

# Learning from the Lama

The need for Bitonto to regenerate itself in the face of the challenges of the Anthropocene is possible through an enhancement of the functions of its three main axes: the urban fabric, the agricultural lands and the rural landscape. The urban fabric is the most developed; the analysis of its morphological evolution within the Lama and the study of its various layers generate positive results that, once implemented and maintained, could contribute to reinforcing the sustainability of the whole territory with positive effects on environmental quality, urban mobility and economic processes.

## CITY-LAMA EXCHANGES

Enhancement of agricultural production chains Development of rural tourism

## LAMA-RURALSCAPE EXCHANGES

Urban green continuity

## CITY-LAMA EXCHANGES

Water management

## LAMA-RURALSCAPE EXCHANGES

Enhancement of green corridors and ecosystems

## LAMA-RURALSCAPE EXCHANGES

Water management

Urban green continuity

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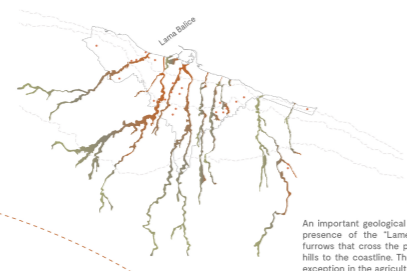
Urban green continuity

Water management

Urban green continuity

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Urban green continuity

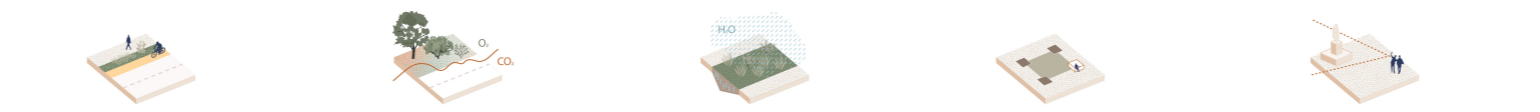


## THE 'LAMA' SYSTEM

An important geological characteristic of the area is the presence of the 'Lama', long and shallow karst furrows that cross the plain of Bari from the Murgia hills to the coastline. The 'Lama' constitutes a major exception in the agricultural landscape of the Apulian plains, which is normally dominated by olive and wine cultivation, representing natural ecological corridors for the wild species of the area.

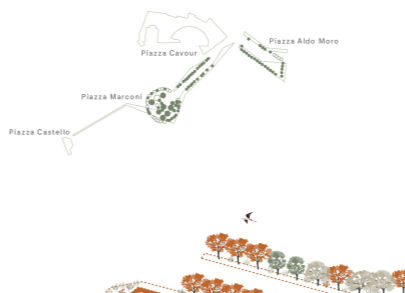
## BITONTO, FOUR PIAZZAS CONNECTED TO THE LAMA

The system of the squares of Bitonto can be seen as an urban branch in the compact urban fabric of the city. The open spaces of the squares follow an inclined plane that slowly descends from piazza Aldo Moro to piazza Castello, facing onto Lama Balice. The dominant element of this urban system is the minimal one from the stone pavement of the squares to the asphalt of the many streets crossing them. The use of trees of this heritage is still visible in the ordered tree rows surrounding the squares. In the following interventions, the only major addition was the garden of piazza Aldo Moro, conceived as a circular island of exotic and local species that today create a dense wood. The squares represent the apartment of the urban life of the city full of activities, commercial activities, and people. However, the road network also creates a strong congestion of cars in this central area, generating smog, traffic, and noise. From these premises, the project intends to revitalize the pulsing heart of the city facing the actual problems while preserving the identity and the general feel of Bitonto center. The approach of the project is the preserving of the main spatial features of the place but with a new approach to the theme of the biodiversity and quality of urban life.



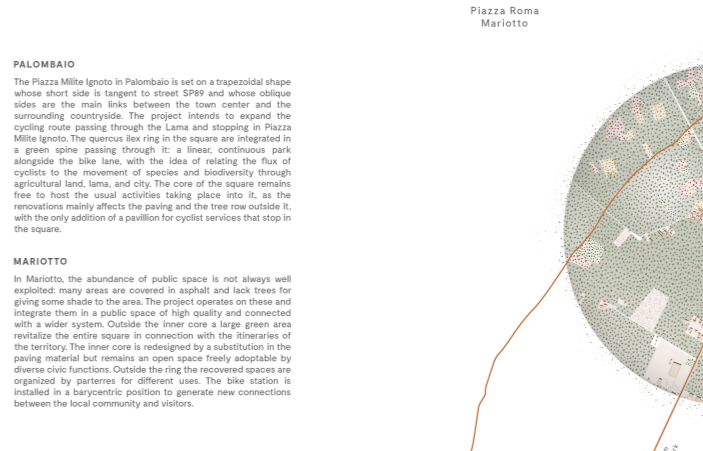
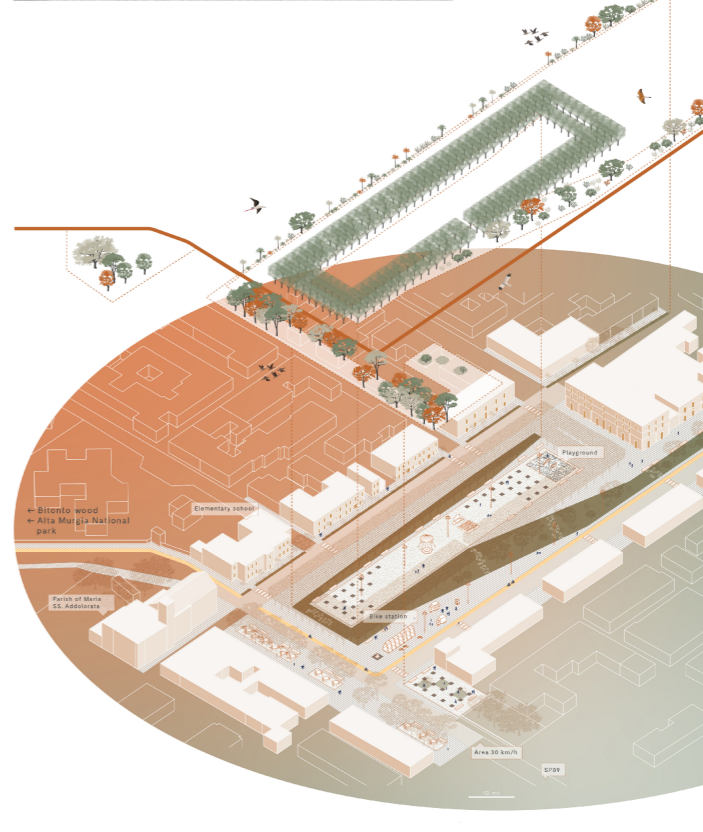
**Urban mobility management.** The objective is to restrict the transit of vehicles along the historic centre and promote light mobility by extending pedestrian areas and introducing bicycle lanes.  
**Urban green management.** The objective is to incorporate present trees in a linear system of grass, bushes and trees that work together to mitigate the urban microclimate, to sequester CO2 and pollutants.  
**Water management.** The green spine would constitute a permeable surface that, through the stratified plants of the pool, collects and filters the meteoric water of the city to reinsert it into Lama.  
**Material interpretation.** A new pavement in 'calcateda stabilizzata' follows the color of the town's stone embedding small blocks of quarry leftovers and square slabs of Caltanissetta granite to create benches.  
**Context interpretation.** In order to valorize the historical views of the city over monuments, churches, and landscape, stairways, fountains, and historical lamps are maintained or replaced in the squares.

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## PALOMBAIO AND MARIOTTO, REINFORCING RURALSCAPE OUTPOSTS

The hamlets of Bitonto are situated in the vast olive plain surrounding the city, born and developed as rural outposts for the city. The main squares of the hamlets are located alongside the road, as are the main civic and religious buildings of the town. Originally the large squares were conceived as a place of collection and sorting of agricultural wares and goods from the countryside to the city. Nowadays, the squares present large empty spaces surrounded by a row of trees that generate shadow for the benches and for the tables that citizens bring out during free time. In the last years the promotion of itineraries to visit the agricultural areas and the inland area of Bitonto can generate a virtuous development of the economy of the hamlets. The goal is to interrupt the fluxes of people visiting the countryside by proposing them as intermediate stops in the discovery of the territory, and to establish contacts between local product companies and outside visitors. This process can be lived in the squares of the hamlets, representing them and the activities surrounding it. Alongside the blue lanes, the treatment of the green areas in a linear way that creates a visual and biologist connection between the squares, the countryside and the Lama.



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