

This research experience was developed in the frame of an “idea consultation” involving 20 Italian schools of architecture and aiming at the renovation of 18 existing educational complexes in the city of Mantua.

Our research group designed a complex consisting of primary school, kindergarten and nursery school, conceived as an urban ecosystem interacting with the multi-ethnic community characterizing the Lunetta neighborhood.

The proposed permeable linear system multiplies the different active environments available to the school and neighborhood communities in order to involve local people and promote social interaction.

The system, indeed, is designed as a thick vegetated band, articulated in cultivated soils and botanical spaces inside the school (in the patios) and outside (in the hanging gardens) which are conceived to let the neighborhood “breathe”, but also to foster playful, educational and social functions, using landscape natural resources to stimulate new relationships between people, places, spaces.

A school with welcoming spaces open to the community even after school hours; a school in the school, where students, teachers and inhabitants of all ages can meet and share common spaces where to carry out various educational as well as recreational activities, promoting inclusion and personalization of students’ educational experience.

Spaces in which relationship between inside and outside, classrooms, common space, and external spaces of patios, in the different declinations of the 3 schools, forms a “school for the five senses”.

A school in which learning activities intentionally promote the “multiple intelligence” and the concept of “biophilia”, so that the “outside” represents a “third educator” where to experiment innovative teaching methodologies.

As the “quiet area”, visually connected with classrooms, where all children, not just pupils with deficits or severe autistic syndrome, can relax, reflect or engage in alternative activities that are more motivating for them, without being excluded or marginalized in separate spaces.

Inclusive permeable environments for 3 schools in Mantua, Italy

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