



**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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ABSTRATTO

Con il progredire della storia, i giardini storici subiscono continui cambiamenti, necessari, inevitabili e irrevocabili. Molti giardini storici aperti al pubblico nella società contemporanea sono più simili a spazi verdi pubblici piuttosto che essere riconosciuti e rispettati come siti del patrimonio. Alcuni giardini storici e le loro reliquie sono stati trascurati nel tempo. Anche una parte della forma è andata completamente perduta e non può corrispondere ai materiali storici d'archivio. La mancanza di materiali d'archivio ha portato alla graduale scomparsa del valore dei giardini storici. Le persone tendono a prestare maggiore attenzione alla funzione di questi spazi pubblici e alla bellezza degli scenari naturali piuttosto che esplorare e studiare il tipo di storia che il giardino porta con sé e il suo valore patrimoniale ed estetico. Nel frattempo, la domanda di attività è in aumento. Le persone spesso trattano i giardini pubblici storici come normali parchi, poiché servono come aree verdi pubbliche, e non apprezzano adeguatamente il loro significato storico. L'ecologia dei giardini storici è in genere più delicata e sensibile di quella dei parchi normali. Alcune attività quotidiane possono influenzare negativamente o addirittura distruggere la storicità di un giardino storico. Il conflitto pone numerosi problemi. Questa tesi si propone di indagare come aumentare la consapevolezza del valore storico dei giardini pubblici storici, soddisfacendo al contempo la domanda di attività pubbliche. Considerando la dualità dell'identità dei giardini storici, proponiamo delle linee guida per affrontare i problemi esistenti nello sviluppo dei giardini pubblici storici, analizzando le caratteristiche degli elementi storici e le attività esistenti nei giardini di due casi di giardini pubblici storici. Sulla base delle linee guida, suggeriamo misure di miglioramento per le reliquie e le attività dei giardini pubblici storici per aumentare la consapevolezza del valore storico dei giardini.

PAROLE CHIAVE

Giardino pubblico storico; Conservazione del giardino storico; Valore storico; Sensibilizzazione del pubblico; Attività nei giardini storici; Linee guida per il giardino storico

ABSTRACT

With the advancement of history, historic gardens are undergoing constant change that is necessary, unavoidable, and irrevocable. Many historical gardens open to the public in contemporary society are more like public green spaces rather than being recognized and respected as heritage sites. Some historical gardens and the relics in the gardens have been neglected over time. Even part of the form has been completely lost, which cannot correspond to the historic archival materials. The lack of archival materials has led to the gradual disappearance of the value of the historic gardens. People tend to pay more attention to the function of these public spaces and the beauty of the natural sceneries rather than to explore and study what kind of history the garden carries and its heritage and aesthetic value. Meanwhile, the demand for activities is rising. People frequently treat historic public gardens as regular parks since they serve as public green areas and do not adequately appreciate their historical significance. The ecology of historic gardens is typically more delicate and sensitive than regular parks. Some everyday activities might adversely influence or even destroy a historic garden's historicity. The conflict poses numerous issues.

This thesis aims to investigate how to increase awareness of the historical value of historic public gardens while meeting the demand for public activities. Considering the duality of the identity of historic gardens, we propose guidelines to address the problems that exist in the development of historic public gardens by analyzing the characteristics of historical elements and the existing activities in the gardens of two cases of historic public gardens. Based on the guidelines, we suggest improvement measures for the relics and activities of historic public gardens to raise people's awareness of the gardens' historical value.

KEYWORDS

Historic Public Garden; Historical Garden Conservation; Historical value; Public Awareness; Activities in Historic Gardens; Historic Garden Guidelines

**CHAPTER I:
INTRODUCTION**

Chapter I: Introduction

This chapter begins the thesis, outlining the main points of each chapter and showing the basic structure of the full content.

Chapter II: Literature review

Chapter II composes the basic concepts and prior research related to historic public gardens. These researches provide the background support and guidance for us to begin this topic.

Chapter III: Content Analysis of two cases: Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park in Cinisello and Villa Litta Lainate

Chapter III analyzes two cases of historic public gardens, focusing on their historical elements and activities, to determine the reasons for the lack of public awareness of historical value in these two gardens. In the end, the analysis is integrated through SWOT to arrive at the main problems faced by the two gardens.

Chapter IV: Analysis of compatible and incompatible activities in historic public gardens

Chapter IV focuses on activities within two public historic gardens. It begins with an analysis of the activities in the historic gardens, then classifies them in relation

to their compatibility with the historic gardens, and proposes regulations. The rationality of the existing activities within the two gardens is analyzed with regard to the content of the classification.

Chapter V: Guideline for historic public gardens considering Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park in Cinisello and Villa Litta Lainate as two case studies

For the previous two chapters of the analysis, we conclude some problems. In Chapter V, we propose guidelines for these problems, and we propose specific measures based on the guidelines for the two gardens.

Chapter VI: Guideline-based strategies and specific design

This chapter focuses on the specific implementation of the guideline-based strategies in the two gardens. The masterplan and the scenario diagrams show the measures to raise awareness, as well as the modification of the activity areas and the choice of activities.

CHAPTER II: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Some definition of Historic Garden

2.1.1. The definition of Historic Garden

"An architectural and horticultural composition of interest to the public from the historical or artistic point of view. As such, it is to be considered as a monument." The "historic garden" was defined as above in the "Florence Charter", registered by the International Council on Monuments and Sites on December 15, 1982. Further, according to the Charter, a historic garden is *"an architectural composition whose constituents are primarily vegetal and therefore living, which means that they are perishable and renewable. Thus, its appearance reflects the perpetual balance between the cycle of the seasons, the growth and decay of nature and the desire of the artist and craftsman to keep it permanently unchanged.[1]"* For the Italian Charter specificity and current material concreteness of each site are important: the garden "is a polymeric ensemble, planned by man, mostly made of living materials". In other words, historic gardens are thoughtfully created artificial landscapes that blend art and nature. They are manifestations of human ingenuity in both time and space.

2.1.2. The definition and significance of Historical Garden Conservation

Historic gardens are precious natural and cultural heritage sites that provide many socio-cultural, environmental, and economic benefits. Because they are made up of living elements, they require constant, qualified, long-term management to ensure their survival.[2] According to the Burra Charter of 1982, the objective of conservation is to preserve the features of a cultural asset, such as a building, a site, a garden, or other culturally significant architectural work. Conservation practice comprises a variety of interventions, including protection, restoration, and management. Between the complexities of a historic garden's composition, it is a botanical building - which contains vegetation, architecture, humans, and other diverse aspects - and is kept as a cultural testimony. The Burra Charter calls for the conservation of the garden. Moreover, people repair or reconstruct the gardens to ensure their environs and create an inventory to govern and regulate their use. The Historic Garden becomes a blend of natural and cultural legacy, a living archive with a memory. It ensures physical elements and plants longevity in time and place. Conservation enables the garden to continue operations in the future. Alternatively, it is a projection of a specific memory from the past, which

is more than just a form that evokes the image it once had but also breathes new life into a crumbling remnant. This also breathes new life into the locals' history and culture.

The peculiarity of the identity of historic public gardens must be considered when conserving historic public gardens. Conservation should consider historic public gardens' twin identities as public green areas and historic gardens. However, as things stand, the management of historic public gardens is frequently assimilated to that of public green areas, ignoring the fact that they have historical and cultural value and thus ignoring the preservation of this heritage. This act destroys the historic nature of these gardens. *For this dual nature, it is fundamental that an appropriate strategic plan set a target for the garden, in order to preserve botanic and documentary value and maintain historic and artistic significance.*[3] Only a proper recognition of the historical and cultural significance of historic public gardens, as well as their landscape value, would allow for a more holistic view of the gardens and the creation of long-term development strategies.

2.1.3. The formation and background of Historic Public Garden

The historic gardens are undergoing constant change that is necessary, unavoidable, and irrevocable. As the political structure changed, a part of the historic gardens was gradually transformed from a private garden to a public garden. Historic public gardens are historic gardens that were previously privately or royally owned but are now publicly owned and open to the public. Today, such historic gardens are classed as public green spaces whose principal function is for recreational and social purposes, with cultural and landscape significance largely overlooked. *Historic public gardens should be used not only as recreational spaces, but also as cultural sites.*[4]

Many historic public gardens are losing their cultural and landscape importance as historic gardens and morphing into generic gardens and public green spaces. Because visitors have no awareness of the history of these gardens, they do not recognize them as culturally and historically significant sites and do not consider them to be of heritage value, often preferring to learn about the history and culture of the buildings in the gardens.

2.2. Definition and significance of public awareness

2.2.1. The definition of public awareness

World Heritage convention conference 1972 of UNESCO has been arguing the communications as it plays an important role in the heritage process and could be considered as an important tool of raising the public awareness, this was adopted in 2002 Budapest declaration form in the world heritage committee, and how to get communities more aware of the conventions objectives.[5] Much of the content of these strategic aims is about the interplay of humans and nature, how to protect their interaction, and how to keep the two in balance. Simultaneously with inventorying the world's heritage, different governments and relevant agencies have presented comprehensive management plans. These designs can also be used for conservation efforts and management and monitoring procedures. The execution of policies and the promulgation of regulations have also increased public engagement, hence raising public awareness.

Public awareness is an intangible phenomenon, and it needs an understanding of the factors and the variables that directly or indirectly affect it. Public awareness can be characterized as a combination of public knowledge (the extent to which people are aware of

the garden's historical context and socio-cultural values) and *public attitudes*[6] (the behaviors and decisions people make about the history and treasured areas of historic gardens).

2.2.2. The significance of public awareness

According to academic literature and theories on historical garden conservation, public awareness has a greater scope in the process of public historical garden conservation. As mentioned earlier, public awareness can be divided into public knowledge and public attitudes. The former teaches people about the culture of historical gardens and how to identify the heritage in them. The latter educates people on approaching historical heritage with the proper mindset and measures. Public knowledge determines whether the historical significance of a public historical park can be preserved. This awareness can be achieved through lectures, seminars, exhibitions, and conversations hosted by local governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to urge them to take pride in preserving their historic gardens. *Largely explained as an activity to make heritage places "meaningful" to visitors*[7], *interpretation uncovers the meaning behind heritage emphasizing its cultural, aesthetic and historical values.*[8]

2.2.3. Methods of raising public awareness

2.2.3.1. Education

Education is the most direct means of increasing public awareness, popularizing public knowledge, and helping people to adopt the proper public attitude toward their history. The audience for education is not only visitors but also planners and decision-makers. Planners and decision-makers, in particular, need to be concerned not only with what is within the protected landscape but also with the historical and cultural context and specific implementation considerations. This means they need to increase their understanding of the value of historic public gardens. To accomplish this, governments and unofficial agencies typically request the assistance of educators and researchers, scholars who provide expertise and tools to planners. This allows decision-makers who implement garden preservation to increase their understanding of the value of historic gardens, parks, and landscapes and to develop better and more feasible management and plans. This plays an essential role in the long-term development of historic public gardens.

Visitors are the subject of the "use" of the public historical garden, and their actions most directly influence the daily development of the historic public garden. Many historic public gardens tend to

become public green spaces because the public does not sufficiently recognize their historical value. Thus, these cultural values are lost in neglect. Education is the most important means by which can raise public awareness directly. The forms of education are diverse and include official or regional promotional events, exhibitions, joint recreational activities, and historical performances. These activities allow the public to participate and learn about the historical gardens without boredom. In Krakow, Poland, a variety of educational activities have been carried out to raise public awareness of the historic garden: the project to popularize the history of gardening art, such as: Everything about the art of Gardens (Garden carpets and portraits of flowers, National Museum, September 2007); Garden themes and motifs in art and artistic crafts, the past and the present; and the series of Garden Festivals. People participate in and learn about historic culture during these events and activities, thus increasing awareness of the need to preserve historic gardens and parks.

Furthermore, education comprises not only the science of history, culture, and plant knowledge, but the ultimate purpose of education is to make visitors aware of the significance of historical values. The ultimate purpose of education is to make visitors aware of the historic garden's heritage significance, why it should be kept,

what role the public has in the preservation process, what activities the public can do to help preserve it, and so on. These are all questions to be considered during the educational activities.

The form of education is also not limited to activities. With the establishment of the United Nations Organization Heritage List and the creation of heritage inventories and comprehensive registers in various countries worldwide, people are also gradually developing a concept of heritage. This can also be seen as a form of education through greater visibility. Research and documentation of intangible heritage at the national level should be encouraged and strengthened. These registers and inventories should also help to promote the practitioners' recognition and protection and establish more appropriate legislation and protection mechanisms. Thus, further education and awareness-raising should be achieved through activities to disseminate the value and significance of the historical garden heritage.

2.2.3.2. Interpretation

The most common means of presenting information in everyday life is interpretation. When visiting unfamiliar areas, interpretation helps the visitor to go more directly and deeply into the part they are interested in. It puts greater subjectivity in the hands of the visitors. In historic public gardens, interpretation comes in various forms, mainly with a relatively low impact on the environment of the gardens. According to Moscardo(1998), interpretation plays three significant functions in increasing the quality of the tourist experience.

1. giving visitors necessary information.
- 2.promoting the safety and comfort of visitors during their visit.
- 3.fostering practical experience, learning, and understanding. (The third point is likewise the most influential interpretation function.)

The purpose of interpretation, particularly in historic public gardens, is to help visitors understand and appreciate history, thereby increasing their awareness of the historical value of these areas.

The most common forms of interpretation in historic public gardens are interpretive signs(Figure 1) and warning signs(Figure 2). Interpretive signs are vital in historic public gardens. Historic public gardens often have small staff due to their non-profit nature. While some historic public gardens have



Figure 1. Interpretive signs in Kings Park, Subiaco, provide both interpretive text and pictures of vegetation and wildlife's habits for visitors.

Source: <https://www.axiomdp.com.au/portfolio/kings-park-interpretive-signage/>

volunteer associations, these volunteers are only sometimes available to accompany visitors. In this case, interpretive signage guarantees the freedom to explore and learn in historic public gardens. As the subject of the historic garden experience, the visitor must "read" the culture and history of the historic garden on his or her own, and interpretive signs are the equivalent of annotated labels. These signs, often accompanied by interpretive text and related graphics, appear in appropriate locations to help visitors better experience the landscape they see. These interpretations provide historical culture, botanical knowledge, and even historical photographs for visitors to compare with the actual landscape today, thus helping visitors better understand the changes that have occurred on the land. Meanwhile, *some of the sampled visitors preferred short presentations as "there is a lot more to be seen" which requires additional time.*[9]

Nevertheless, a lengthy interpretive presentation is appropriate in an exhibition, but of course, it should be lively and interesting, not a dull accumulation of information. The exhibition is a means between interpretation and education, combining the functions of both, as mentioned in the study by Dean Hristov et al. in Wrest Park, where the exhibition allows visitors to see the story of the estate and the de Grey family and the changes in the family over 600 years. The exhibition

was equally popular among families and seniors, and most people who attended the exhibition felt it met their expectations for a historical experience.[10] As a result, the exhibition is considered "very interesting, comprehensive, and well-structured" in its approach to interpretation. It is engaging and informative. The exhibition can also be described as an excellent educational pathway when integrated with an educational purpose.

Caution sign is a type of interpretation. Caution lines, fences(Figure 3), and no-touch signs will remind visitors that the elements ahead are to be valued and protected, giving them an impact that a general interpretation cannot. Fences will limit the visitors' range of motion and minimize the impact of the visit on these historical elements in historic public gardens, particularly for some historic sites or protected trees. By limiting, visitors will become more aware of the historical value and significance of these elements and will respond accordingly.



Figure 2. The lawn of the Munich Royal Palace is marked with a no-trampling sign reminding visitors not to damage the lawn.
Source: Taken by the authors



Figure 3. A simple fence next to the lawn also restricts access to the lawn and is a way to protect the lawn.
Source: Taken by the authors

2.2.3.3. Public Participation

Multi-party participation is more likely to guarantee the preservation of historic public gardens, especially public participation. Public participation allows the public to express their feelings about the historic public garden gardens most intuitively and involves them in the conservation, which significantly impacts public awareness. Historic public gardens, as a combination of cultural and public green spaces, engage people uniquely. They give room for activities connected to physical health and emotional well-being, such as walking and socializing. They are sites where people encounter continuity and dynamism as part of their living environment and daily lives and contribute to forming identity. Its historical heritage also provides individuals with an aesthetic experience that allows them to become more conscious of time, place, and life cycle. Among the cases of historic public gardens in various countries, the British historical gardens have done more prominently in this regard. In order to better manage historical gardens such as Hyde Park, the British government and social groups have established a sound management organization. The Royal Parks (TRP)[11] was established in 1993 to manage historic gardens effectively and efficiently. English Heritage also acts as the main body responsible for the UK's historic buildings

and oversight of sites of archaeological interest. It provides policy advice and funding support for conservation. In addition, many organizations, such as the Garden History Society, are dedicated to protecting and using historical gardens.

The Royal Parks allows park visitors to participate in decision-making about the administration and utilization of parks. First, the ideas and viewpoints of park visitors are considered. Managers communicate through various channels, frequently using the Major Events Schedule, letters, and emails. Additionally, every Royal Garden has two stakeholder gatherings yearly and takes part in Friendship Group-organized annual gatherings. The *Meet the Park Team*[12] event primarily targets users who do not initiate contact with the Royal Garden Commission and aims to get user feedback candidly. Second, disputes involving park visitors are settled by fair and transparent consultation. Based on the responses of many respondents, decisions about the future management of the former football stadium in Hyde Park and whether to permit commercial roller-skating instruction in the park will be made. Finally, use a variety of mediums to present information to increase understanding and engagement.

2.3. Activities and facilities in historic gardens

2.3.1. History of activities and facilities in historic gardens

With the shift in ownership of historic gardens and parks from private to public access, historic gardens and parks become part of the system of green spaces that make up the public. Historic public gardens and parks inevitably need to take on the demand for public green space use by resident visitors. Visitors have demanded more activities and facilities in the historic gardens and parks. These developments have had an inevitable impact on the conservation of the historic gardens. The following section summarizes the transformation of the function of activities within the historic gardens that are now open to the public.

2.3.1.1. Activities and facilities for leisure (including sports activities)

From at least the 15th century, sports and leisure activities were essential to high-class existence. Hunting and hawking were required parts of male education for the royal and aristocratic classes, and they were thought to promote the development of military skills, along with archery which was not just for the upper classes. Also in this century, bowling alleys (Figure 4)



Figure 4. People in the past played Bowling alleys in the historic gardens.

Source: <http://www.sportlegacy.net/bowling/history-of-bowling/>



Figure 5. People were making tennis courts on lawns in historic gardens.

Source: <https://wannabemagazine.com/tenis-i-moda/>



Figure 6. People played croquet in historic gardens.

Source: <http://bornin1808.blogspot.com/2014/02/frolics-and-flirtation-victorian-game.html>

became popular on rural estates, and some estates also desired to have actual tennis courts (Figure 5).

When recreational areas were included in a planned garden, the arrangement was typically well-researched, with buildings frequently bearing heavy embellishments and placed as the focal point of expansive views. Croquet (Figure 6), bowling, and other game greens were typically surrounded by high hedges or walls and complemented formal garden nooks well. Hunting rides might double as scenically views, and underplanted tree clumps in garden land could provide cover for wildlife. Plunge baths and animal and bird collections could also be designed as landscape features to enhance trips through the countryside.

Although ornamental areas, like public pleasure gardens and walks, tended to be exclusive to certain groups of the community and the recreation they offered was typically limited to sedate promenading, simple games like skittles, or passive enjoyment of a variety of entertainments like concerts and fireworks, public recreation areas have existed at least since the middle of the 17th century. Although typically only permitted in designated places, riding and carriage driving (Figure 7) are permitted on several bigger grounds, including Hedy Park and other Royal Parks in and around London.

Communal gardens, which were connected to residential squares and terraces starting

in the 18th century, were even more exclusive; many of these spaces are now only used by the homeowners in the area, and the only real recreational opportunity was promenading. However, alternative activities might be accommodated in rare situations. Game areas and facilities, with the exception of country houses, were uncommon before the end of the 19th century, and even the most affluent middle classes homes would not have had many sections specifically created for playing games. However, people hold some events here on weekends. Additionally, site-specific documentation shows ongoing opposition to including active sports even in the later 20th century. The *Gardeners Chronicle*[13] inquiries from the middle of the 1880s indicated a widespread expansion of tennis interest. The game was played on grass up until about 1940, and the majority of the "courts" were open. It was crucial that there was no definition or enclosure because this allowed for near-house game activity without interfering with the garden's layout. Additionally, it permitted a variety of games to be played in the same area. For example, architects designing gardens at the start of the 20th century (about 1905) specified lawns that could be used for bowls, tennis, or croquet. In private or public fields without separate children's areas, grass provided a similar degree of variety for ball games, gymnastics, etc. Meanwhile, bird, bee, and fish keeping (Figure 8) were among



Figure 7. In the 17th century, Riding and carriage driving began to appear in Hyde Park as a larger ground.
Source: Rabbits, P. (2015). *Hyde Park: The People's Park*. Amberley Publishing Limited.

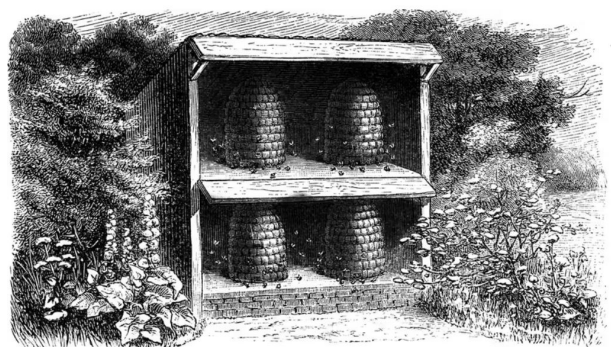


Figure 8. In the 19th century, people were keen on breeding in their gardens. One of the common ones was bee keeping.
Source: <https://animals.howstuffworks.com/insects/beekeeping1.htm>

the 19th century's more sedate recreational pursuits in gardens and pleasure grounds. A growing understanding of the importance of sports and exercise for everyone's health occurred in the 19th century. Some communal sports, such as the "estate" cricket match, were played in country gardens. Schools and colleges expanded their facilities, and new institutions' grounds, particularly those dedicated to patient care (asylums, hospitals, etc.), increasingly featured such provisions. Public gardens and parks made the biggest contribution to the population's active leisure time, nonetheless. At the same time, historic public gardens are also used for some large events.

Since at least the 1840s and 1950s, public parks and gardens have provided formally designed areas for playing and engaging in sporting activities. These were typically placed away from major walkways and decorative places, frequently near the boundaries of parks or gardens, and were covertly screened with planting, raised banks, etc. Public gardens and parks provided a variety of entertainment, just like the public pleasure gardens that succeeded them.

Many recreational facilities needing a high level of maintenance, such as manicured tennis courts and bowling greens, as well as animal and bird collections, were abandoned in the 20th century as staffing levels in both public and private

gardens and parks gradually decreased. The installation of modern sports and recreation facilities elsewhere (such as covered swimming pools and multi-leisure complexes) and modifications to local authority policies caused a further reduction in facilities within traditional gardens and parks in the latter part of the century. Many historic public parks received a much-needed capital infusion from the Heritage Lottery Fund's Public Parks Programme during the course of the previous ten or so years. However, when this element is taken into account within rehabilitation programs, particularly in respect of children's play areas or where vandalism and disruptive behavior have become a concern, the changes in recreational goals and security demands since the heyday of such parks might present issues.[14]

2.3.1.2. Activities and facilities for children's play

It's possible that there was no distinction made between adult and kid entertainment in gardens prior to the 19th century's "creation of childhood." Historic elements including parterres, topiary, allées, walks, mounts, mazes, pools, menageries, aviaries, croquet lawns, bowling greens, tennis courts, grottos, hermitages, and treehouses may have all been interesting to kids. Designs from earlier eras did, however, have the possibility for play. Swings, ferris wheels, roller coasters, see-saws, and carousels can be seen in gardens and amusement parks in paintings from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The 19th century saw the emergence of the "cult" of childhood, and it is around this period that we first notice private gardens with elements made especially for kids. A couple of examples include the Swiss Cottage and Petit Trianon at Wrest Park in Bedfordshire (Figure 9), as well as the Swiss Cottage and adjacent vegetable garden (and battlefield) at Osborne on the Isle of Wight for the children of Queen Victoria (Figure 10). Children's activities began to be included in gardens and parks, and the affluent ones might have a garden created just for them. However, these activities were limited, and the gardens were often small-scale, with a formality and neatness unsuited to more energetic



Figure 9. Petit Trianon at Wrest Park in Bedfordshire is a typical facility built for children's activities in the garden.

Source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/kenbarley/51031973892/in/photostream/>



Figure 10. The Swiss Cottage is also an element made especially for kids.

Source: <https://www.york.ac.uk/history-of-art/news-and-events/events/2019/researchseminarabigailvanslyck/>

sports and games since aristocratic children of past ages were constrained as much by behavioral standards as by attire. In the 1840s, playthings were common in public gardens and parks. Some, but by no means all, public parks that were built in the 19th century had areas specifically designed for kids to play from the beginning. A play area was specifically requested in the 1845 brief for three new parks in Manchester. Archery, quoit lanes, skittle alleys, bowling alleys, climbing poles, gymnasia (huge wooden structures for climbing, swinging, or balancing), marble runs, and see-saws were among the available amenities during that time.

New playgrounds have been added to several projects since the Heritage Lottery Fund began injecting much-needed funds into public parks and gardens in 1994. In the meantime, numerous historic gardens started to welcome the public and had to contend aggressively for visitors. It was becoming more widely believed that if the garden could provide "something for the whole family," visitor numbers and pleasure would improve. Many country houses that were open to the public began to build playgrounds because it was thought that this was the most obvious way to appeal to kids. *These facilities tended to use the public park model, where equipment is purchased from a catalogue (typically a slide, a swing, and a small climbing frame) and kept in a designated area.*[15]

2.3.1.3. Transportation and facilities

The building is usually confined to a service yard within the garden's boundaries. Logistical spaces for traffic are also included. As motorized vehicles replaced horses as the primary mode of transportation, stables were increasingly converted into garages. At the same time, the hardscape of the historic garden has weathered the decades and centuries, becoming fragile and even broken. Vehicle access can negatively affect the garden elements, so the mode of transportation in the historic gardens is beginning to be restricted.

Nevertheless, automobiles are considerably restricted in the historic gardens; vehicles and transit facilities have space for traffic at the public historic gardens' limits. Parking is an essential component of the public realm. As a type of public space, two concerns should be considered: how to plan the placement and capacity of the parking lot reasonably and how to organize the transportation flow without destroying the historic garden.

2.3.2. Need of new activities and facilities in historic public gardens

Historic public gardens play a significant role in the enjoyment of leisure time and pleasures. Along with the growing emphasis on gardens in the non-heritage and historic sector, which is indicative of the further popularization and integration of gardens in leisure lifestyles, the ensuing changes in the operation, role, and commercialization of visiting historic gardens have emerged as new issues. The demand for public green space use by residents and visitors forces historic public gardens and parks to unavoidably meet this demand. The historic gardens and parks have received numerous requests for extra amenities and activities. In order to attract more visitors, it has become important to study the needs of visitors in the historic gardens. *An English Tourist Board-sponsored review of historic gardens*[16] was one of the first initiatives to study garden visitors. It provided data on 94 historic gardens that were open to the public and their visitors, with a focus on the provision of visitor information. *There have been notable increases in the number of historic garden visitors since Gallagher's (1983) study*[17] was published, as well as changes in leisure preferences, trends, attitudes, and expectations.

According to Techetchick et al., attempts to promote fast-expanding cultural tourism should focus on examining tourists'

behaviour at particular destinations.[18] In reality, the groups in charge of caring for and maintaining historic gardens provide a variety of packages, particularly around specific historical events to draw in the greatest number of tourists. A lot of people are drawn to these venues by the packages and amenities they offer. The revenue of the historical places consequently rises. For historical places to be managed continuously and sustainably, more revenue needs to be generated. *According to Steinhauer et al., a significant amount of the annual revenue of many gardens comes from donations made by visitors or in the form of admission fees, gift shop sales, etc.* [19] However, for the historic gardens, which are free and open to the public, in addition to government subsidies and irregular donations from the community, the addition of rides and services to gain visitor spending has become one of the main sources of income for the gardens. There is a survey in England showed that the number of individual visits to historic gardens was 15.1% of the whole visits to English historic gardens and parks. The historic garden environment is considered attractive to people visiting alone because of its quiet and historic atmosphere. This is the more classic way of visiting the Historic Gardens and sitting or walking in silence was also the main way in which the gardens were used before the end of the 19th century.

While 45.9% of visitors to the historic gardens are accompanied by a partner, families with children under 16 years of age account for 12.7% of visits. Group visits, including teaching and visits by societies and clubs, accounted for 11.4% of the total number of visits. According to ETC data, only 16% of garden visitors are children, the lowest of all cultural attractions, with an average of 32%. The historic gardens are currently less attractive to children, so adding children's play activities and facilities is an effective measure to increase the appeal to children visitors while minimizing the level of damage to the historic nature of the gardens.

2.3.3. Installation of new facilities in historic public gardens

As more historic gardens began to open to the public and started to welcome visitors, they had to fight hard for those patrons. The most obvious way to attract people was by including various services and facilities, so many historic gardens that were open to the public began to build these amenities. The installation of new facilities will in turn generate many supporting ancillary facilities to support the operation of the activity space, such as supporting pathways, lighting, seats, toilets, etc. For the addition of activity areas and facilities in historic gardens, a visitor visit survey of the particular garden needs to be

conducted in advance to ascertain whether there is a genuine demand and need for the additional activity areas and facilities to be provided by visitors.

For example, if a new children's playground is planned for a historic public garden, they tended to adopt the general public park model, which involves purchasing equipment from a catalogue (typically a slide, a swing, and a small climbing frame) to keep in a designated area. Such formulaic kits are very common in current major historic gardens and parks. However, they serve as play areas embedded in historic gardens and parks and generally do not have a specific theme combined with the historic nature of the garden in which they are located. At the same time, it is difficult to re-integrate the content into the historical environment of the garden because it is too standardized. To improve the degree to which this standardized style of play area blends into the historic environment for which it was designed, mitigation techniques can be used. The kit should choose not too impactful colors and materials that can harmonize as much as possible with the surroundings. The same can be applied to other standardized facilities such as lighting, seating and so on. In this regard, the Marylebone Green playground (Figure 11) in Regent's Park, London, is an example of a facility which is not particularly in keeping with the historical context of the historic park. In addition

to such standardized playgrounds, where there is no specific theme at all, there are also activity areas that are themselves given specific content. Such as the Princess Diana Memorial Playground (Figure 12) at Kensington Gardens, where naturalistic sandpits and water features sit alongside tunnels through hedges and musical games in the paving, is perhaps the most famous example of how an emphasis on natural and imaginative play emerged in the twenty-first century. The playground was built on the site of another playground – the Peter Pan children’s playground, which had been founded many years earlier and still has elements like a pirate ship and teepees which is Peter Pan-inspired. The new activity area does not change the function of the original area.

There are examples of such functionally or thematically integrated activity areas in historic public gardens or parks as described above. There are of course also examples where changes are made to the specific structure of the facility so that it is in harmony with its surroundings. For example, the customization and installation of playground structures that relate to certain elements present in the garden itself. An example is the famous romantic park Fountains Abbey (Fountains Abbey) in Yorkshire, England, which is situated on the ruins of a medieval monastery. The use of clear, unstained timber in the event areas, accompanied by peeled logs, does not



Figure 11. The Marylebone Green playground is an example of a facility which is not particularly in keeping with the historical context of the historic park.

Source: <https://farrerhuxley.co.uk/projects/education-and-play>



Figure 12. The Princess Diana Memorial Playground is the most famous example of an emphasis on natural and imaginative play.

Source: <https://landuse.co.uk/diana-memorial-playground/>

contradict the medieval setting. As a further example, the activity areas in the palace gardens of the Dutch Baroque royal palace Het Loo contain bespoke play equipment with a structure similar to the shape of the palace. These structures use the original timber elements in addition to the white shutters and scaled roofs used in real buildings. In the Milan region, another such example was promoted by the government of Annone Brianza, which produced a game in the historic garden of Villa Cabella to reinterpret and represent the curing of the Guelci (Villa Cabella) according to traditional agricultural farming techniques. The vines were planted and explained to the children. Furthermore, the playground is not located near the villa, but in a once-productive area, which highlights the garden's dual function in history - usefulness and pleasure.[20]

The concealment of seating, lighting, sign and other facilities in the form of tree stumps, trunks or other natural forms or natural materials, common in all historic gardens and parks, is an attempt to reduce the impact on the historic character of historic gardens while maintaining functionality. For example, in Kensington Gardens mentioned in the previous example, there are some 150 benches and seats in the garden. They come in a variety of styles, including the elaborately scrolled O'Brien Thomas style (cast iron and wooden slats), first introduced at the Great Exhibition in 1851 and now, with the recent

recasting, forming the standard throughout the Royal Park. Other styles include the all-timber 'Listers' and some cast iron/two-panel 'Barkers', and the 'Yates-Haywood' versions of the cast iron/wood slat and Bolton and Paul teak types of the bench. These different types of benches are widely distributed in the garden and are associated with specific features of the surroundings. The same applies to other facilities such as bins, lighting and so on.

Decorative elements with a playful function can be added to the garden by sculptors or artists. For example, a playful journey called "As a history book", completed by Launay Studio in 1992, recreates some milestones in the history of France or the historic park through five play spaces of different ages. As well as having themes related to the history of the historic garden, these play sculptures are also works of art. Most historic gardens and parks are decorated with sculptures, and the new artistic additions are not out of place in a historic garden in terms of form or function. Although these sculptures are contemporary, they can be integrated into these historical gardens as new aesthetic values thanks to the artistic value they possess.

An interesting example from Italy is the 'sky garden' project in the gardens of Villa Capecchi in Pistoia, which has been the property of the city of Pistoia since the 1970s. The buildings of the complex have

been dedicated for many years to the function of a school (the nursery of the villa, the community nursery of the former conservatory) and the garden part was abandoned. *In 2013 reconstruction work began to transform the site into a modern urban garden for children's sculptures, while respecting the existing large old trees, and allowing for cooperative interaction and imaginative training of children.*[21]

Of course, one of the most effective and unobtrusive ways to add activities to the historic gardens and parks is to restore some of the functions that once existed in the historic gardens and parks. The long-standing customs of spectacle, military salutes and parades, big events, and public gatherings make Hyde Park unique. These customs go back a long way and are a continuation of traditions. There is also the restoration of the function of the horse track which people rode horses on in the past. *The Royal Parks even have created and implemented the Events Strategy, which offers instructions on how potential event organisers can use the Park.*[22]

As mentioned above, adding new activities and facilities is a viable means of further developing the use of the historic public gardens and parks. This use is in line with the fact that the historic garden is a continuously existing place and is beneficial. On the one hand, it adds to the enjoyment and convenience of historic public gardens, making visitors more willing to spend more

time in gardens and parks and meeting the demand of visitors for the use of open historic gardens as public green spaces. On the other hand, an excellent place for site-related activities enhances the visitor experience and understanding of the garden's historical, aesthetic, and ecological values, thus increasing visitor awareness of historic public gardens for better conservation. The ability of visitors to learn about activities in historic gardens is independent of the facilities, but the choice of facilities can be considered a way to do so.

Nevertheless, the addition or restoration of new activities and facilities can affect the historical value of historic public gardens to varying degrees. Some guidelines are needed to balance this damage with visitor demand for activities. Critically evaluate and control the addition or removal of activity facilities within the gardens while respecting the preservation of the cultural values of the historic public gardens.

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[13]NOTE: The Gardeners' Chronicle was a British horticulture periodical. It lasted as a title in its own right for nearly 150 years and is still extant as part of the magazine Horticulture Week.

[14]NOTE: The Gardens Trust publishes a regular newsletter, Issue 2, 2009, pages P 1-2, which discusses in detail the history of the development of sport and leisure activities in historic gardens and parks.

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**CHAPTER III:
CONTENT ANALYSIS OF
TWO CASES:
VILLA GHIRLANDA SILVA
PARK IN CINISELLO
AND VILLA LITTA LAINATE**

3.1. Why choose Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park and Villa Litta as cases to study?

Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park and Villa Litta are both historic public gardens, but the two gardens differ in the problems they face.

The Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park is now entirely open to the public. The garden's interior lacks attention to the historical sites, and the remains are scattered on the lawn. People tend to focus on the villa and would not think about what history the deserted wooden houses within the gardens once had or whether the stones in the grass have a unique story to tell. For Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park, it is entirely public, with several relics in the garden, but neglected and negligently maintained.

Villa Litta is divided into two parts. One is accessible for a fee and includes the famous Ninfeo and gardens and the old ginkgo trees; the other part is open to the public and includes mainly the English garden and the tree gallery. It is different from Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park. However, the managers only focus on the historical elements of the paid areas, perhaps because the historical form of the English garden is almost lost. This point exacerbates the difference in the visitor's perception of the two areas. Because of the payment and the guides' explanations,

visitors can easily realize the historical value of the paid areas.

In contrast, the arbor and greenhouse have interpretive signs for the public areas, and some visitors will realize their value. However, few people realize that the English garden is also part of the historic garden. In the case of Villa Litta, its division leads to a lack of proper recognition of the garden as a whole by the visitor. The identity of the English garden is lost, making it indistinguishable from a typical green space.

The difference between the two gardens: Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park has historical elements, but some elements are abandoned; In Villa Litta, some of the historical characters of the public area are disappeared. Both of these problems are the reasons for the gradual convergence of public historical gardens to normal public parks.

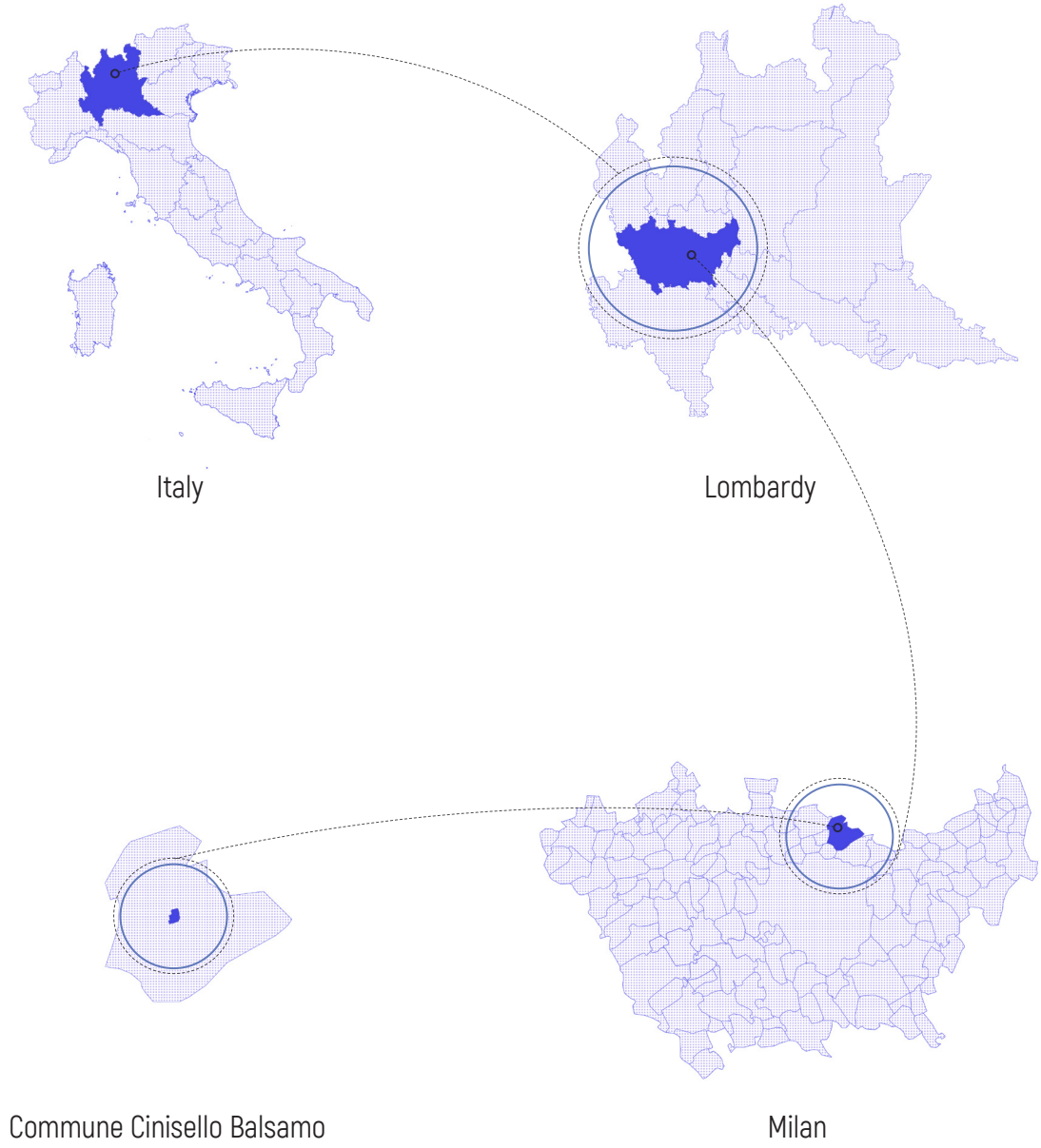
3.2. Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park in Cinisello

3.2.1. Basic background of Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park

3.2.1.1. 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 two historic 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. The Garden of Villa Ghirlanda Silva was built by the noble Silva family in the around mid-16th century. In the 1810s the holder was influenced by the English garden, making it the first English garden in Italy. The historical garden is part of the Rete Giardini Storici and is under protection at national heritage since 1939. Villa Ghirlanda Silva owned by the municipality since 1974 and officially opened to the public in 1982.



3.2.1.2. The changes of context

The various modifications and connotations that the garden has had over the years are visible in the contextual evolution of the garden over time. From the formal garden to how it interacted with the surrounding rural terrain to how it was converted into an English garden before becoming a public park.

CINISELLO Charles 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

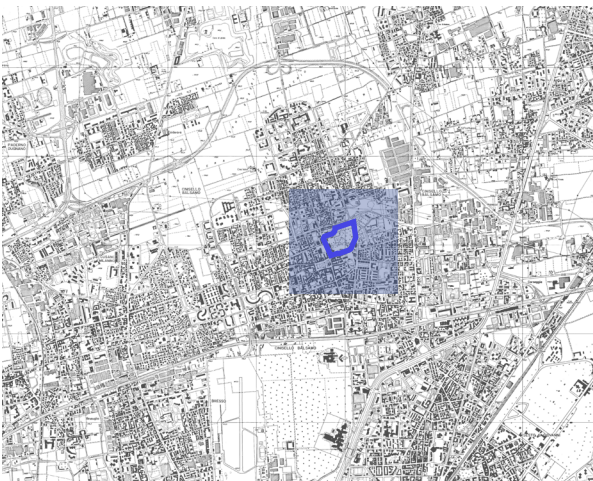
South west : the Villa was connected with the town of Cinisello

 woodland  farmland

East: it
in
an a
intende
garden

CINISELLO_CTR map extract of 1981

North: extensive and consistent urban expansion



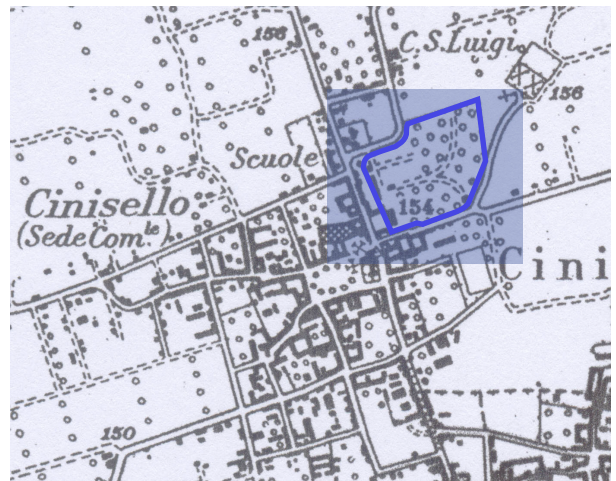
Extract from CTR – Technical Regional Map , 1981. The red box indicates the Villa Ghirlanda Silva area. Source: Comune di Cinisello Balsamo.

South: extensive and consistent urban expansion

 woodland  road network  factory  park




CINISELLO IGM map extract of 1950

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



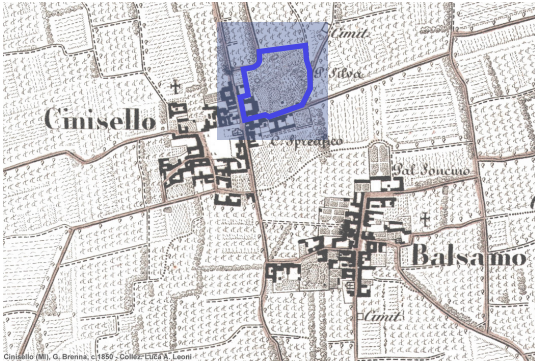
Extract IGM (Military Geographical Institute) map, 1936. The red box indicates the Villa Ghirlanda Silva area. Source: Comune di Cinisello Balsamo.

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

 woodland  road network  factory

CINISELLO Brenna map extract of 1838

North: agricultural landscape



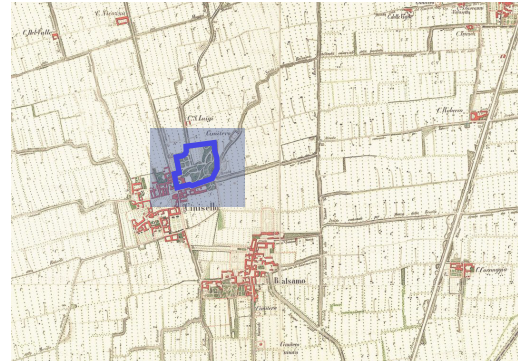
Extract from Carta Topografica dei Contorni di Milano riconosciuta sul terreno e in parte rilevata e disegnata nella proporzionale scala di 1 a 25.000 dall'I.R. Primo Ingegnere Geografo Pensionato Giovanni Brenna, also called Giovanni Brenna map, about 1838-40. The blue box indicate the area of Villa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

South: rural landscape



CINISELLO_Carta manovra extract of 1878

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



East:
"contrada per
Monza"

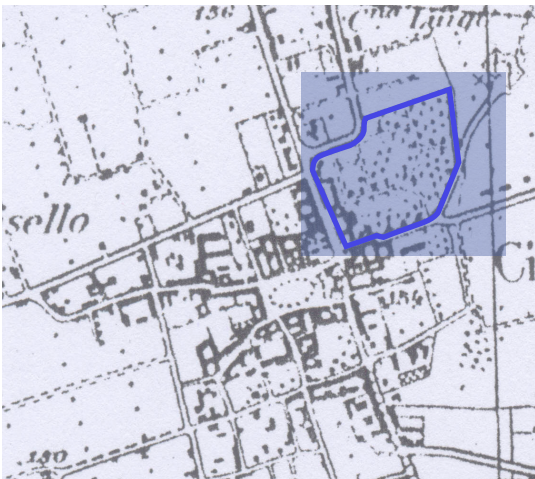
Carta manovra dei dintorni di Milano (Maneuver card of Milan surroundings), foglio 14 Cinisello, 1878 Fonte: <https://www.igmi.org/>

South: rural landscape



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



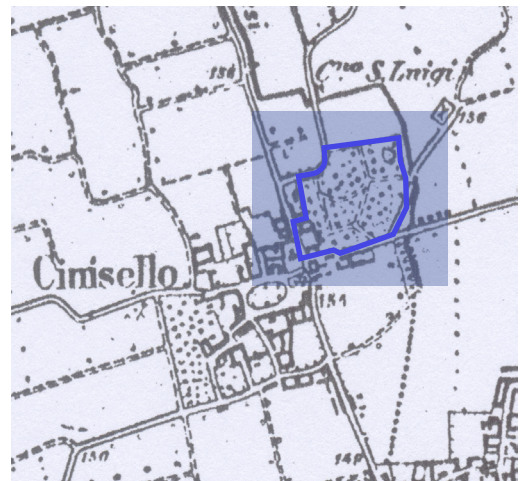
Extract IGM (Military Geographical Institute) map, 1936. The red box indicates the Villa Ghirlanda Silva area. Source: Comune di Cinisello Balsamo.

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



CINISELLO IGM map extract of 1888

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



Extract IGM (Military Geographical Institute) map, 1888. The red box indicates the Villa Ghirlanda Silva area. Source: Comune di Cinisello Balsamo.



3.2.1.3. Urban surrounding context analysis

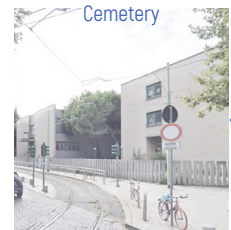
As one of only two historic gardens in Cinisello Balsamo, the Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park is a very active place in terms of both internal external and urban dynamics.

The villa itself houses many institutions and provides a wide range of spaces for a variety of activities. It is fully utilised as a public open green space.

The villa is surrounded by cultural and educational facilities such as churches, cultural centres and several schools and connected by open green spaces. The nearby streets are also well served by the public transport system. Three further notable organisations are housed within the villa's installations: the REGIS, the Contemporary Photography Museum, and the Music Civic School (Rete Giardini Storici).



Cemetery



Primary School
Mount Ortigara



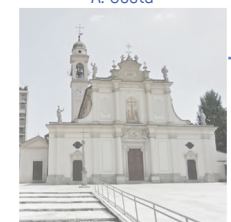
The Cultural Center Pertini



Sports centre Palasport
S. Allende

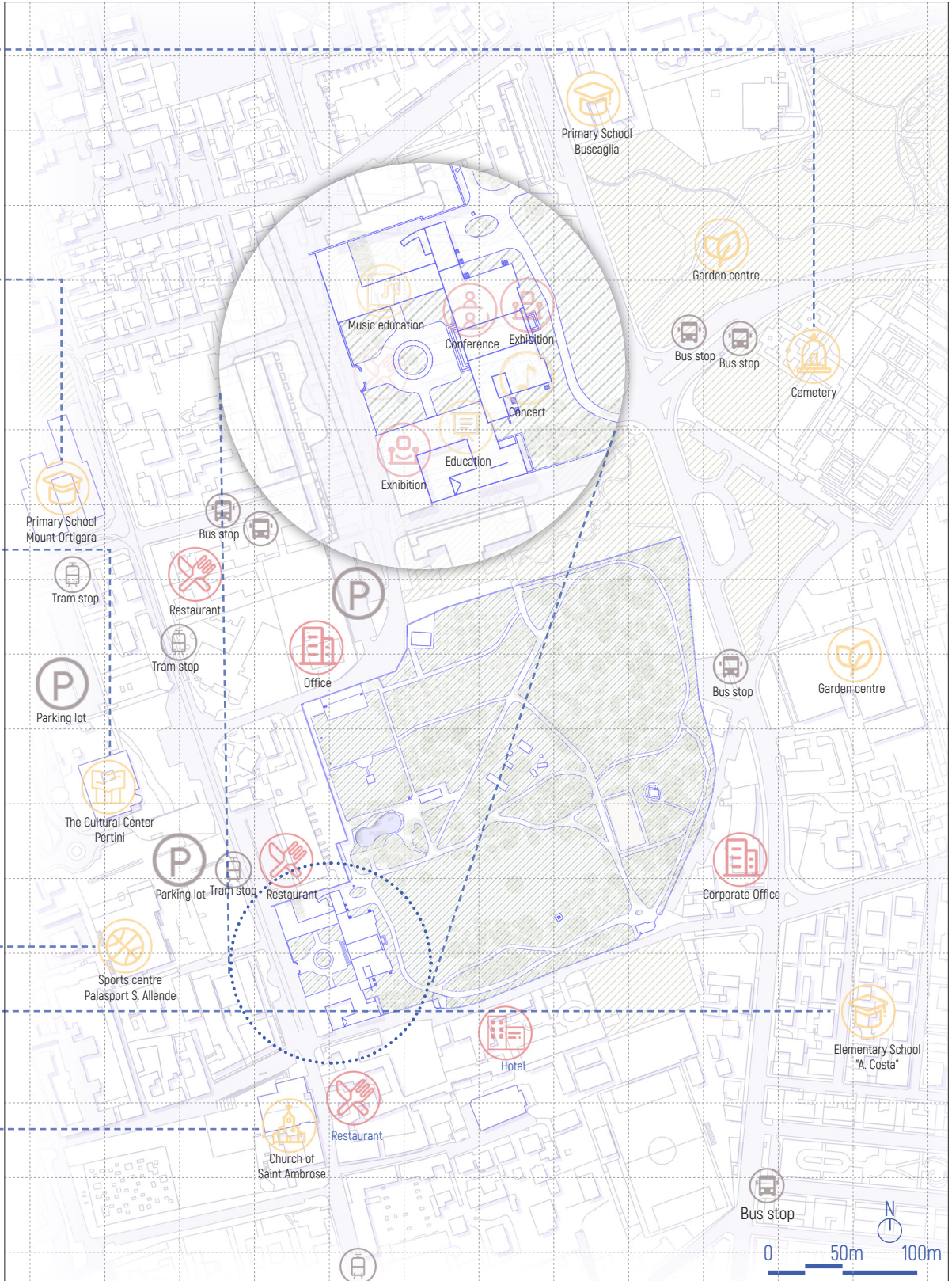


Elementary School
"A. Costa"



Church of Saint Ambrose

Urban surrounding context



3.2.1.4. History timeline

The historical villa, as well as a variety of cultural events and representations, maintain the area's historical worth. The complex's historical value enhancement projects are made possible by the work of numerous organisations and initiatives with the goal of preserving and enhancing its historical assets. The ownership of the gardens has changed several times over time, as have the structural layout and some of the ways in which they are used.

20C 80s

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.



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, smaller in size and used as a country residence.

1726-1799

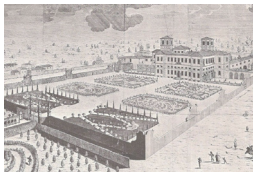
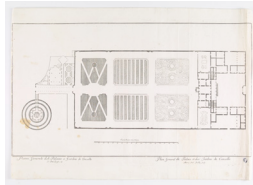
Teatro de 'Lauri

Giardino de 'Semplici

With the belvedere hill

A symmetrical layout of paths and flowerbeds

An orchard, a citrus grove and a heated greenhouse.



19C 10s

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.



20C 20s

Cippelletti Family

The final private holders of some 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



19C 40s

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



3.2.2. Landscape features of Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park

3.2.2.1. Distribution of landscape elements

Historic structures

The landscape elements in the gardens have been added to and changed several times over time. The remaining historic buildings are also subject to some degree of alteration due to maintenance and other issues. There are four main surviving historic buildings, including the main Villa, Esedra della Salute, the scottish lodge and the chalet.

1 The chalet



paint by Sofia Molteni
from: Archivio Centro di Documentazione Storica, Municipality of Cinisello Balsamo



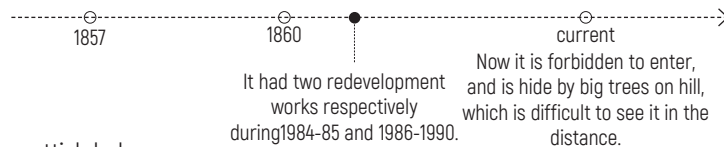
paint by Claudius Bernacchi



from: Archivio Centro di Documentazione Storica, Municipality of Cinisello Balsamo



The chalet behind the branches



2 The scottish lodge



painted by Sofia Molteni
from: Archivio Centro di Documentazione Storica, Municipality of Cinisello Balsamo



from inside



from inside

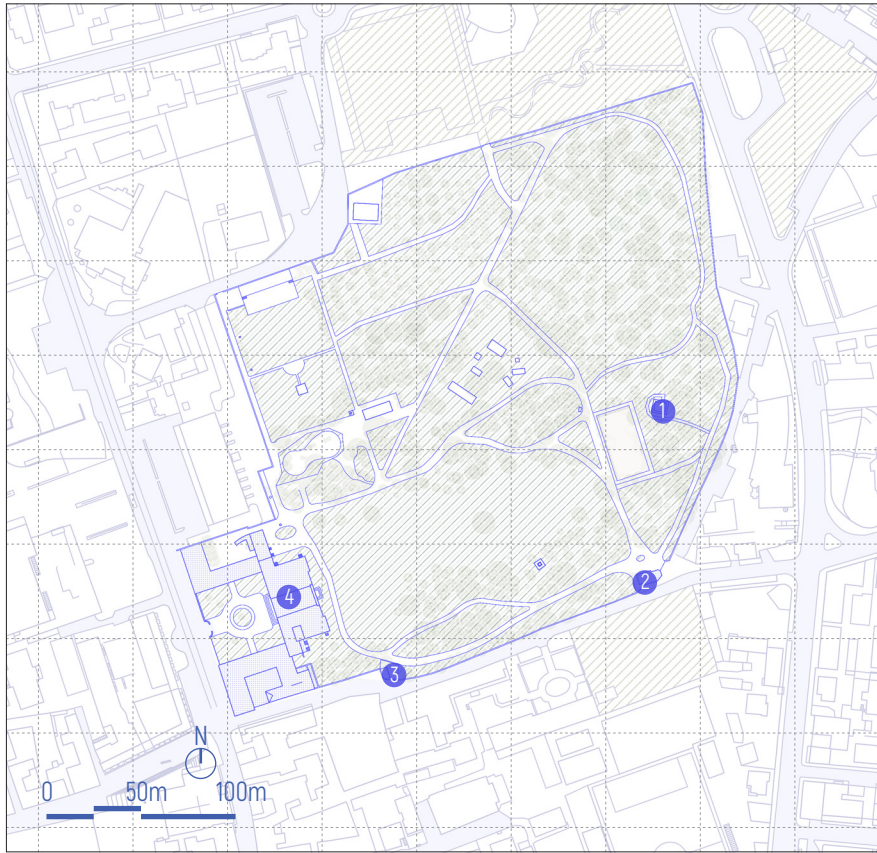


from outside



It was built in 19th century to replace the temple It underwent a restoration in about 1976

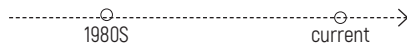
Historic structures



3 Esedra della Salute



before restorations
from: Archivio Centro di Documentazione Storica, Municipality of Cinisello Balsamo



It was built in the early 19th century, and the restorations carried out in the 1980s.
3 statues in it were disappeared.

4 Villa Ghirlanda Silva



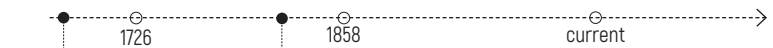
paint by Giovanni Battista Riccardi



paint by Sofia Molteni
from: Archivio Centro di Documentazione Storica, Municipality of Cinisello Balsamo



from garden side from entrance side



It was built in 16th century

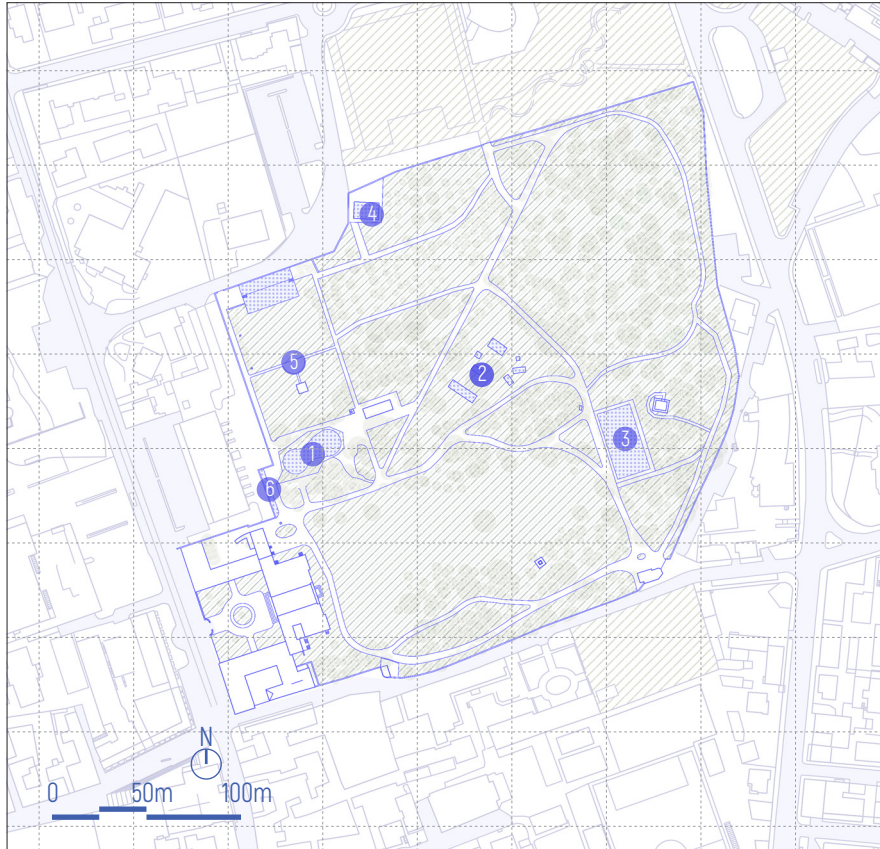
underwent reconstruction by Carlo Ghirlanda Silva in 1840, with which appearance continues to today.

The function of it has changed from a classic suburban dwelling that the nobles of the time used to build outside the city to a public building to serve social activities

Modern structures

After the villa was opened to the public as a public garden in 1978, a series of modern landscaping elements were added to meet the public's need to use the public green space, including the pond, the playground, the warehouse which is disappeared, the dance floor, the open-air cinema and the bar.

Modern structures



1 Pond



1978

2 Playground



1999

3 Skating rink



1926

4 Warehouse (Now disappeared)



1990S

5 Open-air cinema facility building



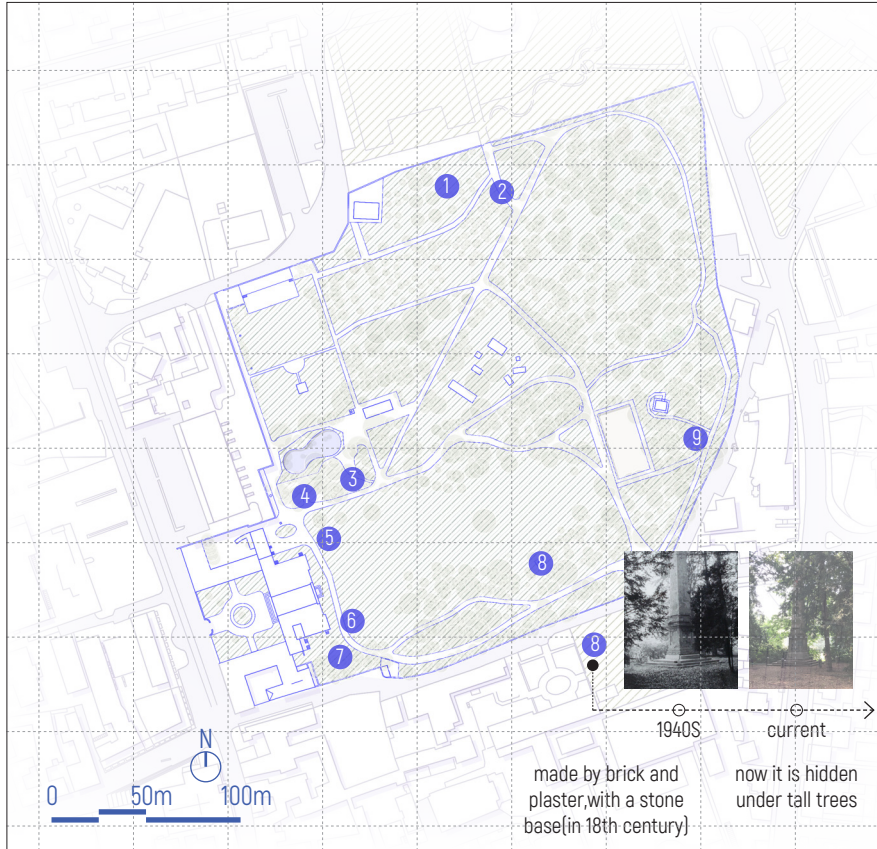
1982

6 Bar



1990S

Ruins & sculptural remnants



1 Column remnants



2 Sculptural remnants



3 Sculptural remnants



4 Sculpture



5 Sculpture



6 Sculptural remnants



7 Sculptural remnants



9 Sarcophagus



RUINS & SCULPTURAL REMNANTS

There are many ruins and sculptural remnants scattered throughout the villa. Most of them are not well preserved and are easily overlooked.

Overall elements distribution



Parterre and sculptures



Sculptural remains



Esedra della Salute



Obelisk



Skating rink



Sarcophagus



Playground



Open-air cinema

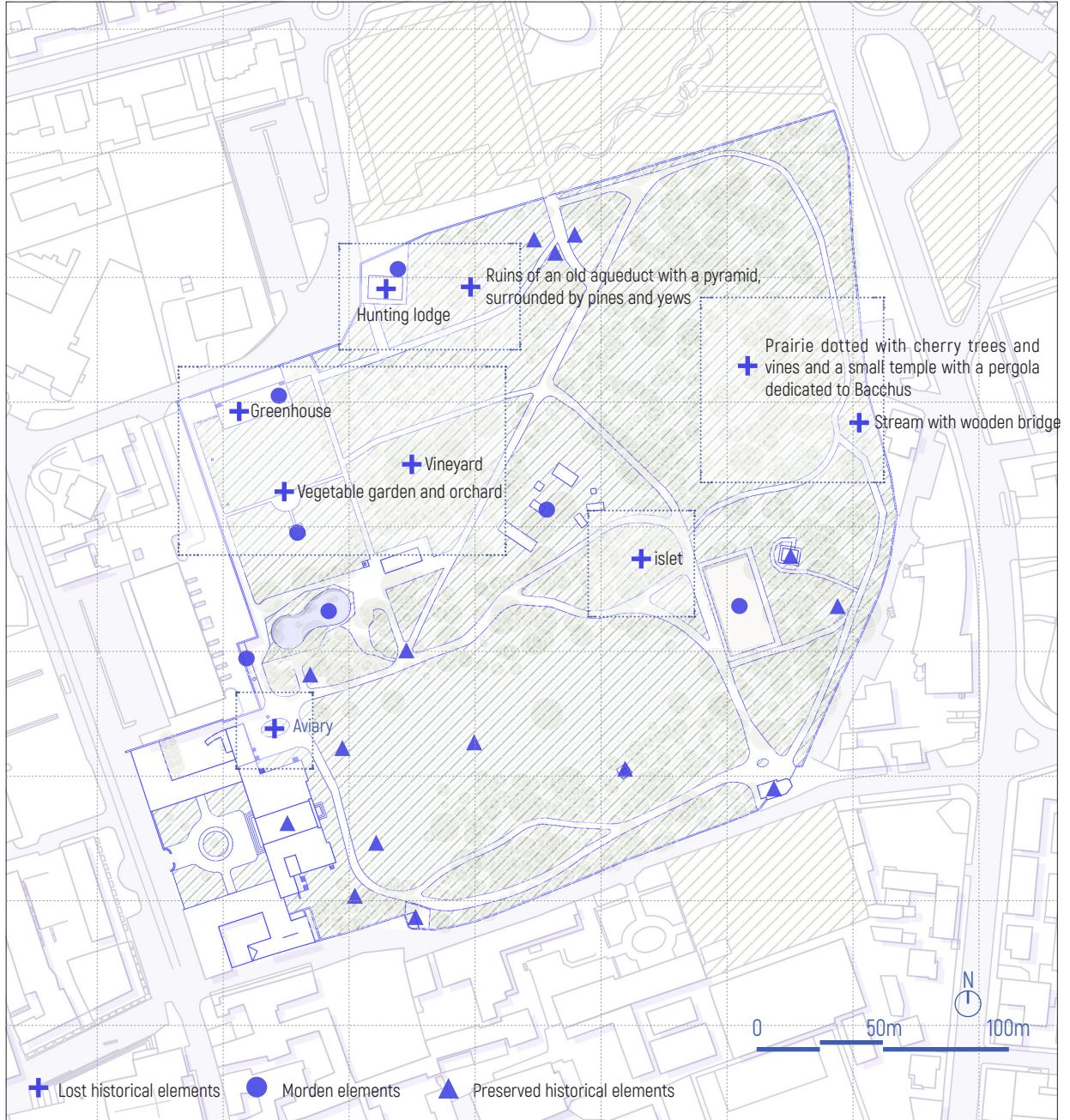


Pond

3.2.2.2. Comparison of existing landscape elements with those that have disappeared

As the gardens changed ownership, the elements and buildings within them also were added to or removed from the gardens. Some of these historic facilities have been preserved to this day, others have been completely lost, and some structures have been added to meet the transformed activity needs of visitors.

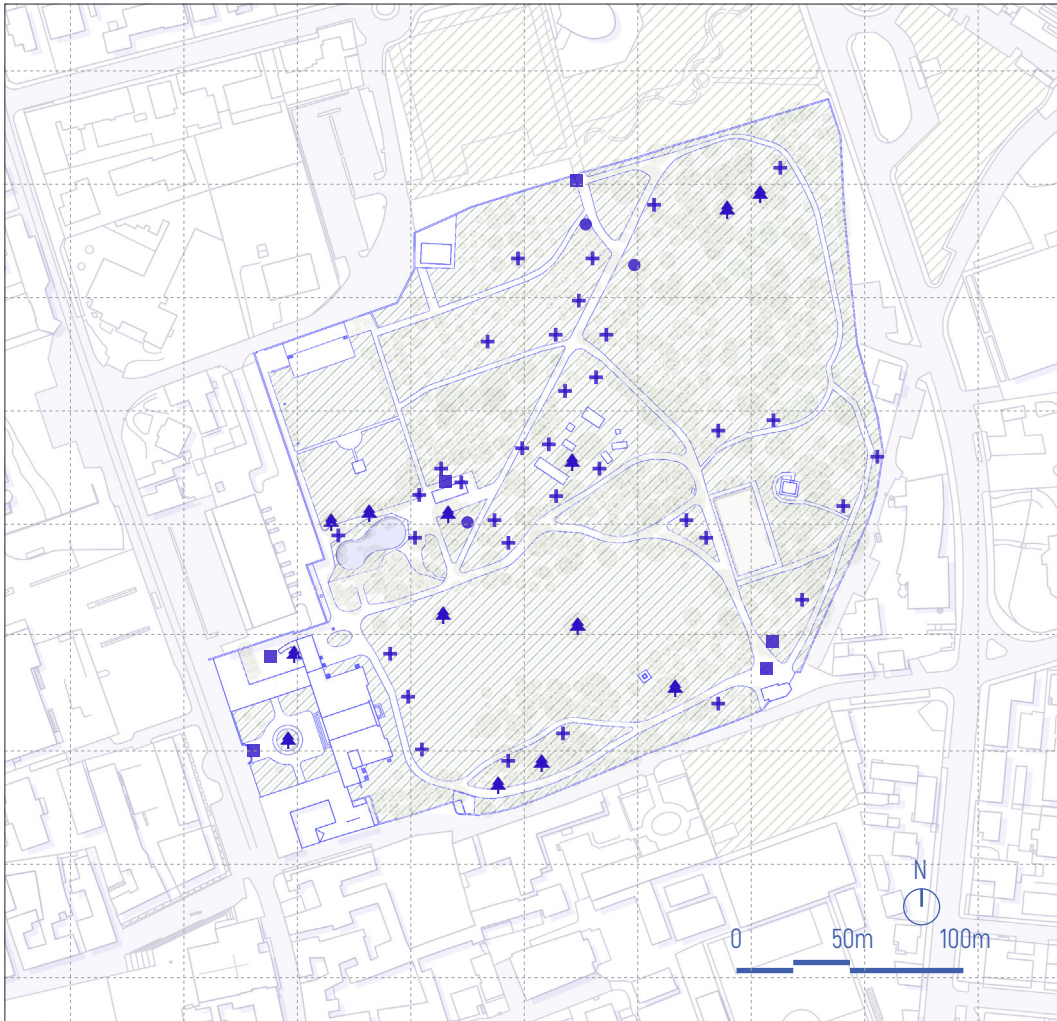
Comparison map



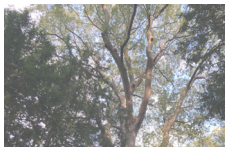
3.2.2.3. Infrastructure analysis

Villa Ghirlanda Silva park serves as both a historical garden and a open green space, with extensive internal infrastructure. The infrastructure to meet the needs of visitors is extensive and spread throughout the gardens. The facilities that should be used to raise visitors' awareness of the historical value of the gardens are almost missing.

Infrastructure



▲ Monumental trees



■ Notice board



● Educational signage



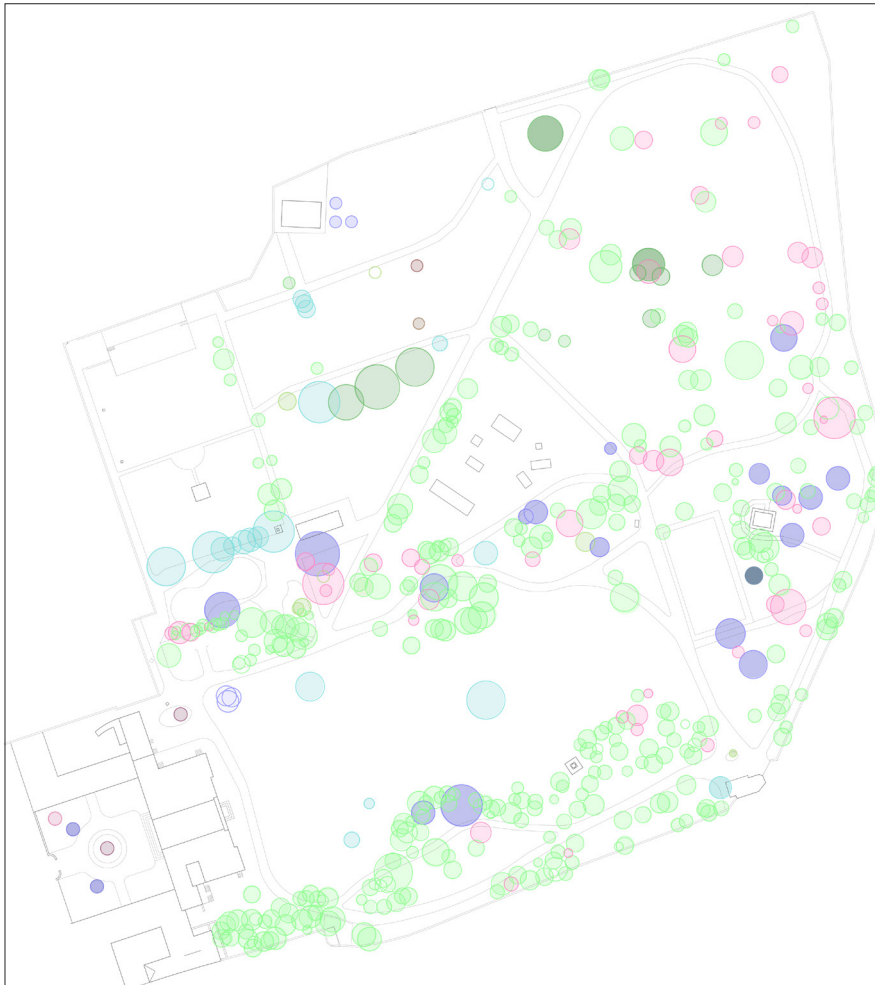
+ Bench



3.2.3. Vegetation analysis

Over time, the Villa Silva Ghirlanda garden has experienced some reductions. The region, which has been under municipal ownership since 1926, underwent agronomic and cultivation restoration in 1999 and is the focus of ongoing maintenance work. The park still has the same landscape design as in the 19th century, although it is now a part of an extremely urbanised region and only partially preserves the visual, structural, and physical connection with the neighborhood's old residential system.

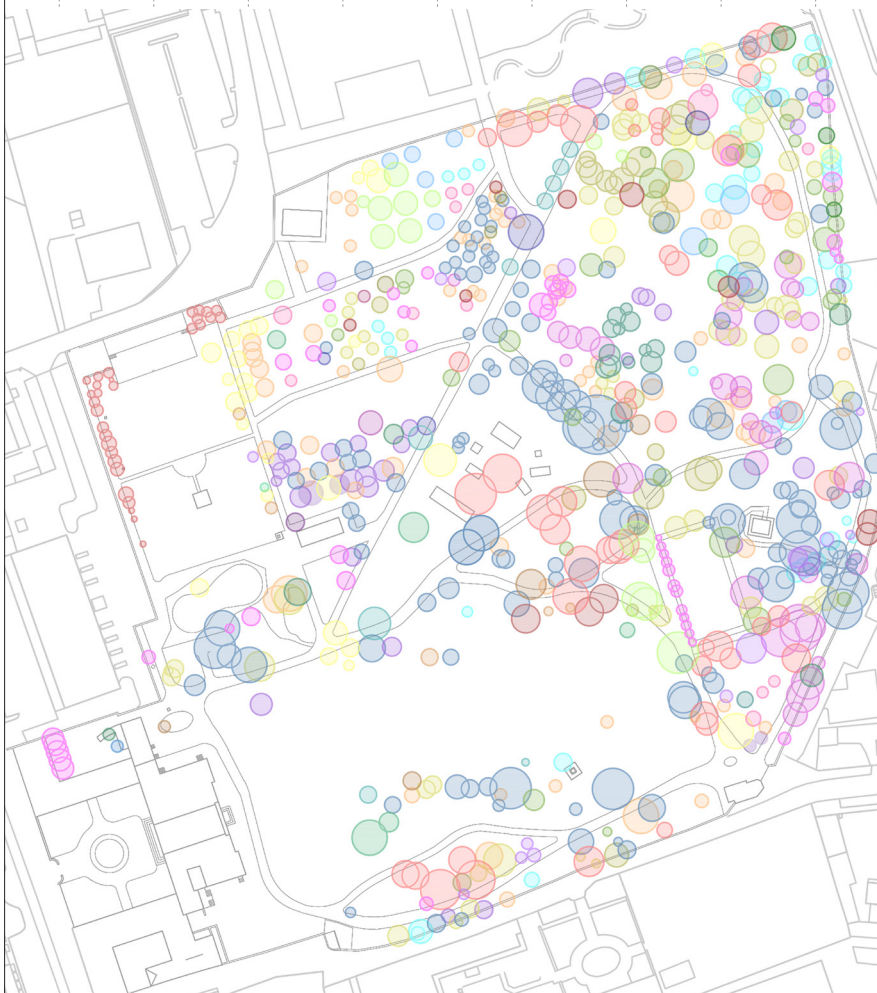
Tree classification



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

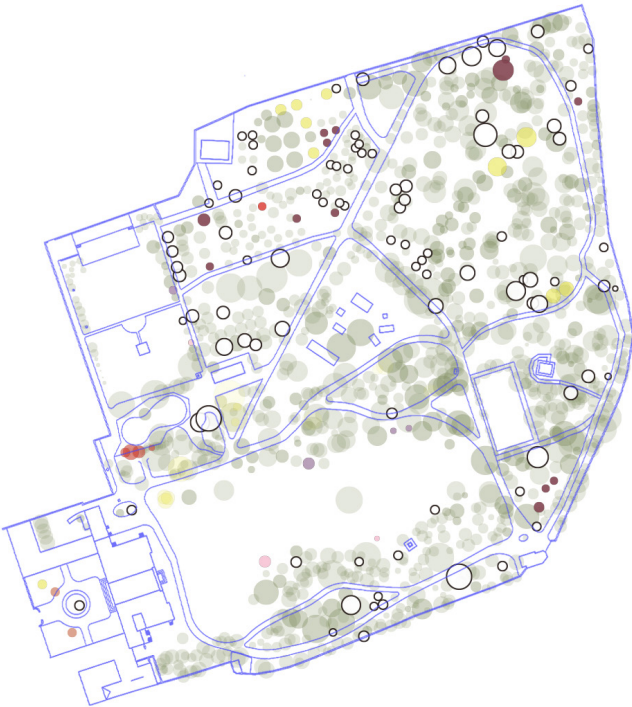


- ACER CAMPESTRE
- ACER NEGUNDO
- ACER PSEUDOPLATANUS
- ACER PSEUDOPLATANUS 'ATROPURPUREUM'
- AESCULUS HIPPOCASTANUM
- AILANTHUS ALTISSIMA
- BROUSSONETIA PAPYRIFERA
- CARPINUS BETULUS
- CATALPA BIGNONIOIDES
- CELTIS AUSTRALIS
- CELTIS OCCIDENTALIS
- CORYLUS AVELLANA 'CONTORTA'
- CRATAEGUS SP.
- DIOSPYROS KAKI
- DIOSPYROS LOTUS
- FAGUS SYLVATICA
- FAGUS SYLVATICA 'ATROPURPUREA'
- FAGUS SYLVATICA 'PENDULA'
- FRAXINUS EXCELSIOR
- FRAXINUS ORNUS
- GLEDITSIA TRIACANTHOS
- GYMNOCLADUS DIOICA
- JUGLANS NIGRA
- QUERCUS RUBRA
- ROBINIA PSEUDOACACIA
- SAMBUCUS NIGRA
- SOPHORA JAPONICA
- TILIA PLATYPHYLLOS
- TILIA SP.
- TILIA TOMENTOSA

- JUGLANS REGIA
 - LARIX DECIDUA
 - LIQUIDAMBAR STYRACIFLUA
 - LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA
 - MALUS SP.
 - PLATANUS ACERIFOLIA
 - POPULUS NIGRA 'ITALICA'
 - PRUNUS AVIUM
- PRUNUS SERRULATA 'KANZAN'
 - QUERCUS ROBUR
 - QUERCUS ROBUR 'FASTIGIATA'
 - ULMUS GLABRA 'PENDULA'
 - ULMUS SP.
 - WISTERIA SINENSIS
 - PRUNUS CERASIFERA 'PISSARDII'
 - PRUNUS SERRULATA

Garden chromatism

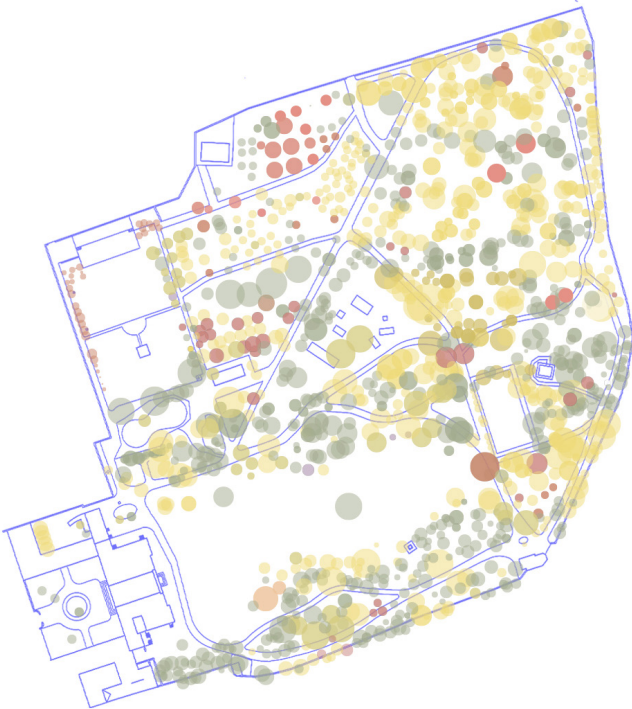
Spring



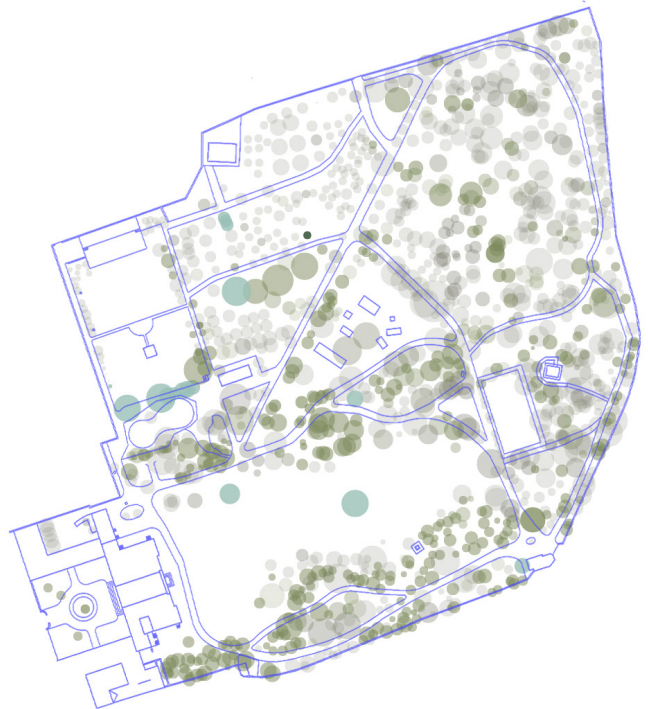
Summer



Autumn



Winter



This analysis will enable us to comprehend how to maximise the potential of these plants throughout the year and what spaces are generated.

3.2.4. Elemental grading assessment

3.2.4.1. Element context analysis

The main elements of the gardens have different historical values and visitors have a different the historical values themselves, and if not, how this can be resolved, is the question that will be

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

awareness of the values they possess. Whether the visitor's awareness is compatible with the values is addressed.

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.

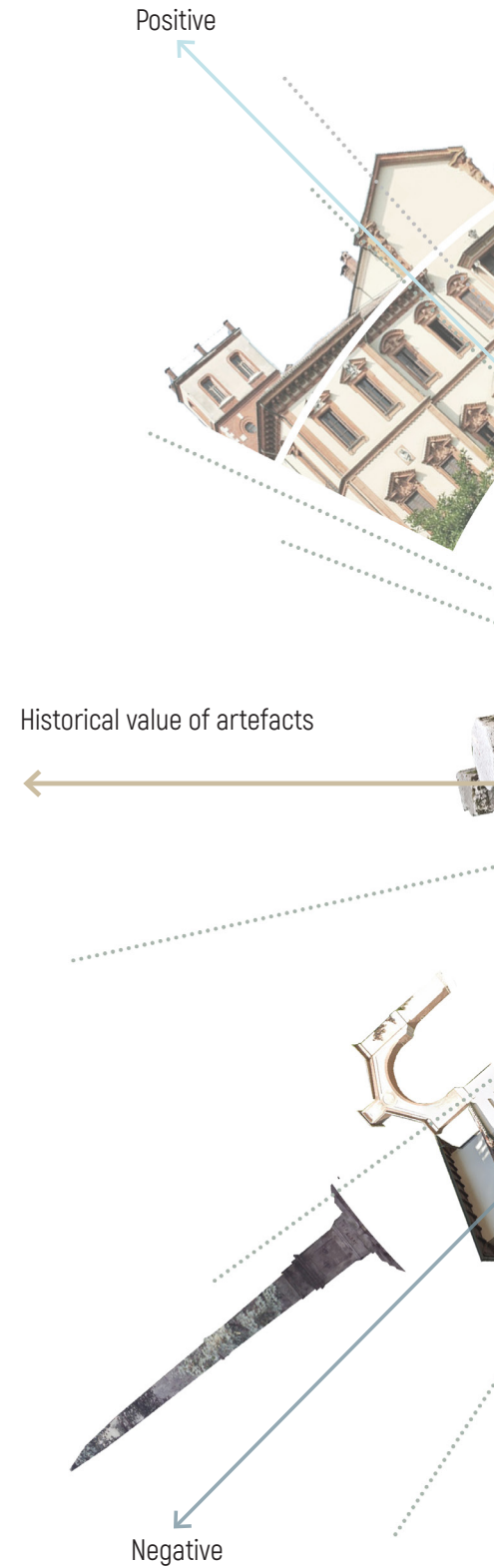
Existing activities: Picnic
Heritage value: Historical value, Botanical value
Awareness of the value: High
Status: Positive

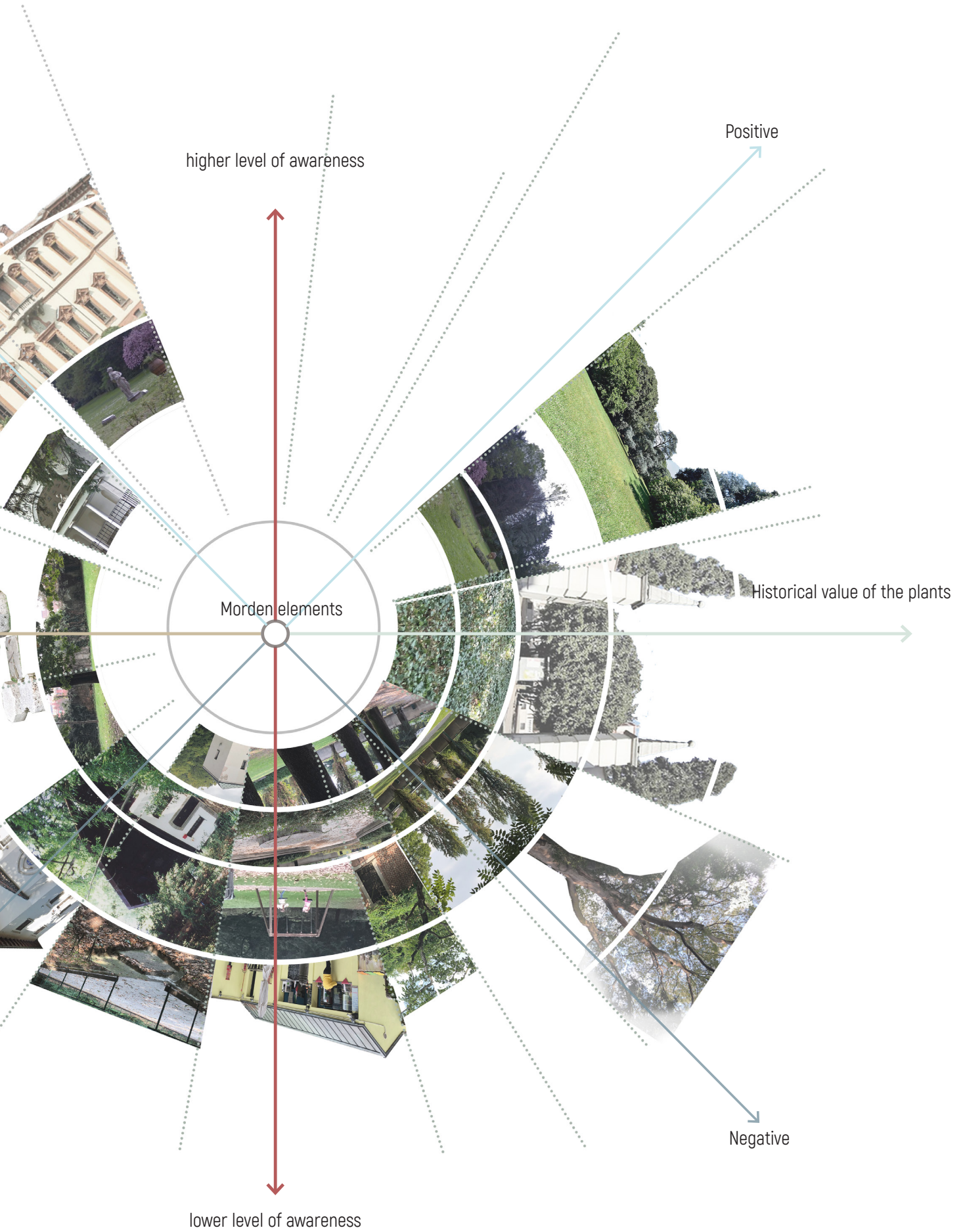
3.2.4.2. Awareness axis

This axis is generated according to the different values that the historical elements have and the visitors' awareness of their value.

The further to the left of the horizontal axis means that the element has a higher historical value, the further to the right means that the element has a higher biological value, and the further to the middle means that it has a lower value. The higher up the vertical axis represents a higher awareness of the value of the elements among visitors, while the lower down the axis represents a lower awareness.

Therefore, the upper half of the area around the two corner parallels represents an element with a higher value and a higher awareness of its value by visitors. In contrast, the lower half, around the corner parallels, represents elements that, despite having a higher value, do not correspond to the awareness of visitors.



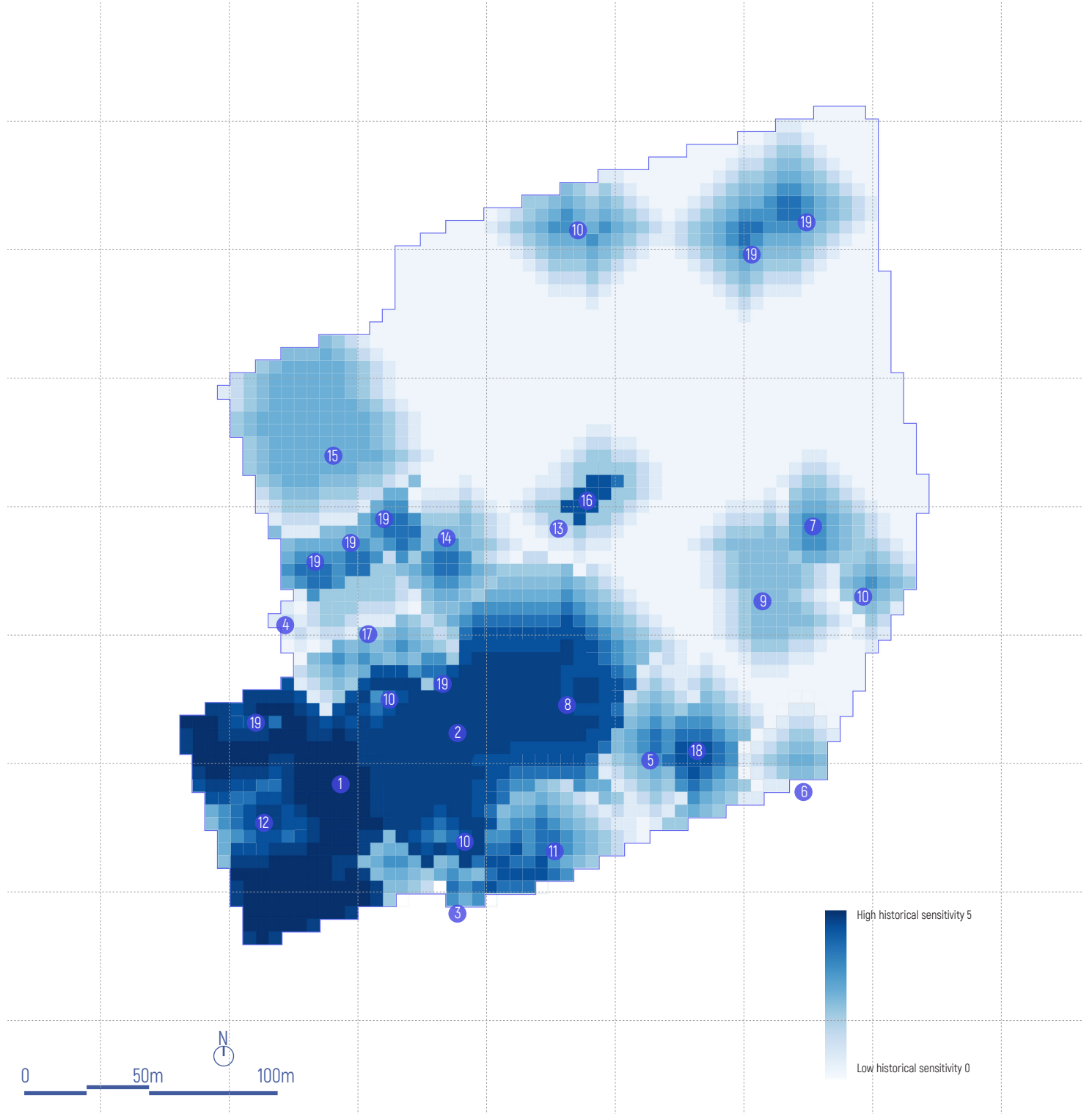


3.2.4.3. Historical sensitivity map

The parts are scored in four areas: age, historic value, state of preservation and scale, and then weighted to give each component a historical sensitivity score. The south-western part of the garden has a high level of conservation in terms of grade. Visitors should try to avoid the area or choose less impactful activities when undertaking activities that meet their needs for public green space. The north-east, on the other hand, has a lower historic conservation rating and allows for activities that can be carried out in the public green space.

Cinisello					
Element	Historical age(20%)	Historical value(40%)	Preservation Status(30%)	Scale(10%)	Results
1 Villa Ghirlanda silva	5	5	5	4	4.9
2 Parterre	5	5	5	5	5
3 Health Exedra	5	4	2	3	3.5
4 Bar	0	0	3	2	1.1
5 Obelisk	5	3	3	3	3.4
6 Scottish Lodge	0	3	3	3	2.4
7 Swiss Chalet	5	3	2	3	3.1
8 Cedar on the lawn	5	5	5	3	4.8
9 Skating rink	0	2	3	3	2
10 Ruins and sculptural remnants	5	4	1	1	3
11 Band of <i>Taxus baccata</i> next to the Health Exedra	5	4	4	2	4
12 <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> in the centre of the entrance square	5	4	5	2	4.3
13 Playground	0	1	3	4	1.7
14 Music square	0	2	3	3	2
15 Open-air cinema	0	2	4	4	2.4
16 <i>Platanus acerifolia</i> in the middle of the Children's Square	5	4	4	3	4.1
17 Pond	0	2	2	3	1.7
18 <i>Celtis</i> next to the Obelisk	5	4	4	2	4
19 Remaining monumental trees	5	3	4	1	3.5

Historical sensitivity map

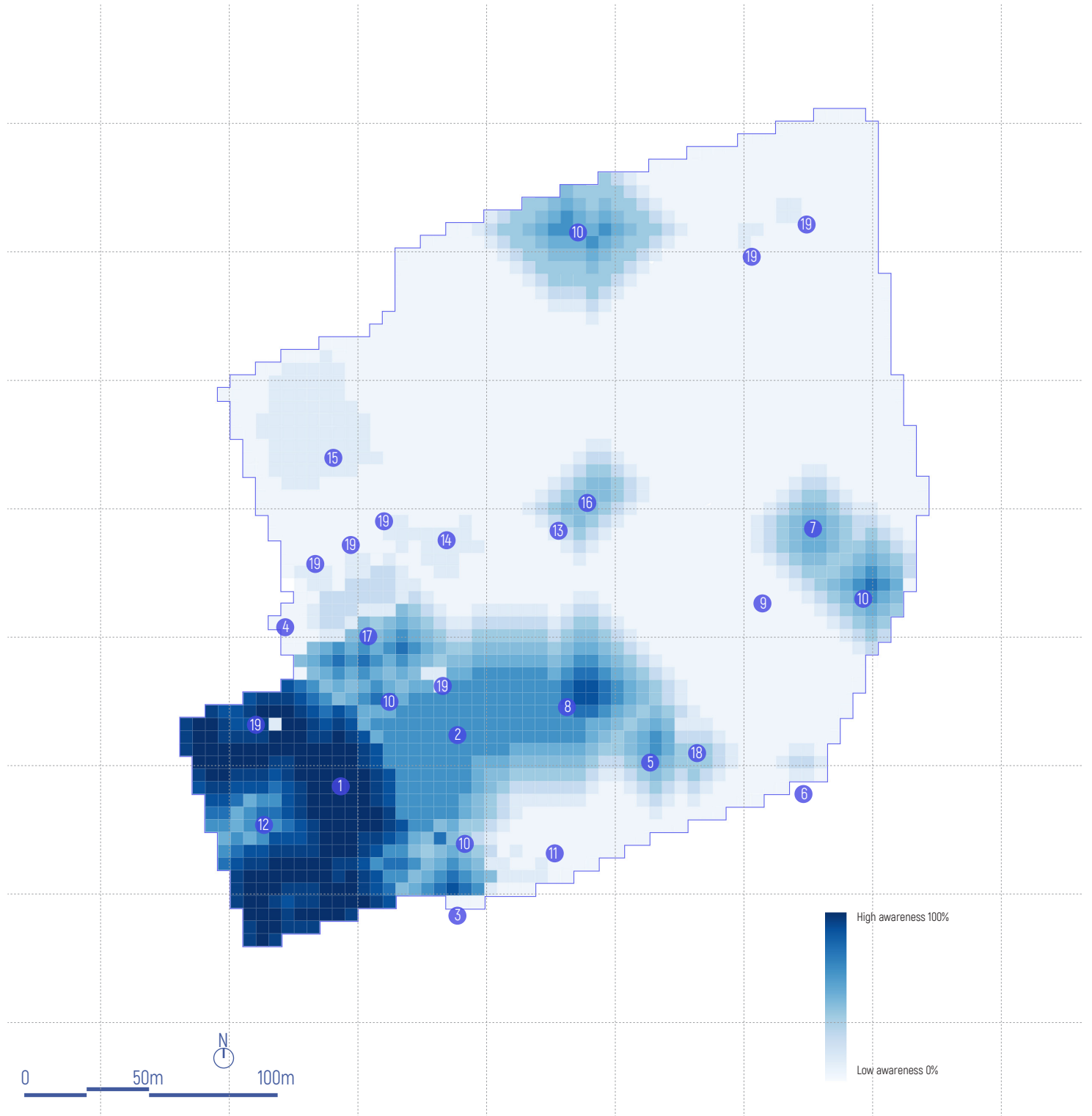


3.2.4.4. Awareness map

The percentage of visitors' awareness of the historical value of the various parts of the garden was based on an on-site count of 40 visitors' awareness. We took questions and questionnaires to collect the following data. Visitors' awareness of the historical value of the remains in the gardens is low, with the exception of the main villa at the entrance.

Cinisello		
Element	Number of people aware of historical value (40)	Percentage%
① Villa Ghirlanda silva	37	92.5
② Parterre	23	57.5
③ Health Exedra	30	75
④ Bar	0	0
⑤ Obelisk	24	60
⑥ Scottish Lodge	8	20
⑦ Swiss Chalet	19	47.5
⑧ Cedar on the lawn	31	77.5
⑨ Skating rink	0	0
⑩ Ruins and sculptural remnants	29	72.5
⑪ Band of <i>Taxus baccata</i> next to the Health Exedra	5	12.5
⑫ <i>Magnolia grandiflora</i> in the centre of the entrance square	26	65
⑬ Playground	0	0
⑭ Music square	3	7.5
⑮ Open-air cinema	2	5
⑯ <i>Platanus acerifolia</i> in the middle of the Children's Square	17	42.5
⑰ Pond	6	15
⑱ <i>Celtis</i> next to the Obelisk	11	27.5
⑲ Remaining monumental trees	3	7.5

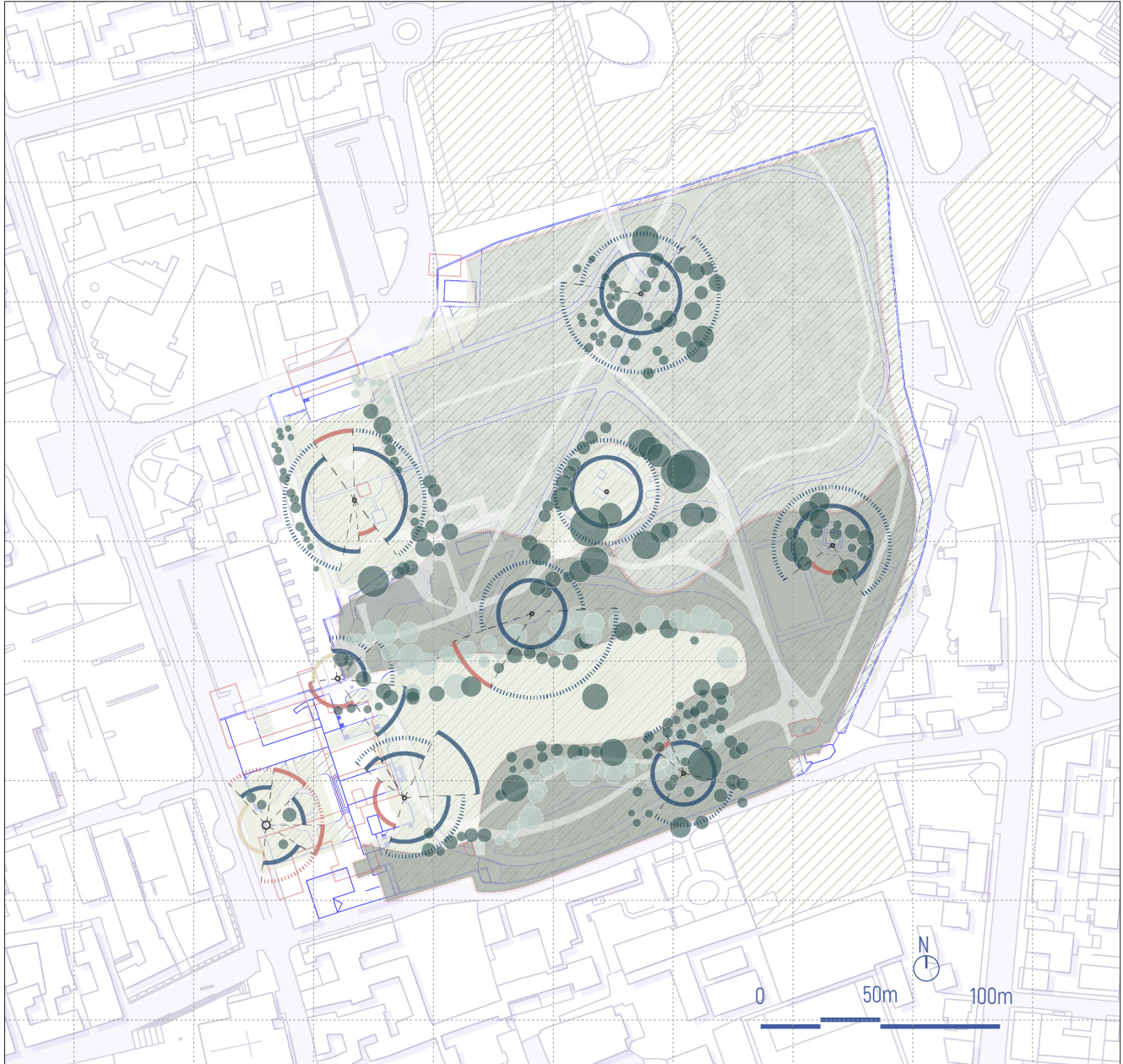
Awareness map



3.2.5. Spatial perception and sight analysis

The garden can be split into nine regions based on how visitors perceive it. The southern area is richer with more visible penetration between the spaces influenced by the mountain and the grass, while the northern area is more uniform.

Spatial perception and sight analysis



- Plant Boundary - Direct Perception
- Plant Boundary - Indirect Perception
- Architecture Boundary - Direct Perception
- Architecture Boundary - Indirect Perception
- Wall Boundary
- Firstly Perceived Tree
- Secondly Perceived Tree
- Enclosure
- Open

3.2.6. Visitor analysis

3.2.6.1. Demands of visitors' activities

As a public open park, Villa Ghirlanda Silva park needs to cater for the needs of the surrounding residents. The needs of users vary according to the age and type of user in the periphery.

Children



Playing
Sporting
Receiving education

Teenagers



Chatting
Reading
Playing
Sporting
resting
Receiving education

Adults



Drinking
Chatting
Reading
Working
resting

Seniors



Walking
Walking dog
resting

I just pass through here. I chose to pass through the interior of the park because it is much nicer than streets.



It's a good place to enjoy the nature and walk my dog.



It's a great place to relax and chat.

This is a beautiful landscape for photos!

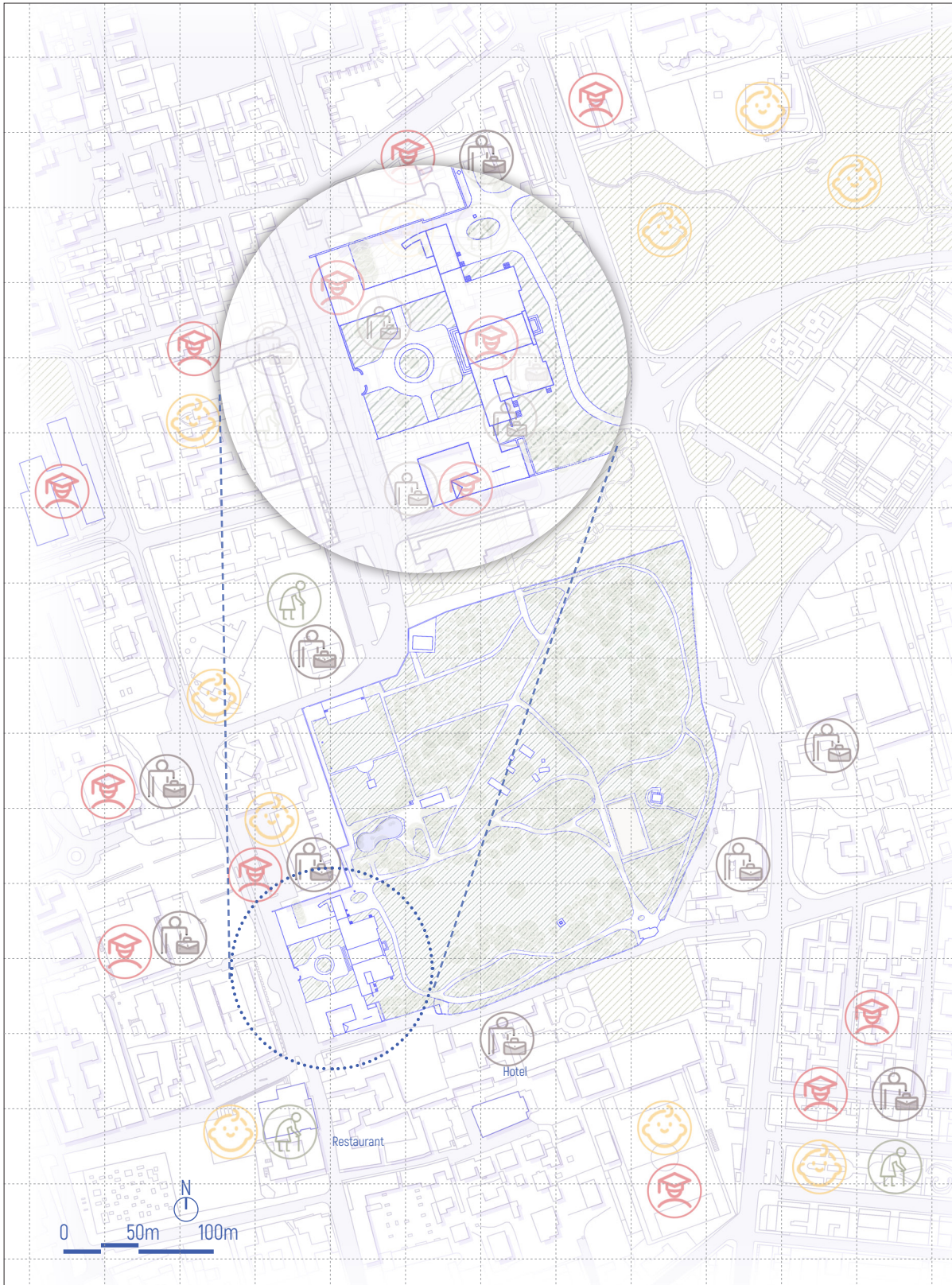


My parents used to bring me here after school to play with my friends!



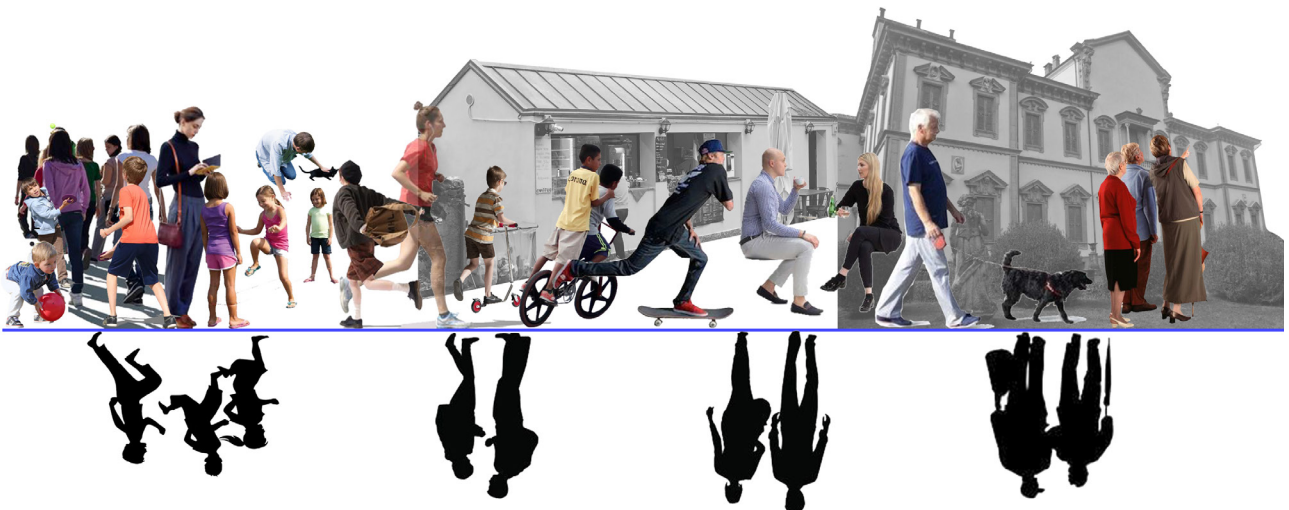
A good place to enjoy the nature, to chat with my friends and also do some sports.

Surrounding population distribution



3.2.6.2. Existing activity types and distributions

A wide variety of activities currently exist in the garden. Despite the fact that activities such as cycling and dog walking are prohibited, many visitors engage in such activities.



3.2.7. SWOT analysis - Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park in Cinisello

3.2.7.1. Historical and cultural aspect

S Not just in the Cinisellese region but also throughout Lombardy, it is free-open, one of the most intriguing and well-preserved historical mansions.

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

The 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 2.7 Monumental 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 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 raise 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 2.6 Monumental trees

3. Lack of systematic tour planning

O 1. Enhancement of historical atmosphere

The historic garden has substantial 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 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 and negative changes in the visual experience brought about by the high-rise buildings in the surrounding area, which are challenging to eliminate.

1.1 Enclosures in poor condition 1.2 Buildings affecting the visual experience

2. Changes in leisure methods

Changes in 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.



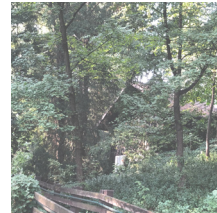
Villa



Sculptural remains



Obelis

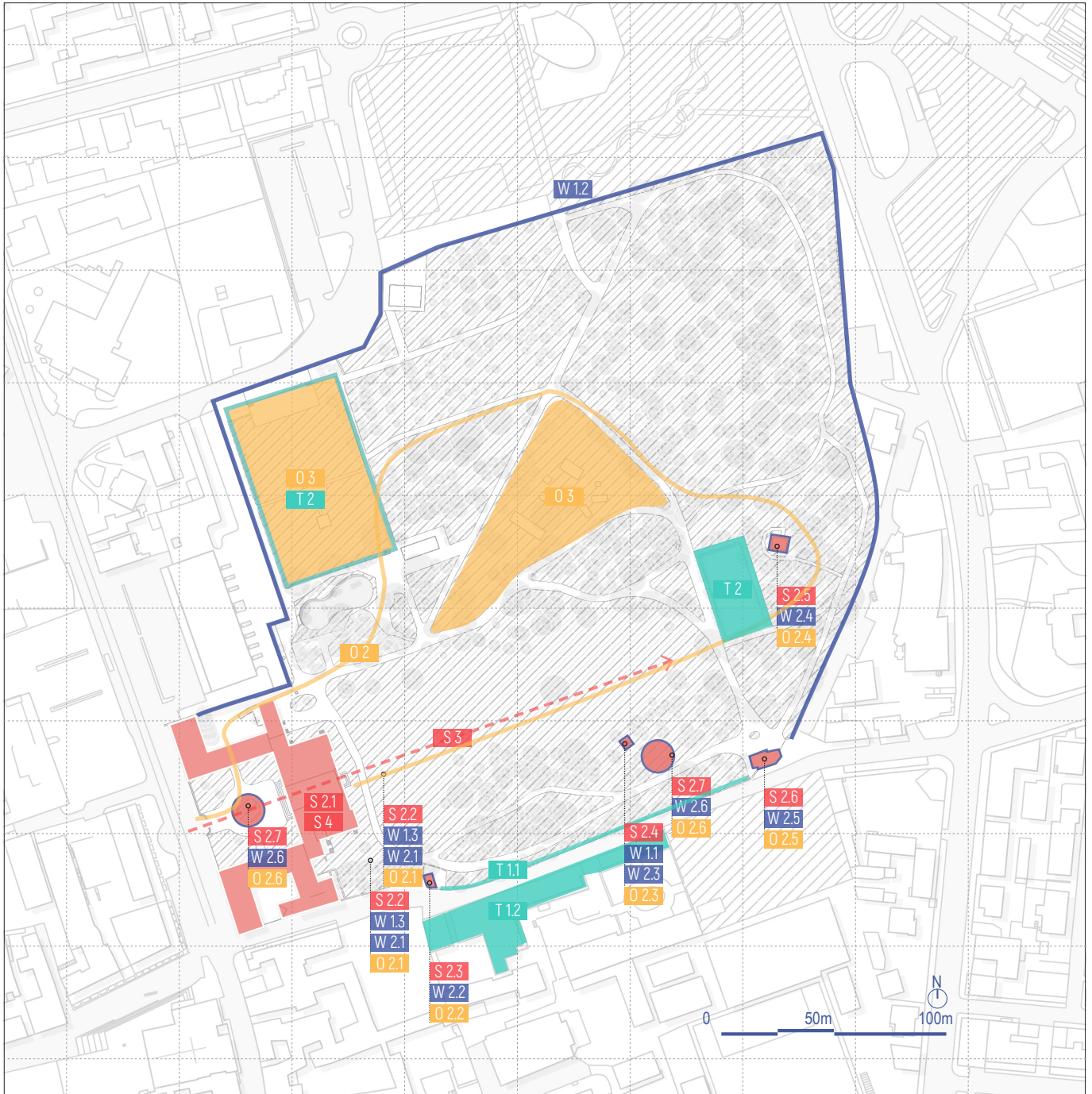


Swiss Chalet and the Hill



Monumental trees

SWOT Map - Historical and cultural aspect



Existing historical axis



Regeneration of Villa



Enclosures in poor condition



Enclosure with graffiti



Buildings affecting the visual experience

3.2.7. SWOT analysis - Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park in Cinisello

3.2.7.2. Natural and ecological aspect

- S**
1. 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. 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. Provide habitat for the animals and birds of the region and 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. Shrubs are monotonous.
 6. The pond is abandoned.

- O**
1. Enhance signage presentation of monumental trees.
 2. Abundant plants can help to educate the public on plant awareness and playful experiences.
 3. New functional nodes can be combined with green 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 can provide sight lines and directional guidance for users.
 6. Modification of the pond 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 may be a threat to the vegetation in the garden.



Sequence of trees



Plant belts that divide the space



Monumental trees without signage

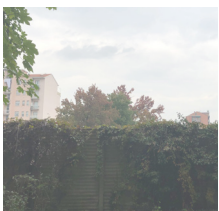
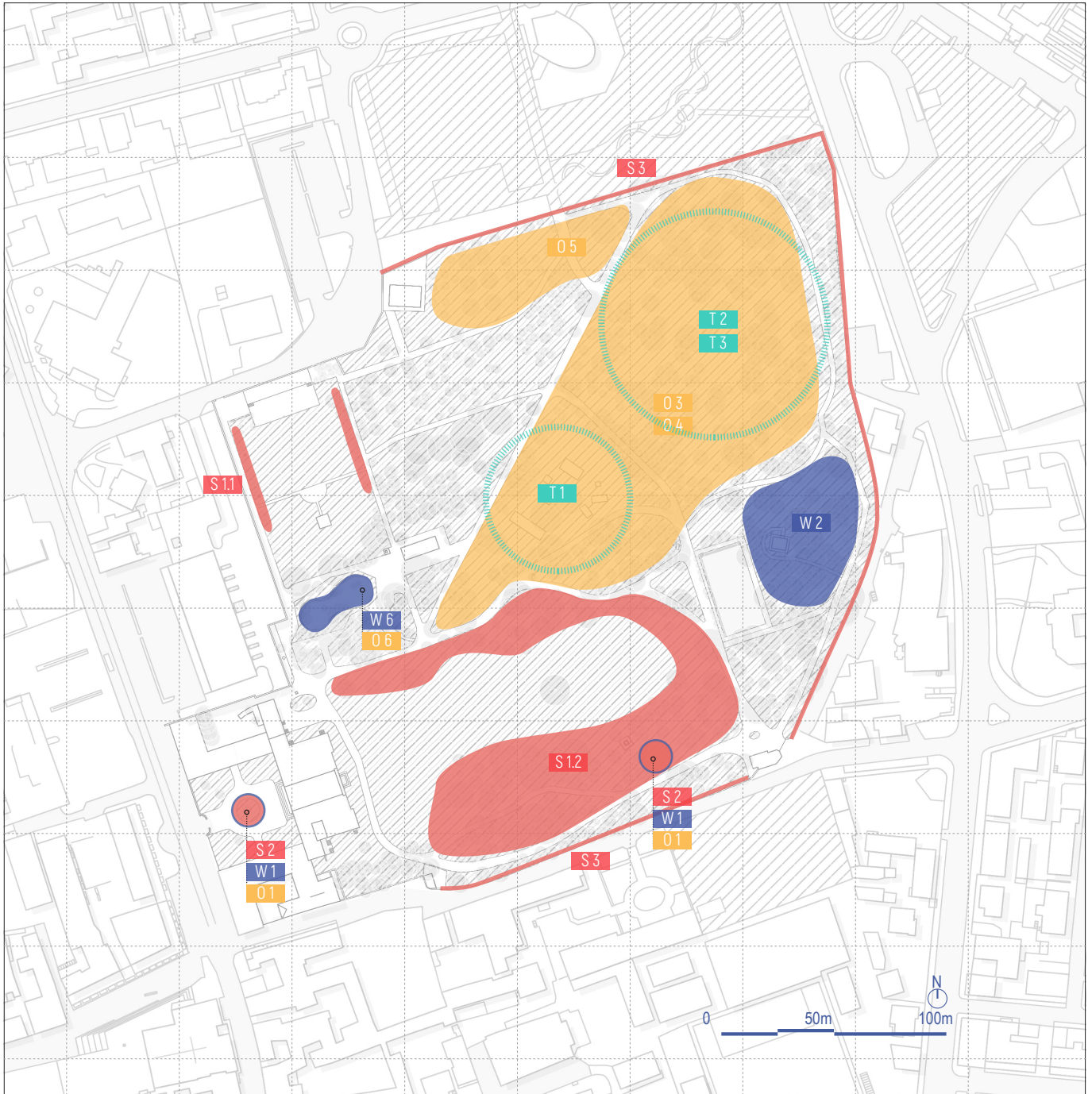


Monotonous shrubs



Overgrown shrubs

SWOT Map - Natural and ecological aspect



Reduce the influence of the city



Pond



Plants in poor health



Overly dense woods



Plants at risk of trunk tipping

3.2.7. SWOT analysis - Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park in Cinisello

3.2.7.3. 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 Toilet
2. The rich experiential possibilities offered by the architecture
The gardens are closely related to the villa, and museums and other features in the villa can make it possible for people to have a richer experiences.

W 1. Functional degradation
Some areas or 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 park's historic character.
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 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 holds a significant role in the lives of the surrounding residents. Therefore, there is a possibility of holding 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 garden management needs to be improved, and some facilities and monuments have been destroyed. 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 stakeholders.
3. Introducing new functions and residential activities may affect the natural and historical-cultural atmosphere of the garden.



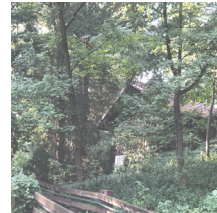
Villa



Bar



Toilet

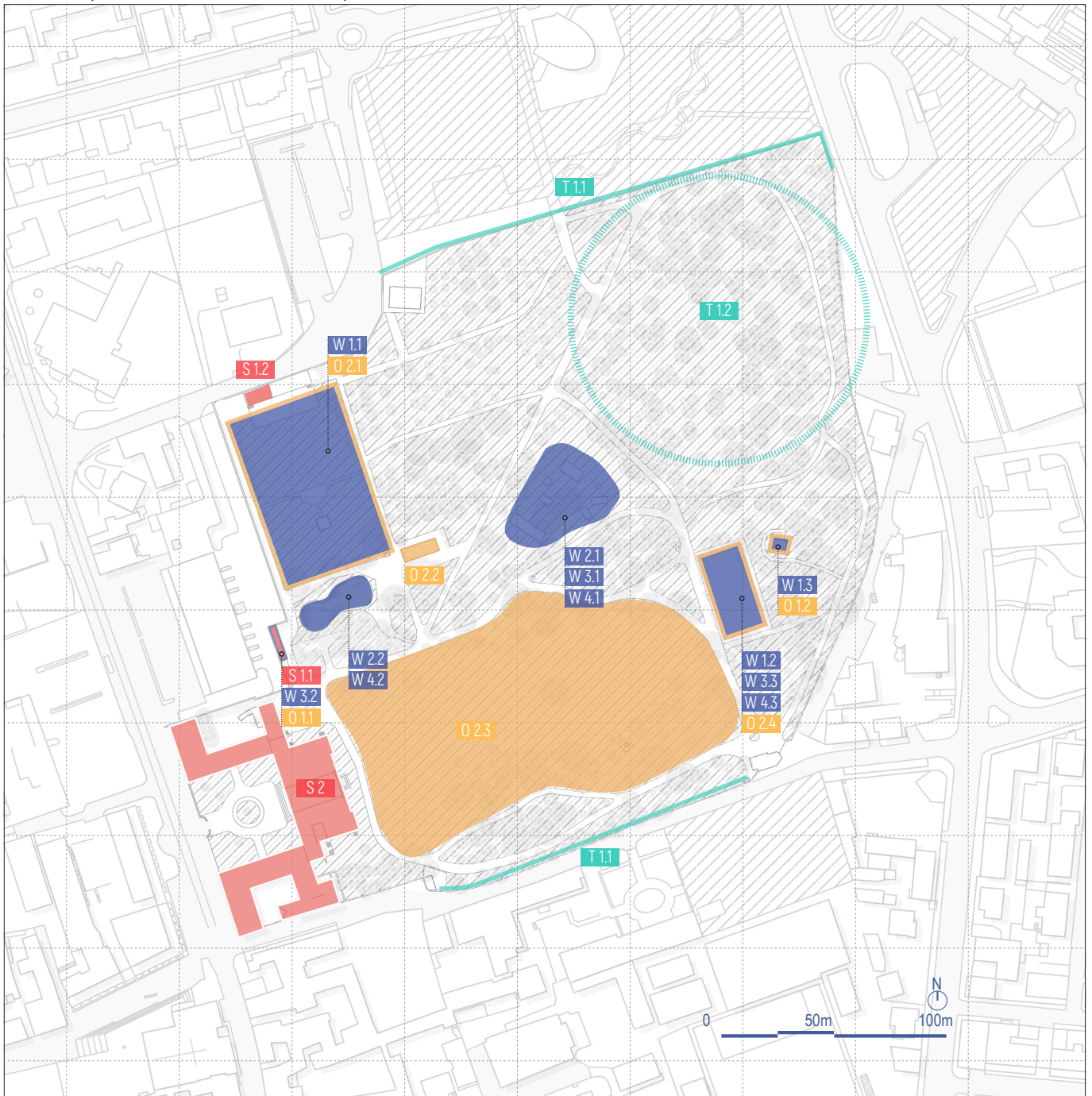


Swiss Chalet and the Hill



Pond

SWOT Map - Social and economic aspect



Lawn



Open-air cinema



Rental activities



Playground



Skating rink

3.2.7. SWOT analysis - Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park in Cinisello
 3.2.7.4. SWOT overall analysis

SWOT ANALYSIS

S

- Historical elements
- Botanical resources
- Unique spatial experience
- Functional potential

W

- Insufficient historical atmosphere
- Poorly maintained structures and plants
- Function degradation

O

- Historical value reinforcement
- Raising awareness of historic gardens among visitors
- Location in the region

T

- Changes in people's lifestyles
- People's demand for open green space functions
- Negative effects of urbanization
- Inputs for long-term management



“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.”

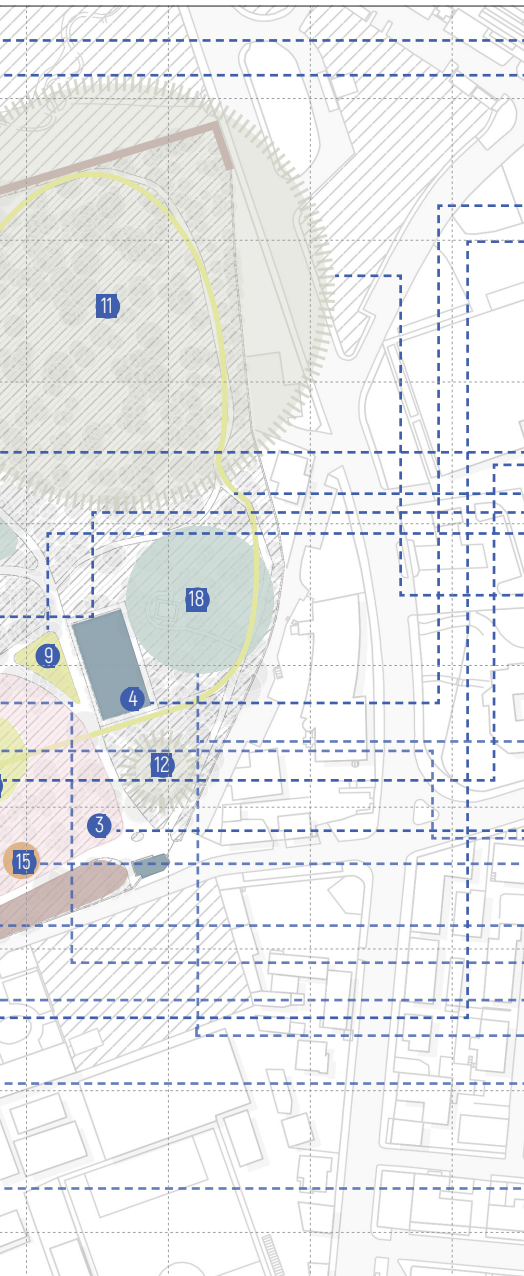
<https://www.heroesnever.sleep.com/>



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



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



- S**
 - ① BORDER TREE BELT
 - ② MAIN AXIS
 - ③ ENCLOSURE TREE GROUP
- W**
 - ④ SKATING RINK
 - ⑤ HEALTH EXEDRA
- O**
 - ⑥ OPEN-AIR CINEMA
 - ⑦ MUSIC SQUARE
 - ⑧ POTENTIAL SEQUENCE
 - ⑨ FLOWERING BED
 - ⑩ MAIN LAWN
- T**
 - ⑪ WOODY AREA
 - 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

Function 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

Offer More experience possibilities
Enhancement of historical atmosphere
Offer sufficient basic services
Have profit potential
No design
Lack of labeling
Shaping a sense of history

Quality education and promote
all



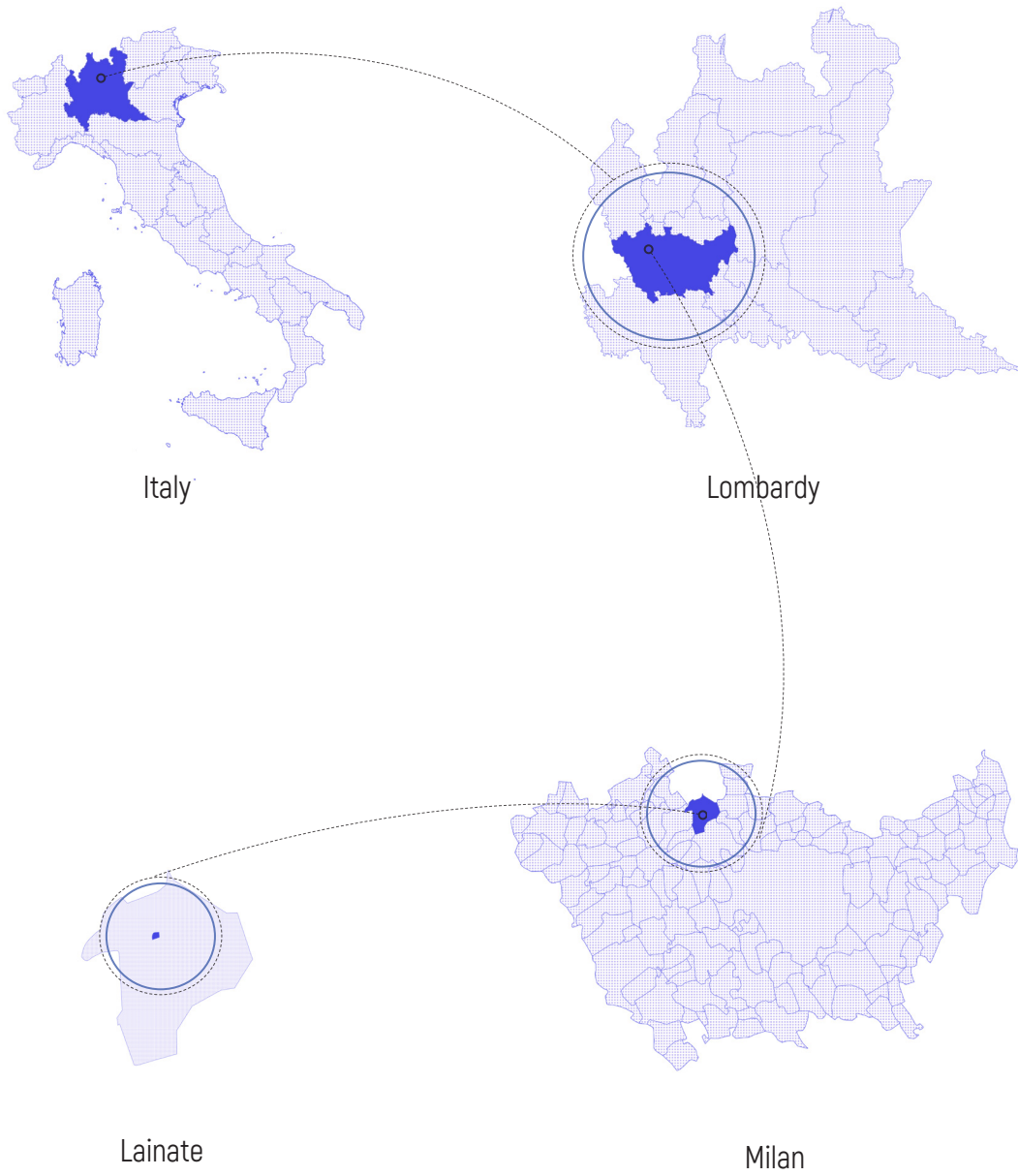
Goal 15: Life on Land
Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

communities
that are inclusive, safe, resilient and

3.3. Villa Litta Lainate

3.3.1. Basic background of Villa Litta

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.

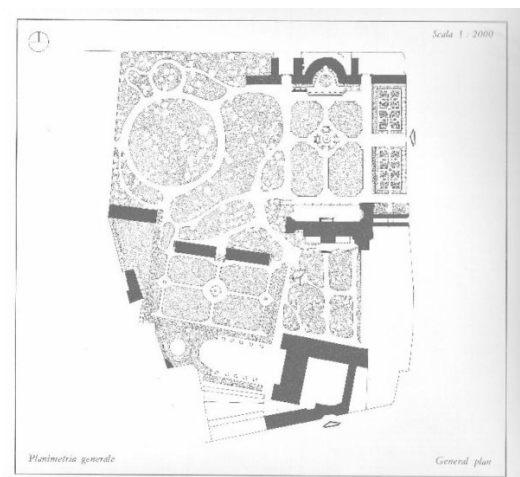


3.3.1.2. The changes of context

The Villa Litta's various modifications and additions over the years are evident in the context of its evolution over time. From the gradual construction of a simple country building into a formal garden, the construction of the famous water feature building, to its addition of an English garden before becoming a public park.

Early 20th century

North: extensive and consistent urban expansion



Fonte: Web of LombardiaBeneCulturali

South : the Villa was connected with the town of Lainate

 woodland
  road network
  Canal
  park

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

Late 19th century

North: canal Villoresi



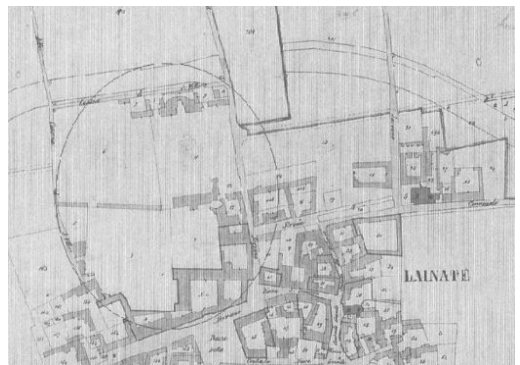
Fonte: Web of LombardiaBeniCulturali

South : the Villa was connected with the town of Lainate

woodland road network Canal

Second half of the 19th century

North: unfinished canal Villoresi



Fonte: Web of LombardiaBeniCulturali

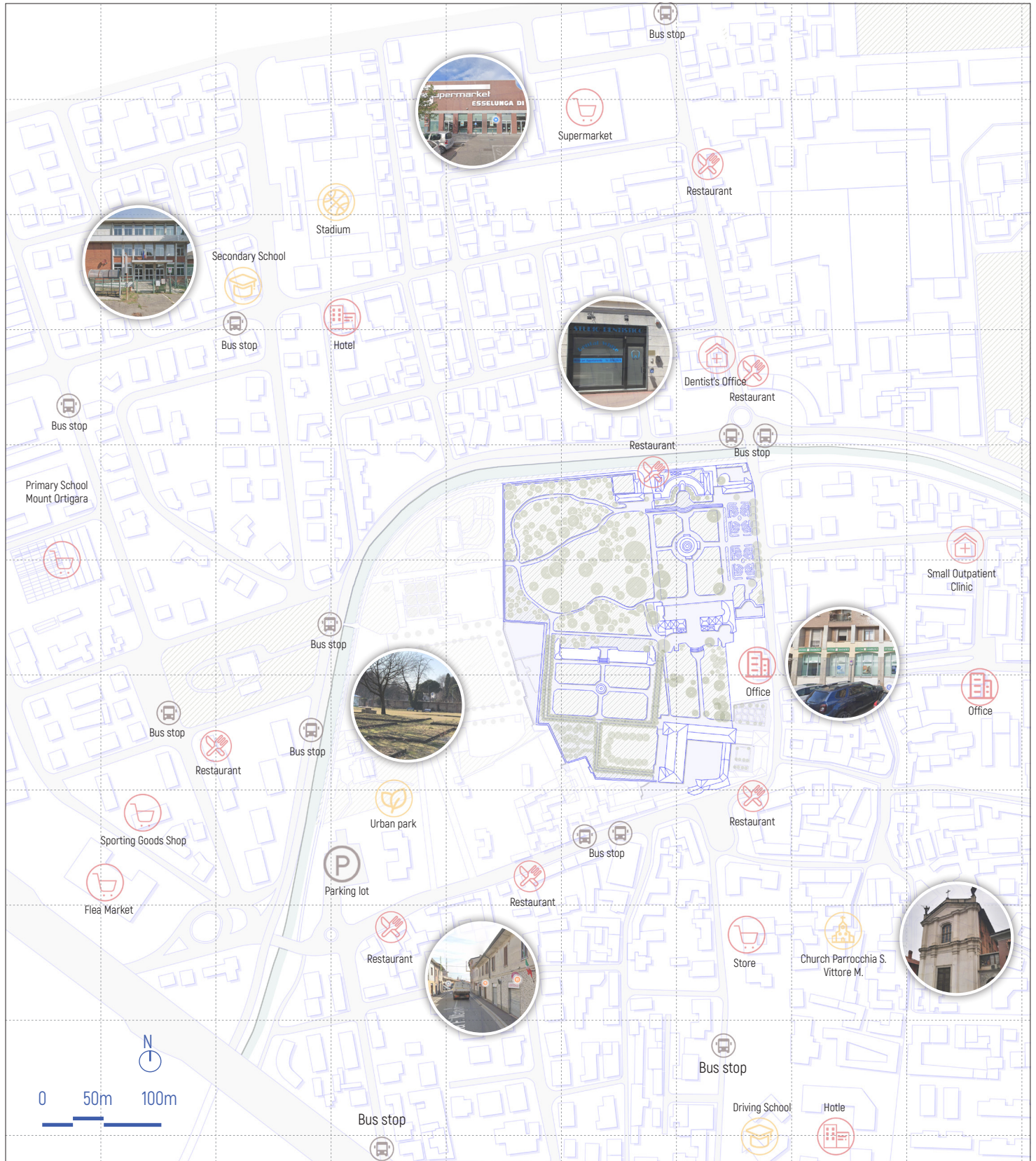
South : the Villa was connected with the town of Lainate

woodland road network Canal

3.3.1.3. Urban surrounding context analysis

The Lainate is a very small comune. The Villa Litta is located almost centrally in Lainate, almost the only large public green space easily accessible from the surrounding denser residential areas. The villa is adjacent to main river of Lainate, which is a territorial feature of the comune. The adjoining public green to the south-west of the villa was once also part of the villa.

Urban surrounding context



3.3.1.4. History timeline

The historical villa, as well as a variety of cultural events and representations, maintain the area's historical worth. ownership of the gardens has changed several times over time, as have the structural layout and some of the ways in which they are used. The western half of the garden, which is a free and open area, only began to belong to the villa in the 19th century.

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.

20C 70s

First half of the 20th century

19C

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.

Toselli Family

The final private holders of some new needs.

1916

The villa was passed to Baron Ignazio Weill Weiss's accountant Erminio Riboni.

1932

To the Toselli family

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

3.3.2. Landscape features of Villa Litta

3.3.2.1. Distribution of landscape elements

Architecture

The free-open area is divided into two main sections: the formal gardens in the south and the informal gardens in the north. The formal gardens boast the longest U-shaped tree gallery in Europe. The informal gardens have a large number of rare and monumental tree species.

1



16th-century palace

2



18th-century palace

3



Ninfeo

4



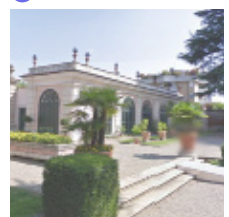
Greenhouses

5



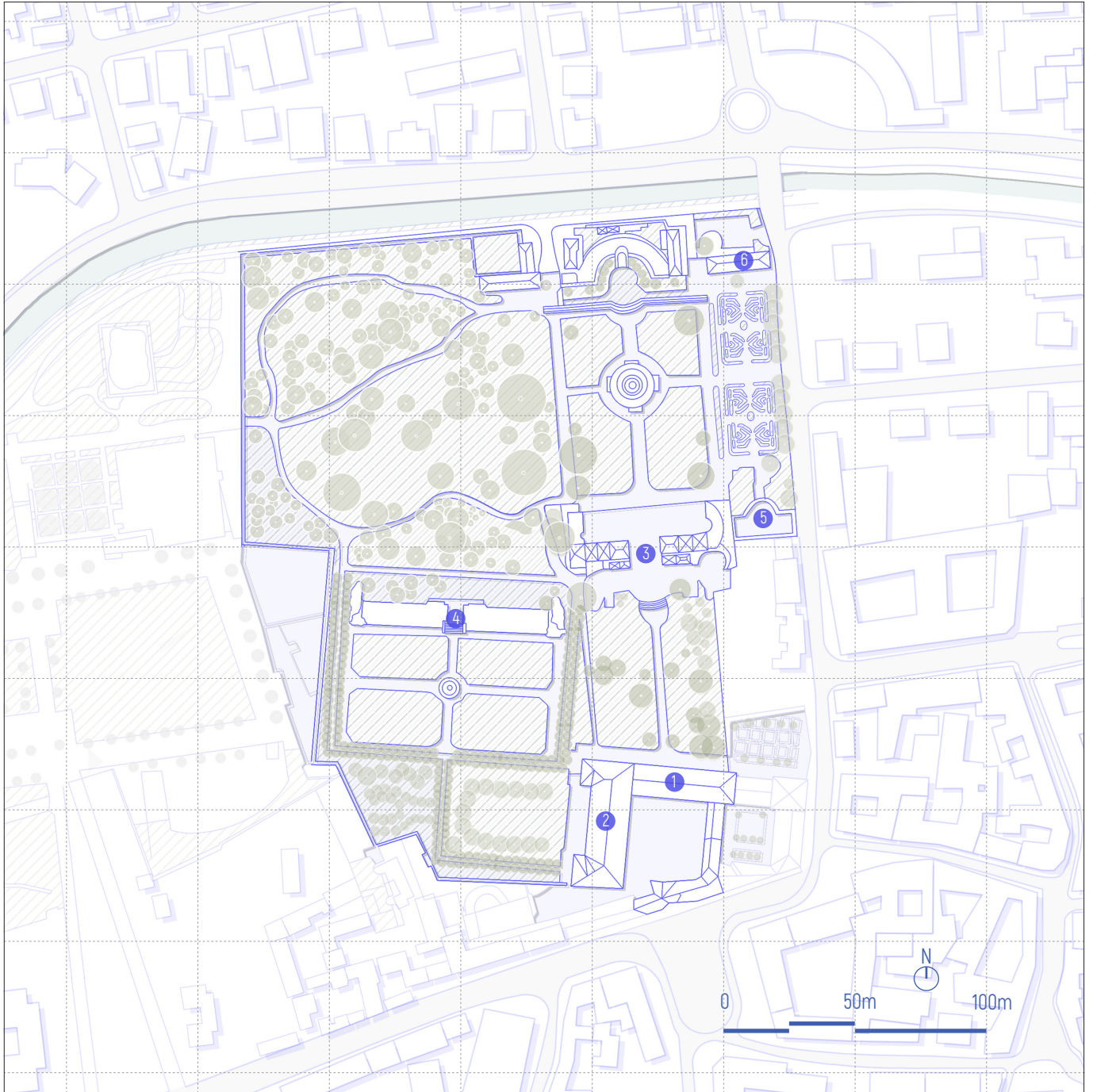
Water tower

6



Lemon house

Architecture



3.3.2. Landscape features of Villa Litta

3.3.2.1. Distribution of landscape elements

Landscape

The free-open area is divided into two main sections: the formal gardens in the south and the informal gardens in the north. The formal gardens boast the longest U-shaped tree gallery in Europe. The informal gardens have a large number of rare and monumental tree species.



English garden



Parterre and fountain of Nettuno



Hornbeam gallery



Natural theatre



Exedra-Ratto di Proserpina



Ginkgo

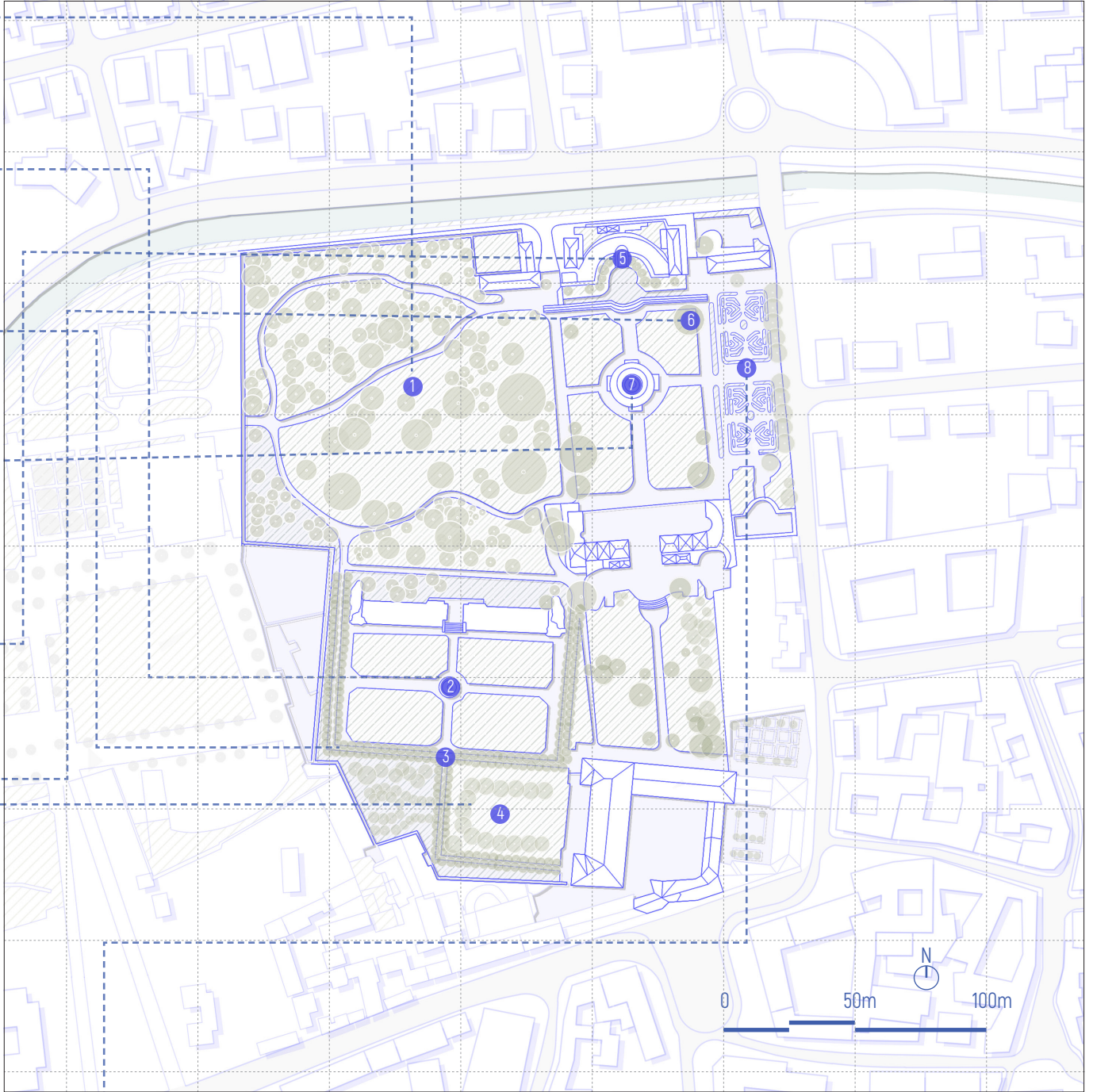


Parterre and fountain of Galatea



Italian garden

Landscape



3.3.2.2. Comparison of existing landscape elements with those that have disappeared

Likewise, many elements within the garden have changed as a result of the changes time. The formal gardens are well preserved. Only the greenhouse has been modernised, but without changing its function. The informal garden, on the other hand, is almost entirely different in layout, but retains almost all of its tall trees.

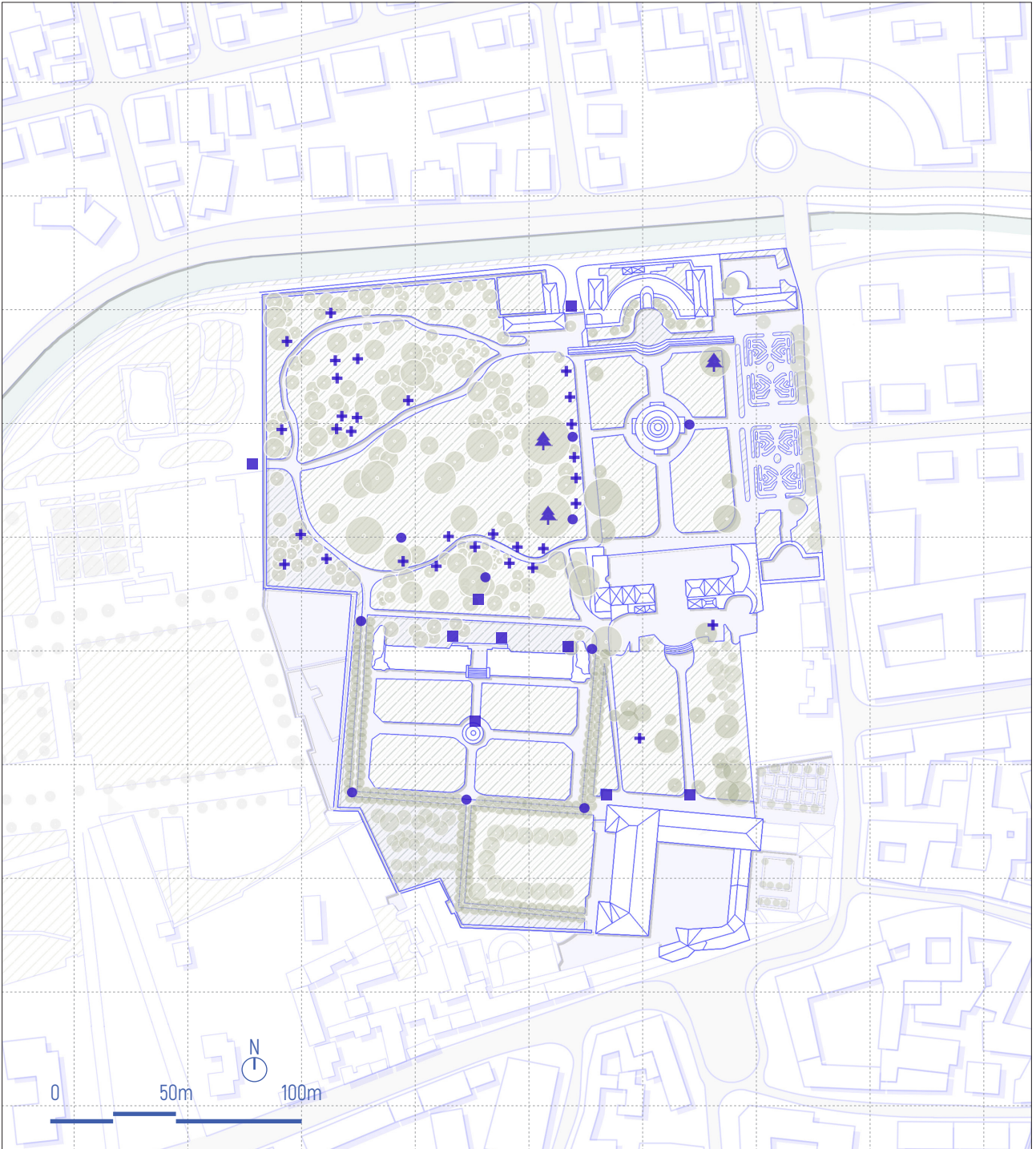
Comparison map



3.3.2.3. Infrastructure analysis

The garden is managed with great care. There is a clearly designed signage system in place. The amount of infrastructure, such as benches, is also perfectly adequate, although the layout is rather haphazard and chaotic.

Infrastructure



▲ Monumental Trees



■ Notice Board



● Educational signage



⊕ Bench
















3.3.3. Vegetation analysis

The plants in the free open area are the focal point of the garden. The popularity of the English landscape at the beginning of the 19th century led architects to add natural gardens, activated in 1808 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. But the bush is now almost entirely lost.

Tree classification




Evergreen tree



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

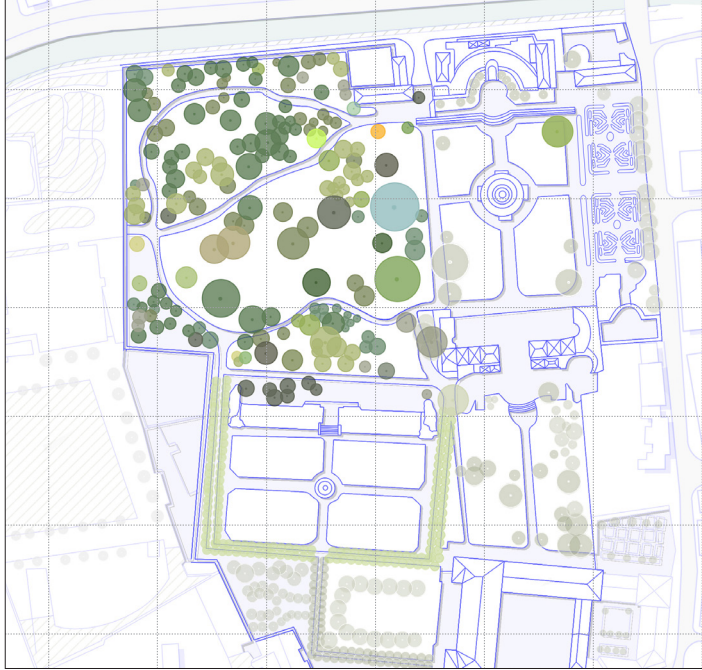
Deciduous tree



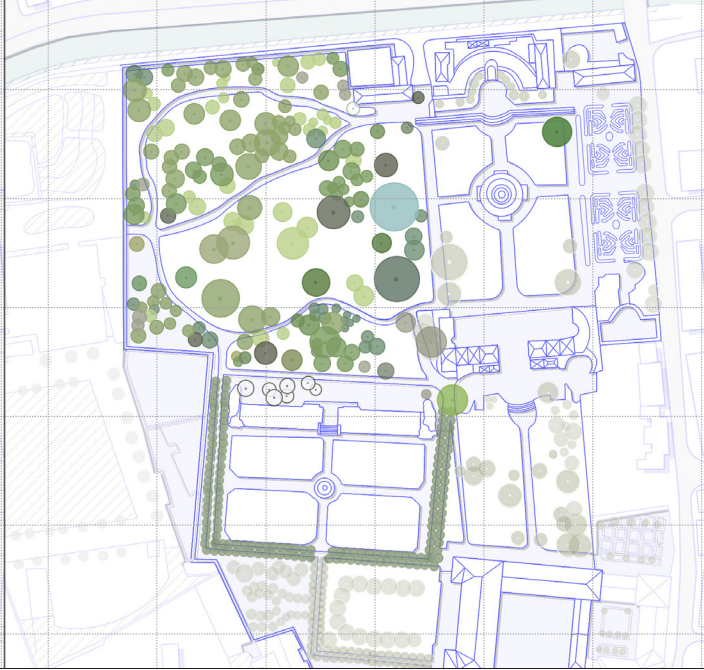
- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
|  CEPHALOTAXUS HARRINGTONIA |  PICEA ABIES |  ILEX AQUIFOLIUM |  CEDRUS LIBANI |
|  CEDRUS DEODARA |  MAGNOLIA GRANDIFLORA |  THUJA ORIENTALIS 'AUREA' |  TAXUS BACCATA |
|  CALOCEDRUS DECURRENS |  OLEA EUROPAEA |  CEDRUS LIBANI SUBSP. ATLANTICA 'GLAUC' |  ABIES NORDMANNIANA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

Garden chromatism

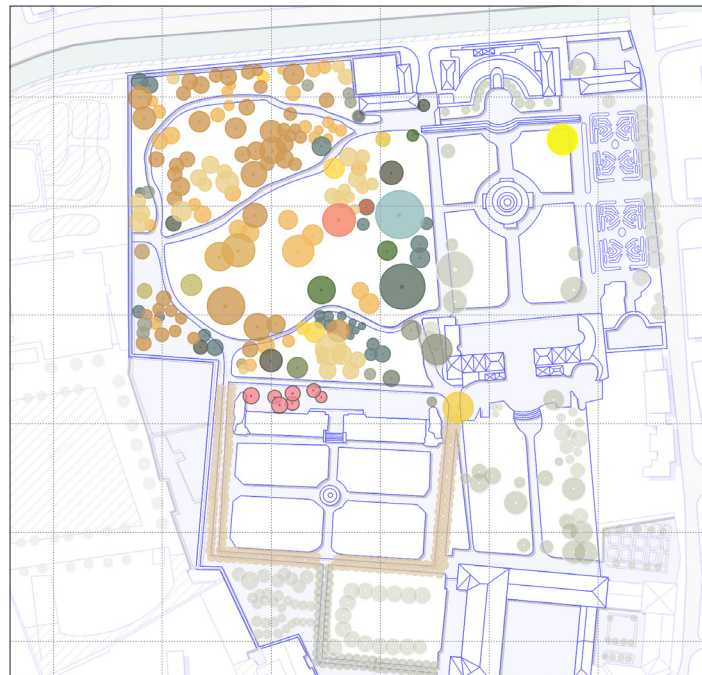
Spring



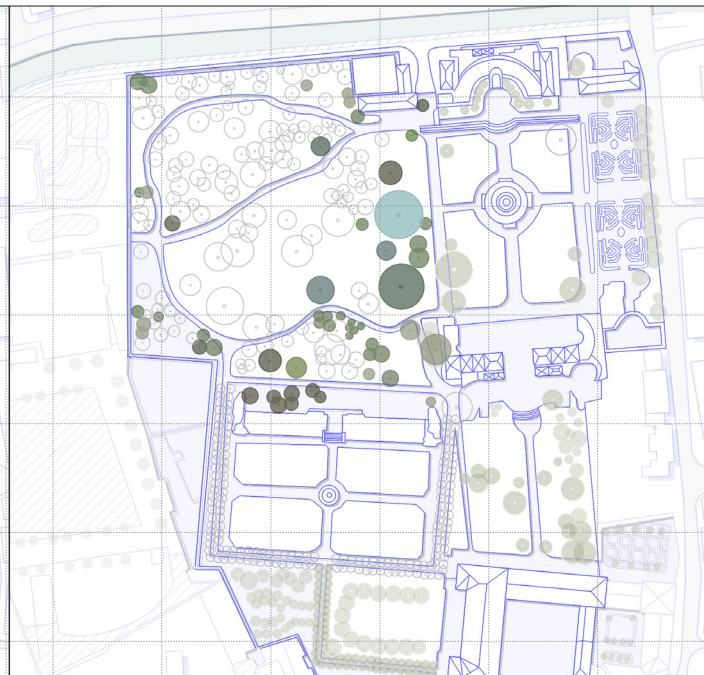
Summer



Autumn



Winter



3.3.4. Elemental grading assessment

3.3.4.1. Element context analysis

The main elements of the gardens have different historical values and visitors have a different awareness of the values they possess. Whether the visitor's awareness is compatible with the historical values themselves, and if not, how this can be resolved, is the question that will be addressed.

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: High
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

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 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, Negative

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

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, Negative

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, Negative

08 Protected Trees



The majority of the trees in the English garden were introduced when it was built in the mid-19th century. In particular, the ginkgos 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, Negative

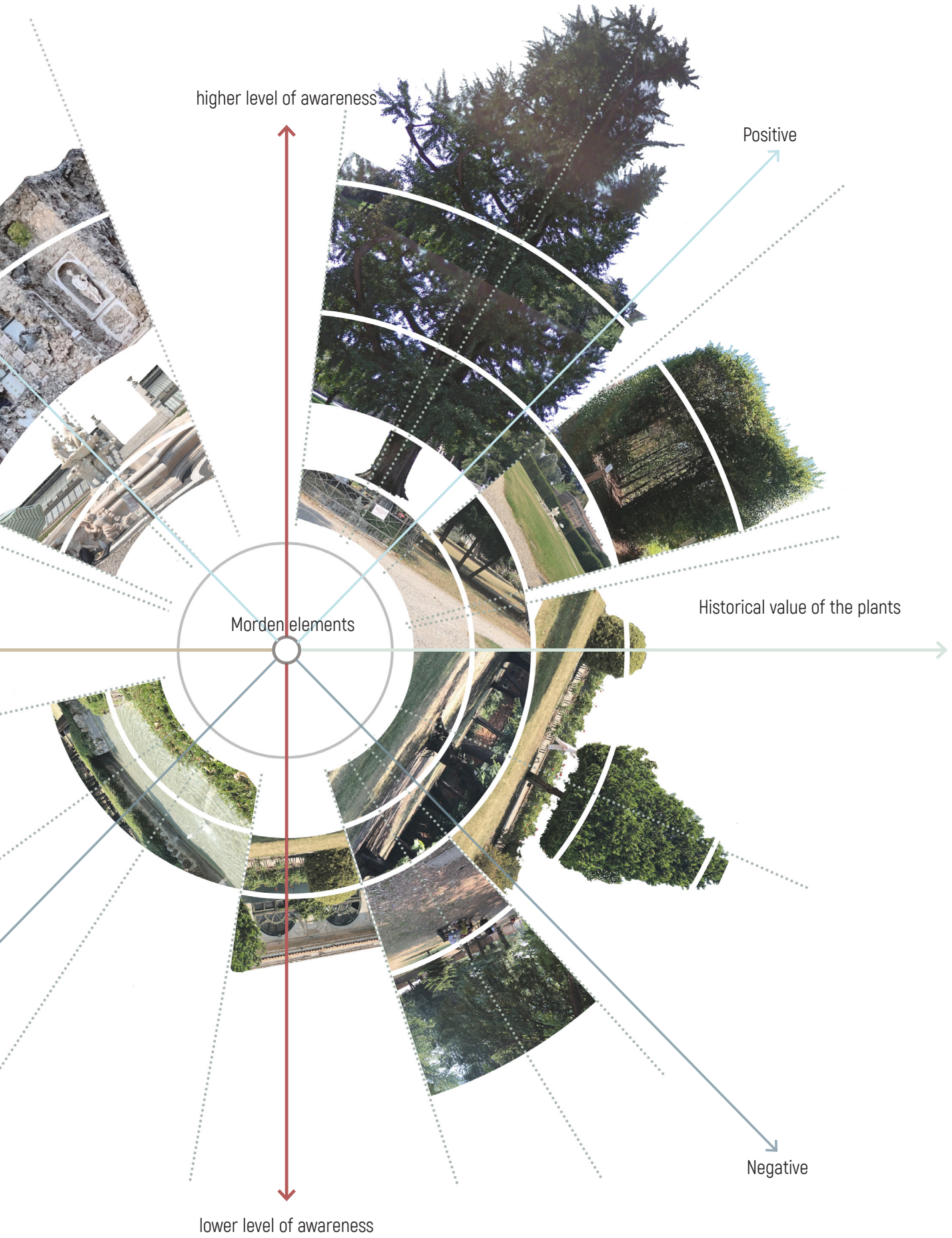
3.3.4.2. Awareness axis

This axis is generated according to the different values that the historical elements have and the visitors' awareness of their value.

The further to the left of the horizontal axis means that the element has a higher historical value, the further to the right means that the element has a higher biological value, and the further to the middle means that it has a lower value. The higher up the vertical axis represents a higher awareness of the value of the elements among visitors, while the lower down the axis represents a lower awareness.

Therefore, the upper half of the area around the two corner parallels represents an element with a higher value and a higher awareness of its value by visitors. In contrast, the lower half, around the corner parallels, represents elements that, despite having a higher value, do not correspond to the awareness of visitors.



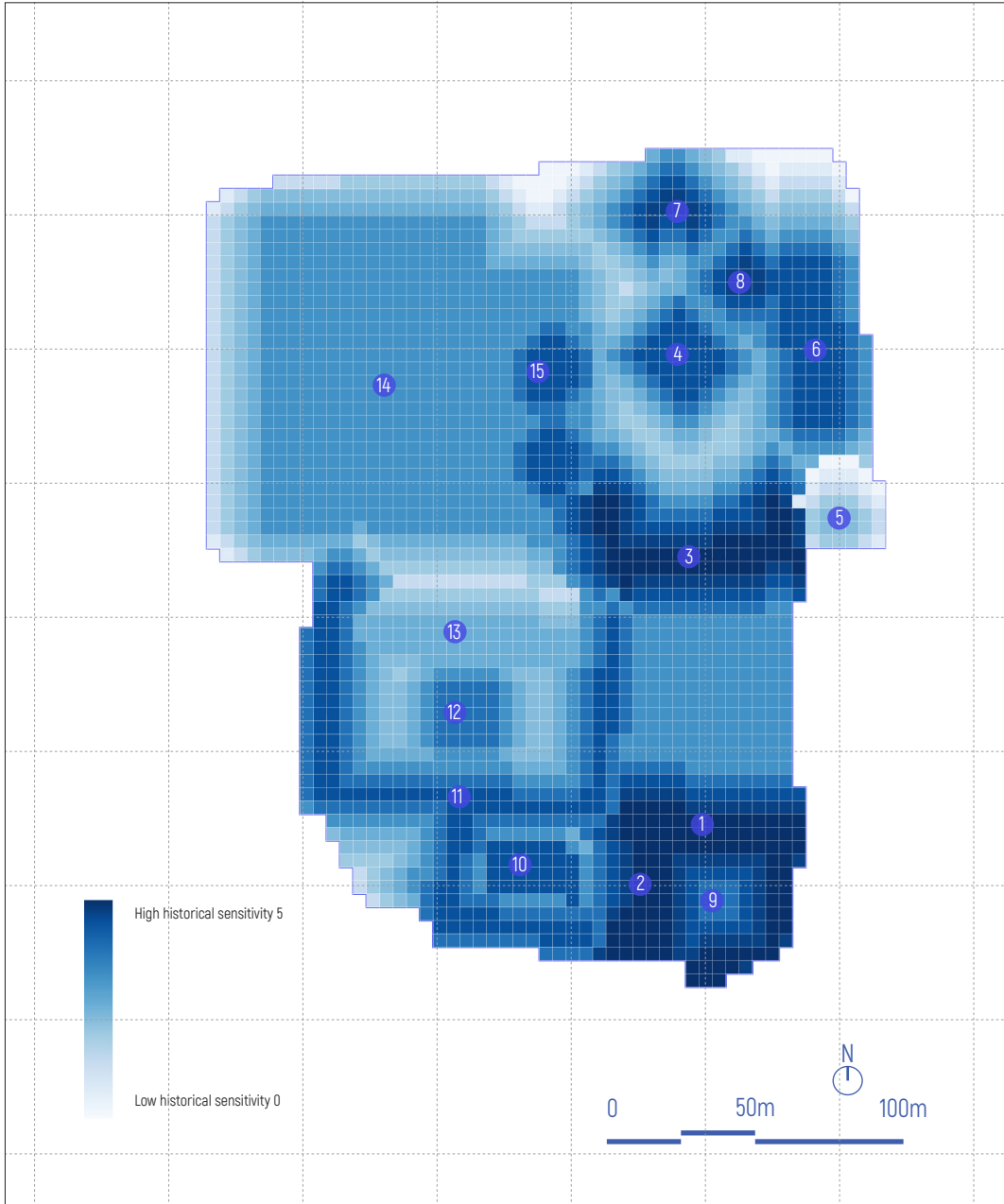


3.3.4.3. Historical sensitivity map

The parts are scored in four areas: age, historic value, state of preservation and scale, and then weighted to give each component a historical sensitivity score. The formal gardens to the south are more sensitive in terms of their historical value. But the informal gardens in the north contain a variety of rare and monumental tree species of greater ecological sensitivity. These are all things that need to be taken into account when organising the conduct activities. It can also be seen that the conservation area is significantly more historically sensitive than the free access area.

Villa Litta					
Element	Historical age(20%)	Historical value(40%)	Preservation Status(30%)	Scale(10%)	Results
① 16th-century palace	5	5	5	5	5
② 18th-century palace	5	5	5	5	5
③ Ninfeo	5	5	5	5	5
④ Parterre and fountain of Galatea	5	4	4	4	4.2
⑤ Water tower	5	2	2	1	2.5
⑥ Italian garden	5	4	4	3	4.1
⑦ Exedra-Ratto di proserpina	5	4	5	3	4.4
⑧ Ginkgo	5	5	5	3	4.8
⑨ Court	5	3	4	3	3.7
⑩ Natural theatre	5	4	4	3	4.1
⑪ Hornbeam gallery	5	4	4	4	4.2
⑫ Parterre and fountain of Nettuno	5	3	4	4	3.8
⑬ Greenhouses	0	4	4	2	3
⑭ English garden	5	3	3	5	3.6
⑮ Two cedars on the English garden	5	4	4	2	4

Historical sensitivity map

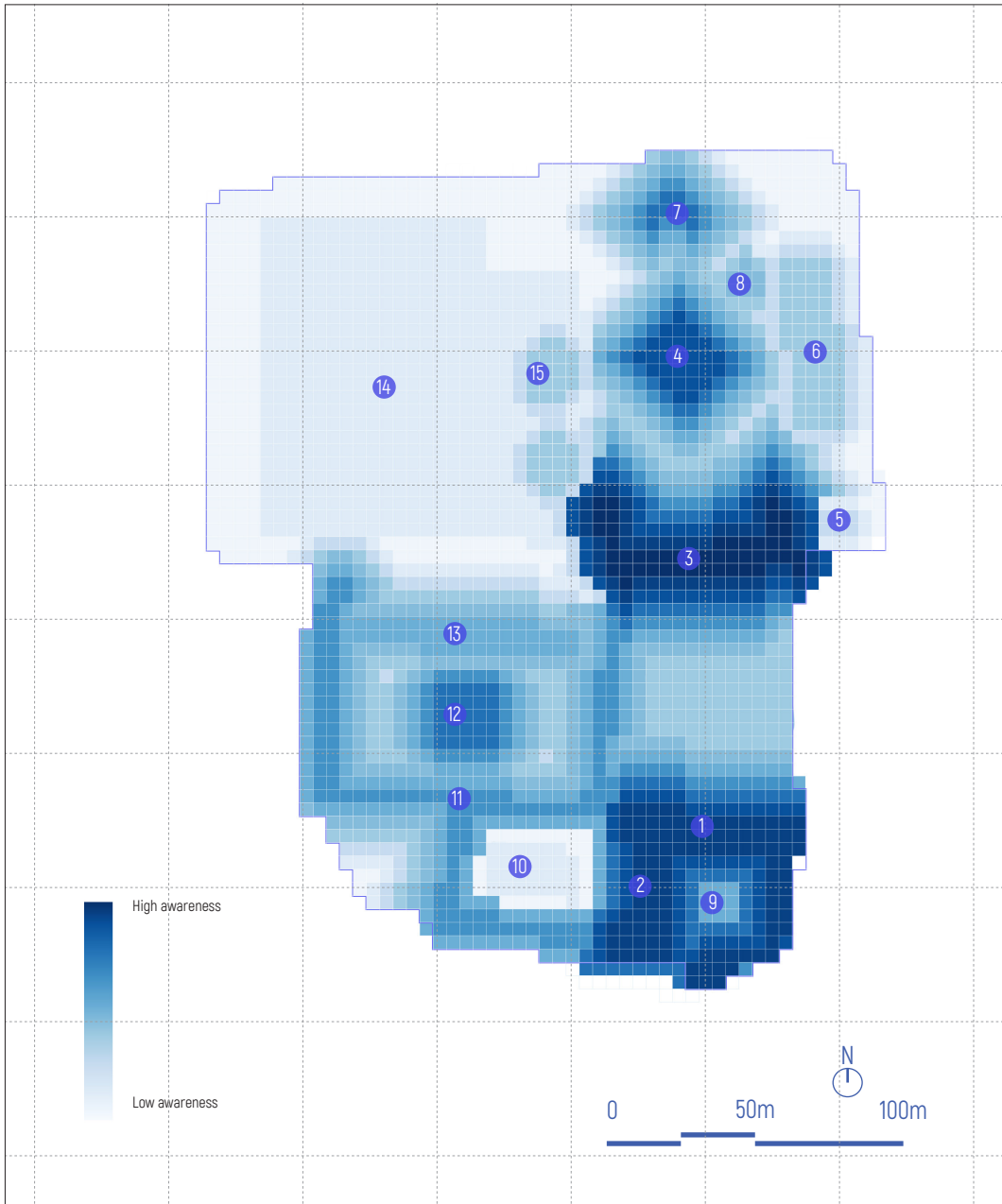


3.3.4.4. Awareness map

The percentage of visitors' awareness of the historical value of the various parts of the garden was based on an on-site count of 40 visitors' awareness. We took questions and questionnaires to collect the following data. It is also evident that visitors are significantly more aware of the historic people in the conservation area than in the free access area.

Villa Litta		
Element	Number of people aware of historical value (40)	Percentage%
① 16th-century palace	37	92.5
② 18th-century palace	37	92.5
③ Ninfeo	40	100
④ Parterre and fountain of Galatea	34	85
⑤ Water tower	8	20
⑥ Italian garden	13	32.5
⑦ Exedra-Ratto di proserpina	29	72.5
⑧ Ginkgo	15	37.5
⑨ Court	21	52.5
⑩ Natural theatre	3	7.5
⑪ Hornbeam gallery	25	62.5
⑫ Parterre and fountain of Nettuno	29	72.5
⑬ Greenhouses	18	45
⑭ English garden	5	12.5
⑮ Two cedars on the English garden	11	27.5

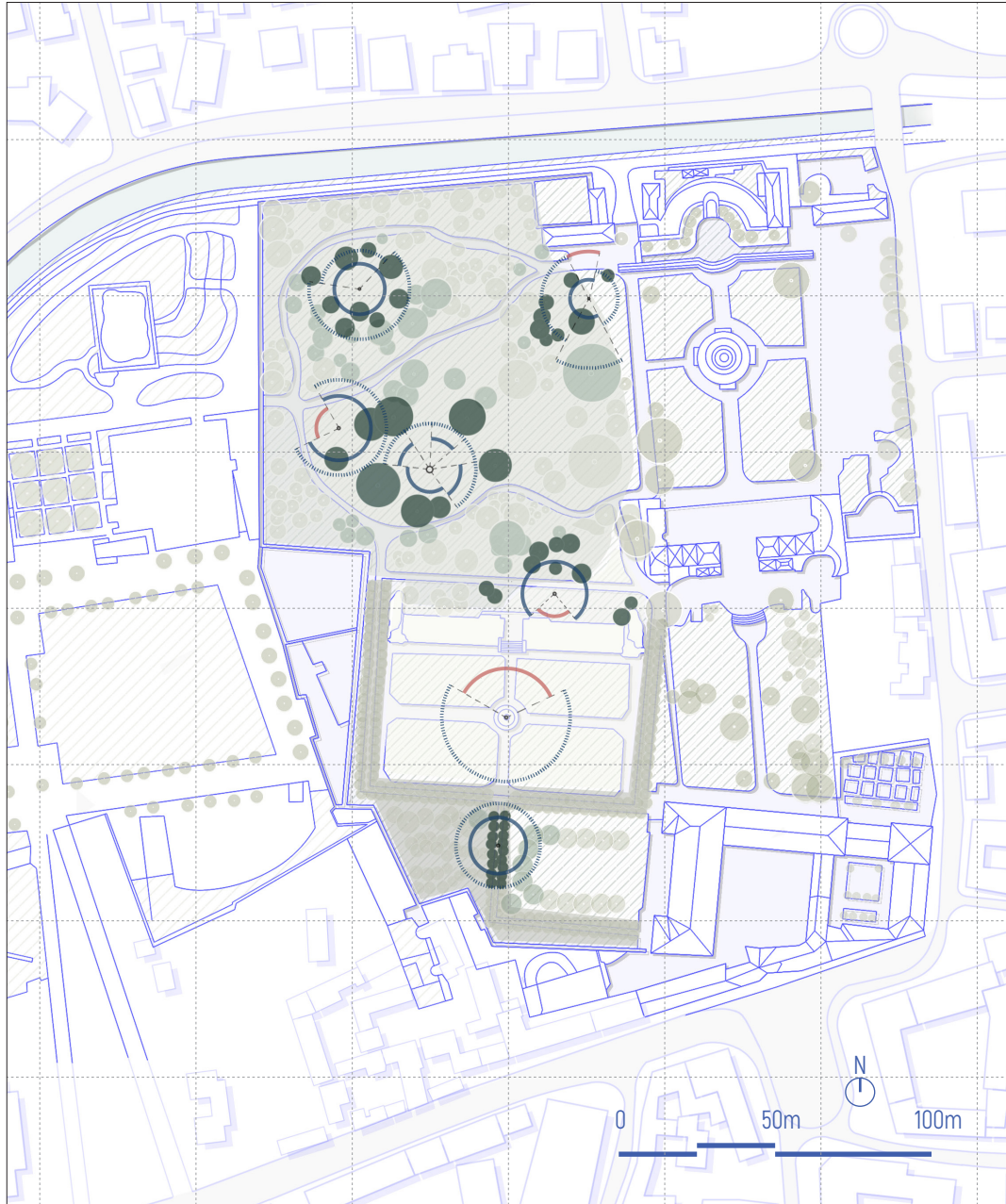
Awareness map



3.3.5. Spatial perception and sight analysis

The garden can be split into seven regions based on how visitors perceive it. The spaces in the formal garden section have more character, whether it is the tree gallery or the baroque garden. Informal gardens, on the other hand, are more natural, relying more on plants and topography to divide the space.

Spatial perception and sight analysis



- Plant Boundary - Direct Perception
- Plant Boundary - Indirect Perception
- Architecture Boundary - Direct Perception
- Architecture Boundary - Indirect Perception
- Wall Boundary
- Firstly Perceived Tree
- Secondly Perceived Tree
- Enclosure
- Open

3.3.6. Visitor analysis

3.3.6.1. Demands of visitors' activities

As a public free-open park adjacent to the fee-open area, Villa Litta needs to cater for the needs of the surrounding residents. The needs of users vary according to the age and type of user in the periphery.



The walled garden looks interesting too, let's buy tickets and go in!



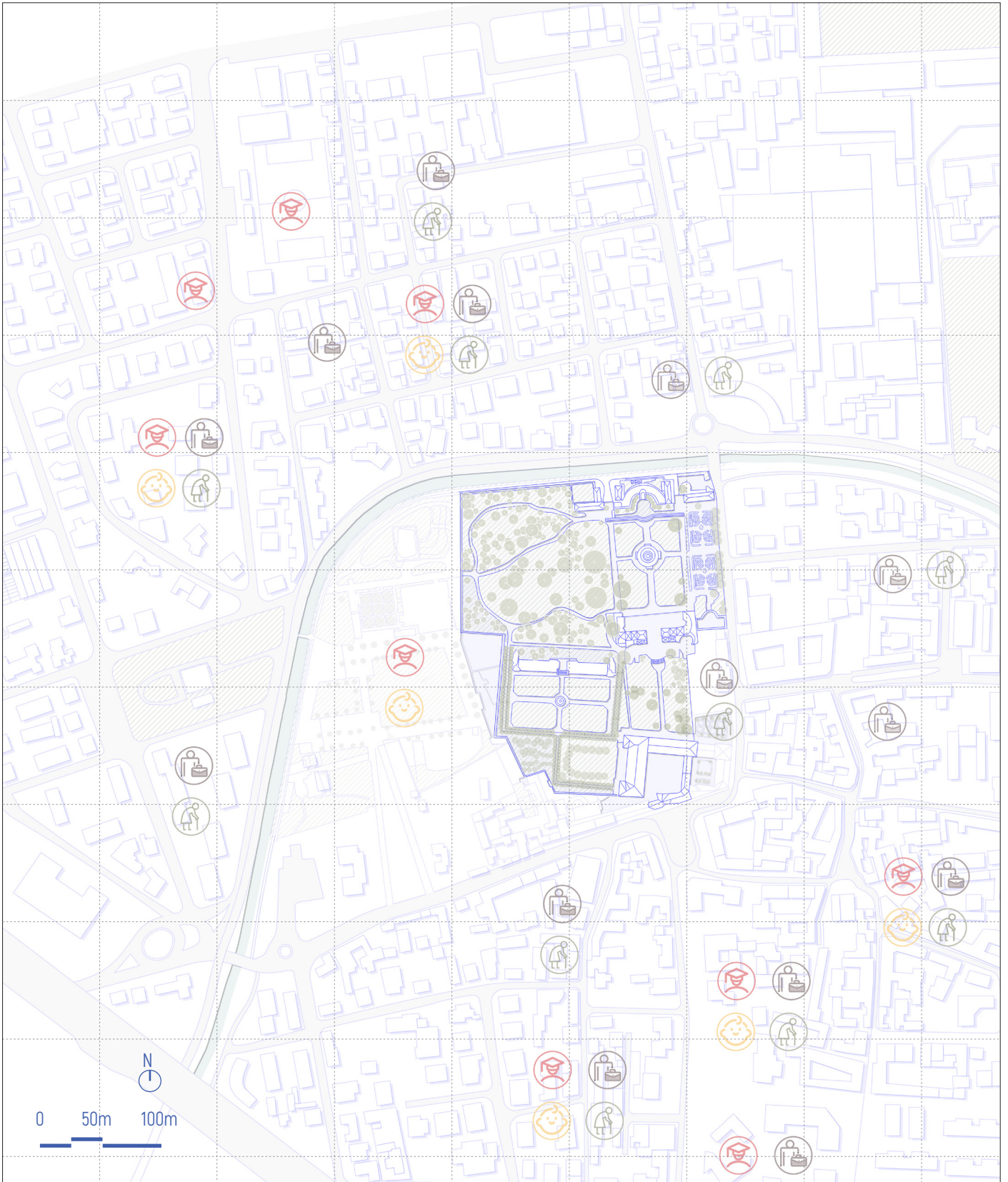
I love playing with the pigeons and squirrels here!

It's quiet and sitting here in the early morning at work clears my head.



We often take our children for walks here and the air in the park is great.

Surrounding population distribution

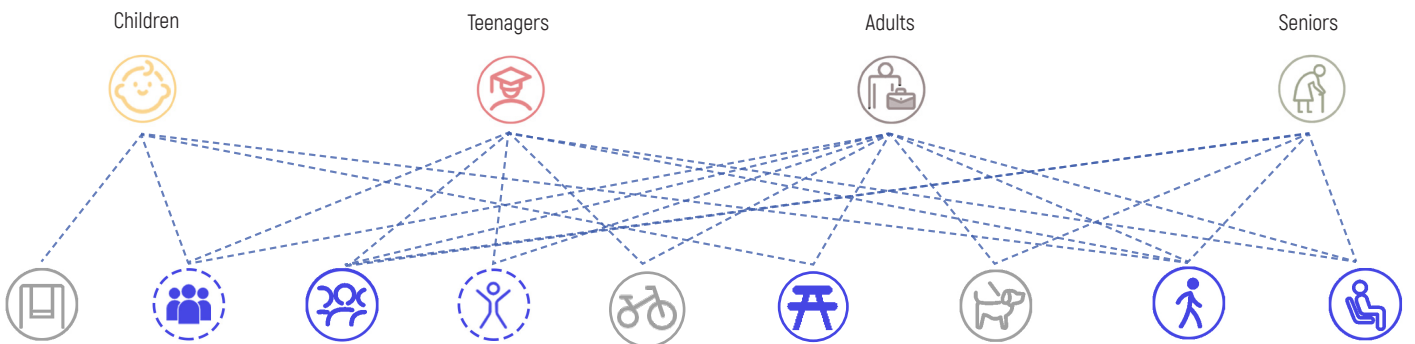


3.3.6.2. Existing activity types and distributions

A wide variety of activities currently exist in the garden. Despite the fact that activities such as cycling and dog walking are prohibited, many visitors engage in such activities. Activities such as sunbathing have severely damaged the ground cover.



Existing activity types distribution



3.3.7. SWOT analysis - Villa Litta Lainate

3.3.7.1. 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. The 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.



Square



Hornbeam Gallery



Fountain



Greenhouse



Monumental trees

3.3.7. SWOT analysis - Villa Litta Lainate

3.3.7.2. Natural and ecological aspect

- S**
1. 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. 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. Provide habitat for the animals and birds of the region and 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.



Baroque Garden



Hornbeam Gallery



Informal garden

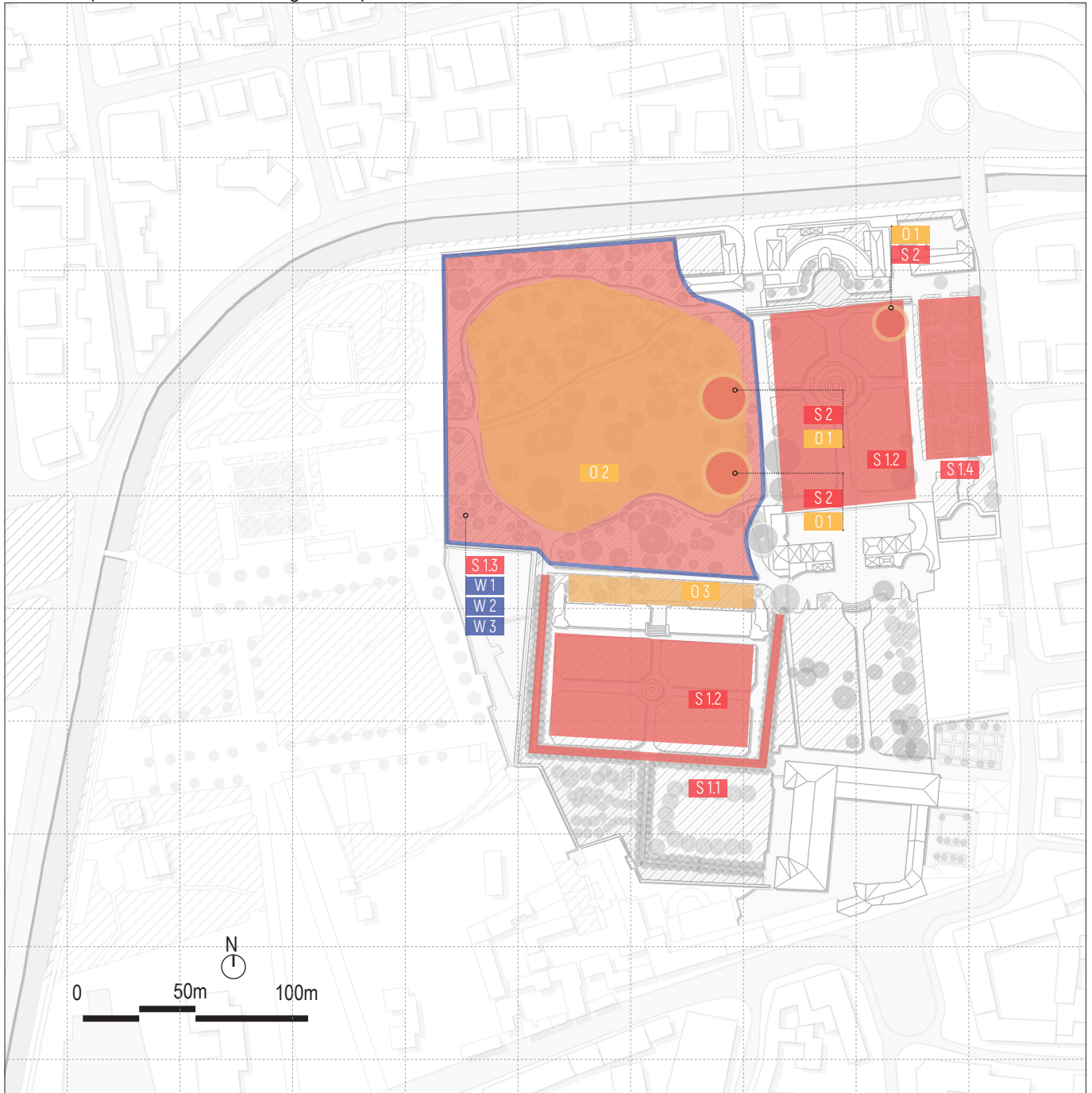


Monumental trees



Italian

SWOT Map - Natural and ecological aspect



n garden



Human Activities destroy ground cover



Land cover degradation



Signage



Animal Habitat

3.3.7. SWOT analysis - Villa Litta Lainate

3.3.7.3. 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 usually 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.



Toilet



Benches

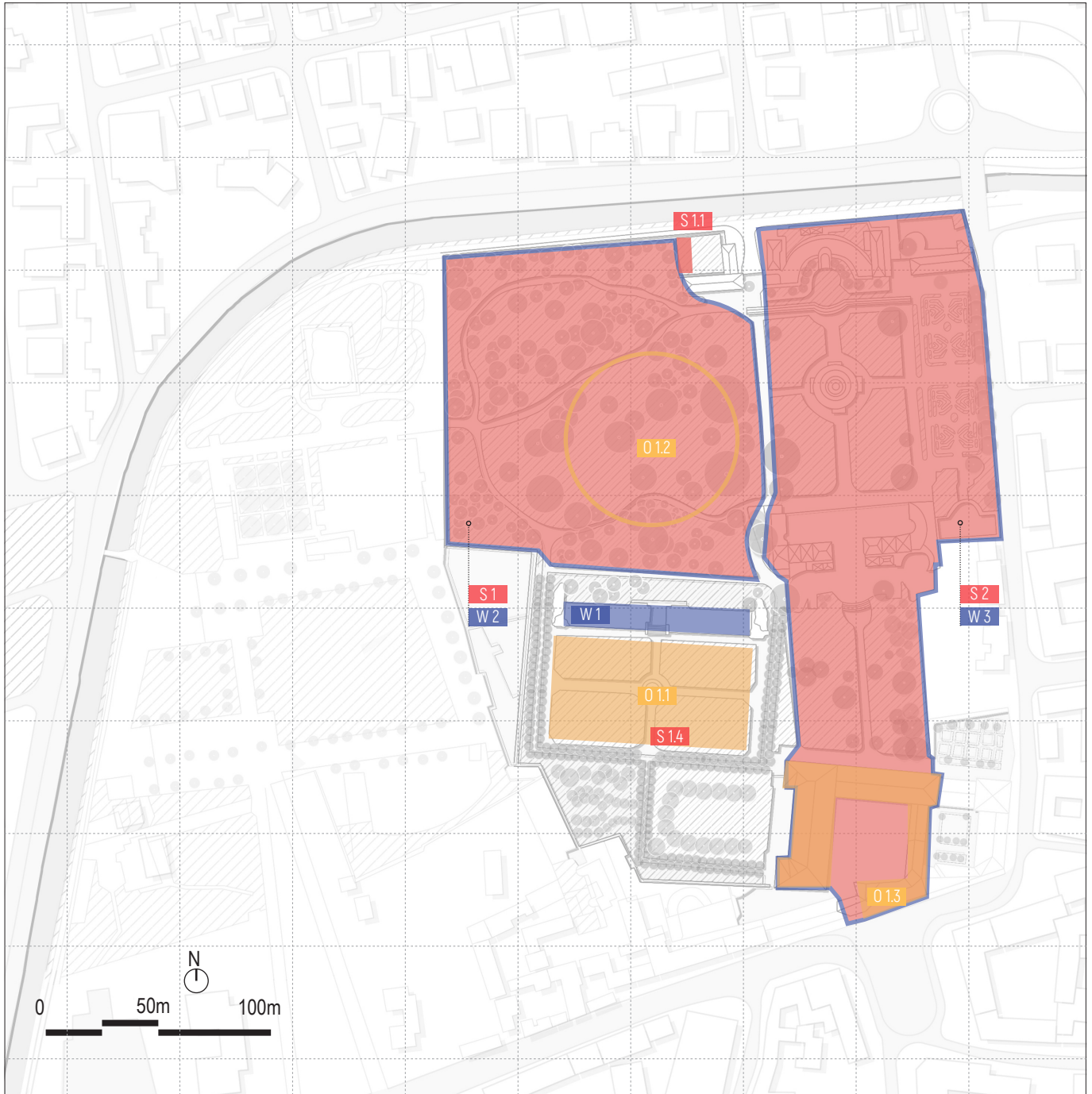


Trash can



Water supply points

SWOT Map - Social and economic aspect



Boundary between the two regions



Carrying out activities



Chaotically arranged benches



Management difficulties

3.3.7. SWOT analysis - Villa Litta Lainate
 3.3.7.4. SWOT overall analysis

SWOT ANALYSIS

S

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

W

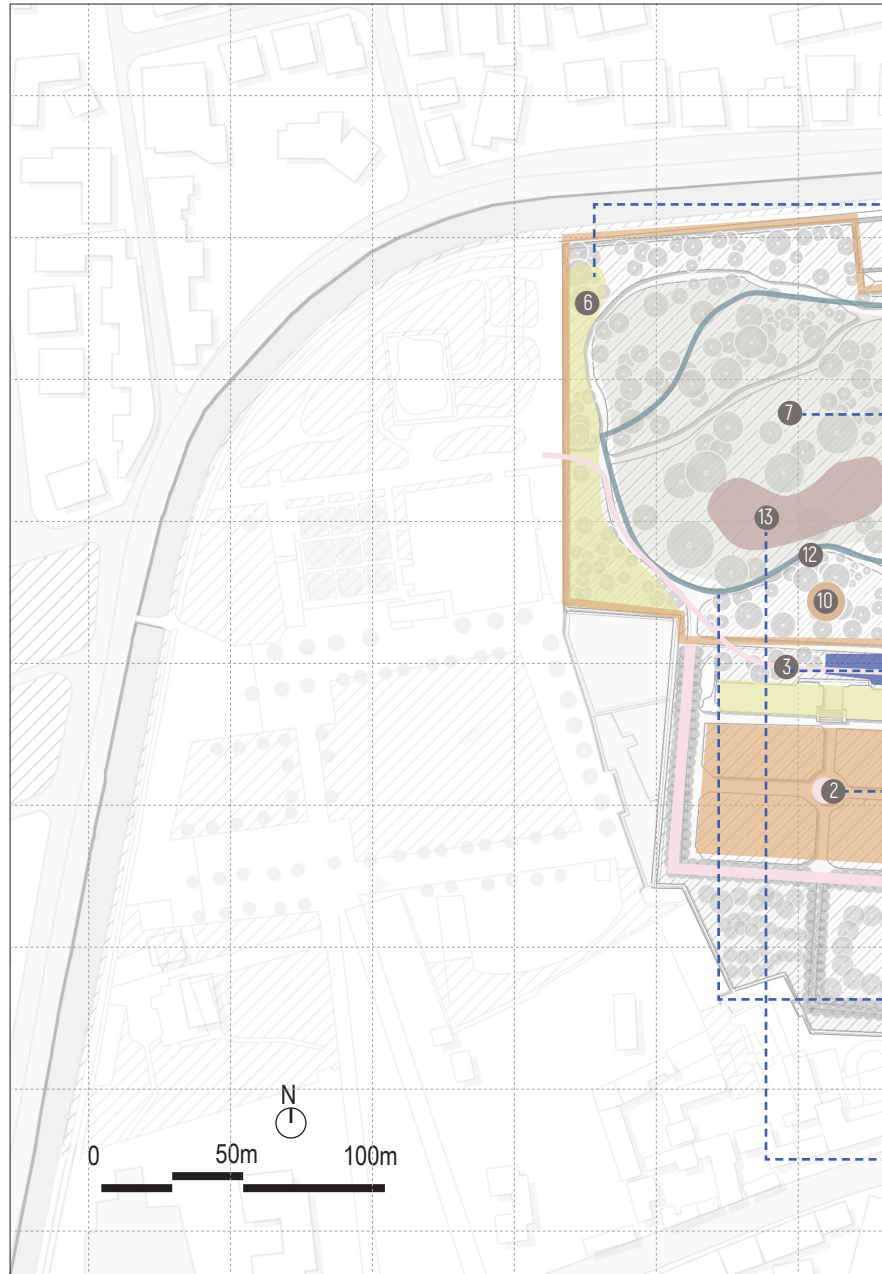
- Insufficient historical atmosphere
- The split of space
- Shrub and ground cover degradation
- Historical structure and layout lost
- Poor infrastructure layout

O

- Enhancing the historical atmosphere
- Raising awareness of historic gardens among visitors
- Reinventing historical space
- Location in the region

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.”

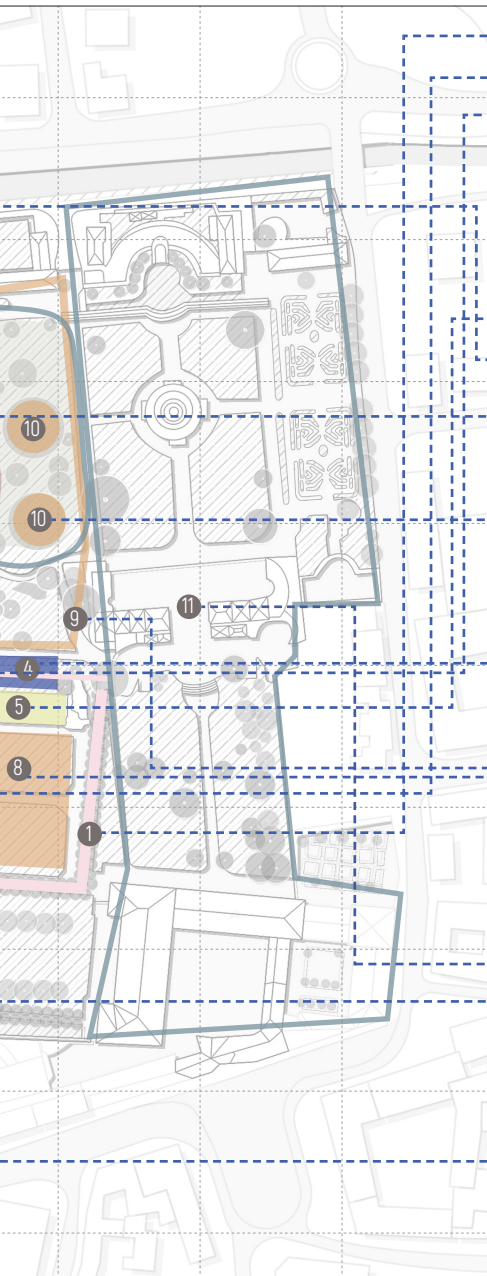
<https://www.heroesneversleep.com/>



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



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



- S**
 - ① Hornbeam Gallrey
 - ② Neptune Fountain
 - ③ Signage

- W**
 - ④ The Derelict Lawn

Plant degradation

- O**
 - ⑤ Greenhouse
 - ⑥ Grassland with height variation

Spatial variation

- T**
 - ⑦ Shrub layer absent

Plant degradation
Enhance plant richness

- S+O**
 - ⑧ Baroque Garden
 - ⑨ Informal garden
 - ⑩ Monumental trees

Shaping a sense of history
The possibility of holding small events
A rich variety of plants

- W+O**
 - ⑪ Paid open area
 - ⑫ Infrastructural facilities

Attracting visitors
No design
Offer sufficient basic services

- S+T**
 - ⑬ Central lawns

The possibility of holding small events

Quality education and promote
all



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

communities
that are inclusive, safe, resilient and

CHAPTER IV: ANALYSIS OF COMPATIBLE AND INCOMPATIBLE ACTIVITIES IN HISTORIC PUBLIC GARDENS

4.1. Types and impacts of activities in public parks

Public parks are crucial for locals to enjoy nature and recreational activities. The demand for public activity space has increased as society has developed, and many historic public gardens are gradually taking on the function of public parks. Visitors to historic public gardens in modern cities with rapid urbanization are no longer limited to walking and resting. The demand for more types of activities in historic public gardens has expanded, and the structure and function of the interior have changed slightly. Different types of visitors have distinctive needs when using public parks, and age is usually the most influential factor, followed by occupation.

4.1.1. Leisure activities

Walking and resting

Walking and resting are the oldest activities in green spaces. They are also one of the most widely practiced outdoor activities, which are so easy that they can be done without equipment or preparation. Historic gardens tend to be considered as a pleasant environment to visit. Therefore, the healing, spiritually and emotionally satisfying attributes of the park's environment form an ideal attraction for visitors. There are several ways of resting, and walking can be included; however, since walking is quite common, we have listed it separately. Walking as a more relaxing outdoor activity that allows visitors to experience nature and a peaceful atmosphere is an activity that many visitors would like to choose. Resting in the historic gardens can vary in many ways, including sitting and reading a book, sitting with a cup of coffee, standing to take in the scenery, a casual gathering of a few friends, and others. Resting occurs mainly in places with seats or spaces for visitors to stay. In Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park, for example, the resting places are mainly in the public seats along the road and in the music square near the pond, which is a small gathering space with many seats for people. [Refer to Map 'Existing activity types and distributions in Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park', Chapter 3.2.6.2.]

Dog walking

Public parks are a few places where domestic pets like dogs can enjoy the outdoors. For residents with pets, pet activity areas in public parks are essential. However, for historic gardens, dogs may be a threat to wildlife, vegetation, and historic relics. Dogs are welcome in all the Royal Parks although there are some places where they are not allowed or must be kept on a lead. These are clearly indicated within each park and are usually ecologically sensitive sites, deer parks, children's play areas, restaurants, cafes, and some sports areas. Therefore, the activities of dogs in the historic gardens need to be under some limitation. *Dogs are welcome in all the Royal Parks although there are some places where they are not allowed or must be kept on a lead. These are clearly indicated within each park and are usually ecologically sensitive sites, deer parks, children's play areas, restaurants, cafes, and some sports areas.*[1] Certainly, in these parks, there are specific guidelines for dogs and dog owners [Refer to guidelines on dogs in the Royal Parks, Chapter 4.2.2.], and it is not completely free. For some small historic public gardens, restricting dog access signs are often seen at the entrance to the garden, which varies from garden to garden.

Painting and Photography

Public parks with beautiful natural settings and designed landscape layouts are works of art that combine nature and artificial. Photography and sketching enthusiasts often favor these places.(Figure 1)

Sports

Public parks provide a pleasant natural environment and open outdoor lawns, and an increasing number of people prefer to participate in outdoor sports in parks. People are also increasingly interested in historic public gardens. We encourage people to exercise in historic gardens, but not all forms of exercise are appropriate. Taking cycling as an example, the stress from fast and strenuous cycling can damage historic gardens' paving. At the same time, *while cyclists are very welcome pedestrians have priority within the Royal Parks as they make up the majority of park visitors*[2]. There are more compatible sports than cycling for balancing the needs of most visitors in historic gardens. People can choose soft and quiet exercise, less disruptive to historic public gardens and other visitors.



Figure 1. The historic garden's natural scenery attracts people to sketch.
Source: <https://www.nipic.com/index.html>

Picnic and Sunbathing

Some public parks with wide, flat lawns will allow picnics, sunbathing and other trampling activities.(Figure 2) Parks such as Hyde Park in England and Jardin des Tuileries in Paris offer deckchairs.

The attitudes towards this activity are different in the two cases we studied. In Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park, the main lawn is lushly vegetated with protected tree species and wildlife. Moreover, the lawn is in the center of the space and sight of the entire garden and is the most sensitive garden area. It has vital landscape value and botanical value. Picnics and sunbathing are inappropriate here since the human activity during the picnic and the litter created afterward may pollute the lawn. Villa Litta, on the other hand, has many visitors willing to come here for picnics and sunbathe in the English garden. This area has thin turf with few shrubs. It also has a low historical value in the whole garden due to the loss of its historical form. As a result, the English garden's area sensitivity is weaker, and people's activities in this area have less impact on the whole garden. [Determination of sensitive areas refers to Historical sensitivity map of Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park in Chapter 3.2.4.3. and Historical sensitivity map of Villa Litta in Chapter 3.3.4.3.]



Figure 2. Hyde Park's open lawns allow for picnicking and sunbathing.

Source: <https://www.mercurehydepark.com/blog/picnic-in-hyde-park/>

4.1.2. Children's activities

Public parks are one of the main outdoor recreational spaces for children. Through play, children gradually become aware of their physical and social environment. Children become fully conscious through play in a variety of physical and social environments. Play plays a significant role in children's activities because it expands their knowledge and mobility. Public parks are outdoor spaces where children can not only play but also learn to socialize. Many parks have designed areas for children's activities and accompanying play equipment, such as the Princess Diana Memorial Playground at Kensington Gardens. (Figure 3) The playground's concept is "natural play", which is intended to stimulate children's imagination and sense of adventure, as well as to encourage them to challenge their physical and mental abilities. It uses materials that are eco-friendly, mainly wood and gravel. Moreover, it is at the northwestern corner of Kensington Gardens, which is the least sensitive area to the historic garden. Eco-friendly materials, hypersensitive areas and appropriate design are the factors that go into the proper establishment of a playground in a historic public garden, rather than the direct placement of a set of off-the-shelf amenities at random.



Figure 3. The Princess Diana Memorial Playground is a place specially designed for children's activities.

Source: <https://www.pinterest.it/pin/312648399107333511/>

4.1.3. Educational activities

The abundance and various vegetation and the biological habitats they create in public parks are excellent outdoor spaces for nature education activities. Heritages in historic public gardens are also of great value in education, and they contribute to a better understanding of regional history and culture for people. Educational activities can take various forms, including exhibitions, lectures, outdoor classes, and even performances and games. Depending on the activity, the site for educational activities varies. Unlike other activities, educational activities can take place in historical sensitive areas, as they involve historic relics, protected vegetation, and wildlife. In most cases, educational activities can be combined with volunteers. In the case of Temple of Heaven Park, Beijing, where there are many protected trees. The park organizes volunteers to educate visitors about protected tree species. The activity also cooperates with neighboring schools to make the historic garden an outdoor classroom for students to learn about botanical knowledge.(Figure 4)



Figure 4. The historic gardens can be used as an outdoor classroom to help children learn about nature and culture. The figure shows volunteers are introducing an old tree of Beijing Temple of Heaven Park to children.

Source: <https://www.hudongba.com/party/5yvra.html>



Figure 5. The Serpentine Gallery 2016 was designed by BIG, using wood and fiber glass. Eco-friendly, lightweight materials and unique design are the prerequisites for this structure to be presented in the historic garden.
Source: <https://diariodesign.com/2016/06/serpentine-gallery-2016-por-big>



Figure 6. Some of the large fields in the historic gardens are sometimes used for performances such as open-air concerts.
Source: Resource: <https://www.centralpark.com/things-to-do/activities>

4.1.4. Events

Some historic public gardens have open public spaces which can provide a suitable site for temporary events where large numbers of people gather. For example, the Serpentine Gallery that are regularly built in Kensington Gardens (Figure 5) and the various performances planned, such as music festivals and holiday celebrations (Figure 6). It is worth mentioning that the materials used for the Serpentine Gallery each year are eco-friendly, lightweight, and easy to erect and dismantle. Such materials are friendly for public historical gardens and worthy of promotion. In Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park, every summer before Covid-19, people would be in the open-air cinema, celebrating or watching open-air movies. The common feature of these events is that they were temporary and gathered in the outermost part of the historic garden, the area with the lowest regional sensitivity, causing the least impact.



Figure 7. There is an eco-trail in Kensington Park near the River Westbourne. Many people walk along this trail for getting close to nature.

Source: Kensington-Gardens-Management-Plan-16-26

4.2. Activity type reclassification

4.2.1. Compatible activities

Walking and resting

Walking and resting are the most common activities in historic gardens. Walking and resting is one of the essential activities for experiencing historic gardens' historical atmosphere and beautiful surroundings, and it is still the most popular method of exploring them today. Despite its prevalence, this activity has little negative impact on the heritage of historic gardens. In historic gardens, it is beneficial to set walking trails with specific themes, such as cultural, botanical, and activity themes. On these theme-specific trails, visitors can better feel the historic gardens' connotation, experience the relics' historical value, appreciate the gardens' natural

beauty, and relive the habits of the old-time residents. It is what distinguishes the feeling of walking in a normal public park. Such as the Long Water in Kensington Garden, London, it is a botanical trail. The characteristic area of Long Water includes its vegetated borders to the east and west. It is a crucial feature of Kensington Gardens, situated in a shallow valley on the course of the River Westbourne, providing an undisturbed habitat for waterfowl. It has both ornamental aesthetics and biodiversity value. It is a popular destination for walking close to nature.(Figure 7)

Regarding resting, in historic public gardens, it is appropriate for some particular sites to equip with fixed or no seats, which fix the range and means for people to rest. For example, with the fixed seating in front of the central lawn of Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park, it is unsuitable for visitors to gather on the lawn to rest, which would interfere with the vegetation of the lawn and the view of the space. The seats will guide people to rest at the edge of the lawn. However, in less sensitive areas, movable chairs can be set up so that people are free to choose where to rest, as in the case of Jardin des Tuileries. (Figure 8) (Determination of sensitive areas refers to Historical sensitivity map of Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park in Chapter 3.2.4.3.)

Photography and painting

Painting and photography are among the activities that allow visitors to experience the historic gardens' sceneries and their historical heritage. In addition, these activities document the state and changes of historic gardens over time and provide helpful information for historic garden research. Our current understanding of historic gardens is also based on painted images and historical photographs of people from the past.



Figure 8. The Jardin des Tuileries Garden provides visitors with chairs that can be moved around. People are free to choose the place where they want to stay.

Source: <https://en.parisinfo.com/paris-museum-monument/71304/Jardin-des-Tuileries>

Sports

As mentioned earlier, we encourage people to exercise in the historic gardens, but in a proper way. We divide sports into two categories: mild exercise and strenuous sports. Mild exercise, which is soft and quiet, is appropriate for the historic gardens. Historic public gardens enhance a suitable environment for this type of exercise. Examples include jogging and yoga. These sports make little noise, require little activity space, and have a low impact on the environment of the historic gardens. Likewise, the English Royal Parks' regulations have rules on how to exercise appropriately in historic gardens. We list them below.

- *The park is not a gym. Please do not use any park structures including trees, benches, bandstands, tables, lamp posts or monuments for training purposes.*
- *Avoid areas of high pedestrian activity and walk, don't run, on busy paths and pinch points such as gates and bridges.*
- *Do not bring large items of fitness equipment to the park – keep it to handheld sized equipment e.g. yoga mats, kettle bells or resistance bands. Please do not attach resistance bands to any park structures including trees or benches.*
- *Be considerate to other park users.[3]*

Children's activities

How to increase children's awareness and interest in the historical garden depends on their activities. However, the noise of children's activities can spoil the historic atmosphere of a garden. If not carefully designed, ready-made supporting play facilities can also negatively impact a historic garden's environment. Thus, children's activities are compatible but must be carefully organized. Children must be carefully guided to learn and understand the historical garden through play rather than simply as a children's playground in a general public park. The choice of the forms of children's activities and the setting of the playground need to follow some regulations.

- *Children's activities should not be strenuous and noisy, for all the visitors in the historic garden need a quiet environment.*
- *Children's activities should be away from areas of high sensitivity, especially from areas with protected vegetation, wildlife, historic relics, and fragile ecological structures. Because children's activities may damage and contaminate the soil on which these creatures depend.*
- *Playgrounds should choose eco-friendly materials and try to avoid the introduction of large-volume facilities. This can be visually intrusive to the landscape of the historic garden.*

- *Playground facilities should not use bright colors. This can be visually disturbing to visitors.*
- *Use eco-friendly materials when constructing playgrounds and avoid adding new hard surfaces. Hard surfaces may be laid in some activity areas, which can damage the historical structure of the original floor.*[4]

Educational activities

Educational activities can effectively raise visitors' awareness of historic gardens' historical and natural heritage. Through the cooperation of professional organizations and educational institutions, scientific lectures or historical and cultural exhibitions can be organized in historic public gardens. These educational activities help increase visitors' interest, leading to their knowledge of the heritage. Some events combine education and children's activities, which can maximize the children's interest and raise their awareness of the historical value of the historic garden. Although educational activities can be allowed in highly sensitive areas, some regulations are listed below to better make educational activities and historical gardens compatible.

- Educational exhibitions and lectures are the main recommended format, and these activities have a low impact on historic gardens.

- In the case of plant awareness activities, the number of people should be limited when entering areas of higher sensitivity. The sudden influx of large numbers of people into protected areas, such as main lawns, shrub areas, protected tree species areas, wildlife areas, and areas where historic sites are stored, and the sudden increase in environmental stress can cause damage to the historic garden.
- A safe distance should be left when approaching protected tree species and historic sites. It will provide a pressure buffer for the historical elements and avoid the impact on them due to accidental visitor activities.

Events

Events can bring visitors to historic public gardens as well as economic benefits. Planning special events related to historic gardens' culture is another way to raise awareness of their historical significance. Visitors can get more involved and get caught up in the atmosphere of the events, rather than just having a general tour. Concerts, performances, and weddings are examples of large-scale events. Of course, the historic public gardens are used by people for different reasons, and we cannot grant any one group exclusive rights to an area; the historic gardens are also home to a diverse array of vegetation and wildlife, which is also an element to be considered. Therefore, we suggest the following regulations when holding events in the historic public gardens.

- 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.*[5]

4.2.2. Incompatible activities

Dog walking

Dogs are an inappropriate element to appear in most historic gardens. Dogs require a certain amount of space for their activities, which may damage historic plants and pollute the historic garden environment. And there may be other wildlife in the historic gardens. Dogs and these animals may come into conflict or even harm them. As a result, walking the dog in historic public gardens is incompatible. However, if dogs and dog owners behave according to some regulations, dogs can be allowed in historic public gardens. If owners want to walk their dogs in the historic gardens, they need to keep their dogs under control at all times and not interfere with wildlife, vegetation, or other visitors. Historic public gardens are places for all to enjoy. Dog fouling alters the nutrient levels of soils and can affect the survival of rare flora and fauna. Owners should collect and take their dogs' droppings out of the historic gardens in sealed bags.

We refer to the English Royal Parks' regulations for dogs in historic gardens, which are listed as follows for purposes consistent with our research.

- *It is your responsibility to keep your dog under control and to clean up after it: you are breaking the law if you do not do so.*
- *Keep your dog in sight.*
- *Keep the lead handy, you may need it.*

- *Respect the dog-free and dogs-on-leads areas.[7]*

- *Respect other users and the wildlife.*

Dog activities are compatible in the historic gardens when dog walkers follow the guidelines above.

Picnics and sunbathing

Extensive picnics and sunbathing are inappropriate with the overall environment of the historic garden. Such activities can harm both the natural and the historic environment. However, it can also be affected by the sites. A picnic, for example, on the large lawn in the historic garden's central axis is inappropriate, interfering with other visitors' views and destroying the setting's aesthetics. Nevertheless, small-group picnics are allowed in public historic gardens, if they are in areas of low sensitivity. Taking the Royal Parks as an example, different parks have different maximum group sizes allowed for picnics: Hyde Park can fit 40 guests, but Bushy Park can only fit 20 guests. Although these historic gardens allow picnics and sunbathing on the lawn, some behaviors are still forbidden. We have selected a few of the Royal Parks' prohibited regulations that are relevant to our content.

- *Cooking or barbecuing in the park. As well as being a fire hazard, abandoned barbecues can be a hazard to other visitors and to wildlife. Catering outlets in each of the parks sell a selection of hot and cold*

food.

- *Using glassware. We ask that you use plastic cups and bottles where possible. Broken glass is a hazard to other visitors and wildlife and very difficult to remove from parkland.*

- *Playing music audible to other visitors.*

- *Fixing anything to trees or driving anything into the ground.*

- *Erecting tents, marquees or other structures.*

- *Releasing balloons in the parks. As when released they get caught up in the trees and are hard to remove. They can also be a hazard to the wildlife in the park. Mass balloon releases are not permitted in the parks for these reasons.[8]*

Sports

The sports mentioned here refer to strenuous sports, which differ from the "mild exercise". Strenuous sports can cause damage to vegetation, ground surfaces, and plant structures. Moreover, the noise generated can disturb the tranquil atmosphere of historic public gardens. Because of the uncontrollable nature of their trajectory, ball sports, in particular, can cause significant environmental damage. And these sports often require professional venues, which are out of place with the other elements of the historic gardens. Other sports like cycling and roller skating can also impact the historic garden's paving. Furthermore, because

strenuous sports have very specific and obvious goals that do not integrate with the historic environment of the historic garden, people will disregard the historic nature of the historic garden even more, which is not conducive to raising awareness of the historic nature. If there is a high demand for sports, we can refer to the map of area sensitivity to choose a less sensitive area for sports. Attention should be drawn to the fact that by setting up a sports field, we are not referring to the implantation of a new modern activity site in a historic public garden, but rather to the selection of a site among the available sites in the garden that can be directly used as a sports field. For example, in Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park, we determined which fewer sensitive areas could be selected based on the area sensitivity map. The pond and the skating pool are hard paved in these areas, with no vegetation inside and a natural border formed by plants on the outer edge. Therefore, some sports activities can be conducted in these two areas with less impact on the historic garden. Alternatively, if the garden has historically been associated with a specific sport, it is sufficient to keep only that sport.



Figure 9. Stone seats in the garden provide a place for people to rest.
Source: Taken by the authors



Figure 10. Students took pictures and records with their devices while researching Villa Ghirlanda Silva.
Source: Taken by the authors

4.3. Activities in Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park

4.3.1. Compatible activities in Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park

Walking and resting

In the Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park, walking and resting are the main forms of activity for visitors of all ages. It is an entirely compatible activity here.(Figure 9)

Painting and Photography

Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park preserves many old photographs and historical paintings, and these precious materials provide a vital historical reference. Photography and painting are activities worth promoting. (Figure 10) Such activities can be combined with interpretation signs to guide visitors to better viewpoints for photography and painting. Also, Swiss Chalet, as the garden's highest point, has a better view, and it is proposed to restore Swiss Chalet and its platform.

Children's activities

In the northern part of the garden, there is a playground(Figure 11), the main activity area for children. The playground is frequently used, which has a negative impact on the root systems of the large trees in this area. There is a need for Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park to have a place for children's activities, but the site and form must be re-planned. Based on the guidelines on how to install

new infrastructure in Chapter V, we propose to move the children's activity area to the Skating rink, which is less historically sensitive and hard-paved, with a transitional distance from the vegetated green space. Refer to Chapter 5.4.4. for specific guidelines and explanation.

Educational activities

The educational activities at Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park are more focused on the interior of the villa, where visitors are not able to participate directly and are not related to the garden itself.(Figure 12) Although it is a compatible activity, it could be better organized. Various plants exist in Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park, especially some protected tree species. Therefore, combining plant cognition with educational activities is an excellent choice. We propose to set a botanical trail within the woody area in the northeast corner of the garden, with interpretation signs of botanical knowledge along the trail. It is also a combination of resting and educational activities.



Figure 11. The playground is a heavily used area of the garden, but children's activities affect the trees in this area.

Source: Taken by the authors



Figure 12. There is a music school in the Villa, but it is not related to the garden itself.

Source: Taken by the authors

Events

Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park has the built-up conditions for holding events, and there are regular events held here. The hall of Villa Ghirlanda Silva is often used for weddings. There is also an open-air cinema in the garden, which is also used during summer celebrations. (Figure 13) It cannot be denied that events gather large numbers of people to the historic garden, but on the other hand, it also pressures the garden. In order to reduce the impact of events, the location, size, and content of events need to follow some regulations. Then events are compatible with historic gardens. [The regulations are mentioned in Chapter 4.2.1.] For Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park, because the open-air cinema is of relatively low sensitivity, having less impact on the garden, events are allowed to be held here. Nevertheless, considering the carrying pressure of the historic garden and the regulations of English Royal Parks, we propose that the group size of events should not exceed thirty people and that the sound should be limited to allow only those inside the site to hear and not affect visitors outside.



Figure 13. The open space of the open-air theater is ideal for holding events. It also features a ready-made stage area.

Source: Taken by the authors

4.3.2. Incompatible activities in Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park

Walking dog

Dogs are not allowed in the garden. (Figure 14) The garden is not very large, and there is not enough space in Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park for dogs' activities. Moreover, dog activities may affect the relics, vegetation, and wildlife. So walking dogs and dog activities are incompatible in Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park. Nevertheless, it is allowed if the owner and his dog just want to walk through the garden on a leash. It is important to note that dog owners must ensure that their dogs are kept on a leash and that dog excrement is taken out of the historic gardens. (The regulations are mentioned in Chapter 4.2.2.)

Picnics and Sunbathing

Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park has a bar serving simple meals and coffee, with an outdoor dining space. However, the bar is of no design and inconsistent with the style of the historic garden. Refer to Chapter 5.2.4., we propose to move the bar to the Swiss Chalet. Moreover, the large lawn in the center of the garden has an essential value in terms of visual space and is unsuitable for picnics and sunbathing. So, they are incompatible activities here. If visitors need for picnics and sunbathing, considering the sensitivity and openness of the whole garden, it is allowed in the



Figure 14. The entrance to Villa Ghirlanda Silva is marked with a "No Dogs Allowed" sign. But there are still people walking their dogs in the garden.

Source: Taken by the authors

open-air cinema. Of course, visitors need to follow some regulations, otherwise these activities are still incompatible. [The regulations are mentioned in Chapter 4.2.2.]

Sports

Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park contains a former skating rink that was later used as a tennis court. (Figure 15) The paving in this area is damaged in several places and it has been used as an area for ball games. Ball games are strenuous sports. All strenuous sports are incompatible with historical gardens, such as cycling, running, and ball games. However, mild exercise is compatible. We encourage to do some exercise in Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park. Here are some regulations for people who want to enjoy mild exercise here. [Refer to Chapter 4.2.2.]



Figure 15. The skating rink is one of the few hard-paved areas in the garden, but the ground is damaged in several places. It is suitable for activities, except for strenuous sports.

Source: Taken by the authors

4.3.3. Proposals

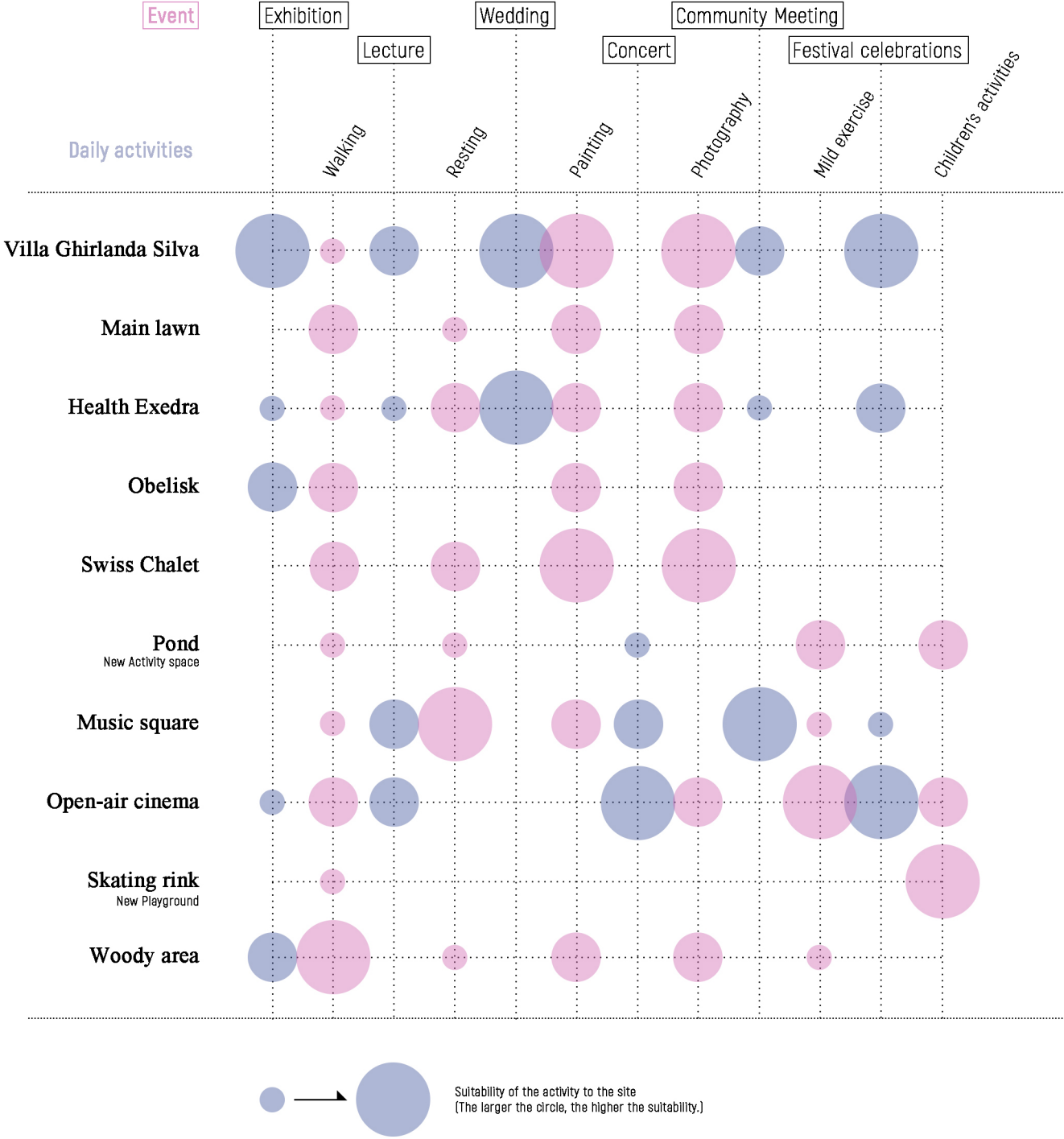




Figure 16. The surrounding residents often take rests and walks in the garden.

Source: Taken by the authors



Figure 17. When visiting the paid area, the guides will suggest people to take photos during the water games.

Source: Taken by the authors

4.4. Activities in Villa Litta

4.4.1. Compatible activities in Villa Litta

Walking and resting

In Villa Litta, walking and sitting are the main forms of activity for visitors of all ages. There are several seats in the garden for people to stop and rest. (Figure 16)

Painting and Photography

In addition to the sketching and photographing activities carried out spontaneously by visitors, the management association also organizes activities concerning painting and photography, which are very effective. In the garden's paid area, there are many awesome relics and water games, and the guides will give some advice on the timing of photos while guiding visitors through the tour. (Figure 17) For the public area, in the English garden, the plants change seasonally during the four seasons, and it is very suitable for painting and taking photos. It is a compatible activity.

Picnics and sunbathing

Picnics and sunbathing are common in this garden. (Figure 18) However, some areas of the ground are heavily damaged by vegetation. These activities are compatible, although some restrictions need to be added to lawn activities to reduce damage to the lawn and

tree root systems. We propose to use flowers and shrubs to form a natural fence barrier near the root system of the protected tree species. Meanwhile, these activities should follow the previously mentioned regulations. (The regulations are mentioned in Chapter 4.2.2.)

Children's activities

There is no specific playground for children in Villa Litta. The area for children's activities is in the English garden. Children's activities are compatible and necessary. We propose a separate activity area for children's activities in the English garden. The specific details are shown in Chapter 6.2.4.

Educational activities

There are many well-organized educational activities, not just for children. A wide range of fun activities for adults and children in all aspects of nature, history, and culture. There are regular art exhibits and botanical activities. For example, there is an activity called "Botanical treasure hunt" in spring. (Figure 19) The activity guides children to discover plants, flowers, and wonders of the past. During the activity, there are quizzes, riddles, and orientation tests for children to be aware of the history and peculiarities of the gardens.



Figure 18. Villa Litta's English garden has open lawns where people often have picnics and enjoy sunbathing.

Source: Taken by the authors



Figure 19. There are special posters in Villa Litta to promote the activities. This is a poster for the education activity.

Source: <https://www.villalittalainate.it/eventi.php?year=2022>

Events

There are frequent and well-organized special events in the gardens, including performances, charity sales, seed markets (Figure 20) and other fun activities. A documentary on the history of the Litta family has also been filmed here, which has attracted the interest of many visitors. For Villa Litta, there are open spaces to hold events in the public area. Refer to the sensitivity map, events are held in less sensitive areas and have less impact on the garden. (Refer to Historical sensitivity map of Villa Litta in Chapter 3.3.4.3.) In the paid areas, there are some small light shows and concerts. Under the management of the garden volunteer association, these events are controlled in scale and scope to take care not to affect the remains and vegetation during the events. As a result, Events are compatible activities and popular with visitors.



Figure 25. Villa Litta regularly holds a seed market for the neighborhood.
Source: Google map

4.4.2. Incompatible activities in Villa Litta

Sports

For the same reason, strenuous exercise is not suitable for historic gardens. Especially cycling, bicycle traffic can cause damage to vegetation and paths of the garden. (Figure 21) However, mild exercise is acceptable. The open lawns of the English garden are suitable for mild exercise. Moreover, while doing activities, people should follow the regulations. (The regulations are mentioned on Chapter 4.2.2.)

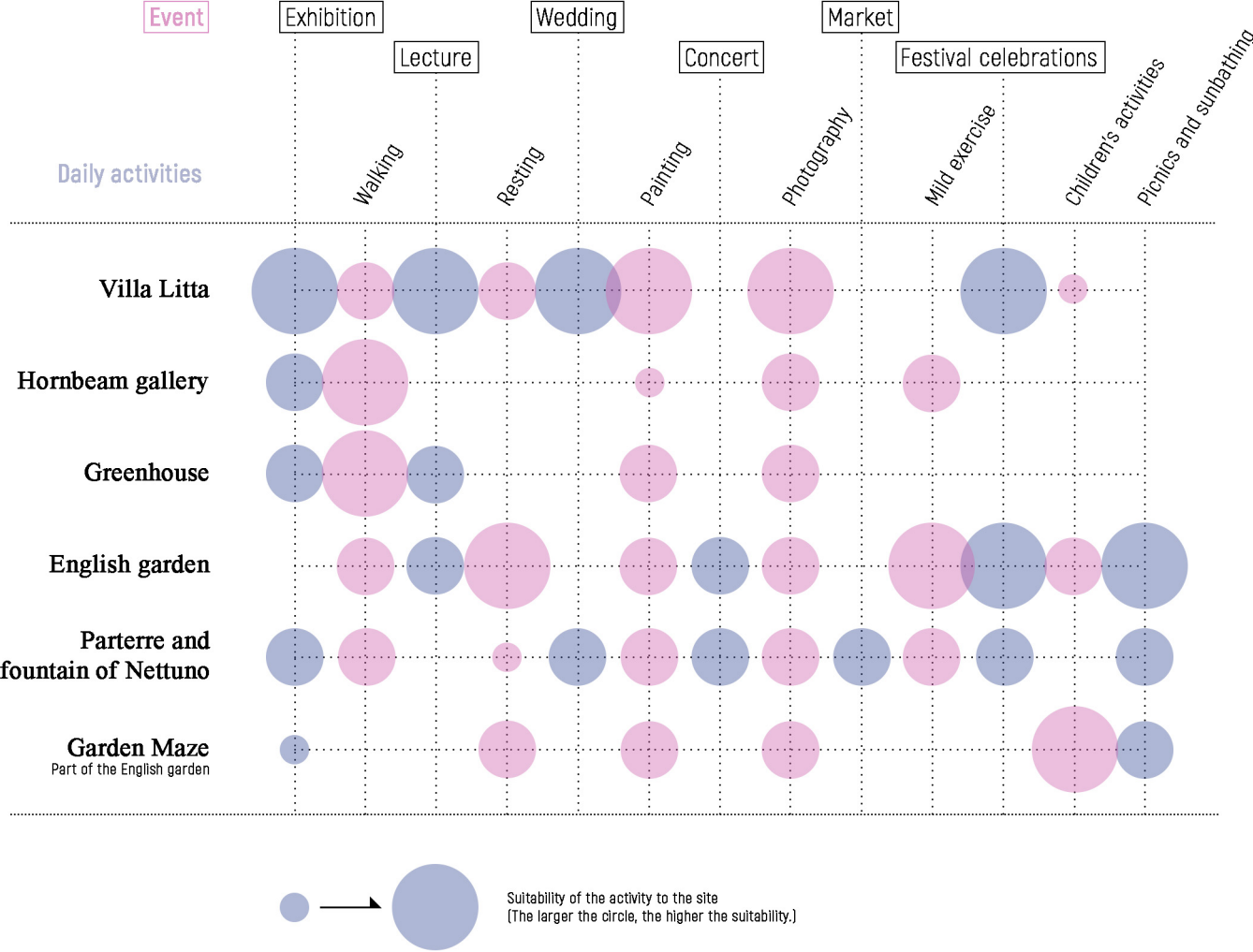
Dog walking

Although Villa Litta does not allow dogs, some visitors still walk their dogs here. Some squirrels and birds are in the garden, and these wild animals may have conflicts with dogs. So, dog activities are incompatible here, such as Frisbee. However, if dog owners keep their dogs on a leash and only stop briefly in the garden or walk through it, it is allowed.




Figure 26. Visitors cycle in Villa Litta Lainate Despite the prohibition of bicycles in the garden, many people still cycle into the garden.
Source: Taken by the authors

4.4.3. Proposals



REFERENCE

- [1]Guidance on dogs in the Royal Parks: https://www.royalparcs.org.uk/___data/assets/pdf_file/0009/41787/rp_dogsleafletweb.pdf
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- [5]Assemblies, demonstrations, rallies & marches in the Royal Parks: https://www.royalparcs.org.uk/___data/assets/word_doc/0015/101409/Demonstrations-and-Assemblies-in-the-Royal-Parks-feb-2023.docx
- [6]Guidance on dogs in the Royal Parks: https://www.royalparcs.org.uk/___data/assets/pdf_file/0009/41787/rp_dogsleafletweb.pdf
- [7]Guidance on dogs in the Royal Parks: https://www.royalparcs.org.uk/___data/assets/pdf_file/0009/41787/rp_dogsleafletweb.pdf
- [8]Holding picnics & gatherings in the Royal Parks: <https://www.royalparcs.org.uk/managing-the-parks/park-regulations-legislation-and-policies/picnics-in-the-royal-parks>



**CHAPTER V:
GUIDELINE FOR HISTORIC
PUBLIC GARDENS
CONSIDERING VILLA
GHIRLANDA SILVA PARK
IN CINISELLO AND VILLA
LITTA LAINATE AS TWO
CASE STUDIES**

5.1. Purpose of the guideline

People tend to overlook the historical value of historic public gardens because they differ from other historic gardens in their dual nature as public green spaces. At the same time, historic public gardens, as public green spaces, need to meet people's demand for activities and, as a result, new activity facilities are needed too. There has been a lot of research done on the conservation of historic public gardens. We want to build on these findings by thinking about how to make people aware of the historical value of historic public gardens while meeting people's needs for activities in these gardens. Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park in Cinisello and Villa Litta Lainate, the two historic public gardens, were chosen as case studies. We selected the main types of problems or phenomena in the two gardens and proposed guidelines for the topics mentioned above in historic public gardens from three aspects.

5.2. Guideline for raising awareness of the historical value of historic public gardens

5.2.1.

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

Goal: Improve the interpretation system in the public historical gardens so that visitors can independently learn information about the historical elements in the historic public gardens.

Rule:

- 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.

Proposal:

The interpretation system inside Villa Litta is relatively completed (Figure 1) but needs to be better maintained, for many of the plant signs have been damaged. (Figure 2) We propose to check the interpretation signs regularly and to repair or replace damaged ones in time. For Villa Litta, once every two months may be an appropriate frequency.



Figure 1. Interpretation signs for elements inside Villa Litta, with brief descriptions and important tree species in Italian and English.

Source: Taken by the authors



Figure 2. Although Villa Litta has a complete vegetation signage system, they are poorly maintained.

Source: Taken by the authors

5.2.2.

Problem: How to enhance the connection between historical elements?

The connection between the elements of the historic public gardens is weakened by the fact that some of the heritage sites have been damaged or even lost.

Goal: Enhance the connection between the historical elements of the historic public garden and recreate the scenes of the past or the touring system of the past.

Rule:

- 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.

Proposal:

For Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park, the remains of the sculptures on the main lawn and the remains of the stones on the grass should be kept as they are. (Figure 3) By comparing the bases of the missing sculptures with the one remains, visitors can be aware that the remains once existed here.

The English garden of Villa Litta tends to be a general green space because of the loss of the old forms. We compared the historical map (Figure 4-5) with the current road condition; some garden paths can be matched. We propose to recreate a part of the paths in the northern part of the English garden by simplifying the paths according to the original paths recorded in the historical map. We also propose to make use of the meandering feature of this part of the garden to turn it into a maze for children. The detailed design can be found in Chapter 6.2.4.



Figure 3. One sculpture on the main lawn of the Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park has been preserved, and only the stone base remains of the rest.

Source: Taken by authors

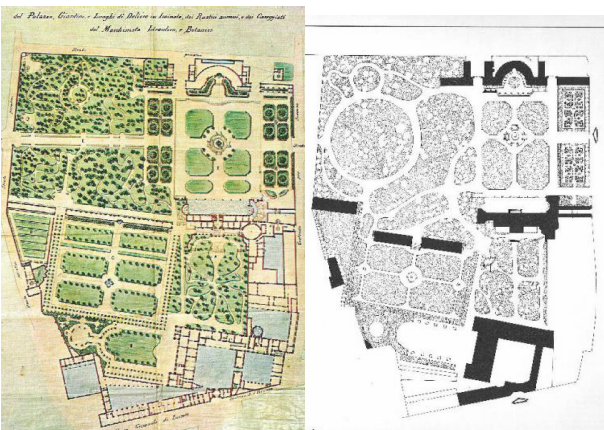


Figure 4-5. A comparison of historical maps of Villa Litta's English garden reveals that the structure it once had has largely disappeared.

Source: <https://www.lombardiabenculturali.it/architetture/schede/M1100-03427/>

5.2.3.

Problem: How to choose suitable facilities for public historical gardens?

The infrastructure in the historic public garden is similar to the form of a regular public park. The seating and children's facilities are standard forms that have already existed and were directly copied from other public parks, which is not in harmony with the atmosphere of the public historical garden.

Goal: Select the infrastructure referring the features and elements of the public historical garden in order to make it harmonious as a whole.

Rule:

- 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.

- The infrastructure can vary from area to area. However, it should be consistent or similar to the style of the historic garden as a whole and not have multiple facilities with different styles simultaneously.

Proposal:

The seats in the two gardens are of a common and acceptable design that is not obtrusive to the historic garden and has little negative impact(Figure 6), which is a positive aspect. Nevertheless, there is also nothing specific about these facilities. The approach that could be taken is to refer to the original forms(Figure 7) within the historic gardens and emulate these in designing new facilities.



Figure 6. Seats in the public areas of Villa Litta are wooden and low-profile in form.
Source: Taken by the authors



Figure 7. The seats in the paid area of Villa Litta keep the special style of the past and have a historical feature.
Source: Taken by authors

5.2.4.

Problem: What to do with abandoned facilities in historic public gardens?

Some sites and facilities within the historic public gardens have been left unused and have lost their original function. For example, if the area is overgrown, structures have been abandoned, or the surface is hard, the significance of the particular area may not be immediately apparent.

Goal: Reorganize the unused facilities to restore the original use and atmosphere of the old time as much as possible.

Rule:

- 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.

Proposal:

Reuse the pond in Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park. (Figure 8) Because of its hard pavement, the pond can be transformed into an activity area with water features.

Reuse Health Exedra (Figure 9), combine its quiet and peaceful features and semi-enclosed space and transform it into a relatively private resting space.



Figure 8. The pond is a hard-paved area that has been abandoned for a long time.

Source: Taken by the authors



Figure 9. Despite the loss of the statues inside, the architectural form of The health exedra is well preserved, giving the people a sacred atmosphere.

Source: Taken by the authors

5.2.5.

Problem: How to provide visitors with opportunities to learn more information about the history and culture of the historic garden's value systematically?

Goal: Organize educational activities such as lectures and exhibitions for visitors to popularize knowledge and raise their awareness of historical values of the gardens.

Rule:

- As many historic gardens already do, specific websites can be set for historic public gardens. Visitors can learn about the history, culture, and event information of the gardens online.
- Select suitable sites in the gardens and hold regular cultural and educational exhibitions and scientific lectures in the public historical gardens.
- Collaborate with schools in the area to engage more students and guide them to understand the garden's history, culture, and botanical values.
- Science education can be combined with daily activities by regularly setting up exhibit boards in visitor rest areas and changing different themes. Combine children's activities with plant awareness to stimulate children's interest in natural plants.

Proposal:

Considering the historical culture of the historic gardens, organize regular cultural exhibitions in Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park and Villa Litta. Focus on more than just the architecture and what is inside the buildings, but more on the historical elements and plants inside the gardens. For Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park, an exhibition tour path can be set up in the forest in the north. And Villa Litta can combine exhibitions with the greenhouse.

5.2.6.

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

Goal: Increase public participation in the conservation of historic public gardens and incorporate public opinion. Provide opportunities for visitors to express their opinions and ideas by organizing activities and setting up facilities.

Rule:

- 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.

Proposal:

Suggestion boxes can be set up at Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park and Villa Litta, which has a volunteer association that regularly organizes events to gather ideas. Volunteer activities can also be organized at Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park, calling on the public to participate in the conservation of the gardens.

5.3. Guideline on how to properly conduct activities in historic public gardens

5.3.1.

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

Some activity areas in historic public gardens are hard-surfaced to accommodate people's need for activity, which may damage the historical structure of the original ground or contaminate the soil and plants.

Goal: Remove inappropriate hard surface structures in the garden and restore them to surface materials consistent with the site.

Rule:

- 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.

Proposal:

Remove inappropriate materials(Figure 10-11) on the children's activity area floor at Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park.



Figure 10. The children's area at Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park has a large area of rubber paving that stands out from the lawn.
Source: Taken by the authors



Figure 11. There are also concrete blocks embedded in the ground at the edge of the rubber paving.
Source: Taken by the authors

5.3.2.

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

Some facilities, such as dining, stores, and children's play areas, are often counterproductive to visitors' interest of heritage sites because visitors are more likely to spend their time there than exploring other parts of the gardens.

Goal:

Rationalize the location of service-oriented facilities so that visitors do not focus their attention on the services and lose sight of the value of the sites within the gardens.

Rule:

- 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. Look at the maps at Chapter 3.2.4.3. and Chapter 3.3.4.3. The maps show the historical sensitivity of Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park and Villa Litta.
- 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.

Proposal:

In Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park, the bar is of no design and the dining place is not sheltered (Figure 12), so the noise is apparent when visitors gather here. We suppose to modify the bar to the Swiss Chalet. The Swiss Chalet is on the hill with dense vegetation, reducing the noise of visitors. And we suppose use the music square (Figure 13) The music square can be used as a dining place. The square is enclosed on three sides, and the vegetation shade rate is high, which can reduce the impact of public activities on the historical garden to a certain extent. People can rest here or eat some of the food they brought with them.



Figure 12. The bar in Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park has no special design. The dining area is also randomly placed near the bar.
Source: Taken by the authors



Figure 13. The music square is enclosed on three sides, and the vegetation shade rate is high, which can reduce the impact of public activities on the historical garden to a certain extent.
Source: Taken by the authors

5.3.3.

Problem: How to reduce the impact of noise from the activity area on the historic garden?

Noise from visitors and children playing in the dining or sports areas affects the quiet atmosphere of the historic garden.

Goal: Use vegetation to divide the space and reduce noise and sightline impacts.

Rule:

- In historic public gardens, plant mixed shrubs and trees around service facilities, dining areas, and event spaces to mask the presence of activity areas visually and audibly.
- When delineating boundaries, consideration should be given to finding the solution that is least visually intrusive or most consistent with the historical context. Avoid introducing fences or other hard boundaries whenever possible.
- Combine with the spatial relationship of vegetation to select the activity area. Use the existing natural environment as much as possible rather than just adding new vegetation and borders.

Proposal:

For Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park, add shrubs to form vegetation belts as a barrier near the pond and the skating rink to reduce the noise of activities. In Villa Litta, add shrubs and groundcover to the English garden.

5.3.4.

Problem: How to stop people from engaging in inappropriate strenuous sports in historic gardens?

Strenuous sports such as skateboarding, rollerblading, cycling, and ball games significantly impact the wear and tear of the ground in historic public gardens and may cause traffic conflicts with pedestrians.

Goal: Restrict visitors to the historic public gardens from engaging in these activities through educational outreach and signs prohibiting them.

Rule:

- Install warning signs in the gardens to educate visitors about the dangers of strenuous sports such as skateboarding, rollerblading, cycling, and ball games in the historic gardens and to raise awareness of the need to protect the gardens.
- Install direction signs at the entrances and exits to guide visitors who need to engage in these activities to the surrounding areas.
- If necessary, install barriers at the entrances and exits to restrict the entry of bicycles. For other sports and dog-walking visitors, they can be restricted and restrained through volunteers.

Proposal:

On the periphery of both gardens, there are other public green spaces for cycling and ball games, and there is plenty of room for dogs to walk. Especially for Villa Litta, there is a bicycle path outside the exit along the river in the north. Warning signs are a good choice. Signs can tell visitors to go to the correct place for these activities instead of choosing historic gardens.

5.3.5.

Problem: How to properly hold events in historic gardens?

When hosting a significant event, more people may visit the historic garden. The event's equipment and the gathering behavior of visitors may damage adjacent plants and structures.

Goal: Reduce the impact of large events on the historic public gardens by limiting the scale of the event and choosing suitable locations.

Rule:

- 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. (Refer to Historical sensitivity map of Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park in Chapter 3.2.4.3. and Historical sensitivity map of Villa Litta in Chapter 3.3.4.3.)
- 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. Regulations refer to Chapter 4.2.1.

Proposal:

Design movable lightweight structures for the open-air cinema (Figure 14) at Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park. It can be gathered together when large-scale events are held and can be scattered as a rest facility at regular times. Villa Litta, which often hosts concerts and markets, could also use a similar design. (Figure 15)



Figure 14. For reducing the impact of the events on the lawn of the open-air cinema, lightweight and easy-to-install structures should be used.

Source: Taken by the authors



Figure 15. The fountain of Nettuno's lawn is often used to hold markets.

Source: Taken by the authors

5.3.6.

Problem: How to deal with the waste generated when feeding wildlife?

When visitors feed wildlife in historic public gardens at random locations, the resulting shell litter may look like a messy environment.

Goal: Reduce the negative impact of litter generated when visitors feed wildlife on the environment by setting up feeding points or centralizing garbage collection.

Rule:

- 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.

Proposal:

Set up feeding boxes for wild animals to reduce littering of fruit shells.(Figure 16)



Figure 16. When people feed squirrels, they produce a lot of shell waste, which look like a messy environment.
Source: Taken by the authors

5.4. Guideline on how to install new infrastructure while preserving historic public gardens

5.4.1.

Problem: How to determine if a public historic garden needs new elements?

The integrity of the historic garden landscape may be compromised by any new elements added.

Goal: Before introducing a new element, assess the impact of the active facility on the historic public garden. Combining historical sensitivity maps to determine if its functions and siting are compatible for a historic garden and then decide whether to introduce it. [Refer to Historical sensitivity map of Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park in Chapter 3.2.4.3. and Historical sensitivity map of Villa Litta in Chapter 3.3.4.3.]

Rule:

- All managers and designers of historic sites should ensure that the site has been identified through a historic garden assessment and conservation management plan for constructing facilities in an area that does not destroy high historical value.
- Use questionnaires to determine the level of visitor demand for facilities and make sure visitor attitudes toward changing the setting of historic gardens before decisions are made. If the demand is strong, then the impact of the new facilities on the public historic garden environment need to be considered; if the demand is not solid or

public opposition is firm, no new elements should be introduced.

- Consider the extent to which adding new elements would change the landscape of the historic garden. The adverse effects of the new facility were judged by combining the following factors: landscape visibility (the more visible areas in the landscape, the higher the impact on the original landscape), the expected noise generated, and the disturbance to the remains and ecology of the historic garden. If the cumulative adverse effects outweigh the positive effects resulting from the activities, no new elements should be introduced.

- Assess whether subsequent development and maintenance would cause any harm to the environment if new elements were introduced. For example, vehicular access and heavy machinery cause significant damage to the grounds of the historic garden. If the subsequent behavior has a negative impact on the historic garden, no new elements should be introduced.

- If the introduction of a new element is determined, it must be within an area where any adverse effects (visual, physical, and sensory) on the landscape need to be kept to a minimum.

Proposal:

For these two historic public gardens, there are no obviously new added installations.

5.4.2.

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

It is not suitable to select items directly from a catalog of off-the-shelf facilities and place them in activity areas because they do not fit in with the atmosphere of a historic public garden. These facilities are often made of plastic, rubber, and other modern materials. They are harmful and not attractive to tourists when visiting.

Goal: Replace inappropriate facilities, especially those that use modern materials that do not match the style of the garden and select suitable materials for facilities of historic gardens.

Rule:

- 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.

Proposal:

Prioritize the use of the preserved infrastructure in the historic garden. For example, in the courtyard of the central area of Villa Litta, there are ancient stone seats (Figure 17), which is a good reference. In Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park, there are also some seats in the form of tree stumps (Figure 18). These facilities have the cultural characteristics of the historic gardens and are attractive to visitors.



Figure 17. The stone seats in the paid area of Villa Litta are made in the form of tree trunks, which can also be used as a reference.

Source: Taken by the authors



Figure 18. The wooden piles of Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park can also be used as a form of reference for seats.

Source: Taken by the authors

5.4.3.

Problem: How to arrange the facilities appropriately?

Some of the infrastructure in the historic public garden is randomly placed, causing disturbance in the landscape view.

Goal:

Re-arrange the infrastructure referring to their function and the view of the historic garden.

Rule:

- 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.

Proposal:

The seats and garbage cans in the English garden in Villa Litta are arranged randomly (Figure 19), which is also visually unsightly (Figure 20). After re-planning the layout of the English garden, it is proposed to re-arrange the infrastructure along the roads and rest points.



Figure 19. Some of the seats on the lawn of Villa Litta's English garden are arranged in a circle, which looks strange.
Source: Taken by the authors



Figure 20. Villa Litta's English garden is densely arranged with seats along the road, and to a certain extent, it also blocks the view.
Source: Taken by the authors

5.4.4.

Problem: How to properly install facilities in a historic public garden?

The installation of infrastructure may impact plants and wildlife in historic public gardens.

Goal: When installing infrastructure, choose relatively safe areas to minimize the impact on plants and wildlife.

Rule:

- 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.

Proposal:

Since children's activities have an impact on the tree roots in this area (Figure 21), and the hard materials has damaged the original soil structure, it is recommended to move the children's activity area to another area. On the whole, the skating rink is one of the few hard paved areas in the garden, and the activities in this area have less impact on the plants so that this area can be transformed into a new children's activity area.



Figure 21. The facilities in the children's area are too close to the roots of the trees, and children's activities will affect the growth of the trees.
Source: Taken by the authors

5.4.5.

Problem: How to reduce the visual intrusion of the facility in the historic gardens?

Large volumes or brightly colored installations can be very visible in the setting of a historic garden and disturbing in the view.

Goal: Choose facilities that are low-profile and appropriate for historic gardens.

Rule:

- For historic public gardens, the best materials for facilities are eco-friendly, including stone, wood, bamboo, recycled materials, all of which are unobtrusive in color and harmonious with the garden.
- Control the scale of the facilities in historic public gardens to ensure that they would not become the visual center of attention.
- For unique activity spaces, especially children's areas, colored floors, and bright equipment are allowed but must be placed carefully. Appropriate small areas of bright colors are desirable and can blend in with some traditional gardens or public parks; however, large areas of bright colors are not allowed.
- For the same material, there are different shades of materials to select. For instance, wood can also come in many different colors, dark brown, light brown, and log colors, and these different colors can be combined to create new ideas while not looking out of place in a historic garden.

Proposal:

For these two public historic gardens, there are no particularly obvious brightly colored installations, and the status quo is fine.

5.4.6.

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

The facilities in the children's activity area converge with those in the general public park. Children are unaware of the cultural value of the historic public garden while playing.

Goal: Introduce (or reintroduce) playful garden facilities related to history and culture when appropriate by restoring the historical layout or recreating old-time activities.

Rule:

- 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.

Proposal:

Combined with the contents of 5.2.4., the use of the pool in Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park can be restored and transformed into an activity area with water landscapes. In the English garden of Villa Litta, combined with the spatial structure of the historical map, a garden maze can be introduced to increase the fun of the garden. The detailed design is in Chapter 6.2.4.



**CHAPTER VI:
GUIDELINE-BASED STRATEGIES
AND SPECIFIC DESIGN**

This chapter focuses on the specific implementation of the guidelines-based strategies in the two gardens. The masterplan and the scenario diagrams show the measures to raise awareness, as well as the modification of the activity areas and the choice of activities.

6.1. Villa Ghirlanda Silva Park in Cinisello

6.1.1. Guideline-based strategies

Strategies about awareness

Ruins & Sculptural remnants

Keep the relics in their present condition and set interpretation signs to provide information.

Health Exedra

Re-design the site as a resting area.

Pond

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

Strategies about activities

Open-air cinema

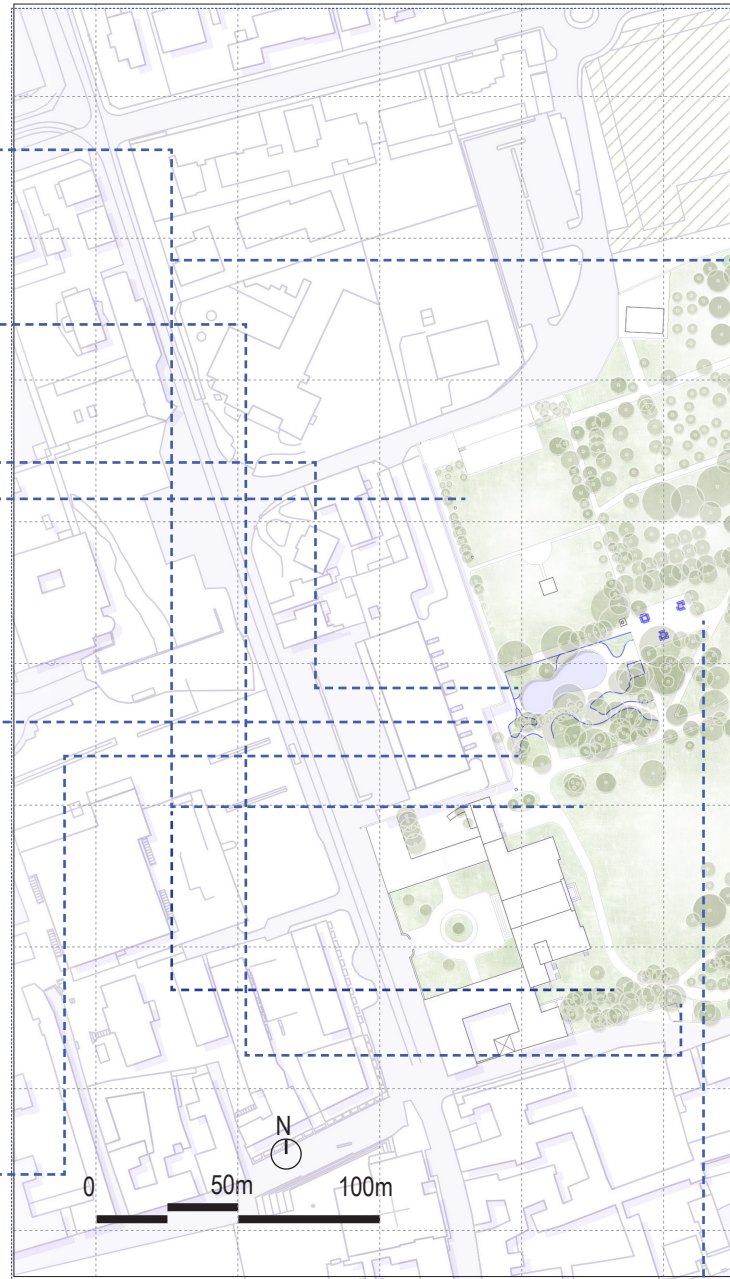
As a place to hold events, with movable seats.

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 infrastructure

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 activities

- 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.

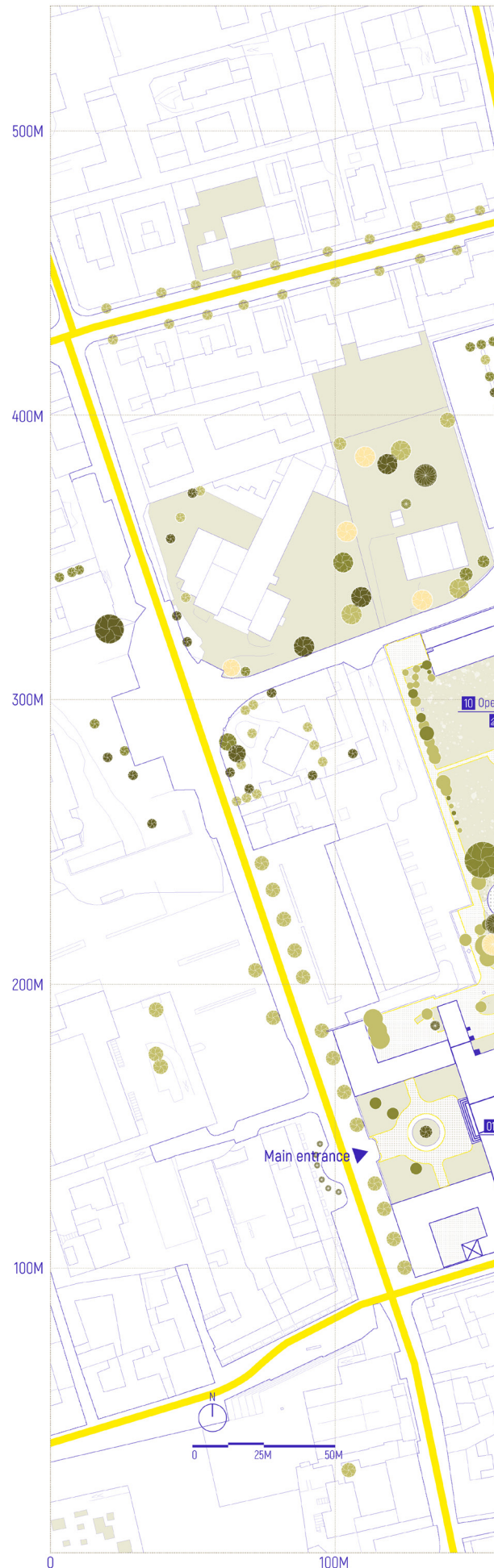
Strategies about infrastructure

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

6.1.2. Masterplan

Legend

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





200M

300M

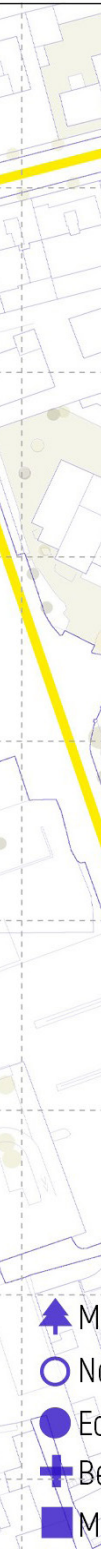
400M

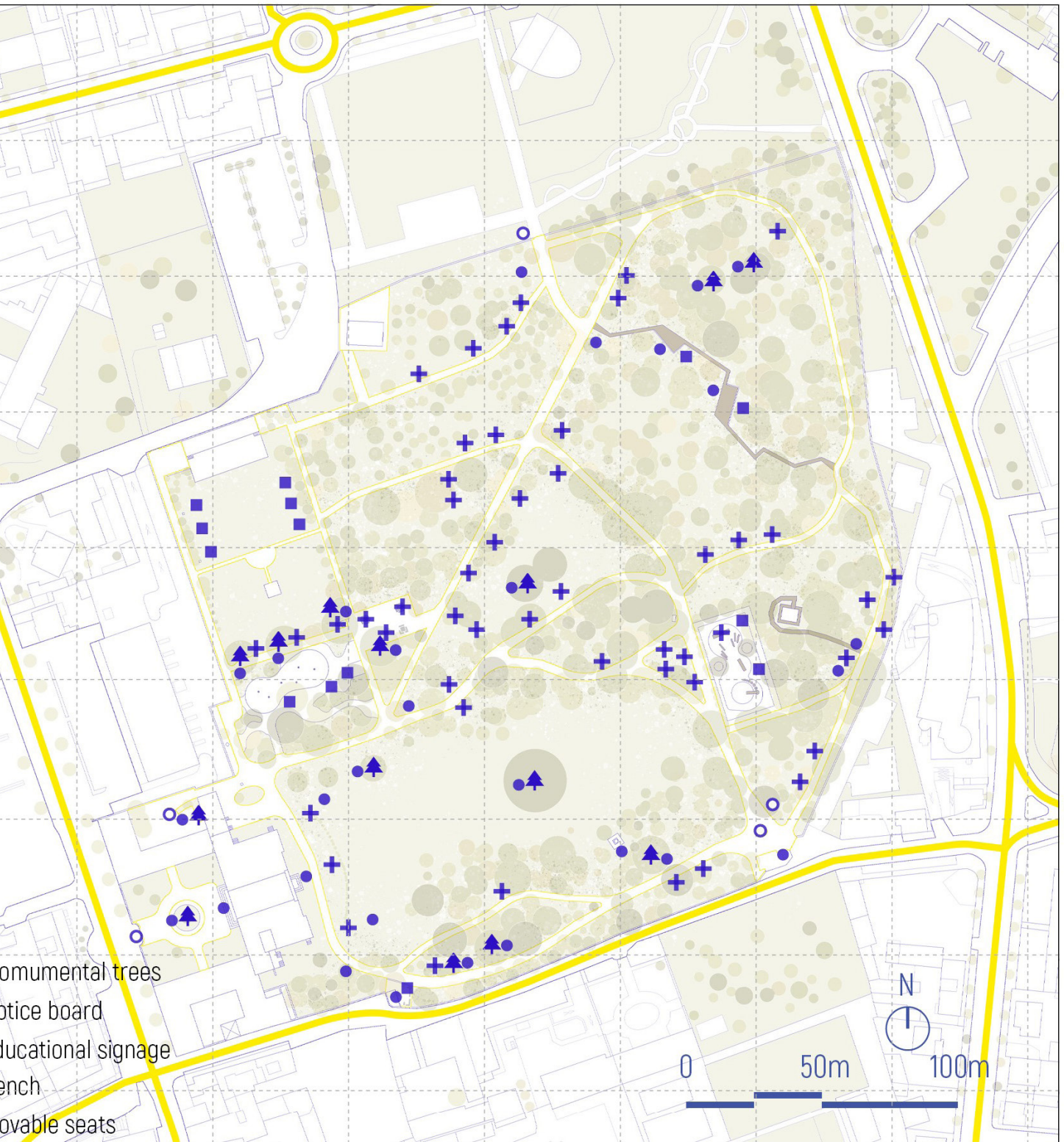
500M

6.1.3. Overall analysis

6.1.3.1. Features

We add interpretive signs for historic relics and protected trees in the garden, which facilitates a better awareness of the historical value of these elements. And, with the introduction of movable seats in some of the activity areas, visitors are more free to choose where to rest and how to spend their time.

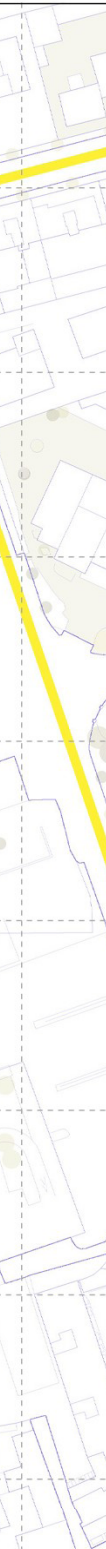




6.1.3.2. Spatial perception and sight analysis

In spatial terms, the activity area is separated by vegetation, thus reducing the impact of the activity on the central area of the garden.







- Plant Boundary-Direct Perception
- Plant Boundary - Indirect Perception
- Architecture Boundary-Direct Perception
- Architecture Boundary - Indirect Perception
- Wall Boundary
- Firstly Perceived Tree
- Secondly Perceived Tree
- Enclosure
- Open

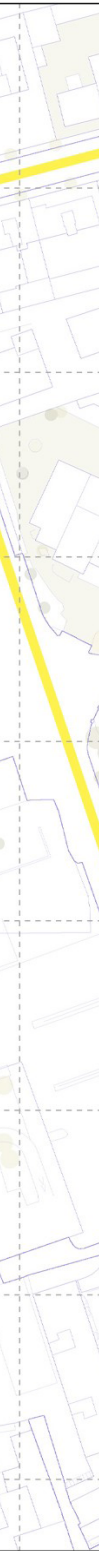


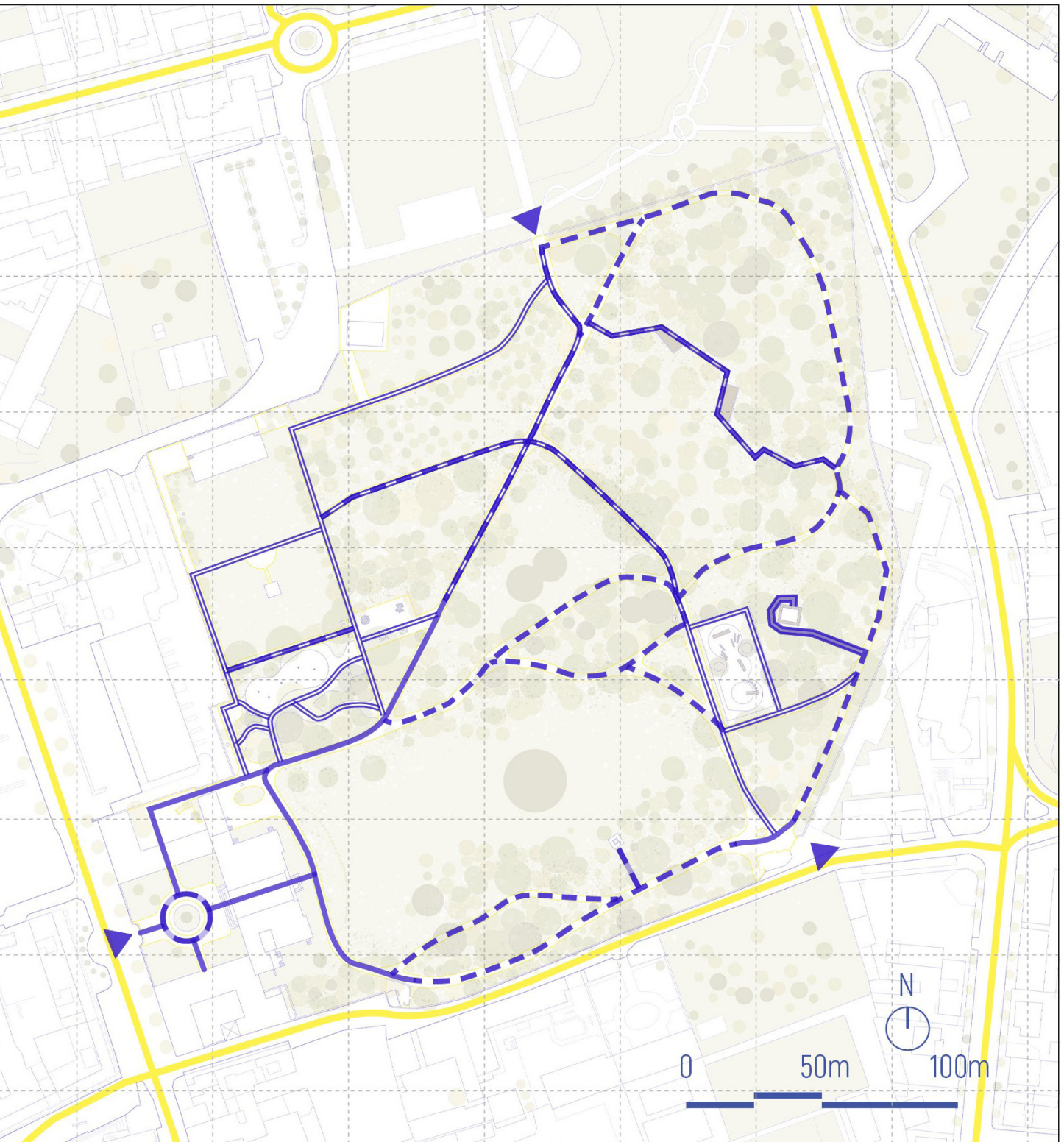


6.1.3.3. Proposed tour routes

New leisure routes have formed through the re-planning of the activity areas. Meanwhile, a botanical trail is added in the northern woody area, where people can get closer to nature. Visitors can also learn more about plants on this trail by the interpretation signs and boards.

-  Historical route
-  Botanical route
-  Leisure activities route
-  Historical and botanical route
-  Historical and leisure activities route
-  Botanical and leisure activities route





6.1.4. Specific design

History exhibition near the Villa

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.



Health exedra

Remove the railings in front of Health exedra and replace them with vegetation as a border. Combine its quiet and peaceful features and transform it into a relatively private resting space.



Pond

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



Music square

This area is set up as a rest area with fixed tables and chairs and movable seats, and can also be used as an outdoor lectures place.



Playground

Move the playground to the less historically sensitive skating 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.



Botanical trail

The woody area in the north is densely vegetated. An erected wooden trail is set up to provide a botanical trail for visitors, while interpretive signs and boards are arranged along the trail to give people a better understanding of the botanical value of the historic garden.



Open-air cinema

Arrangement of movable seats on both sides of the lawn of the open-air cinema, people can take according to their needs.



Interpretation signage

Set interpretive signs for the relics in the garden so that visitors can easily learn about their culture and history.



6.2. Villa Litta Lainate

6.2.1. Guideline-based strategies

Strategies about awareness

English garden

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

Greenhouse

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

Strategies about activities

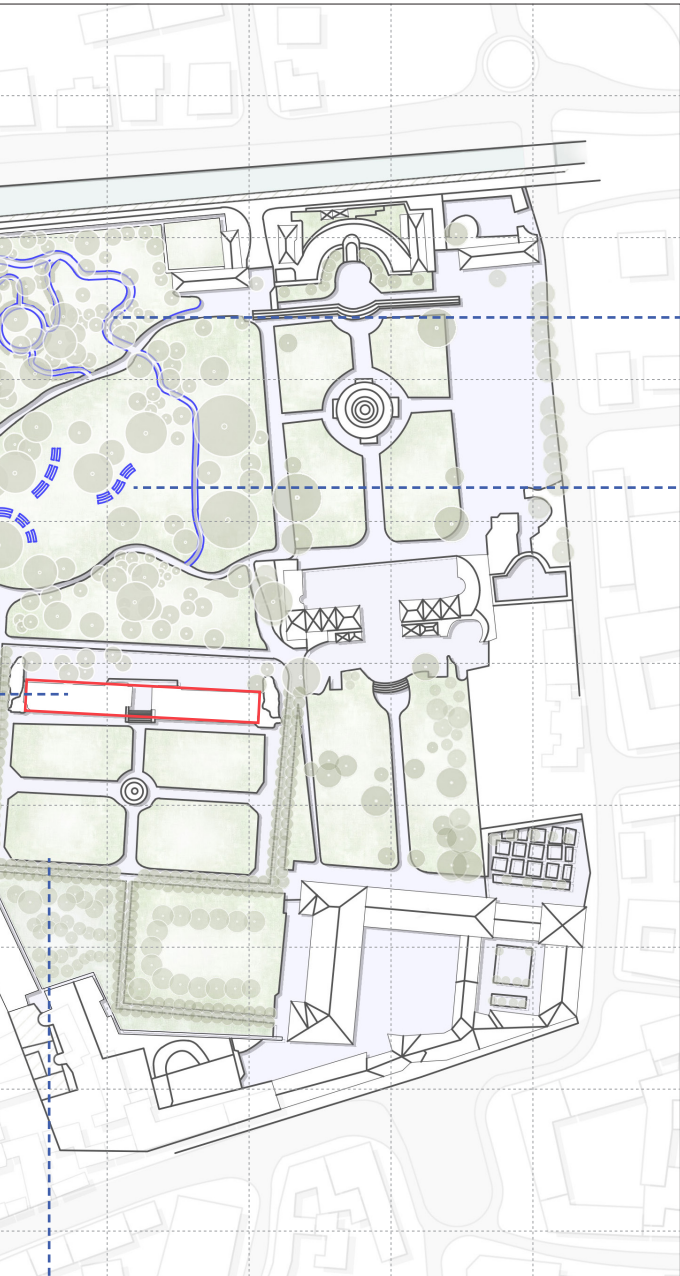
Walking dog

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 along the river.

Events

Temporary and assembled facilities can reduce the impact of events.





Strategies about infrastructure

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.

6.2.2. Masterplan

Legend

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Exhibition |  Dirt path |
|  Wedding |  Paved area |
|  Painting |  Stone road |
|  Photography |  Water body |
|  Festival celebrations | |
|  Resting | |
|  Children's activities | |
|  Walking | |
|  Concert | |
|  Mild exercise | |
|  Lecture | |
|  Market |  Existing activities |
|  Picnics and sunbathing |  Newly added activities |



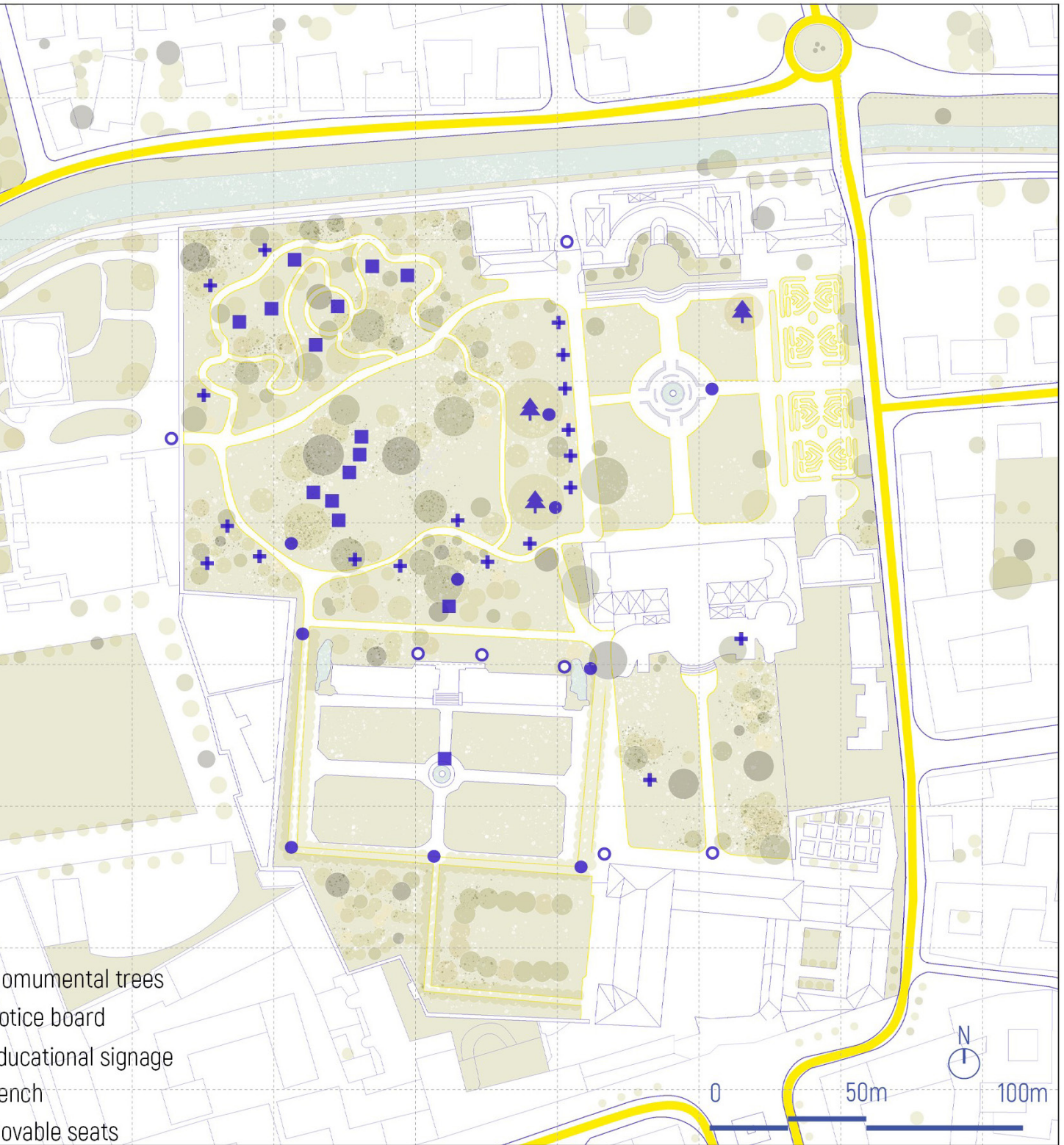


6.2.3. Overall analysis

6.2.3.1. Features










We keep the seats arranged along the road and add some movable seats on the lawn of the English garden. With this, people have more freedom to choose their activities.



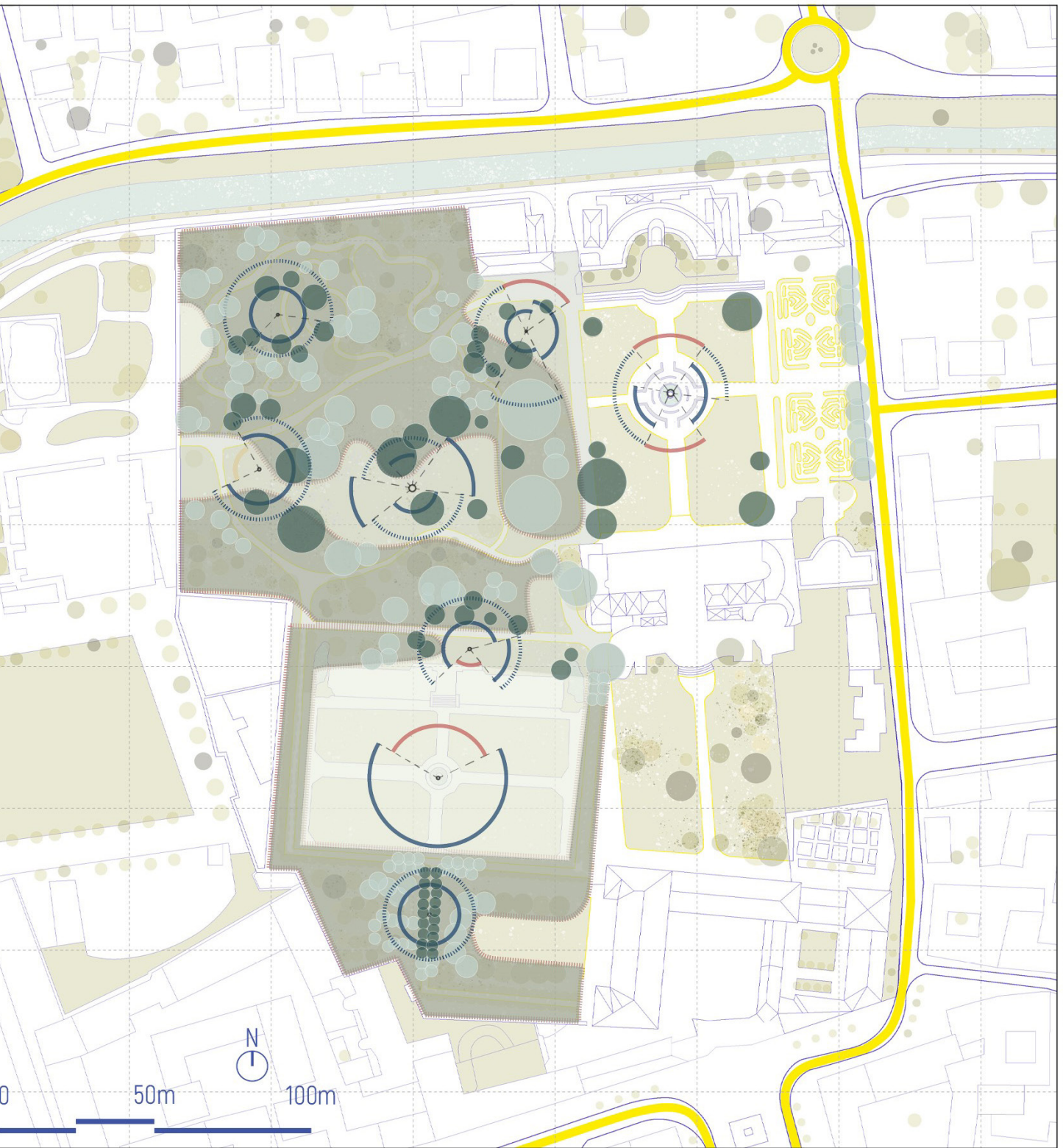


6.2.3.2. Spatial perception and sight analysis

The original vegetation separates the activity areas very well. After moving the children's activities to the new maze in the north, the impact of noise from children's activities on the main area of Villa Litta will be reduced to a greater extent.

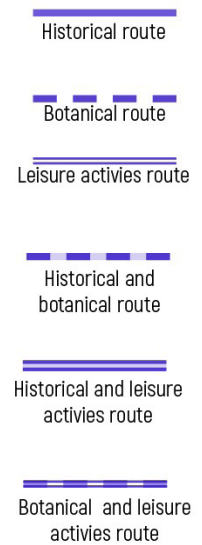
-  Plant Boundary-
Direct Perception
-  Plant Boundary -
Indirect Perception
-  Architecture
Boundary-
Direct Perception
-  Architecture
Boundary - Indirect
Perception
-  Wall Boundary
-  Firstly Perceived
Tree
-  Secondly Perceived
Tree
-  Enclosure
-  Open

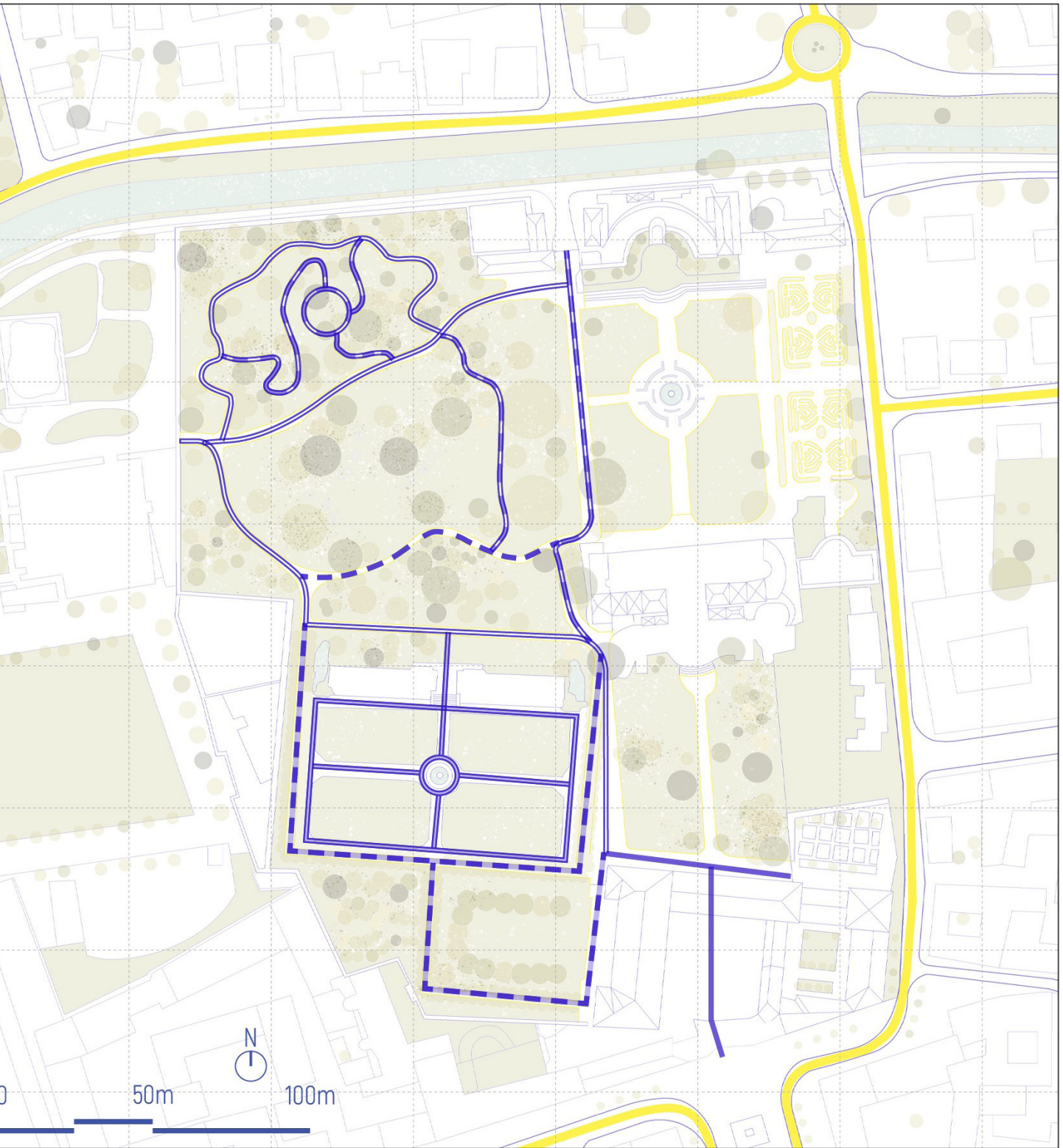




6.2.3.3. Proposed tour routes

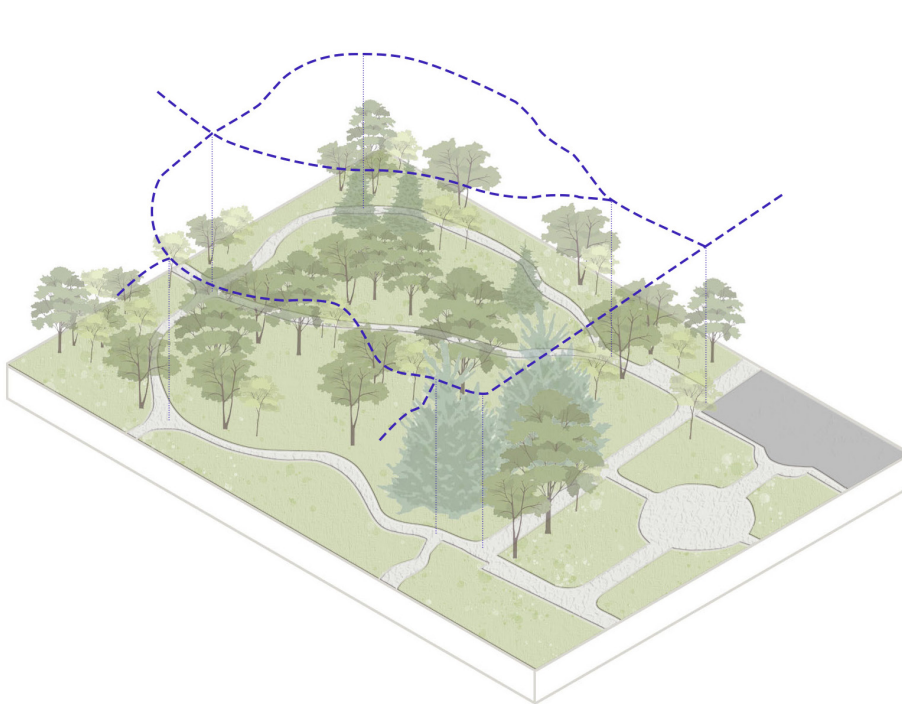
With reference to the historical map, we create a maze area designed for children's activities. This area can also be used as a trail for vegetation and leisure. Meanwhile, its form follows the historical form, which also helps to improve people's awareness.



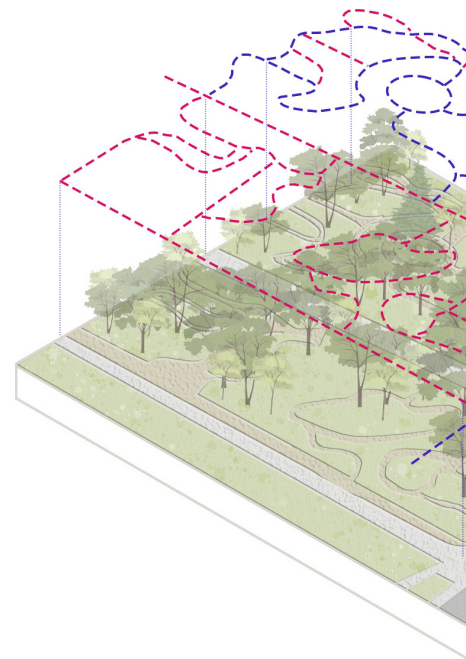


6.2.4. Specific design

Route generation

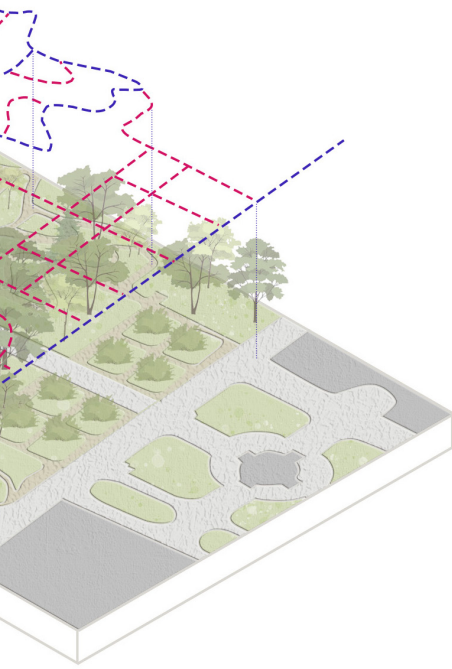


Current routes

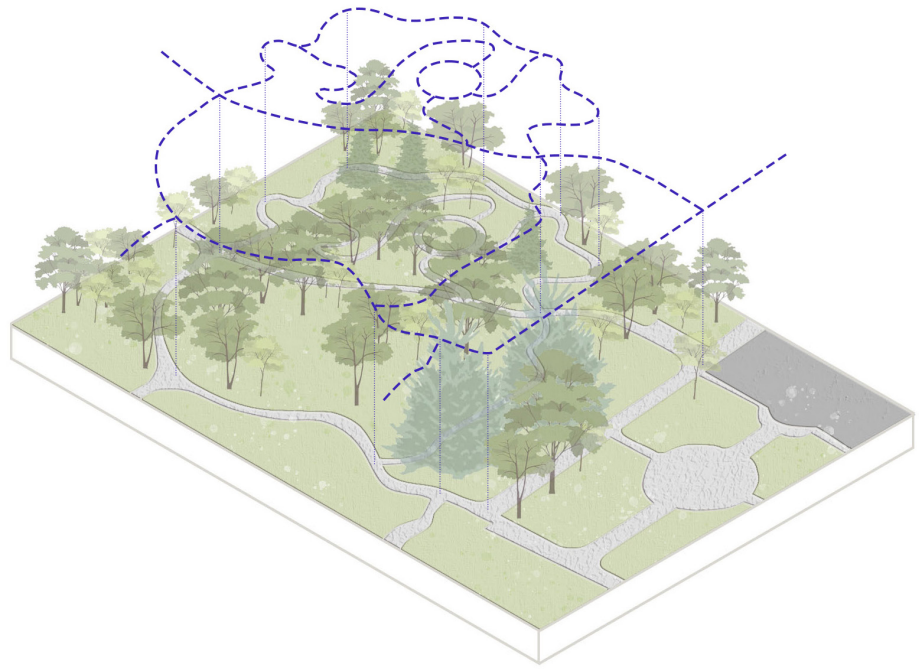


Past routes
(Refer to the historical map)

By referring to the historical map of the English garden in the site, we simplified the historical form and organized the routes.



routes
(historical map)



Designed routes

garden and combining the current existing routes
obtained the new one.

Maze

We use shrubs to separate the spaces and transformed the area into a maze for children's activities.



English garden

Using the abandoned tree stumps on the site, the stumps can be converted into movable seats set in the lawn of the English garden.



Greenhouse

The greenhouse can open in conjunction with an exhibition of tropical vegetation.



Hornbeam gallery

The Hornbeam gallery is a natural promenade that is ideal for educational exhibitions, which also helps people understand the culture of the garden.



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