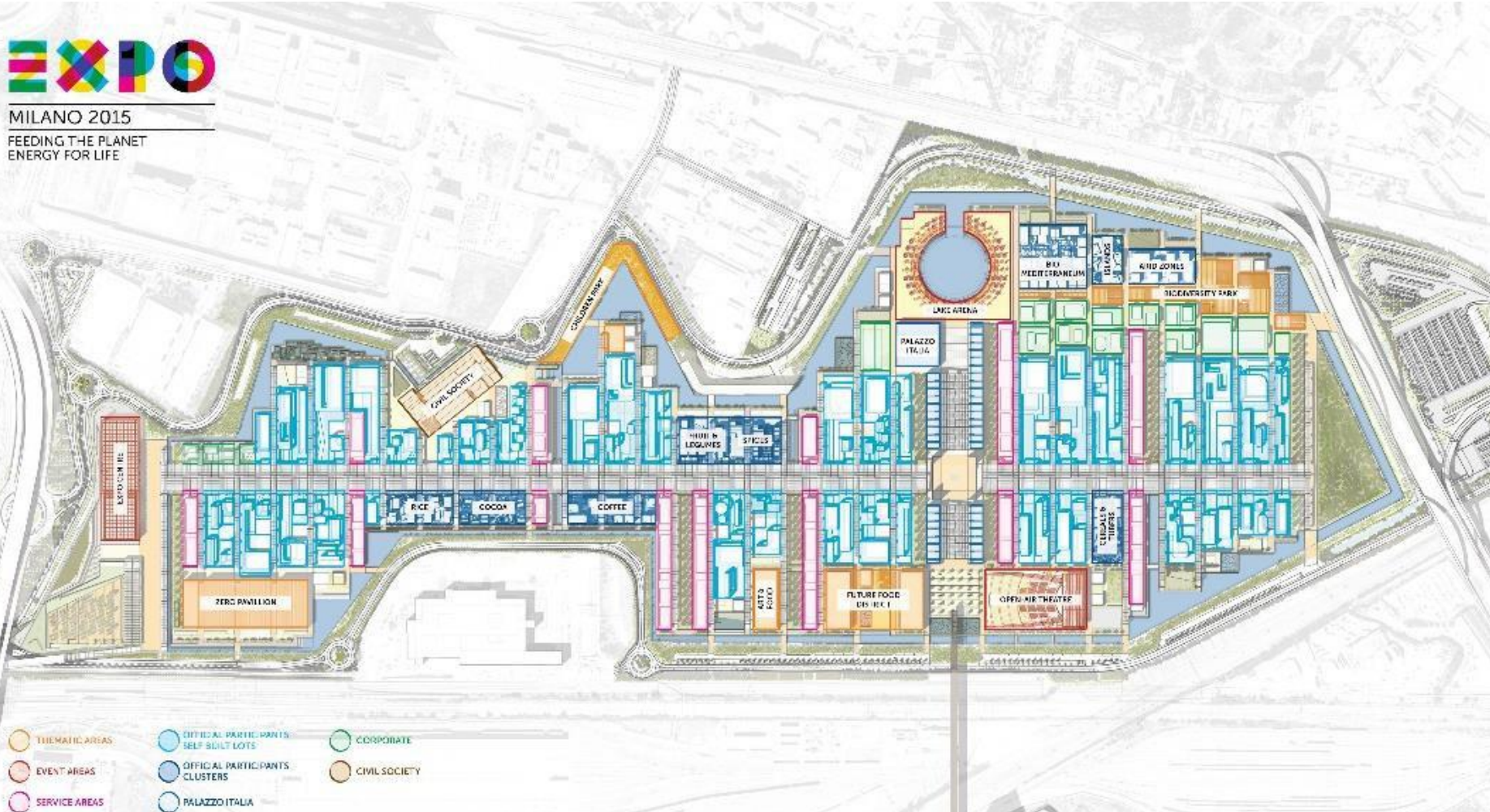
Opening period: May 1st, 2015 – October 31st, 2015

Amount of visitors: 22 millions

Investments: 2.500 millions of €



MILANO 2015  
FEEDING THE PLANET  
ENERGY FOR LIFE





# 2015

A temporary citadel

Opening period: May 1st, 2015 – October 31st, 2015

Amount of visitors: 22 millions

Investments: 2.500 millions of €





# Today

From Expo to MIND – Milano Innovation District  
In progress





# Today

From Expo to MIND – Milano Innovation District  
In progress

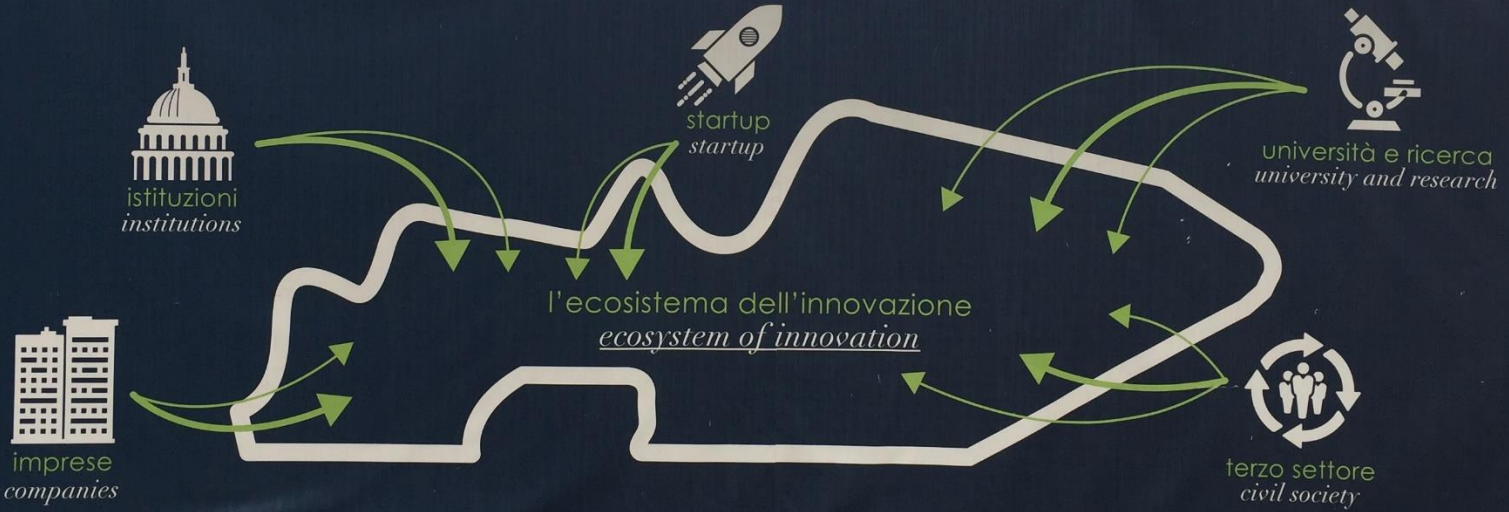




# Today

From Expo to MIND – Milano Innovation District  
In progress

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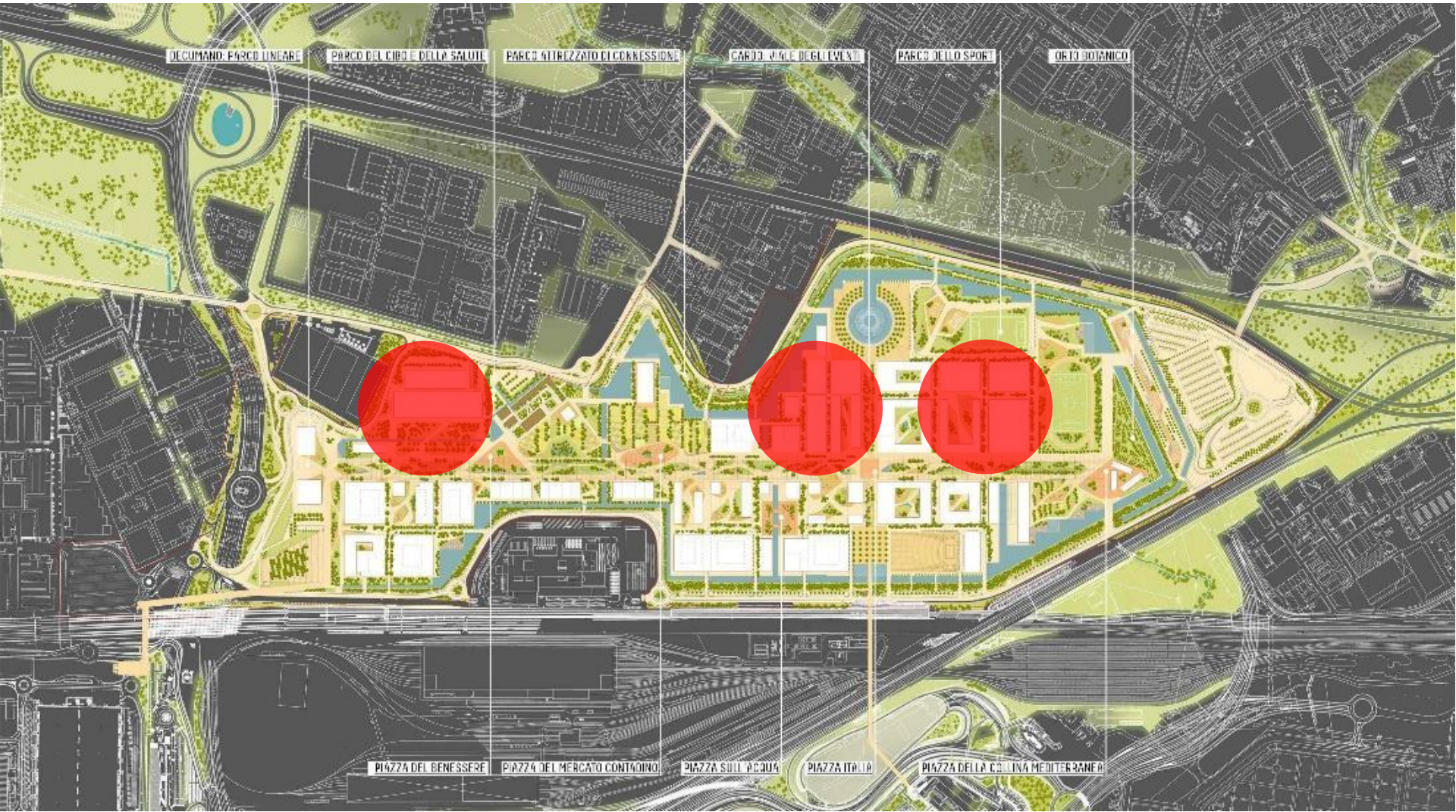




# from 2020 onwards

3 main public anchors:

- **Galeazzi Hospital**
- Human Technopole
- *Università Statale*





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# from 2026 onwards

Lendlease

99 years of concession

Carlo Ratti / LAND

The new Italian headquarter for international leading societies and agencies, mainly operating in the fields of technological innovation and research



The linear park

The Common Ground

Self-driving mobility



**from 2026 onwards**

**Lendlease**

**99 years of concession**

**Carlo Ratti / LAND**



**The linear park**

**The Common Ground**

**Self-driving mobility**



**from 2026 onwards**

**Lendlease**

99 years of concession

Carlo Ratti / LAND



**The linear park**

**The Common Ground**

**Self-driving mobility**

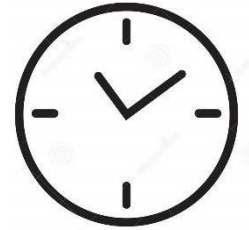
# Focusing the case-study with landscape and architectural point of view

**4 nodal elements** are emerging within the very complex condition **time**, intended as a key factor in the progressive overlapping of functional destinations and assets;

the **urban structure** and tissue with its strong and recognizable shape;

design of **open spaces** as an essential element capable of bringing quality throughout the system;

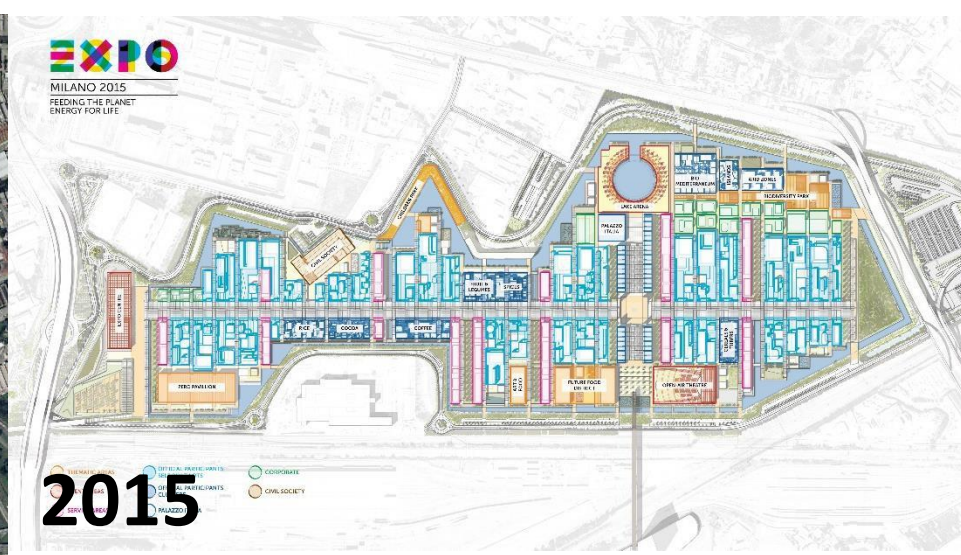
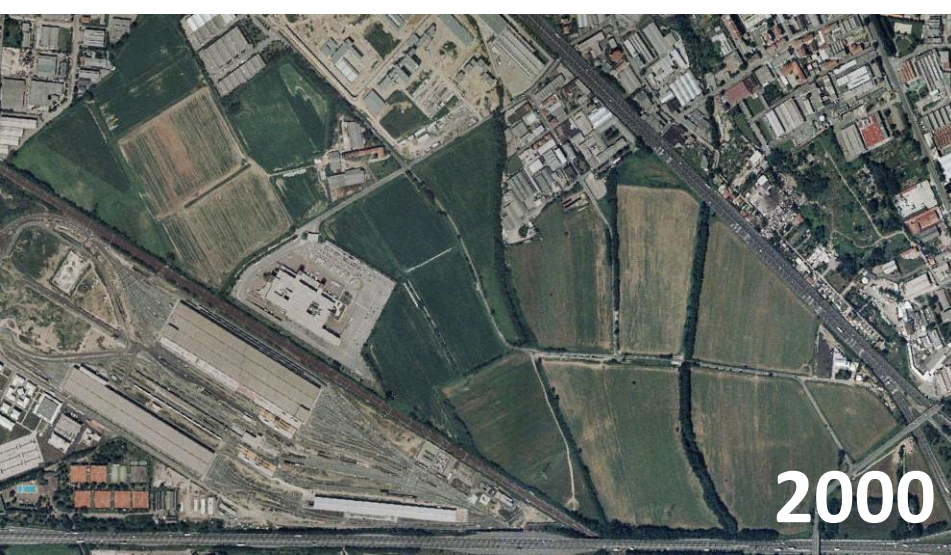
**integration/contamination** of functional assets (facilities for living, production activities, services, gray, green and blue infrastructures ...) and stakeholders/actors/interests;





# 1 Time

A city (for 20 millions of people /day during Expo and for 60 thousands people/day) designed and built in a very small time frame





# 2 Urbanity

A strong urban model

9-10 billion euros of public investments of new roads and new services

A strong urban centrality with limits and axis



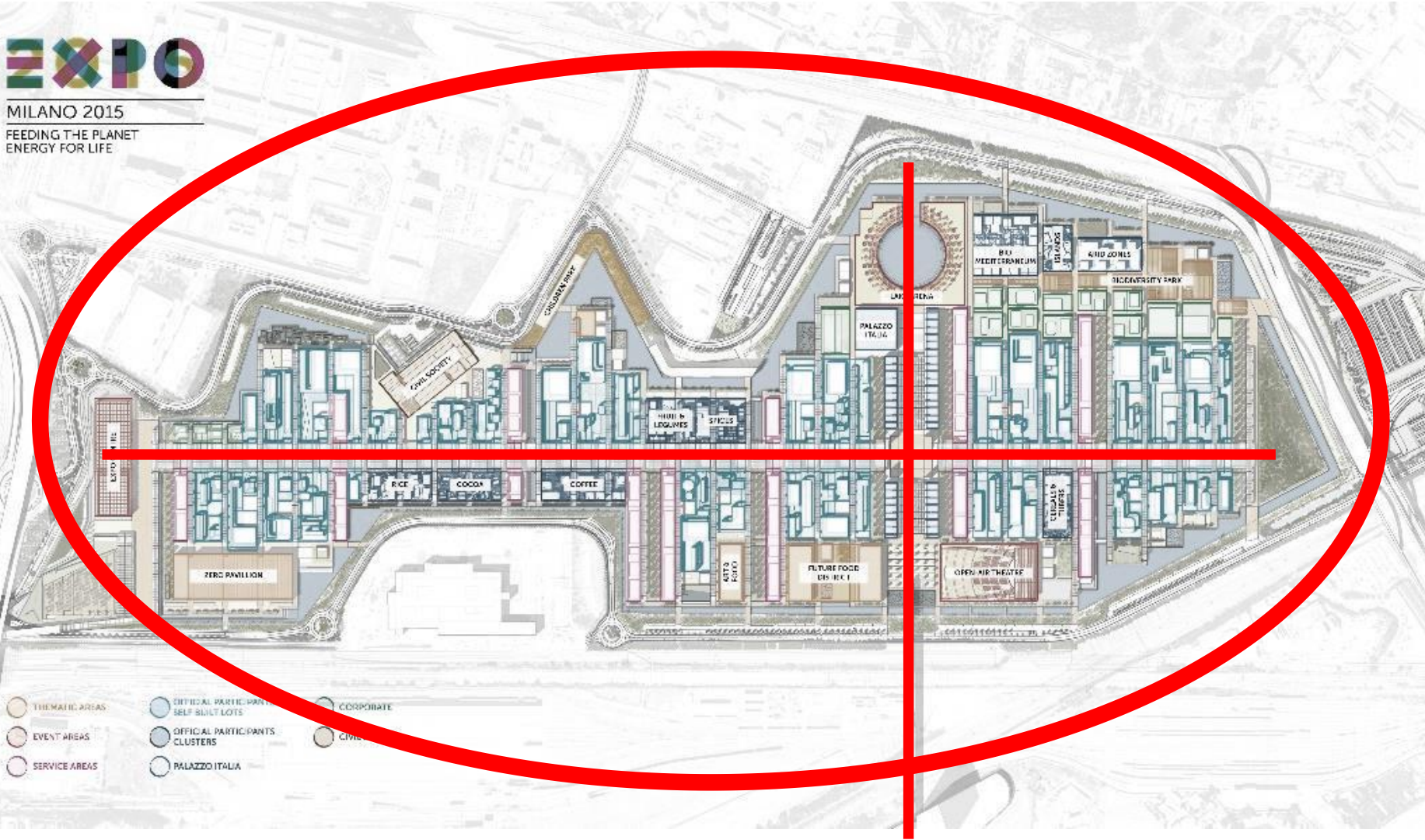


# 2 Urbanity

EXPO

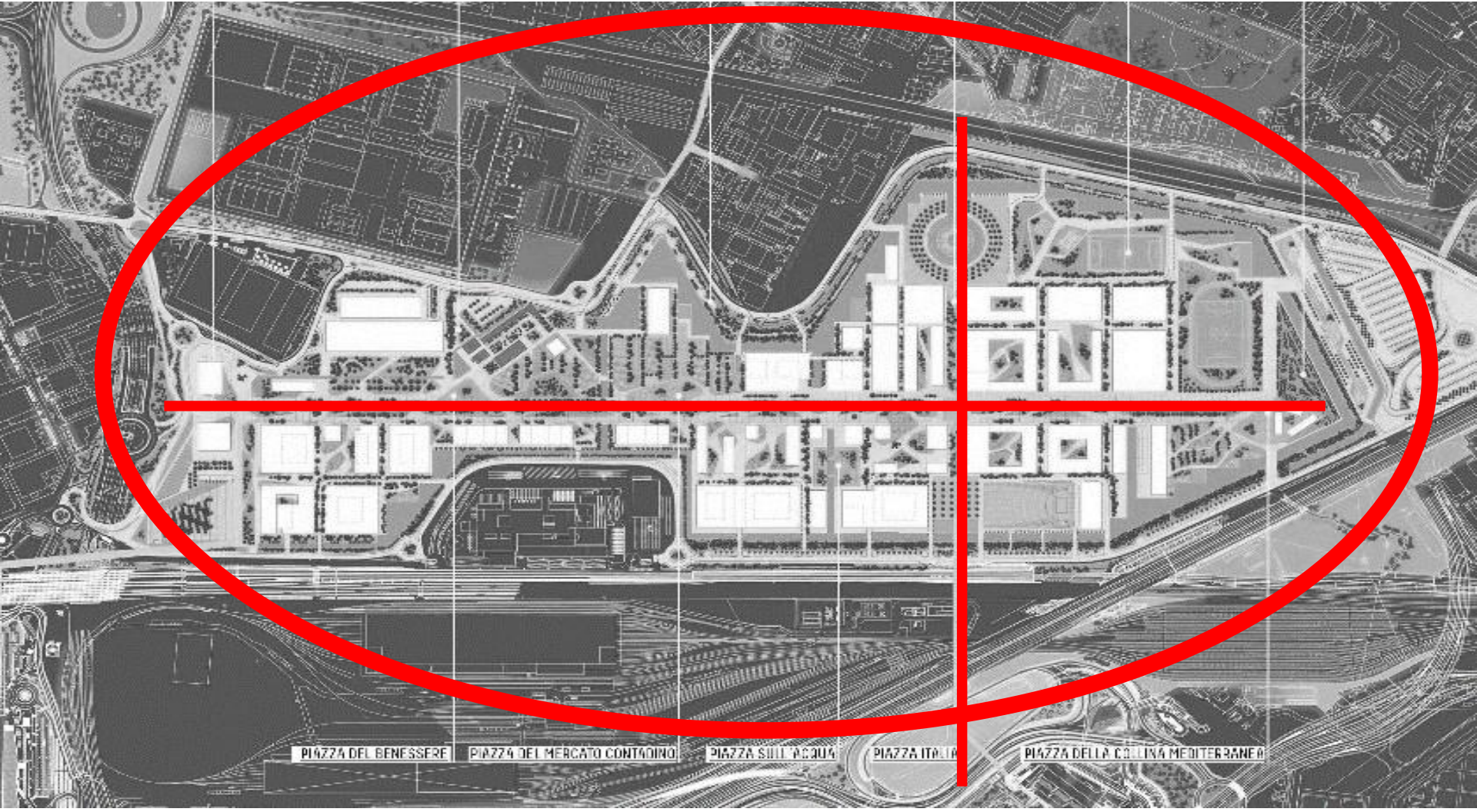
MILANO 2015

FEEDING THE PLANET  
ENERGY FOR LIFE





# 2 Urbanity





# 2 Urbanity





# 3 Open spaces

«More than 50% of the surface will become a park»

Quality elements + Contradictory factors

Open space design intended in a functional way

Integration within environment and landscape

«A garden city with which to imagine a future modeled and reshaped on the needs of its inhabitants»

Carlo Ratti





# 3 Open spaces

## Parco del Cibo e della Salute

60.000 m<sup>2</sup>

Polo scolastico  
Orti didattici  
Giardini sensoriali

## Parco dello Sport

70.000 m<sup>2</sup>

Campi gioco polivalenti  
Pista d'atletica  
Skate park



## Parco attrezzato di connessione

37.000 m<sup>2</sup>

Percorso ciclopedonale  
Children Park  
Percorso vita

## Orto botanico

23.000 m<sup>2</sup>

Serre sperimentali  
Orto botanico  
Lido attrezzato



# 3 Open spaces





## 4 Integration

*«Our goal is to create a project that has no equal in Italy and that can be compared with the most virtuous examples of urban transformation at the international level.*

*We have chosen to focus for this place on the great themes of the future: public and private research in the field of health, well-being, care for people and to combine this project with a large university center».*

Giovanni Azzone,  
CEO of Arexpo





# Conclusions

## 4 Contradictions (by Robert A. Beauregard) seen in the topical case-study

Cities make great wealth possible but fail to **adequately** distribute it

In a period of growing **inequalities**, this super-expensive processes seem to focus just a few categories and interests

Cities are fertile places for bot **democracy and oligarchy**

Cities require **tolerance** and breed **intolerance**

In the same line, it stresses just some economic sectors and areas. Creating also a close social environment. It's a creative, high-tech, *politically correct* **enclave. Not permeable not porous.** Not for all.

Cities are environmentally **destructive**, but the best hope for environmental **sustainability**

The design strongly highlights sustainable solutions and technologies. About open spaces, about buildings, about mobility. But all comes from **impermeabilization** of agricultural fields with very few links to landscape and nature elements.