Functions and values of Peri-urban Areas: a Multifunctional Landscape Perspective

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The role of periurban areas in large metropolitan regions:

- **SOCIETY**
- **ENVIRONMENT**
- **LANDSCAPE**
- **ECONOMY**
- **IDENTITY**
- **COHESION**
- **INCLUSION**

(Source: Cities of tomorrow, EC 2011)
Today in Europe they are the same as the build up areas:
Build up areas 49,000 km²
Perirurban areas 48,000 km²
But 50% densely populated

Trend to 2050: rurbanization will be doubled!

(Source: PLUREL Project, 2011)
The Metropolitan System of North Italy
Environmental Macro Region of North Italy
Main Issues

- Fragmentation of land
- Increasing in cost of management
- Loss of biodiversity/quality of environment
- Loss of landscape/history/identity/amenity value
- Loss of valuable agricultural land

VS

- Places of new employment
- Highly innovative spaces
- Potential in multifunctionality
- Land of high agricultural value

And ...
Periurban ...

...it is the landscape daily perceived by 7.5 million inhabitants in Lombardy

Source EU DGRegio Cities of tomorrow - Challenges, visions, ways forward - Eurostat, JRC, EFGS, REGIO-GIS, 2011
WHICH POLICY, PLANS, PROJECTS AND ACTIONS .. UNDERWAY...

- Regional Territorial and Landscape plans (focusing on the Metro region and on derelict periurban areas), guidelines for periurban landscapes
- European Territorial cooperation projects focused on periurban landscapes and areas (PaysMED-Urban, Periurban Parks)
- Partnership agreement between public, private, and ONG to sustain urban agriculture (the DAM-Agricultural District of Milan, Framework agreement Milano Metropoli rurale)
- Projects/actions (Parco delle risaie, EXPO 2015’s Environmental Compensations)
- ...
Planning orientation

"Landscape" means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.

The Regional Territorial and Landscape Plan (PTR-PPR, 2010) assumes the principles of the ELC;
Periurban in the Metro-region of Milano

- 48% of the area belongs to a regional park (agricultural oriented)
- 70% of province’s population live in a municipality belonging to a regional Park (2.1 to 3.1 Million/inhab.)
- 50% of municipalities belongs to a regional park
Pattern, policies, projects

**Pattern**
Multifunctional asset and potential
Agriculture
Landscape
Cultural heritage
Leisure

**Policies**
Planning instruments
Regional Ecological Network
Agricultural policy

**Projects**
DAM
Parco delle risaie
Framework Agreement Milano Metropoli Rurale
Heritage of large companies
What is periurban in metro region?
Heritage in rurban area...
Recognizing the importance of periurban spaces and urban agriculture

In 2011 the Agricultural District of Milan was established in Italy. It aims at...
The Consortium collects 31 farms, is a non-profit Association, established in 2011, seeking the public interests, according to a professional agriculture interacting with the territory. They cover more than 60% of the whole agricultural space.
MAIN GOALS

Preservation of the common environment, water and soil
Requalification of landscape and cultural heritage, including rural buildings and farms

SPECIFIC GOALS

Agriculture

• Strengthening the productions in order to stabilize agriculture and its service role
• Diversification in productions, in order to respond to the citizens demand on food and to landscape improvement needs
• Improving the Supply chain activities, including the transformation of raw materials
• Improving the accommodating activities (agri tourism, educational and cultural activities, ecc)

INNOVATION: in production for the food safety and ability to compete on the market

MARKETING AND SALE: promoting direct sales and new distribution channels

LAND PROTECTION: with regards to urban security and land abuse

ECOSYSTEM AND LANDSCAPE SERVICES: water management, improve landscape quality, preserve soil and biodiversity, free spaces for people integration and cooperation, culture,
AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT OF MILAN
Agriculture is still important in Milan: The city aims at to be considered as in the ancient times «a rural city» (1.5 km2)
One of the most important experiences currently under realization is ... «Parco delle risaie»

Source: Gioia Gibelli/ Parco delle Risaeie)
55,000 rice courses per day (in 600 ha) are produced 
20,075,000 rice courses (0 Km)/year is produced 
20,000 visitors per year, 
6,000,000 mc of rain water per year are caught 
In summer it is about 5 degrees cooler than the city of Milan 
It host a number of birds important for biodiversity (e.g.: Storks, Night heron, etc.) 
7,000 tons of Co2 per year are caught, and it make people safe money with the 0 Km and the easy accessibility by public transportation 

It is a Project of the DAM (Distretto agricolo Milanese), 

During 2010, the Parco delle risaie received the European Prize of Mediterranean Landscape by the mean of the Interreg project PAYS.MED.URBAN. 

The project is promoted by the Associazione Parco delle Risaie onlus since 2008

Source: Gioia Gibelli/ Parco delle Risaie)
Summarizing the role of periurban space in Multifunctionality
Social inclusion, cohesion, aggregation
Land safeguard (flood, pollution, drought)
Ensuring territorial long term performance
Protection and enhancement of cultural heritage
...