

PREGGIO TERRITORIAL SCHOOL

activation guidelines

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Children are our only hope for the future.
 If they don't grow up knowing about nature, they will
 not understand it, recognize it, protect it.
 And if they wont, who will?



PREGGIO TERRITORIAL SCHOOL

The territorial school is an organism that learns from the place it inhabits. In Preggio, a small village in central Italy at risk of abandonment, empty houses become classrooms, narrow streets become corridors, green fields become a vast garden, and the entire village transforms into a dif-fused school. While more and more children learn in closed and artificial environments, Preggio represents the hope for an alternative educational model. A primary school needs open spaces, natural light, greenery. Has to be controlled for safety, isolated to support discovery, generous towards it's surroundings. Preggio is, by its very nature, an educational space: a silent teacher of the flowing time, of the sense of belonging, of the tangible culture of places.



INTERVENTIONS

A permanent school system will contemporary reactivate the fundamental public services for the local community. The school is the first seed towards Preggio repopulation, and a strategic attractor for newcomers.

from pupils > to local repopulation

1. KIDS COLONY

Formerly a church and a public building, the Colony will be reopened as a permanent collective space. A new civic tower will allow to observe the territory again.

kids canteen > village restaurant
 collective classroom > meeting hall
 gym > event space, theater, cinema
 dormitory > hostel
 observation class > civic tower

2. SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

The ground and 1st floor of the old school building will be readapted into a multipurpose administration building serving the whole village public needs.

secretariat > pharmacy and post office
 first aid room > elderly healthcare
 school offices > Proloco Offices
 archive of kids works > museum

3. CAFE AND LIBRARY "DELLE VOLPI"

The bar will be reopened and implemented with a kids library and a station for parents and remote workers.

school cafeteria > public bar
 kids library > remote workers station

4. WOODWORKER'S HOUSE

The empty building reopens it's "fondo" as a workshop for traditional wood craft. The top floor provides accomodation for the craftman, which could be permanent or selected through residencies programs.

> kids woodworkshop class
 > craftmant atelier and shop
 > private craftman house

5. GARDENER'S HOUSE

The canonica building and it's garden reopens as a educational green laboratory. The top floor provides accomodation for the gardener. The space also provides areas for sewing classes for the creation of Opera di Preggio costumes.

> kids gardening workshop
 > seed storage and winter garden
 > private gardener house

6. TERRACOTTA WORKER'S HOUSE

The empty building reopens it's "fondo" as a workshop for traditional pottery. The top floor provides accomodation for the craftman, which could be permanent or selected through residencies programs.

> kids terracotta classroom
 > gardeners office
 > private gardener house

OPEN SPACES

Streets and squares will be reclaimed from asphalt and repaved with local stone, transforming into open-air learning spaces. Five new trees will provide shade, and former parking areas will become safe places for children to explore and wander freely. Local residents and newcomers alike will benefit from a renewed public space that reclaims its identity and purpose. As part of this transformation, fiber-optic cables will be laid and geothermal systems installed to serve the energetic community.

- 7. PUBLIC SQUARE
- 8. OPEN AIR CLASSROOMS
- 9. KIDS GARDENS
- 10. COLLECTIVE ORCHYARDS

FACILITIES

- 11. UNDERGROUND PUBLIC PARKING
- 12. KIDS AND ELDERLY BUS STOP

HOW TO REACH



Kids need Poggio to learn Poggio needs the kids to survive

DIDACTIC PROGRAM

The didactic program acts as an implementation of traditional curricula, upon agreement with partner primary schools, both local and international. The aim is to reorient pupils in local ecologies, giving them the tools to connect with the nature of places and develop sense of belonging, until acting for their defence.

The Territorial Didactic Program consists in a 5 years experience of progressive grounding, from the small and familiar scale to the large and abstract. The three didactic phases consist in:

1. OBSERVATION (1st grade)
transform the act of looking into an observation

- aim:
- > identification and appropriation of natural elements and objects of human activity
 - > subjective redrawing for verbal and graphic representation
 - > orientation and personal placing in a familiar space
- process:
- > exposure to a known, limited territory
 - > free movement and discovery
 - > attentive intuitive observation of the objects in the surroundings

2. RELATION (2nd-3rd grade)
create relational connection between identified elements

- aim:
- > understand distances between elements, successions, end of pavings, lengths of urban and natural features
 - > understand climatic phenomena and seasonal transformations

- process:
- > short excursions and hikes
 - > mapping and measuring
 - > multimedia exercises

3. INTEGRATION (4th-5th grade)
create relational connection between identified elements

- aim:
- > understanding of broader territorial complexities, past-present-future connections, morphological, geographical and cultural phenomena

- process
- > long excursions in unfamiliar areas
 - > theoretical integrations (geography, natural sciences, art history, anthropology, landscape archaeology)
 - > active practices of care (gardening, cleaning, etc)



ACTIVATION PLAN

No more than 45 people currently live in Poggio. 75% of the buildings are empty. The Territorial School activation plan proposes the Municipality of Umbertide to purchase the 6 properties targeted for intervention, to be repurposed into public school spaces. Funding is sought through national and European public tenders. A Territorial School Administration Office will substitute the current Proloco of Poggio, and will be the managerial organ for the school activities, but also for festivities and other events organized in Poggio. This permanent organ collaborates with European primary schools, and also provides consultation for similar implementations in other contexts.

JOBS

The school structure reactivates the social tissue of the village, provides employment to the local inhabitants and attracts new specialized job opportunities. In total 10 new jobs will be created, and a permanent school/civic office will be instituted. As a consequence, further employment, not directly connected to the school function, will be created from local demand.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

4 people

CRAFTSMAN/TEACHERS

4 people

BUS DRIVER

1 person

DIDACTIC RESEARCHER

1 person

LOCAL CARERS

Local inhabitants will be formally involved as teachers, carers and wise "grandpas" for the arriving pupils.

ALBERTO BUFALI

Artist, engineer and former president of the local administration. Educational program supervisor and terracotta workshop teacher.

LUCIANA ALUNNI

kids public life supervisor

GIORGIO BASTIANONI

school key keeper

SILVIA PEVERINI

transport and school bus administrator

	1st GRADE OBSERVATION 5-6 yo	2nd GRADE RELATION 7-8 yo	3rd GRADE RELATION 8-9 yo	4th GRADE INTEGRATION 10-11 yo	5th GRADE INTEGRATION 11-12 yo
JAN	1	winter break		pruning	
	2				
	3				will wood cutting
	4				
FEB	1				
	2				
	3				
	4				
MAR	1	class A wild asparagus harvest		class C cheese production	class E
	2				
	3	class B	class D		class F
	4				
APR	1		class A		class C
	2				
	3	class D	Festa della Sacra Spina	class G	class C
	4				
MAY	1			class D	class E
	2				class F
	3	class F	class E	class A	
	4				
JUN	1	class G cherries harvest		class B	class A wheat harvest
	2				
	3	summer break			
	4				
JUL	1	summer workshops parallel activities	artist residencies		tobacco harvest university of Perugia research center
	2				
	3	summer workshops parallel activities	conferences	Opera di Poggio	hostel
	4				
AUG	1	summer workshops parallel activities	wild berries harvest grape harvest	museum of Territorial School	tobacco industrial drying and production
	2				
	3				
	4				
SEPT	1		class B		class G mushroom picking
	2				
	3	class C	class D	chestnut harvest	
	4				
OCT	1	olive harvest Sagra della Castagna	class F	class E	class D
	2				
	3	class E		class F	
	4				class B
NOV	1		class C		class D
	2				
	3	class G			class B
	4				class G
DIC	1				
	2				
	3				
	4				

The academic calendar is structured as a year long continuous didactic. With the exception of a summer and winter break, schools from surrounding territories can book a 2-4 weeks slot and follow, every year, the territorial education didactic.

Poggio can host up to 3 parallel classes, around 50 kids per time. In total, every year more than 600 kids could participate in the Poggio Territorial School.

During the summer break, the school functions become of public use, and available to host parallel events, support different institutions, provide residencies, spaces for conferences.