



RIAPRIRE I NAVIGLI

REBUILDING MILAN FROM ITS WATER



(for everyone's good)

Reopening the Navigli canals is possible! And profitable!

For centuries Milan's canals, known as Navigli, defined it as a city of water.

Reopening the Navigli, covered and filled during the Fascist era, in 1929, and the 1960s, encompassing Via Melchiorre Gioia, the Darsena and the Inner Ring of canals, sends a strong signal about Milan's future.

A majority of Milanese have already expressed their enthusiasm about reclaiming these important, monumental works of hydraulic engineering. Renovating the canals is feasible as urban planning and is compatible with new traffic patterns. The project is economically and financially viable, and could be done with private sector resources.

Building a new network of canals is an occasion to improve Milan; along the canals' routes and surrounding areas; above ground and below.

This is an extraordinary opportunity to invest in a high-quality project that will promote new economic activity and open up fresh landscapes.

Reopening its canals will make Milan more attractive internationally. It will enliven and strengthen its tourist, leisure and culture economies.

The newly-opened Navigli will rejuvenate Milan and prove it is possible to rethink the idea of what a city can be.

An association created just for this

The mission of the "REOPEN THE NAVIGLI" association is to promote the restoration of the Navigli in Milan in the shortest possible time and with the maximum participation of public institutions and citizens.

The Association's principal goals are:

- To make the public aware of these extraordinary canals; the ones that are closed and the ones still open;
- To inform the public, to collect input and promote activities to improve the project, to foster broad citizen participation in Milan and the Lombardy region;
- To establish the project's general guidelines and implement the reopening of the Navigli;
- To define the work schedule, timing and cost of financing in order to make the entire project possible;
- To define procedures for completing the project and managing the new Navigli.

The Association is open to all.



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Reopening the “Navigli” Changing the quality of life



Architect's rendering of **Via Molino delle Armi**, between Piazza Vetra and the intersection with Corso di Porta Ticinese. The church of Santa Maria alla Vittoria is visible in the background.



How **Via Francesco Sforza** could look between the entrance of the Policlinico Hospital and the Statale University. Traffic would be limited in this area.



Covering the Martesana Naviglio in Via Melchiorre Gioia during the 1950's, looking from central Viale Monte Grappa in the center towards Milan's outskirts. The Pirelli tower can be seen in the background on the right.



An image of **Via Melchiorre Gioia** with the Martesana Naviglio in the middle of the main road, near Milan's regional government offices and town hall.

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Reopening the “Navigli” Changing the quality of life

The Navigli have played a crucial role in Milan's life for over eight hundred years. Today a forward-looking plan to restore them will add quality to the city's development. The Navigli will be reopened following the water's flow, from Cassina dé Pom, where the Naviglio Martesana goes under Via Melchiorre Gioia, around to the Conca dei Navigli (lock), and to the Darsena.

The eight kilometers of reconstructed Navigli, from the Martesana to the Darsena will provide for major road intersections. Restoring the entire Milan and Lombardy waterway-system will create a navigable link from Lago Maggiore and Lake Como to the Ticino river and eventually the Adriatic Sea.

The project includes a detailed and comprehensive construction plan that covers every aspect of realizing the Navigli and improving surrounding areas. The total cost of reopening the Navigli is absolutely sustainable, even in these economically hard times. Moreover the project could be financed with private resources, through project financing and private subscription or donations.

The reopened Navigli will stimulate new economic activity in tourism, energy and many other sectors.

Four answers to four questions about the reopening of the Navigli.

● But how much will it cost?

The total estimate for architectural and engineering work is between 120 and 150 million Euro; less than the cost of building three kilometers of subway line. The re-opening of the Navigli could be financed with private investment, private and institutional donations and popular subscription.

● What about the impact on traffic?

The current “Cerchia dei Navigli” (Inner Circle) will be a limited traffic area reserved for residents and public transport. Traffic currently using the Inner Circle will be partially deviated towards the Bastioni Circle, as previously planned and ratified by Milan's city government. The new M4 subway line will gradually reduce traffic around the Inner Circle.

● What will happen to the “milanese movida” when the navigli are reopened?

The “Movida” issue is not related to water, but to the zoning of commercial activity. Milan has several “Movida Zones” that are not located on Navigli, including Piazza Vetra, the columns of San Lorenzo, the Garibaldi-Como area and Sempione Arco della Pace.

● Will reopening the navigli increase rats and mosquitoes?

Mosquitoes breed in stagnant, not moving, water. Rats live where there is rubbish and proliferate near dirty water. The Navigli's historic bad reputation came from the fact that they were used as sewage systems. The restored Navigli will never dry up.



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