EX-perience NATO

A regenerative and metabolic approach for re-establishing sustainability in cities

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Abstract

The selection of the former NATO Base in Bagnoli as a case study of the Laboratory of Urbanism (Lab), entitled Ex-perience NATO "A", of the MAPA course of the DiARC, University of Naples, Italy, represented an opportunity to investigate sustainable transformations for the western area of Naples, and to reflect on the possible relationships between the consolidated historical fabric and the wider urban context. The former NATO base had various functions over time. The main one was a military one, in the end dismissed, which led to the creation of physical enclosures, social separation and wastefulness generating complex relationships with its broader urban context. The Lab (2020-2021) conducted research through a metabolic and multiscale approach. The regeneration of the former NATO neighbourhood and beyond, started from the definition and mapping of wastescapes, understood as neglected territories within and outside the Base which could become a design opportunity for socio-environmental regeneration. The Lab carried out an integrated design experience keeping together urbanism and landscape, investigating the reciprocal relationships between urban and rural, ecology and landscape protection, also related to water and waste cycles. Results have been student's projects imagining lasting wealth and adaptive spaces over time and focusing on the potential of regenerative approaches in contemporary cities.

Keywords

Urban metabolism, regenerative approach, sustainability, urbanism, landscape, Naples

1. Introduction. An opportunity to reflect on the former NATO Base in Naples

A "research by design" exercise (Roggema, 2017) on the former NATO Base located in Bagnoli, in the western part of Naples, in Campania Region, South of Italy (Fig. 1), was carried out together with the master level students of the academic year 2020-2021 in the Laboratory of Urbanism (Lab), entitled Ex-perience NATO "A". About forty students joined the Laboratory of Urbanism, held at the Department of Architecture of the University of Naples Federico II, in the first year of the master level MAPA Course – which is the acronym of 'Laurea Magistrale in Architettura Progettazione Architettónica' (in Italian). The Laboratory aimed at re-evaluating the peculiarities and hidden opportunities of the place to implement sustainable, open and inclusive development models. The Laboratory of Urbanism integrates two dimensions - which are deepened into two separate modules of study: urbanism and landscape. This year, the Lab was co-taught by Dr. Libera Amenta – the responsible of the whole Laboratory of Urbanism and specifically of the Urbanism module – together with Prof. Vincenzo Gioffrè, responsible of the Landscape module, with the teaching assistance of Arch. Marilù Vaccaro and Arch. Francesca Garzilli, respectively following the two abovementioned modules.

The former NATO Base was selected jointly as case study for the whole first year of the master study of the MAPA course, by all the teachers of the different disciplines involved in the academic year. As mentioned earlier, the former NATO Base is located in the western part of the city of Naples which represents a privileged position in the area of the hills of Bagnoli, both from an environmental-landscape as well as from an architectural-urban point of view. The overlapping of different functions over time in the area, in a disjointed way, caused the partial neglect of the whole neighbourhood, and specifically the complete abandonment of certain areas/buildings of the district, which have been identified as wastescapes (Amenta and van Timmeren, 2018; REPAiR, 2018c). Wastescapes have been understood as spaces which hide different possibilities for sustainable urban regeneration.

Having selected and mapped the wastescapes present within and (immediately) outside the former NATO Base, the research carried out within the Lab pointed out - as its main focus - the regeneration of wastescapes as structuring reference for the reorganization and reconnection of the existing urban fabric, which is currently highly fragmented. In this way, the research aimed to re-establish added value to the territory, through a reticular and non-hierarchical model.

Overall, the design approach envisaged the recovery of underused public spaces through strategies for multifunctional open spaces. Additionally, the landscape at risk of further abandonment and the already neglected territories and buildings were recovered in the projects through a multiscale approach (Russo, 2015), looking at their reuse and at the reconnection with other urban function, located even outside the Base. From the perspective of healthy urban metabolisms and of the circular reuse of waste and wastescapes, the urban planning projects, which have been the outcome of the Lab, aimed to be adaptive over time and to add new values to the consolidated territory through a step-by-step process, happening in a specific timeframe and explained thanks to a timeline. In this lens, the former NATO base in Bagnoli has been representing a good opportunity for experimenting and reflecting on general contemporary urban challenges.

Figure 1. Multiscale Approach. Image taken from the Master Thesis in Architecture and Urban Composition "Un-material paths. New urban spaces for the San Laise Park / Ex NATO Base, Bagnoli", by Marilù Vaccaro.

2. Material and Methods

2.1. Background: Urban metabolism and Circularity to re-establish sustainability in cities

The Laboratory of Urbanism entitled Ex-perience NATO (Course "A"), of the academic year 2020-2021 built on the framework already developed within the earlier MAPA Laboratory of Urbanism of the previous academic year (2019-2020), especially with reference to the urban metabolic and circularity approaches (Amenta and Qu, 2020). Even if with a different case study, the Lab has been structured within the knowledge framework developed in the Horizon 2020 project entitled "REPAiR – REsource Management in Peri-urban Areas: Going Beyond Urban Metabolism" that was a European project funded by the Research and Innovation Program Horizon 2020, between the years 2016 and 2020. The project, with the collaboration of 18 partners, focused on the development of Eco-Innovative Solutions and Strategies

for a better management of waste and wastescapes, through the Living Lab methodology, in six European cases included the Metropolitan Area of Naples (REPAiR, 2017, 2018b, 2018a).

In this lens, the Laboratory of Urbanism aimed to provide students with technical and theoretical instruments for developing sustainable urban projects, and specifically for the re-thinking of the spatial organization of the contemporary territories adjacent to the former NATO Base in Bagnoli, Naples. This has been done by soliciting students to interpret the new urban challenges which determines the current urban questions, developing feasible solutions and strategies for a better management of waste and wastescapes, involving all the local stakeholders. Particularly, this Lab aimed to re-evaluate (and start from) the strengths of the former NATO Base, by developing plans to trigger sustainable, open, and inclusive model of growth.

Therefore, the Lab has been an opportunity to carry out an integrated design experience on an urban scale, by (i) investigating new reciprocal relationships between urban and rural, multifunctionality of open spaces, ecological functions, and hydrogeological and landscape protection, linked to closed cycles of water and waste; (ii) working on projects capable of raising the quality of living, offering spaces for the production of lasting wealth and adaptive spaces to meet the needs of current time. However, even if the two modules of the Lab, namely Urbanism and Landscape, aimed at reaching an integrated result, they established two separate assignments for the students, to better embrace the complexity of the case-study area, as explained in the following parts of the article.

2.2. Case- study area: The former NATO Base in Bagnoli, Naples

The former NATO Base in Bagnoli is located at the limits of the 10th Municipality of Naples, immediately behind the hill namely Monte Spina.

The former NATO Base is called “*acropolis*” of Bagnoli for its privileged position in the territory, and it occupies a total area of about 30 hectares: 13 are intended for agricultural land and 17 are occupied by open spaces and buildings welcoming various functions over time.

The neighborhood, owned by the Fondazione Banco di Napoli per l’Assistenza all’Infanzia (FBNAI), was built on a design by Engineer Francesco Silvestri. It developed following two orthogonal axes, with the main access from Viale della Liberazione, which is an important urban axis affected by the urban restructuring plans of the ten years of the last century and which defines the lower limit of the area.

The opening of the complex took place on 9 May 1940 with the name “Collegio Costanzo Ciano – Institute for the children of the people” and he was created with the aim of assisting the most disadvantaged part of the population. This function never took place due to the start of the war the day after the inauguration. In 1941, in fact, the area was handed over to the Italian army, becoming both a place of occupation by the Allies and a refuge for war refugees. In December of the same year the Command of the Territorial Defense Engineers decided to build anti-raid shelters. The latter consist of underground tunnels (seven oriented entrances with access to the south) that flow into a single tunnel (about 1 km) in the heart of the hill. From 1953 the complex became the headquarters of the NATO command for the Mediterranean until 2013, the year in which the command itself was dismissed and the area assumes the current name of “Ex NATO Base”. The Americans partially restored the structures damaged by the war and they implemented a modification program according to their needs (*Fig. 2*).

The military functions that have taken place have led to creation of physical enclosures, which caused the abandonment of certain areas of the district.

Figure 2. The image shows, at present, the main transformations that have occurred over time as a result of the different functions that the area has received. Image taken from the Master Thesis in Architectural and Urban Composition "Un-material paths. New urban spaces for the San Laise Park / Ex NATO Base, Bagnoli" by Marilù Vaccaro.

The study of the territory and its *palimpsest* shows the potential value that the former NATO Base assumes in the different urban and territorial dimensions (Fig. 3).

In fact, this area is central to the historical-architectural values and the structural components of the natural conformation of the territory: to the north-west the Crater namely Astroni and Monte Spina; to the east the Solfatara; to the west the Fuorigrotta district with its Mostra d'Oltremare with which it shares the main urban axis of Viale Giochi del Mediterraneo (later Viale della Liberazione); to the south the Giusso district and finally the hills of Posillipo and the island of Nisida. It is also positioned between the main maritime connections, such as the port of Pozzuoli and the port of Naples, as well as the tourist port of Nisida, with which the area is well connected thanks to the rail infrastructure system. Moving inside the complex, it is important to preserve the green frame given firstly by Monte Spina and then by the hill of San Laise, where there are educational vegetable gardens managed by the Association of Legambiente Campania.

Figure 3. Historical evolution of the context of Bagnoli and its surroundings. The analysis was produced on a radius of 5 km from the area. Image taken from the Master Thesis in Architectural and Urban Composition "Un-material paths. New urban spaces for the San Laise Park / Ex NATO Base, Bagnoli" by Marilù Vaccaro.

From the different terraces and the different altitudes that characterize the area inside the walls, it is possible to see these landscape values, inviting you to stop and contemplate the landscape.

The presence of underground tunnels, an even more denied area, could become an opportunity to identify innovative strategies such as the creation of a widespread museum that receives spaces for emerging artists, as well as spaces dedicated to permanent exhibitions.

This would allow to enhance the vitality of the area and activate tourist flows, offering the possibility to trigger virtuous circles for the territory and for the workers in the sector, and at the same time would allow to draw the attention of citizens to the history of the places and the man who inhabited them, reducing the risk of loss of historical memory.

2.3. Urbanism Module framework. Eco-Innovative Solutions and Strategies for sustainable urban regeneration of the western metropolitan area of Naples

The module of Urbanism has been organised following the principles of circular urban metabolism, (Girardet, 2010), and Circular Economy (EC, 2014; Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 2015) envisioning resilient cities and creating many new local businesses and jobs.

It employed a two-phase framework (analysis and design/vision) to develop strategies for closed loops of materials and energy; to optimise flows of people and biota, by studying their relationships; to include all local stakeholders, and by developing site-specific solutions in co-creation environments (e.g. Urban Living Labs); to reduce air, water and soil pollution; to re-input wastescapes into urban dynamics, by re-adapting them for a better quality of life.

Students worked in groups of three to four people to carry out on-site inspections (despite the difficulties related to the restriction due to the Covid-19 situation), analysis and mapping of the criticalities and potentials of the study area. Through this exercise, students could experience the project area at different scales; understand the transformations that have taken place over time and the (metabolic) processes in progress. In this way, by understanding and describing the complexity of the study area each group of students could select the Sample Area of their interest to be explored.

Finally, in the design/vision phase, as final outcome of the Lab, students developed a Spatial Strategy starting from the challenges of the former NATO Base, and envisioning a desirable future for the area. The Strategy is composed by a series of Eco-Innovative Solutions (e.g. design projects, and/or policies) ordered following a specific timeline and taking into consideration the needs of the local stakeholders.

The experience of the Urbanism module is to be seen within the organization of the whole Lab which included a series of seminars by external experts on the field organised by the teachers of the Laboratory of Urbanism entitled Ex-perience NATO (Course “A” and “B”), lessons, site inspections, individual and group planning, intermediate reviews with collective discussions (also with the other modules of the laboratory), exercises, meetings with external stakeholders and experts, and a final exam including the two modules of Urbanism and Landscape.

2.4. Landscape Module framework. Understand to act: the iconographic atlas of the landscape for the metropolitan city of Naples.

The definition of landscape has been recently subject of a radical reinterpretation. Landscape was traditionally understood as an aesthetic-perceptive category dedicated exclusively to the definition of those places of particular historical or naturalistic value. Today, landscape is an interpretative and operational category capable of reading the complex interrelation between social, productive and ecological characteristics not only of the hybrid urban/rural territories, but also of those metropolitan

territories of the contemporary world affected by phenomena of rapid and uncontrolled transformation, such as disused industrial, railway or military areas.

In this conceptual evolution an essential contribution was determined by the European Landscape Convention (CEP), a document of the Council of Europe presented in Florence in October 2000 and signed by all member States. The CEP is the result of a long and in-depth study process, conducted by a team of experts from the Council of Europe, which began in the early nineties of the twentieth century and has welcomed and summarized the most original and innovative contributions of the international debate on the meaning of landscape in a contemporary key.

The Cep reiterated that the landscape is a constantly evolving entity that includes both places of extraordinary quality and excellence to protect, and those of everyday life and, even, those of degradation, to start a new cycle of life. The CEP invites all member States of the Council of Europe to develop participatory practices aimed at involving communities of inhabitants in any transformative process of the landscape.

In line with the most current theoretical and applied research in the field of landscape design on the international scene, and with particular reference to the contents of the CEP, the Landscape Architecture Course has proposed an interpretative approach to transformations of contemporary metropolis focused on the renewed relationship between anthropogenic activities and natural elements (plants, minerals, water, wind, light, soil); on the study and interpretation of behavioral and social aspects of settled communities of inhabitants (also with the aid of participatory practices); on considering the perceptive and aesthetic aspects (not only of the landscapes of excellence, but also and above all of the places of daily life).

Landscape Architecture is intended as a discipline capable of providing possible answers to the global crises we live in today, from health to environmental and social ones, especially in metropolitan areas where more than half of the planet's population lives and is concentrated most of the productive and economic activities but also the major criticalities related to them.

Today, Landscape Architecture can represent a new attitude, a new strategic and operational modality capable of proposing a new sensitivity towards nature, in all its forms and specificities, even in the most anthropized contexts such as the metropolitan ones.

Theoretical focus of the Landscape Architecture Course was the deepening of regenerative urban strategies centered on the recycling of abandoned, disused, degraded landscapes, for new contemporary landscapes that bear new ecological, social and productive values.

The themes addressed in the theoretical lessons focused on the etymological meaning and historical evolution of the concept of landscape; on the work of landscape architecture masters of the modern and contemporary age; on the most interesting and recent international experiences in the creation of new landscapes that interpret the very topical themes of ecological transition, urban agriculture, sustainable mobility, enhancement of tangible and intangible heritage, active involvement of communities of inhabitants in processes of urban transformation, of the new forms of public space. The book "Latent Landscape" (Giofrè 2018) represented the basic text both in terms of theoretical references and of methodological and design approach.

The exercise carried out by the students had as its theme the area, now largely abandoned, of the Former NATO base, studied in relation to the wider landscape and environmental context of the Metropolitan City of Naples. Due to the importance of the area in terms of extension, but also of the quality and value of the architecture and open spaces that are inside it, the regenerative process of the Former NATO must relate to the surrounding landscape in all its components, both anthropogenic and natural. Specifically,

the guided exercise consisted in the experimentation of an interpretative approach of the characteristics of the landscape of Naples through a multi-scalar reading - from the "geographical" scale of the large territorial systems to the detailed one of "garden" and of vegetable and mineral materials - able to record also perceptive qualities and behavioral aspects of the settled inhabitants.

The results obtained in the teaching experience consist in the students' acquisition of basic theoretical knowledge on the evolution of the concept of landscape and on the multiple declinations it assumes in the contemporaneity; on the in-depth study of case studies concerning new contemporary landscapes created on the international scene and considered to be of particular relevance for originality, design quality, program of activities that can be experienced; on the study of the main international landscape schools; on the application of design concepts focused on the use of materials and shapes derived from nature.

The final product of the exercise consisted in the definition of an "Iconographic Atlas", as defined by the teachers of the Landscape Module, which is a graphic and narrative product that the students of the Lab produced to understand the rich and complex interrelation between the urban and the natural structure of the Metropolitan Landscape of Naples; the study represents a wealth of figurative, spatial, cultural and material references, functional to the definition of the first project concepts and the masterplan for the Former NATP area.

3. Results

3.1. Outcome of the Urbanism exercise: Spatial Strategies for the Former NATO Base

The outcome of the module of Urbanism are consistent with the theories of circular urban metabolism, circular economy, regenerative design and with the multiscalarity of the approaches. Two of the works produced by students have been selected for this paper since they seem significant to explain the framework of the course.

The work entitled "N'ATA VOTA"¹ (Fig. 4) is based on the construction of a silent network generated by the mapped wastescapes. The central theme for this project is the regeneration of public spaces. By intervening with specific and widespread actions on the territory, the project aims to improve the quality of the place and the reduction of pollutants, caused by heavy city traffic by cars and due to scarcity of vegetation and wetlands, immediately outside the former NATO base. In this lens, the abandoned spaces and the underused infrastructures have been re-imagined by students as places for new temporary and collective uses, selected through preliminary questionnaires addressed to citizens.

¹ "N'ATA VOTA" is by students: Giulia Aversa, Francesca Campanile, Benedetta De Vivo, Piarosa Marotta, Angela Nocerino.

Figure 4. Project title: "N'ATA VOTA". Masterplan and vision of design strategies Students: Giulia Aversa, Francesca Campanile, Benedetta De Vivo, Piarosa Marotta, Angela Nocerino.

Another significant example is the "GREEN NATO"² project (Fig. 5, 6 and 7) which aims at urban requalification of existing connection systems. Starting from a process of recovery and regeneration of wastescape (water bodies, underused green areas, artificial soils, abandoned agricultural fields, vacant buildings and settlements, dismissed or underused public facilities, neglected or dismissed infrastructure), the project define a loop of recovered areas that gives form to a network of spaces allowing a better connection of the former NATO base area with the hill of San Laise, the surrounding district and the coast of Bagnoli. Further, the loop aims to increase the local biodiversity, which is potentially threatened by spatial disuse and abandonment, through the creation of a new ecological network: a single path that develops in further secondary paths able to support functions of recreational, perceptive and naturalistic. Thus, wastescapes become resources for the district and flexible and resilient spaces, responding to the needs of time and critically of the territory.

² "GREEN NATO" is by students Teresa Borrelli, Giulia Cavaciocchi, Natascia Esposito, Elena Guida.

Figure 5. Project title: "GREEN NATO". Wastescapes analysis. Students: Teresa Borrelli, Giulia Cavaciocchi, Natascia Esposito, Elena Guida.

Figure 6. Project title: "GREEN NATO". Masterplan and Spatial vision of design strategies. Students: Teresa Borrelli, Giulia Cavaciocchi, Natascia Esposito, Elena Guida.

Figure 7. Project title: "GREEN NATO". Sections and details of design strategies. Students: Teresa Borrelli, Giulia Cavaciocchi, Natascia Esposito, Elena Guida.

3.2. The Outcome of the Landscape Module: The agency of the Atlas

The outcome of the Landscape Module was an iconographic Atlas realized by the students; this exercise consisted of choosing a theme and then providing an original narrative of the area, looking at the geographical, geomorphologic, environmental, settlement, and infrastructural analyses, and discretizing the different elements contributing to creating the landscape. Such exercise considered the *imaginative* potential that the landscape project holds to re-read and return unexpected landscapes (Corner, 2014). Each student has captured a "characteristic" and characterizing aspect, specific but at the same time found in global issues. In a nutshell, it consisted of defining a sort of taxonomy, which while identifying, analyzing, and revealing a point of view.

This approach refers to the lessons of the landscape architects of the French school, among others, Bernard Lassus, Michel Corajoud, Michel Desvigne, Christine Dalnoky. In particular, the concept that the analysis of the territory, its profound observation, and its redesign contain the germ of the landscape project, which turns out to be a spontaneous manifestation of rewriting the traces of the territory. In this sense, the Atlases produced represent both interpretative models and project tools (Corajoud, 2003; Desvigne, 2008, 2012; Lassus, 1998; Masbouni & Corajoud, 2002; Tiberghien, 1987).

Everyone was left free to grasp what they considered the most exciting aspect, discretizing it and relating it to universally verifiable criteria. To describe this didactic experience, here are some examples of atlases.

The students Giulia Aversa, Francesca Campanile, Benedetta De Vivo started from a scrupulous historical investigation, starting from the first function of the complex, the Ciano College. This function was related to its rigid architectural organization. The students used these aspects as a starting point, contrasting it with the current one, underused and uncertain. This uncertainty, however, is considered as freedom, that is, the opportunity to accept new challenges, both functional and morphological. They were starting from the idea that the urban layout, the soil, the functions can be overturned in favor of temporary, flexible processes, playing on the timeliness of appropriation actions and rediscovery of places and functions (fig.8).

Figure 8. Atlas: Disciplina e Libertà. Students: Giulia Aversa, Francesca Campanile, Benedetta De Vivo.

Moving from the study of history to the study of material, the students Marisa Allodi, Gaia Di Palma, Fabiola Fattore told the story of the former NATO base through another couple of terms, "verticality and stratification". Such condition can be found in the entire Neapolitan territory, defined as a "palimpsest" (Corboz, 1985) in continuous overwriting. This aspect, also located within our case study, allowed the students to return an original reading of what lies beneath, contributing to the rediscovery of the memorial and cultural value of the place. Thus, layers, different thicknesses overlap and intertwine, telling and framing images of different times. A reading that induces the landscape architect to work like a "historical archaeologist" as the sociologist Patrick Geddes would have defined him, a practice that, while investigating, reveals and reconstructs unexpected images (fig.9).

Figure 9. Atlas: Verticalità e Stratificazione. Students: Marisa Allodi, Gaia Di Palma, Fabiola Fattore.

Then, Natascia Esposito and Elena Guida constructed an Atlas reinterpreting the study and observation of the city of Naples gave by the philosopher Walter Benjamin as a "porous" city. On the one hand, a porosity, the one Benjamin refers to, considers the contamination of the open and osmotic character of the city. On the other hand, porosity speaks of the territory's breaking up, decomposition, and inhomogeneity. A less dense porosity in which the character of openness, percolation, and contamination

is aimed at reconstructing new ecological networks. Therefore, the *pores*, the urban voids, are considered places with tremendous biological potential. Such pores, in line with what Gilles Clément considers areas of "third landscape", offer an enormous ecological value (fig.10).

Figure 10. Atlas: Porosità Urbana: dal vuoto "tra". Students: Natascia Esposito, Elena Guida

The last case presented here below is by students Teresa Borelli and Giulia Cavaciocchi, who tell a very original story of the area and its context. "Dichotomy and Cohesion", the title of their Atlas, tells a story of landmarks, morphological and architectural, that are contrasted and conjugated and then found within NATO. Such work is based on the alternation of fullness and emptiness, of great leaps and bounds, openings that sinuously intertwine with narrow closures. A very effective reading that continually goes back and forth between outside and inside. A new point of view, one might say Hitchcockian, with new and stimulating angles and perspectives (fig.11).

Figure 11. Atlas: Dichotomia e Coesione Students: Teresa Borelli and Giulia Cavaciocchi.

As in Andreas Gursky's famous photo, 99 cents, putting together the various Atlases, the result is that of a heterogeneous but harmonious set of images, graphic representations, which capture, as in the artist's photo, different "consumables". Also, in this case, the overall picture denounces a contemporary condition of consumer society, which not only focuses on the material good at 99cent but on which the *consumer material* is the soil, its heritage, its culture, and its culture its identity (fig.12).

Figure 12. On the left Images selected from student's Atlas and on the right Andreas Gursky's 99 cents photo

4. Conclusions

The reflection on the Former NATO Base within the Laboratory of Urbanism Ex-perience NATO "A" represented an opportunity for imagining wide urban and landscape sustainable transformations which could involve the whole contemporary city of Naples, with specific reference to the western part of it.

In particular, the Module of Urbanism aimed for students to design possibilities for its regeneration to actually start a collective (re)use of the property, through the creation of areas which could be functionally adaptable to the various possible uses over time, generating scenarios of daily life in constant change. The identified new sustainable paths could break down the physical boundaries and improve the accessibility of the area, also through a better relationship with the landscape.

The reduction of land consumption and the recovery of wastescapes, possible thanks to the restoration of abandoned green areas, could allow the increase of the local biodiversity. In this way, citizens are made aware of the issues of ecology and the care of space, recovering the contact with nature, and thus, these actions could encourage them to frequent more the area. Thus, through agriculture, care of landscape and new living spaces, the San Laise Park could become a social, cultural and economic incubator capable of increasing the local economy by mitigating inequalities and generating new public spaces for people. These new places could merge physical and immaterial elements, currently unrelated. The goal of creating a new Park for Bagnoli, as planned in the current urban implementation plan, would bring an abandoned territory to new life, providing citizens and the city with a new centrality.

The Module of Landscape challenged students to go beyond the apparent fixity, hardness, and introversion of the case study. The creation of an iconographic Atlas made it possible to identify elements and underlying themes of this urban *enclave* wearing the lens of the landscape architect. This specific point of view allows them to re-read and interpret what is invisible, what is underneath, on the sides, to understand the relationships, highlighting the synergies with the context and the generating force of this place. Thus, the Atlas is a pro-active denunciation, an overwhelming manifestation of latent potential for

change, which goes beyond the capture of state of the art, projecting towards a possible future state, of opportunities to be conquered.

5. Author's contribution

This paper is the outcome of a collaborative work of the four authors Libera Amenta (LA), Marilù Vaccaro (MV), Vincenzo Gioffrè (VG), and Francesca Garzilli (FG). The abstract was written by L.A. and MV. The introduction (Chapter 1) is by LA; Chapter 2.1 is by L.A.; Chapter 2.2 is by M.V.; Chapter 2.3 is by L.A.; Chapter 2.4 is by V.G.; Chapter 3.1 is by L.A. and M.V.; Chapter 3.2 is by F.G.; Conclusions (Chapter 4) are by L.A., M.V. and F.G.

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