



REOPENING: A LANDSCAPE MANIFESTO

The dramatic experience of the Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the extreme fragility of our global ecosystem, of human society overall and its chosen development models.

The coronavirus disease, the effects of climate change, human poverty and health are some of the major issues currently challenging the world's ecosystems, problems we are all being called upon to solve.

When human activity stopped during the quarantine the impact of some of the other complex problems afflicting the planet, including air pollution and carbon dioxide production, was notably reduced.

Wherever she could, Nature began to take over.

An immediate, decisive paradigm shift is called for, and a fundamental change in the relationship between Man and Nature.

We believe urgent action must be taken to introduce practises and policies indispensable in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015 to combat climate change at the Paris climate conference (COP21).

During this phase, as Landscape Architects, we feel compelled to once again stress the importance of planning in landscape and territorial design, realisation and management. In protecting natural resources, biodiversity and social equality, projects and planning must be based on the principles of environmental sustainability and social equality.

Landscape architecture projects and sustainable territorial planning are a necessary part of implementing the New Green Deal.

It's time for our country's entire political establishment to take united action.
It's time for governments, institutions and civil society to take incisive action, to change course and take a new direction towards a sustainable future.

It's time for accelerated action in landscape architecture design, education and practise.

We believe in the power of nature, in protecting our heritage, its landscape and environment, in our historic and artistic heritage, in all that gives a sense of harmony and strength to our lands and settlements.

In addition, stewardship and maintenance of the land and shared spaces also creates economic opportunities and jobs.

We declare our individual and collective commitment to 8 fundamental points:

1. PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM

We call for the protection and enhancement of the ecological network, especially urban ecosystems, through integrated planning and decisive action to protect the territory's landscape, habitats and flora and fauna. We oppose the fragmentation of land and landscape ecosystems. We support the naturalisation of abandoned areas, urban forests and urban planning as occasions to foster the use and protection of native species.

2. DEVELOPMENT OF A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

We pledge to reduce daily consumption of goods and services, promoting re-use and recycling. We oppose the waste of resources and place value on local produce. We promote the re-use and recovery of resources, including water recovery. We support the use of renewable energy sources and new technologies to increase the efficiency of natural resources. We promote sustainable development (European Strategy 2000) and energy conversion efficiency. We support a transition to renewable energy sources organised around local energy communities, metropolitan and rural. We promote low energy consumption building, criteria and productive systems.

3. COMBATTING LAND CONSUMPTION

Land must be protected with a keen awareness that our life on planet Earth depends on it. We oppose

soil degradation and are committed to reducing uncontrolled overbuilding. We support sustainable land maintenance. We oppose the loss of biodiversity caused by intensive farming practices and land consumption, manipulation and standardisation.

4. AGRICULTURE

We support sustainable agriculture geared to marketing accessible organic produce organised around short supply chains; we support protection for agricultural labourers and the fostering of their communities and landscapes. We campaign actively for agriculture to play a fundamental role in mitigating the effects of climate change, becoming a valid alternative for economic development. We support the integration of agriculture and the environment and encourage the best farming practises and agricultural engineering suitable to each site.

5. REFORESTATION

Social and cultural public spaces and environmental microclimates can be enhanced by the increased use of urban and sub-urban forests. These projects contribute to increased ecosystem services, an important benefit for the population. We support urban reforestation as part of a larger blue and green infrastructural design and plans to protect urban ecosystems from ever more frequent and dangerous extreme weather.

6. REGENERATING URBAN ECOSYSTEMS

Our cities must be transformed, redesigned as healthy and accessible. We support democratic participation, social inclusion, urban and local accessibility. We support alternative transport, shared vehicles and environmentally designed parking lots. Abandoned and unused urban sites must be redesigned and redeveloped. We support the creation of community connections and relations with shared public spaces including parks, gardens and community vegetable gardens. Wherever possible green roofs should be installed in support of urban forestation. Degraded ecosystems must be redeveloped and protected, increasing in value and strengthening the ecological network.

7. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

We support targeted education and divulgation of the environmental, agricultural and cultural importance of the land and landscape, beginning in primary and secondary schools. We promulgate

ecological urban and agricultural practises and landscape culture and biodiversity in local communities through various associations. We promote training and didactic opportunities in the professional sphere and regional and municipal administrations. We promote the profession of Landscape Architecture as practised by Landscape Architects holding specific university or post graduate degrees and as such trained and equipped to effectively communicate and coordinate with the various other professionals involved in the complex design and management of landscape sites.

8. SUSTAINABLE TOURISM AND ECOTOURISM

We envision a new type of tourism, adapted to a world in crisis. We support the transformation of tourism as a valid alternative for economic development. We support sustainable tourism capable of improving local economies, involving the local community and increasing the value of potential tourist attractions while guided by environmental objectives set out in the European Charter for Tourism. We strongly support landscape educational and outreach initiatives.

AIAPP LAMS

Enrica Del Vecchio / Barbara Invernizzi / Virna Mastrangelo / Rossella Ongaretto / Paolo Picchi / Emanuele Von Normann.

With thanks to Denise Fralley

2020 © AIAPP LAMS (Lazio, Abruzzo, Molise and Sardinia)

(*) [AIAPP, Italian Association of Landscape Architecture](#), founded in 1950, member of the [International Federation of Landscape Architects \(IFLA\)](#), [UNESCO](#) and [ICOMOS](#), since 70 years, is a “not-for-profit, non-political, non-governmental” federation involved in the landscape architecture within a collaborative partnership of allied built-environment professions, demanding the highest standards of education, training, research and professional practise, to create sustainable and balanced living environments.