

## Monumental Grounds and Material Gardens. Architectures, Construction Sites, Landscape

Pradel, Chiara

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# Landscape as Architecture

Symposium



Cabo de Gata, photo by João Nunes

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the Foundation Louis Vuitton. In 2011, he founded with Anna Maria Bordas the bordas+peiro architect and engineer agency. Since 2008, Miquel Peiro has been teaching in schools of Architecture, first at ENSAVT, Paris, then at ENSA Bretagne where he became senior lecturer in 2017. He is also a researcher at the school's laboratory and led the researches on the role of large infrastructures in the urban mobility.

Anna Maria Bordas is a graduate architect from Marne la Vallée school of architecture and a qualified engineer from the Ponts et Chaussées engineering school. She is professor at ENSA Paris Val de Seine, where she has been supervising diploma theses and the master's project since 2018. She also taught at ENSA Marseille and Marne la Vallée alongside Marc Mimram until 2015.

**Chiara Pradel**  
(TU Delft, Netherlands)

### **Monumental Grounds and Material Gardens. Architectures, Construction Sites, Landscape**

The proposed contribution arises from a research trajectory that began during a master's degree at the Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio (2007), expanded during a PhD at the Politecnico di Milano (2022), and is currently being developed through research hosted by the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment at TU Delft (ongoing). The investigation focuses on the disposal and transformation of dismantled or excavated materials within landscapes, specifically in relation to the construction and deconstruction processes of architectures and infrastructures. In particular, it examines ground movements related to complex infrastructural projects, such as the excavation of the Gotthard and Ceneri tunnels in Switzerland (1999-2020), and the material yards and circular hubs involved in the storage, reprocessing and reuse of architectural construction materials in the Netherlands. Indeed, in a period marked by climate change, overall ecological decline, and sociopolitical instability, an understanding of the complexity of landscapes that are mostly forged by human constructive actions seems paramount. Not only are we shaping and re-shaping the planet's crust by rail or road-lines (by 2050 at least 25 million kilometers of new roadways are planned to be built by the International Energy Agency), extended tunnels, underground constructions (more than 800 million tons of material will be excavated during large underground projects by 2030) and land-scrapers, but we are at the same time flattening and carving surfaces, sprawling cumuli and heaps, unfurling volumes of earth, while relocating and reusing vast amounts of construction materials (over 150 material yards hosting construction materials have been mapped in the Netherlands in 2023). What kinds of landscapes are created by these movements and disposals? The tasks of the research project are both to uncommon the deep, material impact of constructive actions on landscape and to envision the monumental character of the new emerging grounds, disengaging earthworks and material yards from an exclusively technical approach and questioning their meaning inside the landscape architecture thinking, language and design process.

Chiara Pradel, architect PhD, graduated in architecture from IUAV in Venice and earned a master's degree from AAM in Mendrisio. After practicing as a landscape architect in Switzerland with Paolo Bürgi (2007-2020), in 2022 she obtained her PhD in Architectural, Urban and Interior Design from Politecnico di Milano, with a thesis titled "Monumental Ground. Infrastructures, Construction Sites, Landscape". She is currently a full-time researcher at the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, TU Delft.

**Francesco Rizzi**  
(Locarno, Switzerland)

### **Città dei Laghi, a landscape that connects territories**

For those who cross, stop or live in the pre-alpine lakes region, a strong memory of this territory is certainly its landscape between lakes and mountains wrapped in an extraordinary sub-alpine light. It's quite clear that the landscape of Ticino Canton doesn't finish at the border. Starting from this simple consideration, the "Città dei Laghi, an atlas for the insubrian territory"