

PORTA NUOVA: FIRST LOT OF THE 'BIBLIOTECA DEGLI ALBERI' PARK NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE SECOND LOT GETS UNDER WAY

- **The first lot will open to citizens with a Spring Festival on 1st April**
- **The second lot of the Biblioteca degli Alberi park, designed by the Inside Outside|Petra Blaisse studio, will be completed by the summer of 2018**
- **Citizens will be able to take part in the park's construction through the *MiColtivo nel Parco* project promoted by the Fondazione Riccardo Catella**

Milan, 29 March 2017 - **The first lot of the "Biblioteca degli Alberi" park in Porta Nuova is officially open:** the first 7,500 m² at Via de Castillia 26/28 will be open to the public as from tomorrow 30 March and mid-April **will see a start to work on the second lot of the park** (adding approximately 77,000 m²). **Citizens will be able to take part in the park's construction** through the *MiColtivo nel Parco* project promoted by Fondazione Riccardo Catella.

The first lot is scheduled to be officially opened on **Saturday, 1st April: a Spring Festival** with creative and teaching laboratories for children, bowls tournaments and breakfast for everyone. The park area at Via de Castillia 26/28, around the Fondazione Riccardo Catella and the Art Incubator, hosts 44 trees from three different species (*Fraxinus Excelsior*, *Populus Nigra Italica* and *Carpinus Betulus*), two bowls fields, water games and an innovative play-park that is also accessible to disabled children. LAND studio directed the works for the first lot of Milan City Council's project including a didactic vegetable garden (approximately 260 m²), which will host a new **urban horticultural laboratories program** open to citizens once a week. This program will be **managed by Fondazione Riccardo Catella**, which has been operating in the enhancing of public spaces and local sustainable development for more than ten years.

The award of the international tenders for Works Management encompasses a mid-April 2017 start of the site for the second lot. During the construction phase, the area will welcome the *MiColtivo nel Parco* range of initiatives promoted by **Fondazione Riccardo Catella as part of the Porta Nuova Smart Community program**. *MiColtivo nel Parco* seeks to draw attention to the importance of optimising urban green areas through the *direct involvement of citizens in the park's realisation*: guided tours of the site, special events for the collective planting of flowered lawns, flowerbeds and trees and urban horticultural laboratories.

The Main Partners of *MiColtivo nel Parco* are **COIMA** and **BNP Paribas Italia**, which has recently opened the new "Diamond Tower" office in Porta Nuova. The Group - also thanks to the dedication and sensitivity of the nearly 3,400 employees that work and live in Milan, is backing the project, confirming its reputation as a responsible company that cares for society, people, and the environment.

Once completed, the 'Biblioteca degli Alberi' will be **Milan centre's third largest public park**, stretching out over **9.5 hectares**. The definitive project for the park - for which the municipal administration called an "International design contest" in 2004, awarded to the studio Inside Outside|Petra Blaisse, based in Amsterdam, in partnership with Studio Giorgetta in Milan - was approved in December 2014. In June 2015, **COIMA SGR** was appointed by the municipal authorities to carry out the works on the public park, and in accordance with Italian regulations will deduct the relative costs from the fees for the large urban planning project.

The project was assigned to **IN.G.RE Scrl**, the consortium company involving the implementers of PII Garibaldi Repubblica (the area development plan) and which was created specifically in order to develop public works and carry out the environmental requalification aspects of the Plan. The executive project was completed and approved mid-March 2016 by the municipal administration, which then supported it across all stages of the urban planning process through the Urban Planning, Green Areas and Agriculture Department of the City Council.

The Biblioteca degli Alberi will also be Porta Nuova's "green lung", a new public space and central element throughout the development of the area, divided up into three main areas: the largest, between Melchiorre Gioia, Via Pirelli and Via de Castillia; the second covering the underground car park in Piazza Luigi Einaudi; and the third along the straight band running along Viale della Liberazione and through to Piazza San Gioachimo and its churchyard. Paths and connections form the real basis for the park project, the first in Milan to be designed according to a **contemporary concept**. There are three key elements: **the linear paths** that bring the external and internal areas together; **the irregular fields**, which draw out gardens, lawns, flowerbeds and small yards; and **the circular forests**, groups of trees creating real "green rooms" in which to relax. The park will feature approximately **450 trees of 19 different species, 34,800 m2 of lawns and nearly 90,000 plants**, including hedges, shrubs, climbing plants, and aquatic and ornamental plants in the gardens designed by Petra Blaisse and Piet Oudolf.

The Biblioteca degli Alberi park, acting as a sort of connecting loop between public spaces, infrastructures and the vertical and horizontal architectures of the surrounding districts, connects Piazza Gae Aulenti to the Isola district, the raised area over Via Melchiorre Gioia, the green promenade of Varesine and the garden of Via de Castillia, thereby creating **the city's largest pedestrian area with 170,000 m2 and 5 km of cycle tracks to serve the over 10 million people** that visited the Porta Nuova area in 2016 alone.

The park's development will mark completion of **Porta Nuova** - one of the largest urban and architectonic requalification projects in Europe, developed and managed by COIMA - which can now boast the greatest concentration in Italy for LEED GOLD certified buildings (22) and numerous international awards: Unicredit Tower (Cesar PelliPCPA) nominated as amongst the world's 10 most beautiful towers (Emporis Skyscraper Award 2012); Bosco Verticale (Boeri Studio) winner of the International Highrise Award 2014 and of the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat 2015; Piazza Gae Aulenti winner of the Landscape Institute Award 2016.

Marta Spainì, lawyer from the law firm Leone - Torrani e Associati, assisted COIMA with the administrative-legal procedures connected with the park project development.

COIMA SGR, authorised by the Bank of Italy in 2007, is an independent leading company operating in the field of the management of assets pertaining to real estate investment funds on behalf of Italian and international institutional investors. Today, COIMA SGR manages 19 real estate investment funds, with more than 5.5 billion euros of investments fully underway, including management mandates.

FONDAZIONE RICCARDO CATELLA began operating in 2007, pursuing a mission to spread a culture of sustainability in territorial development and make an active contribution towards improving the quality of urban life through projects seeking to optimise public spaces. The Foundation's work concentrates on the one hand on promoting a research and sensitisation program dedicated to sustainable, responsible property investment (SRPI) and principles of social responsibility in territorial management, with a particular focus on reducing and managing risks associated with climate change, and on the other, on developing cultural civic projects throughout the territory, in order to optimise and give life to public areas and urban green spaces.

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INSIDE OUTSIDE | PETRA BLAISSE Founded by Petra Blaisse in Amsterdam in 1991, the studio specialises in interior and landscape architecture. It consists of a group of professional architects, landscape artists and designers, who create projects, above all in public spaces. Examples include: University Campus Roeters Eiland, Walker Art Centre, the Dutch Pavilion at the Venice Biennale, landscape design for the Shenzhen Stock Exchange, all gardens for CCTV headquarters, conference center, hotel and Media Park in Beijing, China Botanic garden for the Qatar Foundation headquarter in Education City, Doha, Qatar. PETRA BLAISSE, landscape and interior designer, grew up in England, Portugal, Austria, Sweden and the Netherlands, studying in schools of art in both London and Groningen. She is specialised in the use of fabrics and details for interior environments, as well as in the design of gardens and landscapes. She has lectured and spoken at conferences in numerous universities and collaborated with some of the world's greatest architects and engineers.

STUDIO GIORGETTA Studio Giorgetta specialises in landscape architecture and has worked on several important projects, including the recent projects of the Park in the Falck areas in Sesto San Giovanni together with Michel Corajoud and RPBW; the green system of Milan's Cascina Merlata; the outdoor and green spaces of the new headquarters of the Lombardy Regional Government, Malta's new Parliament, and the new ISP office in Turin. Founded by Franco Giorgetta, it started operations in 1965 with the project of the Italian participation in the Ghent Floralties. Over the years, it has worked on research activities, publications, exhibitions, and teaching activities. Franco Giorgetta's daughter, Simona, an architect, joined the studio in 2005. The urban planner Davide Telesca and the architects Gloria Montini and Grazia Comai also work at the studio.

STUDIO LAND Millions of people walk, think, read, talk and dream in the open spaces we design for them. Research, innovation and a comprehensive approach are the hallmarks of our landscape architecture, which seeks solutions to the current social and environmental issues as well as to create places where the communities of the future can flourish. Clients from the public and private sector rely on LAND to design, implement and manage urban transformation projects and community strategies. Among other things, LAND worked on the following projects: in Milan, Green Rays, Porta Nuova, and the Alfa Romeo Park; in Rome, the Green Archipelago and the Stadium of the Rome Football club; in Venice, Expo Gate; in Essen, the Krupp Park and ThyssenKrupp headquarters; in Frankfurt, die Welle; and in Moscow, the International Financial Center. Founded in 1990 in Milan by Andreas Kipar and Giovanni Sala, today LAND is an international landscape architecture studio with offices in Italy, Germany and Switzerland.

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