

Press release

"Green on the ground": Milan 'Healing City' takes root at the Policlinico

Milan, April 14, 2025 – A 'healing' Nature that weaves through the pathways between hospital buildings, offering well-being and environmental comfort to patients, staff, and visitors in a place historically dedicated to health. This is the vision of LAND for the regeneration of the open spaces at the Policlinico di Milano: a project that began on March 25 with the planting of the first trees, a true gift to the city in celebration of the 35th anniversary of the international landscape consultancy led by Andreas Kipar. With permeability and ecological continuity, this part of the city, with 500 years of history, will regain its pulse, thanks to a widespread natural environment that will harmonize with the soon-to-be-created Therapeutic Garden above the Sforza Pavilion.

Humanizing with Nature one of Italy's most important hospital centers. This is the primary goal of the landscape-environmental regeneration masterplan for the **open spaces at the Ospedale Policlinico di Milano**. Spanning an **area of 8.9 hectares**, the intervention by LAND Italia includes the **removal of 3,122 square meters of impermeable surfaces**, which will be replaced by **1,870 square meters of green spaces** and **1,970 square meters of green walls**, along with the planting of **100 new trees**.

The first two specimens of *Lagerstroemia indica* were planted during the official launch of '**Green on the Ground**' on **Tuesday, March 25, the Day of Pardon, at the Ospedale Policlinico**, with the participation of key city and regional authorities. A special day that celebrates 500 years of history while looking toward the future. To mark its **35th anniversary**, **LAND paid tribute to the Fondazione Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico by gifting the two trees to the city**. This marked the beginning of the **second phase of the project**, focused on the **first area of implementation** in collaboration with **HW Style and Consorzio SIS**.

Greenery becomes the catalyst for an integrated and hierarchical system that connects the spaces, facilitates orientation, and offers shade and shelter to passersby, with **protected pedestrian paths and smoother crossings**. **A capillary Nature creates environmental, social, and economic value**. Targeted interventions such as **depaving**, the use of nature-based solutions, the expansion of pedestrian areas, and the strengthening of safety for soft mobility all contribute to the **environmental comfort and well-being** of patients, staff, and visitors.

"By planting the first trees of 'Green on the Ground,' we have sown a shift in perspective, moving from the built to the unbuilt to reconnect with the soil we walk on," said Andreas Kipar, CEO of LAND and project lead. "Breaking the asphalt in favor of Green means giving space to Nature, which helps us breathe again, improves the climate quality of our cities, and enhances the buildings themselves, bringing well-being and biodiversity into the daily lives of all. A strong and radical message, materialized as a gift for a Milan that looks to the future as a Healing City: a city that heals its citizens and regenerates itself."

"This green road toward a new Policlinico represents our way of practicing public healthcare and reflects another side of our legacy: being the largest landowner in Italy, thanks to properties received over the centuries from our benefactors," added Marco Giachetti, President of the Policlinico di Milano. "All of this aligns with our mission to create a system of care and health promotion that also encompasses a better environment, essential for the maintenance of each individual's psycho-physical well-being. Therefore, in the project for the New Policlinico, we wanted to emphasize Green, both with the large elevated therapeutic garden and with the creation of a ground-level path that gives 'breathing space' to everyone—patients and healthcare workers—who pass through the hospital area every day."

A result of continuous dialogue with the **Fondazione Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico**, "Green on the Ground" represents the realization of **nature working on multiple levels**: from the ground, with the depaving strategy of **Let's Break It Up!**, to the elevated element of the **Therapeutic Garden** for the new Sforza Pavilion, with LAND Italia as part of the project team led by Techint, Boeri Studio Srl, and Barreca & La Varra.

Thanks to **Natural Capital Accounting**, it will be possible to quantify the **ecosystem benefits** generated by Green on the Ground during and after its completion. LAND's environmental performance forecasts indicate that the

intervention could **reduce the perceived temperature by two degrees**, while the new trees could produce approximately **10,000 kg of oxygen annually** and simultaneously sequester **15,000 kg of carbon dioxide**.

The landscape-environmental regeneration project has been divided into **six project areas**, ensuring gradual implementation over time.

Contacts for the media

Daniele Galimberti – Media Relations

+39 351 632 7287

daniele.galimberti@landsrl.com

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 Airolo 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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