

Urban regeneration for mental health

In today's conjuncture of climate chaos, We-Z tests a transitional model of urban regeneration to combat increasing mental health conditions in young people. By advancing "experiences of pleasure", it develops preventive and responsive urban capacities through the valorization of diverse heritage materials and setting a Healing Community.

For youth to regain its agency, the activation of new personal and collective imagination becomes the prerequisite to advance a hopeful future, sustaining the city's transition towards sustainable and stylish ways of living as encouraged by the New European Bauhaus.

Breaking with medicalised responses of mental health, the project involves people with diverse social and mental health conditions into the cocreation of the newly

named We-Z park, an urban area integrating the regeneration of Vigne Nuove complex into a larger territorial context.

Vigne Nuove is a '70s public housing complex located in the North-Eastern periphery of Rome, remained largely unfinished, and today characterised by a diffuse sense of neglect, isolation and unsafe.

Challenging Modernist rationality through an imperfect idea of mental health, We-Z implements the former Vigne Nuove plan to test a New European Bauhaus of enjoyment.

In order to re-activate affective bonds between people and places, the new realised attractors (green, public, welfare spaces and related facilities) become durable transitional devices that foster new common goods and productive ecosystems.







Vigne Nuove

Vigne Nuove is a public housing complex located in the District III of Rome (North-Eastern periphery), built in the late '70s and originally part of a larger area plan. However, it remained largely unfinished and many of the premises at ground floor were occupied, contributing to create a diffuse sense of neglect, isolation and unsafe. The abandonment of the original project creates a sharpe division with two historical contexts insisting in the area: Tufello district, a historical working-class neighbourhood at South, and

Casali di Faonte, an archeological site at East.

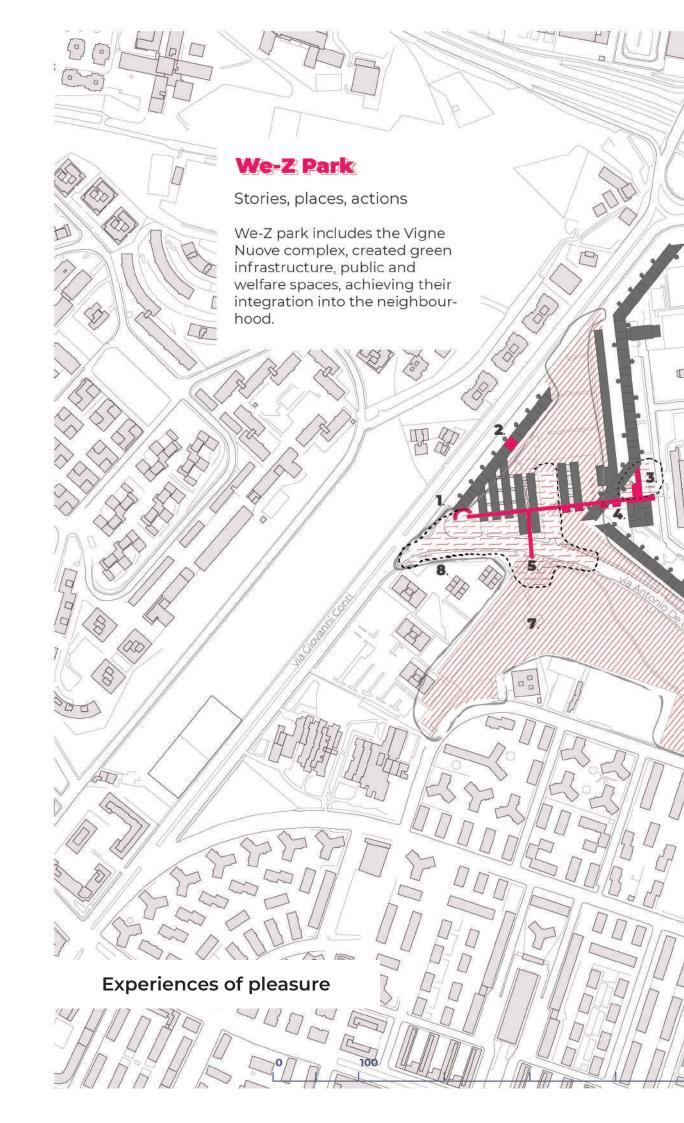
Vigne Nuove complex is a utopian project, reflecting Modernist aspirations, philosophy likewise failures.

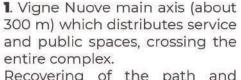
In 2022, the Multispecialty department of mental and rehabilitative health of developmental age of District III, located within the Vigne Nuove complex, recorded the highest increase of childhood neuropsychiatric disorders in the context of ASL1 – which covers one third of the city (1600 patients with a 7% increase from 2021 and 2022).

We-Z thus uses VN as experimental ground to test a New European Bauhaus of enjoyment.

Challenging Modernist rationality, We-Z embraces an imperfect, non-binary idea of health and spatial development. In so doing, it advances educational paths to test how provisional design approaches – flawed by nature – can instead contribute to tackle mental distresses through fluid urban (life)styles.

The reconsideration of the idea of salubrity, at the core of 900s' architecture such as VN, is instrumental to develop a new collective mindset that meets the aspiration of the EUI-IA call: to create places, products and ways of living where inclusive and sustainable ethics match pleasant aesthetics.





Recovering of the path and street painting

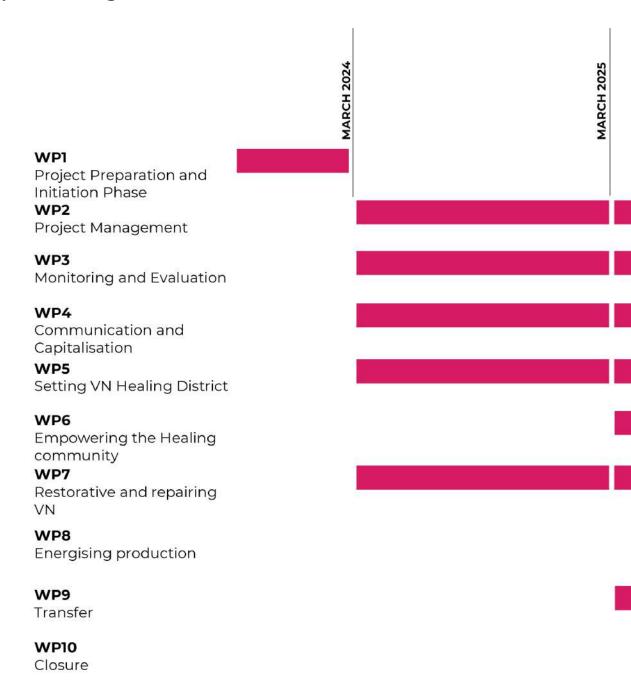
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- 2. Possible premises to locate the Vigne Nuove Lab, needed soft renovation work.
- **3**. Public area to be recovered also through street painting.
- **4**. Commercial premises illegally occupied; families to be re-allocated. The units will be reused, offering temporary workspace.
- **5.** Secondary axes, originally thought to connect the complex with the park. It remained unfinished as well as the park itself.
- **6**. Casali di Faonte. They will host the Memory Hub and the Digital Memory Archive.
- **7.** Vigne Nuove Green Infrastructure:

Insulas, green rooms, attractors and DIY forniture.

8. New public spaces
De-paving action and performative design activities

We-Z operative organization





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Towards the healing district

For We-Z to be innovative, it has built a multilevel and cross-sector partnership which includes:

- the District III of Rome as project coordinator;
- the Soprintendenza, the regional branch of the Italian Ministry of Culture, providing the conservation of an important but forgotten archaeological site in Vigne Nuove area:
- the health agency including highly diverse entities such as the Multispecialty department of mental and rehabilitative health of developmental age, and the Museo Laboratorio della Mente, a unique reality in Italy connecting mental health with the legacy of asylums. It is part of a growing national network, Mente in Rete, whose mission is to enhance the Italian psychiatric history while promoting mental health;
- ATER Roma, main owner of the Vigne Nuove complex, is crucial not only to advance its urban transformation but also to enlarge collaborations between diverse institutions in the area (ATER/MUA), expanding possibilities of housing affordability.

Locally, Roma Tre University complements these realities, expanding the project's impact through educational and research paths.

The proposed coalition is also composed of a highly diverse set of expertise,

including:

- social enterprises and cooperative: Parsec Coop and Parsec Agri Culture, both devoted to social work;
- small enterprise: OZ Officine Zero, focusing on material recycling and upcycle; Futurecologies, connecting artwork with new ecologies and civic engagement; Avanzi, supporting social innovation processes;
- cultural association: Artestudio, working on culture and social inclusion through performative arts.

Such entities were selected through a public call launched by MUA. This articulation, and the ground-breaking capacity of selected partners, will undoubtedly respond to the project's ambitions, assuring their full implementation.

























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