

CONOSCERE MILANO

LA CITTA' CHE CAMBIA

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SOUTH ITINERARIES THROUGH "THE CHANGING CITY"

Over the last few years, Milan's transformation involved the whole city in all directions: from the historic centre, to the new urban centres that are being created on former industrial sites. Valuable urban sites are refurbished, and new ones appear, dedicated to work, housing, culture, education, and leisure. Sometimes, whole new neighbourhoods are created, with new parks, public spaces and high-quality architecture, sometimes individual artefacts show a renewed vitality and experimental approach in the city. The best Italian and international architects are working in Milan, also thanks to the co-operation between public organisations, namely the City Administration, and private businesses. New urban planning tools and international design contests, now often used by private entities as well, have produced the results we see in these itineraries through "the changing city". This is a way to get to know the transformation of our city and to cast a closer look at the new urban and architectural assets of Milan.

Gianni Verga
Councillor for Land development
City of Milan

"CONOSCERE MILANO"

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Urban Center del Comune di Milano
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Aim - Associazione Interessi Metropolitani
Corso Magenta 59 - Milano - tel 02 48 01 20 60
email: aimstaff@aim.milano.it - www.aim.milano.it

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12. Biblioteca Chiesa Rossa



This new neighbourhood library is located in the large renovated stables of an old Lombard farmstead. Original styles and materials were kept, and the new library now has 350,000 books, 10,000 DVDs, 3,900 CD-ROMs and 18,000 CDs. It has full multi-media equipment and a children's area.

13. Quartiere Ravizza

This 260,000-sqm site used to be occupied by the factories of OM and Iveco; now, it is a new neighbourhood, with residential, retail and office buildings, marked by two elegant towers designed by Architect Fuksas. The site is enriched by a high-quality green area formed by three inter-connected parks.



16. Forma



A large glass hall identifies this new space, totally dedicated to photography, located in the refurbished wing of a historic ATM tram depot. Together with large exhibition areas, Forma provides spaces for projections, conferences, a specialised bookshop, a restaurant and an Internet café. Scenic openings and windows afford an intriguing view over the trams in the nearby deposit.

17. Quartiere Argelati

Until the 1990s, this site was abandoned. Architect Daniele Ferrazza designed brick and glass buildings that accommodate houses, shops, workshops and production facilities. The scheme is completed by a 47,000-sqm public park equipped with rest areas and walkways.



14. Via Pietrasanta



This is another abandoned industrial site that was deeply transformed, starting with the opening of Magazzini Generali ten years ago - one of the top clubs and event venues in Milan. The site is becoming more and more dedicated to the communication industry: its renovated industrial buildings are mainly occupied by PR and advertising companies, and by the educational workshops of IED Communication.

15. Università Bocconi

In 2001, the Bocconi University called an international design competition for a new building comprising offices, institutes, research centres and a new Aula Magna. Irish studio Grafton Architects won it with a project that is harmonically grafted on the urban fabric. The sunken Aula Magna protrudes at ground level and creates a sort of covered piazza. The library is suspended and floats above the street, whilst offices are totally glass-enclosed.



18. Ex Sieroterapico

The Navigli area has a site rich in historic, architectural and environmental value: the 1896 Istituto Sieroterapico Milanese; until the 1980s, it was a major centre of production and research on vaccines and serum-related medical products: then, it was closed. The site's redevelopment started in 2000; the first refurbished buildings now are the headquarters of SAS and other companies.



The former laboratories have been renovated in a simple, elegant way; today, they form the classrooms and workshops of NABA - the New Academy of Fine Arts. The rest of the site will have a 100,000-sqm park and a residential neighbourhood. Cascina Argelati will be refurbished and an Interactive Centre for children on the environment will be created.

Going South, the centre of the city soon joins the fertile Po valley farmland, that was the location of the agricultural revolution which paved the way for Milan's industrialisation in the late 19th century. Small towns outside the Spanish walls were also interspersed into the open fields. The area South of Milan only started to change in the early 1900s, when farmland was replaced by industrial plants, and the city swallowed the farmland. However, built areas here did not have the time to override everything - unlike in the rest of the Milanese hinterland - and they remained concentrated around the new railways and the Navigli canals, that formed the ideal habitat for both factories and housing projects. The varied transformation projects in the South part of Milan are an example of the functional and architectural variety of the city's new face. Most schemes are redevelopments of existing facilities, however there are some new buildings as well. Two areas gather most projects: the Tortona-Savona neighbourhood, characterised by facilities dedicated to art and culture, plus some offices and houses, and the area around the ring-road avenues, where higher education, housing and retail are prevailing. The former area now has a definite personality. Many ex-industrial buildings have been redeveloped to accommodate sophisticated offices, showrooms, cultural venues and studios. Most are inward-looking - a very genuine trait of Milan, that does not show off, but must be discovered. Inside, designers have expressed their poetry at best: from high-tech designs, to the use of advanced materials and lights, to the beautifully executed renovation of old factories; many projects are crowned by the large Città delle Culture, that will become the new, pulsating heart in an ancient and renovated body. Towards the outside of the city, the Savona-Tortona area has been enriched with new residential buildings, located on former industrial sites. The ring-road marks the beginning of the second redeveloped area in the South. Three major higher education institutes are located here - the Academy of Fine Arts, the IULM and Bocconi universities. All around, new residential neighbourhoods are being built, flanked by parks, retail shops and public services, some of which remind of South Milan's agricultural heritage, being located in renovated farmhouses. The southernmost tip of this area also sees new or renovated residential buildings, many of which are council houses: from Villaggio Barona, that aims at improving the integration of low-income citizens, to the old and depleted Quartiere Stadera that is experiencing a revival.

1. Olona 2



This building, next to the Science Museum, stands out thanks to its articulated red brick volumes, that seem to interact with the nearby church of Sant' Ambrogio. The building is especially beautiful inside: precious details, marble and natural stone floors and lush vegetation in the inner courtyard.

2. Parco Solari

This park has been totally renovated by the City of Milan; the existing structure was kept and different areas were better defined, so as to allow for more rational enjoyment of the whole park. More space is now reserved to children's playgrounds; the flooring, fountain and lighting were renovated. An area of the park is dedicated to dogs.



4. Armani Teatro



Carefully hidden at the ground floor of the former Nestlé factory, Armani Teatro is a 3,400-sqm space mainly used for fashion shows and cultural events. Japanese architect Tadao Ando designed it using only the original materials of the site: concrete, water and light.

5. Ansaldo

This site used to be the factory where Ansaldo manufactured locomotives and wagons; today, it belongs to the City of Milan, and it will accommodate the "Città delle Culture". David Chipperfield Architects and P+Arch won the 1999 international design competition; the original characteristics of the compound will be kept, and completed with a long colonnade leading to the new Centre of Extra-European Cultures. The site will also include the Archaeological Museum and the Study Centre for Visual Arts.



8. Via Savona nuove residenze



Besides cultural and art venues, new and modern residential compounds are being built in Via Savona. The Giardini Stendhal residence is ready. Residenza Portici is under construction, and three 16-floor towers are being built in a site nearby. All are located on former factory sites.

9. Villaggio Barona

Villaggio Barona is an innovative scheme aimed at the redevelopment of a 40,000-sqm former industrial site. The owners of the site, the local Parish and Associazione Sviluppo e Promozione joined forces to create a place for integration and cohabitation, where the main community goal is that of welcoming those in need.



Savona neighbourhood

Until the mid-19th century, this area was farmland; it was urbanised following the construction of the Milan-Vigevano railway and of the Porta Genova station in 1865. Over time, many large and small production facilities settled here, together with workers' and council housing. The neighbourhood's identity changed again in the last twenty years: after the closure of factories, the area enjoyed a spontaneous rebirth, starting with small private schemes that eventually shaped a unique creativity and fashion district: fashion, graphics and photography studios opened here, side by side with the City's redevelopment scheme on the former Ansaldo area.

3. Bergognone 53



A light glass façade and four buildings, each characterised by a strong colour, and an inside piazza protected by a glass and steel roof that connects the buildings between them: these are the key features of Mario Cucinella's winning project for the transformation of an old Post facility into an office building.

6. Superstudio Più

The redevelopment in Via Savona - Via Tortona started off with the creation of Superstudio; the more articulated Superstudio Più facility followed, on the former General Electric factory. 8,000 sqm are divided in seven large and tall separate rooms that can be connected together. Flavio Lucchini developed the idea, then designed by architects Giorgio Longoni and Marco Sironi.



7. Fondazione Arnaldo Pomodoro



A long brick wall with large windows used to enclose one of the largest factories of Riva Calzoni, producing power turbines. Now, it leads to the entrance of the amazing museum space of the Arnaldo Pomodoro Foundation, designed by Studio Cerri Associati, that stands as a new gem in the city's artistic and cultural life.

10. IULM nuovi edifici

The IULM University campus is an extension of its headquarters. It comprises four buildings opening onto a piazza and garden, for use both by students and by local residents. The buildings accommodate classrooms, institutes, a bookshop and a students' residence. The latter is divided in studios and also offers study rooms, an Internet café, library, multimedia room and fitness centre.



11. Quartiere Stradera



This council housing project, with over 1,800 housing units, was first built in the 1920s. After years of serious decay, it is now being revived through a redevelopment project funded by the City of Milan, the Lombardy Region and the ALER council housing company. The first results are starting to show: social diversification is achieved through new activities, houses are under restoration and a students' and senior citizens' home has been built.