



i.land, the agricultural ornamental park

i.land is the agricultural ornamental park of **i.lab**, designed by Studio GPT – Giardini Paesaggio Territorio. **i.land** derives from the desire to merge Richard Meier's architecture with local culture and geography, innovation with the authentic tradition of the Bergamo area, which in modern terms becomes sustainability, biodiversity and zero food miles.

It is from the very strength of the land and its environment that the project nourished and enhanced itself from inception to development.

Whereas **i.lab** makes a significant and innovative contribution to the territory, as it supports environmentally friendly development and the identity of local communities, **i.land** translates the commitment to sustainability into the awakening of the values of the past, especially those of the local agricultural tradition, so that they can go hand in hand with an industrial culture that is mindful both of nature and the landscape.

The project design phase has followed a compositional and stylistic approach based on criteria specifically focused on energy saving and LEED certification, to create a work that respects the environment and is under the banner of ecosustainability.

Gardening works were assigned to a social co-operative that is engaged in providing employment opportunities to people in difficulty.

The **roof garden** of the Auditorium, externally to the conference room, offers a panoramic view from inside and a relaxing place for both employees and guests.

The **entrance garden** has a purely aesthetic function, acting as a sign of welcome to the building. In order to leave space to architecture and highlight the striking cantilever roof at the entrance, it was decided not to include any three-dimensional elements: there is a simple grass lawn that does not distract from the imposing building in its entirety.

The **south-facing garden** is designed to act as a welcoming, relaxing area for both visitors and employees: a place outdoors to stage receptions, theatrical and musical events.

The south-facing garden also has wave-shaped hedges of hornbeam, typical of local traditions, that define an amphitheatre in front of the "**Mutated Panels**" sculpture by Richard Meier.

The garden also hosts a rectangular **pond** built using phytodepuration techniques with gravel and aquatic plants.

With respect to the **agricultural section**, typical varieties of the Bergamo and Northern Italian lands were selected. Called upon to assist in the realisation of the orchard, **Slow Food** has identified the most appropriate varieties and will be responsible for maintaining the area. The gathered fruit will be transformed into preserves and dried fruit sticks that will be distributed in schools. **Beehives** have been installed to guarantee pollination of the fruit growing plants and also to make honey, thanks to the **flowering meadow**.

In the west-facing area, there is a plantation zone with ancient endangered varieties of Bergamo maize. Crop preparation and planting will be performed and managed by the Council for Research and Experimentation in Agriculture CRA - MAC, headquartered right in front of the site. This cultivation complies with the **zero food miles** criteria.

I.LAND IN FIGURES

18,200 m² total surface area including:

4,160 m² ornamental meadow

2,700 m² orchard

280 m² raspberry patch

2,800 m² planted maize crop

2,800 m² flowering meadow

720 m² grass paving grid

1,375 m² borders of shrubs and perennial grasses (including hedges)

140 m² pond

3,225 m² paved areas

620 m length of hornbeam hedging

340 m² surface area of the hanging garden

The whole site overlooks and extends alongside the A4 Milan-Venice motorway: starting from these initial considerations, the master plan drawn up by French Architect Jean Nouvel presents a red lamellar meal wall that runs alongside the motorway for a kilometre, becoming the architectural scenario behind which the various research buildings are arranged in the park.

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