

MIAW

2019

Ri-Formare Periferie

5 chances
to make
Public Space
with Nature

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The MIAW-Milan International Architecture Workshop is the international intensive programme at the Politecnico di Milano - School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering, that provides an international design forum for schools, teachers and students, but it is also an informal platform to discuss issues and share ambitions that education implies. Its aim is to stimulate cross-over thinking between researches and practitioners in the design field, involving different scales and encouraging an interdisciplinary approach towards design problems. Each class has an international guest professor of high profile whose activity and interests are related to the different study courses and disciplinary areas characterising our School.

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CONTEXTS AND STRATEGIES

Ri-Formare Periferie

Filippo Orsini



5 chances to make Public Space with Nature

The ongoing environmental crisis, the destruction of natural resources simultaneously with the demographic expansion and the unstoppable urbanization of the planet suggest an instant need to change the way the city is designed.

Design must no longer consider nature as an inexhaustible resource but as the real fundamentals of design. It's necessary to move towards a new design idea based on the re-naturalization of urban space: it is an attempt to integrate biodiversity in the city through a process of environmental recolonization.

Within this new resource containment strategy, the voids, the residual spaces, the abandoned places and the infrastructures of the city are becoming increasingly important. These are places of absence and of waiting that generate a widespread condition of marginalization and degradation, both physical and social, and which connotes the concept of periphery, on a larger scale.

Periphery is defined not only by its distance from the centre of the city but by the appearance of some phenomena such as the absence of connections, the mono functionality of uses, poverty, lack of integration.

These kind of areas become an opportunity to rethink cities fabrics, and a resource to activate urban transformation processes focused on regeneration, recolonization, recovery, re-naturalization, at different scales. In this scenario, the structure of nature appears as public space design, rethought both at a symbolic and at a real Public level. Public space becomes a place of re-sewing between the city and the periphery, to complete the overall image of the city, and a tool by which to improve connections, the increase in multi-functionality and the reduction of privatization and exclusion, which today characterize suburbs. Within the process of re-sewing, the workshop aims to investigate the relationship among city, nature and public space, to show how design could offer new perspectives on some of the key issues of our time.

In detail, the guest architects have been asked to investigate possible future urban scenarios for each one of the sites selected as strategic area by the Municipality of Milan.