

Press release

Parco Schuster: nature supporting accessibility and social inclusion

Rome, December 13, 2024 – The iconic park in the Ostiense district is the site of green Redevelopment initiatives in the areas adjacent to the Vatican and the Jubilee Basilicas, promoted by Società Giubileo 2025 S.p.A. as the implementing entity in preparation for the Holy Year. Through its regeneration, LAND aims to establish a new identity focused on social engagement and sharing, featuring educational and interactive activities, as well as multisensory pathways immersed in nature.

A frame of Nature in the heart of Rome. A flexible and multifunctional public space dedicated to **social inclusion**, designed to meet the diverse needs of the community with a focus on sharing and **accessibility**. This is the vision behind the **Parco Schuster** project, developed by **LAND in collaboration with a-fact architecture factory (formerly Parallel Collective), Proger, and GAe Engineering Srl**, commissioned by **Società Giubileo 2025 S.p.A.**, the implementing entity of the intervention, in preparation for the Holy Year.

The historic green area, named Parco Paolini in 1942 and later renamed Parco Schuster in honor of Cardinal Schuster, is a **large triangular space facing the Basilica of San Paolo fuori le Mura**, one of the four Jubilee Basilicas in Rome. LAND's intervention builds upon and further develops the redesign initiated for the **Jubilee of 2000**, aimed at promoting pedestrianization, expanding green spaces, reorganizing access for pilgrims and tourists, and restoring the relationship between the basilica and its surrounding environment.

LAND's landscape design draws inspiration from the historical legacy and layers of the park, with the goal of returning a **public space to the community for daily use** by residents and visitors alike. It envisions an open area shielded from traffic, **suitable for rest and contemplation**, aligning with the needs of both religious and urban tourism. The park integrates diverse landscapes into a harmonious whole, creating a **natural perimeter** within which various user groups can engage in social dynamics, educational activities, and interactive experiences, including **multisensory and cultural pathways**.

"The regeneration of Parco Schuster follows the guidelines of the Arcipelago Verde strategy, fitting into the process of integrating Rome's central areas with existing parks and natural reserves. This approach aims to rediscover and enhance the biodiversity and rich landscape heritage of the capital," **says Andreas Kipar, CEO of LAND and project leader**. "By reconnecting people with nature, we can create new gathering spaces that form part of a network of 'slow' connections, linking the city center with its peripheries and fostering Rome's transformation into an urban landscape."

"The growing centrality of public spaces in our cities drives their constant evolution into hubs of services for citizens and visitors," **says Giovanni Sanna, founding partner of a-fact architecture factory**. "Revitalizing existing architectural heritage, such as the structures designed by architect Cellini within Parco Schuster, is crucial to preserving green and permeable areas without compromising their balance."

The use of **nature-based solutions**, such as permeable materials, enhances the microclimate, promotes **climate resilience**, and lends the park a distinctive identity. Inclusive design and welcoming spaces ensure easy access to nature, offering people the opportunity to **protect and care for the environment directly**. In line with the park's historical vocation, LAND's intervention **includes restoring and cleaning existing pavements** made of Roman white travertine and terrazzo, ensuring maximum accessibility for pilgrims and residents with inclusive furniture and playgrounds.

The project remains open to adjustments aimed at better addressing the needs of the area and the community in preparation for the Jubilee.

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LAND

LAND – an acronym for Landscape, Architecture, Nature, and Development – is an international landscape consultancy with offices in Austria, Canada, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia, and Switzerland. Andreas Kipar and a Team of 200 landscape architects, architects, urban planners, agronomists, engineers, and researchers are dedicated to the regeneration of regions, cities, and places since 1990.

LAND's consulting, planning, and design activities aim to improve people's well-being and environment through the implementation of climate-positive solutions and participatory processes that lead to sustainable development.

We provide consultancy to public and private clients on how to innovate with nature, applying international policies and promoting collaborative planning procedures. Together with our clients and our extensive network of partners, we leverage the opportunities of the green transition for our communities.

Among our main projects: Green Rays strategy, Porta Nuova, Piazzale Loreto, and the re-development of the former EXPO site MIND in Milan; Essen's Urban Open Space Strategy and Krupp Park, comprising ThyssenKrupp HQ, and the Freiheit Emscher in Essen; Ruhr Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy; the renaturation of the Airolò valley and Cassarate River Park in Switzerland; Saint-Laurent biodiversity Corridor in Montreal; Al Urubah Park in Riyadh and EXPO 2020 Dubai in the UAE; strategic consulting in landscaping, infrastructure, and renewable energy through, among other things, Landscape Information Modeling LIM©, as well as the research and innovation projects UrbAlytics and T-Factor funded by the European Commission. LAND's work has been recognized through numerous prestigious international awards, amongst them Premio Mercurio, MIPIM, Wan Awards, Biennale Pisa, Passive and Low Energy Architecture Award (PLEA), European Garden Award 2023.

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