

An atlas of rituals

A framework of trails and stations

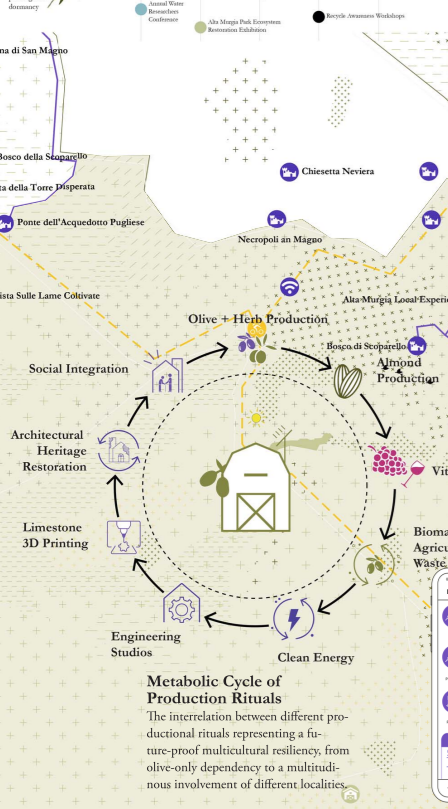
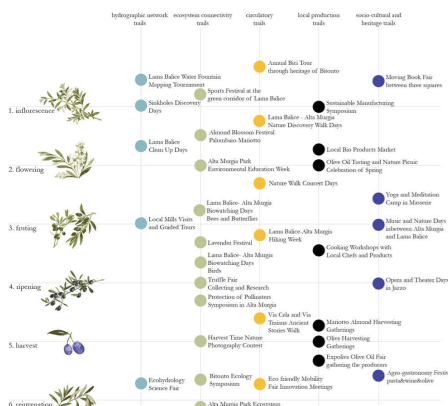
Expanding through vast and ancient territories of urban centers to rural peripheries, coastal breeze to inland winds agricultural lands to nature reserves, Bionto's municipal terrain transpires a diverse range of multilayered socio-ecological encounters on its historic routes and nodes, reconciling the human and natural spheres through the story of "olive". Olive's pristine existence on this territory not only incites countless processes and a life around olive cultivation, but also, its essence instigates a preserved space for constant natural transformation yet of outstanding permanence, enduring and witnessing through time, becoming the common heritage of natural and human artifacts, and perpetually connecting the heterogeneous and diverse ecosystem, history, culture, civilization, religion, architecture and urbanism of Bionto.

With its ancient origins, this eminent hardy evergreen tree has been considered sacred, a cultural symbol that is associated with longevity, health and fertility; it became an emblem of peace, victory and purity. Its growth, cultivation and harvest cycles prompted a myriad of rituals from common conversations and multi-scale productive networks. The dominant character of the Olive Tree in this region is indisputable. This specific potential and offering of Bionto open up possibilities to re-establish and re-question the connections between the urban and rural, center and hamlets, past and present, human and nature, machine and organic through the processes of olive.

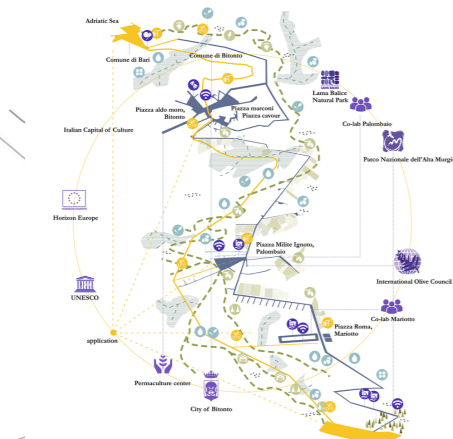
Interpreting the connection between heritage and nature through exploring Olive Tree's existence in Bionto, the project proposes a "process-driven" design approach, and probes instigating a new form of "connectedness" through a framework that revolves around the cyclical rituals of olive to enable dynamic coexistence of socio-ecological/cultural/economic mutations. An olive tree's calendar creates the foundations of this uniting framework: Inflorescence (beginning of the reproductive cycle: floral induction begins, new sprouts start to grow), Flowering (the moment of pollination and fertilization), Fruiting (Ripening (Hardening of the pit and maturing of the fruit), Harvest (Collecting, picking, transporting, cleaning, milling, extracting and storing), Rejuvenation, pruning and dormancy (Preparing the tree for the following harvest, Repair, restore and repeat).

Each process both literally and metaphorically suggests events, activities and implementations (rituals) that originate from the essence of the particular moments in the cultivation cycle. The moment of pollination, for instance, both enables the flowering of the tree and the seasonal events for the pollination of olives; the time of the harvest, not only an occasion of collecting the produce, but also a period when public crowdsourcing or voting results; the rejuvenation and dormancy period, a time of repair for the olive tree and also, a term to collaborate in the ecosystem restoration of the natural reserves. All layers of connectivity and all rituals are harmonized with each other through the processes of olive; within this multilayered framework, the layers of connection become trails of rituals while the squares, stations of these rituals. Each trail reinvigorates itself with a catalogue of

Process-driven' design approach revolving around the cyclical rituals of olive



Aiming to integrate and encourage processes and activities within the daily life of this olive territory, the project suggests this framework with a responsive and communicative virtual ecosystem that embeds an augmented environment of user interaction and data. With its layers offering a distributed information system to provide active ecological monitoring interfaces to self-organization tools, urban circulation to event calendars, the adoption of the digital communication layer consolidates more empirically-based human & nature centered design aiming to cancel distances, promote its locality via global mediums and to achieve participatory, transparent and dynamic future for Bionto and its hamlets.



Network of Rituals



Trails of Rituals

In between the ever-lengthening atmosphere of olive trees, via Cella, now presents a multiplicate naturalistic encounters within a serene and productive diversity.



Trails of Rituals
Synthesizing the characteristics and priorities of Bionto's territory, the project introduces and employs five connectivity layers. With their strategic interventions (trials), these layers strengthen the existing ties and create new channels to form new relations. They illustrate a vision for the region to enable eco-spatial conditions, socio-ecological interactions and an active public realm by promoting systems of reconciliation, adaptability, resiliency. This approach attempts to create an eco-political project that reinterprets the connotations of a productive landscape: it aims to become not only a project of passive preservation and re-functionalization, but of characterization and symbiotic activation.

Stations of Rituals
As the stations of all trails, the squares manifest the motions, learnings and the yields of each trail's rituals. Examining the specific potentials and offerings of each square, the project employs them as enabling fields for reconnections, transformations and rediscoveries; promotes them as Bionto's commons and provides infrastructural enhancement and a landscape of social instruments to instigate different events and experiences, reciprocally reasoned or nurtured by the active collaboration of its public at all scales. This soft urbanism introduces tactical blue-green infrastructure, self-sufficient energy solutions, Co-LABs, ground sockets for event structures and traffic evaporation strategies.



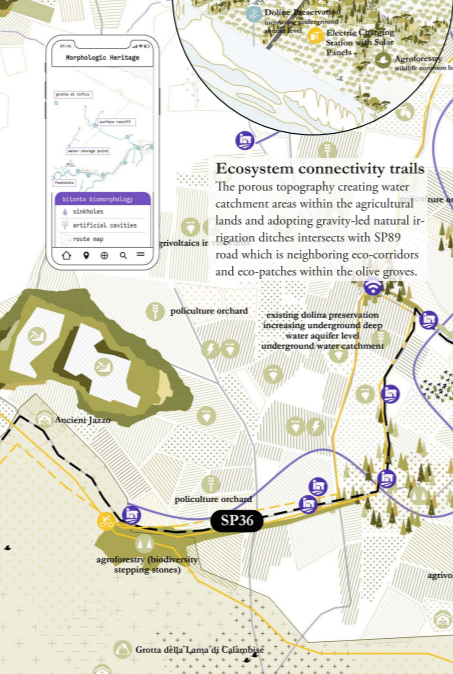
Circulation trails - ancient & nature paths

Extension of Via Cella through Via Traiana and nature path through Lama Balice



Ecosystem connectivity trails

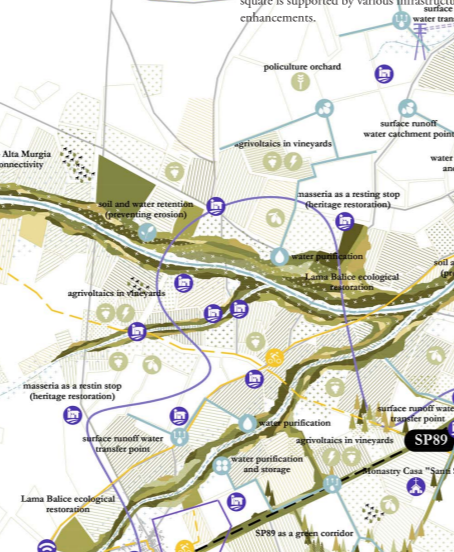
The porous topography creating water catchment areas within the agricultural lands and adopting gravity-led natural irrigation ditches intersects with SP89 road which is neighboring eco-corridors and eco-patches within the olive groves.



Bionto: Piazza Aldo Moro, Piazza Marconi and Piazza Cavotti
Unleash the potential of their unification, traffic evaporation strategies are adopted and to accentuate the specific spatial qualities of each square is supported by various infrastructural enhancements.



Bionto: Piazza Aldo Moro, Piazza Marconi and Piazza Cavotti

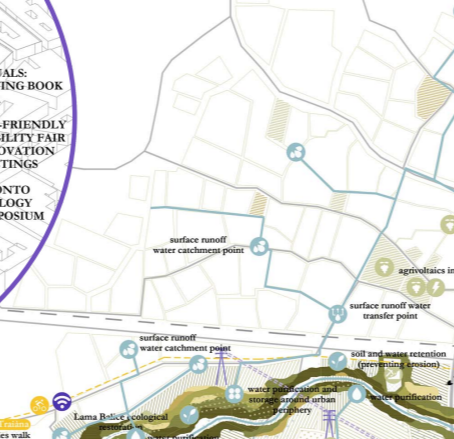


Ecosystem connectivity trails

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Palombaio: Piazza Milite Ignotò
Although a compact small square, Piazza Milite Ignotò offers diverse interaction with gastronomic experiences as Palombaio has the most variety of local agricultural and organic products.

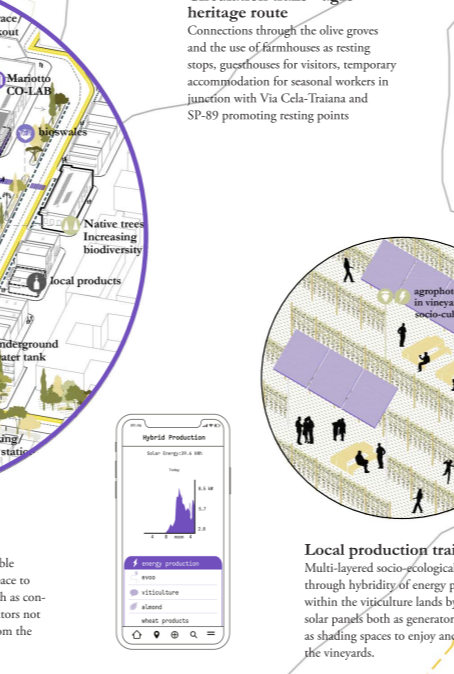


Palombaio: Piazza Milite Ignotò



Circulation trails - agro-heritage route

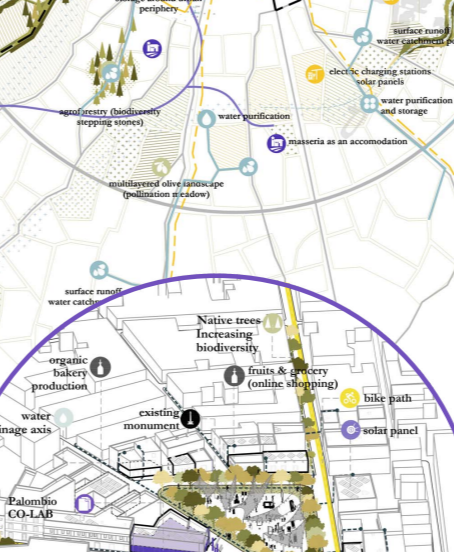
Connections through the olive groves and the use of farmhouses as resting stops, pagonhouses for visitors, temporary accommodation for seasonal workers in junction with Via Cella-Traiana and SP-89 promoting resting points



Mariotto: Piazza Roma
With its very large rational and adjustable piazza, Mariotto offers an open total space to host very big events within Bionto such as concerts, expos, festivals by attracting visitors not only from Bionto and Bari but also from the inlands at the gate of Alta Murgia.

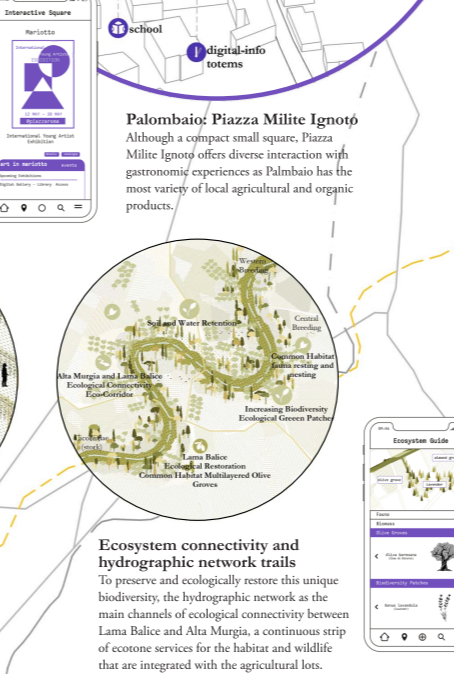


Mariotto: Piazza Roma

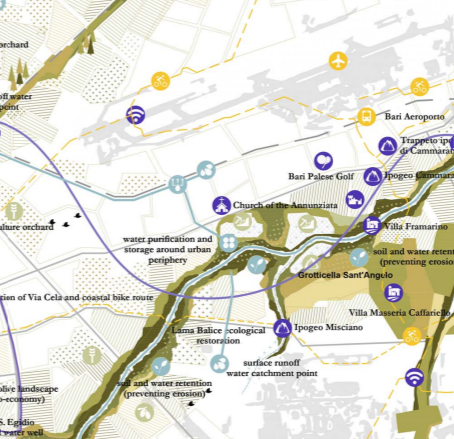


Local production trails

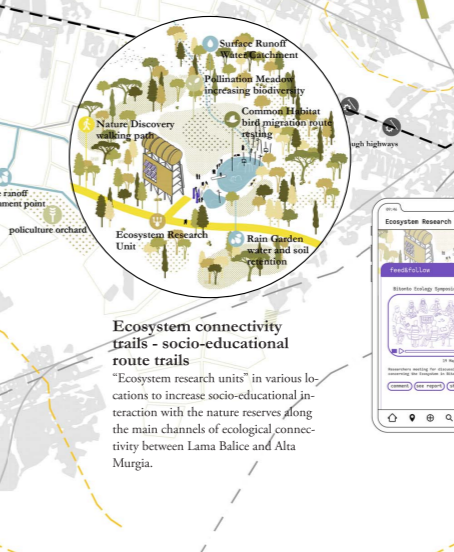
Multi-layered socio-ecological encounters through hybridized energy production within the viticulture lands by installing solar panels both as generator and also as shading spaces to enjoy and experience the vineyards.



Ecosystem connectivity and hydrographic network trails
To preserve and ecologically restore this unique biodiversity, the hydrographic network in the main channels of ecological connectivity between Lama Balice and Alta Murgia, a continuous strip of ecotone services for the habitat and wildlife that are integrated with the agricultural lots.



Ecosystem connectivity and hydrographic network trails

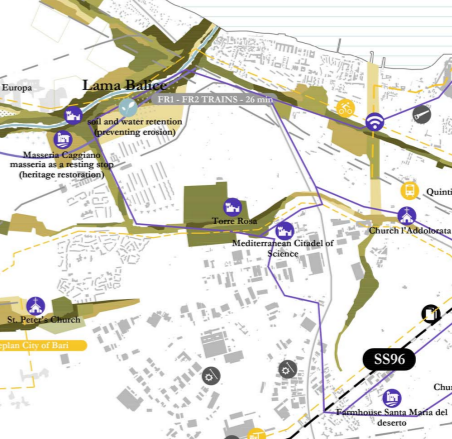


Stations of Rituals

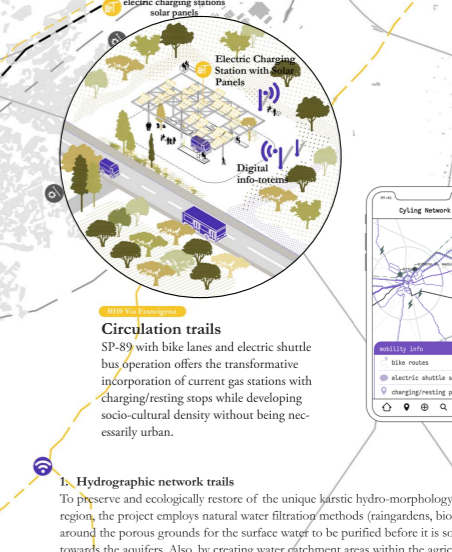
As one of the destination venues of the circulatory system, Piazza Roma hosts a multifarious catalogue of different events during the year. Associating with naturalistic, productive and participatory strategies, each square in this holistic system comes to life as a vivid and collaborative public venues.



Hydrographic network trails
To preserve and ecologically restore of the unique karstic hydro-morphology of the region, the project employs natural water filtration methods (rain gardens, bioswales) around the porous grounds for the surface water to be purified before it is soaked in towards the aquifers. Also, by creating water catchment areas within the agricultural lands and adopting gravity-led natural irrigation ditches, the project aims to direct and collect the water in the lamus and mainly in Lama Balice to aid boosting its biodiversity.

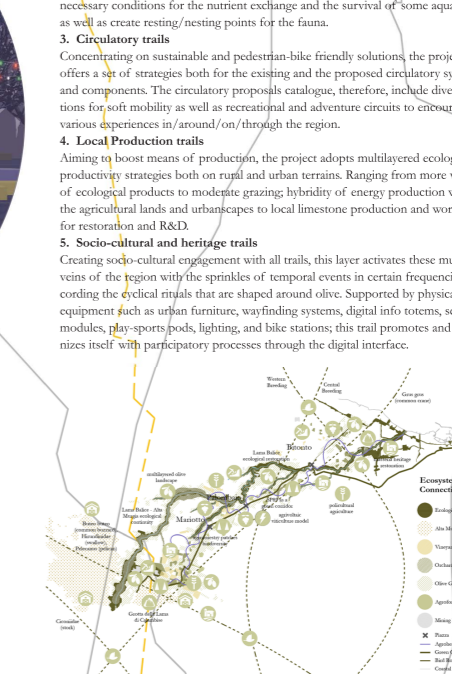


Hydrographic network trails

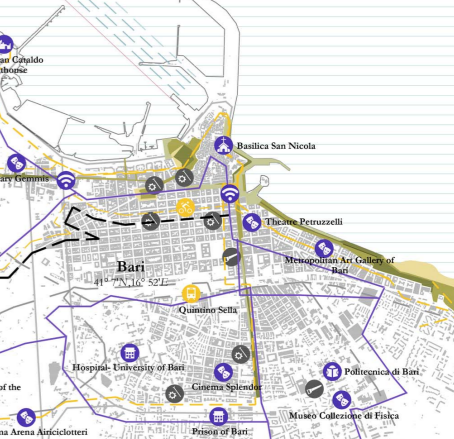


Ecosystem connectivity trails

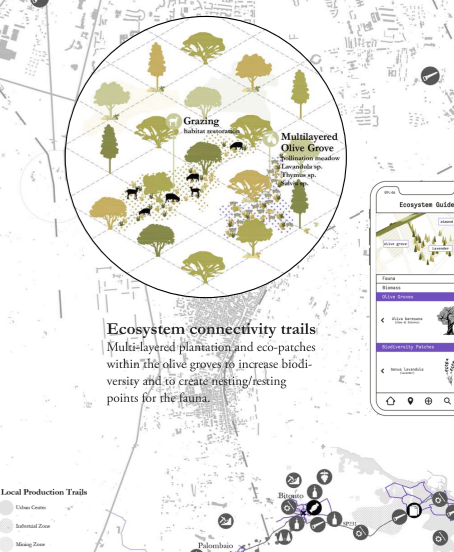
Establishing the hydrographic network as the main channels of ecological connectivity between Lama Balice and Alta Murgia, the project provides a continuous strip of ecotone services for the habitat and wildlife that are integrated with the agricultural lots. This integrative strip embodies multi-layered planning provides the necessary conditions for the nutrient exchange and the survival of some aquatic life as well as create resting/nesting points for the fauna.



Circulatory trails
Concentrating on sustainable and pedestrian-like friendly solutions, the project offers a set of strategies both for the existing and the proposed circulatory systems and components. The circulatory proposals catalogue, therefore, include diverse options for soft mobility as well as recreational and adventure circuits to encourage various experiences in (around/on) through the region.

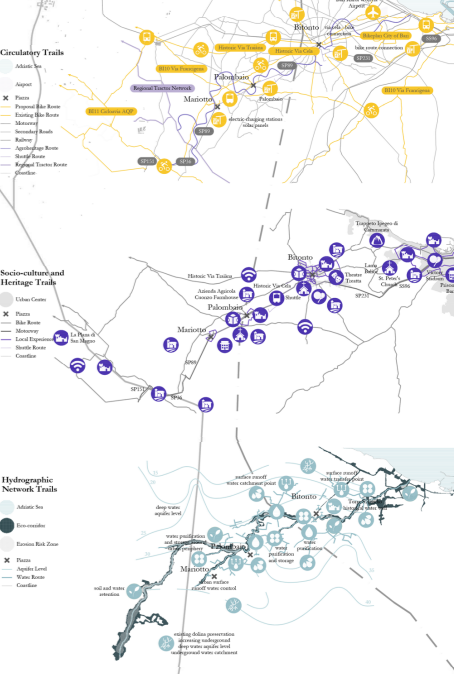


Circulatory trails



Local Production trails

Aiming to boost means of production, the project adopts multilayered ecological productivity strategies both on rural and urban terrains. Ranging from more variety of ecological products to moderate grazing, hybridized energy production within the agricultural lands and urban spaces to local limestone production and workforces for restoration and R&D.



Socio-cultural and heritage trails
Creating socio-cultural engagement with all trails, this layer activates these multiple veins of the region with the sprinkles of temporal events in certain frequencies according the cyclical rituals that are shaped around olive. Supported by physical equipment such as urban furniture, wayfinding systems, digital info totems, service modules, play-sports pods, lighting, and bike stations; this trail promotes and organizes itself with participatory processes through the digital interface.



Socio-cultural and heritage trails



Hydrographic Network Trails

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