

REGENERATIVE LANDSCAPES AND HYBRID AGRARIAN SPACES: Transform agrarian areas from passive hinterlands to active, hybrid, productive components of urban metabolic systems. Design spaces that simultaneously support agricultural productivity, ecosystem restoration and recover bio-physical systems.

RE-CENTRING THE AGRARIAN IN PLANNING AND DESIGN PRACTICES: Overlooked in traditional practices, prioritize the planning, design and management of agricultural lands, which cover 37.5% of global land area, compared to the 3% occupied by built-up environments. Focus on territories of cultivation in connection to built-up footprints as key drivers of regional ecological health.

WATER SENSITIVE REGIONAL DESIGN: Embrace the small water cycle paradigm and the soil carbon sponge concept through multi scalar regional planning and design. Rehydrate the Earth by re-carbonizing soils and recognize the intrinsic link between soil health and the water cycle.

RECLAIMING HEALTH-CENTRIC URBANISM: Urbanism as a discipline arose from 19th-century sanitation concerns, a new paradigm could now address the multiple crises of territories and, in particular, recognize the microbiome in connection to soil and ecosystem restoration as a critical and urgent foundation for public health.

INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION: Foster partnerships between public authorities, private enterprises and local communities. Advocate for the de-professionalization of conventional disciplines to achieve common ecological and economic objectives.

ABUNDANCE THROUGH SYNERGY: Shift from scarcity-based models to syntrophic systems that create abundance through strategic synergies. Focus on new potential assemblages and alliances, embrace evolutionary approaches that enhance both productivity and ecological integrity.

SOIL AS LIVING INFRASTRUCTURE: Reintegrate and redefine soil as a the most sophisticated, living infrastructure of essential resources, processes, and services underpinning all life. Beyond mere substrate for cultivation, soil functions as a complex living system—cycling carbon, purifying water, sustaining biodiversity, and regulating climate. This critical infrastructure, in its agrarian connotation comprises 37.5% of global terrestrial surfaces and represents the greatest untapped potential for environmental regeneration.

CIRCULAR BIO-BASED ECONOMIES: Reconnect cultivation with manufacturing through regional, circular – bio-based economies. Downscale material sheds and create new contiguous operational landscapes that bridge urban-rural divides.

ADAPTIVE GOVERNANCE: Develop new governance models and tools that transcend administrative boundaries, enabling coordinated action at regional scales while respecting local specificities. Employ backcasting methodologies to envision spatial change and systematically plan pathways to achieve it, bridging long-term visions with concrete, near-term actions.

LANDSCAPE AS INTERDISCIPLINARY PLATFORM: Recognize the landscape project as a critical multidisciplinary, multi-dimensional and multi scalar platform for integrating and negotiating diverse knowledge systems and practices toward a shared vision for critical societal transitions.

SUPER VALLEY SOIL REGENERATION AND THE ARCHITECTURE OF AGRARIAN SPACE

At the dawn of fossil fuels and linear models of extraction, a new system of relations must emerge to address the complex and multi scalar challenges of environmental degradation. Under this lens, the project of a widespread transition of the agrarian space becomes a critical topic in order to imagine large-scale ecosystem restoration as a strategy responsive to 21st century challenges. The project lies at the intersection of urban - landscape studies and environmental sciences. The underlying motivation of the work is triggered by the need to understand, research and design the interdependencies between processes of urbanization and ecosystem degradation in light of the criticalities of contemporary territories, as well as in exploring potential regenerative futures. Under this framework, the Po River valley mega region is seen as a paradigmatic case study to focus on.