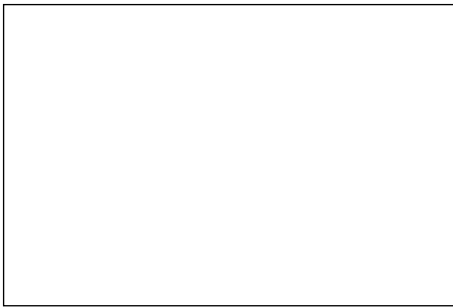


COUNTRYSIDE - COAST CONNECTION



MOSAIC LANDSCAPE



THE REWILDING STRATEGY

THE REWILDING GROUNDS: A NEW GREEN-BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE RECONNETTING FRAGMENTED ECOLOGICAL AND LANDSCAPE NETWORKS

The Rewilding Grounds project seeks to reconnect the urban fabric of Polignano a Mare with its natural and agricultural landscape by re-establishing both physical and perceptual links between the seafront and the rural hinterland. At the heart of this vision is the creation of a system of three interconnected urban parks—located in the Lepore and Marconi/Trieste areas—alongside the adaptive reuse of the historic Villa Pinocchio. While the city is renowned for its strong maritime identity, it lacks a functional urban port, with most maritime activity centered in the nearby hamlet of San Vito. This absence underscores the need to rethink accessibility and land use not only along the coast, but also inland.

By integrating the countryside into urban development, the project aims to restore balance between Polignano's coastal and rural identities. The proposed park system unfolds along the Bari–Lecce railway line, identified as a strategic corridor that connects the city with nearby towns, inland villages, and coastal nature reserves. When reimagined as a “green-blue” infrastructure, this corridor becomes an opportunity to reconnect fragmented ecological systems and landscapes. Bringing the agricultural landscape into the urban core helps to expand accessible public space, support biodiversity, and promote a more inclusive, resilient development model rooted in local identity.

Beyond its environmental goals, the project serves as a tool for promoting sustainable tourism and reducing seasonal dependence. By creating diverse routes and open spaces for slow, conscious, and decentralized exploration, it encourages year-round visitation and fosters a deeper connection to the territory. Strengthening the link between the city, countryside, and coast also improves environmental quality, public well-being, and urban resilience.

To implement this vision, the plan is structured around three interrelated urban strategies:

Ecological Regeneration

The first pillar focuses on climate and environmental regeneration through a robust urban forestry program and the creation of continuous green infrastructure. Parks enhanced with tree-lined avenues, wooded areas, and shaded spaces form an ecological corridor that helps regulate microclimates, mitigate urban heat island effects, enhance biodiversity, and improve air quality—while also promoting active and sustainable public space use.

Public Space Enhancement

The second strategy aims to improve and activate public spaces through targeted urban acupuncture. It proposes a network of accessible urban nodes, connected by pedestrian and cycling paths, to relieve pressure on the historic center - particularly during the summer months - and to develop inclusive, attractive new urban hubs. Specific interventions include widened sidewalks, traffic-calmed zones, and fully equipped public spaces in strategic locations, making the urban environment more porous, welcoming, and socially vibrant.

Sustainable Mobility

The third focus addresses the need for low-impact mobility in response to seasonal traffic congestion. A new intermodal hub is planned near the train station, featuring flexible and permeable parking areas integrated into the landscape of the urban park. From here, visitors can continue their journeys by foot, bike, or public transport. The mobility system is completed with new bike lanes, bike-sharing services, secure bike parking, and improved local public transit - creating a cohesive, efficient, and sustainable transportation ecosystem.

VILLA PINOCCHIO: A NEW URBAN PARK WITH NEIGHBOURHOOD AMENITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY AND FUNCTIONAL AND ACCESSIBLE GREEN AREAS

The transformation of the historic Villa Pinocchio focuses on the reactivation and adaptive reuse of its spaces, with a strong emphasis on accessibility and ecological integration. Existing vegetation will be preserved and enhanced with new trees, while the removal of the perimeter gate and the creation of new connections will open the park to the surrounding urban fabric, improving permeability and access.

A new system of orthogonal pathways is introduced: a north-south axis connects the future Station Park with Piazza Trinità, while an east-west route links Piazza dei Caduti to Piazza Mazzini. These main paths are complemented by smaller pedestrian routes, creating a network that weaves the park seamlessly into the neighborhood and promotes pedestrian movement.

Along these routes, social activation zones support inclusion and well-being. Community gardens, flower gardens, and therapeutic green areas offer opportunities for interaction, care, and education. A linear park provides space for picnics, children's play areas, and landscaped seating designed for relaxation, reading, and gathering.

Amenities for all age groups include a skatepark, a pétanque court for older residents, a neighborhood bar, and public restrooms - ensuring the park is welcoming and functional for diverse users.

A central and distinctive element of the project is the "canopee", a covered yet open-air multipurpose pavilion that offers shelter from rain and summer heat. Conceived as a flexible plaza, this structure will serve as a multicultural community hub capable of hosting seasonal markets, neighborhood festivals, concerts, exhibitions, sports activities, and more.

The architecture of the canopee reflects a sustainable ethos, featuring solar panels for clean energy generation, permeable paving for efficient stormwater management, and durable, low-maintenance furnishings that ensure comfort, quality, and long-term resilience of the public space.



NEW URBAN STAGE: A FLEXIBLE CANOPY FOR ALL SEASONS AND ALL USES

TRIESTE/MARCONI PARK: A LANDSCAPE INTEGRATING AN INTERMODAL MOBILITY HUB AND A PUBLIC BUILDING

The plan reconnects the Trieste (north) and Marconi (south) neighborhoods, which are currently divided by the railway, transforming this physical barrier into a unifying element within a continuous and functional green space. The resulting park serves as a vital urban lung within a broader network of urban forestry and acts as a new intermodal mobility hub - supporting the shift from private vehicle use to sustainable transportation.

The mobility hub will feature flexible, permeable-surfaced parking areas integrated into the park's landscape, linked to pedestrian paths, cycling lanes, bike parking facilities, a bike-sharing system, and upgraded local public transit. In particular, the Trieste area will host numerous tree-lined parking zones, some of which will be covered by lightweight, adaptable structures. These can function as parking during peak periods and be reconfigured into public gathering spaces during off-peak times, ensuring flexible year-round use.

South of the railway, a two-level urban park is envisioned, with the potential for a pedestrian bridge to reconnect it to the Trieste side - creating spatial and functional continuity across the corridor.

Within this expansive green system - featuring sequenced thematic gardens, an urban orchard, and rainwater-activated phytodepuration ponds - a new public building will be introduced.

It replaces a previously inactive façade with a welcoming front that opens onto the park and houses a range of community-oriented functions: an auditorium, exhibition galleries, cultural participation spaces, and a culinary hub celebrating local, zero-kilometer food production.

Architecturally, the building is designed to be light-filled, transparent, and naturally ventilated, with large window façades and internal courtyards enriching the spatial experience.

A rooftop garden further transforms the structure, creating an elevated public plaza that connects seamlessly to nearby public spaces and the train station - resolving current physical and perceptual disconnections in the area's urban fabric.



NEW URBAN FACE_ FROM A WALL TO A PUBLIC SUSPENDED SQUARE

LEPORE PARK: EXPERIMENTAL RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS INTEGRATED WITHIN LANDSCAPE

Lepore functions as a strategic transitional zone, connecting the historic center with the rural hinterland and the coastline.

As the third major green hub within the broader ecological network, it reinforces the landscape continuum from sea to countryside, creating a crucial link in the city's green infrastructure.

This multifunctional park integrates experimental residential units designed to explore innovative, flexible models of contemporary living.

The dwellings are housed in lightweight, transparent structures immersed in greenery, with wide loggias, balconies, and generous glazing that dissolve the boundaries between interior and exterior spaces.

At ground level, each building includes a variety of public and semi-public spaces: coworking areas, neighborhood workshops, communal rooms, and porticos for shared activities - all designed to nurture an inclusive and active community life. The residential units themselves are modular and adaptable, ranging from studios to duplexes and aggregable micro-units, capable of accommodating a wide spectrum of users: co-living setups, artist residencies, seasonal workers, young couples, or independent elderly residents.

This typological flexibility allows the housing system to respond dynamically to changing social and demographic needs.

The park is designed to support everyday life and long-term sustainability.

It includes shared urban gardens, rainwater collection basins, children's play areas, quiet zones for relaxation, and a network of shaded walking paths. By weaving together housing, nature, and community infrastructure, the project delivers a resilient, inclusive, and vibrant environment that remains active throughout the year.



THE MISSING PIECE_LEPORE PARK AS LINK
BETWEEN SEA AND COUNTRYSIDE