RAISING AWARENESS OF THE HISTORICAL VALUES OF HISTORIC PUBLIC GARDENS: GUIDELINES TO PLAN COMPATIBLE USES AND ACTIVITIES IN HISTORIC GARDENS

——THE CASES OF VILLA GHIRLANDA SILVA PARK IN CINISELLO BALSAMO AND VILLA BORROMEO LITTA PARK IN LAINATE

Politecnico di Milano
School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering
Master Degree in Landscape Architure - Land Landscape Heritage
Student: Xiang Wang 10771883 | Wen Sun 10782149
Supervisor: Prof. Alberta Cazzani

THE CHANGES OF THE CONTEXT

CINISELLOCharles VI Cadastre extract map of 1721

North: agricultural areas with vineyards

Catasto teresiano, 1721-22, particolare del giardino dei Silva Fonte: Archivio Centro di Documentazione Storica, Comune di Cinisello Balsamo

South west : the Villa was connected with the town of Cinisello

woodland farmland vineyard

East: it extends into an area intended as a garden of light

CINISELLOBrenna map extract of 1838

North: agricultural landscape

Extract from Carta Topografica dei Contorni di Milano riconosciuta sul terreno e in parte rilevata e disegnata nella proporzionale scala di 1 a 25.000 dall'I.R. Primo Ingegnere Geografo Pensionato Giovanni Brenna, also called Giovanni Brenna map, about 1838-40. The red box indicate the area of Villa Ghirlanda Silva.Source: Comune di Cinisello Balsamo.

South: rural landscape

woodland farmland vineyard

19C 10s

East: "contrada per Monza"

CINISELLO_Carta manovra extract of 1878

North: the agricultural landscape is cultivated as a plow with trees in rows instead of vines

Carta manovra dei dintorni di Milano (Maneuver card of Milan surroundings), foglio 14 Cinisello, 1878 Fonte: https://www.igmi.org/

South: rural landscape

woodland farmland vineyard

CINISELLO IGM map extract of 1888

North: the agricultural landscape appears cultivated with arable land or lawn

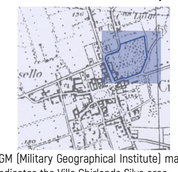
Extract IGM (Military Geographical Institute) map, 1936. The red box indicates the Villa Ghirlanda Silva area.
Source: Comune di Cinisello Balsamo.

woodland farmland vineyard

19C 40s

CINISELLO IGM map extract of 1936

North: cultivated fields with a considerable presence of trees in a row and a thick network of country roads



Extract IGM (Military Geographical Institute) map, 1936. The red box indicates the Villa Ghirlanda Silva area.
Source: Comune di Cinisello Balsamo.

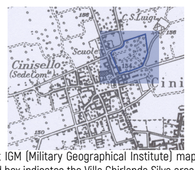
South: Considerable expansion of the urban fabric of Cinisello, especially to the south , and unification with the Municipality of Balsamo.

woodland woodland

20C 20s

CINISELLO IGM map extract of 1950

North: the lands are still cultivated fields with trees in rows and country roads



Extract IGM (Military Geographical Institute) map, 1936. The red box indicates the Villa Ghirlanda Silva area.
Source: Comune di Cinisello Balsamo.

South: Further expansion of the urban fabric of Cinisello towards the south

woodland woodland factory

20C 80s

CINISELLO_CTR map extract of 1981

North: extensive and consistent urban expansion

Extract from CTR – Technical Regional Map , 1981. The red box indicates the Villa Ghirlanda Silva area. Source: Comune di Cinisello Balsamo.

South: extensive and consistent urban expansion

woodland woodland factory park

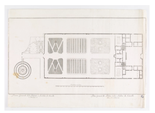
HISTORY TIMELINE

17C-18C

Donato I Silva - Donato II Silva

Promoted the building of the residence in Cinisello.

1600
The new complex stands on the foundations of a pre-existing 16th building, smalle in size and used as a country residence.
1726-1799
Teatro de 'Lauri
Giardino de 'Semplici
With the belvedere hill
A symmetrical layout of paths and flowerbeds
An orchard, a citrus grove and a heated greenhouse.



Ercole Silva - Girolamo Ghirlanda Silva

The holder was influenced by the English garden, making it as the first English garden in Italy.
1801-1813
Gave way to a multi-faceted environment, rich in decorative elements, sculptures, classical buildings and ruins along the paths and surrounded by dense vegetation.
Ercole Silva–Author of the important treatise "Dell'arte dei giardini inglesi" His name remains inextricably linked to the introduction in Italy of English gardens.

Carlo Ghirlanda Silva

Promoted the modernization of the landscape garden.

1851-1852
Some neo-Gothic and eclectic taste architectures
Replace the Janus temple in ruins with a Scottish cottage
Tempietto della Fortuna Avita and Swiss Chalet

Cippelletti Family

The final private holders ofsome new needs.

1926
Build a tennis court
New playful and recreational needs
Connect the prospective clearing in front of the villa with the woody areas to the south and north

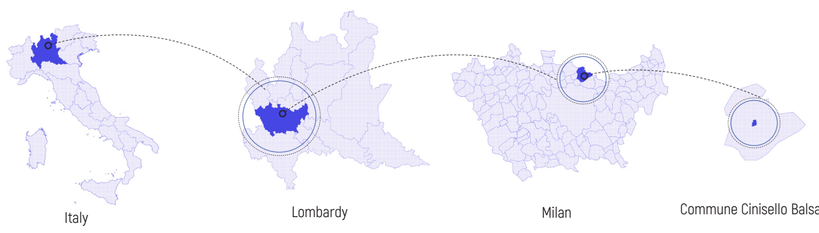
Public

It was used as a public garden in 1972 and officially opened to the public in 1982.

1978
The government appointed Giorgio Perrucci to repair the reconstruction and convert the tennis court into a dance floor, creating pond and zoo.
1983
Establish open-air cinema
1986-1990
Maintain chalets and Exedra
1999
Set up a child playground
2013
Rocks and the vegetation around pond are removed.

COMPARISON OF HISTORICAL PROPERTY AND CURRENT STATE

LOCATION ANALYSIS



Cinisello Balsamo is an Italian town located in the northern region of Milan in Lombardy with 73488 inhabitants. It was formed from the unification of the two distinct municipalities of Cinisello and Balsamo in 1928, which still identify the two main districts of the city today. Cinisello Balsamo has 2 historical gardens, Villa Ghirlanda Silva and Villa di Breme Forno garden, as well as a variety of open spaces that are not articulated thanks to the expansion of the urban fabric. The Garden of Villa Ghirlanda Silva is located in the heart of the commune of Cinisello Balsamo that has an extension of 12.7 km.

DIMANDS OF VISITORS' ACTIVITIES

Children
Playing
Sporting
Receiving education

Teenagers
Chatting
Reading
Playing
Sporting
resting
Receiving education

Adults
Drinking
Chatting
Reading
Working
resting

Seniors
Walking
Walking dog
resting

ACTIVITIES IN VILLA GHIRLANDA SILVA

URBAN SURROUNDING CONTEXT ANALYSIS

Cemetery

Primary School Mount Ortigara

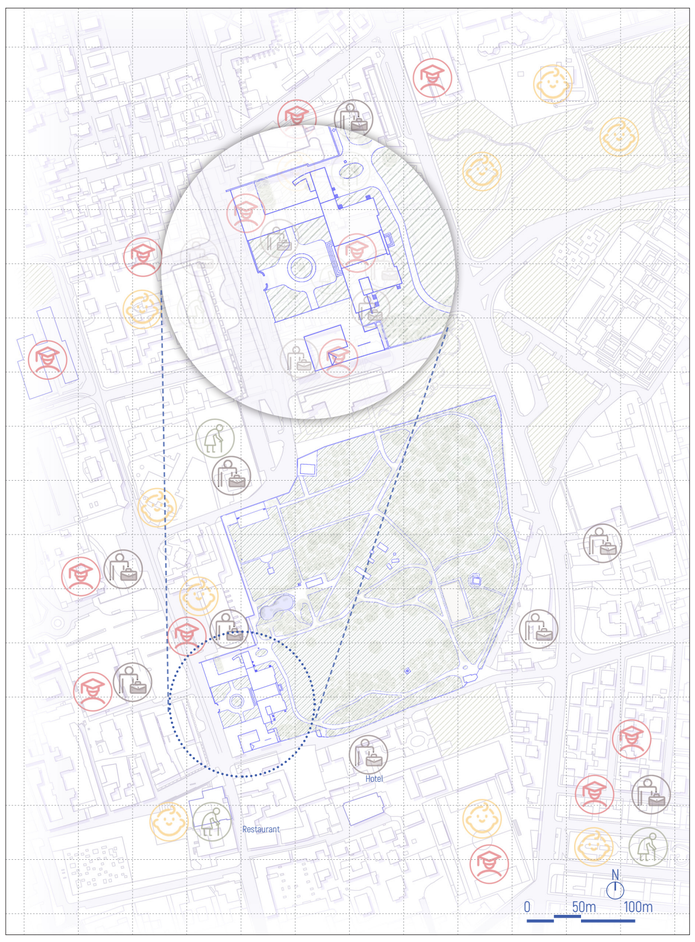
The Cultural Center Pertini

Sports centre Palasport S. Allende

Elementary School "A. Costa"

Church of Saint Ambrose

TYPES OF VISITORS IN THE VICINITY



DISTRIBUTION OF LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

Parterre and sculpture

Sculptural remains

Esedra della Salute

Obelisk

Dance floor

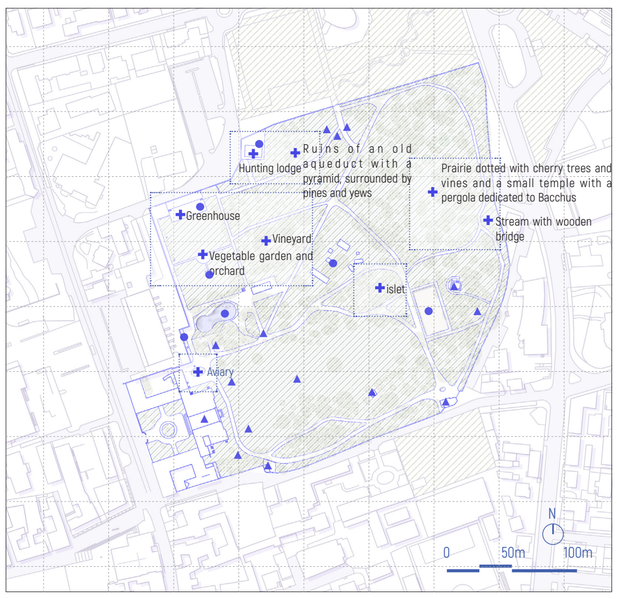
Sarcophagus

Playground

Open-air cinema

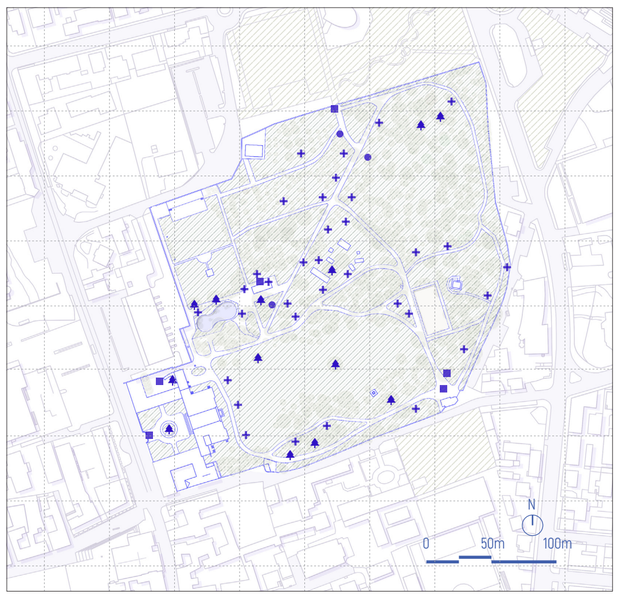
Pond

COMPARISON MAPS OF THE HISTORICAL AND EXISTING CONDITIONS



Lost historical elements Morden elements Preserved historical elements

FEATURES ANALYSIS



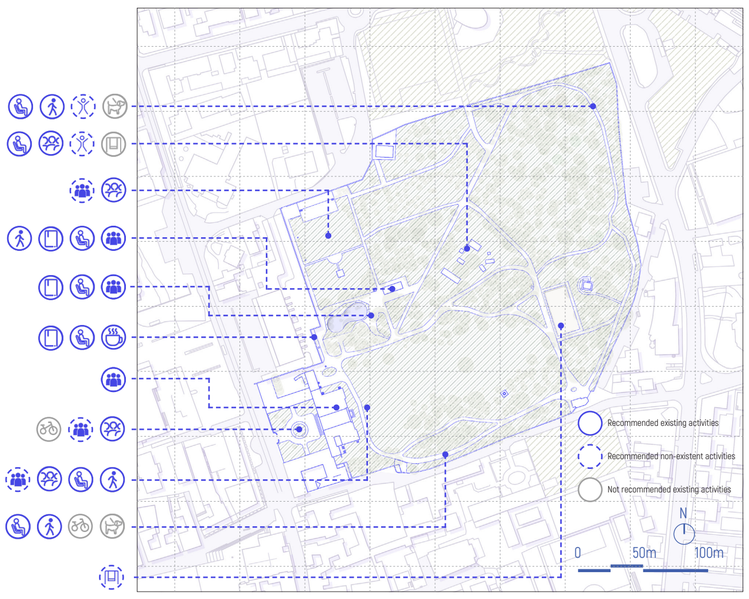
Momumental trees

Notice board

Educational signage

Bench

EXISTING ACTIVITY TYPES DISTRIBUTION



Chating
Drinking
Reading
Walking
Rest
Special events
Sporting
Playing
Walking dog
Riding bike

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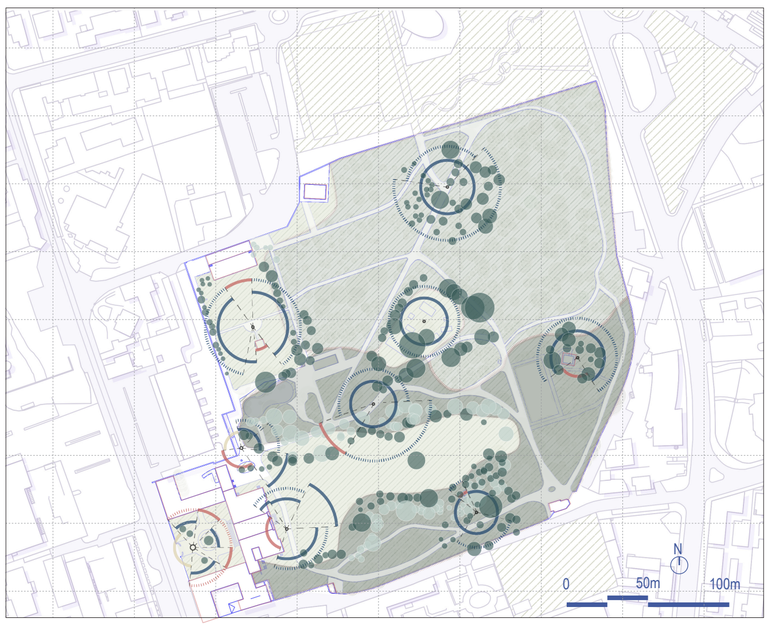
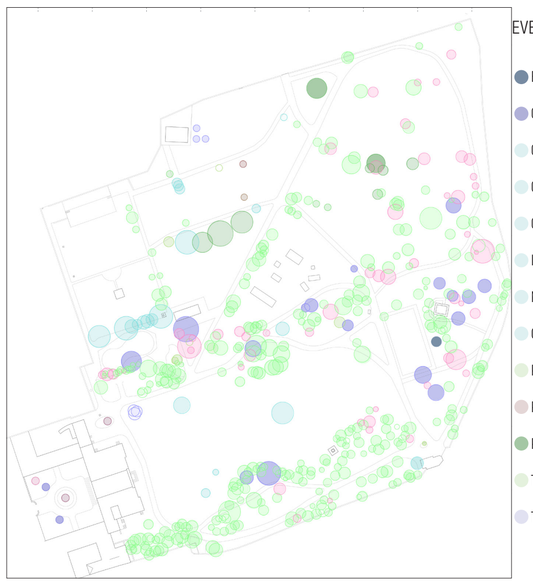
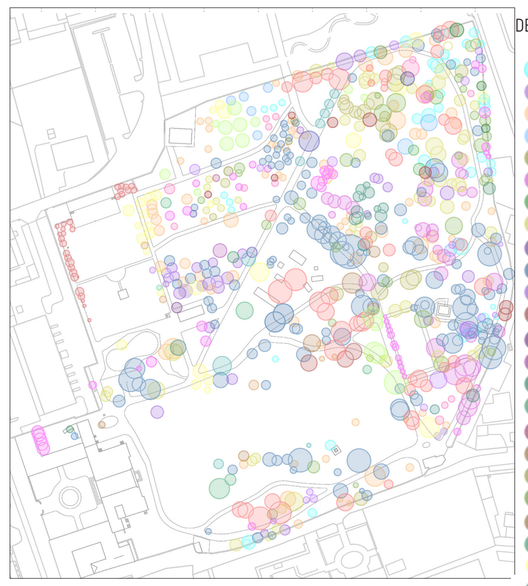
SPATIAL PERCEPTION AND SIGHT



TREE CLASSIFICATION



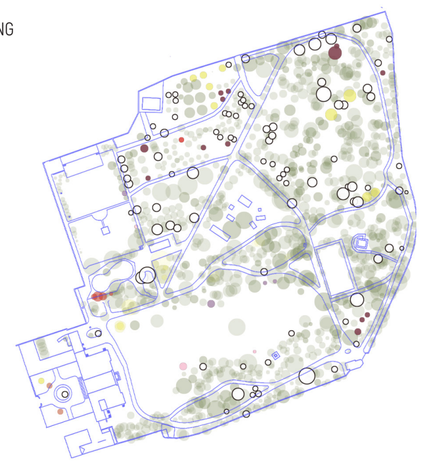
EVERGREEN TREE
- BUXUS SEMPERVIRENS
- CALOCEDRUS DECURRENS
- CEDRUS ATLANTICA
- CEDRUS ATLANTICA 'GLAUCA'
- CEDRUS DEODARA
- ILEX AQUIFOLIUM
- MAGNOLIA GRANDIFLORA
- OSMANTHUS FRAGRANS
- PICEA ABIES
- PINUS STROBUS
- PRUNUS LAUROCERASUS
- TAXUS BACCATA
- TILIA EUROPAEA



DECIDUOUS TREE
- ACER CAMPESTRE
- ACER NEGUNDO
- ACER PSEUDOPLATANUS
- ACER PSEUDOPLATANUS 'ATROPURPUREUM'
- AESCULUS HIPPOCASTANUM
- AILANTHUS ALTISSIMA
- BROUSSONETIA PAPYRIFERA
- CARPINUS BETULUS
- CATALPA BIGNONIOIDES
- CELTIS AUSTRALIS
- CELTIS OCCIDENTALIS
- CORYLUS AVELLANA 'CONTORTA'
- CRATAEGUS SP.
- DIOSPYROS KAKI
- DIOSPYROS LOTUS
- FAGUS SYLVATICA
- FAGUS SYLVATICA 'ATROPURPUREA'
- FAGUS SYLVATICA 'PENDULA'
- FRAXINUS EXCELSIOR
- FRAXINUS ORNUS
- GLEDITSIA TRIACANTHOS
- GYMNOCLADUS DIOICA
- JUGLANS NIGRA
- JUGLANS REGIA
- LARIX DECIDUA
- LIQUIDAMBAR STYRACIFLUA
- LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA
- MALUS SP.
- PLATANUS ACERIFOLIA
- POPULUS NIGRA 'ITALICA'
- PRUNUS AVIUM
- PRUNUS CERASIFERA 'PISSARDII'
- PRUNUS SERRULATA
- PRUNUS SERRULATA 'KANZAN'
- QUERCUS ROBUR
- QUERCUS ROBUR 'FASTIGIATA'
- QUERCUS RUBRA
- ROBINIA PSEUDOACACIA
- SAMBUCUS NIGRA
- SOPHORA JAPONICA
- TILIA PLATYPHYLLOS
- TILIA SP.
- TILIA TOMENTOSA
- ULMUS GLABRA 'PENDULA'
- ULMUS SP.
- WISTERIA SINENSISDIOSPYROS LOTUS

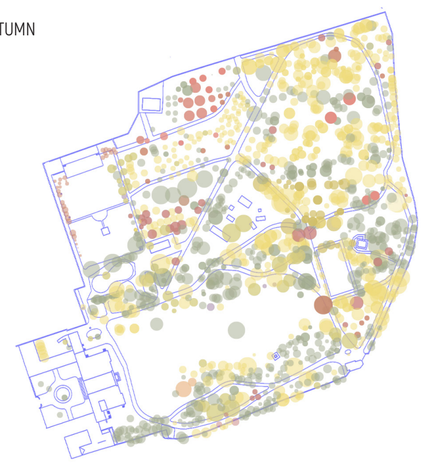
GARDEN CHROMATISM

SPRING

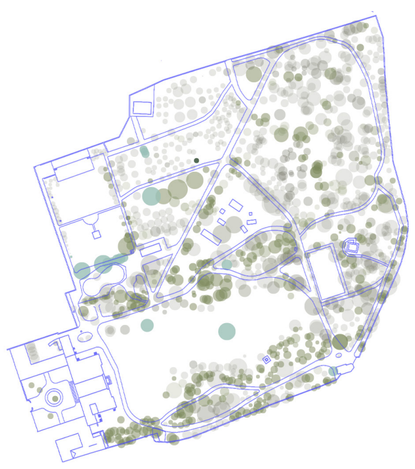


SUMMER

AUTUMN



WINTER



ELEMENTAL GRADING ASSESSMENT

ELEMENTAL CONTEXT ANALYSIS

01 Main entrance

The main entrance faces the villa, and there is an evergreen magnolia tree of great value of culture and history. The entrance is in good condition. It is currently the most frequented used and maintained.

Existing activities: Exhibitions, events
Heritage value: Historical value, Botanical value
Awareness of the value: High
Status: Positive

02 Swiss Chalet and the Hill

The small hill was recorded in the views of as a viewpoint over the formal parterre. Ercole Silva built at the bottom of the hill an ornamental cave and at the top of the hill a Doric temple. Carlo Ghirlanda Silva replaced the temple with a Swiss Chalet.

Existing activities: Used for meeting room of Auser voluntary association (Now abandoned)
Heritage value: Historical value
Awareness of the value: Weak
Status: Negative

03 Scottish Lodge

There is a Scottish Lodge at the secondary entrance, following the landscape fashion of the time. The lodge represents the construction of the new building, confirming its importance.

Existing activities: Used by caretakers and Auser voluntary association
Heritage value: Historical value
Awareness of the value: Medium
Status: Positive, Negative

07 Bar

There is a small bar on the north side of the villa, near the deserted pond, open only during the summer season, with space for outdoor tables. But the location is not suitable.

Existing activities: Catering Breaks
Heritage value: No
Awareness of the value: No
Status: Negative

08 Playground

In the garden there is a children's play area, built in 1999 and located in the central part of the park, at the foot of two large plane trees. The games (swings slides, stair turrets, bridges, slides and climbing nets) have a wooden structure and parts in plastic and metal.

Existing activities: Children activities
Heritage value: Botanical value
Awareness of the value: Medium
Status: Negative

09 Skating rink

At the foot of the hill, was converted into a paved skating rink, later also used as a dance floor. The area is raised above the ground level, has a tiled floor, and is surrounded by a metal railing. It is sometimes used for events during the summer.

Existing activities: Sports
Heritage value: Historical value
Awareness of the value: Medium
Status: Positive, Negative

04 Health Exedra

The Exedra, built in the early 19th century at the request of Ercole Silva. The interior wall includes three recesses that previously housed sculptures (now disappeared), but the sculptural group of Hebe is still visible. The exedra area is currently secured with a gate to avoid vandalism on the monument.

Existing activities: No
Heritage value: Historical value
Awareness of the value: High
Status: Positive, Negative

05 Open-air cinema

In this area was previously present the greenhouse, the vegetable garden and the orchard. The open-air cinema is partly made of masonry structures, and partly from structures set outdoors.

Existing activities: Outdoor movies, summer events
Heritage value: Historical value
Awareness of the value: Medium
Status: Positive

06 Pond

The pond was built in 1978 and refurbished in 2013. The shape remains that of the late 1970s, but the rocks and surrounding vegetation are removed. The idea was that the replacement of materials gives a more modern image.

Existing activities: No
Heritage value: Historical value
Awareness of the value: Weak
Status: Negative

10 Ruins and sculptural remnants

On the lawn, some sculptures disappeared only the bases remain. Near the northern entrance of the garden there are three small columns, presumably belonging to the small temple dedicated to Bacchus, built in the middle of the vines-rows.

Existing activities: No
Heritage value: Historical value
Awareness of the value: Weak
Status: Negative

11 Woody area

A piece of green land located in the northeast corner of the garden. The vegetation relationship in this area is the most complex in the garden, which has important protection value. The area here is underutilized and can only be used to walk along the adjacent route.

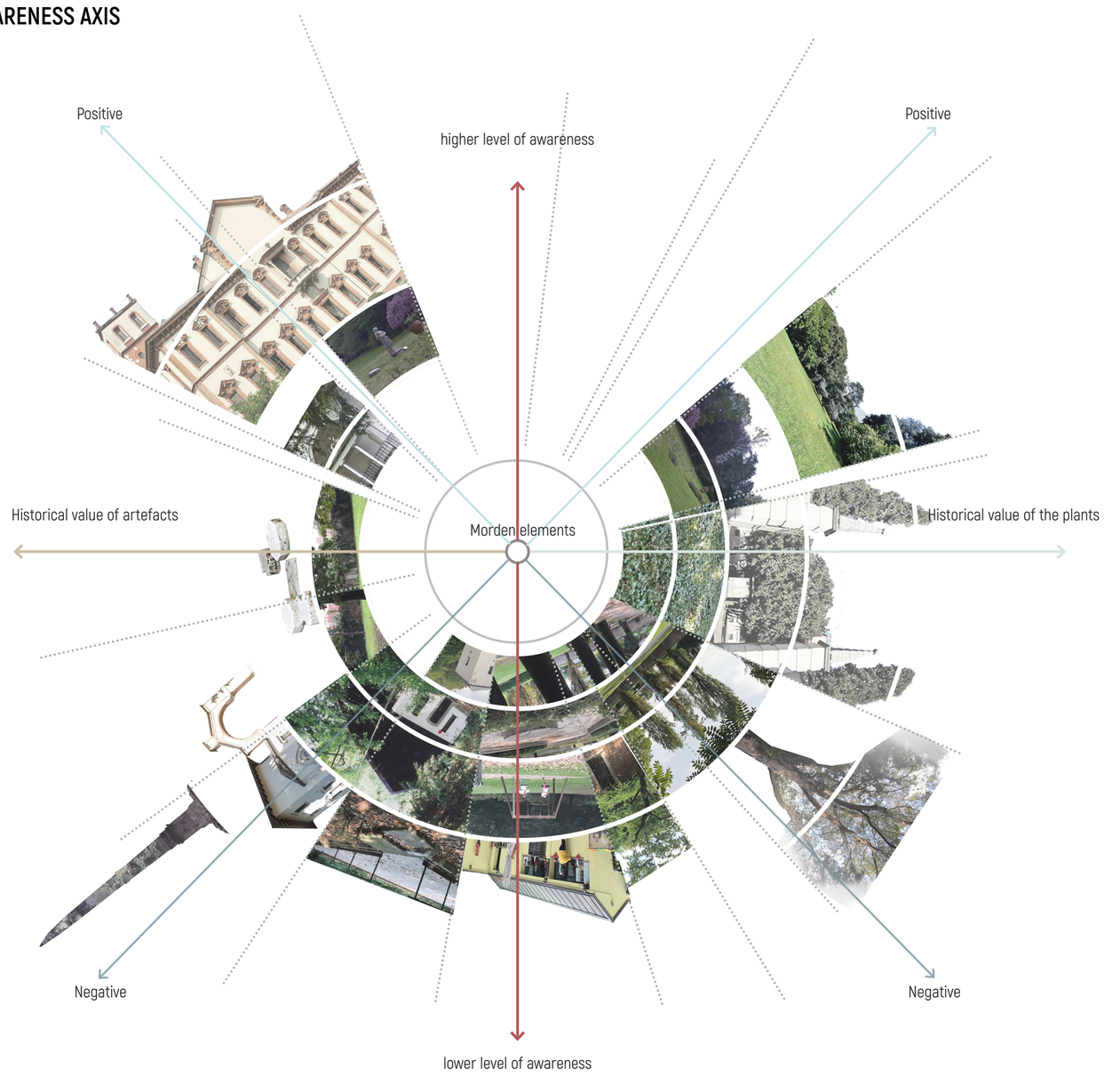
Existing activities: No
Heritage value: Botanical value
Awareness of the value: Weak
Status: Positive, Negative

12 Lawn

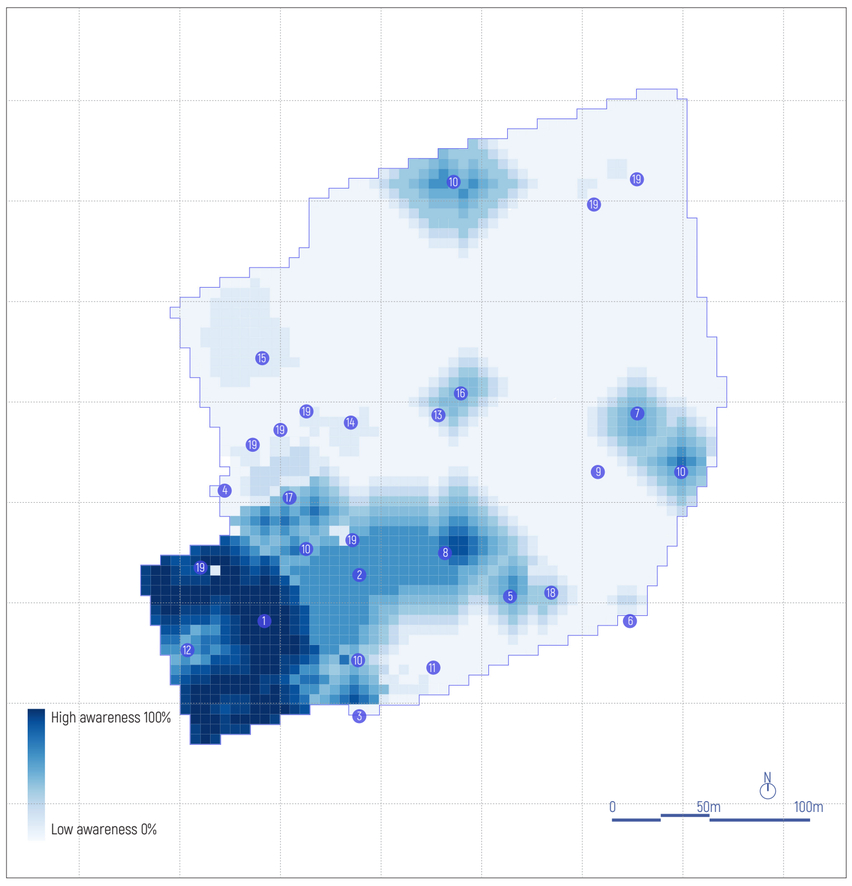
There is an expansive lawn directly in front of the east side of the house. The lawn is the most significant green space in the garden, including many trees that existed at the beginning of the 20th century.

Existing activities: Picnic
Heritage value: Historical value, Botanical value
Awareness of the value: High
Status: Positive

AWARENESS AXIS

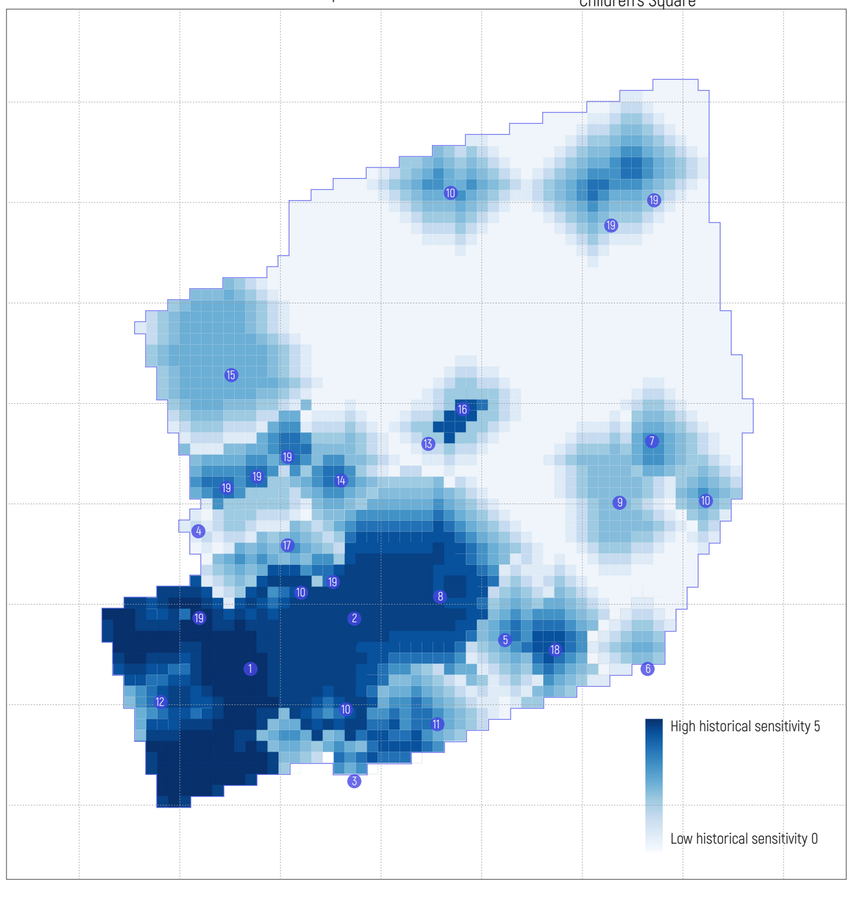


AWARENESS MAP



1. Villa Ghirlanda silva
2. Parterre
3. Health Exedra
4. Bar
5. Obelisk
6. Scottish Lodge
7. Swiss Chalet
8. Cedar on thet lawn
9. Skating rink
10. Ruins and sculptural remnants
11. Band of Taxus baccata next to the Health Exedra
12. Magnolia grandiflora in the centre of the entrance square
13. Playground
14. Music square
15. Open-air cinema
16. Platanus acerifolia in the middle of the Children's Square
17. Pond
18. Celtis next to the Obelisk
19. Remaining monumental trees

HISTORICAL SENSITIVITY MAP



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03

THE CHANGES OF THE CONTEXT

18th century

North: agricultural areas with vineyards

Fonte: Web of LombardiaBeniCulturali

South : the Villa was connected with the town of Lainate

woodland farmland vineyard

1840

North: agricultural areas with vineyards

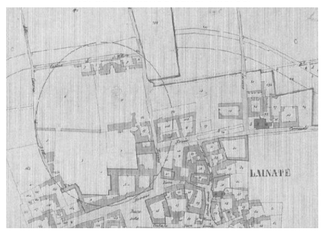
Fonte: Web of LombardiaBeniCulturali

South : the Villa was connected with the town of Lainate

woodland farmland vineyard

Second half of the 19th century

North: unfinished canal Villoresi



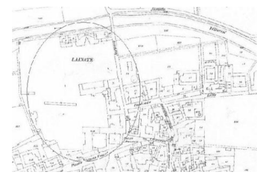
Fonte: Web of LombardiaBeniCulturali

South : the Villa was connected with the town of Lainate

woodland road network Canal

Late 19th century

North: canal Villoresi



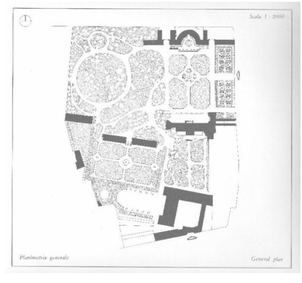
Fonte: Web of LombardiaBeniCulturali

South : the Villa was connected with the town of Lainate

woodland road network Canal

Early 20th century

North: extensive and consistent urban expansion



Fonte: Web of LombardiaBeniCulturali

South : the Villa was connected with the town of Lainate

woodland road network park Canal

HISTORY TIMELINE

16C

Count Visconti Borromeo

Built on top of an earlier property

1600
The villa belonged to the Borromeo family, the feudal lords of Lainate at the time.
In the second half of the sixteenth century.
Designed and built alongside the complex are the most famous water palace named Nymphaeum and the formal gardens that extend north-south, which are still a protected area to this day.

18C

the Borromeo family - Marquis de Litta

Built a new U-shaped hedge and changed owners.

1700
A U-shaped hedge pathway was built at the Villa Litta Lainate in response to the love of deciduous trees beyond the Alps and the introduction of carob trees to the Lombardy region.
In the mid-18th century
The villa was handed over by the last heir of the Borromeo family to his son-in-law, the Marquis de Litta.

19C

Private to public domain

English gardens became popular.

1808
A new natural gardens, activated by a moderate variation in ground level in the configuration of 'new woods', with a tendency towards irregular green compartments and a prevalence of tall trees and bushes.
1870
It was confiscated as state property.
1872
The villa became the property of Baron Ignazio Weill Weiss in 1872

First half of the 20th century

Toselli Family

The final private holders ofsome new needs.

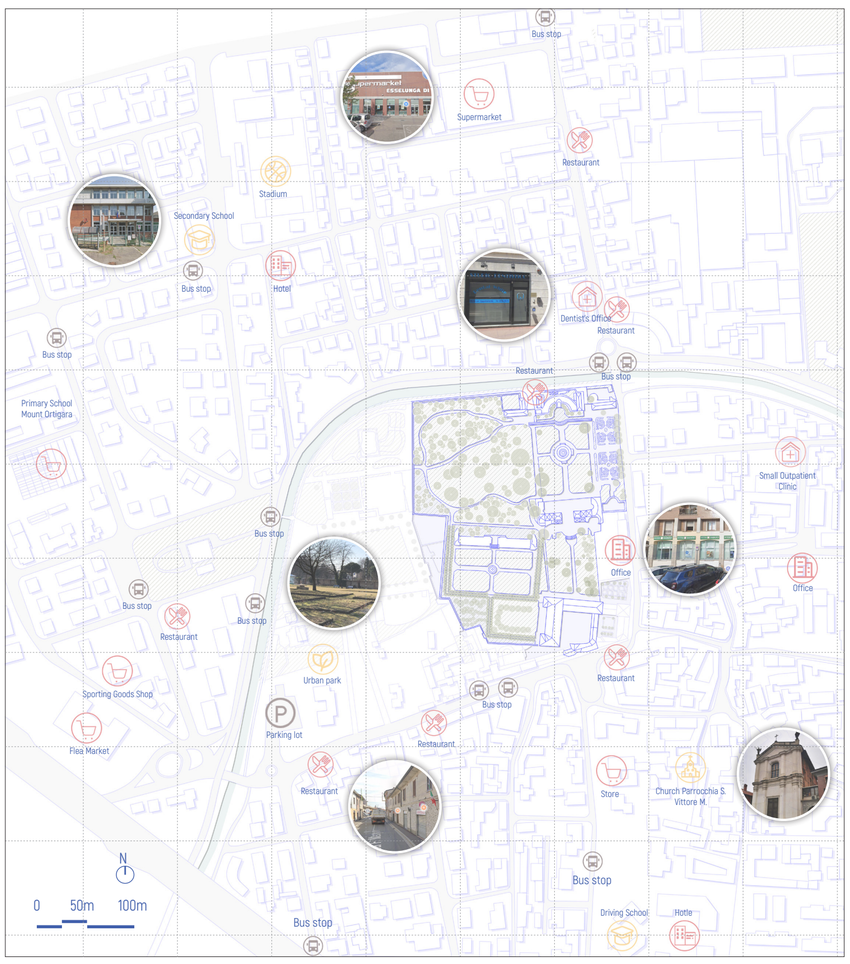
1916
The villa was passed to Baron Ignazio Weill Weiss's accountant Erminio Riboni.
1932
To the Toselli family

20C 70s

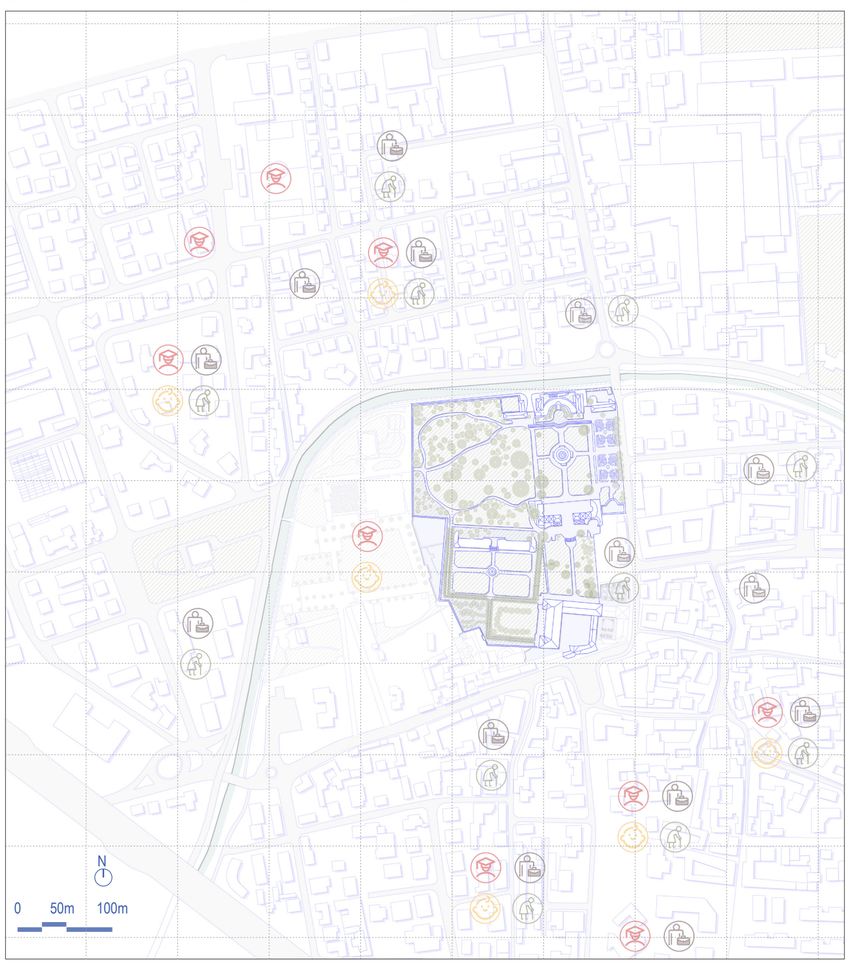
Public

The Second World War marked the decline of the villa, which lasted until 1970, when it was finally purchased by the Municipality of Lainate and opened to the public.

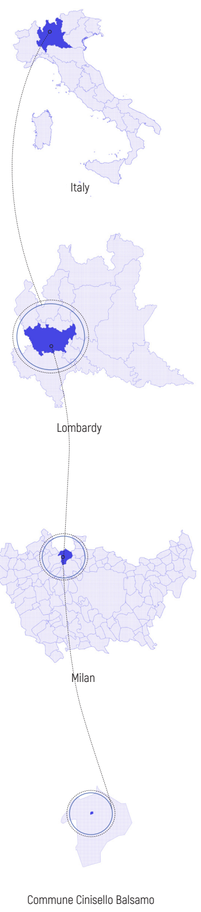
URBAN SURROUNDING CONTEXT ANALYSIS



URBAN SURROUNDING CONTEXT ANALYSIS



LOCATION ANALYSIS



The Villa Litta Lainate is situated in Lainate, a small town in the Province of Milan, Lombardy, just north of Milan, which is built in 16th-century. The villa belonged to the Borromeo family, the feudal lords of Lainate at the time. The villa is still the most important monument in the town now.

DIMANDS OF VISITORS' ACTIVITIES

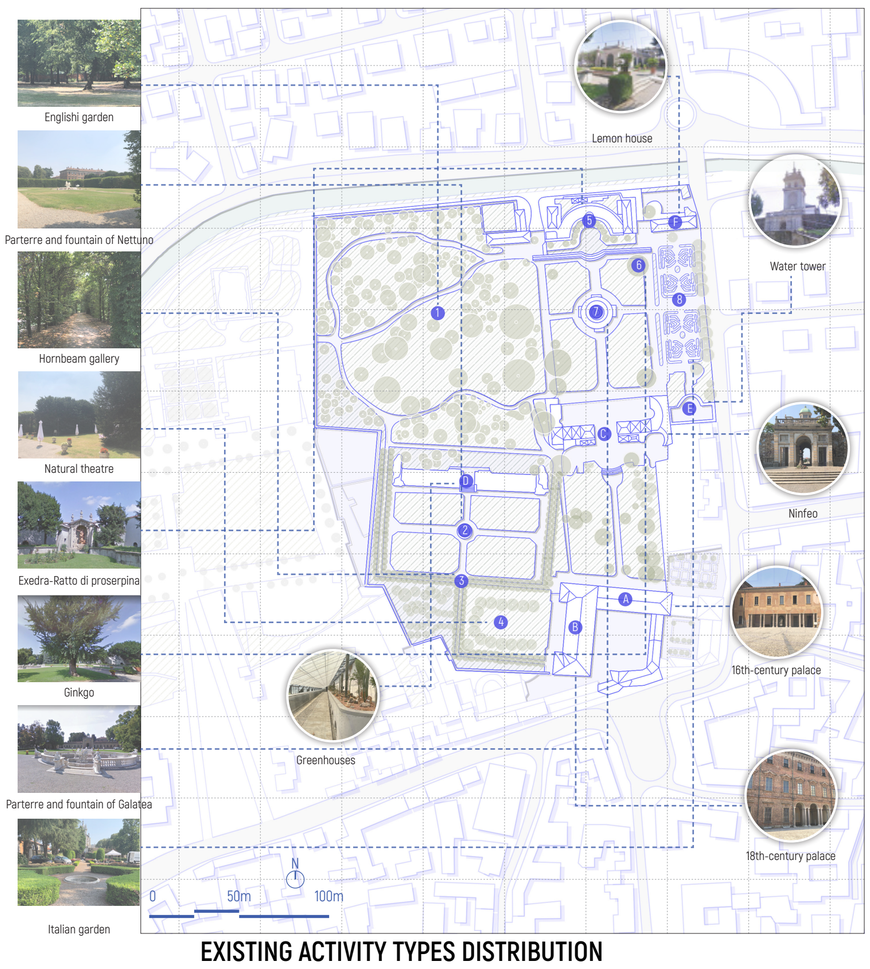
Children — Playing, Sporting, Receiving education

Teenagers — Chatting, Reading, Playing, Sporting, resting, Receiving education

Adults — Drinking, Chatting, Reading, Working, resting

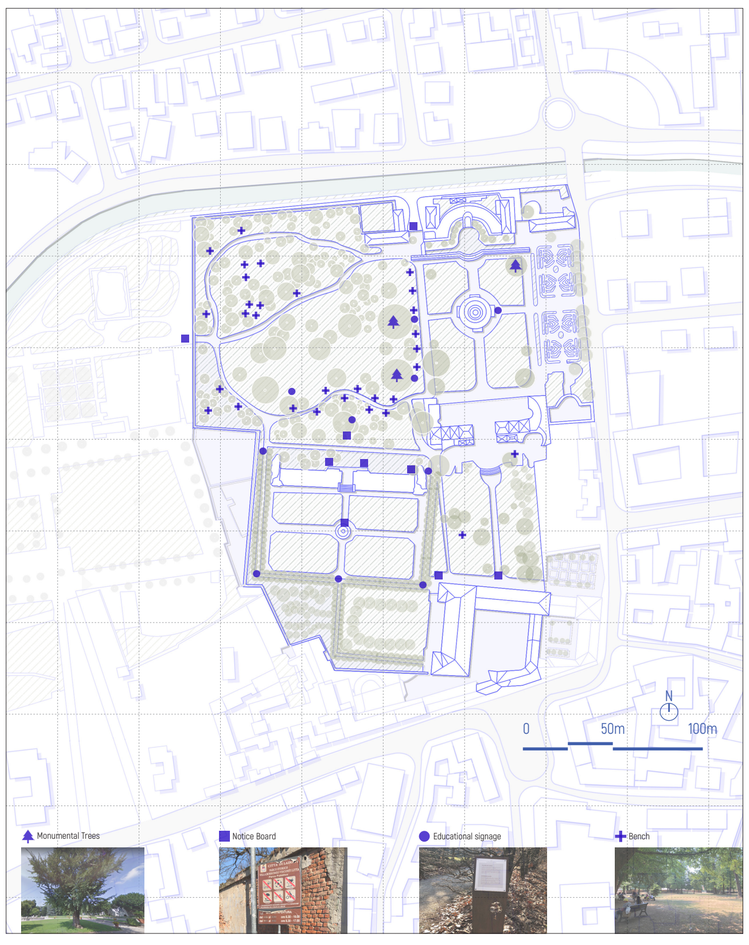
Seniors — Walking, Walking dog, resting

DISTRIBUTION OF LANDSCAPE ELEMENTS

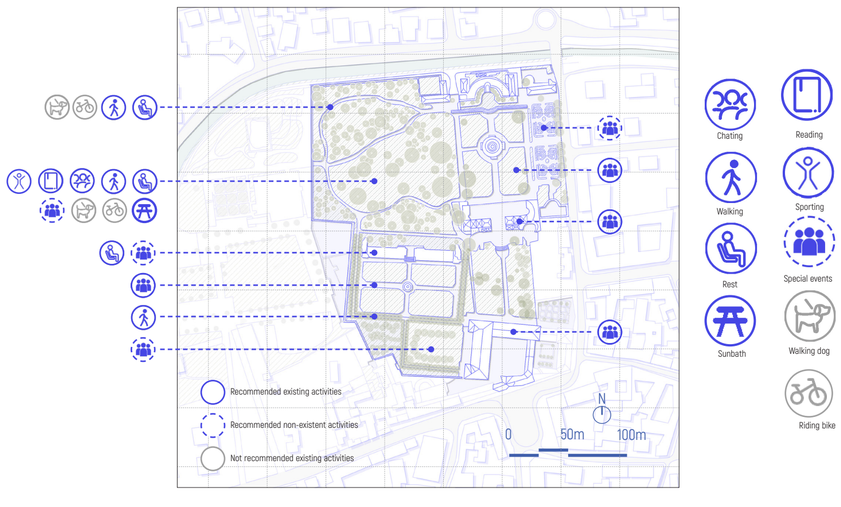


COMPARISON MAPS OF THE HISTORICAL AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

INFRASTRUCTURE ANALYSIS



EXISTING ACTIVITY TYPES DISTRIBUTION



ANALYSIS OF VISITORS' ACTIVITY TYPES

RAISING AWARENESS OF THE HISTORICAL VALUES OF HISTORIC PUBLIC GARDENS: GUIDELINES TO PLAN COMPATIBLE USES AND ACTIVITIES IN HISTORIC GARDENS

——THE CASES OF VILLA GHIRLANDA SILVA PARK IN CINISELLO BALSAMO AND VILLA BORROMEO LITTA PARK IN LAINATE

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School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering
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Student: Xiang Wang 10771883 | Wen Sun 10782149
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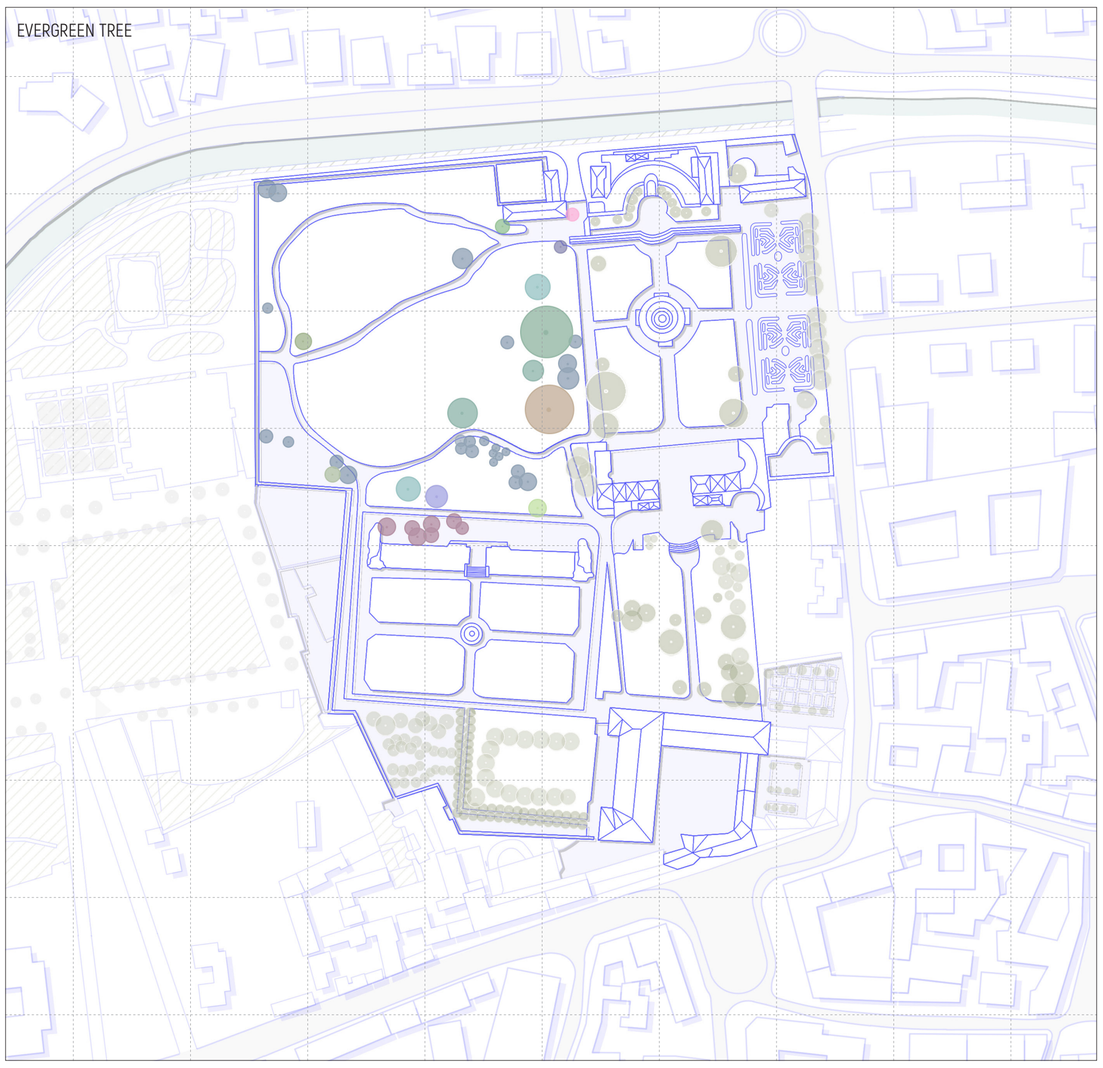
TREE CLASSIFICATION

DECIDUOUS TREE

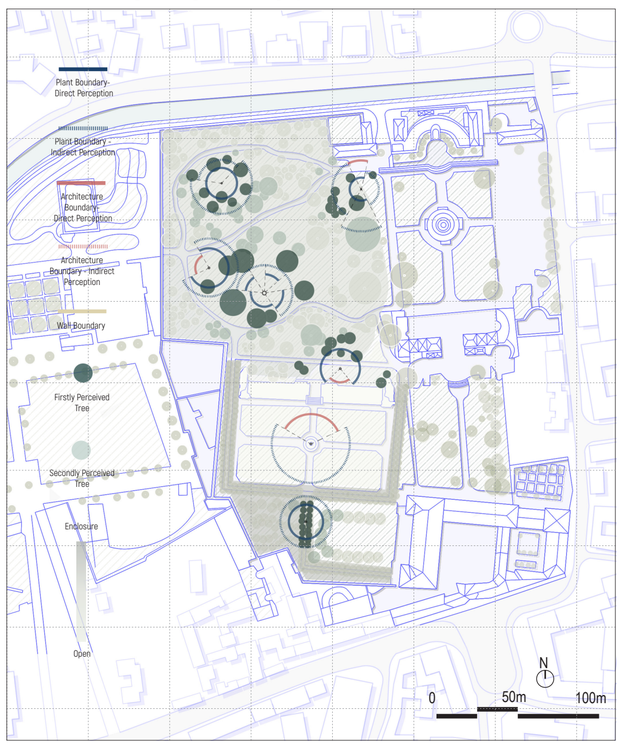
- PLATANUS X ACERIFOLIA
- AILANTHUS ALTISSIMA
- AESCULUS HIPPOCASTANUM
- LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA
- CELTIS AUSTRALIS
- CARPINUS BETULUS
- ACER CAMPESTRE
- QUERCUS PUBESCENS
- LIQUIDAMBAR STIRACYFLUA
- GLEDITSIA TRIACANTHOS
- TILIA PLATYPHYLLOS
- MORUS NIGRA
- GINKGO BILOBA LINN

EVERGREEN TREE



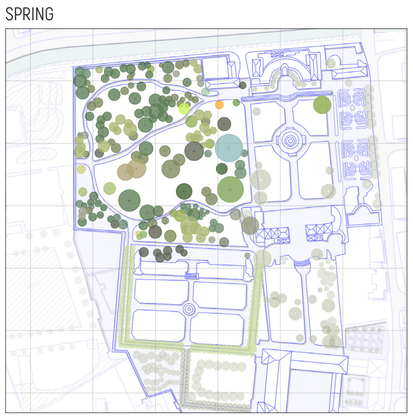
- CEPHALOTAXUS HARRINGTONIA
- CEDRUS DEODARA
- CALOCEDRUS DECURRENS
- PICEA ABIES
- MAGNOLIA GRANDIFLORA
- OLEA EUROPAEA
- ILEX AQUIFOLIUM
- THUJA ORIENTALIS 'AUREA'
- LLES CORNUTA
- CEDRUS LIBANI
- TAXUS BACCATA
- ABIES NORDMANNIANA
- CEDRUS LIBANI SUBSP. ATLANTICA 'GLAUCA'

SPATIAL PERCEPTION AND SIGHT

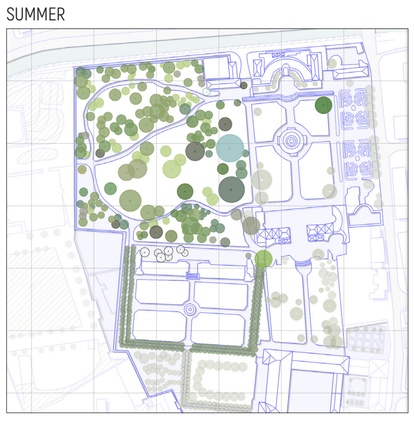


GARDEN CHROMATISM

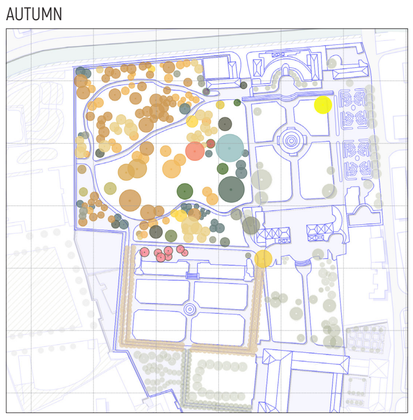
SPRING



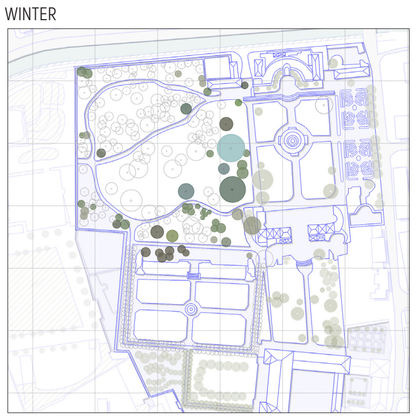
SUMMER



AUTUMN



WINTER



ELEMENTAL GRADING ASSESSMENT

ELEMENTAL CONTEXT ANALYSIS

01 the villa

The villa is the oldest part of the garden and is well preserved in its current state. The management arranges guided tours and regularly organises related events, and it is used quite frequently.

Existing activities:walking,sunbathing
Heritage value: Historical value
Awareness of the value: Hign
Status: Positive

02 Ninfeo

The water lilies are the most culturally and historically valuable and recognisable element of the whole garden. The current state is also well preserved and maintained. The management regularly organises related events and uses them quite frequently.

Existing activities:visiting, special events
Heritage value: Historical value
Awareness of the value: High
Status: Positive

05 Parterre and fountain of Nettuno

The fountain and the Baroque garden are better preserved historically. And there are regular events held on the lawn by the neighbourhood. Visitors are more aware of this part. So there will not be too much intervention in this section. However, there is no space to stay in this garden and visitors do not stay here too long unless an event is being held.

Existing activities:marketplace
Heritage value: Historical value
Awareness of the value: High
Status: Positive

03 Hornbeam gallery

The Hornbeam gallery is a landscape planted in the 18th century and has been well preserved and maintained. Its unique space allows for a good awareness of the garden's historic value.

Existing activities:walking
Heritage value: Ecological values
Awareness of the value: High
Status: Positive

04 Parterre and fountain of Galatea

The fountain and the baroque garden are relatively well preserved historically and with guided l-led tours, visitors have much higher awareness of the historical value of the place. However, the nearby lawns are only experienced for very short tours, which are underused and visitors do not stay here for too long.

Existing activities:visiting
Heritage value: Historical value
Awareness of the value: High
Status: Positive, Negtive

06 English Garden

Forms such as the layout of the garden paths in the English garden are lost. In terms of planting, in the past the garden had a tendency to activate the 'new wood' configuration through moderate differences in ground level, with irregular green compartments and a prevalence of tall trees and bushes.The interior of the garden today is almost devoid of shrubs, with a single spatial composition.

Existing activities:walking, sunbathing
Heritage value: Historical value
Awareness of the value: Low
Status: Positive, Negtive

07 Greenhouses

The Tropical greenhouse is based on a 19th century conservatory that existed in the gardens and was restored to its function in 2015.This should be an interesting educational part in the public historic garden, if it is in an open state.

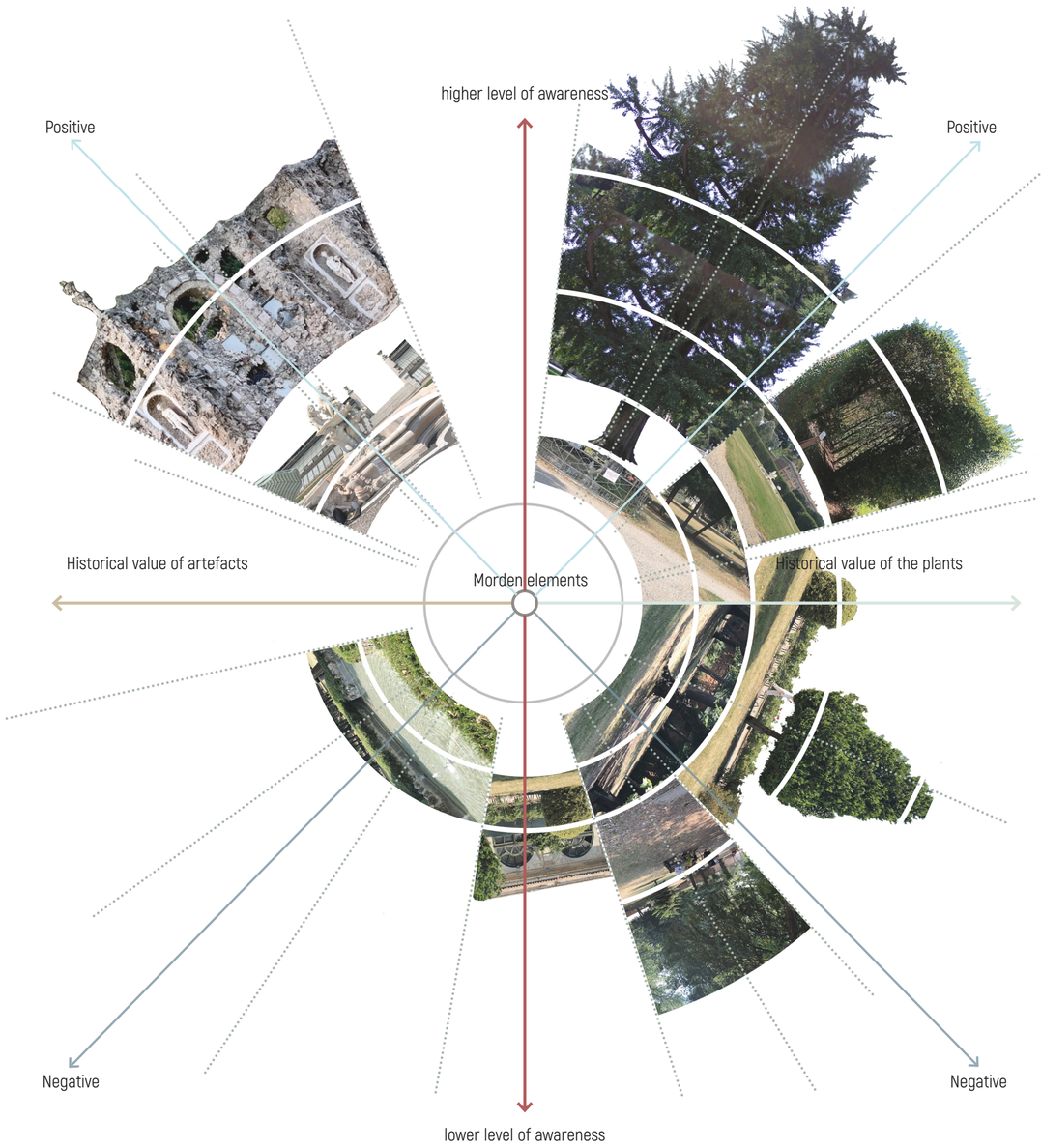
Existing activities:No
Heritage value: Ecological values
Awareness of the value: High
Status: Positive,Negtive

08 Protected Tree Species

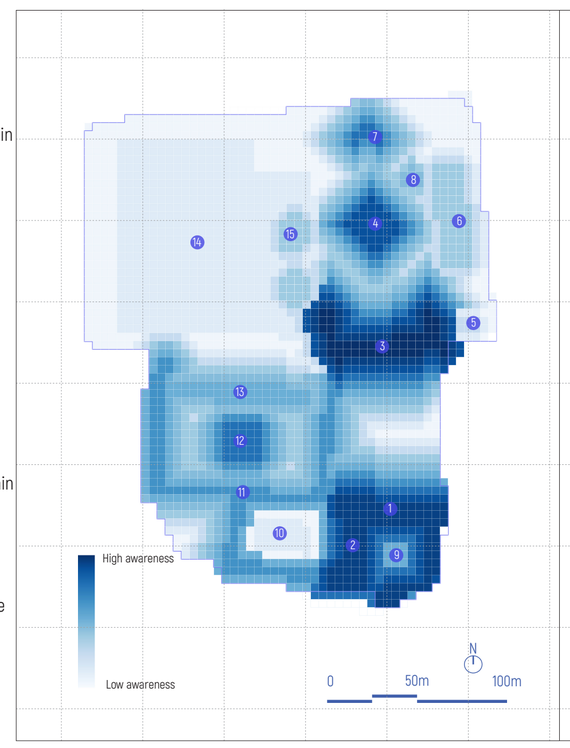
The majority of the trees in the English garden were introduced when it was built in the mid-19th century.In particular, the ginkgoes planted between 1850 and 1855 in the gardens are a treasured species in need of protection.Benches distributed under trees have a bad effect on the tree root system.The scope and manner of movement of people around historic and ecological plants needs to be restricted

Existing activities: resting, chatting
Heritage value: Ecological value
Awareness of the value: Low
Status: Positive, Negtive

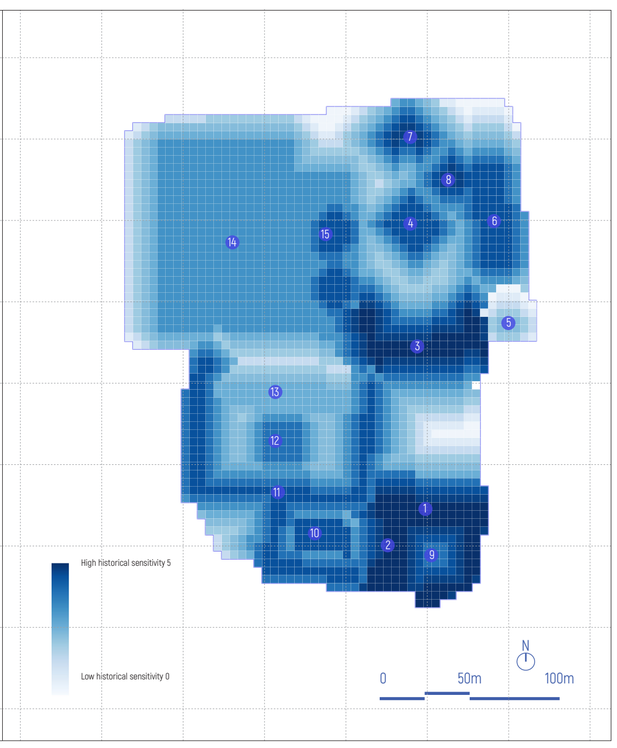
AWARENESS AXIS



AWARENESS MAP



HISTORICAL SENSITIVITY MAP



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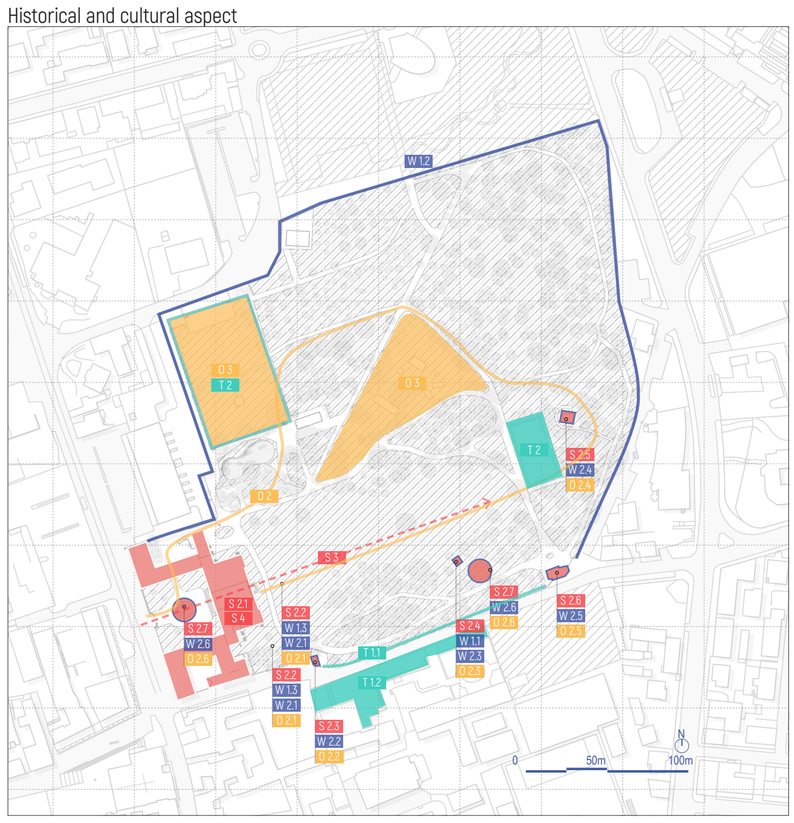
SWOT ANALYSIS - Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park in Cinisello Balsamo

Historical and cultural aspect



S

Not just in the Cinisellese region, but also throughout all of Lombardy, it is one of the most intriguing and well-preserved historical mansions which is free-open.
1.The architectural elements are well integrated with the landscape elements and the overall layout reflects the "palimpsest" character of the landscape since the 17th century
2. Rich historical elements
History and design characteristics of the villa can be seen in the many historical layouts and elements that have been preserved.
2.1 Villa 2.2 Sculptural remains 2.3 Esedra della Salute 2.4 Obelisk 2.5 Swiss Chalet and the Hill 2.6 Scottish Lodge 2.7Monumental trees
3. Existing historical axis
The historical axis is still preserved in the present garden
4. Regeneration of Villa
Characteristics of the villa can enhance the park's cultural and natural experiences while also meeting modern needs.

W

1. Lack of maintenance
The historical monuments and walls are painted with graffiti, which seriously spoils the historical atmosphere of the villa. Some sculptures have not been well preserved.
1.1 Obelisk 1.2 Enclosures 1.3 Sculpture remains
2. Inadequate historical atmosphere
Many historical elements lack systematic identification. It is difficult for people to perceive their value directly and raising awareness of its historical values
2.1 Sculptural remains 2.2 Esedra della Salute 2.3 Obelisk 2.4 Swiss Chalet and the Hill 2.5 Scottish Lodge 2.6Monumental trees
3.Lack of systematic tour planning

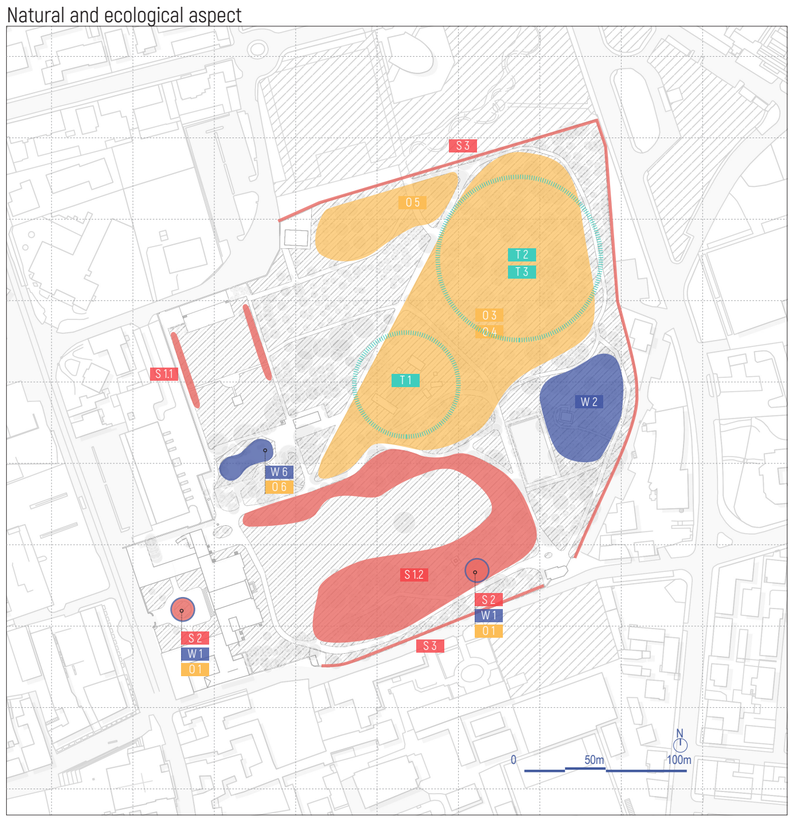
O

1. Enhancement of historical atmosphere
The historic garden has a strong historical value and the general core layout is preserved. Its historical atmosphere can be enhanced by low-cost interventions such as signage systems.
1.1 Sculptural remains 1.2 Esedra della Salute 1.3 Obelisk 1.4 Swiss Chalet and the Hill 1.5 Scottish Lodge 1.6 Monumental trees
2.The park itself retains the rich spatial variation of the English landscape gardens and can be developed by continuous paths that bring development and create an interesting and historically valuable spatial sequence, thus enhancing the historical awareness of visitors.
3.Because the Historic Garden is a free and open public green space, it can be integrated into the life of the surrounding community in a more active mode.
4.Because of its unique historical value, it has the potential to attract a wider range of visitors to the area.

T

1. Loss of character due to urbanization
The surrounding urban development has had a negative impact on the villa's environment, such as noise, as well as negative changes in the visual experience brought about by the high-rise buildings in the surrounding area, which are difficult to eliminate.
1.1 Enclosures in poor condition 1.2 Buildings affecting the visual experience
2. Changes in leisure methods
Changes of people's lifestyles have reduced the status of the garden in people's lives, for example, the original theater and dance floor areas are now significantly less vibrant.

Natural and ecological aspect



S

1. Shaping the spatial character
The variety and shape of the plants in the garden shape the spatial variation of the garden.
1.1 Sequence of trees 1.2 Plant belts that divide the space
2. Shaping the sense of history
Tall trees, especially monumental trees, enhance the historical atmosphere of the garden.
3. Reduce the influence of the city on the atmosphere of the garden, such as reducing the noise from the city and the visual impact of the taller surrounding buildings
4. To provide habitat for the animals and birds of the region and to protect the biodiversity of the region
5. Improve the physical environment of the garden in general, such as providing shade and improving air quality

W

1. Lack of educational signs that present information about the history of monumental trees
2. Some plants are overgrown and lack pruning maintenance, obstructing landscape views and pathways
3. many plants are in poor health and are infested with vines and fungi
4. Toxic tree species Taxus baccata and Wisteria sinensis can be problematic in the garden when children and others ingest their seeds.
5. Shrub level plants are monotonous
6. Water body areas dried up and abandoned

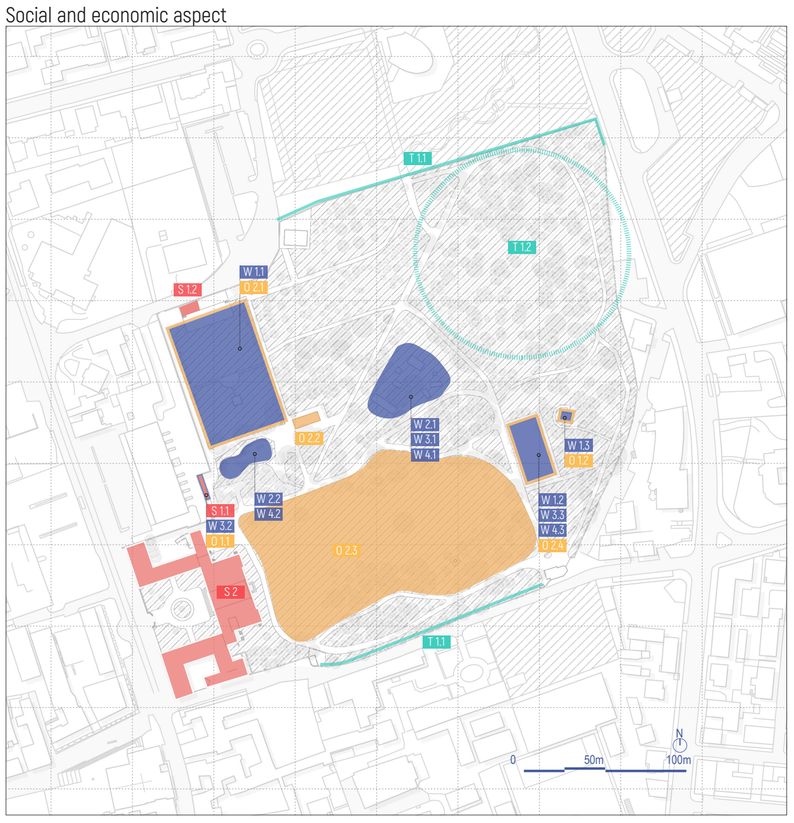
O

1. Enhanced signage presentation of monumental trees
2. Abundant plants to educate the public on plant awareness and playful experiences
3. Possible inclusion of new functional nodes in a comfortable plant space, such as under a tree
4. Enhance plant richness
Some areas could add more types and levels of ornamental plants
5. Hierarchy of trees and shrubs to provide sight lines and directional guidance for users
6. Modification of the water space can create an attractive space

T

1. Some plants are at risk of limb or trunk tipping due to poor management or non-compliance.
2. the presence of invasive species
3. Overly dense woods pose some safety risks and spatial aesthetic fatigue
4. more visitors bring more potential damage to plants
5. The growth of automobiles and urban industries has had a negative impact on the garden's environment.
6. Climate change and increased weather extremes pose a threat to the vegetation in the garden.

Social and economic aspect



S

1. Adequate basic services
Although it is a historic garden, it assumes the function of a public green space, and a series of basic services have been added to the park to enable visitors to have a longer visit experience.
1.1 Bar 1.2 Toilte
2. The rich experiential possibilities offered by the villas
The gardens are closely related to the villas, and museums and other features set within the villas can make it possible for people to have a richer experiences.

W

1. Functional degradation
Some spatial areas or set structures have degraded or even lost their functions due to the change of people's lifestyles.
1.1 Open-air cinema 1.2 Dance area 1.3 Swiss Chalet and the Hill
2. Poor maintenance
Facilities are often poorly maintained and require significant and ongoing funding to maintain.
2.1 Playgrounds 2.2 Pools
3. Poor design
Some landscape structures and facilities lack design-level consideration and are disconnected from the historic character of the park.
3.1 Playground 3.2 Bar 3.3 Dance area
4. Low user satisfaction
After research, the activity space does not meet visitors' expectations
4.1 Playground 4.2 Pool 4.3 Dance area

O

1. Some features have profit potential
People are willing to make some basic purchases after park activities, even if these costs are higher in the park. Currently, the only bar is popular with visitors.
1.1 Bar 1.2 Swiss Chalet and the Hill
2. The possibility of holding large events
The park has some importance in the lives of the surrounding residents, and it has a closer spatial relationship. Therefore, there is a possibility of to hold large events and festivals.
2.1 Open-air cinema 2.2 Small square 2.3 Meadow 2.4 Dance area

T

1. Management difficulties
The management of the park is inadequate, and
some facilities and even monuments have been artificially The northeastern densely wooded area poses certain security risks.
1.1 Broken enclosure 1.2 Overly dense woods that give a sense of insecurity.
2. Coordination issues between different takeholders
3. Intensification of new functions and residential activities may affect the natural and historical-cultural atmosphere of the park

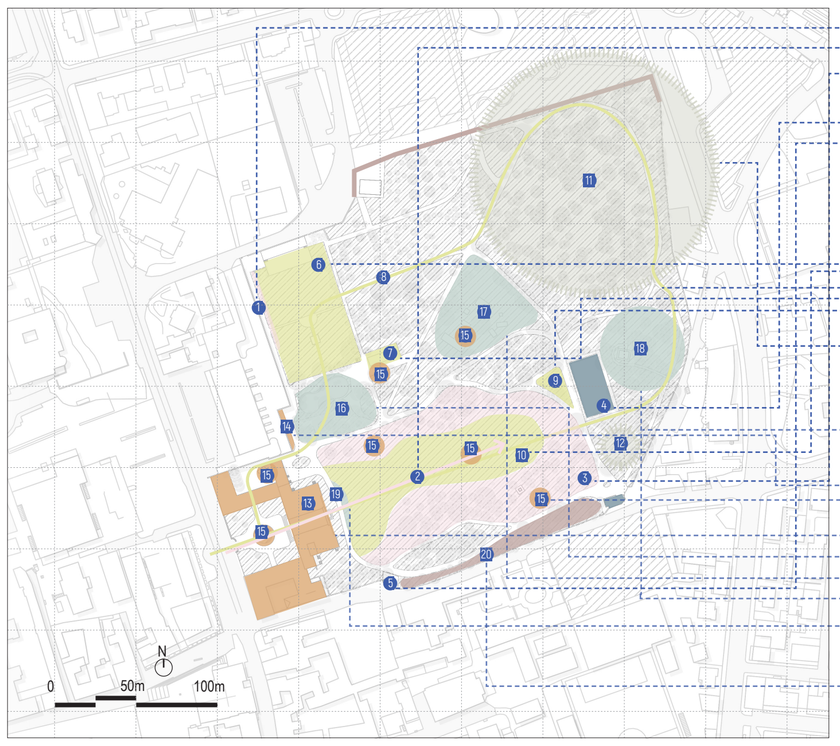
SWOT OVERALL ANALYSIS

S
Historical elements
Botanical resources
Unique Spatial Experience
Functional Potential

W
Insufficient historical atmosphere
Poorly maintained structures and plants
Functional degradation

O
Historical value reinforcement
Raising awareness of historic gardens among visitors
Location in the regional city

T
Changes in people's living patterns
People's demand for open green space functions
Negative effects of urbanization
Inputs for long-term management



BORDER TREE LINE
MAIN AXIS
S — 3 2 ENCLOSURE TREE GROUP
W — 4 DANCE FLOOR; 5 SCENIC BUILDING
O — 6 OPEN CINEMA; 7 SMALL PLAZA; 8 POTENTIAL SEQUENCE; 9 FLOWERING BED; 10 BIG LAWN
T — 11 NORTH WOODLAND; 12 UNHEALTHY TREE
S+O — 13 VILLA; 14 BAR; 15 MONUMENTAL TREE
16 POND
17 PLAYGROUND
18 SWISS CHALET AND THE HILL
19 FLOWERING BED
S+T — 20 NORTH EDGE

Spatial variation

Shaping spatial characteristics

Functional degradation
Poor design
Rich historical elements
Need enhancement of historical atmosphere

Functional degradation
The possibility of holding big events
The possibility of holding small events

Enhance plant richness
Flowering system
The possibility of holding big events

Management difficulties

Enhancement of historical atmosphere
Offer sufficient basic services/Have profit potential
No special design
Lack of labeling
Shaping a sense of history

GUIDELINE- BASED STRATEGIES

Strategies about awareness

Health Exedra
Re-design the site as a resting area.

Ruins & Sculptural remnants
Keep the relics in their present condition and set interpretation signs to provide information.

Pond
Transform the pond into an activity area and introduce the element of dry spray fountain.

Strategies about activties

Open-air cinema
As a place to hold events, with movable seatings.

Bar
The bar is of no design and the noise generated by people gathering here may effect other visitors. Transfer the bar to the Swiss Chalat.

Plant Belt
Noise insulation of activity sites to reduce the impact on historically sensitive areas.

Strategies about infrastracture

Playground
Remove the materials and infrastructure out of harmony with its surroundings. Reduce the impact of activities on the protected trees here.

Strategies about awareness

Woody area
Set a botanical trail in the woody area, providing scientific Information.

The Swiss Chalet
Restore the building and reuse it as a bar.

Skating rink
Relocation of former playground to less historically sensitive sites.

Strategies about activties

Walking dog
Relocation of activities such as dog walking that would damage the historic value of the garden to the external public green space.

Playground
Eliminate hard surfaces that can harm the root systems of monumental trees.

Plant Belt
Noise insulation of activity sites to reduce the impact on historically sensitive areas.

Music Square
Functionally degraded area for catering.

Strategies about infrastracture

Skating rink
Extensive hard surfaces are out of harmony with the surroundings and alterations.

GUIDELINES RELATED TO STRATEGIES FOR VILLA GHIRLANDA SILVA PARK

How to make people aware of the heritage in the historic public gardens?

- Install guide maps and self-service information stands at the entrances to the historic public gardens to provide visitors with handy maps, introductory brochures, and interpretive machines.
- Set up interpretive signs next to significant historic sites and protected tree species to provide relevant historical and cultural or vegetation information. Signs can be arranged in conjunction with pictures, and displaying historical photos is a good option for historical elements with significant changes.
- Use barriers and warning signs around some of the heritages and protected vegetation to remind visitors of the importance of these elements. Barriers can be replaced by vegetation as a natural partition.

How to enhance the connection between historical elements?

- Study damaged and missing historic sites and restore, renovate, or preserve them in their current location and condition.
- Organize existing and restored sites and new cultural tours to give visitors a complete experience of the history of the historic public garden.
- The restoration and renovation should follow historical information and try to restore the original appearance of the elements without making any content that is not in line with the history and culture. The restored elements should be marked as replicas so visitors can clearly distinguish them. On the contrary, it would be more appropriate to keep the status quo than restorative for some of the ruins, and the ruins would give visitors a different feeling.

What to do with abandoned facilities in historic public gardens?

- Determine whether to restore the use of the facility, preserve it as a relic, or remove the broken facility, taking into account the degree of damage, the surrounding environment, and the possibility of restoring it to use.
- For facilities that can be restored to use, first consider the original function of the facility and then consider renovation for other functions. The renovation of old facilities should take into account the overall environment and not add anything that is not relevant or harmonious to the historic garden.
- Reuse the abandoned facilities in conjunction with some of the activities that once existed in the historic garden to recreate the old look of the garden.
- Revegetation can also recreate the landscape structure of the historic garden, for example, by reopening views through woodlands; replanting boulevards; restoring paths with specific sceneries.

How can visitors participate in the management of historic public gardens?

- Install comment boards and suggestion boxes at the entrances and exits of the historic public gardens to encourage visitors to provide what needs to be added to the conservation and management of the gardens.
- Organize regular participant meetings with the surrounding public to summarize the opinions of the garden visitors in workshops.
- Call on the public to volunteer in historic public gardens and participate in the conservation and management of public gardens. From there, suggestions from the perspectives of different participants can be obtained. Villa Litta, for example, has a special volunteer association that includes people from different backgrounds, including students, surrounding residents and social workers. In the process of managing the garden together, each person offers different help to the garden due to their different backgrounds, some for the conservation of the relics, some for the maintenance of the vegetation, and some for the organization of events. Thus, they could give advice in different aspects.

How to deal with inappropriate hard pavings in public historic gardens?

- Depending on the condition of the ground in the different areas of the historic public garden, remove all ground materials that do not fit the environment, such as concrete and rubber.
- Replace the ground material with the same paving or soil, taking care not to harm the surrounding vegetation.
- For some areas where the ground is severely damaged, the restoration process can use vegetation to form an ecological barrier to limit the entry of visitors. For instance, shrub belts or flower belts are a good choice to be a barrier. In Villa Litta, hydrangea bushes are used to separate the public areas from the paid areas, which also creates an impressive view.

How to properly arrange facilities in historic public gardens without affecting the heritage as much as possible?

- Integrate the zoning considerations of the historic gardens and locate the service facilities outside the sensitive areas of the gardens so that the activities do not interfere with the sensitive areas.
- Considering the concentration of people in sensitive areas, the service facilities should not be too far from the main building and the central area of the garden, but not directly adjacent to it.
- Consider using the redundant cabins in the garden for structural facilities, such as restaurants and stores. Try to avoid building new structures within the historic gardens.

How to properly install facilities in a historic public garden?

- When installing infrastructure, avoid protecting the root zone of trees and avoid the main areas of wildlife activity.
- Use eco-friendly materials impacts, such as stone and wood, and try not to use materials that may pollute the environment. If possible, use materials from the site that can be reused, such as discarded tree stumps. Alternatively, use locally sourced materials to avoid additional energy loss from material transportation.
- Handle earthworks carefully during construction, avoiding large-scale earth movement for renovation and minimizing the scope of construction used to reduce the environmental impact.

How to arrange the facilities appropriately?

- The infrastructure should lay out more rationally, considering the spatial structure of the historic garden, the pathway system, the visual relationship, and the composition of the vegetation. In particular, seating and signage are visitors' two most frequently used facilities. Signage should be placed at road connections, while seating should take into account the distribution of historic landscape elements and activity sites along the visitor tour route and in the surrounding area. For example, seating should be placed near event sites and viewpoints, which are the places where visitors will focus their time.

RAISING AWARENESS OF THE HISTORICAL VALUES OF HISTORIC PUBLIC GARDENS: GUIDELINES TO PLAN COMPATIBLE USES AND ACTIVITIES IN HISTORIC GARDENS

——THE CASES OF VILLA GHIRLANDA SILVA PARK IN CINISELLO BALSAMO AND VILLA BORROMEO LITTA PARK IN LAINATE

Politecnico di Milano
School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering
Master Degree in Landscape Architure - Land Landscape Heritage
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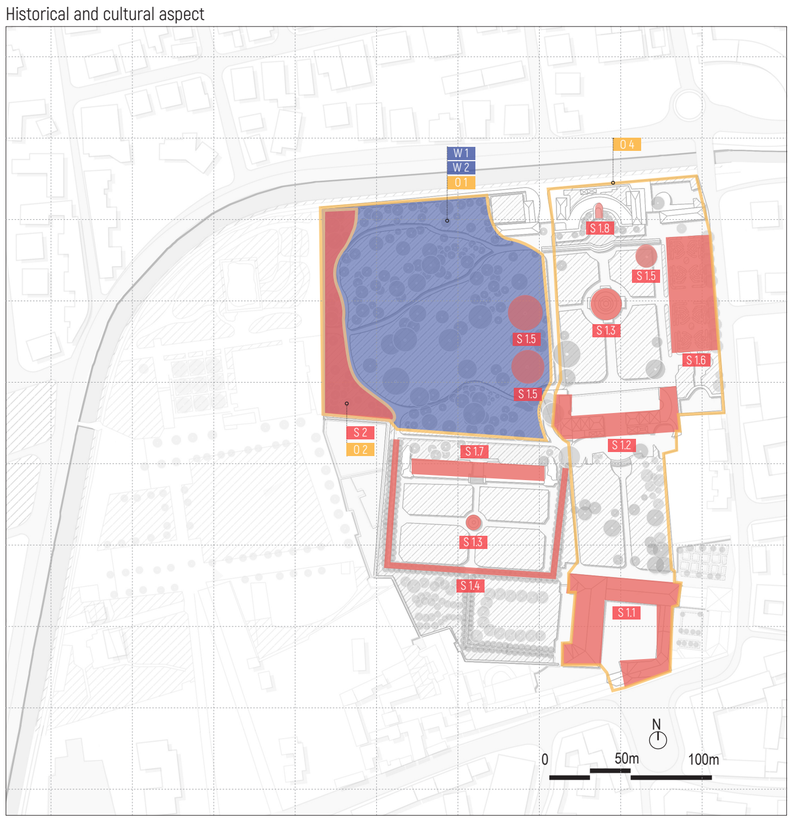
SWOT ANALYSIS - VILLA BORROMEO LITTA PARK IN LAINATE

Historical and cultural aspect



S

1. The garden has well-preserved historical elements and layout. This can reflect the history and design features of the garden to some extent.
1.1 the villa 1.2 Ninfeo 1.3 Fountain 1.4 Hornbeam gallery 1.5 Monumental trees 1.6 Italian garden 1.7 Greenhouses 1.8 Exedra-Ratto di proserpina
2. The existing informal garden partially retains the ground level variation and the large number of trees from the original design, demonstrating to some extent the spatial layout of the original English garden.
3. Most of the historic sites are well maintained, especially in the conservation area.
4. The garden has a comprehensive touring system with clear and readable guide signs with guided tours throughout the visits in the conservation area.

W

1. The historical atmosphere of the free-open area is not sufficient. Since it is a free open section, it is difficult for visitors to feel the historicity in the public part without historical construction, especially in comparison with the paid conservation area.
2. The historic plan layout is almost completely lost in the English garden section, although some of the vertical height difference is retained.

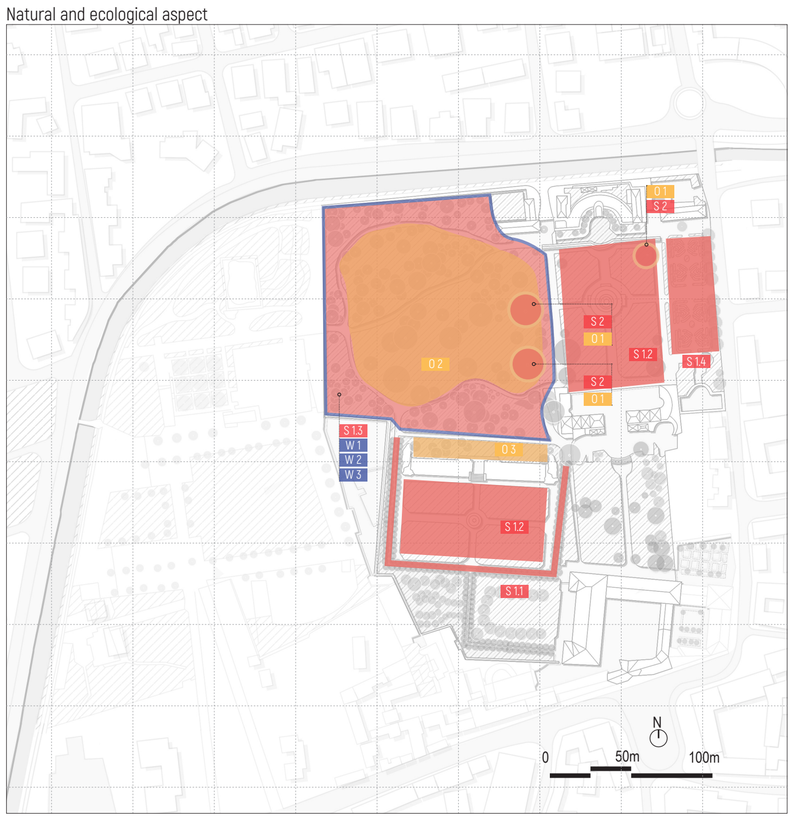
O

1. Enhance the historical atmosphere
The park has a strong historical value, and its significant historical heritage has been preserved. Specific interventions can enhance its historical atmosphere.
2. TThe park itself retains interesting vertical spatial variations that can be created to some extent to create an interesting and historically valuable public activity space.
3. Because of its free and open nature, it can be integrated into the life of the surrounding community in a more positive way.
4. The conservation part of Villa Litta is a famous historic garden of high unique historical value in Lainate, and it has the potential to attract more visitors to the area.

T

1. The demand for the use of the garden as an open green space by surrounding visitors has a negative impact on the historical value of the garden itself, such as the destruction of ground cover by activities such as dog walking and cycling.

Natural and ecological aspect



S

1. Shaping the spatial character
1.1 The hornbeam gallery is the longest scenographic natural path in Europe. 1.2 Baroque Garden 1.3 Informal Garden 1.4 Italian garden
2. Shaping the sense of history
Tall trees, especially monumental trees, enhance the historical atmosphere of the garden.
3. Reduce the influence of the city on the atmosphere of the garden, such as reducing the noise from the city and the visual impact of the taller surrounding buildings
4. To provide habitat for the animals and birds of the region and to protect the biodiversity of the region
5. Improve the physical environment of the garden in general, such as providing shade and improving air quality

W

1. The ground cover layer is degraded and in poor condition due to human activities and other reasons.
2. The informal garden shrub layer in the English garden is missing and has a weak ability to divide the garden space.
3. Toxic tree species Taxus baccata can be problematic in the garden when children and others ingest their seeds.

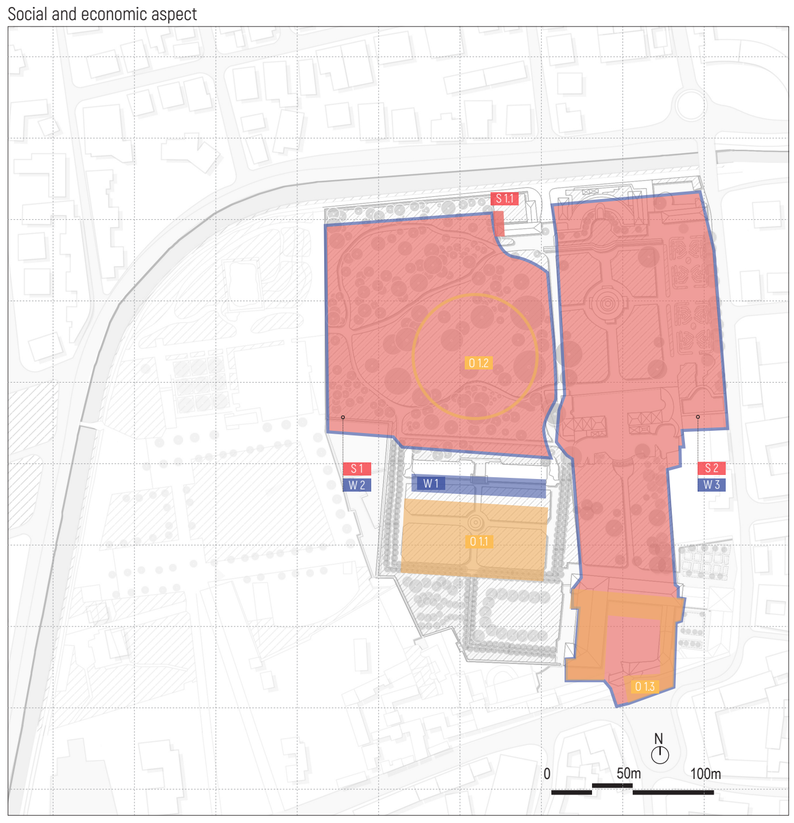
O

1. There are a large number of plants with historical value to carry out a variety of educational activities which can increase public awareness and experience of plants.
2. The addition of a hierarchy of trees and shrubs can provide sight lines and directional guidance for users.
3. Enhance plant richness
Some areas could add more types and levels of ornamental plants.

T

1. More visitors may bring more potential damage to plants.
2. The growth of automobiles and urban industries has had a negative impact on the garden's environment.
3. Climate change and increased weather extremes pose a threat to the vegetation in the garden.

Social and economic aspect



S

1. Basic services
Although it is a historic garden, it assumes the function of a public green space and adequate infrastructure exists for the garden.
1.1 Toilets 1.2 Benches 1.3 Trash cans 1.4 Water supply points
2. The conservation area is a fee-paying open area with revenue funds for routine maintenance of the historic gardens.

W

1. Areas such as greenhouses, where a certain level of attractiveness exists, are not open to visitors.
2. No special design
Some landscape structures and facilities lack design-level consideration and are disconnected from the historic character of the garden.
2.1 Benches 2.2 Trash cans
3. The two artificially divided areas are less connected and visitors hardly aware the fact that they are part of the same historic garden, making the visit incomplete.

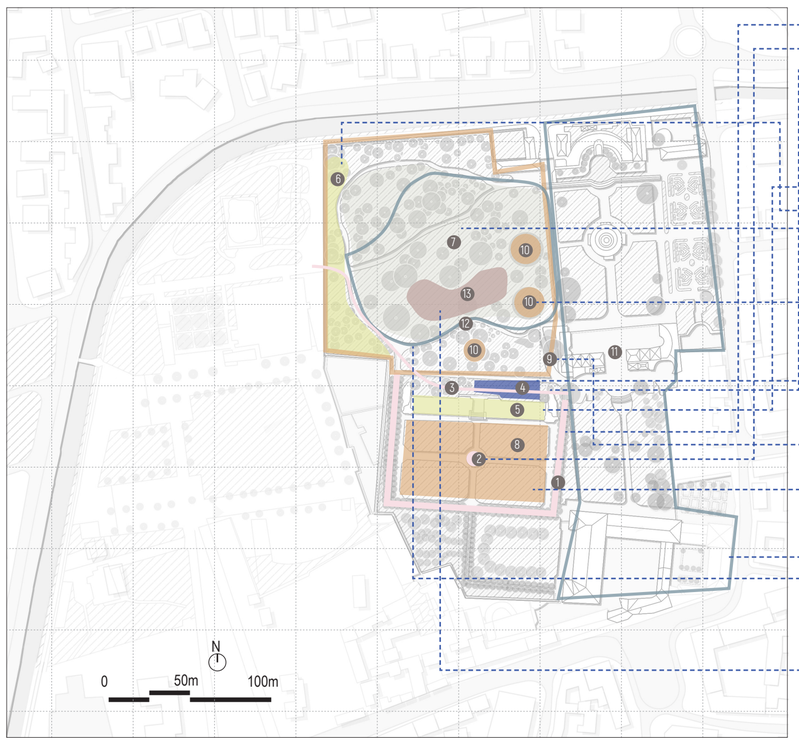
O

1. Possibility of holding events
The garden has great significance in the life of the surrounding residents and it has a relatively close spatial relationship. Moreover, it ususlly cooperate with other associations to hold some events.
1.1 Baroque Garden 1.2 Informal garden 1.3 The villa

T

1. Management difficulties
Because of the free access, it is difficult to rigidly control the behaviors of visitors in the garden.
2. Coordination issues between different stakeholders.
3. Intensification of new functions and activities may affect the natural and historical-cultural atmosphere of the garden.

SWOT OVERALL ANALYSIS



S
Botanical resources
Historical elements
Unique Spatial Experience
Effective tour guide system

W
Insufficient historical atmosphere
Shrub and ground cover degradation
Historical structure and layout lost
Poor infrastructure layout

O
Enhancing the historical atmosphere
Raising awareness of historic gardens among visitors
Reinventing historical space
Location in the regional city

T
People's demand for open green space functions
Differences in historical value from non-free open areas
Management difficulties
Negative effects of urbanization

"The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity."

https://www.heroesneversleep.com/

Goal 4: Quality Education
Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Goal 15: Life on Land
Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

GUIDELINE-BASED STRATEGIES

Strategies about awareness

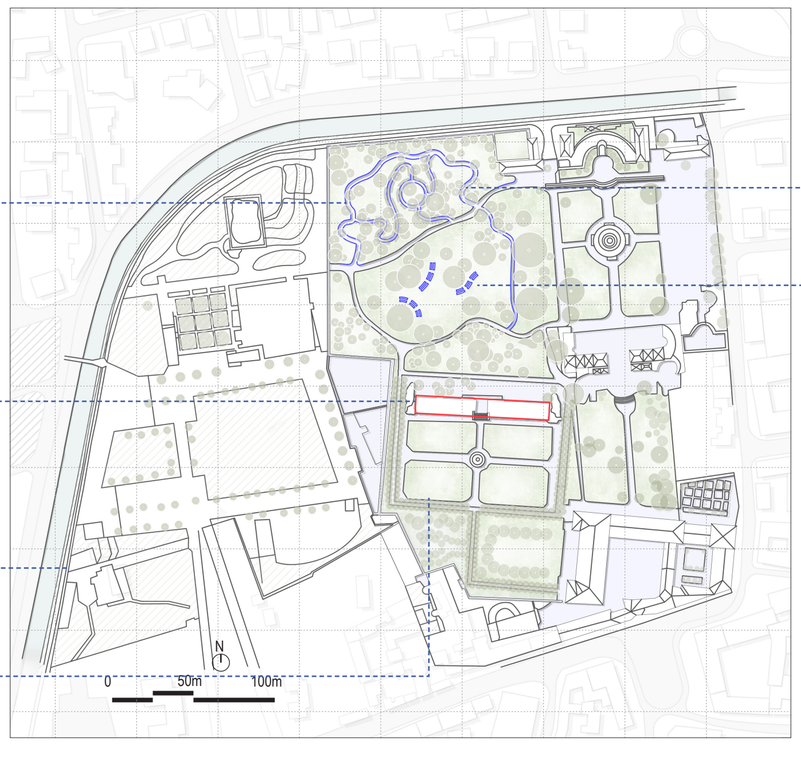
English garden
According to historical maps, recreate part of the old layout.

Greenhouses
Educational acitivities such as exhibitions and lectures can be organized in conjunction with the valuable tropical plant species in the greenhouse.

Strategies about activties

Walking dog
Dog activities may damage the historic value of the garden and effect the wildlife in the garden. It is advisable to walking dogs in the external public green space alone the river.

Events
Temporary and assembled facilities can reduce the impact of events.



Strategies about infrastracture

Children's activity area
Introduce shrubs to separate spaces to create an interesting garden maze.

The lawn
Movable seats make it more convenient for people to choose where they want to stay.

GUIDELINES RELATED TO STRATEGIES FOR VILLA LITTA

How to make people aware of the heritage in the historic public gardens?

- Install guide maps and self-service information stands at the entrances to the historic public gardens to provide visitors with handy maps, introductory brochures, and interpretive machines.
- Set up interpretive signs next to significant historic sites and protected tree species to provide relevant historical and cultural or vegetation information. Signs can be arranged in conjunction with pictures, and displaying historical photos is a good option for historical elements with significant changes.
- Use barriers and warning signs around some of the heritages and protected vegetation to remind visitors of the importance of these elements. Barriers can be replaced by vegetation as a natural partition.

How to choose suitable facilities for public historical gardens?

- Design the infrastructure, mainly benches, and lamps, by referring to the historical images of the historic garden and selecting the available elements.
- For equipment of children's activity area, first, think about what kind of children's activities are more suitable here, considering the garden's characteristics and culture. Then design or select the appropriate facilities according to the activities rather than placing off-the-shelf equipment in the gardens.
- Choose specific locations for children's activities, taking into account the characteristics and culture of the historic gardens rather than placing off-the-shelf equipment in the gardens.

How to properly hold events in historic gardens?

- Avoid sensitive areas of the historic public gardens, protected tree areas, and major wildlife areas as much as possible to reduce the environmental impact of crowds.
- The equipment used for events should be temporary, lightweight structures to minimize the impact of the equipment on the historic garden's floor. It is best to use assembled facilities, which is quicker and easier to set up and take down. For example, lightweight materials can be used for markets or concerts to build structures and movable seats that can be removed in time for the event to end.
- Follow the regulations for events:
  - Although Events can gather large numbers, the number of people gathered should be limited to varying degrees for historic gardens of different sizes.
  - Events are generally located in the least sensitive, open areas of the historic garden, thus minimizing their impact on the historic garden.
  - The temporary structures used for events should be environmentally friendly, lightweight, and easy to assemble and disassemble. Materials should be transported away from paved areas to minimize damage to paved areas.
  - The sound of the event should also be controlled as much as possible; just enough to be heard by the people on site, not loud to reach the entire garden.
  - Only a mobile public address system, brought into the park and removed on the same day and audible only to those participating, will be allowed.

What kind of materials are suitable for the facilities of historic public gardens?

- The first step is determining if the facility's materials suit the historic garden. Brightly colored plastic, rubber, or other modern materials are not suitable for the core area of the historic garden. For example, in Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park, plastic seats are abrupt near the villa and central lawn. So the material used for the seats here is wood. Nevertheless, in less historically sensitive areas, such as the open-air cinema, removable plastic chairs are a good choice. Also, it should be in mind to choose mild colors.
- It is necessary to select facilities that are consistent with the style of the garden, taking into account the characteristics of the historic garden and extracting essential features from the buildings or historic sites of the historic garden.
- Alternatively, choose ecologically appropriate facilities, such as large stones or abandoned tree trunks on the site, and reuse them as benches.

How to deal with the waste generated when feeding wildlife?

- Install fixed-point feeding devices in historic public gardens, under trees, in bushes, or along paths to focus on feeding wildlife.
- Design different types of feeding devices in different locations for different wildlife, for example, a feeding box in a bush for rabbits and a feeding box hanging from a tree for squirrels.
- A device for recycling fruit shells at the feeding device reminds people to take care of the environment, and at the same time, these shells can be collected centrally and disposed of as fertilizer in the garden.

How to combine children's activities with the culture of the historic garden?

- If there were playful garden facilities in the historic garden, consider the feasibility of implementing them in the site context. If conditions permit, old play strategies can be recreated in the garden. Examples include garden mazes and water games, which balance playfulness with historical culture.

How to enhance the connection between historical elements?

- Study damaged and missing historic sites and restore, renovate, or preserve them in their current location and condition.
- Organize existing and restored sites and new cultural tours to give visitors a complete experience of the history of the historic public garden.
- The restoration and renovation should follow historical information and try to restore the original appearance of the elements without making any content that is not in line with the history and culture. The restored elements should be marked as replicas so visitors can clearly distinguish them. On the contrary, it would be more appropriate to keep the status quo than restorative for some of the ruins, and the ruins would give visitors a different feeling.

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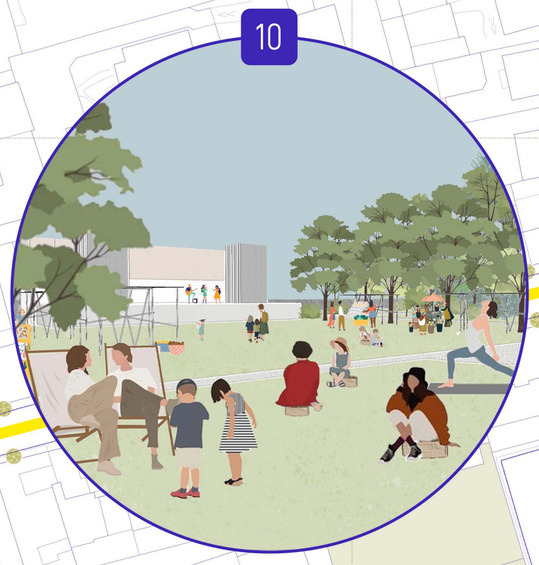
MASTERPLAN - VILLA GHIRLANDA SILVA PARK IN CINISELLO 1:1000

500M
400M
300M
200M
100M

10

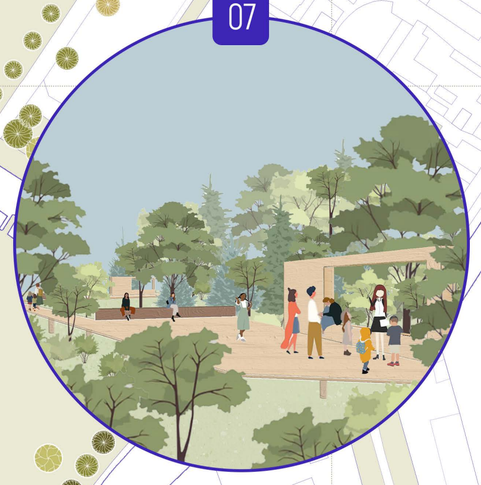


We propose to set up movable seats on both sides of the lawn of the open-air cinema, which people can freely take. This balances the needs of visitors who want to use the seats and those who want to do other activities on the lawn. Moreover, the movable seats can be gathered together when events are held, and can be scattered as rest facilities during normal times. For events, we suggest using lightweight structures that are easy to install and dismantle. This can minimize the impact of temporary structures on the lawn.

11

In order to improve the awareness of the historical value of the garden, we propose to improve the signage system in the garden, especially for the relics and the protected trees. Interpretive signs can provide visitors with information related to relics and trees, facilitating their autonomous efforts to understand the historicity of the garden.

07



The woody area in the north is densely vegetated. We propose to set an erected wooden trail here. On one hand, it can provide a botanical trail for visitors, with interpretive signs and boards arranged along the trail to give people a better understanding of the botanical value of the historic garden. On the other hand, it is an ecological trail where people can get closer to nature and relax when they walk and rest.

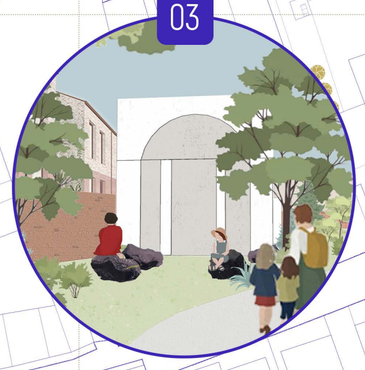
01

Light exhibition boards can be set up in the gardens regularly to display the historical heritage and botanical values of the gardens in order to raise public awareness of the historical value of the garden.

05

We suppose to move the playground to the less historically sensitive skakting rink to reduce the impact of children's activities on the main area. Since the ground in this area was originally hard-paved, with less worry about the impact of the use of these materials on the plants, rubber and sand can be used to make this area more suitable for children's activities.

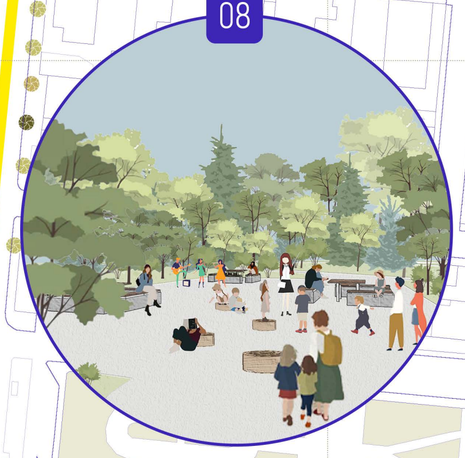
03



09

The pond is transformed into a new activity area that introduces elements of a dry jet fountain.

08



11 Ruins
07 Woody area
10 Open-air cinema
08 Music square
09 Pond
06 Swiss Chalet
05 New playground
02 Main lawn
04 Obelisk
01 Villa Ghirlanda Silva
03 Health Exedra
Secondary entrance
Main entrance
Secondary entrance

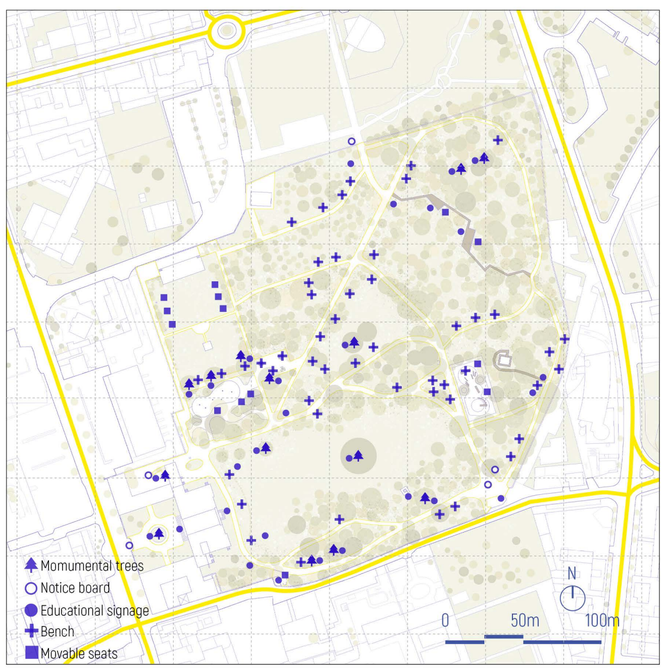
Legend

- Exhibition
- Wedding
- Painting
- Photography
- Festival celebrations
- Resting
- Children's activities
- Walking
- Concert
- Mild exercise
- Lecture
- Community meeting
- Dining
- Stone road
- Paved area
- Concrete
- Rubber
- Wooden structure
- Existing activities
- Newly added activities

N
0 25M 50M

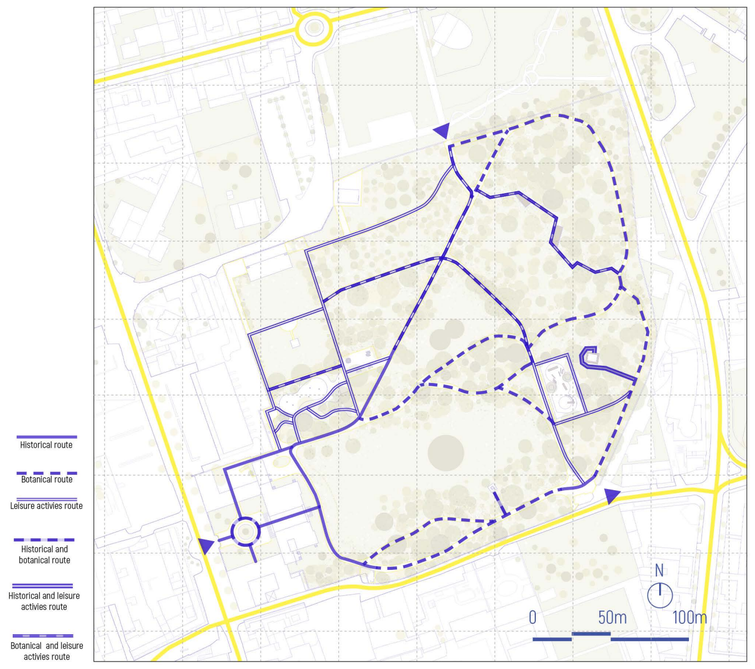
0 100M 200M 300M 400M 500M

FEATURES



SPATIAL PERCEPTION AND SIGHT ANALYSIS

PROPOSED TOUR ROUTES



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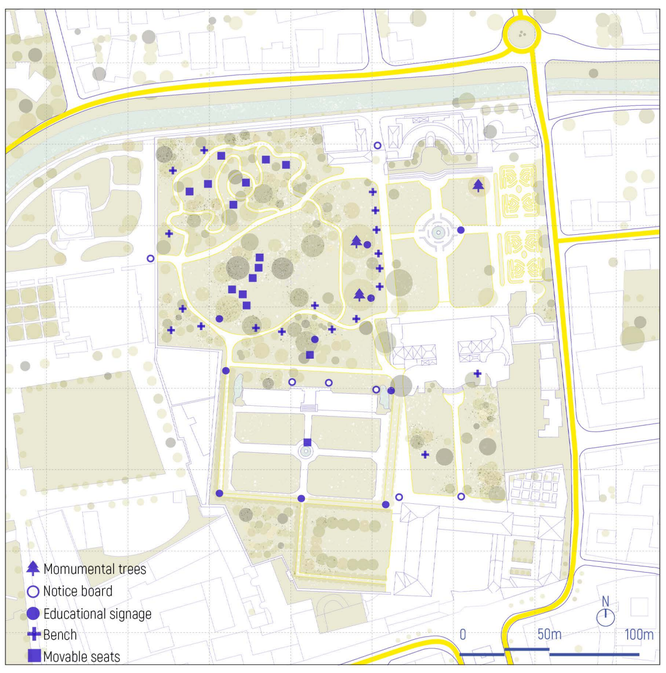
MASTERPLAN - VILLA LITTA LAINATE 1:500

FEATURES



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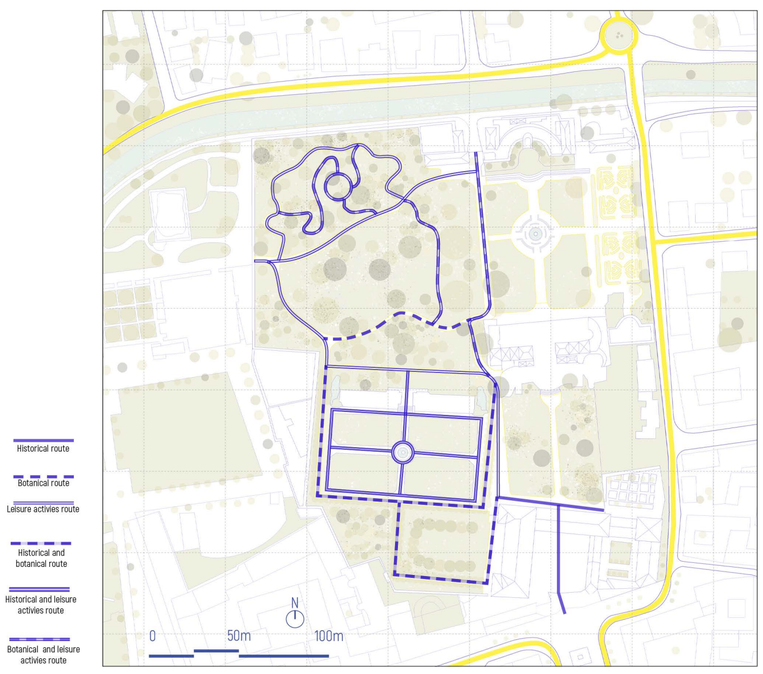
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