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3 / (De - Re) Territorialization

*Images from a territory*

**ter·ri·to·ri·al·ize**

tr.v. ter·ri·to·ri·al·ized, ter·ri·to·ri·al·iz·ing, ter·ri·to·ri·al·iz·es

1. To make a territory of; organize as a territory.
2. To extend by adding territory.

*“Deterritorialization has been used as an anthropological concept to designate the weakened ties between culture and place: Certain cultural / social processes and relations seem to increasingly transcend their previously given territorial boundaries in flexible capitalist societies.”*

From: *De-Territorialization and Re-Territorialization of “the social”*. A debate.

John Clarke, Fabian Kessl, 2008

De and Re - territorialization exist simultaneously, indeed in every process of territorial formation there is always a process of geographical Re and De territorialization. This process consist in the loosening or strengthening ties between territorial transformations and culture, society. The claim is that with the advent of industrial economies and the great advance of urbanization in the north of Milan, this territory lost its balance between the city and the countryside by first urbanizing the countryside and secondly by outsourcing the ecosystem services which support the functioning of this territory.

If de-territorialization is seen as a weakening of ties between nature and urbanization, re-territorialization evokes new relations between this domain by re-regionalizing / localizing the natural capital supporting urban economies.

Therefore this booklet is a visual essay portraying seemingly unrelated moments of human occupation, generating different processes of De and Re - territorialization.

Territory is seen as a field of inquiry in making visible, materializing, the result of the complex interplays and dynamics between eco-bio and anthropo-logics (Raffestin, 2012).

The booklet is divided into three main phases, t<sub>1</sub> as the period of natural and settlements co-existence, t<sub>2</sub> as the period of increasing de-territorialization due to industrial economies expansion and t<sub>3</sub> as the process of re-territorialization through green - blue infrastructures.

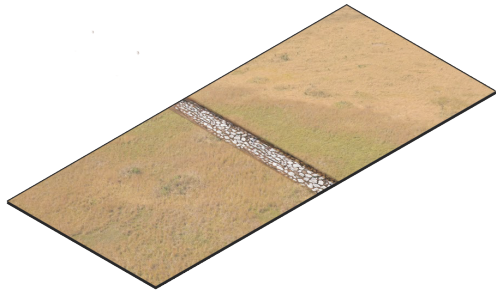


**T1**

**2nd century B.C**

**Graft of Roman infrastructures**

*Image made by author*



**2nd century B.C**

***Milan settlement and the river seveso***

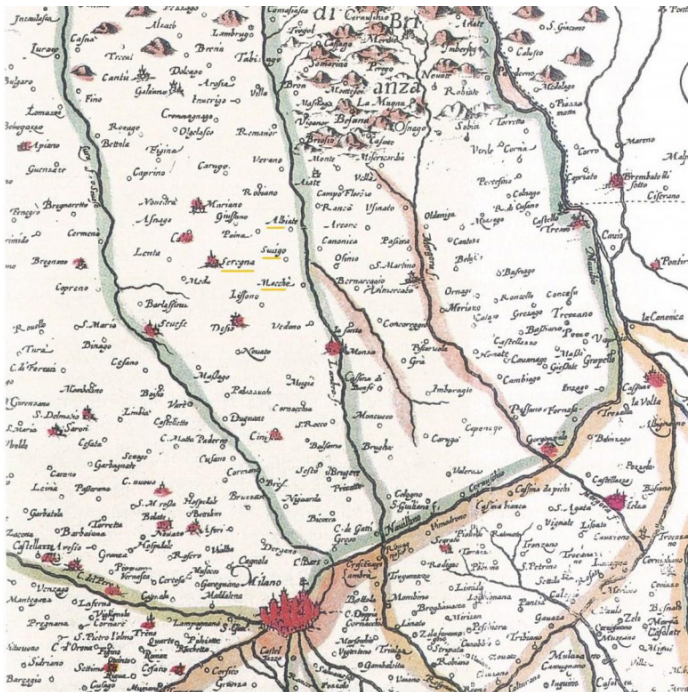
*Storie di Milano*





**1595**

*North Of Milan, Monza-Brianza*



**1578**

**Milan**

*Raccolte civiche*

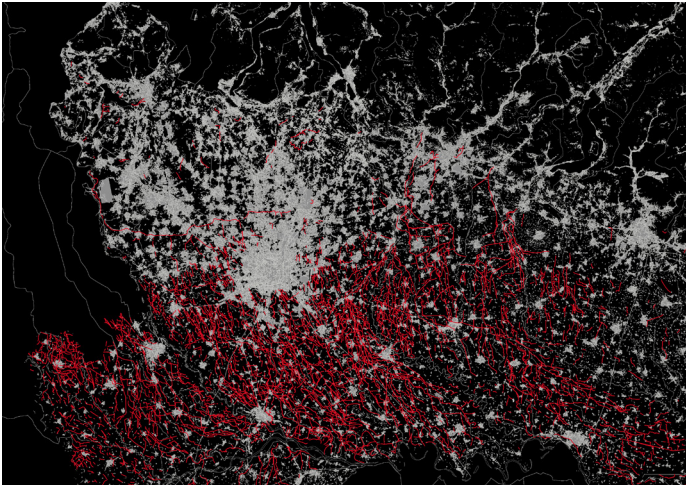


**18th Century (red)**

*Fontanili in the padana plain*

**2016 urbanization (grey)**

*Author image based on GIS data*



**1820**

*Fontanili in the padana plain*

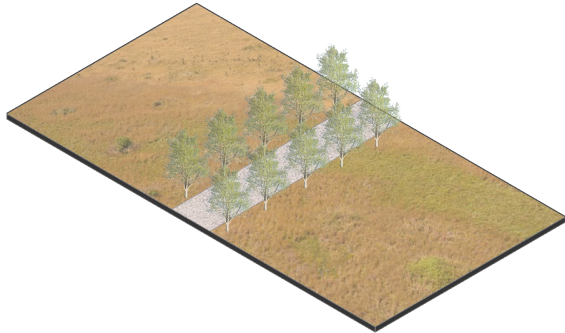




**18th Century**

**Landscape reorganization**

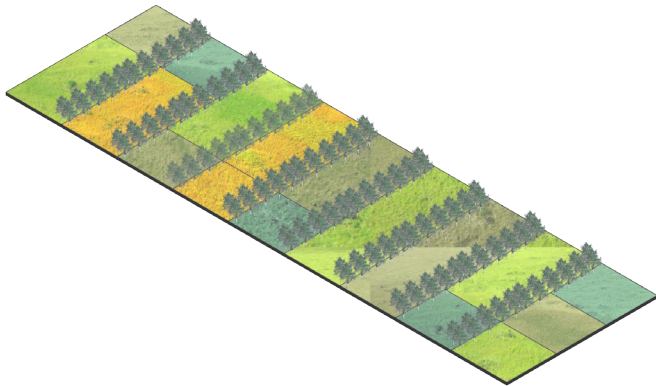
*Image made by author*



**18th Century**

*Landscape reparcelization*

*Image made by author*



**1859**

**Corso Sempione, Milan.**

*Napoleon entering Corso Sempione*



**1878**

*Historical map, Milan and the North:*

*Archivio della lombardia*





**1880**

**Cusano sul seveso**

*Comune di Cusano milanino*



**1887**

*Lombardy moorland*

*Ercole Calvi*



**1890**

*Lombardy countryside*

*Carlo Balestrini*



**1899**

*Canale Villoresi*

*Skyscrapercity*





**1900**

***Rural Shed, North of Milan:***

*Archivio della Lombardia*





**T2**

*La polarità città-campagna, nelle sue mille varianti storiche e geo-culturali, ha ogni volta riproposto (ma non risolto) il contrasto originario fra spazio naturale e spazio urbano; e questo contrasto è reso più acuto dalle mille interferenze reciproche, dalla stessa difficoltà di tracciare un confine netto fra l'ordine della natura e quello della cultura. La forma urbana ha conosciuto nel tempo una continua e indeterminata espansione a spese dello spazio naturale, fino a risolversi (o a dissolversi) nelle megalopoli odierne, nelle conurbazioni apparentemente involontarie, in un generalizzato urban sprawl. ...*

*Quei mutamenti anche profondi, ma sempre meditati, furono per secoli il frutto maturo di una mediazione mentale e sociale fra l'eredità del passato e qualche ipotesi per il futuro: ma quali che fossero desideri e progetti, l'ago della bussola era sempre fisso su un saldo senso di familiarità dello spazio vitale. Familiarità nel viverlo conservandolo, ma soprattutto nel modificarlo senza violarne il messaggio, l'eredità e i valori. Entro quell'orizzonte città e campagna, in un fitto dialogo natura-cultura, si guardano e si riconoscono mutuamente. L'una sa dell'altra tutto l'essenziale, lo vive come il proprio (necessario) complemento e rovescio. Non c'è uomo o donna, dal servo al gran signore, che non respiri quei valori: come l'aria. E di più prezioso non c'è proprio nulla. ...*

*È dal primo Novecento che qualcosa si spezza. Già erano in corso per tutta Europa grandiosi processi di mutamento (industrializzazione, crescita demografica, alfabetizzazione, alimentazione, progressi medici e cura del corpo). Su questo sfondo, l'Italia da poco unita si sente di colpo arretrata rispetto ai Paesi con cui vuole ormai competere, e nell'affanno di inseguirli comincia a perdere qualcosa di sé.*

*The polarities between the city and the countryside, with all their historical and geo-cultural variables, has every time reposed the former contrast between natural and urban space; this contrast has been sharpening due to the myriads of reciprocal interplays, due to the difficulties on tracing a neat border between the order of nature and the one of culture. The urban form has known in time a continuous and indeterminate expansion on behalf of natural space, untill dissolving in the contemporary megalopolis, in those conurbations, seemingly involuntary, in a generalized urban sprawl. ...*

*Those deep but always mediated transformations, have been for centuries the outcome of an intelligent mental and social mediation, between the heritage of the past and some hypothetical future: but whatever were the projects the focus has always been the sense of familiarity and solidarity on the surrounding space. Familiarity in the process of living it by conserving it, but most of all in transforming it without ruining the heritage of values. Within that horizon, the city and the countryside in a thick dialogue between nature and culture, they look themselves and they mutually recognize one another. One knows everything of the essentials of the other, it lives it as if it was the opposite and complementary of itself. There is no man nor woman, from the slave to the duke, that don't breathe those values: as air. And nothing is more precious than that. ...*

*It is from the first year of the 19th century that something goes wrong. Already happening around Europe the advent of disruptive processes of transformations (industrialization, demographic growth, alphabetization, scientific progress and personal well being. Over this background, Italy, recently aggregated as one country, underdeveloped in comparison to other countries, wants to compete, and in the rush to follow them starts to loose something of itself.*

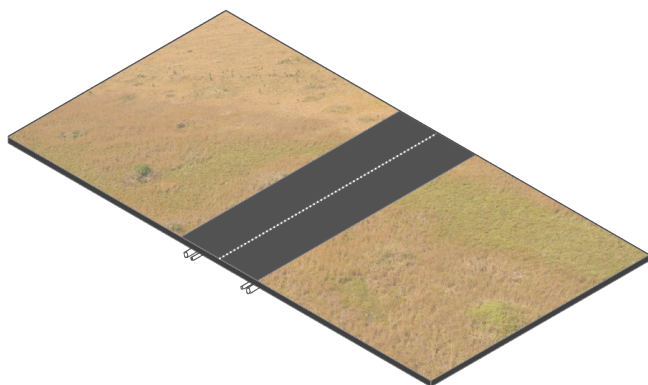
*From: Paesaggio, costituzione, cemento, La battaglia per l'ambiente contro il degrado civile. Salvatore Settis, 2010*

**20th century**

***Landscape fragmentation***

*Image made by author*





**1903**

***Lombardy Landscape***

*Umberto Boccioni*



**1908**

*Peripheral transformations:  
From Agriculture to industrial economies*  
Umberto Boccioni



**1909**

*Countryside landscape at twilight*

*Umberto Boccioni*

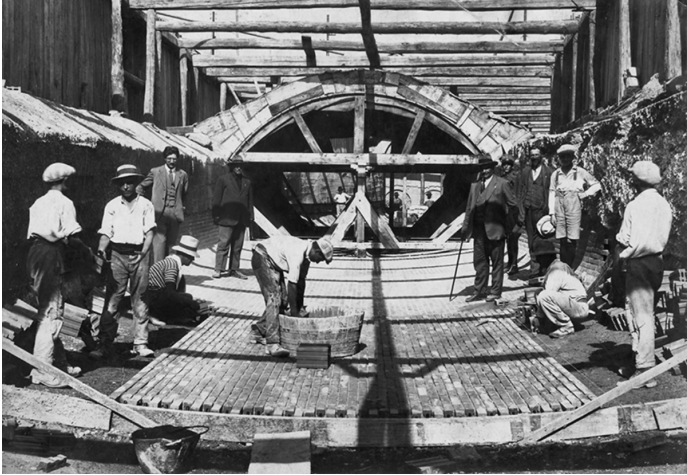


**1911**

*Redefossi discharge canal,  
construction in Milan, viale ortles*

*Milano città d'acqua*





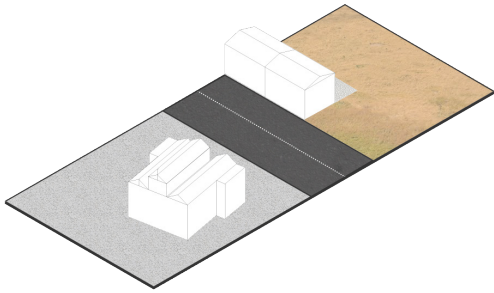
**1930**  
*North Of Milan,*  
*Stagniweb*



**2nd half 20th Century**

***Further fragmentation + soil sealing***

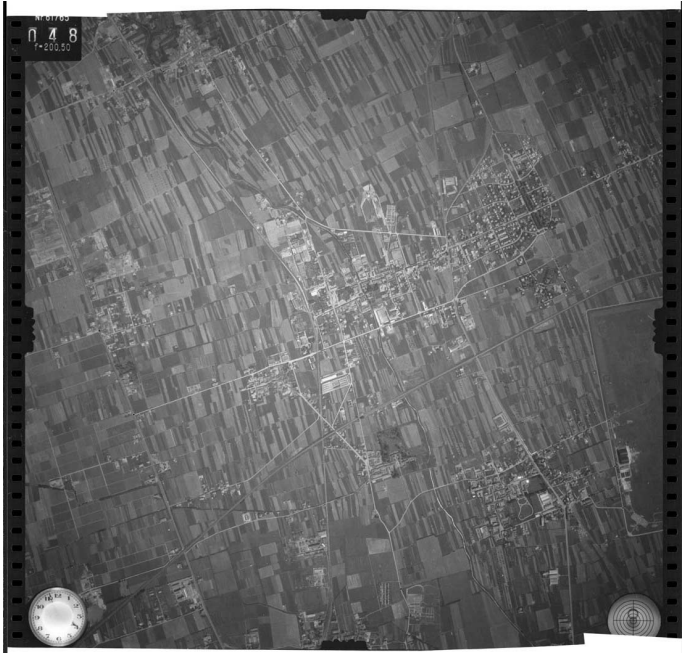
*Image made by author*



**1950**

**Cusano Milanino**

*Istituto geografico militare*



**1955**

*North of Milan,*

**Cusano Milanino and other Municipalities:**

*Istituto geografico militare*





**1956**

*Inter-urban tramway system, Cusano Milanino*

*Skyscrapercity*



CUSANO MILANINO - Provinciale Milano Erba

**1960**

***Cusano Milanino***

*Gentili, Moreno*



**1960**

**Cusano Milanino**

*Gentile Moreno*



**1961**

*Redefossi canal construction in Oberdan square, Milan*

*Impresa Sogene*



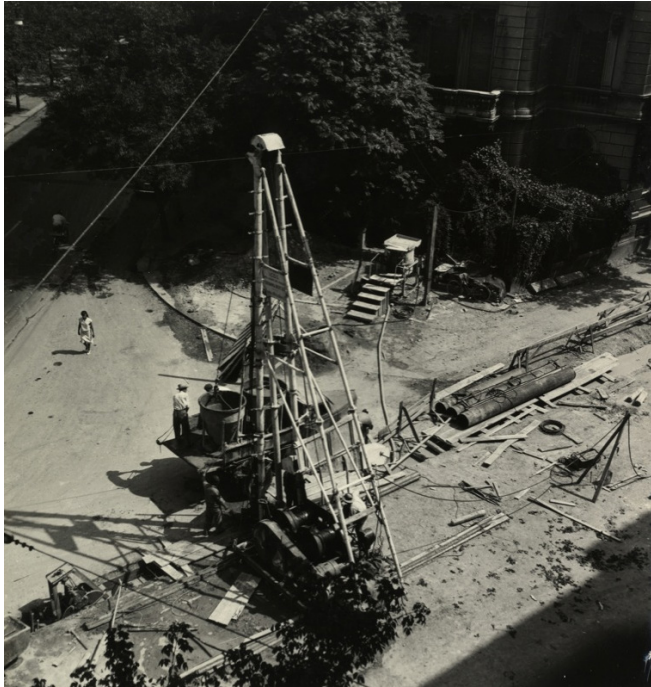


2848  
20-6-61  
IMPRESA SOGIBNE ROMA  
CANTIERE METROPOLITANA DI MILANO  
LOTTO 3/D

**1962**

**Civil engineering works**

*Archivio digitale MetroMilano*



**1963**

***Seveso flooding, Milano Niguarda***

*Divisione fognature e corsi d'acqua*



**1963**

**Sesto San Giovanni, Milano:**

*Archivio della Lombardia*



**1965**

***Viale Monza, Milano***

*Archivio digitale, biblioteca Mendrisio*





**1976**

*The Seveso great disaster:*

*Toxic area due to chemical factory explosion.*

*Municipality of Meda e Seveso*



**1976**

*The Seveso great disaster:*

*Contaminated landscape*

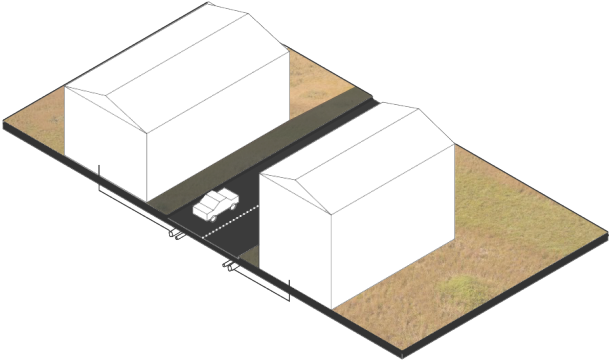
*MUnicipality of Meda e Seveso*



**1980 - ongoing**

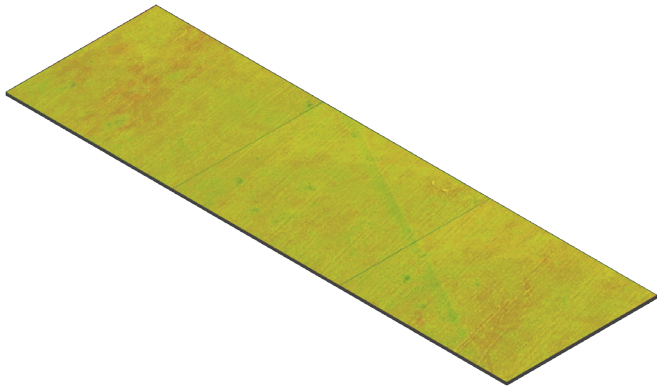
***Further soil sealing***

*Image made by author*



**1980 - ongoing**  
*Landscape "banalization"*  
**Ecosystem services depletion**  
*Image made by author*



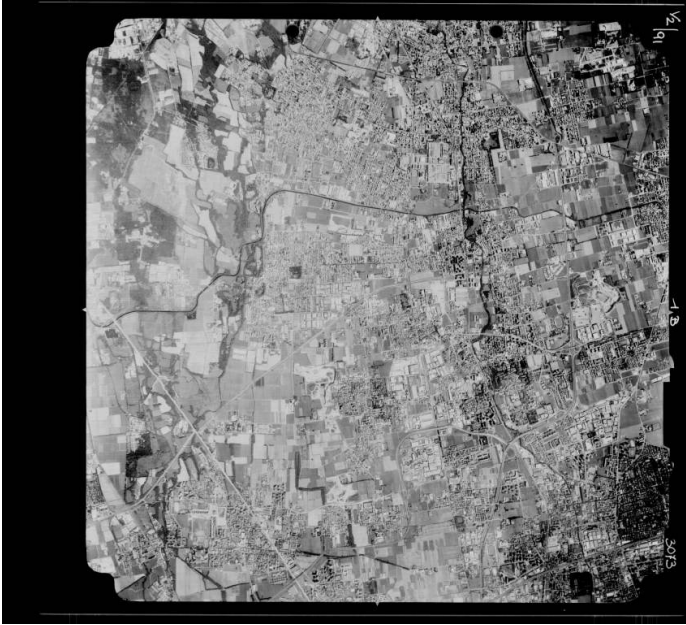


**1991**

*North of Milan,*

**Cusano Milanino and other Municipalities:**

*Istituto geografico militare*



**1992**

**Seveso, Monza Brianza:**

*Archivio della Lombardia*



**1994**

**Cusano Milanino:**

*Gentili Moreno*



**1994**

**Cusano Milanino:**

*Gentili Moreno*





**1994**

**Cusano Milanino:**

*Gentili Moreno*

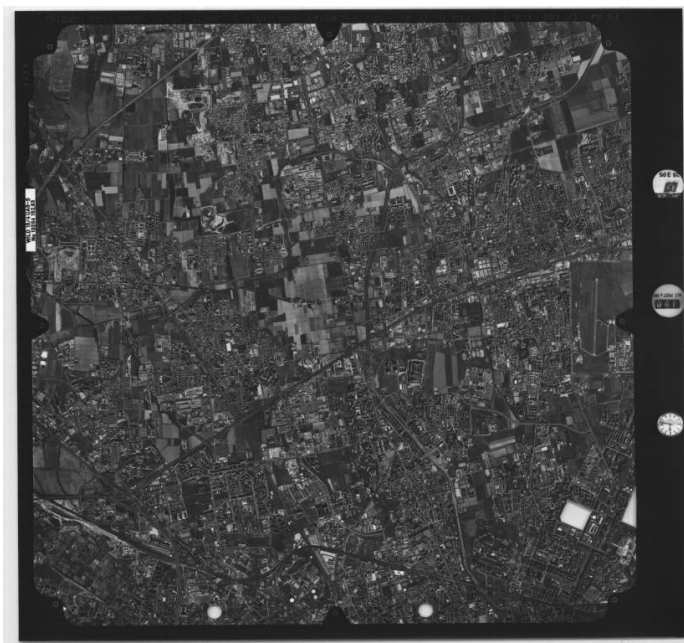


**1995**

*North of Milan,*

**Cusano Milanino and other Municipalities:**

*Istituto geografico militare*



**1997**

***Lentate sul Seveso, Monza Brianza***

*Riccardo, Vlahov*



**1997**

***Lentate sul Seveso, Monza Brianza***

*Riccardo, Vlahov*

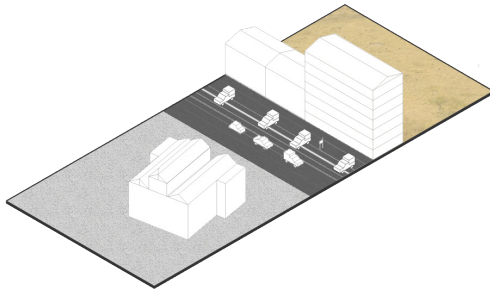




**2016**

*Degradation, aging of infrastructures*

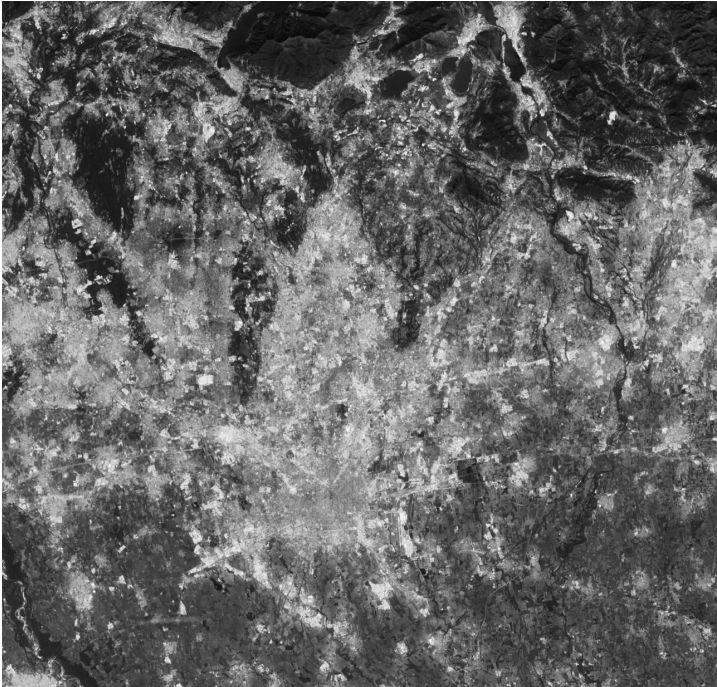
*Image made by author*



**2014**

*Milan metropolitan region*

*Google earth*





**T3**

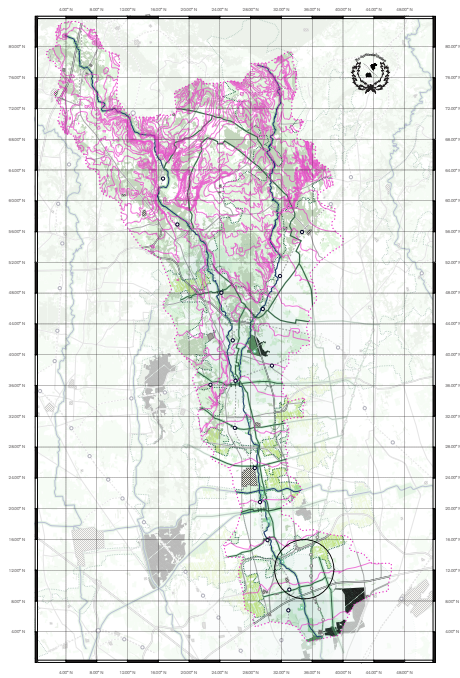
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*Urban - Landscape Syntax*

*Elements of territorial transformations*

*Image made by author*



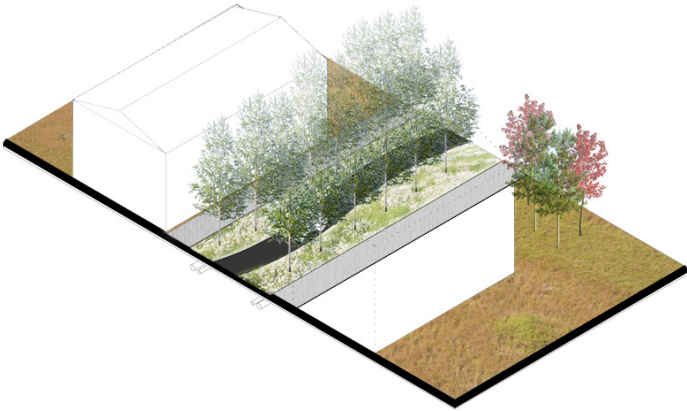


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*Landscape degrafragmentation*

*Corridor project manifestation*

*Image made by author*



?

*Local green corridor*

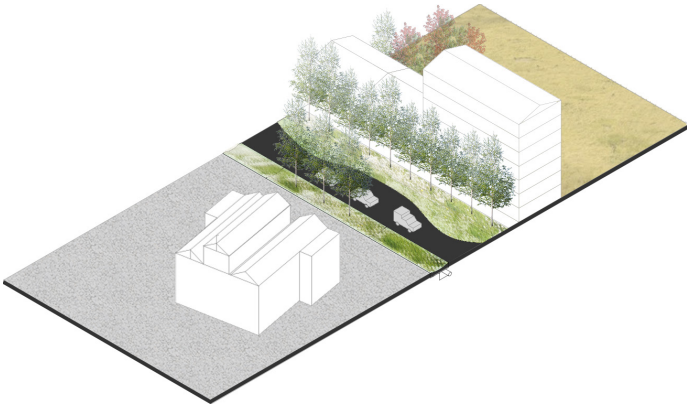
*Nano manifestation / visualization*

*Image made by author*



?

*Landscape deaggregation*  
*Corridor project manifestation*  
*Image made by author*



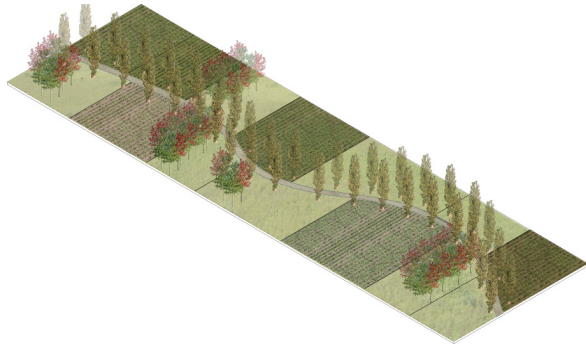
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*Open space patch*

*Nano manifestation / visualization*

*Image made by author*





?

*Local green patch*

*Nano manifestation / visualization*

*Image made by author*

