



GROUNDWATER PALERMO

Studio P8 - ENSA Paris-Malaquais

PALERMO DESIGN WORKSHOP
APRIL 19TH – 27TH

Dipartimento di Architettura – Campus UNIPA, Viale delle Scienze, Palermo



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PALERMO



École nationale supérieure
d'architecture Paris-Malaquais



ARCHITECTURES
DE L'EAU
VILLES
ET PAYSAGES

**« Places do not belong to those who
inherit them,
but to those who take care and make
something out of them ».**

Alberto Magnaghi

GROUNDWATER PALERMO 2022

GROUNDWATER

APRIL 19TH – 27TH

WORKSHOP SUPERVISORS

Manfredi Leone, Jean François Coulais, Ayda Alehashemi

LECTURES

Zaira Barone, Francesco Di Paola, Cinzia Garofalo,
Renzo Lecardane, Luciana Macaluso, Maria Livia Olivetti,
Marco Picone, Pietro Todaro, Calogero Vinci

TUTORS

Giancarlo Gallitano, Dario Benigno, Laura Castelluccio,
Natalia Di Gangi, Carlotta Fazio, Giuseppe Maniscalco,
Samuele Trapani

PALERMO 2022

STUDENTS

Thomas DUPUY, Cyril CHARLET, Martin STURZ,
Michae HAGER, Elise EL KHOURY, Saloë PESSIN,
Manon FERRE, Laurenz STEIXNER,
Flávia MARTINS, Massara SALLEM,
Tiphaine VARIGAS, Rim FALAKHA,
Yasmina Alexandra AYUCH,
Aicha BEN OTHMAN, Zoë SIAU, Laura ELBAZ, Anna
DELALANDE, Alec Marzin-Corre,
Talinga NOTARAS, Sarah BARAKAT

GROUNDWATER

Between April 17th and 29th 2022, a group of 20 students from Ecole Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture Paris Malaquais in France were hosted by the Department of Architecture at the University of Palermo for the Groundwater Palermo 2022 design workshop.

The goal of the workshop was to survey the historical heritage of the royal parks and monuments that used to form Palermo's Genoard landscapes, and to make preliminary proposals for enhancing their presence and visibility in today's cityscape and Conca d'Oro and restoring some of its past grandeur. Derived from an Arabic term meaning Paradise, the so called Genoard Park used to form an astonishing scenery, unique in Europe, made of agricultural lands, orchard and citrus gardens, leisure parks, water canals and basins, all organized around a series of Arabo-Norman style palaces and villas and structured by a network of underground and surface water infrastructures.

While some of the architectural monuments dating back to the Arabo-Norman period have survived, many of them are in a derelict condition and lost the magnificent relation to the landscape for and within which they were designed. The overall organisation of this landscape can no longer be visually perceived and the architectural significance and value of the monuments cannot be understood because the structure of the design that used to inseparably associate architecture, water

PALERMO 2022

and landscape has been erased by the intense and sometimes anarchic modern urbanisation of Palermo beyond its historical limits.

The analysis and design projects presented in this exhibition shows the initial work of the students to better understand this complex environment both in its spatial and its timely dimension. The main guideline along which the projects were designed is what we call water architecture, in reference to the unique inherited knowhow of ancient Palermo to use water resources as the central element in landscape and architectural compositions.

The students' work is threefold, combining the restoration of visual perspectives, the physical design of spaces and the use of water as a link between the six project areas, with an emphasis on the relations between the invisible groundwater architecture and the production of water landscape at the visible surface. The common thread of water is a vibrant testimony to the intense exchange of arts and techniques between all parts of the Mediterranean basin in Palermo's history along the centuries, and to the diversity of the uses of water, whether they be a resource for the City, a material for architectural design, an irrigation scheme for agriculture, an amenity for leisure and enjoyment or a major component of Conca d'Oro's landscapes.



Yasmina Alexandra
AYUCH



Aicha
BEN OTHMAN



Cyril
CHARLET



Manon
FERRE



Sarah
BARAKAT



Michael
HAGER



Massara
SALLEM



Flavia
SERRA DE MELLO
MARTINS



Laura
ELBAZ



Tiphaine
VARIGAS



Elise
EL KHOURY



Laurenz
STEIXNER



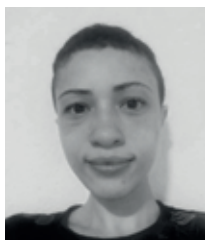
Anna
DELALANDE



Thomas
DUPUY



Talinga
NOTARAS



Saloe
SOARES PESSIN



Rim
FALAKHA



Zoë
SIAU



Alec
MARZIN CORRE



Martin
STURZ



Ayda
ALEHASHEMI



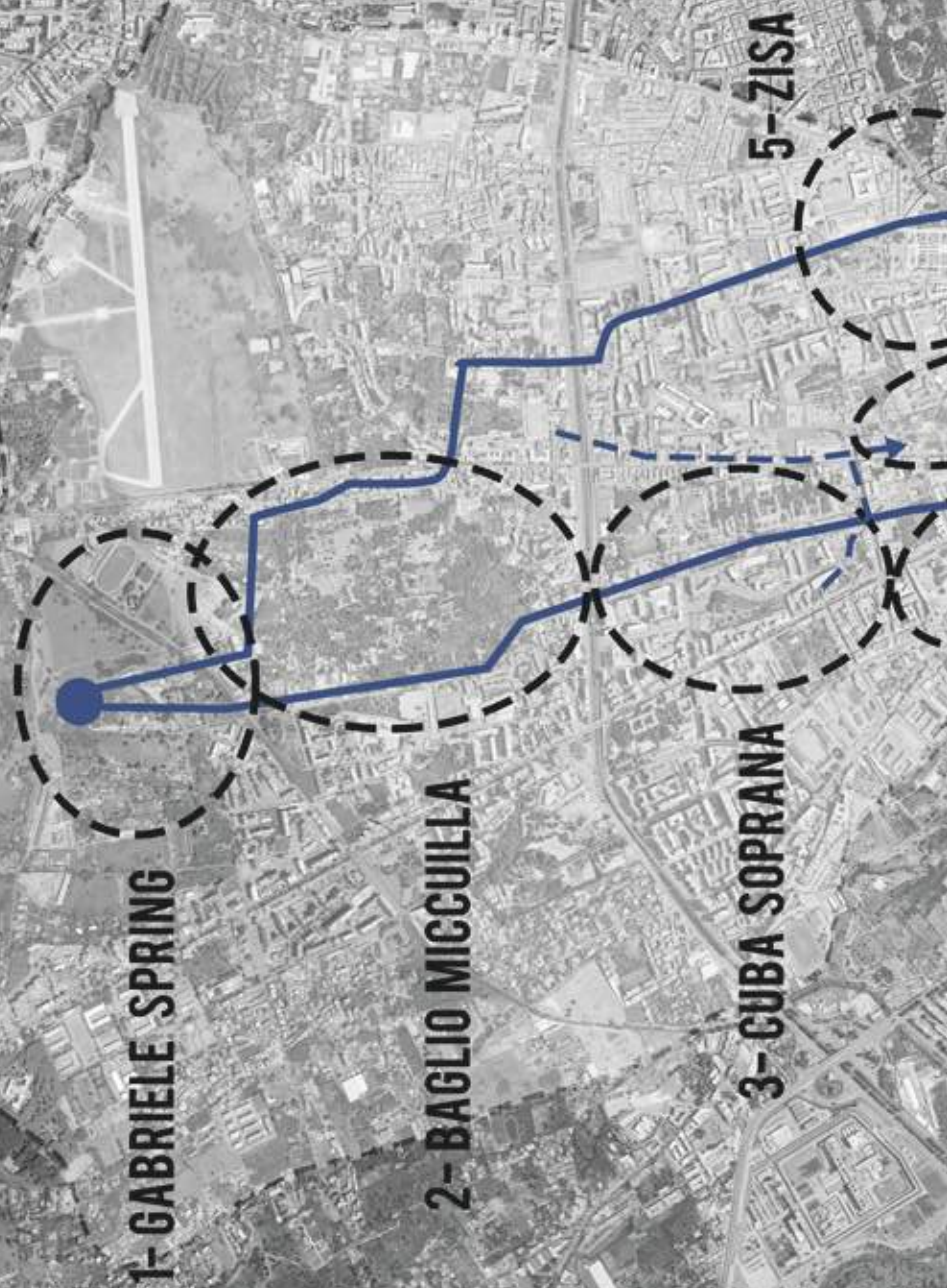
Jean-François
COULAIS



Leda
DIMITRIADI



Manfredi
LEONE



4- CUBA CATALAFIMI

6- DANISINNI



SITE 1 pages 14-19

GABRIELE SPRING

Laura ELBAZ + Aicha BEN OTHMAN + Alec MARZIN-CORE

SITE 2 pages 20-23

BAGLIO MICCUILLA

Cyril CHARLET + Thomas DUPUY + Martin STURZ

SITE 3 pages 24-27

CUBA SOPRANA

Yasmina Alexandra AYUCH + Sarah BARAKAT
+ Rim FALAKHA + Tiphaine VARIGAS

SITE 4 pages 28-31

CUBA CATALAFIMI

Anna DELALANDE + Talinga NOTARAS + Zoë SIAU

SITE 5 pages 32-37

ZISA

Michael HAGER + Massara SALLEM + Flávia MARTINS
+ Laurenz STEIXNER'

SITE 6 pages 38-41

DANISINNI

Saloë SOARES PESSIN + Élise EL KHOURY + Manon FERRE

GABRIELE SPRING

BAGLIO MICCUILLA

CUBA SOPRANA

ZISA

CUBA CATALAFIMI

DANISINNI



[TEMPLE OF WATER]

The “Sorgente di Gabriele de Palermo” site is located on the north of Palermo, at the foot of Mount Cuccio, south of Boccadifalco airport. It is surrounded by strong elements such as the mountain and its topography in the west, the village of Boccadifalco in the north, the AMAP site in the south with the Gabriele source, all in a context of little built greenery.

After visiting the site, we made five observations.

The first observation concerns the urban structure, which is very diverse and disjointed. Indeed, there are many plots with many and varied activities on the same site giving the impression of not being in the same place because of their poor service and a split half-rural, half-urban situation.

The second observation is the lack of visibility of the source, invisible to the public and very inaccessible. The hydraulic system is unknown and imperceptible.

The third observation is the articulation of the scales. There are three distinct scales on which it is relevant to consider when approaching our site: The architectural scale of the hydraulic elements of the AMAP as well as certain heritage buildings such as the Torre Milanciana, the scale of the site with its topography downstream of the mountain and the Boccadifalco canal which divides the site into two distinct parts and finally on the scale of the territory of Palermo with its

many qanats crossing the city from the foot of the mountain to the center of Palermo.

The fourth observation is the recipients of the project. In fact, they are varied. The project is aimed at the inhabitants of Palermo, the workers of AMAP, the inhabitants of the Boccadifalco village and tourists.

The last observation is landscaping, our site has a strong potential for landscape installations. Many green spaces are often private and not accessible on our site. A particularly interesting issue due to the need for public spaces in this district of Palermo.

Our project is called "The Water Temple". Its primary objective is to make the invisible visible in order to educate the public about the origin of their water, their century-old hydraulic heritage and how it is treated before being distributed throughout the city.

Through this project we want to re-establish the link between men and water by revealing a hydraulic system that is both technical and cultural. To reveal its systems we decided to create a new source and a new qanat in order to be able to discover the basement of our site as well as the process of water circulation in Palermo. This experience would engage

the sensory with touch and smell. The water collected using its hydraulic systems will be used to irrigate our royal park built around it. This park will accommodate leisure activities such as jogging, walking and will allow panoramic views of the city of Palermo. This royal park of the source "the temple of water" will be connected to the site of the AMAP of which we will organize the organization and the route of the visits. It is a mix between public and semi-public areas.

Installed at the foot of the belvedere overlooking our site, our new source will take place in its alignment as well as in the alignment of our east-west axis linking our site to site number two. This underground walk of the qanats will end on a tunnel connecting our site to the mountain towards the south. At the bottom of this tunnel will be installed an elevator penetrating the rock of the mountain to reach the terrace of the belvedere. This terrace, in addition to hosting a refreshment bar and an exceptional panoramic view, will be the meeting point for the green flow arriving at the Boccadifalco village. A walk for bicycles.

Offer visitors \neq modes of exploration

A cultural bond is formed so that people participate in diverse ways in the treatment of water and its invisible water resources.

Symbolic position by the location of the Gabriel source and by the 6th group therefore at the end or at the beginning of the site





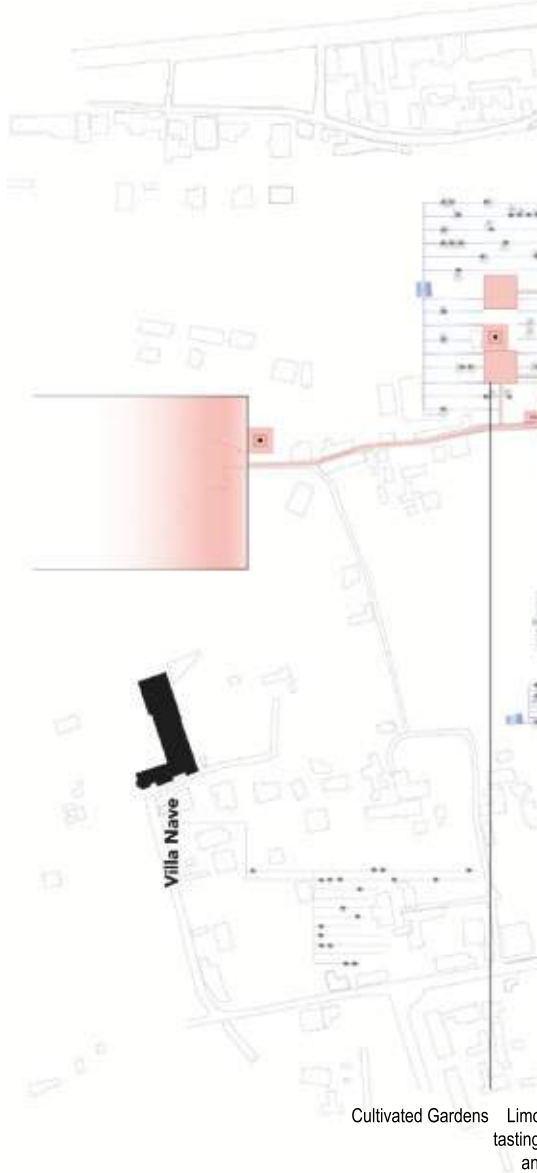


[CONCA NUOVA – GIARDINO D'ORO]

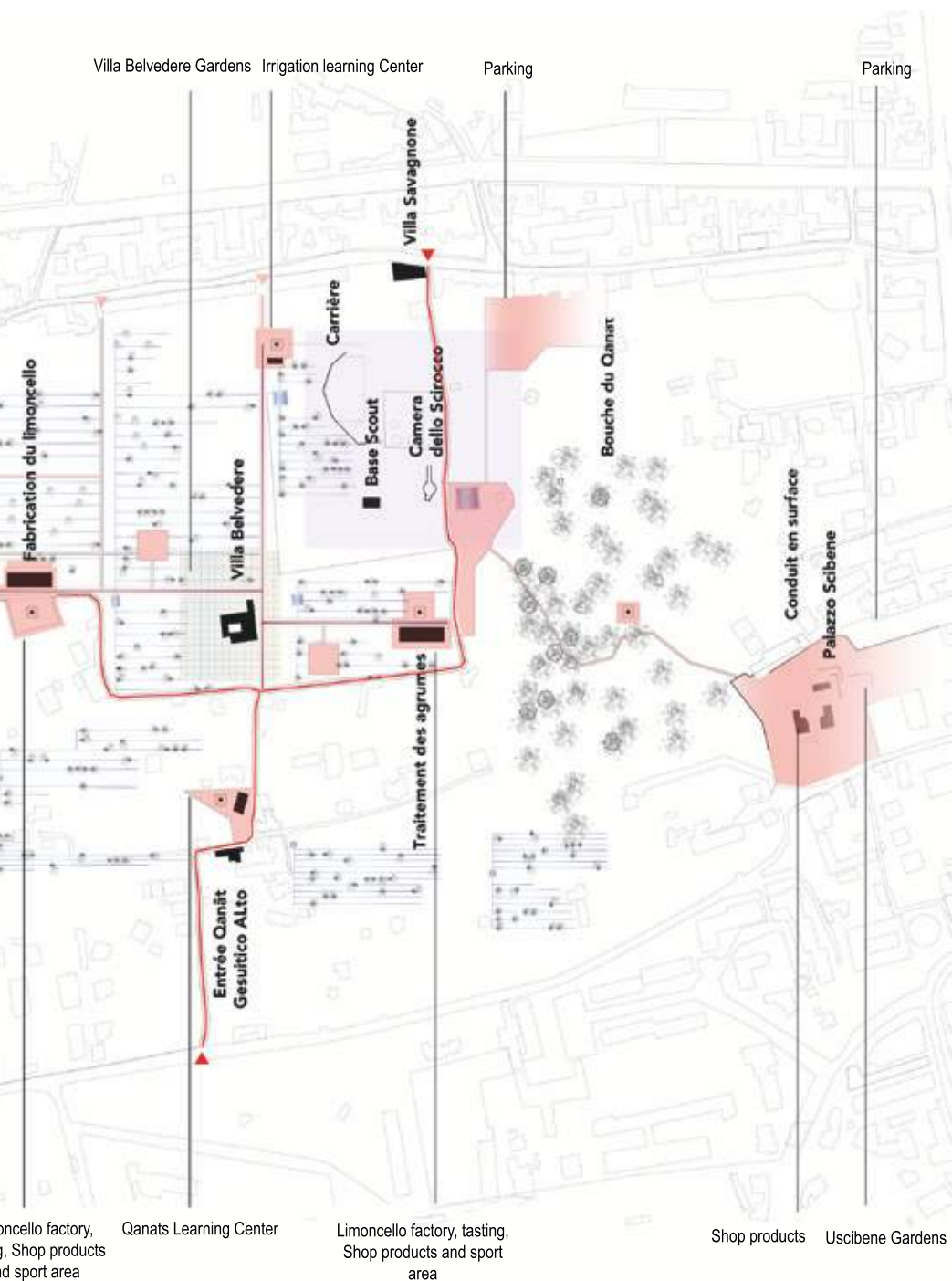
The Baglio Miccuilla is one of the few places of the Conca D'Oro, which was preserved from the urban sprawl of the 20th century. Through the arrival of the Qanats and new systems of irrigation, which allowed for a high degree of fertility, the Baglio became an agricultural land of privilege. Therefore, it was contested by Jesuits, who wanted to cultivate the fields, and noblemen, who created the gardens of the Norman Royal Palaces. Due to the landscape being between mountains and walled off by Mediterranean gardens, the site has become a refuge for biodiversity, which no longer exists in the dense urban fabric of Palermo. As a result of this structure, it is complicated to cross the site from North to South and from East to West.

Our proposal aims to construct routes through major axes and small paths, which connect the entirety of the site.

The second step of our intervention consists in the reactivation and expansion of the hydraulic networks, facilitating the irrigation of the agricultural lands and creating spaces of refreshment through the usage of Water- / Windtowers. We plan to introduce the cultivation of Citrus Trees to the site and to create production facilities and locations to sell and taste the products, which result from this line of work. Ultimately, another goal of the project is to render locations such as the Camera dello Scirocco and the Qanats accessible to the public, as a way to experience the history of Palermo in a playful way.



Cultivated Gardens
Lime
tasting
an



[JANNAT-EL-ARD]

Connecting the Remains of Paradise

The district of Cuba Soprana, relatively unknown to the rest of Palermo, except for the presence of the Villa Napoli and its Piccola Cuba (vestiges of the Norman period), is a district of great disparities which are manifested in its fabric and its space by an overabundance of obstacles, barriers and various limits, both physical and material (walls, fences, huge housing blocks, a former psychiatric hospital, absence of shops...) as well as cultural or imaginary.

These limits are translated on the site by the quasi-continuous presence of a 2.50 m high wall (or grid) which encircles the key elements of the district and prevents free circulation.

The Cuba district is also the intersection of a rich hydraulic network of ancient qanats that intersect in the basement of the Casa di Mattei, a former convent turned psychiatric hospital. Qanats which then continue to extend and connect the remains of the Geonardo (Italian for earthly paradise), an ancient royal park, of which only shreds remain today throughout the district. They then pass through the Piccola Cuba, where a huge fountain used to gush out, and finally continue towards the rest of the city.

We are therefore in the presence of surprising networks in addition to the usual ones of the city: the first one of

obstacles, limits and stops that prevent free use of public space and the second one underground and unused that contains an incredible past and potential future wealth.

Moreover, the various aspects of the site (garden, wall, abundance, and water), its historical heritage (Royal Arab-Norman Park) and its past name: Il Geonardo (Earthly Paradise) compose a picture not unlike Bosch's Garden of Delights or the biblical representations of the Garden of Eden. However, the earthly paradise is not only that unknown and ideal place to which everyone aspires. It has to materialize here physically and therefore includes a more productive dimension, similar to the medieval "paradise" gardens surrounded by cloisters or the first Italian botanical gardens, where production serves well-being and idleness, as well as an educational dimension that the religious paradise itself has always had.

Through several interventions on the existing landscape and architecture of the hospital site, as well as on the boundaries themselves, we will transform these obstacles and extend these networks in a vertical as well as a horizontal development, in order to appropriate the fragments of public spaces that have been abandoned, to reactivate the residual spaces and to recreate this desirable earthly paradise.

It will also question the figure, form and notion of the wall and the existing by remodeling the architecture (cutting through, renovating, changing) as well as by vertically extending, changing the materiality or directly inhabiting the existing barriers. The wall will therefore no longer be simply a wall and an obstacle, but will become an attraction, a guide, a structure, a game, and will actively participate in reopening the site to the rest of the district and the city, while preserving and extending the existing networks and axes.





[CITTA DELLA CUBA]

Our site is 43.6 hectares in size and is located on the outskirts of Palermo's historic city center. Once a necropolis and then a hunting ground, it was soon the place where the Palazzo della Cuba was built. The first building to be erected in this area, it is surely one of the first to be located outside the old city. This opening towards the west is made through the axis Corso Calatafimi, which marks very widely the surrounding territories. The first traces of roadways were the impetus for urban planning in this part of Palermo. In short, our site is centered around this busy road that crosses Palermo from the sea front to the mountains. Around Corso Calatafimi gravitate the buildings that are, in our opinion, the most interesting: the Albergo delle Povere museum (Roobert Capa exhibition, 2019), the Carmelitani Scalzi convent, the Maria Adelaide school and the Palazzo della Cuba. These buildings make our site a "historical" stop. The second founding axis of our site is the belt of bars and towers built in the 70s and 80s. All along the lower part of our site, we find many housing complexes that, according to Google Earth, are unhealthy (cluttered balconies, faded paint). These dwellings create a network of sub-roads that form cul-de-sacs, blurring the reading of the neighborhood. The only unbuilt urban pockets are taken over by the inhabitants' cars forming a chaos. These bars also create a physical and visual barrier. Moreover, on site, we have observed many ruptures of scale and we will question

ourselves on how to invest them, should they be destroyed? The objective of our project is to realize a research city in order to create a real professional evolution and to allow the territory to preserve its cultural and heritage wealth. The idea of this research city is linked to the presence of numerous universities and historical monuments that are not sufficiently promoted in relation to the importance of the future and culture that they represent.

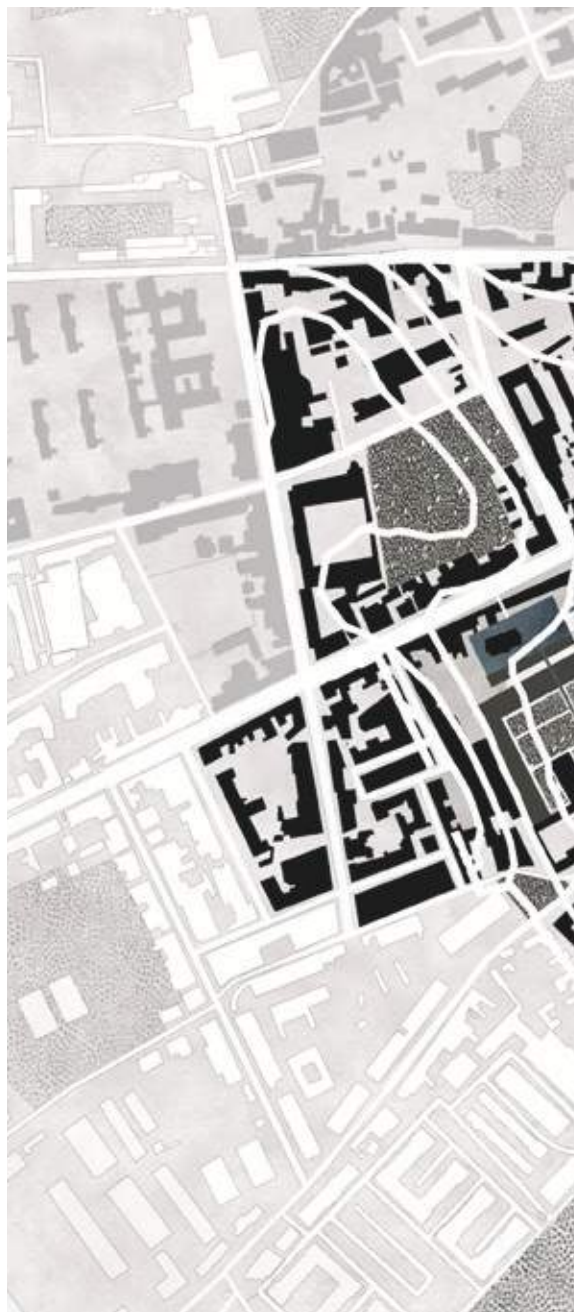
To do this, it is a question of opening up the space by removing those that are deserted or neglected to make way for wider and more comfortable public spaces: notably in the form of squares and gardens, which allows for a real breathing space in the territory and reconnection with the surrounding buildings. Secondly, it is about reusing spaces related to culture, education or public service, notably in the Real Albergo dei Poveri museum and the former barracks of the site to house the spaces of the research center: such as laboratory annexes, a library and a university restaurant. Finally, we are acting in terms of restoration: by restoring the basin of the Palazzo della Cuba to the size it once had, we will bring freshness to the territory from a thin stream originating in the qanats (number 29). The roadway will also be restored with the idea of decongesting the roads, implanting parking lots partially in the site in order to favor soft mobility modes, such as cycling or pedestrian mobility.

We are going to present
you our project "La cita
della cuba".

The objective is to make
young people want to stay
in Palermo: to do this, we
will create a new dynamic
at the gates of the historical
center of Palermo by
creating a "research city".

This dynamic is made
possible by the revaluation
of the environment of
our territory in favor of the
research center :

- Highlighting the historical
heritage
- Offers a physical link with
the university
- Creating public spaces
giving a social dimension
to the research building -
- Creation of parking spaces
to relieve traffic congestion





[ZISA COOL GARDEN]

public recreational space for the city of Palermo

Intention

The main objective is to create a public recreational space with a high value of green spaces to provide a good climate. Secondly the design proposal offers various activities that meet needs of the Palermo's inhabitants and visitors.

Strategy

The strategy derives through reactivating the ancient waterline of the Source Gabrielle.

Also the restoration of the Palais Zisa in its original condition and the (re)connecting of it to the waterline is the second main aim of the design strategy .

It will regain its former perception of its function and become the central relict among other water related elements, which are connected to each other.

Through the link of these elements the different

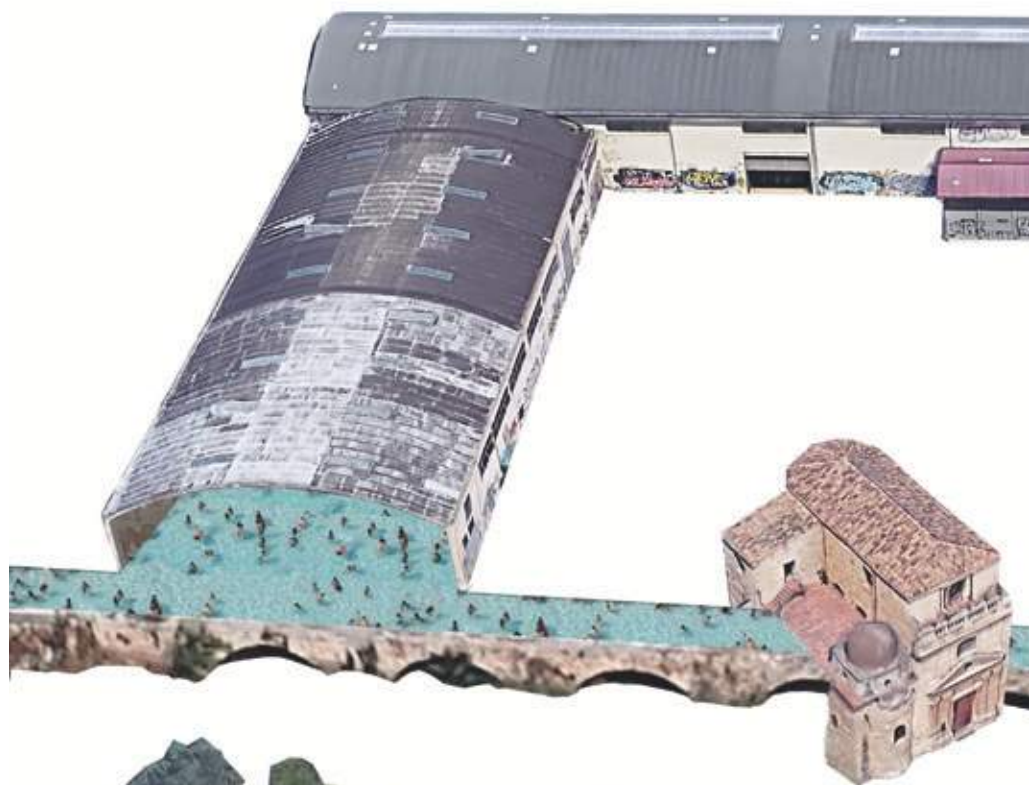
zones also will be merged together to one unified public space.

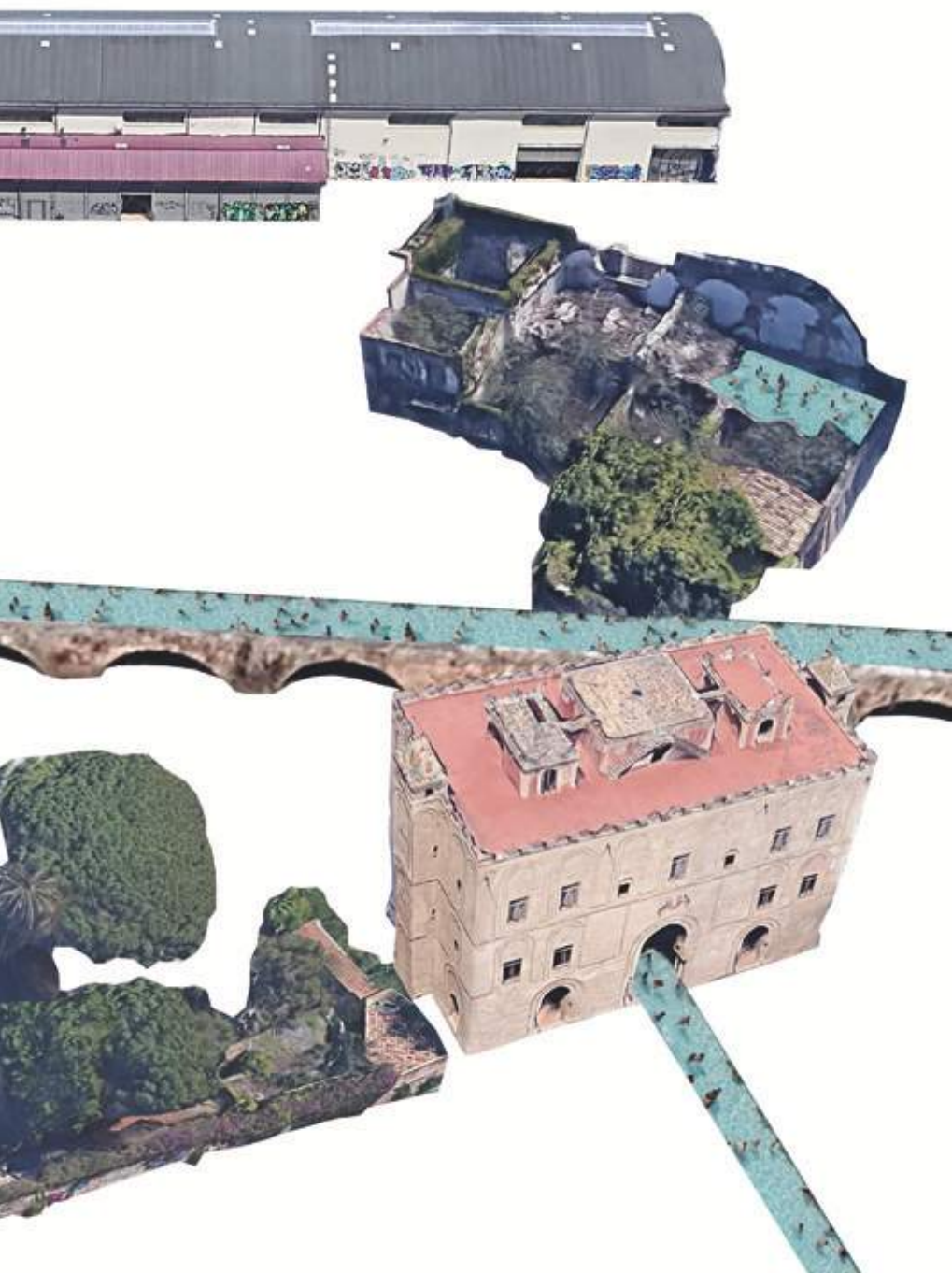
The Zisa as main element will be enclosed by the park, whose vegetation will be intensified.

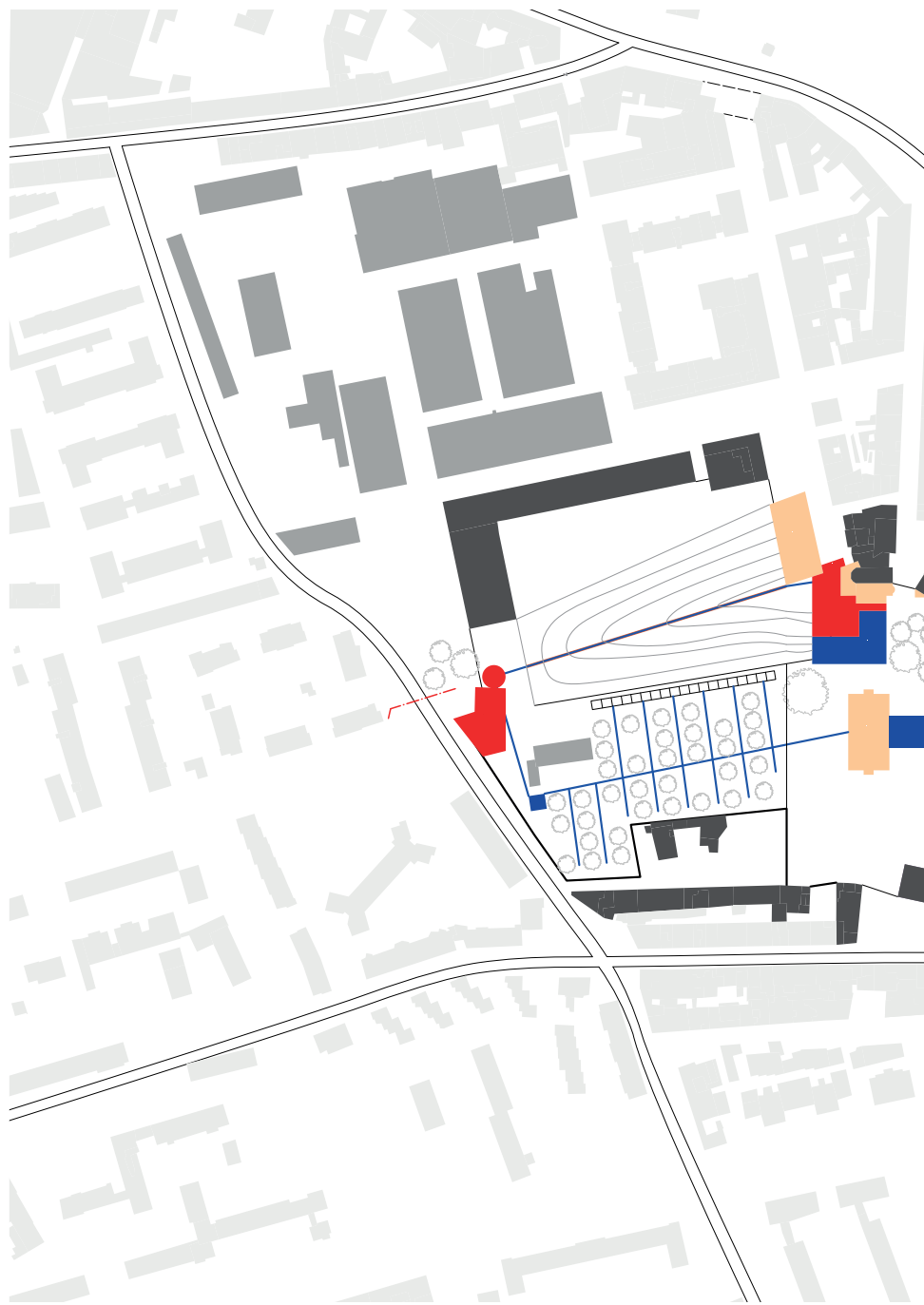
The character derives through the clipping of the Castello della Zisa, by demolishing the surrounding buildings, to give it back its original territory.

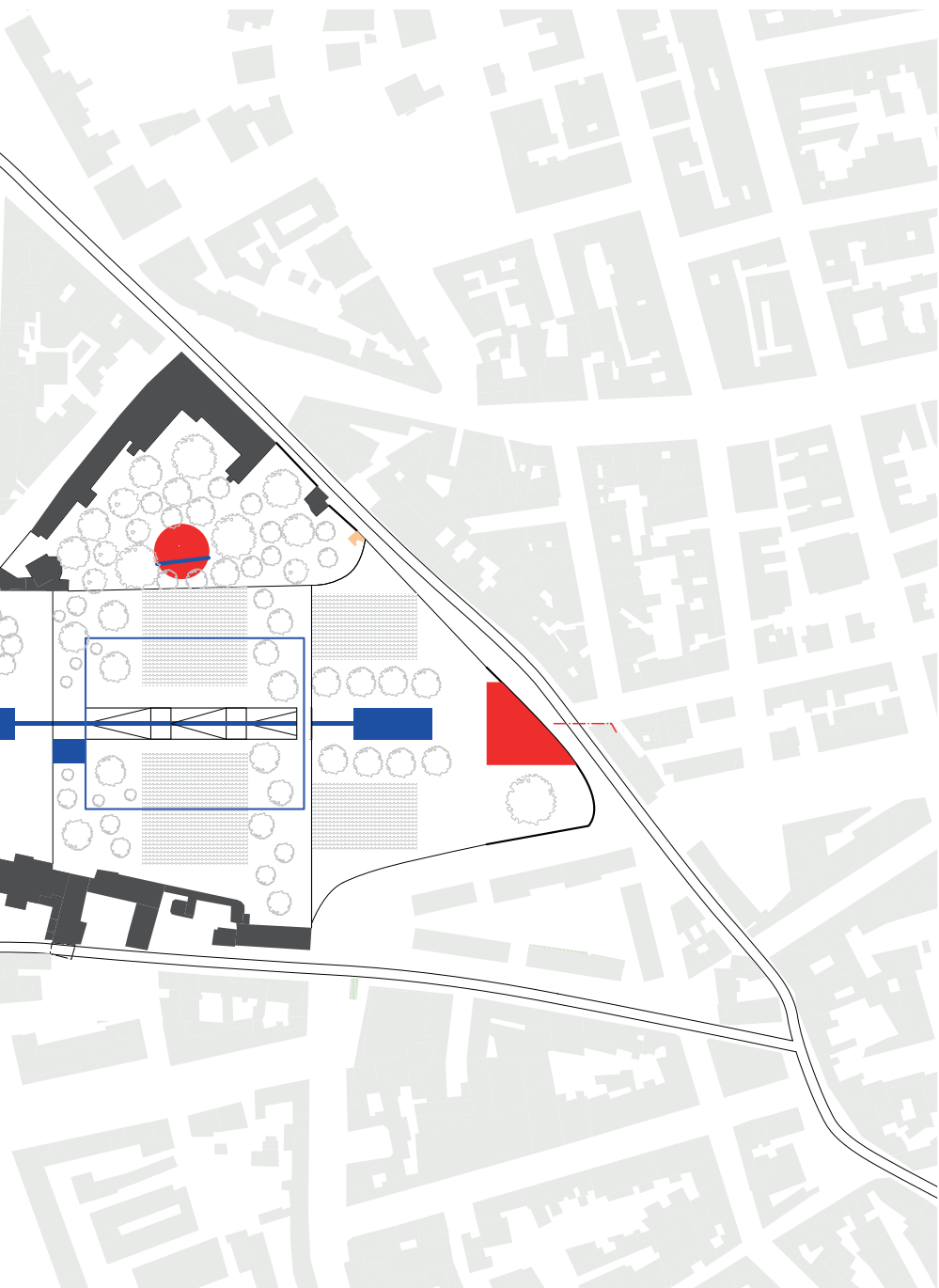
To improve the circulation on the site and create a connection of Quartier Zisa to Quartier Liberty three extra access points will be added, to increase the accessibility from all six high frequented areas around the site.

The project aims to enclose the whole area to create a calm and open place separated by the loud and dense urban body, metaphorically comparable to an oasis in the desert.









[MANIFESTE]

The walls speak louder than words

In the middle of the dense and noisy urban fabric of Palermo, we find a small paradise called « Danisinni ».

Danisinni is an unexpected little region that gives a vibe of a countryside, with her authentic paradise filled with nature, humans, animals living in symbiosis.

Due to the initiative of the Church St Agnes, who replaced the main role of the government by transforming this area into a microcosm, regrouping vegetable gardens, social activities and many more opportunities...

Thanks to the acceptance of evolving and unification with the church, both cultures and training center for youth as risen. Thus strengthening educational development, learning of arts and sciences...

One of the communities wishes is to remain marginal, living peacefully in the depression, having family gathering and festivals...

A true new dimension !

Full of art touch well expressed by graffiti, many vernacular houses, orchards, fields, artistic piazza center and authentic historical traces such as grotto, catacomb crypte, ruins ...)

Therefore « Manifeste » is a way to express multiples rather for educational and artistic purposes for a better futur to the kids of the next generation by building for them building for their interests....

The aim s to continue what the church has already started. create employments. To accompany the youth with better educational system, IN and OUTSIDE the walls, have more workshops and to be in a direct contact with the nature.

The strategy consists of combining all different skills (such as masonry, carpentry, ironwork & stonemasonry),kitchen, restaurants & souk using local products: All programs regrouped in the abandoned kindergarten, surrounded by a calm and beautiful atmosphere filled with water, vegetations and a soil floor(permeable floor), in additional of resolving the flood problem. The « laundry space » will serve the commun spaces for washing the ingredients ...

To conclude, « il nostro mondo, il nostro futuro » is in Progress....





GROUNDWATER PALERMO

PALERMO DESIGN WORKSHOP

APRIL 19TH – 27TH

Dipartimento di Architettura – Campus UNIPA,
Viale delle Scienze, Palermo



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PALERMO



École nationale supérieure
d'architecture Paris-Malaquais

