

ARCHITECTURE COMPETITION

# MILAN NAVIGLI CANAL CHALLENGE

COMPETITION CONDITIONS

Partner:



ASSOCIAZIONE  
RIAPRIRE I NAVIGLI

Technical support:

**primitivo**  
studio





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Bee Breeders Architecture Competition Organisers,  
in partnership with  
the Riaprire i Navigli Association – "Reopen the Navigli Association" –  
and Primitivo Studio Milan,  
have prepared this document for the  
**Milan Navigli Canal Challenge**  
architecture competition.

Full Competition Terms & Conditions:  
[architecturecompetitions.com/NavigliCanalChallenge/terms](https://architecturecompetitions.com/NavigliCanalChallenge/terms)

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Architecture Competition Organisers  
[info@architecturecompetitions.com](mailto:info@architecturecompetitions.com)  
[architecturecompetitions.com](https://architecturecompetitions.com)



Partner:



Technical support:



# Introduction

Milan has a long history of navigable canals that formed a fundamental part of the city's economy and the growth of the whole region, providing a direct connection between the northern lakes down to the sea.

Within Milan, the Navigli canal transported both people and goods throughout the city, but at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the city's inner canals were covered to add to the city's road system. The Navigli canals now run underneath the streets but have the potential to be rediscovered and bring back Milan's "water city charm".

For the Milan Navigli Canal Challenge, participants are tasked with conceptualising the Milan of the future and envisioning a symbiotic relationship between the city and the Navigli canal. Projects should focus on environmentally friendly design, mobility, and the relationships between water and urban spaces.

The Milan Navigli Canal Challenge is being run in collaboration with the Riaprire i Navigli Association – "Reopen the Navigli Association" – and Primitivo Studio who are proposing a complete renovation of the existing canal. Their goal is to create a new way for the city to operate, with competition entries expected to play a big part in swaying public opinion on the subject.

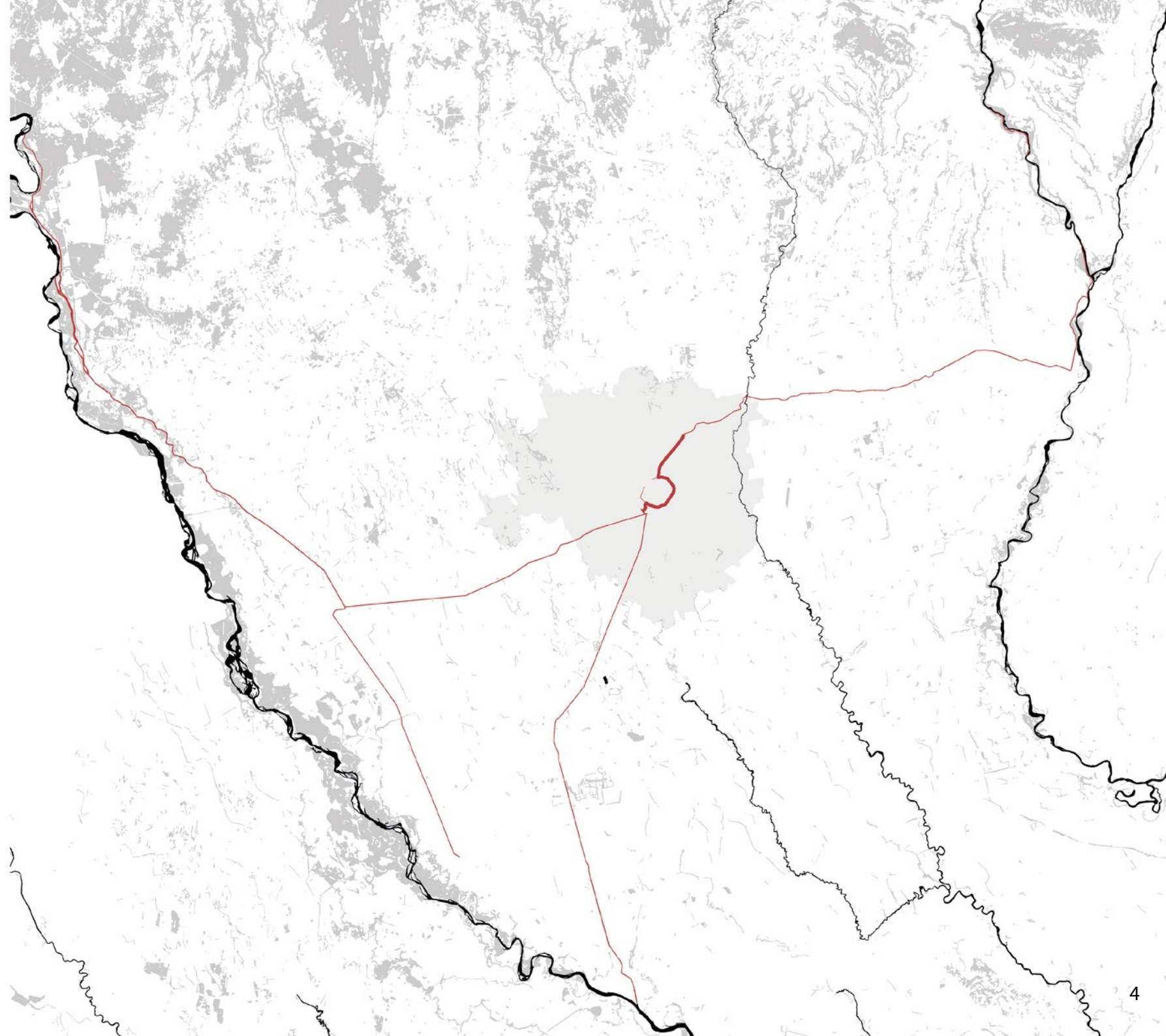


Historical photo of Parco Archeologico Conca Viarenna © Riaprire i Navigli Association + Primitivo studio Milan

# The Navigli system

The Navigli system does not only concern the city of Milan, it is a system that starts from the lakes located north of Lombardy and Switzerland, and leads to the longest river in Italy: the Po. Reopen the internal section of the Milan Navigli will re-establish the territorial fluvial connections that have been lost in the last century and reconnect the city of Milan with the sea and the mountains.

The reopened Navigli network does not concern only about mobility, it has the strong potential to become a linear ecological system that's able to create transversal ecological corridors along the whole Lombardy territory, increasing the environmental quality of the territories it crosses.





# The competition

## The Milan Navigli Canal Challenge

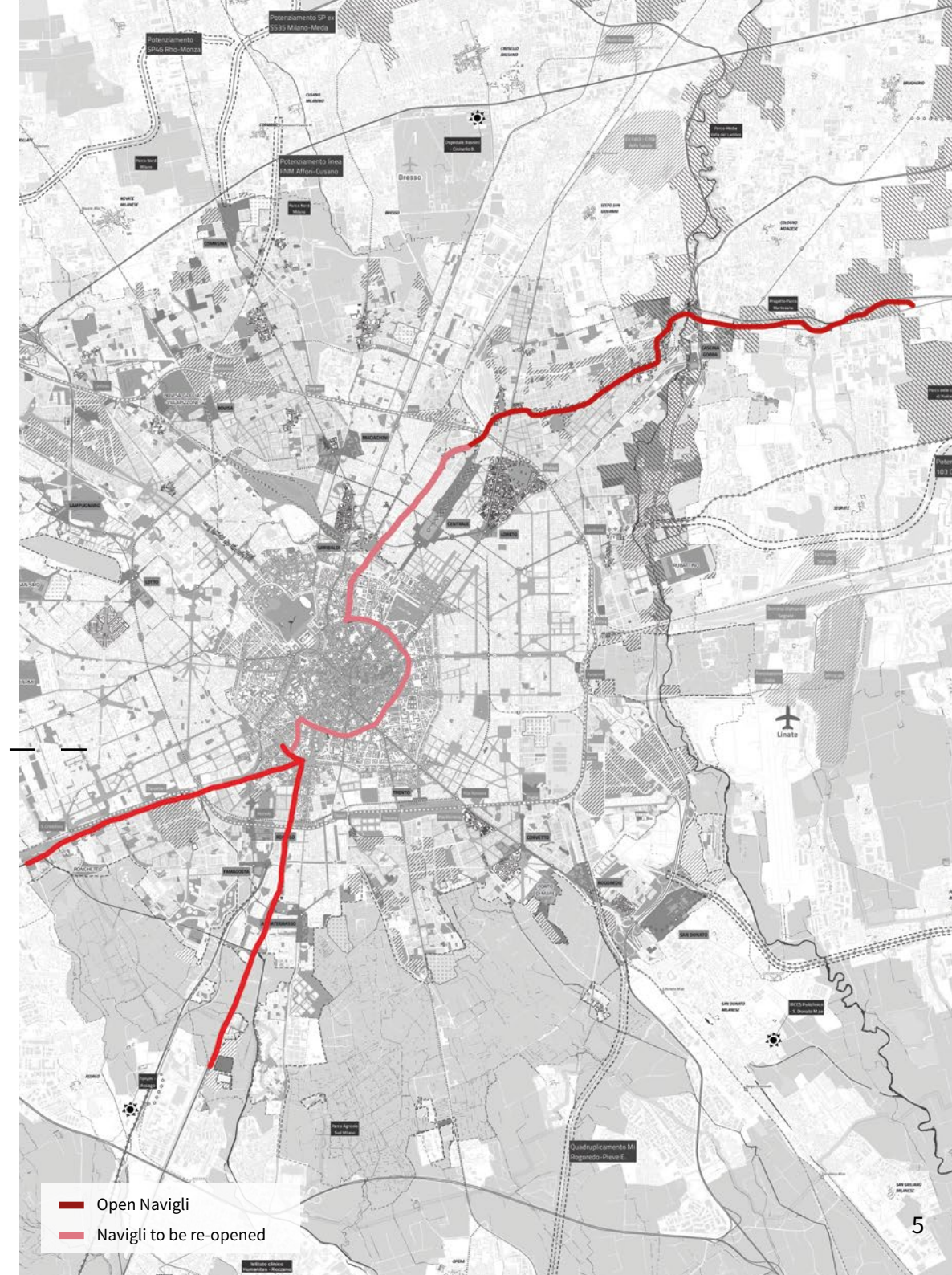
For this competition, participants are asked to focus on two tasks.

**1** Firstly, participants must create plans and a strategy for reopening the entire 8-km-long Navigli canal path. Submitted projects should define general architectural guidelines, possible functions throughout, and some key connections between new and existing spaces, as well as general branding of the canal area.

**2** Secondly, participants must select one of the 8 defined smaller sections of the Navigli canal path to reinvent. Each section has its own unique characteristics, key points of interest, and problems that participants are tasked with designing solutions for. The new proposals must not interfere with the linearity of the Naviglio canal or currently existing private properties. Proposals can include both ground level and hypogaeum structures.

### Participants can choose one of the 8 portions:

- 01 Cassina de Pomm
- 02 Via Melchiorre Gioia
- 03 Conca dell'Incoronata
- 04 San Marco
- 05 Via Senato-Via Marina
- 06 Università degli Studi
- 07 Parco delle Basiliche
- 08 Parco Archeologico





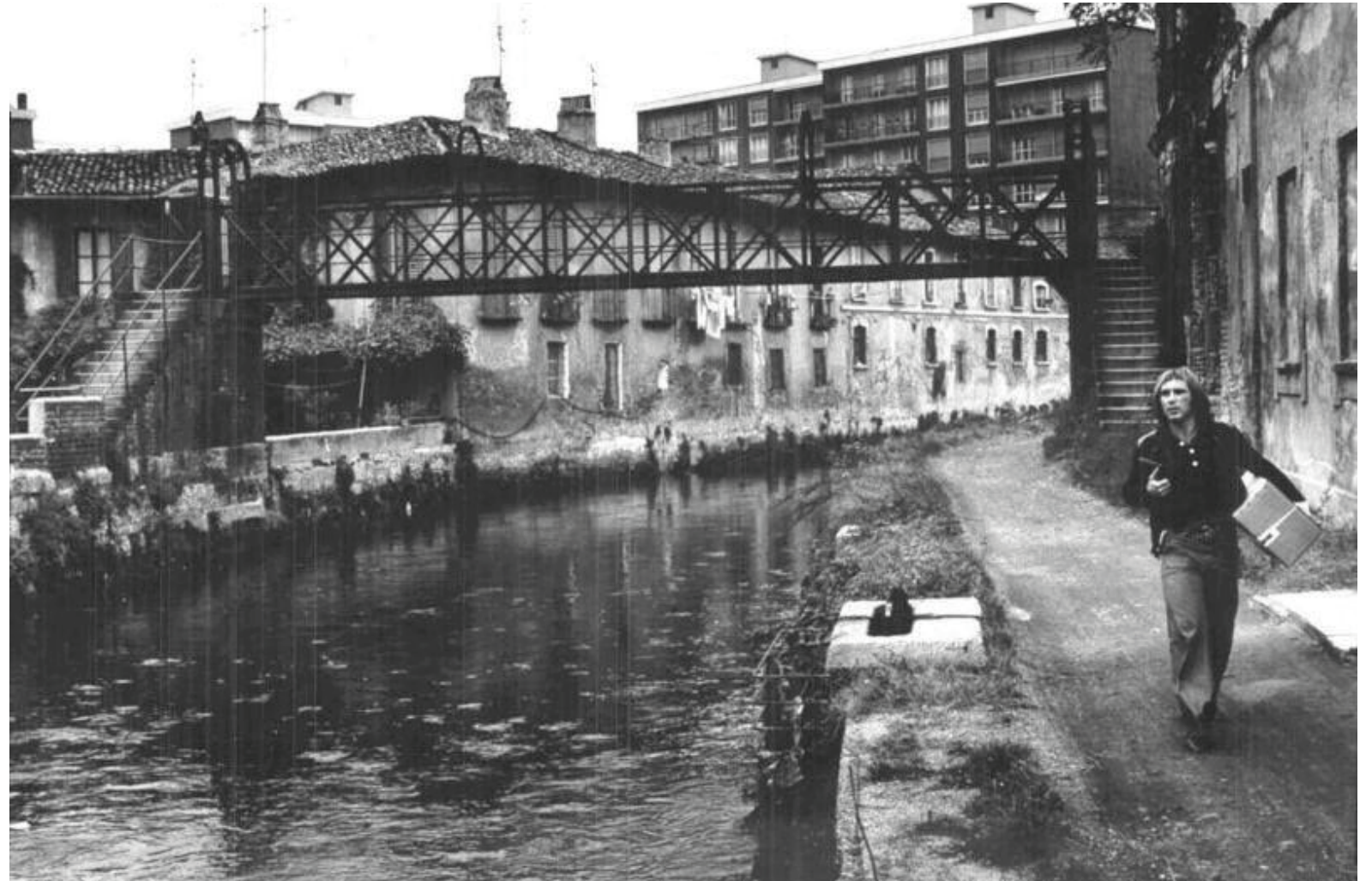
# 01 Cassina de Pomm

Cassina de Pomm is the area located at the start of the Navigli. It is the final point where the Naviglio Martesana runs above ground before submerging under what is now the Via Melchiorre Gioia – one of the main roads in Milan.

There was originally a basin along the now-submerged canal known as Cassina de Pomm. This will remain an important part of the Navigli but it can be relocated to another point along the canal.

This area is known for attractions such as the ancient Cassina de Pomm farmhouse; the oldest farmhouse in Milan whose name dates back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century. There is also a public park, Giardino Cassina de Pomm, on the left side of the Navigli which features a sentry box from World War II.

As Via Melchiorre Gioia is one Milan's main roads, any redesign of the area must also ensure traffic isn't interrupted northwards to Greco.





# 01 Cassina de Pomm

It would be possible at some point for Naviglio Martesana to be located within a section of road, but does not necessarily need to be at this point, as it would be more visually appealing to have it run along the left side of the main road.



Points of interest:

- Cassina de Pomm
- Giardini Cassina de Pomm
- The beginning of the Naviglio Martesana



Problems to solve:

- Low quality public spaces
- Limited pedestrian and cycle connections due to the main existing infrastructure of via Gioia
- Lack of attraction points



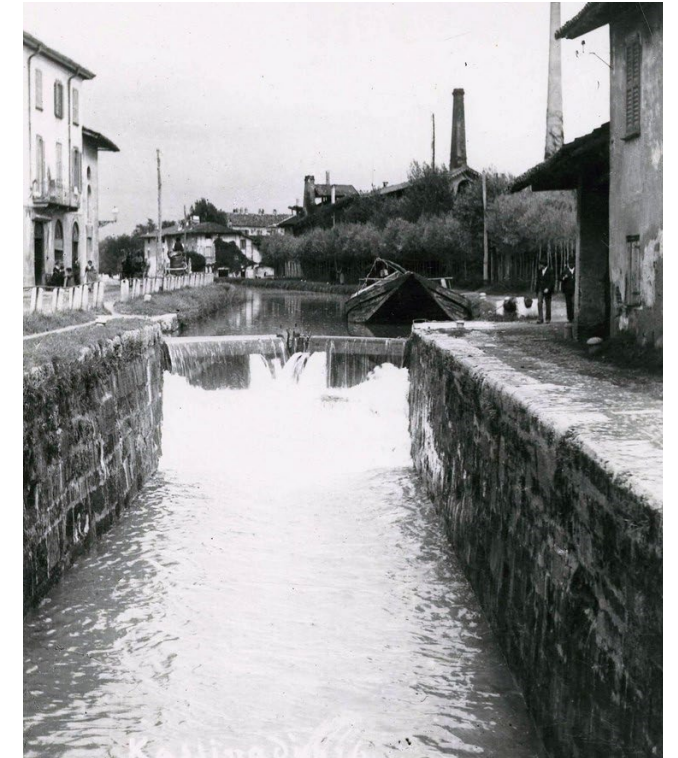
Tasks:

- Connect the existing Navigli with the soon-to-be-reopened Navigli
- Re-organize the public spaces
- Conceptualise an identity to the location
- Provide attractions and points of interest for visitors and locals to rediscover the area
- Improve and guarantee a pedestrian and cycle connection





## 01 Cassina de Pomm





## 02 Via Melchiorre Gioia

This is the point at which the Navigli arrives within the built-up urban environment of Milan, running through the central part of Via Melchiorre Gioia, a major road within the city. This area is characterised by a number of newly built buildings and skyscrapers, as well as a large green space called "the Library of the Trees".

For this area, the most delicate issue that participants will need to address is how the reopening of the Navigli will affect the busy road network. Before the roads were built, the Naviglio passed roughly along where the Via Melchiorre Gioia is located now, and passed underneath the railway embankment.

Participants can decide if their redesign involves the canal running alongside the Via Melchiorre Gioia or through the middle of it, and will need to make suggestions for Via Della Liberazione, either by keeping the current road intersection or creating a plan for submerging the Navigli underneath the crossroad.



## 02 Via Melchiorre Gioia



### Points of interest:

- Biblioteca degli Alberi
- Bosco Verticale by Stefano Boeri Architetti
- CBD Porta Nuova
- Piazza Gae Aulenti
- Palazzo Lombardia
- Pirelli 39 future renovation by Stefano Boeri Architetti
- Unipol Tower by Mario Cucinella Architetti



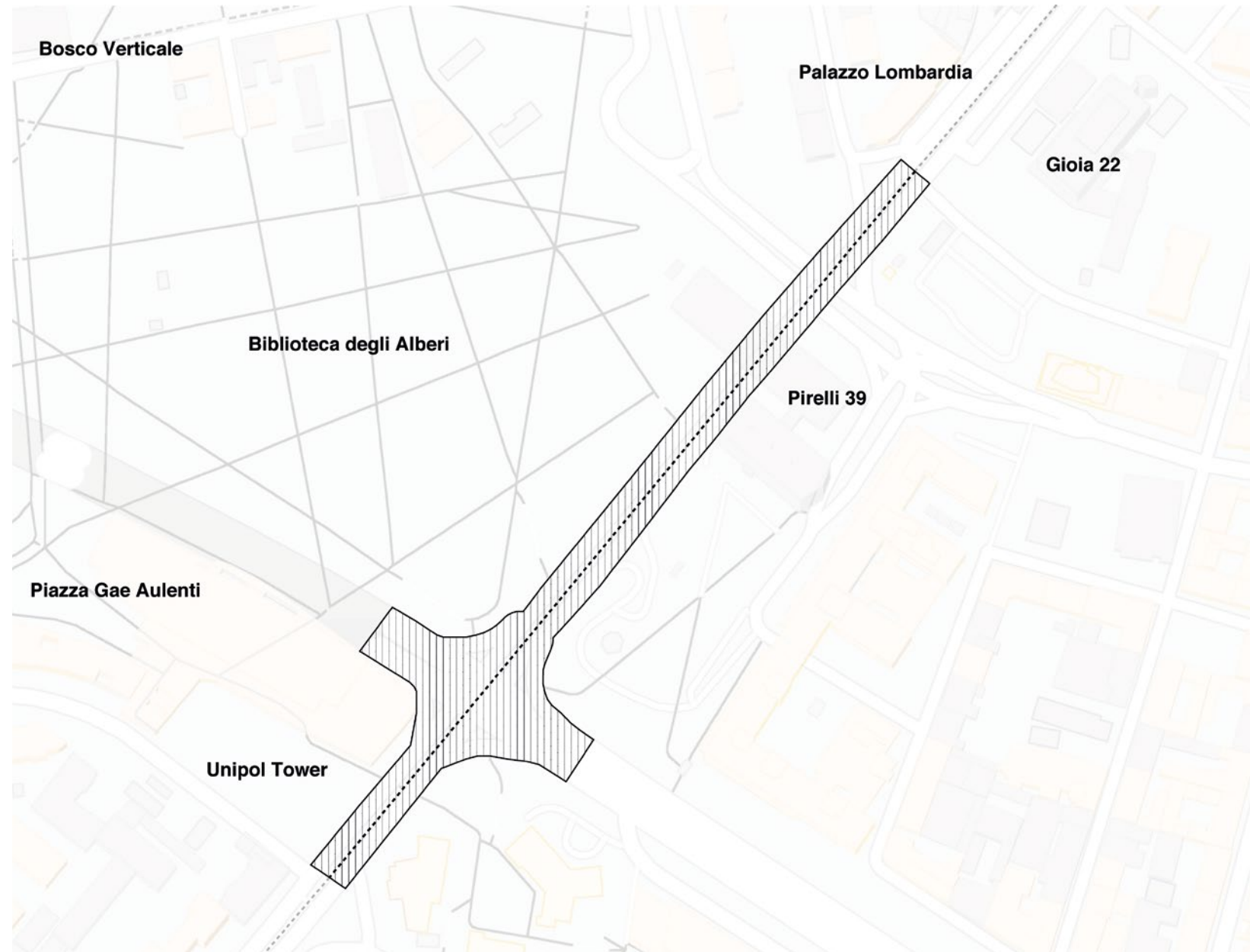
### Problems to solve:

- Lack of historical heritage
- Limited pedestrian and cycle connections due to the main existing infrastructure of via Gioia



### Tasks:

- Connect the park and the reopened Naviglio
- Create a linear boulevard
- Create public spaces
- Integrate the Naviglio with the future building renovations around it





02 Via Melchiorre Gioia





## 03 Conca dell'Incoronata

This area of Milan is well known as the home of the Conca dell'Incoronata, the canal's only remaining lock. Originally built in 1496 with contributions from Leonardo da Vinci himself, the ancient lock represents an exceptional example of the original system of "Conca Vinciana".

It is situated across a ring road called 'dei Bastioni' and includes the final section of Via Melchiorre Gioia and the first section of Via San Marco, another major Milan road.

It is surrounded by other older buildings that originally functioned as warehouses but have since been repurposed, as well as the nearby Church of Santa Maria Incoronata.





## 03 Conca dell'Incoronata



### Points of interest:

- Conca dell'Incoronata
- Chiesa di Santa Maria Incoronata
- Human scale environment
- Proximity to Porta Nuova



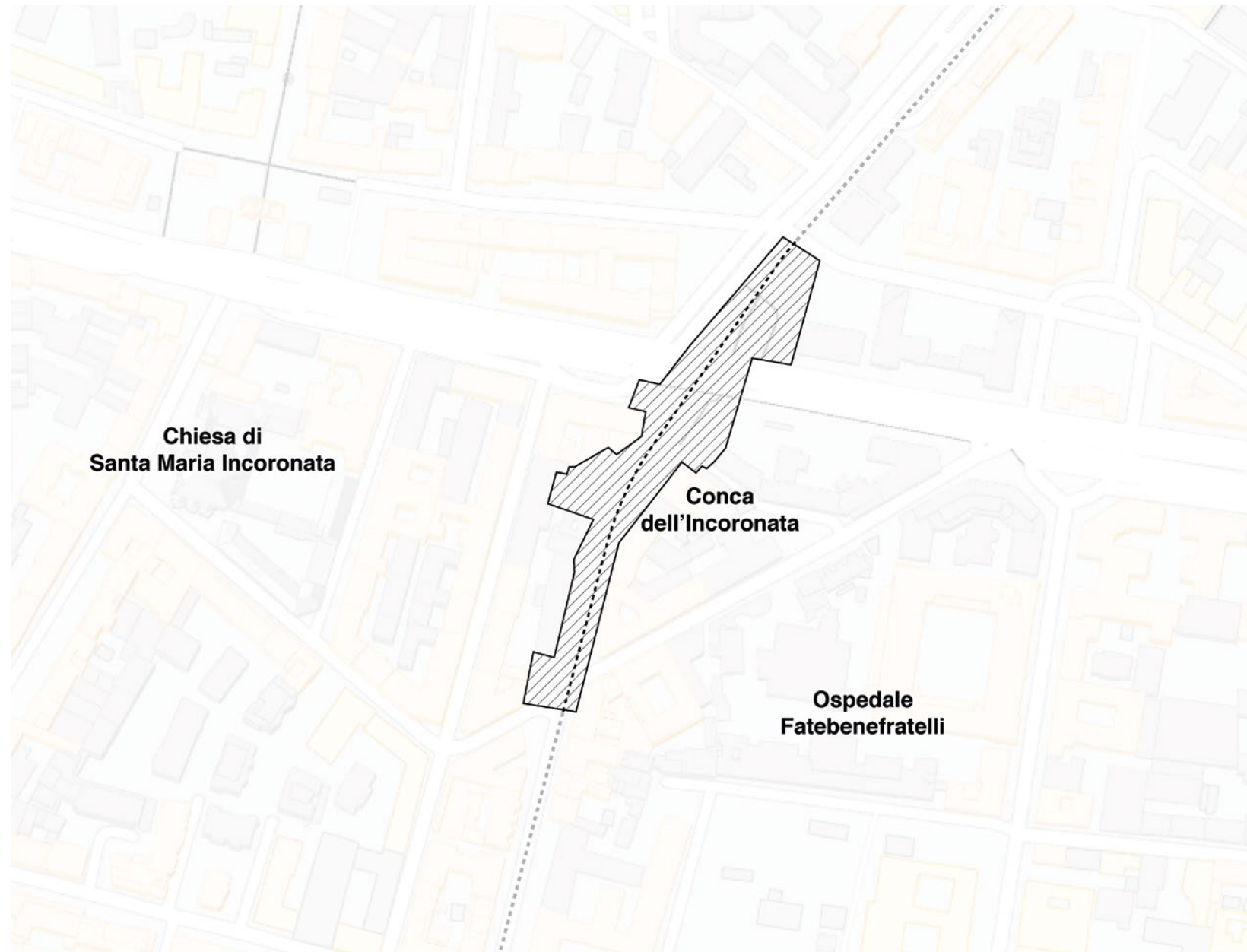
### Problems to solve:

- Lack of valorization of the navigation lock
- Poor connection due to the difference of height
- Lack of public spaces



### Tasks:

- Highlight the historical navigation lock, making it a key point of interest
- Re-organize the vertical connections
- Provide improved public spaces





03 Conca dell'Incoronata



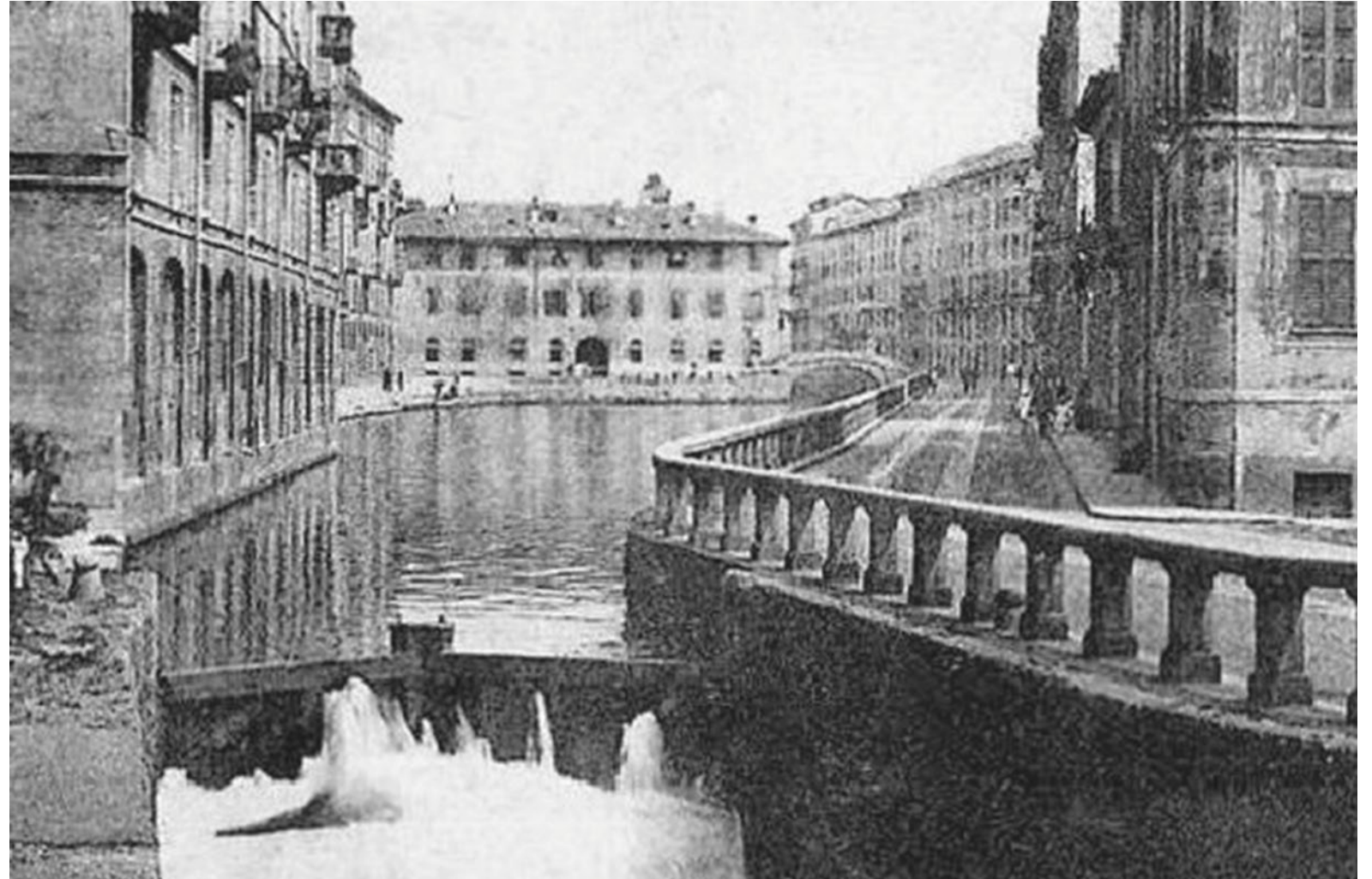


## 04 San Marco

The area of San Marco was once known for the small lake which allowed for the arrival of goods into the city by boat. This lake was facing the historical Church of San Marco, built during the 13<sup>th</sup> century, and it represented the arrival into the historical city center.

There was a wide and long basin called Laghetto di San Marco, which acted as a landing port for loading and unloading goods into this part of the city. Unfortunately, when the Navigli closed, this area then became a parking structure.

This area is known for the presence of important aristocratic buildings and palaces, with a number of important attractions: in addition to the Church of San Marco, there is the Brera Art Gallery, the Academy of Belle Arti, and the Museo del Risorgimento.





## 04 San Marco



### Points of interest:

- Church of San Marco
- Proximity to Brera district
- Pinacoteca di Brera
- Accademia Brera
- Museo del Risorgimento



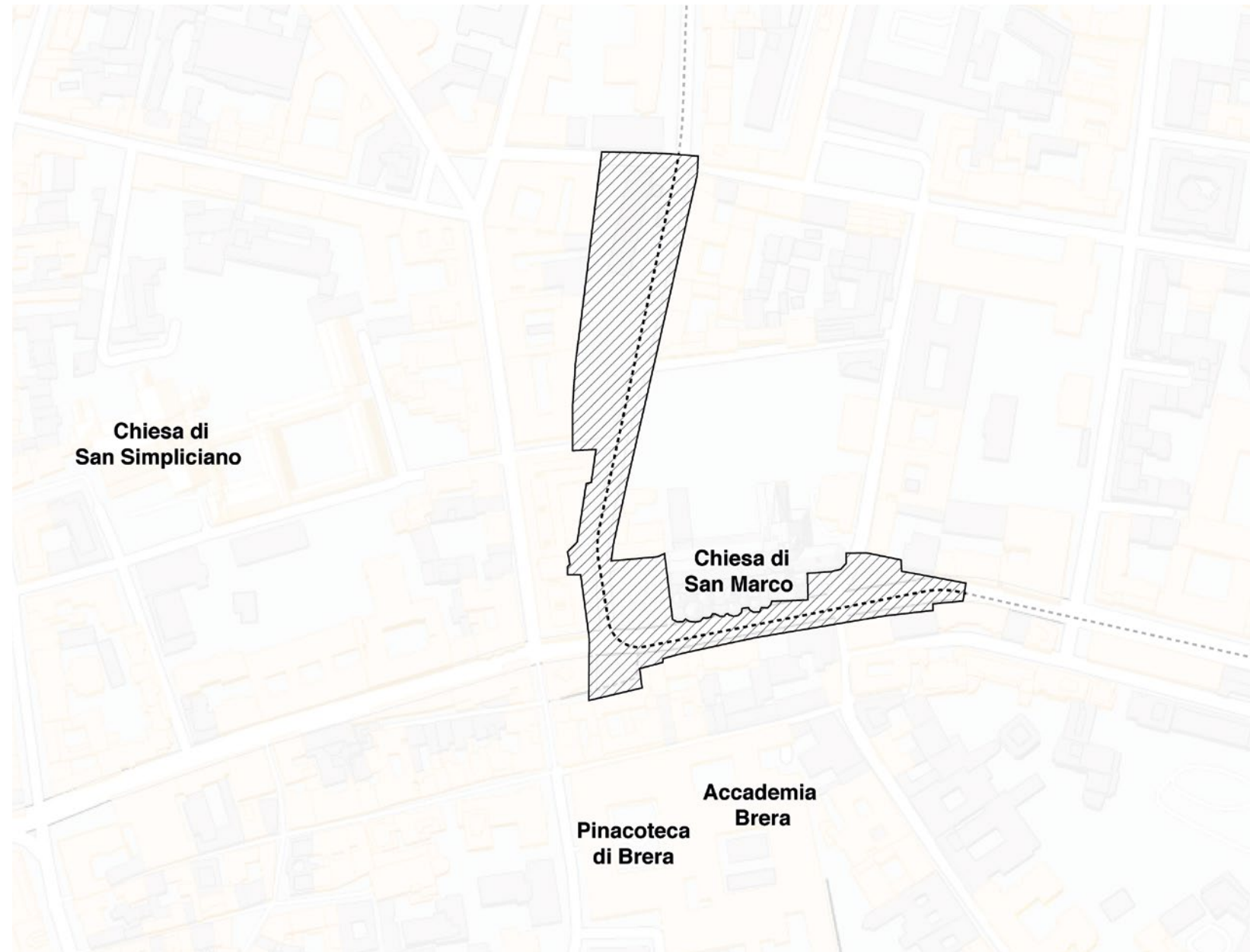
### Problems to solve:

- Limited possibilities of intervention due to the consolidated built environment
- Anonymous parking lot
- Lack of valorization of the buildings



### Tasks:

- Create a darsena (a wet dock) instead of the existing parking lot
- Integrate the existing church and historical elements with the re-opened Navigli
- Provide public spaces and functions on the re-opened darsena





## 04 San Marco





## 05 Via Senato-via Marina

At this point the Naviglio runs through an area of great value close to the historic centre, bordering the famous “Quadrilatero della moda”, and even in ancient times this section was characterised by the prestigious buildings of the Milanese nobility. Nearby there are also the Archiepiscopal Seminary, Palazzo Serbelloni (on the corner with Corso Venezia, in the proximity of the ancient lock of Via Senato), the 17th-century baroque Palazzo del Senato. Historically, on the right side of the Naviglio, there were beautiful noble gardens related to the palaces themselves. On the opposite side there was the alzaia, which bordered the naviglio; nearby there was the monumental Via Marina, designed at the end of the 18th century by the architect Piermarini, which links the central part of the city with its Naviglio to the gardens of Villa Reale and the public gardens of Porta Venezia. The environmental and monumental character of the whole area is therefore evident.





## 05 Via Senato-via Marina



### Points of interest:

- Giardini villa Reale
- Villa Reale
- Piazza Cavour
- Villa Necchi Campiglio



### Problems to solve:

- Lack of pedestrian and cycle connection due to the strong existing infrastructure of the inner circle
- Anonymous parking lot
- Lack of connection between the park and the pedestrian and cycle connection



### Tasks:

- Integrate the Naviglio with the park and the surroundings
- Improve the general quality of the pedestrian and cycle connection and experience
- Provide small public functions for the park and the urban spaces.





05 Via Senato-via Marina





## 06 Università degli Studi

As one of the busiest and most vibrant areas of Milan, there are a number of projects and developments underway in Università degli Studi that will need to be navigated around when reopening the Navigli canal.

These include the new underground Metro line 4 (M4) which will allow for a reduction of vehicular traffic along Via Francesco Sforza, and in this area, the Navigli flows along Via Francesco Sforza.

Participants that look to redesign this area will need to consider the complex relationship between the urban environment and the many important monuments and institutions in order to create a public space capable of enhancing the area's potential.





## 06 Università degli Studi



### Points of interest:

- Università Statale
- Future Policlinico Hospital
- Giardino della Guastalla
- Proximity to Duomo and city center



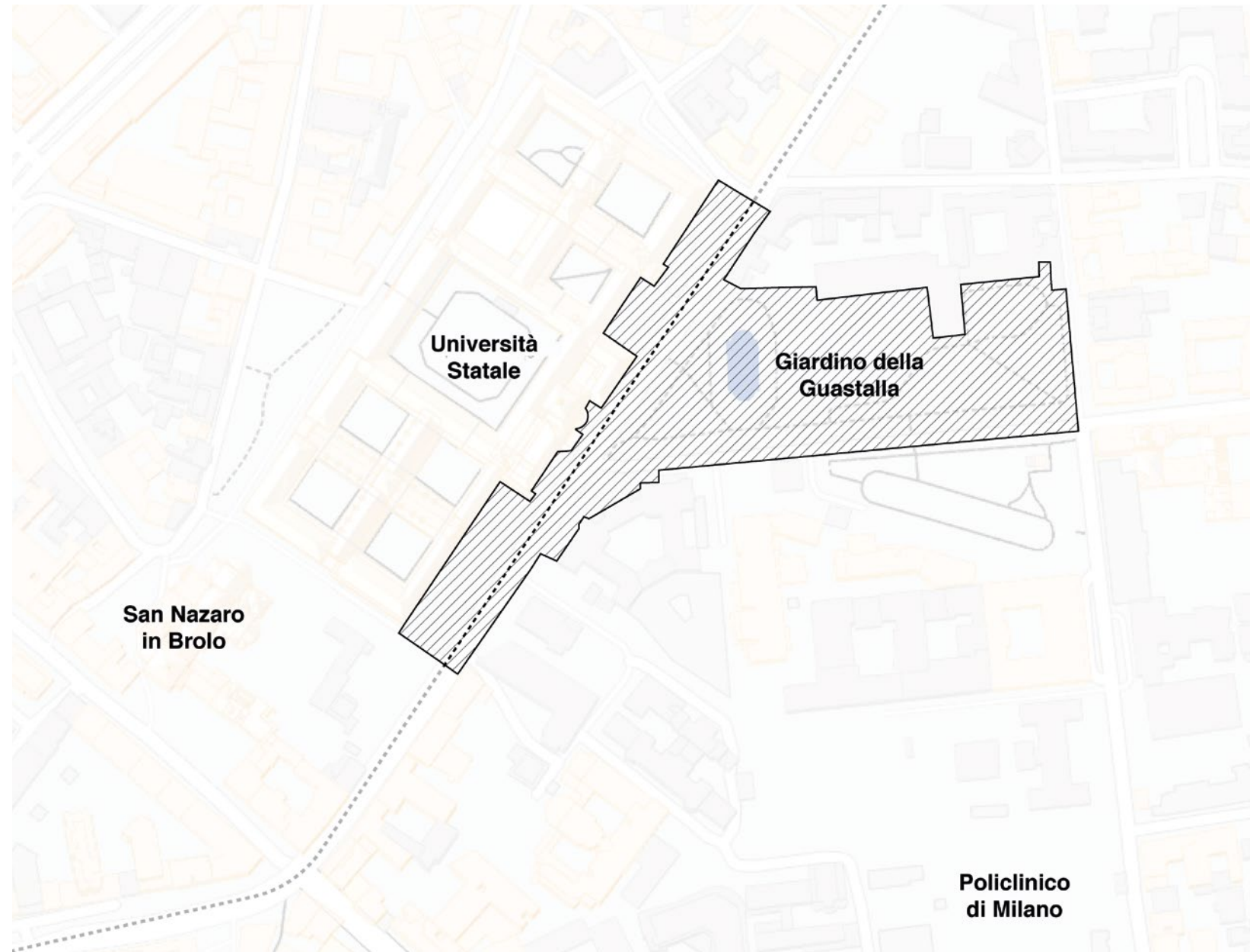
### Problems to solve:

- Lack of pedestrian and cycle connection due to the strong existing infrastructure of the inner circle
- Lack of architectural valorization of the University and the park



### Tasks:

- Integrate the Naviglio with the park, the university, and the hospital
- Improve the pedestrian and cycle connections
- Provide small public functions for the park and the urban spaces





## 06 Università degli Studi





## 07 Parco delle Basiliche

Parco delle Basiliche is one of the main attractions of the historical center of Milan. Its name comes from the fact that there are two major basilicas at opposite corners of the park, the Basilica of San Lorenzo and the Basilica of Sant'Eustorgio. The park is currently divided by the inner “circle road” which will be partially replaced by the re-opened Navigli.

This section of the Navigli will also be affected by the new underground Metro line 4 being built.

Participants' projects should focus on reconnecting the area with pedestrian routes and public spaces, enhancing the green spaces and preserving the historical heritage.





## 07 Parco delle Basiliche



### Points of interest:

- Basilica di San Lorenzo
- Basilica di Sant'Eustorgio
- Parco Giovanni Paolo II
- Parco delle Basiliche
- Museo Diocesano
- Colonne di San Lorenzo
- New M4 metro station



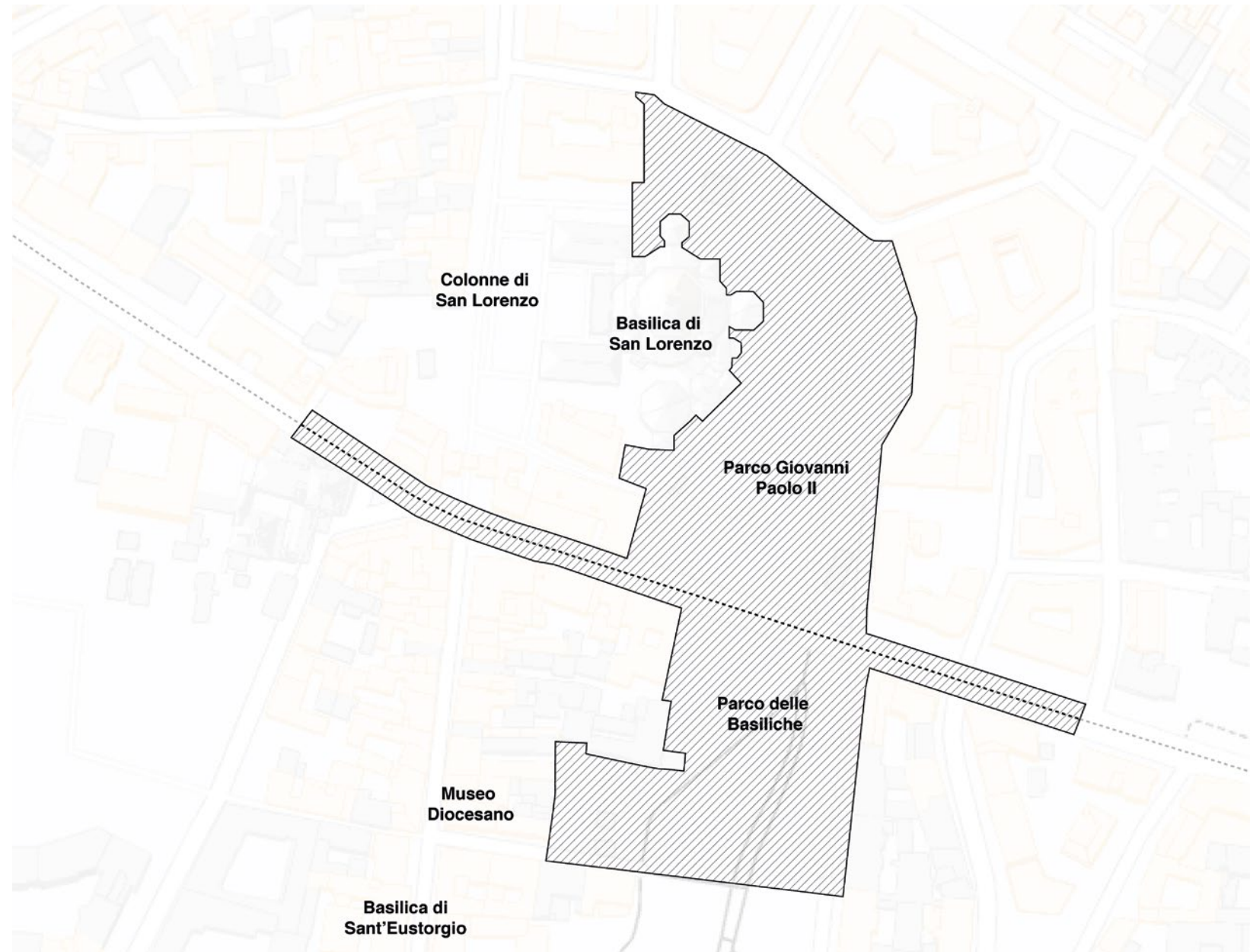
### Problems to solve:

- Lack of pedestrian and cycle connection due to the strong existing infrastructure of the inner circle
- Fragmentation of the spaces and points of attraction



### Tasks:

- Integrate the historical architectures with the park and the Navigli
- Integrate the metro station with the improved park
- Re-organize the public spaces and the pedestrian/cycle paths





## 07 Parco delle Basiliche





## 08 Parco archeologico

The Parco Archeologico is a green space within the city center that is known for its ancient Roman heritage, featuring the remains of an ancient amphitheatre. Located nearby is the Viaredda navigation lock, one of the few ancient locks that have been preserved, located on the traditional arrival point of the Navigli in the Darsena.

This was once the most important port in the city and one of the busiest ports in Italy. Recently, for the EXPO 2015, the Darsena was completely renovated, becoming one of the key attractions of contemporary Milan.

For this project, participants should focus on the Parco Archeologico, the Viaredda lock, and the connection between the Navigli and the renovated public space of the Darsena.





## 08 Parco archeologico



### Points of interest:

- Parco Archeologico
- Parco Rossi
- Darsena
- Conca Viarenna



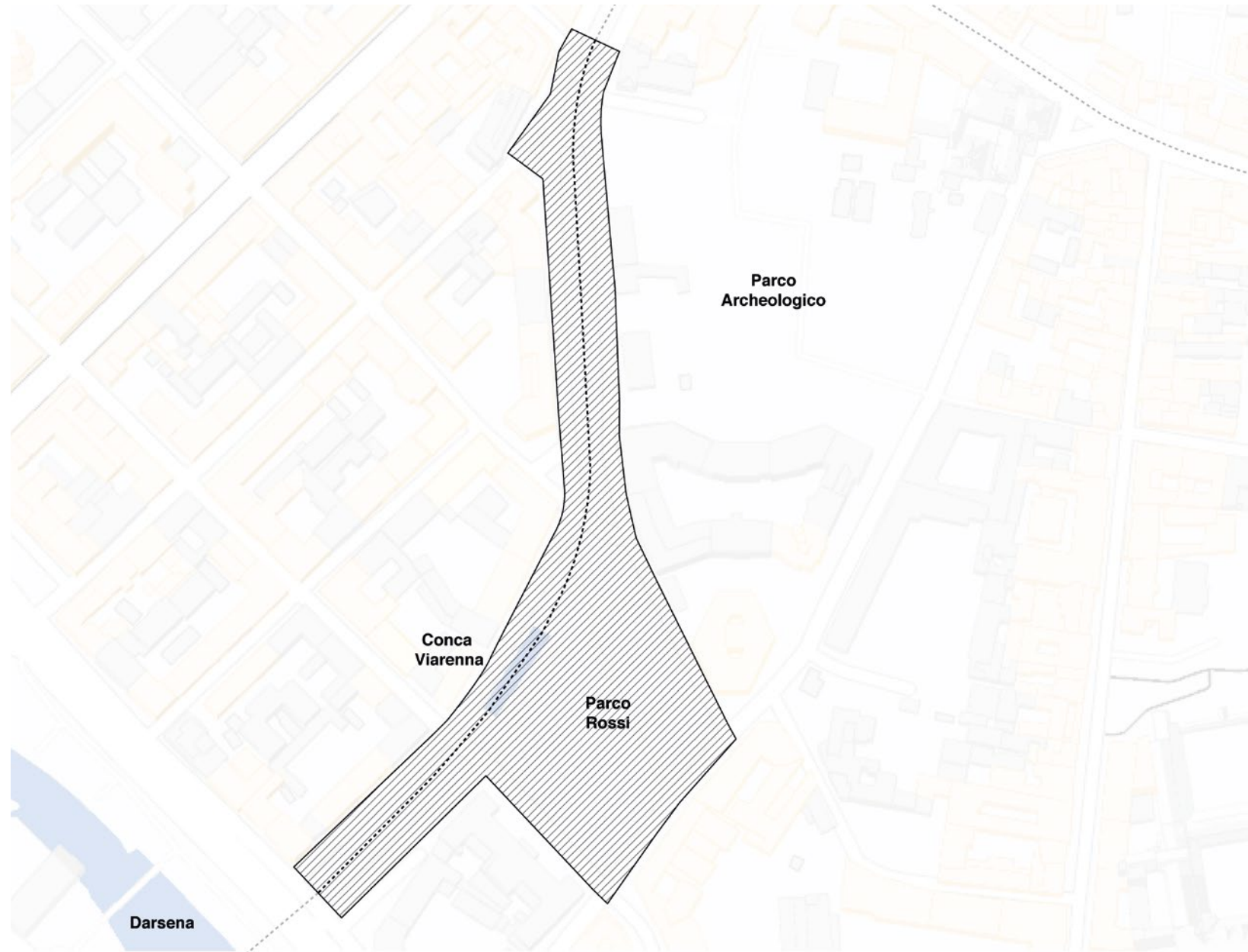
### Problems to solve:

- Lack of valorization of the archeological park and its public spaces
- No connection between the park, the navigation lock, and the Darsena
- Low quality public spaces



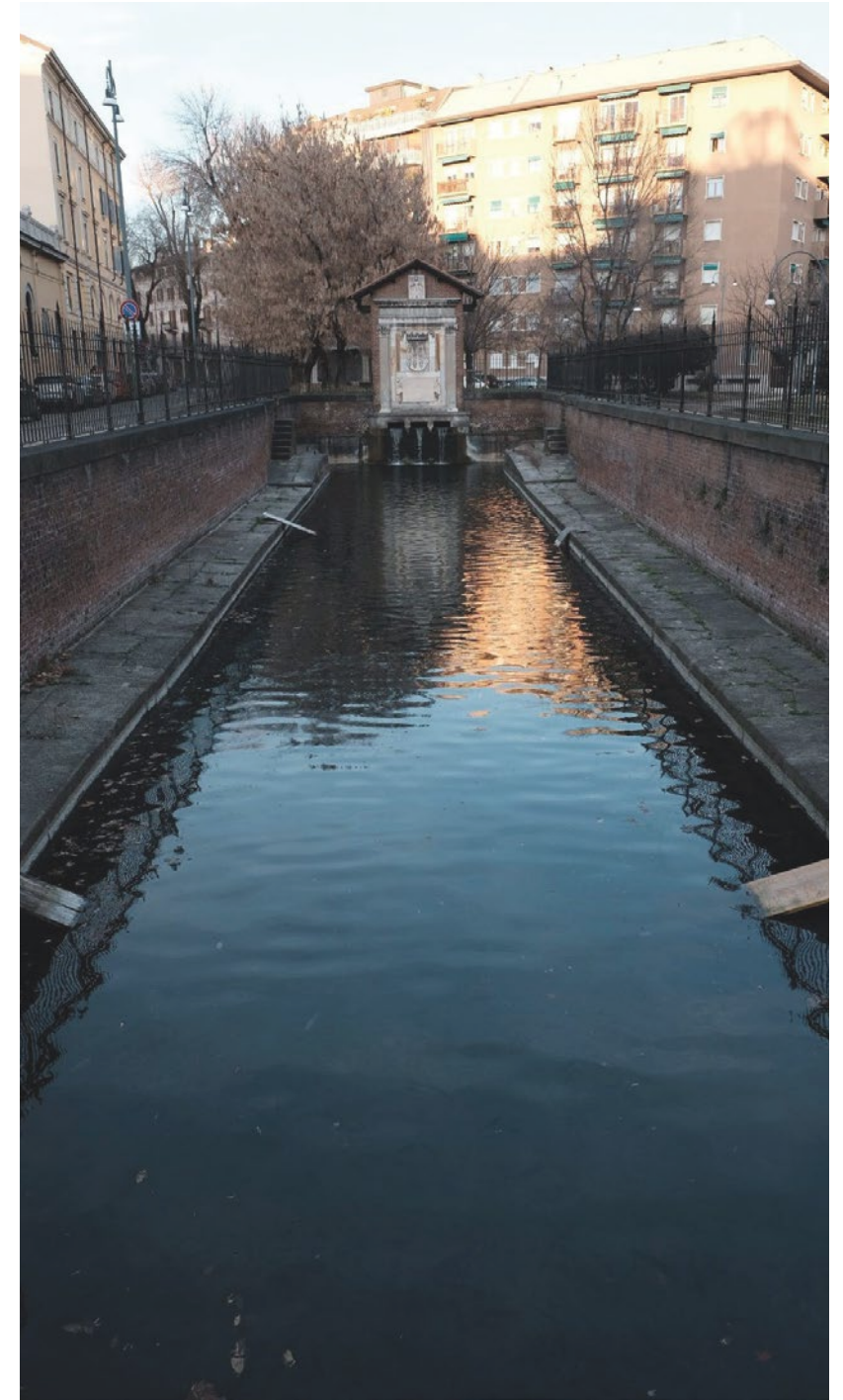
### Tasks:

- Improve the overall urban space
- Provide new and improved connections
- Create attraction towards the archeological park through urban spaces or new functions





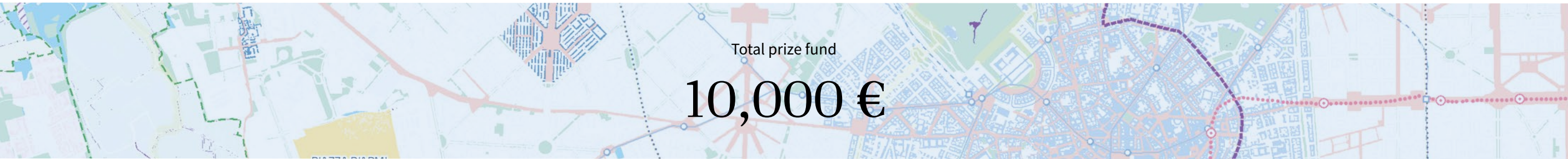
## 08 Parco archeologico





# Prizes

## Monetary awards



3 winning proposals, 3 special award recipients and 6 honourable mentions will be selected. Bee Breeders will award a total of 10,000 € in prize money to competition winners as follows:

1st Prize  
5,000 €

2nd Prize  
2,000 €

3rd Prize  
1,000 €

**ARCHHIVE STUDENT AWARD**  
500 € Cash prize +  
50 € ARCHHIVEBOOKS.com gift card

**AAPPAREL SUSTAINABILITY AWARD**  
500 € Cash prize +  
50 € AAPPAREL.com gift card

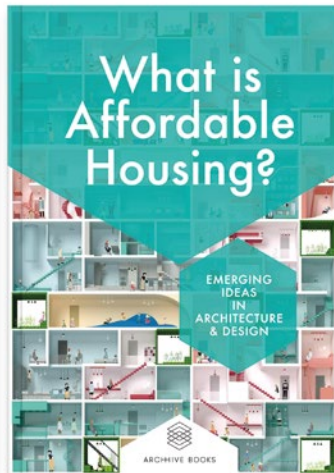
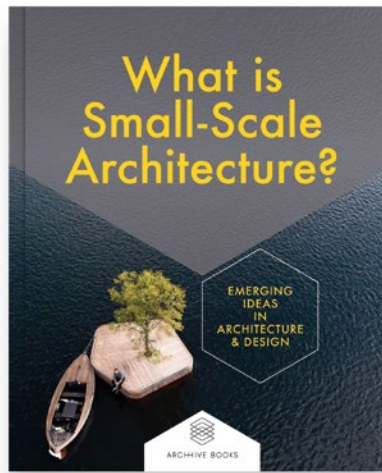
**CLIENT'S RIAPRIRE I NAVIGLI ASSOCIATION +  
PRIMITIVO STUDIO FAVOURITE AWARD**  
1,000 €

+ 6 honorable mentions



# Prizes

## Special awards



### ARCHHIVE STUDENT AWARD

500 € Cash prize +  
50 € ARCHHIVEBOOKS.com gift card



ARCHIVE BOOKS

### AAPPAREL SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

500 € Cash prize +  
50 € AAPPAREL.com gift card



More information about the special awards at  
[architecturecompetitions.com/NavigliCanalChallenge](https://architecturecompetitions.com/NavigliCanalChallenge)



# Prizes

The Milan Navigli Canal Challenge is being run in collaboration with the Riaprire i Navigli Association – "Reopen the Navigli Association" – and Primitivo Studio, as technical support, who are proposing a complete renovation of the existing canal. Their goal is to create a new way for the city to operate, with competition entries expected to play a big part in swaying public opinion on the subject.



**primitivo**  
studio

## Publications

The winners will get international art and design media coverage and will be featured on the Bee Breeders website.

A full list of media partners who have committed to present the competition winners in their publications can be found at [architecturecompetitions.com/NavigliCanalChallenge](http://architecturecompetitions.com/NavigliCanalChallenge)

## Certificates

Bee Breeders will acknowledge the outstanding performance of all winners and honourable mentions with Certificates of Achievement.





# Competition schedule

## Preliminary registration deadlines

🚩 Early Bird Registration  
**NOVEMBER 15 – DECEMBER 8**

🚩 Advance Registration  
**DECEMBER 9 – JANUARY 27**

🚩 Last Minute Registration  
**JANUARY 28 – APRIL 21**

It is still possible to participate in this competition after the preliminary deadlines, however, a higher late registration fee will be charged.

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🗨️ Closing date for questions & answers  
**APRIL 28, 2022**

In order to guarantee equal opportunities to all competition participants, no new questions will be answered after this deadline!



Closing date for registration  
**APRIL 21, 2022**



Closing date for submission  
**MAY 26, 2022 (11:59 p.m. GMT)**



Announcement of the winners  
**JULY 7, 2022**





# Registration fees



Please find registration fees listed  
at the competition website  
**[architecturecompetitions.com/NavigliCanalChallenge](https://architecturecompetitions.com/NavigliCanalChallenge)**

# Discounts for architecture students

Bee Breeders Architecture Competition Organisers would like to hear from representatives of universities, schools, and colleges offering architecture/design studies.

Contact us to receive special student rates for group registration (discount applies for 3+ registrations from one university/school), as well as further information and support to get your students involved in architecture competitions.

Send us a request from your university email address along with basic information about you and your university/school. Please note that only recognized university staff can apply for the reduced student rate.



## Bee Breeders Architecture University rankings

Explore the Bee Breeder's list of the world's 1000+ most competitive architecture universities –

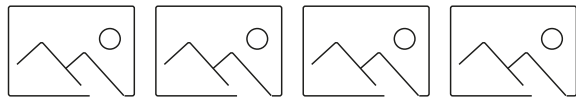
**[architecturecompetitions.com/architecture-university-rankings](https://architecturecompetitions.com/architecture-university-rankings)**



# Submission requirements

- Participants are required to upload **four (4) A2 landscape-orientated presentation boards** (must not exceed 5MB per board) with sketches, renderings, plans, sections, elevations, diagrams, and/or other presentation tools to explain their proposal.

4 panels



- No video files are accepted.
- All information provided in writing must be in English.
- All submissions must be uploaded via the architecturecompetitions.com upload panel. Access information and instructions on how to upload the presentation boards will be issued to participants via email immediately after successful registration.
- Presentation boards must not indicate any information related to an individual's/team's identity.

Participants who do not comply with the requirements will be disqualified without refund.



# Presentation deliverables set

- Urban plan
- Street elevation/s
- Primary section/s
- Primary plan/s
- Axonometrics providing information on building systems or illustrating key architectural concepts
- Perspectives:
  - Primary interior spaces
  - Primary site locations
- Diagrams:
  - Circulation
  - Public versus private space
  - Lighting
  - Landscaping
  - Transportation
  - Energy systems
  - Cityscapes/urban relationships

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Please note the PRESENTATION DELIVERABLES SET listed above is a suggestion only. Participants can choose to use a selection from it, or propose a completely different set that would explain their design in the most efficient manner.



# Jury

The jury panel members list and biographies are published at  
**[architecturecompetitions.com/NavigliCanalChallenge](https://architecturecompetitions.com/NavigliCanalChallenge)**

Participants are advised to research both the working site and previous similar case studies as part of the design process. For each competition, 6–9 jury panel members are selected. Bee Breeders reserves the right to add/remove the jury panel members at any moment.

Jury members shall under no circumstances be contacted by competition participants or their representatives. Participants who attempt to contact jury members shall be disqualified. All competition-related communications should be carried out solely with Bee Breeders staff. For any questions, please contact us at  
[info@architecturecompetitions.com](mailto:info@architecturecompetitions.com)

Milan Navigli Canal Challenge is a competition which encourages participants to test or redefine the boundaries of architecture. The jury may choose to reward projects that show a high degree of creativity, even if they breach competition guidelines, as long as this is justified.

Bee Breeders is committed to selecting the most qualified industry professionals to comprise its jury panels. Jury panels consist of architects, in addition to professionals from other professional backgrounds that are relevant to the competition topic, to guarantee the most objective competition results.

You may find the invited jury list from previous competitions here –  
[architecturecompetitions.com/guest-jury](https://architecturecompetitions.com/guest-jury)

# Tell the world your story!

## *Video and interview*

Shortly prior to the results announcement, selected competition winners and honorable mentions will be contacted and asked to answer a series of interview questions (**in writing**) and submit a video about themselves. These will be published with the competition results.

There is a tight deadline to announce the winners on time, therefore interview questions will need to be returned within **2 days**, and videos submitted within **2 weeks** of being requested. Hence, we advise participants to consider ideas for their video and answers to their questions in advance so that they are able to submit the relevant material on time.

**Please note** – both the interview and video submission is **OPTIONAL**. However, we do recommend that all participants submit as much material as possible in order to maximise the publicity and media attention their work will receive.

### Read more about:



The interview – [architecturecompetitions.com/interview](https://architecturecompetitions.com/interview)



The video submission – [architecturecompetitions.com/submit-movie](https://architecturecompetitions.com/submit-movie)

Explore the movies received from Bee Breeders' architecture competition winners and honourable mentions here - [vimeo.com/channels/1648488](https://vimeo.com/channels/1648488)





# Eligibility

The competition is open to all. No professional qualifications are required. Design proposals can be developed individually or by teams (4 team members maximum).

People who have direct personal or professional relationships with jury panel members or organisers may not participate in this competition.

# Competition documentation

The following information is available for download at [architecturecompetitions.com/NavigliCanalChallenge](https://architecturecompetitions.com/NavigliCanalChallenge):

- Full competition brief
- Site and context photographs
- CAD and PDF site plans
- 3D site models

All information can be downloaded as often as required; no additional information or materials will be provided after registration.

The brief and all associated documentation for this competition are created for the sole purpose of an academic exercise and are not legal documents.

The provided materials, or alternatives, can be used, created, or sourced at the participant's discretion.

# Media partners

A full list of media partners who have committed to present the competition winners in their publications can be found at [architecturecompetitions.com/NavigliCanalChallenge](https://architecturecompetitions.com/NavigliCanalChallenge)

For potential media partners who are also interested in covering the present competition and its winners, please contact us at [info@architecturecompetitions.com](mailto:info@architecturecompetitions.com)

Competition press kit (in English) and banners are available at [architecturecompetitions.com/NavigliCanalChallenge/press](https://architecturecompetitions.com/NavigliCanalChallenge/press)