Firenze

ULTRA

continua

*Urban regenerations and ecological continuity
along two complex landscape systems.*

new metropolitan thresholds
to achieve global goals

Acupunctural strategy - urban connective system
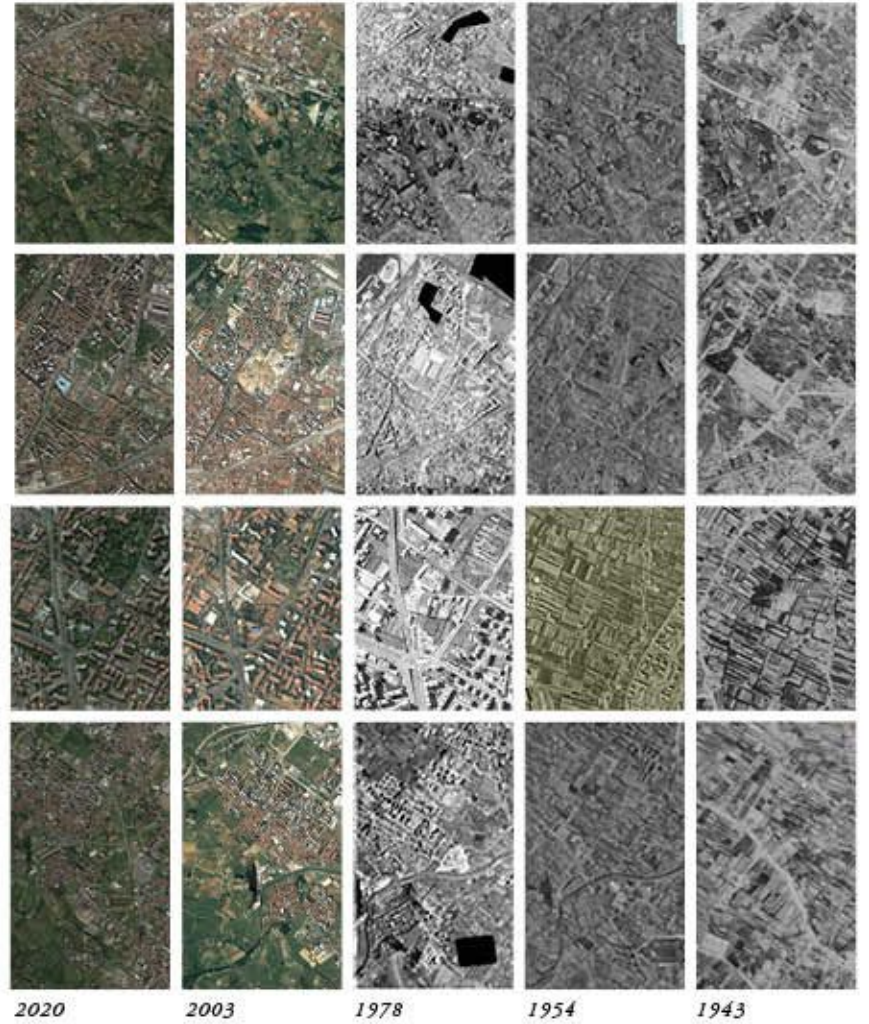**Transcalar strategy - highly natural connective system**

Vincenzo Cabianca, *Cipressi a Poggio Imperiale*, 1863 circa,
Giuseppe Abbati, *Ulivi al Monte alle Croci*, 1863;
Telemaco Signorini, *Sulle colline a Settignano*, 1885.

Veduta di Firenze dal Convento di Montughi, Giuseppe Zocchi, 1744;
Veduta dell'Arno dal mulino della Vaga Loggia, Giuseppe Zocchi, 1742, collezione privata,
Veduta di Firenze, Luigi Zumkeller, 1934-36, china su carta 1930mm x 2930mm.
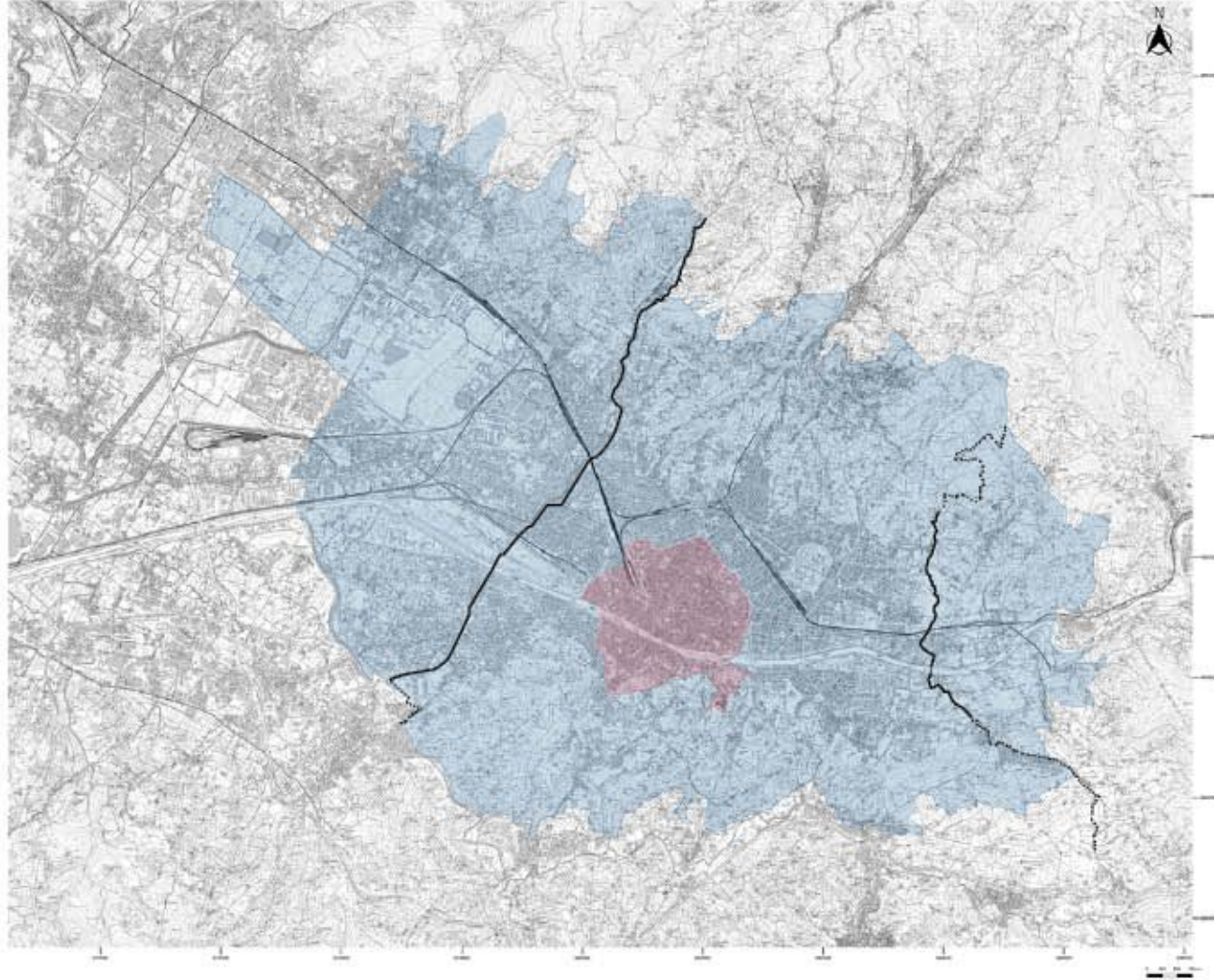
from above: urban fabric, natural areas.

| 2020 | 2003 | 1978 | 1954 | 1943 |

Time sequence of morpho-typological transformation, OpenData Geoscope.

Connective System - project   Core zone   Buffer zone

Firenze ULTRA continua

urban regenerations and ecological continuity along two complex landscape connective systems

ULTRA is a process to link the urban project with the city project in a single multi-scalar vision, working on the morphology and landscape of the city of Florence.

Starting with the choice of two territorial Connective Systems, some strategic suburban and rural areas are reinterpreted through *six meta-projects*, acquiring a structuring role for urban regeneration and creating a network of common goods and accessible community services.

The Florence's landscape layout is the result of a sequence of operations whose traces are in part still legible. The *diachronic reading (1)* of the urban system and morphological characters has led us to focus on peripheral and suburban areas, whose structure is no longer legible in its evolution. Recent expansions have produced a saturation of lowland agricultural areas, erasing the plots of the historical agricultural mesh leading to the simplification of hillside landscapes, plot's fragmentations, and poorly usable and inclusive places, producing residual areas.

The reading of the *urban structure and landscape (2)* domains allowed us to understand in depth the relationships between the parts of the city at different scales; of relevance to the project is the *porous structure*, the connective system, which highlighted some *critical relationships (3)* between the parts, such as the railway barrier, large urban nodes and undeveloped tracks, abandoned architecture.

new metropolitan thresholds

Acupunctural strategy
Urban and sub-urban Connective System

regeneration of urban structure based on new hybrid polarities

Transcalar strategy
Highly natural Connective System

a sequence of new alternative routes to the historic core

strategic vision

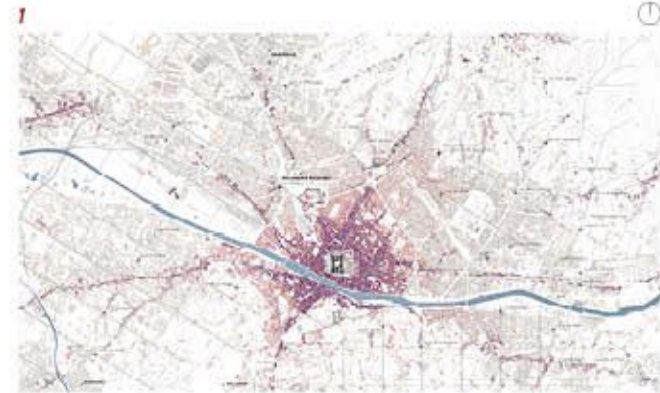### working methodology | metropolitan scale

It is in these discontinuities that we identify the *structuring potential*: a sequence of specific places to be returned to the citizen and connected and permeable open spaces, through a planned and interdisciplinary large-scale process in which accessibility and urban quality indices are prioritized.

The goal of *renovatio urbis* is to provide ways to manage the complexity of the project, through six case studies, three in urban settings, three in natural settings.

The strong morphological component and the different landscape structures of the Connective Systems led us to use the *acupunctural and transcalar strategy* for systems, developing a single methodological approach, composed as follows:

- **Scale XL**: reading the metropolitan region, establishing a dialogue with the Florentine realities;
- **Scale L**: identification of Connective Systems, whose potential lies in the portions of the plot located in their surroundings;
- **Scale M**: isolation of specific conditions defined as structuring potential. Work is done on the reinterpretation of discontinuities such as major urban nodes, railway barriers, strategic road axes, the enhancement of the built heritage, the ecological system of the Arno River and minor streams, and the active and dynamic preservation of the historic landscape.
- **Scale S**: definition of distinct typological structures, to activate the regeneration process, through localized operations on the built, open spaces and infrastructure.

original scale 1:20000

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urban connective system

What are the social and spatial resources to draw on?

When does infrastructure become a lived environment?

What spatial models do we need?

The project identifies and accommodates as pilot projects, a sequence of urban and sub-urban spaces that can become part of the Florentine morpho-typological fabric again: the transformation areas, the residual areas, a system of sub-urban impermeable spaces.

Frames on the urban and suburban landscape of Florence.

urban connective system

acupunctural strategy | scale L

Intelligent site management through coordination of planning,
landscape protection and Unesco area tools.
A *new metropolitan threshold* is defined, linking the consolidated
historic fabric with the fabric of recent expansions, through the use
of *spatial patterns typical of historic morphotypology*: compact fabric,
visual glimpses and focal points, and inclusive open spaces to improve
accessibility and livability of neighborhoods.

Urban scale regeneration main objectives:
- *increase ecological connectivity* to expand existing ecological networks
and biodiversity through urban forestry;
- *protect existing wetlands* and water bodies;
- *decrease impervious surfaces* and return public land to the citizen,
through site-specific projects on public space, complementary to
existing realities;
- *improve walkability and sociability* indices;
- *work on densification of the urban fabric*, through punctual
interventions on fragmented fabrics and degraded spaces.

Boxes in red: transect of intervention.
In red: site-specific case study.
original scale 1:5000

case study on suburban landscape

acupuntural strategy | scale M, S

The project proposes the definition of a hybrid polarity with accessible services, producing a new cultural product based on spatial, social relations, functional programs, to develop a new semantics of public space.
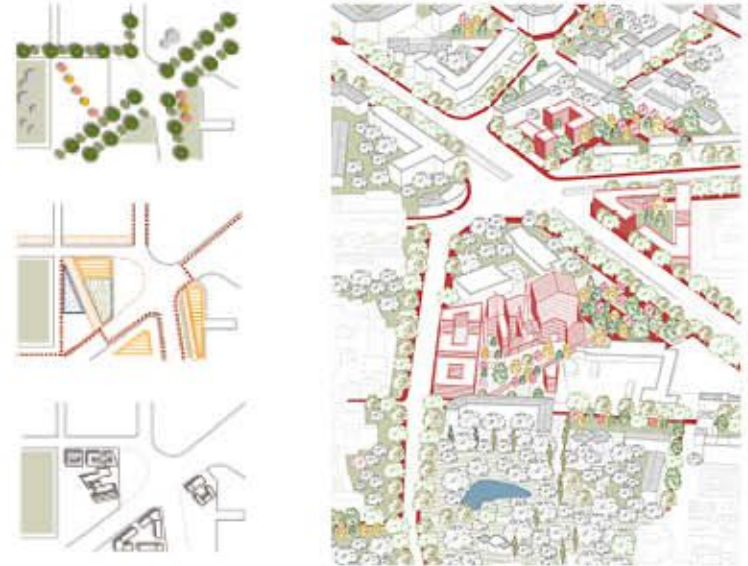
Main results at local level:
- improvement of microclimate and reduction of heat islands, increasing the micro-fauna system;
- increased spatial and social accessibility;
- reducing brownfield sites;
- introduction of public urban facilities like lavatories, information centres, integrated with spaces for listening and community involvement;

Summary of design contents: urban node, Former Campolmi Factory and adjacent plots.

In red: redefinition of edges, corners and plots and accessible infrastructure; the historical artefact as a new landmark of the Isolotto district; the theme of the village garden, typical of the historic core of the district, is reintroduced and extended to this suburban area.
Green and colors: ecological connections.

NODE 01 - railway infrastructure barrier
METAPROJECT 01 - new ecological continuity of Terzolle
creek, increase of vegetation structures along road and
regeneration of disused area.

NODE 02 - suburban infrastructure node.
METAPROJECT 02 - regeneration of Former Campolmi
Factory area, definition of permeable open space system,
walkability improvement.

NODE 03 - fragmented suburban fabric.
METAPROJECT 03 - total demineralization of soils, removal
of cars and return of areas to citizens as places of everyday
life.

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highly natural connective system

**How to promote active preservation of the historic landscape?
How to contribute to the interaction of microlandscapes?
How to generate a system of alternative places?**

One of the goals of the UNESCO Management Plan is to
identify alternative cultural and natural itineraries to reduce
the problem of gentrification within the Historic Center: the
connective system of the Mensola Valley as part of the Buffer
Zone, assumes a strategic role.

Frames on the highly natural connective system of Florence.

highly natural connective system

transcalar strategy | scale L

The different landscape structure led us to choose a different intervention strategy for the regeneration process. The idea is to work on the *potential* of the factors that make up the place, linking the context with social functions. In particular, it is about *active and dynamic preservation of the historic landscape.*
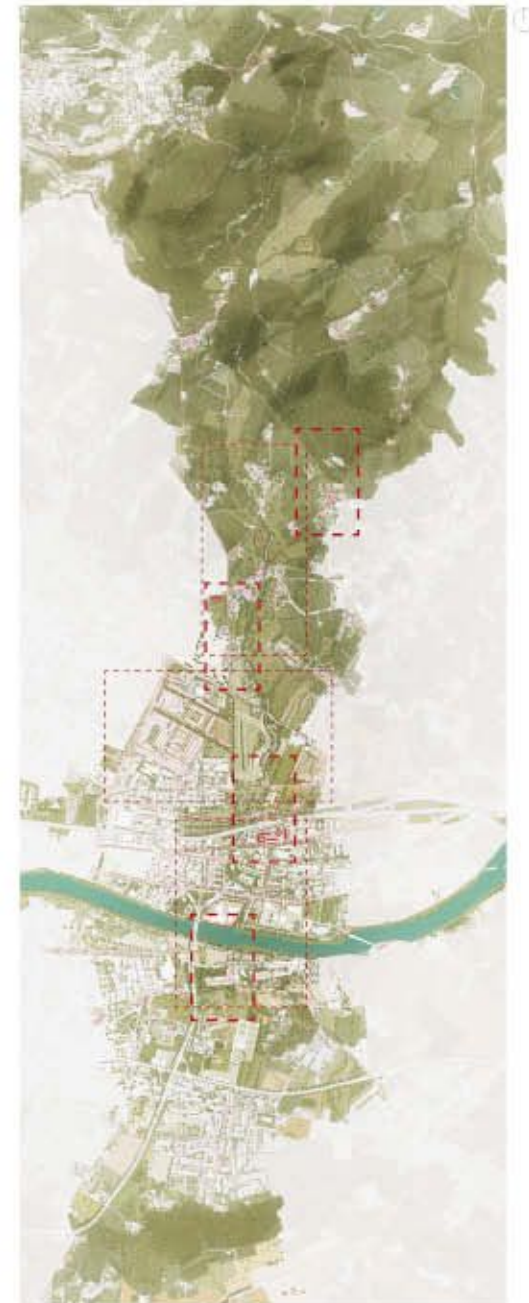
Main goals of urban regeneration:
- *protection and maintenance* of existing forest areas and river environments;
- *reduce impervious surfaces* by improving the microclimate;
- *develop habitats and ecosystems;*
- create *accessible open space systems* with an effective functional program;
- work to *reduce barriers* to rail infrastructure and rehabilitate suburban public housing.

Boxes in red: transect of intervention.
In red: site-specific case study.

original scale 1:5000

case study on natural landscape

transcalar strategy | scale M, S

The project proposes a *sequence of new alternative routes to the historic core*, by integrating the historic presence, undeveloped archaeological remains, and many existing open historic and scenic spaces.

Small, timeless architectures that are integrated into the landscape of Florence, creating continuity between itineraries and historical architecture.

Main results at local level:
- improvement of microclimate and reduction of heat islands, increasing the micro-fauna system;
- increased spatial and social accessibility;
- reducing abanded sites;
- introduction of public urban facilities like lavatories, information centres, integrated with spaces for listening and community involvement;

Summary of design contents: *landscape park, archaeological park, hydraulic park.*

In red: redefinition of edges, corners and plots and accessible infrastructure; timeless architectures.
Green and colors: ecological connections.

original scale 1:1000

SYSTEM 01: the consolidated landscape of natural areas
METAPROJECT 04: active and dynamic landscape conservation through a program of ecological protection actions.

SYSTEM 02: the historic landscape of agricultural plots
METAPROJECT 05: active and dynamic landscape preservation through the new hydraulic park.

SYSTEM 03: the system of peri-urban micro-landscapes
METAPROJECT 06: active and dynamic landscape conservation through enhancement devices.

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