

Polignano a Mare (IT)

complementary colours



La Ragazza con la Pistola, Mario Monicelli, 1968

Sea blue, limestone brown, Mediterranean scrub green, lime white.

These are the shades that draw the city of Polignano, bristling on the rocks facing the sea.

“Complementary colours” are those that by definition enhance each other. In Polignano the presence of natural colours is important in every part of the urban area, therefore they are defined as “complementary”, capable of acquiring vivacity if one next to the other. They are in fact protagonists in the frame of Lama Monachile but progressively fade away moving away, here and there they get lost. The project starts from the intention to spread these colours that correspond to the natural elements, balancing the views of the city through the integration, where possible, of the elements themselves and, where not possible, of their references, keeping in mind that every part of this urban area seeks the sea, the scrub, the solidity of the rock.

“Re-Sourching” is an opportunity to rethink the nature of Polignano and its elements. Central to the urban regeneration process of Polignano are therefore the natural elements, water, rock and greenery, delimited by solid matter, a reference to the marine karst stone on which Polignano is firmly built. The project therefore starts from the morphological analysis of the territory of Polignano a Mare, from the study of its natural lamas, an impetuous presence that determines the shape and history of the original nucleus of Polignano. Lama Monachile traces a deep inlet on the coast that digs into the rocks and draws the limit between Polignano and the sea.

The organic profile of the lama is proposed again as a generating element, in addition to the city, of the project areas. They are respectively decisively crossed by a blue lama, a green lama, a brown lama: the colours recall the original natural elements. The Pinocchio Park thus rediscovers the call of the sea, the Lepore area the call of the scrub, the Marconi area is modeled around the solidity of the limestone rock. What the project represents is the tension towards a particular natural element, currently missing, an element “complementary” to those already present.

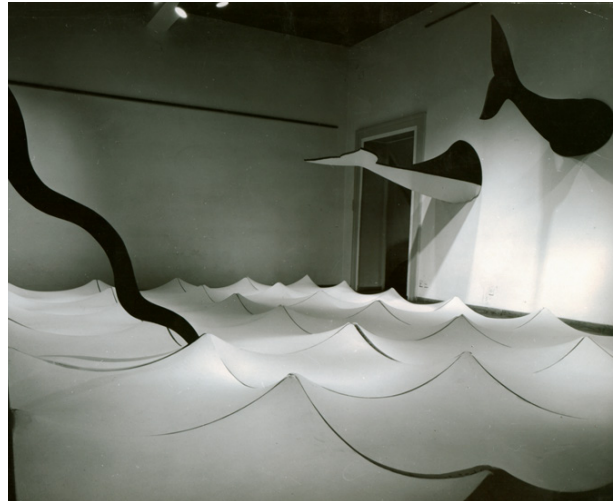
History and culture constitute from every point of view the generative engine of the project, with the aim of creating a reference network for tourists and inhabitants and encouraging the development of cultural as well as naturalistic tourism. The presence of the Pino Pascali Foundation is an incentive to think about urban regeneration through artistic and design interventions that aim to integrate the existing contemporary artistic itinerary. Artist residences, new exhibition venues, spaces for laboratories, artistic walls and corridors for the redevelopment of the existing and the characterization of the new buildings, outdoor spaces for shows, theater, cinema, festivals and literary prizes, artistic installations, spaces for creative work in the co-working mode. Similarly, in order to maintain or rebuild a balance, the urban portions must be balanced correctly. Typological diversity is preferred, capable of integrating an urban project that aims to implement a form of resistance, preserve the nature of Polignano a Mare and its identity, and exploit culture as an economic engine for the city.

The architecture is a contemporary formal synthesis of the traditional buildings of the old center of Polignano, while the space surrounding it is inhabited by structures that recall and reinterpret the works of Pino Pascali.

We have known Polignano and many other towns in southern Italy as landscapes of lime and asphalt. It is the setting for the film “The Girl with the Gun” by Mario Monicelli. The asphalt, traditionally composed of limestone rocks, like those on which Polignano stands, is part of the image we know of this territory. While the need to free the soil from impermeable barriers pushes us to redesign these spaces, the choice of project materials favors those that are apparently similar but with the property of absorbing and letting water flow.

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Pino Pascali, Il mare, 1966, Galleria L'Attico

THE GREEN LAMA Lepore area

The Lepore area is interpreted as an appendix of the route that from Lama Monachile crosses the natural area that follows the canal. In correspondence with the area, Lama Monachile is recalled in Lepore by a green lama intended for an urban park, a natural termination in the city area of the Marinesca canal route. Through the proposal to designate the area adjacent to the water regulation work as a green area, we want to restore importance to what in the past was a natural element, as well as a margin of protection, as a flood zone at high hydrogeological risk. The areas near the canals are also used for this reason as urban gardens for the use of citizens of the area and neighboring areas. The entire area is surrounded and crossed by paths dedicated to sustainable mobility (the so-called "green corridors"), with the aim of defining the areas and connecting to existing paths and enhancing the pedestrian and cycle path, connecting to the Maringelli underpass, an important connection hub for overcoming the railway axis. The area includes, as in all cases, the positioning of parking lots at the edge of the area towards the railway to limit the crossing of the area to cars. On the other side of the railway there is the San Francesco parking lot. The priority intervention for the areas is the definition of the inhabited space, the need to integrate a typological diversity useful for making a part of the city function. The project includes modular social housing, in relation to the demographic trend of Polignano a Mare. This is in response to the growing number of housing intended for short-term accommodation and the growing demand for affordable housing. The demographic data available today record a constant increase in the number of families but a profound change in their structure, for this reason the project must be adaptable to the request at the time of construction of the buildings. The buildings constructed architecturally recall the volumes of the buildings of old Polignano, but through a process of simplification and identification of typical typological characteristics they represent contemporary reinterpretations. In this area the site is identified by a square shape, the height varies from building to building, recalling the profile of the old houses, a terrace is inserted on the roof, another widespread and typically Mediterranean element, the openings are irregular, recalling a vernacular architecture. Next to the green area, new constructions of social housing for the citizens of Polignano are integrated with spaces for neighborhood trade and co-working and co-creating spaces, with the aim of triggering processes of settlement of creative activities, part of the cultural strategy of the project. On the roofs of the buildings, green roofs, an important space for socialization and mitigation, while on the ground there are common courtyard areas and community gardens for the inhabitants of the neighborhood.

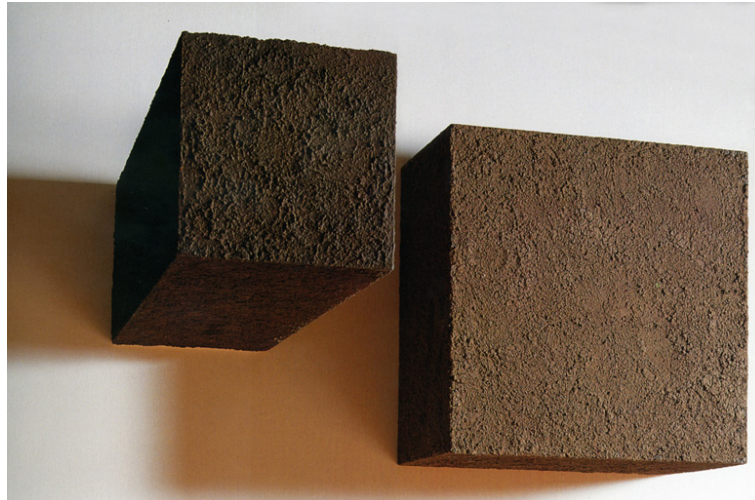
THE BLUE LAMA Pinocchio area

« Amo gli scogli circondati dal mare: io sono nato in riva al mare, ci ho giocato da bambino... » Pino Pascali (Pino Pascali and Carla Lonzi. Discorsi". Published for the magazine Marcatrè, 1967)

This image by Pino Pascali inspired the design of the current Pinocchio Park, a space for everyone, where all the trees that exist today are preserved and become an integral part of the new project. Pinocchio Park is a blue lama that

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Pino Pascali, 1 metro cubo di terra
2 metri cubi di terra, 1967

defines the greenery all around by subtraction, it is a social space, a meeting space and a union of the lateral roads. Its limit, defined today by a fence, is eliminated: the space is everywhere and accessible, we proceed by contamination, the designed space, a green and social space, cannot be limited to its own perimeter, it must be able to extend and propagate in every direction. Pinocchio Park loses its boundaries, the fence is removed, accessibility becomes possible from every road axis that leads to the Park, surrounding and crossing it a path dedicated to soft mobility. The elimination of the physical boundaries of the park is an invitation to contaminate the adjacent roads with greenery, so this space becomes an activator of regenerative processes. This can be achieved by inviting residents to exploit interstitial spaces and create small episodes of de-paving or by integrating vertical greenery into the facade. Outdoor spaces for shows, theater, open-air cinema, festivals and literary prizes. What this space lacks is the call of the sea and the rocky cliffs, elements that belong to all the inhabitants of Polignano. Sea and land are the elements that guide the design, the citations to be introduced, while the greenery present today is maintained and safeguarded everywhere. The strength of the project can be found in the works of Pino Pascali, whose Foundation can play an important role in the regenerative project of this green area, through the placement of artistic sculptures in the lama of the park. The lama defined by the project is a blue lama in draining concrete, a reference to the continuous material of asphalt but capable of leaving the soil permeable.

“Il mare” is a work by Pascali from 1966: a work that apparently presents a serial structure, since it is made with canvases in succession, canvases that in reality do not match, that in some cases pull excessively. The citation of the work is in the covering of the only architectural structure that takes up space in the park, and in the systems of sails shading the square, which break the ordered structure of Pascali’s work and move decisively in three dimensions: they are a rough sea, in a storm, they do not fit into a geometric or organic definition. These presences offer shelter and refreshment to the space of the square, they protect and shelter it. Thus the space is protected by the natural shadows of the existing trees and by the artificial shading structures, whose reference is however to the natural element of the sea.

THE BROWN LAMA Marconi area

The space to the south of the railway line next to via Marconi is a solid foundation, a brown lama that crosses the area. The lama is a space intended for the functions and social and cultural activities of the area, it hosts the built environment and is surrounded everywhere by greenery. The reference is to the calcareous material of the rocks and to the continuous surface of the asphalt of the city streets, the material used is draining concrete, which allows the filtering of rainwater, thus leaving the entire unbuilt surface of the area, permeable.

In addition to the housing functions (similarly to the Lepore area, modular social housing in relation to demand and demographic trends) there are service functions: local food retailers, co-working and co-creating spaces, part of the creative activities that are the cultural and economic driving force of the project.

Also in this area, in addition to the design strategies, green and cultural integration strategies are implemented. The space protected by the railway line is occupied by a public park that hosts mulberry trees and figs (Petrelli truth, typical of the area), whose cultivation is entrusted to a social cooperative. The park is not flat but has differences in

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height useful for protecting the buildings from the noise of the railway line, constituting a natural barrier as well as a green space that reaches an intermediate level with respect to the buildings behind, at a level of about six meters higher.

The movement of the land has a function not of mere connection but of articulation of the greenery in creative landscape solutions and allows the drainage and distribution of rainwater to the community gardens and the green corridor, areas that require greater irrigation.

The homes are equipped with common spaces for socialization: social green roofs, urban gardens, common gardens, a multifunctional square and a space that exploits the slope of the land to introduce parallelepiped elements (inspired by pascali's work) to form a grandstand for open-air cinema, concerts and events for the whole city. The space near the concrete retaining wall, reduced by the levels of greenery that soften the space, hosts a cycle and pedestrian path along what will be transformed into an artistic wall, in collaboration with the Pino Pascali Foundation, one of the art corridors of the project, part of the contemporary artistic itinerary of Polignano.

The car parks are, according to the project strategy, located at the edge of the area, along the railway line, while the area is crossed by cycle and pedestrian paths that move sinuously, exceeding the project levels and that connect to the city's sustainable road system, reaching via Marconi, in turn close to the station's pedestrian underpass, an infrastructure that allows the limit of the railway line to be exceeded. The station's underpass is also redeveloped and becomes part of the art corridors itinerary. Its redevelopment makes it part of the overall redevelopment of the station area and inserts it into the network of contemporary artistic itineraries that the project aims to trace. The experience of crossing the underpass therefore becomes interesting, it induces you to abandon your car in the parking lots at the edge to continue the itinerary on foot or by bicycle and not congest the city with cars, preferring a slow mobility that can enjoy these spaces embellished by art.

The station area has already been partially improved by the interventions in progress: the installation of the bicycle station, the bicycle workshop, the tourist information point. The project area to the north of the tracks is in a strategic position, in the immediate vicinity of the station and located on the edges, adjacent to the railway line. The area is therefore intended to be an area intended for vehicle parking, in line with the parking areas located everywhere in the project on the edges, towards the track path. This space, already intended for parking, constitutes a large area useful for those taking the train and for tourists, who can thus leave their cars in this space, unloading the streets of the center of Polignano, also taking advantage of the presence of the infopoint to obtain the information necessary for the tourist visit. The parking lot has over 200 parking spaces and is located in a strategic position for visiting the tourist attractions of Polignano, from Lama Monachile to the Pino Pascali Foundation. From the green spaces running between the parking spaces, vertical grid structures are installed on which the greenery can climb, providing shade for cars and pedestrians arriving or exiting the parking lots. Between the parking spaces and between the buildings there are green spaces where trees are planted, which constitute an important supply of greenery and shade to the area.

The area of Via Trieste is instead redeveloped through the protection of existing tree species (red mulberry trees) and the creation of an adjacent pedestrian and cycle path, replacing the current parking areas. This connection is important and favors the improvement of pedestrian and cycle connections, the redevelopment of a road axis near the station and the protection of existing tree species. A connection currently existing from the reservoir to Via Marconi is used as a pedestrian and cycle passage and has also been redeveloped as an artistic corridor.

In correspondence with the underpass in Via Eugenio Montale another of the art corridors is created in collaboration with the Pino Pascali Foundation. In addition to being equipped as a cycle/pedestrian path with bicycle parking areas, the space therefore becomes part of the contemporary art itinerary, an opportunity to redevelop buildings and areas that are currently of little interest but which can have a regenerative function for the entire territory of Polignano a Mare.

According to the re-sourcing approach, buildings that are now abandoned are being recovered and whose location can be strategic to complete the contemporary art itinerary of Polignano a Mare. These are the Cynar factory, transformed into an exhibition venue and artistic residence, and the roadhouse in via Kennedy, home to the laboratories of the Pino Pascali Foundation. To reach the Cynar factory, an improvement of the public bus line is planned, which can connect it to the Pino Pascali Foundation and cross the city, with stops at tourist sites to encourage the use of public transport. To reach the roadhouse, a driveway is planned to be built into and out of the Marconi area station parking lot, useful to facilitate traffic and balance the flow of vehicles entering and exiting the parking area.