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#### Landscape design in regeneration and accessibility process to cultural heritage. The study case of Liternum Archaeological Park for the Domitio-Flegreo Coast

Il progetto di paesaggio nei processi di rigenerazione e accessibilità al patrimonio culturale. Il caso studio del Parco Archeologico di Liternum per il Litorale Domitio-Flegreo

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#### ABSTRACT AND KEYWORDS

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#### Landscape design in regeneration and accessibility process to cultural heritage

This paper reflects on the role that historical-archaeological heritage and its relations with the landscape can assume in the socio-spatial regeneration processes affecting the urban and peri-urban dynamics of societies and territories in "transition." In particular, projects and strategies for the protection, accessibility and enjoyment of heritage, can offer an opportunity for a project of landscape and production of contemporary, attractive and multifunctional public space, in which what is being affirmed is a new form of the public city, and more generally of a renewed welfare, beyond the mere preservation and to the transmission of the preserved assets. In the design experimentation developed for the Archaeological Park of Liternum, on the shores of Lake Patria, it was a matter of subtracting the archaeological area from its condition as a place separated from the city in order to prefigure a broader urban use (Manacorda, 2007), starting from the design of the paths of an expanded fruition capable of sequencing the archaeological remains, with the landscape and the spaces and dynamics of the city with which they establish fertile relations within a possible collaborative governance with the actors of the context.

Keywords: cultural heritage, transition, public space, landscape, accessibility

### Il progetto di paesaggio nei processi di rigenerazione e accessibilità al patrimonio culturale

Questo contributo riflette sul ruolo che il patrimonio storico-archeologico e le sue relazioni con il paesaggio possono assumere nei processi di rigenerazione socio-spaziale che interessano le dinamiche urbane e periurbane delle società e dei territori in "transizione". In particolare, progetti e strategie per la tutela, l'accessibilità e la fruizione del patrimonio, possono offrire l'opportunità per un progetto di paesaggio e di produzione di spazio pubblico contemporaneo, attrattivo e multifunzionale, in cui quella che si viene ad affermare è una nuova forma della città pubblica, e più in generale di un rinnovato welfare, oltre la mera conservazione e alla trasmissione dei beni conservati. Nella sperimentazione progettuale sviluppata per il Parco Archeologico di Liternum, sulle sponde del Lago Patria, si è trattato di sottrarre l'area archeologica alla sua condizione di luogo separato dalla città per prefigurare un più ampio uso urbano (Manacorda, 2007), a partire dal disegno dei percorsi di una fruizione allargata capaci di mettere in sequenza i resti archeologici, con il paesaggio e gli spazi e le dinamiche della città con cui instaurano relazioni fertili dentro una possibile governance collaborativa con gli attori del contesto.

Parole chiave: patrimonio culturale, transizione, spazio pubblico, paesaggio, accessibilità

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## 1. Places: The Litorale Domitio-Flegreo and the Archaeological Park of Liternum

This paper reflects on the role that historical-archaeological heritage and its relations with the landscape can play in the socio-spatial regeneration processes affecting the urban and peri-urban dynamics of societies and territories in "transition" (Russo, 2022), with a focus on the design of public space (Kipar, 2022), starting with the case study of the Archaeological Park of Liternum<sup>2</sup>. Located along the stretch of Litorale Domitio-Flegreo that falls in the municipality of Giugliano in Campania, on the shores of Lake Patria, the largest coastal lake in Campania characterized by a rich fauna of marsh birds and the presence of the so-called Torre di Patria, a 15thcentury coastal watchtower. In this park it is possible to visit, when usable, the remains of ancient Liternum, a city of Roman foundation, colonized by the veterans of Scipio Africanus, who retired among them and died there in 183 BC. The city then regained prestige in the 1st century AD, thanks to its proximity to the Via Domitiana, until decaying in the 5th century AD and then being rediscovered by archaeological campaigns in the 1930s (Gargiulo, 2008; De Vincenzo, 2018). The archaeological area, although of great interest because of its historical value, is now in a semi-neglected condition and completely isolated from the surrounding urban context, already marred by the critical issues arising from widespread unplanned urbanization, and the scarcity of services for its inhabitants. In this urban landscape, the dominant morpho-typological element is that of the "enclosure" (Di Domenico, 1998), which takes on different forms and meanings from time to time along different coastal landscapes (Lettieri, 2008; Avella, 2018) (Figure 1).



Figure 1. The Archaeological Park of Liternum, today

Source: Francesco S. Sammarco, 2024

The City of Giugliano, with its approximately 125,000 inhabitants and an area of about 95 sq. m., is the second largest municipality in the Metropolitan City of Naples in terms of population size, the third largest in the Campania Region after Naples and Salerno and is the most populous non-provincial capital after Cesena in Emilia-

Romagna. Strategically located in the centre of the Liternino-Aversano countryside, it could also play an important role as a hinge between the conurbation north of Naples and the "diffuse city" (Indovina, 1990) south of Caserta (Figure 2).

Metropolitan City of Caserta

Agricultural plain

(Irban center)

The Archaeological Park of Liternum

Costal strip

Figure 2: The territorial context between the two Metropolitan areas

Source: Francesco S. Sammarco, 2024

In the city of Giugliano, also in view of its extension and similarly to the morphological structure of the Litorale Domitio-Flegreo (Campania Region, 2020), a number of large territorial landscapes can be distinguished (De Seta, Buccaro, 2009), with environmental and settlement-functional characteristics in obvious dichotomy with each other:

- 1. The first landscape, that of the "urban centre", historical and consolidated, in which we find one of the most densely populated portions of the northern Neapolitan peripheral expansion, determined by a discontinuous welding between different urban centres that have in common a predominantly residential destination, with poor urban-type characters, high problems of insufficient internal infrastructure and provision of services, and a strong dependence on the capital. In this context, the built-up area of Giugliano, consistent with the processes of urban growth typical of the nuclei of rural origin in the metropolitan area of Naples, is structured starting from the historic centre set on some strong plots of the Roman centuriation, with a series of recent expansions along the main lines of communication (De Seta, 1984; Visone, 2009; Chianese, 2015) (Figure 3).
- 2. The second landscape, that of the vast central "agricultural plain", is part of the Liternino-Aversano agro, east of the populous hamlets of Qualiano and Villaricca, and coincides with a vast, very fertile, sparsely inhabited agricultural plain, dotted with farms, rural buildings and single-family residential buildings, innervated by the dense network of man-made ditches and canals the outcome of ancient and recent processes of reclamation and water regimentation, which extends as far as the coastline, furrowing much of the Giuglianese territory and guiding the design of its agrarian plots (Fiengo, 1988; Gravagnuolo, 1994; Tino, 1997; De Dominicis, 2014). Reaching some artificial riverbeds and the Regi Lagni, this network flows north of the Lago Patria shoreline while, to the south, after crossing the main

- drainages of the Quarto Canal and the Alveo dei Camaldoli, it reaches the sea between the mouth of Varcaturo and the Lido di Licola, in the centre of the Domitio coast. This landscape is also characterized by sequences of cultivated fields and intensive greenhouse production, an expression of a fertility and intensity of agricultural production cycles (Gentile, 1978; Giordano et all, 2003) that are today endangered by the pervasiveness of land consumption processes and water and soil pollution<sup>3</sup>. (Lima et all, 2017; De Vivo et all, 2012) (Figure 4).
- 3. The third landscape, that of the "coastal strip", which develops along the Litorale Domitio, although of lesser extent than the previous ones, is characterized by a naturalistic dimension that still resists, morphologically connoted by the presence of the dune and retrodune system, and by the design of the waters that has characterized it historically. The main historical-archaeological resources are concentrated in this area, including the remains of ancient Liternum and a significant representation of the numerous masserie scattered throughout the territory (Sabatino, 2005), although today it is suffering greatly as a result of heavy land consumption. In recent decades, in fact, building expansions with allotments of small villas and apartment buildings have created real settlements, isolated and monofunctional, such as the one in Varcaturo, without even sparing Lake Patria, whose interesting ecosystem is now characterized by a strong environmental impairment and a dense low-density residential construction, which occupies much of its southeastern shore (Avella, 2010; Legambiente, 2017) (Figure 5).

It is clear, therefore, that the landscape dimension of these places (Campania Region, 2019) has undergone important processes of alteration over time, the outcome above all of a strong acceleration in the second half of the 20th century, inevitably also leading to the growth of new and dramatic inequalities, and giving rise to new forms of social injustice, very often overlapping with relevant forms of spatial injustice. (Secchi, 2013).



Figure 3. The urban center landscape

Source: Francesco S. Sammarco, 2024

Figure 4. The landscape of the agricultural plain



Source: Francesco S. Sammarco, 2021

Figure 5. The landscape of the coastal strip along the Domitian Coast



Source: Francesco S. Sammarco, 2021

#### 2. Cultural background

2.1 Landscape as interpretive device

The complexity of these territories calls for a transformation in knowledge

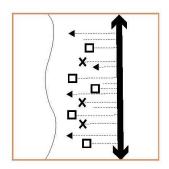
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construction. In these processes, therefore, landscape returns to play an inevitably central role, including through the intersection of different modes of investigation, including field surveys, traversing places and talking unbiasedly with communities, but also collecting data through the computer platforms of agencies and databases that are the outcome of specialized studies, in GIS environment and processed with other digital tools (Terracciano, 2017).

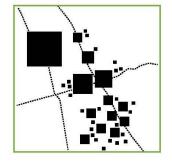
In particular, surveying and photographic description, walking and looking at the territory more closely, not only from above, but experiencing it firsthand, prove essential to recognize without preconceived notions the phenomena at work, having well in mind that "photographing means establishing a particular relationship with the world that gives a feeling of knowledge" (Sontag, 2004). A reflexive exploration, then, with a conscious gaze in which "sometimes the camera sees more than the photographer" (Thompson, 2015), like modern flâneurs lent to photography with a "documentary style" (Lugon, 2011), as a cognitive exercise to experience it, to be there - inside the space - in order to be able to talk about it, with the purpose of showing rather than analysing the place, which is thus revealed for what it is, regardless of possible narratives.

The out of control urban explosion-which has characterized the decades from the postwar period to the present and of which we find ample evidence in these territories-has consumed land without designing spaces for the community, fragmenting very diverse territories by making them all the same (Boeri, 2011), composing generic and introverted landscapes (Koolhaas, 1994), configuring the multiple pieces of a "city of enclosures" (Figures 6). Made up of the walls of townhouses and the gates of residential parks, the fences of manufacturing and commercial activities or specialized and military ones, the fences of bathing establishments and attached parking lots (out of scale and without any vegetation), day use or hourly hotel activities and large luxury resorts, from the transennas of abandoned artifacts where informal appropriations occur, from vast uncultivated areas where uncontrolled waste dumping continues to this day, (Iacuelli, 2008), the "enclosure" continues to assert itself as the predominant settlement pattern along the Domitio-Flegreo Coast.

Figure 6. The City of Enclosures









] Costal City

2 Domitiana City

Allotments
City

4 Water City

Source: Caterina D'Alterio and Davide Giannini, 2022

There, the bird's-eye view, possible thanks to the drone, has given us back a fragmented and interrupted landscape. at the top, one can perceive the caesuras and

confusion that generate disorientation and lack of reference points, evident when walking by car or on foot, often traveling along dead-end streets in which, the very few open spaces (including the beach), are fenced off and with a few narrow openings, vitiating the perception of the sea that is minimal or non-existent, despite its physical proximity.

In this "city of enclosures", some "territorial figures" (Secchi, Viganò, 2011) emerge that are able to capture the forms and dimensions of these territories by restoring their evocations and conditions, in which a series of landscape materials (self-)organize themselves, more or less spontaneously (Viganò, 2000), along the coastal strip of Giugliano, penetrating transversely inland and approaching each other without ever interacting with each other.

This path of knowledge led us to recognize four landscapes understood as "city figures" (Figures 7):

- 1. "The Costal City", which is composed through the relationships between and with activities for recreation and tourism.
- 2. "The Domitiana City", characterized by the multiplicity of enclosures hooked to the road between which alternate residential lots, cul-de-sac turns and relevant industrial enclosures.
- 3. "The Allotments City" built by a set of monofunctional residential islands, which have often sprung up spontaneously and are sharply separated from each other in a diluted territory lacking adequate infrastructure and services.
- 4. "The Waters City," in which a landscape of varying depths includes the complex system of the waters of Lake Patria, the small lakes behind the dunes and the network of irrigation canals, characterized by a strong environmental impairment also derived from excessive groundwater abstraction, as well as from the ingression of the saline wedge that has compromised the quality of its soils and marine-coastal waters.

Are open spaces, green and public areas available?

They are present but not in my neighborhood

They are prese

Figure 7. The four city figures schematized

Source: Caterina D'Alterio and Davide Giannini, 2022

Which area of the Coastal Strip do you consider the most dearaded? The landscape, understood as a lens through which to reread the territory (Zardini, 1996) thus becomes the privileged place in which to observe the dynamics of the flow of relationships and interactions that encompass in a single glance places, ecosystems and anthropic networks of infrastructural-technological, social-cultural, economic and information exchange (Terracciano, 2022).

Since the 1990s, and in particular since a monographic issue of Casabella dedicated to "The design of the Italian landscape", numerous reflections and researches have thus tried to construct a different narrative of places, but also of the communities that inhabit them, through the use of the landscape as an interpretative code, returning new images and new narratives as the product of a broader cultural and social process (Terracciano, 2022).

#### 2.2 Landscape for socio-spatial regeneration

In the Domitio-Flegreo Coastal areas we find many of the factors that in this historical phase are stressing cities around the world, dangerously intercepting the risks arising from climate change, including, in particular, pollution and the resulting ecological degradation, the pervasiveness of land consumption and the resulting hydro-geomorphological fragility, the scarcity of the water resource and the absence of sustainable management, the lack of adequate management of the waste cycle and more generally the spread of waste produced by partially or totally abandoned industrial supply chains, the seismic vulnerability of the built heritage and its energy inefficiency, etc. (Terracciano, 2018).

It seems evident, here more than anywhere else, the centrality of the environmental issue<sup>6</sup> that, among others, goes hand in hand with the social discomfort expressed mainly by the absence of fair access to services and, consequently, the right to the city. (Terracciano, 2018).

In this context, the Archaeological Park of Liternum merges with the values of the landscape, in which natural and rural resources of enormous potential persist, and which find themselves daily "resisting" the threats of multiple risks and fragilities that make it highly vulnerable (Avolio, 1986). Here, more than elsewhere, therefore, the issue of heritage protection and enhancement intercepts the great challenges of contemporary times, so it is necessary to start from the construction of knowledge frameworks, analysing the multiple intersections between historical-archaeological heritage with other open issues (Biehl, 2014).

The developed study also included paths of sharing with communities to define urban and environmental regeneration strategies and actions focused on caring for cultural heritage as a driver of tourism development, social economy and environmental sustainability, within, however, a dimension of mitigation and adaptation to present risks. The need to build new levels of accessibility and securing of heritage becomes the opportunity for a project of landscape and production of new public space, and more generally of a renewed welfare, beyond mere resistance or survival.

In this approach, the landscape understood in this way is capable of constantly and over time revealing the profound link between society and territory, becoming, in this sense, a descriptive mode capable of decoding both the built environment and its multiple settlement principles, as well as the degradation of peri-urban areas and the waste produced by the metabolism (Wolman, 1965) of the contemporary city, reconstructing the link between the current spatial arrangement and the "territorial image" (Russo, 2013) stratified in the perception of communities (Terracciano, 2018).

Thus, the landscape changes "from an aesthetic-literary model into a scientific model"

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(Farinelli, 1991) understood both as a lens through which to observe the territory as a totality in which "a different idea of the city is expressed, an idea that privileges multiplicity, heterogeneity, contrast, and the juxtaposition of different elements with each other" (Zardini, 1996) but also as a design device and socio-spatial regeneration.

#### 2.3 Landscape as an identity and participatory dimension of communities

The concept of landscape has crossed and centred the disciplinary debate of recent years intercepting a multiplicity of declinations, including those of re-appropriation, reconfiguration and re-signification of the territory also as a collective value to be shared (Gasparrini, 2014), thus becoming an actor of the project itself (Gausa, 2009) capable of affecting transformative processes, both programmatic and spatial (Terracciano, 2018). In particular, when we are confronted with places seemingly stuck in a suspended condition of abandonment and degradation, as is the case with Liternum, characterized instead by different degrees of malleability and transformability that make them frequently the object of informal practices of appropriation by a multiplicity of actors and even citizens, they clearly become the expression of a latent demand for re-circulation and regeneration (Terracciano, 2016) (Figures 8).

Across the city-recinto of the Domitio-Flegrea coastal strip.

1. casts Outs But 1. Casts of the Committee of the Domitio-Flegrea coastal strip.

2. csys scholog Outs But 1. Casts of the Committee of the Domitio-Flegrea coastal strip.

5. Variable of the Domitio-Flegrea coastal strip.

5. Variable of the Domitio-Flegrea coastal strip.

Figure 8. The results of the survey

Source: Caterina D'Alterio and Davide Giannini, 2022

It is in this sense that the landscape dimension plays a fundamental role since it is in it that the re-cycling of urban places and materials, and more generally, the need for the regeneration of space, are no longer understood as isolated gestures, but as processes capable of building new physical and relational networks by regenerating existing ones as well. The aim is to connect the different design interventions among the multiple fragments of the city (Terracciano, De Marco, 2016), producing a multiplicity of new landscapes, continuous and common, also understood as places

of sociality and inclusion, of rebalancing between functions and urban polarities (Russo, 2013).

As evidence of this, the most advanced experience we can look at, both in the Italian and international panorama, are characterized by a design of public space that is open and accessible, attractive and multifunctional, in which what is emerging is a new form of the public city and a dimension of collective living in which the landscape acts as an "actor" and not only as a "scenario" (Terracciano, 2018). In particular, the project of socio-spatial regeneration in areas also affected by the presence of historical-archaeological heritage, as also proposed for the Liternum Park, therefore comes to be configured as an opportunity for the production of territory, identity and shared values within a wider landscape dimension.

The contribution therefore reflects on the hypothesis that the historical-archaeological heritage, in the broader dimension expressed by the concept of "cultural landscape" (UNESCO, 1992), can "contribute to improving the city-citizen identity relationship" (Ricci, 2006), proposing itself with a role not exclusively dedicated to protection and enhancement, but also as a subject promoter and activator of processes of regeneration of the spatial, social and economic context in which this heritage is immersed.

#### 2.4 Landscape for the protection of historical and archaeological heritage

The centrality of heritage and cultural places in the value and identity system of cities and territories, as well as of communities, and especially the possibility of providing new services and activating new economies, are today an important premise for generating new values in urban contexts, including through virtuous projects at different scales, promoting "vital public spaces that should [...] play an important role in the development of social ties and cohesion, in the construction of citizenship and in the reflection on collective identities" (UNESCO, 2015). The social dimension assumed in recent years by cultural heritage is, moreover, also witnessed by the perspectives of the Next Generation EU and the 2030 Agenda, which see it as a driver of socio-urban development, as well as by the Faro Convention (EC, 2005)<sup>7</sup> which considers heritage as a valuable resource supporting not only identity, but also quality of life and sustainable development.

In the proposed reflection, therefore, we investigate the ways in which cultural places-whose traditional role is mainly related to the "protection" of works and their enjoyment, particularly in "protective enclosures" such as archaeological parks-are modifying their role in urban dynamics and cultural and social supply chains and are also bidding to become a more qualified contemporary public space. Making some spaces available for uses and functions other than museums and exhibitions becomes an opportunity to build new continuities and continuous connectivity between urban public spaces.

Experiences in this sense are widely detectable in the socio-spatial regeneration action conducted in the management of some archaeological parks - cf. the archaeological site of Praça Nova in Lisbon; the archaeological area of Salona in Split; the archaeological site of Lucentum in Alicante; and the Roman Theater in Cartagena, in which the museum route recovers historical artifacts in the state of ruins and open spaces of the urban plot, generating a process of rebirth of the city's historic centre - (Miano, 2014), which can be defined as paradigmatic cases in the national and international panorama. The capacity demonstrated in profoundly modifying public space and the relations between cultural places and cities has been expressed here through the action carried out by architecture, urban and urban planning, and especially through the activation of governance networks and multi-

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level collaborations.

What emerges is the centrality of heritage and landscape in local development policies and planning choices, through the search for a balance between protection and enhancement, between identity and sustainable development, overcoming "a perspective of mere conservation and immobilism, a static conception, concerned only with avoiding the destruction of assets" but capable of triggering fertile processes in socio-spatial dynamics.

Exploitation is no longer configured as "a perspective solely of exploitation and of putting those assets to income" (Flick, 2015), going beyond the sole economic meaning of heritage, which instead becomes a proactive subject at the different scales of the city and landscape.

#### 3. Case study: methods, tools and results

Within this cultural frame of reference, the reflections proposed for the case study of Liternum were developed as part of a dissertation in urban planning<sup>8</sup>, within a complex process, the outcome of the interaction and multidisciplinary convergence of different knowledge, in which places were experienced within a necessarily multiscalar and multilevel dimension. Fundamental was also the activation of a path of community involvement that made it possible to build an updated picture of the territorial structure, the evolutionary dynamics of land use and consumption, areas of environmental criticality and more generally the outcomes of urban metabolism and the more or less virtuous functioning of this part of the territory.

#### 3.1 Methods

The development of some analytical-interpretive maps, necessary to return this condition of complexity in order to orient the project toward an open incremental process, was the starting point for the definition of an updated framework of strategic objectives and project actions.

Special attention was paid to the use of languages and communication, keeping in mind that "to design is to select, to select is to interpret, to interpret is to propose" (Solà-Morales, 1979), in a "collective path, maintaining the complexity and roughness of the territory" (Poli, 2019).

This journey of knowledge of the territory was characterized by the following stages:

- 1. the analysis of current plans, programs and projects to assess the intentions and priorities of public action, together with research and reading of historical maps to reconstruct the processes of transformation of the territory.
- 2. the administration of a questionnaire addressed to the community to gather expectations and critical issues.
- 3. the real and virtual site visit to deepen not only the physical knowledge of the places but also the established uses and practices.
- 4. the restitution of data, both quantitative and qualitative, through analytical-interpretive maps capable of narrating this territory from multiple points of view. In particular, the process of map construction was based on the interaction and study of different sources from both specialized work and direct field surveys, such as:
- the studies that supported the process of drafting the PUC of Giugliano in Campania<sup>9</sup>: (1) the Geological Study, (2) the Agricultural-Forest Study and (3) the Environmental Study Main environmental criticalities of the municipal territory of Giugliano in Campania, (4) the Municipal Census of abandoned quarries (art. 30 L.R. 54/85), closed and active (2018); the information from

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some digital databases: (5) the DEM Digital Elevation Model from source NASA's Shuttle Radar Topography Mission SRTM (2014), (6) the Nature Map of the Campania Region: Habitat Map at scale 1:25. 000 (2009), (7) the Corine Land Cover in Campania updated by Arpac Campania in agreement with ISPRA (2018), (8) the Geoportal of the Campania Region , (9) the CTR Regional Technical Map of Campania (2017).

- The forecasts of the Super-Municipal and Sector Plans: (10) the PSAI-RI Piano Stralcio per l'Assetto Idrogeologico of the Central Campania Basin Authority (2015), (11) the Regional Reclamation Plan PRB (2013, 2017, 2019), (12) the PSdC Coastal Defense Master Plan of the former Northwest Campania Basin Authority (2008), the (13) Water Protection Plan cycle 2015-2021, (14) the Domitio Coastal Masterplan by the Campania Region, (15) the Regional Plan for Urban Waste Management PRGRU (2016), (16) the Water Protection Plan (2017), (17) the Characterization Plan of the Giugliano Wide Area (2014).
- Some sector studies such as: (18) the studies drawn up for The Polluted, Contaminated and Potentially Contaminated Sites by ARPAC in SIN and ex-SIN sites, (19) the Italian Atlas of Environmental Conflicts, (20) the Municipal Census of Abandoned Quarries (art. 30 L.R. 54/85), (21) the Studies of the General Reclamation Consortium of the Lower Volturno Basin.
- The indirect inspections through platforms such as Google Earth, Google Maps and Google Street, including the platforms: (22) Digital Map of Landfills of Google Maps, (23) the Terra Dei Fuochi Geoportal.
- The direct field inspections and the realization of a photographic campaign, traversing the places, both with aerial shots using drone, and from the ground.
   These photographic accounts served not only to describe the coastal landscapes but also as support and direction for other graphic elaborations.
- The results of the questionnaires administered to the resident population and users of the places investigated, which revealed fairly homogeneous opinions in which the scarcity of open spaces and public equipped areas, the state of abandonment and neglect in particular of the areas of Licola is reported, Varcaturo and Lago Patria, the widespread degradation between Via Domitiana and the Licola Mare shoreline, the incidence of substantial recessive and inaccessible areas, but also a relevant demand for the enhancement of the historical heritage present and for the improvement of alternative and public mobility.

#### 3.2 Tools

In urban planning and design processes, one is confronted with the management of a massive and heterogeneous amount of data. Beginning in the 1970s, the landscape architect and planner Ian L. McHarg developed a technique of thematic overlay mapping that he called "overlay mapping" (McHarg, 1969), which allows for the measurement, mapping, monitoring and modelling of land, as well as having the ability to generate new data as a product of existing layers. Possibilities these then further implemented with the advent of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), which launched the era of computer-aided mapping. Maps and mappings obtained by this methodology, however, very often, precisely because they seek impossible objectivity, turn out to be inaccurate or unable to capture significant data streams, thus leading to imperfect or false conclusions (Bailey, 1988).

In fact, the overabundance of information can generate problems for which the excess of certainty generates a simplification of the map, leading to the construction of passive cartographies produced automatically by remote sensing, which, however, lack a critical reading, sometimes ending up returning a selective and incomplete

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view of reality (Monmonier, 1991).

Starting from this awareness, a research methodology was constructed that involved a constant interaction between the virtual database in a GIS environment and the physical space of places. A continuous oscillation between the technical control of the data and the field, through site visits and dialogue with local communities. This method allowed us to organize and control all the information bases useful for the development of the work, starting from open data portals to the transposition of geographic information layers by the competent bodies on the territory, up to those of the specialized studies prepared for urban planning tools at the municipal, metropolitan and regional scales. This process allowed us to combine different techniques and languages within a process of data processing and management, at different scales, to bring out drawings capable of highlighting places, materials, and characterizing issues. The maps, together with the geographic figures that emerge, tell stories and dynamics of the landscapes of the Domitio-Flegreo Coast, in particular of the Giuglianese area, restoring not only the processes of territorial transformation from the environmental and morphological point of view, but also and above all the socioeconomic changes that have led to the crisis of some life cycles.

These phenomena are investigated through the layers of the GIS database, understood as a container of information in constant relation to each other, whose convergences and dissonances suggest in a purposeful way opportunities to understand aspects that are not taken for granted, within new narratives of places that aim at new perspectives of rethinking.

#### 3.3 Results

The activities performed in the field, presented in Chapter 2, allowed an in-depth investigation of the territorial dynamics of the Domitio-Flegreo Coast with a multidimensional approach. The direct inspections highlighted the remarkable landscape fragmentation dominated by the morphology of the "enclosure", while the photographic campaign, both from the air and the ground, documented in visual form the physical and perceptual barriers to spatial connections. The questionnaires, finally, given to local people, showed the demand for public space and the exploitation of historical and archaeological heritage – a demand that was confirmed by the approach of integrated socio-spatial regeneration.

The results are summed up in the following images that seal the analytic work performed to the theoretical discussions presented:

#### 4. Process incrementalism and regeneration strategies

The proposed strategies target the prospect of a polycentric network of services to promote greater social inclusion and interaction along the coastal strip of Giugliano, and are intended to be implemented through, primarily, the following objectives (Figure 9):

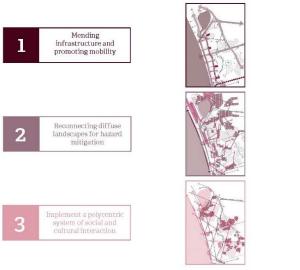
- 1. "Mending infrastructure and promoting mobility", with the aim of upgrading and completing the existing infrastructure system, configuring a network of bicycle and pedestrian routes capable of connecting the "four cities" of the coastal strip with other neighbouring towns, activating intermodal nodes between different mobilities, encouraging the switch to cycling.
- 2. "Reconnecting diffuse landscapes for risk mitigation and environmental sustainability", in which a series of continuous networks of green public spaces are structured in order to: rebalancing the relationship between permeable and

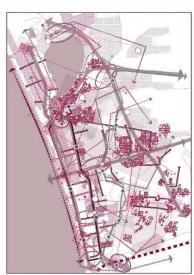
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impermeable soils; advocating for greater protection of the landscape and historical-archaeological heritage, particularly of Liternum, integrating it into the larger system of the heritage chain of the Phlegraean area; providing for the redevelopment of the water network for flood risk mitigation; providing for actions that limit coastal erosion.

3. "Implementing the polycentric system of social and cultural interaction", promoting actions that can reduce the widespread sense of isolation among the different allotments, encouraging the establishment of new activities related to the social, sports, educational and cultural spheres, creating an integrated system of centralities and new attractors.

Figure 9. Framework of strategies





Source: Caterina D'Alterio and Davide Giannini, 2022

Each of these strategic objectives has its own graphical representation that returns its spatial precipitate, particularly for the corresponding project actions. These are diagrams that try to tell perspectives of socio-spatial regeneration and historical-landscape enhancement to be implemented with differentiated time frames, within a necessary incremental project dimension. In this strategic perspective hinges a master plan of design rules in which, some significant in-depth nodes, including the Archaeological Park of Liternum, represent an opportunity to verify the proposals, starting from the reversal of the concept of "enclosure," working precisely on the dimension of public space and landscape.

#### 5. Actions and scenarios for a new Liternum Archaeological Park

The Archaeological Park of Liternum thus offers a relevant field of experimentation with regard to processes of urban and environmental regeneration starting from an asset of historical-cultural interest. The remains present, besides their great historical-documental relevance, also constitute an important set of signs to be reinterpreted within a contemporary landscape.

In the scenario that is proposed, a circular accessibility route is outlined that embraces the interior of the archaeological park in which, the different paths at different heights, are connected in a single circuit aimed not only at fruition, but also at stopping and welcoming, thanks to the presence of small equipped areas positioned at privileged viewpoints, on the archaeological area but also on the

surrounding landscape, thus defining a project concept in which the design of the perceptual escapes also corresponds to the axes of physical reconnection of the places (Figures 10 & 11).

Figure 10. Diagrams, vistas, sections

Source: Caterina D'Alterio and Davide Giannini, 2022

This is possible because strategies, actions and design scenarios, are based on the outcome of the interpretations and analyses carried out, and contain the instances expressed by the activism of the actors operating in the context, considering also the priorities expressed by public action through plans, programs and projects in place, together with the emerging issues contained in the programming documents of the Local Administrations. In particular, it is proposed to:

- Eliminate the spontaneous buildings in the archaeological area to allow for better and broader physical and perceptual enjoyment.
- define a design matrix starting from the main axes of both physical and visual connection between the archaeological remains and the surrounding landscape, to ensure the best enjoyment of the park area and its maximum integration into both urban and landscape contexts.
- Eliminate the fences delimiting the excavations by implementing overall pedestrian areas and thus promoting the continuity of the urban public space.
- Qualify the access to the area of the archaeological park by recognizing an intermediary space towards the "lake city," through the design of a new urban square also at the service of the community, regardless of the route of visit to the excavations

In this strategy, the Archaeological Park of Liternum - heritage and landscape - become the generating element of a broader process of producing a more qualified contemporary public space, starting with the improvement of accessibility conditions. By becoming a new plaza, a place for meeting and cultural exchange, the social meaning of cultural heritage is further expanded, thus aiming at the idea of an "open museum," that is, a structure that, in the exercise of its functions, is permeable,

flexible and dynamic, capable of interacting with the complexity of contemporary changes and needs, placing itself, therefore, as an "active subject" in society, providing cultural and social services, and making its spaces available for uses and functions other than the intrinsic ones of preservation and visitation.

Figure 11. The Masterplan of the New Archaeological Park

Source: Caterina D'Alterio and Davide Giannini, 2022

#### 6. Conclusions

Overall, the reflections proposed in this case study, regarding a possible socio-spatial regeneration scenario (Caruso et al, 2021) for the Archaeological Park of Liternum, may constitute a first opportunity for landscape redevelopment for the great environmental infrastructure (Mell, 2008, 2015) expressed by the Domitio-Flegreo Coast, in which enormous naturalistic, as well as historical-cultural, values endure to this day (Gasparrini, 2019).

The idea is that of an enclosed archaeological area that opens up to its urban and environmental context as a more qualified public space, proposing itself as a protagonist of a landscape and cultural regeneration, and no longer only as a place deputed to the preservation and transmission of preserved goods.

It was therefore a matter of subtracting the archaeological area from its condition as a place separate from the city in order to prefigure a broader urban use (Manacorda, 2007), starting with the design of the paths of an expanded fruition capable of sequencing urban spaces with the archaeological remains and the landscape. This overturns the idea of archaeological parks understood as specialized and monofunctional enclosures, removed from urban dynamics, but open to the city with which they establish fertile relationships with contextual actors.

It is intended to position itself, therefore, in that all-contemporary strand of research for which, the broadening and advancement of the concepts "protection" and "heritage," promote the idea of "cultural places," historically deputed to preservation and enhancement alone, to a variable depth opening to the city and territories, thus innovating the role of heritage as a pro-active subject in contexts, within a renewed collaborative dimension with the different actoral chains present and above all communities.

Among the many challenges that can be taken up in this field of research, investigating the opportunities for socio-spatial regeneration (Caruso et al, 2021) in contexts characterized by high degrees of criticality and a significant absence of services for citizens, the most fascinating one, however, is affirmed in the belief that

by intervening in the protection and promotion of the present heritage, one actualizes "the values of heritage in an educated and conscious design dimension" (Badami, 2017).

In fact, the mutations (Choay, 1992; Koolhaas et all, 2000; Beck, 2013) of urban, environmental and social contexts are accompanied by the mutation of the concept of landscape-understood today as an interpretative, narrative and design device-that has spanned the last two decades as a result of an urgent and necessary modification in the way of looking at a profoundly changed city and territory. Also decisive have been the influences of Landscape Ecology (Naveh Z., Lieberman A.S, 1990; Shane, 2004) and Landscape Urbanism (Corner, 2003, 2006; Mostafavi, Najle, 2003; Waldheim, 2006), in which the large scale of the landscape becomes the body of the "city-territory" and at the same time the most appropriate scale at which to analyze urban phenomena, recalling an ecological (McHarg, 1969), integrated and unified conception of the landscape also reaffirmed in the European Landscape Convention of 2000<sup>10</sup> (Terracciano, 2022).

The combination of these approaches, reflections and research-action can help to generate in the community a sense of belonging, which translates into a renewed awareness of places and traditions, and a willingness to defend and enhance them in terms of identity, dignity, cultural and economic value, through new ways in which the historical-cultural heritage, and in particular archaeological areas, can participate in the life of a community and a territory.

#### **Notes**

- 1. The concept of "transition" should be understood with reference to the Sustainability Transitions Research Network (STRN) research agenda as sustainability transition. On these issues, DiARC, with the development project "Inhabiting the Transition" (AbiT) is ANVUR Department of National Excellence for the five-year period 2023/27.
- 2. https://pafleg.cultura.gov.it/it/4388/localit/59/parco-archeologico-di-liternum.
- 3. ARPAC Campania, https://www.arpacampania.it/siti-contaminati; https://www.regione.campania.it/assets/documents/piano-regionale-di-bonifica-aggiornamento-2018.pdf.
- 4. Il disegno del paesaggio italiano, Casabella, n 575-576 (1991)
- 5. Among the numerous publications we report: Boeri S., Lanzani A., Marini E., (1993), Il territorio che cambia; Munarin S., Tosi C., (2002), Tracce di città; AA. VV. (2003), Multiplicity, Use Uncertain States of Europe, Skira; Lanzani A., (2003), I paesaggi italiani, Meltemi Editore; AA. VV. (1999), Everything is landscape, Lotus No. 101; AA. VV. 2012), Landscape Urbanism, Lotus no. 150.
- 6. ARPAC Campania, https://www.arpacampania.it/terra-dei-fuochi.
- 7. http://musei.beniculturali.it/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Convenzione-di-Faro.pdf.
- 8. University of Naples, DiARC Department of Architecture, MAPA Master's Degree Course, Thesis title "Beyond the enclosed city of the Domitian coastal strip. The case study of Giugliano in Campania," Supervisor: Anna Terracciano; Co-Rapporteur: Francesco S. Sammarco, Undergraduates: Caterina D'Alterio and Davide Giannini.
- 9. The Municipal Urban Plan PUC of Giugliano is being drafted. At present, the Preliminary Plan is approved by Commission Resolution No. 50 of 02/10/2020. The drafts are available at the link https://www.comune.giugliano.na.it/
- 10. The European Landscape Convention defines landscape as "An area, as perceived by people, the character of which is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors" (Council of Europe 2000).

#### **Author Contributions**

Anna Terracciano and Francesco Stefano Sammarco are the authors of this paper and contributed equally to: Conceptualization; Methodology; Investigation; Resources; Data curation; Writing - original draft preparation; Writing - review and editing; Visualization.

Specifically: paragraph 1 is co-written by Anna Terracciano and Francesco S. Sammarco; paragraphs 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 5 and 6 are by Anna Terracciano; paragraphs, 2.1, 3 and 4 are by Francesco S. Sammarco.

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#### **Conflicts of Interest**

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

#### **Originality**

The authors declare that this manuscript is original, has not been published before and is not currently being considered for publication elsewhere, in English or any other language. The manuscript has been read and approved by all named authors and there are no other persons who satisfied the criteria for authorship but are not listed. The authors also declare to have obtained the permission to reproduce in this manuscript any text, illustrations, charts, tables, photographs, or other material from previously published sources (journals, books, websites, etc).

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