PIAZZE APERTE
A Public Space Program for Milan
Piazze Aperte is a program of the City of Milan, developed by Agenzia Mobilità Ambiente Territorio (AMAT), in collaboration with Bloomberg Associates and the Global Designing Cities Initiative.

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It all started in Dergano. Once a village on the outskirts of our city, recently this resurgent neighborhood, like so much of our city, had been reborn. And yet, Dergano, newly central to commerce and culture in Milan, lacked a center of its own, as its historical piazza sat lifeless, merely a sea of empty asphalt and parked cars.

My administration would not allow that status quo to stand. Moving swiftly, using only paint and planters, benches and ping-pong tables, we brought Piazza Dergano back to life, as playing children, seniors, and people from all walks of life took ownership of the new square, and showed how much is possible when we redesign our streets so that they truly serve the people of Milan. With success here, we brought this model to neighborhoods in every corner of Milan, from Angilberto to Porta Genova, via Spoleto to Piazza Sicilia. Piazza by piazza, neighborhood by neighborhood, we gave the people of Milan not just the physical space they lacked but a renewed sense of community spirit. And we continued to evolve our efforts, first to transforming these temporary projects into permanent public spaces, and then applying the same spirit to keep Milano moving during the pandemic and ensure that our streets emerged from it safer and more vibrant than ever before.

And so, our Piazze Aperte program now provides new, accessible open space to one out of every two Milanese, just one of many efforts that have made our streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists than they have been in decades. Today, as my administration embarks on a new mandate, with both experienced leadership and fresh perspectives, I am committed finishing what we started. Just as one small square in Dergano grew into many new piazze, by working together and committing to safer, sustainable streets, the possibilities for Piazze Aperte are infinite.

Giuseppe Sala
Mayor of Milan
There is only one Milan. But every city is made up of hundreds, if not thousands, of smaller ‘cities’—interdependent neighborhood ecosystems each with its own identity and each one as important as the other. Some are lucky enough to have access to local parks, bike lanes, playgrounds, and public space close by, while others see them as luxuries enjoyed elsewhere.

Piazze Aperte helps connect people with their neighborhoods, with one another and with the larger city, offering new ways to experience life outside the home. It turned parking areas into more livable, healthier, and car-free spaces, by shaping new bike lanes, adding 30 km/h areas and encouraging healthier, more sustainable ways of getting around. It also represents a change in how the municipality collaborates with neighborhoods, helping develop deeper relationships with residents, who were involved within the design process and the creation of spaces as diverse as the people who use them.

Piazze Aperte can also contribute to the overall resiliency of the city as it faces some of the challenges of the coming decades: mitigating urban heat islands by adding and expanding green infrastructure; reducing the impact of stormwater by de-paving portions of the city previously covered by asphalt or concrete; and installing bike lanes and bike racks to promote sustainable mobility and improve air quality as well as citizens’ well-being.

In meetings across the city, we spoke with residents about their needs for space for children to play outside of their courtyards, the need for a corridor to walk easily from the train station to the Metro, places for parents to wait for kids outside of schools, benches for grandparents to read the paper and enjoy daily life outside.

There are similarities across neighborhoods but each plan is based on the uniqueness of each place, from the whale-shaped piazza outside Tommaso Ciresola School on Via Spoleto to the grids and garden-boxes at Via Val Lagarina to the picnic and ping-pong tables at Piazza Sicilia. In each case, the goal is not just the attractiveness of the space itself but in the full scope of human activity within our public spaces at different times of the day, on different days and different times of the year.

These spaces serve people. They also hold together their communities and the future of the city. Mayor Sala’s Milano 2030 agenda promised to take steps today in order create a city that is cooler, greener, better connected, more equitable, more walkable, less polluted and less dominated by cars than it is today. We can accomplish this not by taking anything away but by adding new possibilities to the street.

After just three years, Piazze Aperte is a point of local pride that is heralded the world, inspiring other cities to see how community space can be planned, built and managed as an essential city service. Thirty-eight piazza is an incredible achievement in one political term, but in a city as vast and varied as Milan, there are as many more opportunities as there are streets, and we are committed to every one of them.

Arianna Censi
Deputy Mayor for Mobility

Elena Grandi
Deputy Mayor for Green and Environment

Marco Granelli
Deputy Mayor for Safety

Pierfrancesco Maran
Deputy Mayor for Housing and Neighborhoods plan

Gaia Romani
Deputy Mayor for Civic and General Services

Giancarlo Tancredi
Deputy Mayor for Urban Regeneration
Eighteen months before the pandemic hit, Mayor Sala’s administration had already started to reverse the decades-old pattern of neighborhoods turning their backs on their streets, surrendering them to parking lots for cars. In many neighborhoods, particularly those with higher percentages of immigrants and lower incomes, children were forced to play inside or in building courtyards because the sidewalks outside their homes were too narrow and the streets too dangerous with speeding cars. Piazze Aperte gave neighbors of all sizes, ages, and backgrounds spaces to be together—to stop and sit down, rest and enjoy one another’s company.

Piazze Aperte showed how Milan’s streets function as front yards for residents. But it was the mechanics of this program, the selection of the locations, the outreach process and the engineering strategies that provided the foundation for the Commune to reclaim and reallocate lanes on roads. Streets like Corso Buenos Aires and Corso Venezia were redesigned quickly using simple materials, allowing tens of thousands of people to walk and bike easily and safely without having to crowd onto sidewalks and buses.

Across Europe and around the world, cities responded to the pandemic with their streets. But Milan’s achievements on the street within the pandemic’s first weeks set the global model that influenced cities around the world, preceding, matching and in some cases eclipsing roadway reclamations in cities like Paris, London, Berlin and New York.

Milan showed the world that people-first streets are more than recreational amenities. They create strong community ties, make neighborhoods more resilient and connect people with local businesses, transportation and one another.

Strong streets are essential civic infrastructure in cities that can help hold people together even when challenges like the pandemic seem to drive them apart. Piazze Aperte, and this report, shows how to make that possible.

Janette Sadik-Khan
Principal - Bloomberg Associates
The Piazze Aperte program

Piazze Aperte (“Open Squares”) is a program of the City of Milan, developed by Agenzia Mobilità Ambiente Territorio (AMAT), together with Bloomberg Associates and the Global Designing Cities Initiative. The program centers around urban regeneration and sustainable mobility, key goals of the Territory Governance Plan for Milan 2030 (PGT Milano 2030) and the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, in the context of the “Piano Quartieri” (“Neighborhood Plan”).

Piazze Aperte aims to enhance public spaces and turn them into community gathering places, to extend pedestrian areas, and to promote sustainable forms of mobility to benefit the environment and improve the quality of life in the city. Piazze Aperte uses the “tactical urbanism” approach to put public spaces once again at the center of community life and to encourage people to make the most of public squares, rather than just using them for parking or thoroughfares. By giving people back their community spaces, the hope is that, through activities, gatherings, and even just simply “living” in these areas, public squares will once again regain their full status as local meeting places.

Thanks to this program, and through the signing of collaboration agreements, the City of Milan and its residents are able to actively cooperate in the design, development, and implementation of public spaces, as well as promoting and preserving them, based on the principles of shared management.

In 2019, the City of Milan launched a call for proposals entitled “Piazze Aperte in ogni quartiere” (“Open Squares in every neighborhood”), with the aim of identifying new spaces to be transformed, receiving over 60 suggestions. To date, the Municipality of Milan has implemented more than 35 tactical interventions and continues to plan new ones.

Aims of the Piazze Aperte program

- To redesign neighborhood streets and squares as places of social interaction, vitality and gathering, bringing urban spaces back into public life.
- To improve the safety of residents, pedestrians, and cyclists through pedestrianization and traffic calming measures, with a particular focus on children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.
- To transform existing public spaces thanks to low-cost, high-impact street transformations, before addressing permanent interventions.
- To encourage effective collaboration between residents and the local government, promoting community engagement through the shared management of community assets.

TACTICAL URBANISM MEASURES FROM 2018 TO 2021

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Suggestions submitted in response to the Call for proposals applications “Piazze Aperte in ogni quartiere”

Pilot projects

Local initiative projects
The program in numbers

What has happened in the city over the past three years?

- 22,000 m² of new pedestrian spaces
- 38 tactical urbanism interventions
- 250 benches
- 310 potted plants
- 380 bike racks
- 35 tables
- 32 ping-pong tables

How many residents have benefited from the program?

One in two Milanese residents now have a square within 15 minutes (800 meters) from their home.

Who took part in the Call for proposals “Piazze Aperte in ogni quartiere”?

- 800 residents
- 200 non-profit organizations and social cooperatives
- 72 commercial businesses
- 45 religious institutions
- 45 neighborhoods
- 10 residents associations
- 8 municipalities, museums, foundations, universities
- 6 religious institutions
- 6 non-profit organizations and social cooperatives
- 6 residents associations
- 6 business improvement districts

What is “tactical urbanism”?

Tactical urbanism is an innovative approach to urban design, based on short-term, low-cost measures aimed at creating new public spaces and safer streets.

This type of measure is well known and has been put into practice around the world for over a decade. From Barcelona, where the Superillas program helped to pedestrianize a significant proportion of the city, to New York, where Times Square has been pedestrianized, to Paris, which is rapidly becoming a ‘bike friendly’ city thanks to interim cycle lanes.

Tactical urbanism measures allow cities to try out new uses for urban spaces, and to launch long-term strategies to promote city living. The advantages of this new approach are linked to the immediate impact that these measures have on local residents, who can themselves become advocates for innovation projects and active participants in urban transformation.

The temporary nature of tactical urbanism allows cities to try out solutions that can be reversed, if needed before investing time and resources into permanent infrastructure. Interim, simple, fast, and economical solutions can produce immediate benefits, test experimental solutions, help in making the right choices, and support future decision-making on permanent solutions.

TACTICAL URBANISM PROCESS - STEPS

ANALYSES + DESIGN
The design stage begins with an analysis of pedestrian, cycling, and vehicular traffic flows, as well as urban design issues (presence of shade, noise, established uses etc.)

TACTICAL TESTING
The new square takes shape. In the time frame of just a few weeks, signs and markings are redesigned, the street furniture and plants are installed, and the square is brought to life.

MONITORING
The use of the square is monitored, studying pedestrian, cycling, and vehicular traffic flows, and surveying users of the square.

PERMANENT DESIGN
The final design stage begins. The information and usage data gained from the testing and monitoring stages guides the design of the public space.

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION
The project is implemented, using durable materials, and taking into consideration local environmental and historical aspects. The transformation process is complete.
Types of interventions

1. Creation of new squares and/or pedestrian areas through changes to the roadway network and street design, including limiting vehicular access to certain areas to create new public space.

2. Activation of underused and unequipped public spaces furnishing, improving, and adding new functions with the aim of encouraging community spirit, as well as promoting cultural and group activities that can add value and life to that space.

3. Creation of cycle lanes using prefabricated materials, signs and markings, to facilitate cycling in particular in 30km/h zones, one-way streets, and areas identified by the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP).

4. Extension and enhancement of pedestrian areas through the measures, such as narrowing roadbeds, removing underused parking spaces, adopting traffic calming measures, creating more 30km/h zones, and redefining intersections to improve soft, pedestrian and bike mobility, in particular around schools and nurseries.
Public spaces are key areas for community spirit and social inclusion. In addition to high-quality urban design, public spaces also need to be “activated” through programming and other efforts that respond to the needs of the people who experience them. The suitable design of spaces and the way they are equipped has a huge role to play in contributing to the development of inclusive public living, catering to all genders, ages and cultural backgrounds, and reinforcing community identity and cohesion.

Piazze Aperte aims to activate neighborhoods and develop activities and services for residents that involve regional networks and support citizens’ organizations, paying particular attention to residents’ quality of life. The Piazze Aperte program intends to encourage the active involvement of residents in sustainable and shared urban regeneration, creating a strong sense of belonging and new ways of expressing local community that lead to respect for the land and shared management.

The “Collaboration Agreement” is a written tool through which the City of Milan and its active residents define the aims, objectives and expected results of the “Piazze Aperte” program, as well as the organization of maintenance, shared management, and regeneration of communal spaces.

Through collaboration agreements, pursuant to the Common Goods Regulations - Municipal regulations governing the participation of active citizens in care, management and regeneration of urban commons - active citizens, informal groups, associations, educational institutions, committees, foundations, and companies promoting “corporate maintenance” can collaborate with the Administration to implement programs that address the management, maintenance, improvement, and activation of various forms of urban commons.
What else is going on in Milan

**Strade Aperte**

The COVID 19 health emergency offered an opportunity to make a decisive move towards the widespread use of bicycles, and all other forms of micro-mobility. Since the Strade Aperte program began in April 2020, it has put in place a series of emergency cycling-related measures for post-pandemic mobility, consistent with the SUMP. Strade Aperte led to the creation of 68km of new cycle lanes over the two-year period of 2020-2021. The route along Corso Venezia, Corso Buenos Aires, Viale Monza was its first main pilot program, with peak numbers of 11,000 cyclists per day on Corso Buenos Aires.

**Outdoor Dining**

Thanks to the simplified procedure for Light and Temporary Public Land Occupations related to the COVID 19 health emergency, it was possible to expand the outdoor spaces used by commercial businesses, including by using parking zones and establishing new pedestrian areas.

Some of the streets in Milan, such as Via Varanini, Via delle Leghe, Via Volta, Via Santa Tecla, and Via Borsieri, to name just a few, have been completely transformed. The measures put in place have generally been accompanied by traffic calming measures, like 30km/h zones and residential areas with speed limits of 15km/h, to improve the safety of public spaces.
Projects summary

Piazza Dergano
Piazza Angilberto II
Piazza San Luigi
Piazza Dergano

Location
Piazza Dergano

Borough
9

Year of completion (tactical)
2018

Year of completion (final)
2021

Total area
700 m²

New Pedestrian Area
620 m²

Furniture
12 benches
2 picnic tables
2 ping-pong tables
25 planters
3 bike racks
1 BikeMI point

Community partners
Retake Milano

Final design
MM spa

Piazza Dergano is a small square in the center of the neighborhood it is named after. Here, the sidewalk on the north side has been “extended” to create a new, colorful, pedestrian space in the center of the square, available to residents for events and local festivities. Previously occupied by a parking lot, the space has been redesigned to accommodate seating, ping-pong tables, new plants, and bike share and bike parking. The street network has been streamlined, with the narrowing of stretches of roadbed along Via Conte Verde and Via Brivio by the square in order to reduce vehicle speeds and ensure the safe use of the new pedestrian area.

The square is now back to life, benefiting residents and businesses that overlook the space.
Piazza Angilberto II

Piazza Angilberto II, formally an overbuilt, complex intersection, has been redesigned to create a new pedestrian area. By closing off a redundant stretch of the intersection to traffic, the sidewalks have been widened to accommodate new seating, ping-pong tables, new plants, and bike share and bike parking. Small commercial businesses directly overlook the new pedestrian and are therefore much more accessible. A new contraflow cycle track has also been added to Via Comacchio that connects to Piazza Ferrara. The cycle lane has been created in the space between the curb of the sidewalk and the parking spaces, which now help protect cyclists from moving vehicles. The results show that, thanks to the new cycle lane, the number of cyclists has increased by 47%, while the number of pedestrians in the square has increased by 30%.

Location
Piazza Angilberto II

Borough
4

Year of completion (tactical)
2018

Year of completion (final)
2022

Total area
1100 m²

New Pedestrian Area
900 m²

Furniture
16 benches
2 ping-pong tables
45 planters
5 bike racks
1 Bikami point

Community partners
Retake Milano

Final design
MM spa
From May 10 to 13, 2018, Milan saw the first trials as part of: “TréntaMi: Zona 30.” During the pilot, Via Scrivia was narrowed through the addition of angled parking, reducing vehicles speeds as they entered the square. The sidewalk along Via Tagliamento was also widened to create a chicane, further reducing speeds. In Piazza San Luigi, the creation of a central pedestrian area and the reduction of the crosswalk length has improved the livability of the square.

“TréntaMi: Zona 30” is a collaboration between Genitori Antismog, together with FIAB Milano Ciclobby, architect and city planner Matteo Dondé, Confesercenti Milano, “Social Streets” of the Corvetto neighborhood, and the City of Milan.
Piazzale Stazione Genova
Via Spoleto / via Venini
Piazza Belloveso
Piazzale Lavater
Via Rovereto / via Giacosa
Via Santa Rita da Cascia
Piazza Gasparri
Via Guido Reni
Piazzale Cooperazione
Piazzale Corvetto
Via Abbiati
Via Gigante
Piazza Alfieri
2019
Piazzale Stazione Genova

Location
Piazzale Stazione Genova

Borough
6

Year of completion
2019

Total area
4000 m²

New Pedestrian Area
3000 m²

Furniture
30 benches
10 mobile tables
62 planters
13 bike racks

Community partners 2019
Rotake Milano
CBRE GWS
Colorificio Sammarinese

Community partners 2020
Assoverde
Nespoli Vivai
Seminiamo

Just outside of the historic train station near the Navigli, the pedestrian areas of the heavily used square, between Via Ventimiglia and Via Barbavara, have increased from 1,200 to 4,000 m² and now offer an improved experience, thanks to improved pedestrian circulation and the addition of benches, bike racks, and planters. The route from the exit of the green M2 metro stop to the BikIMi walkway was colored with white and blue stripes, indicating the different directions to nearby places of interest. Private vehicles have been prevented from accessing the square from Via Vigevano, Corso Colombo and Via Valenza, while taxi stalls have been moved outside the pedestrian area, and the tram stop for line no. 2 and the bus route no. 74 have been redeveloped. In 2020, in a new phase of transformation, 30 new flower pots were added and the pavement was repainted.
The transformation of the Spoleto/Venini/Martiri Oscuri intersection was in no small part due to its unique structure: too large to be a simple intersection, but without a real pedestrian area to be considered a square. The redesign now provides Ciresola elementary school with a true public space where the school, parents and children can form community bonds. The new street system also aims to move the crossing traffic away from the residential center, making pedestrian travel easier and more pleasant. What’s more, with a view to promoting cycle mobility, the measures put in place in Spoleto form part of the cycle route from Parco Trotter to the tunnel on Via Spoleto towards Via Gioia. To complete the new cycle network, a new parking protected cycle track has been created along Via Venini.
Piazza Belloveso

**Location**
Via Bauer, Piazza Belloveso

**Borough**
9

**Year of completion**
2019

**Total area**
3400 m²

**New Pedestrian Area**
1200 m²

**Furniture**
- 13 benches
- 4 picnic tables
- 2 ping-pong tables
- 4 bike racks

**Community partners**
- Colorificio Sammarinese
- Associazione Ascomart Niguarda
- VAS Verdi Ambiente e Società Onlus
- Associazione Qui Niguarda

**Final design**
Municipality of Milan Technical and Urban Furniture Management Territorial Government, Furnishings and Urban Decor Department
Architect: Franco Babu
Manager of the procedure: Arch. Loredana Brambilla

Piazza Belloveso, near the center of Niguarda, features a green space with a play area, serving as a gathering place for children who attend the Vittorio Locchi elementary school, as well as the Church of San Martino churchyard, and the nearby neighborhood library. The Piazza Aperte project connects all these areas with a new colorful and well-equipped pedestrian area, in a space that had previously accommodated traffic and unregulated parking. Now, children and residents can rest on the benches, study at the tables, play ping-pong in the green space, organize events, and enjoy a true communal space worthy of being the focal point of the neighborhood. The project is now due to undergo a permanent transformation that has already been presented to the community and is under construction.
Piazzale Lavater

Location
Piazzale Lavater

Borough
2

Year of completion
2019

Total area
1300 m²

New Pedestrian Area
350 m²

Furniture
9 benches
5 bike racks

Final design
Municipality of Milan
Technical and Urban Furniture Management
Territorial Government, Furnishings and Urban Decor Department
Architect: Franco Balbo
Manager of the procedure: Arch. Loredana Brambilla

Piazzale Lavater, a stone’s throw away from Corso Buenos Aires and from Porta Venezia, features three oval-shaped, tree-lined green areas, part of the green area connecting it to Via Morgagni and the A. Stoppani K-14 school. Unfortunately the potential public space had been hidden by unregulated parking and unsafe pedestrian crosswalks. The Piaze Aperte project intervention was designed to offer citizens a space equipped with benches and bike racks, where children can experience the space in front of the elementary school, and where they can safely access the school building thanks to a new crosswalk at the intersection with Via Ramazzini. The capital transformation work is already underway and is due to be completed in 2022.
Via Rovereto / via Giacosa

Location
Via Rovereto - Esedra Parco Trotter

Borough
2

Year of completion
2019

Total area
3000 m²

New Pedestrian Area
800 m²

Furniture
6 benches
4 picnic tables

#TrëntaMI IN VERDE is an initiative by
Genitori Antismog
FIAB Ciclobby Onlus

Temporary design
Arch. Matteo Dondé
In collaboration with
NoLo Social District
Progetto Mobi activists

Final design
Municipality of Milan
Mobility and Transport Management
Mobility Infrastructure Technical Area
Architect: Ing. Marcello Oneta
Manager of the procedure: Arch. Lorenzo Giorgio

#TrëntaMI in Verde is a bottom-up 30km/h zone trial carried out in collaboration with the City of Milan that aims to improve the safety and experience of Via Rovereto and the crosswalk on Via Giacosa towards Parco Trotter, creating a connection between the park and the neighborhood.

A 30km/h area is a simple, efficient, and low-cost tactical urbanism measure to improve the experience of the street for all users (car drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, etc). The street becomes more than just a thruway, but rather a space for the inter-relation of a variety of users and functions.

Since the interim transformation, the capital construction has started in recent months, with new plants, new furniture, and a resurfaced roadway due for completion in 2022.

Photo: Progetto Mobi
Via S. Rita da Cascia

The space opposite the Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia, at the intersection between Santa Rita da Cascia and Via Walter Tobagi, has always been used as a parking lot. This hindered residents’ and worshipers’ ability to use the Shrine, as well as marring the view of the facade of the religious building. With the aim of creating a public space for the neighborhood, the parking lot was scaled back, opening up the view of the facade and entrance to the church. In its place, potted plants and benches were installed. The pavements have been decorated with children’s games and colors and the space now welcomes lots of residents and is used for various events, including non-religious ones. The project also includes new bike racks, promoting active mobility.

Piazza Gasparri

Piazza Gasparri was originally a plaza between two residential buildings with a portico on the ground floor. For a long time, despite it being close to the local elementary school, multiple businesses and various neighborhood associations, the square was used only as a space for unregulated parking. Thanks to the “Vicini in Piazza” (“Neighbors in the Square”) program, the community has reclaimed the space, installing new furniture, as well as a cycle lane designed for training children to ride a bike around the edge of the plaza. The project succeeded not only in rejuvenating the central space of the pedestrian area and the two porticoes, but also in making the area where children enter and leave the school safer.
Via Guido Reni

Location
Via Guido Reni

Borough
3

Year of completion
2019

Total area
600 m²

New Pedestrian Area
350 m²

Furniture
3 benches
3 planters

Community partners
Apicultura studio
Apartment building, Piazza Guardi, 11
Elementary school, Via Guido Reni, 1

Pavement design
Apicultura studio

In 2018, the City of Milan closed to vehicular traffic a part of Via Guido Reni outside of the elementary school, to provide an outdoor public space for children and families to use after lessons and after school hours. The City, together with community organizations and the school, decided to enhance the space and make it more welcoming for children. The pavement has been colored with a design based on simple shapes and bold colors, creating three clear main children’s play areas. The choice of games to include within the design was made through workshops held with the true users of the space - the children - by recreating the design in a classroom environment and letting the children play, observing their reactions and taking note of their preferences.

Piazzale della Cooperazione

Location
Piazzale della Cooperazione

Borough
7

Year of completion
2019

Total area
2500 m²

Furniture
4 benches
2 picnic tables
2 ping-pong tables
1 vegetable box

Community partners
Consorzio Cooperative Lavoratori

Pavement design
SdArch

With boxes for vegetable gardens, tables, ping-pong tables, benches, a Free book library and colored flooring, Piazzale della Cooperazione officially opened for Milan Green Week, has been renovated thanks to a tactical urbanism intervention that has brought back vitality and color to an area previously devoid of an identity. The program was chosen as part of a national competition promoted by the Consorzio Cooperative Lavoratori, open to designers, illustrators, graphic designers, and artists. The program has regenerated the plaza, which today features a weekly market, with the aim of enhancing the existing social housing project, and encouraging livability and social inclusion in an active neighborhood. The associations and local businesses will also benefit from the space through expanded community activities.
Piazzale Corvetto

Location
Piazzale Corvetto

Borough
4

Year of completion
2019

Community partners
Giacomo sarasso Cittadino attivo | Vladimir Ricalde | Collettivo Architetti PR5 Studio | Collettivo Architetti Studio Pasta Madre

via Abbiati

Location
Via Abbiati

Borough
7

Year of completion
2019

Community partners
Alfabeti Onlus | Genera Società Cooperativa Sociale Onlus | Associazione Culturale Imby | Mapping San Siro | Associazione Culturale Temporiusa

Piazza Alfieri

Location
Via Abbiati

Borough
7

Year of completion
2019

Pavement design
Repubblica del Design

Via Gigante

Location
Via Gigante

Borough
7

Year of completion
2019

Community partners

Photo: DAStU Politecnico di Milano
Photo: Repubblica del Design
Piazza Sicilia
Piazza Minniti
Largo Balestra
Via Pacini
Piazzale Tripoli
Via Monte Velino
Via Laghetto
Via Tocé
Piazzale Fabio Chiesa
Via Val Lagarina
Via Pontano
Piazzale Tirana
Piazzetta Capuana
Piazzale Ferrara
Piazzale Loreto
Viale Monte Ceneri
Via Quartì
Via Pacinotti
Piazza Sicilia is a new social space in front of the school IC Umberto Eco. The needs of local children guided the development of the program, which focused on two key areas of transformation. The first measure involved completely remodeling the area in front of the school in Piazza Sicilia, pedestrianizing it and installing benches, potted trees, ping-pong tables and picnic tables. The second measure created a new, block-long pedestrian route between the school entrances on Via Sacro and Via Seprio. The intersection was also made smaller, shortening crosswalks and widening pedestrian space for parents. The new “open” Piazza Sicilia now connects the school, the local neighborhood library, and the park, which used to be cut off by excess traffic.

Location
Via Sacco, Piazza Sicilia - Milano

Borough
7

Year of completion
2020

Total area
2500 m²

New Pedestrian Area
1500 m²

Furniture
21 benches
3 picnic tables
2 ping-pong tables
15 planters
6 bike racks

Community partners
K-14 school “Umberto Eco”
Siram Veolia
Crédit Agricole
Associazione Spazio Capoeira Desequilibrio
Associazione Metiss’art
Associazione Walter Vinci Onlus
Associazione Teatro Quattro
Ass. Scolastica Genitori Scuola Primaria Piazza Sicilia
Ass. Scolastica Genitori Monteverdi
Piazza Minniti has been transformed into a new social space in the heart of Isola. The project has redesigned the plaza, moving the parking area to the edge and creating a new central pedestrian area. A cycle lane has also been added along Via Garigliano to improve connections with Piazzale Lagosta. Because area hosts the weekly market, most street furniture was prohibited, but the new benches under the trees bring a sense of harmony and liveliness to the central open space that can accommodate formal and informal activities. The project also improved the safety of the intersections bordering the plaza, reducing distances and increasing visibility for pedestrians.
Largo Balestra

Location
Via Giambellino, Largo Balestra
Borough
6
Year of completion
2020
Total area
580 m²
Furniture
6 Modello Milano benches
2 ping-pong tables
6 planters
Community partners
Fate Largo
Pavement design
Needle_agopuntura urbana

Largo Balestra is one of those pedestrian areas with great potential that is often overlooked: full of activities to attract the public, and directly connected to a green space.

The Fate Largo association has been using it as a stage for its initiatives for some time now. The new Piazza Aperta was born out of the organization of all the different functions of this area, finally bringing out its beautiful side.

The entrance to Via Giambellino is now ringed by potted trees that invite people to enter the new urban living room, with ping-pong tables and benches for spectators and for those who want to enjoy the new space and the events organized by local associations.

A capital project that will further transform the plaza is currently underway.

Via Pacini

Location
Via Pacini, Via Bazzini
Borough
3
Year of completion
2020
Total area
600 m²
New Pedestrian Area
300 m²
Furniture
16 benches
2 picnic tables
6 bike racks
Community partners
Apicultura
Retake Milano
Pavement design
Apicultura

The Via Pacini project redesigned the promenade and the intersection with Via Bazzini to better serve pedestrians and the neighborhood at large. The area features many businesses and the Piola Metro exit, and many students often pass through due to its close proximity to the university campus. The project redefined the promenade as a social space, adding to the existing furniture new picnic tables, benches, and bike racks and converting this formerly unregulated parking lot into a true public space. The Bazzini intersection has also been remodeled, creating two pedestrian areas with seating and bike racks with shortened crosswalks and new protective curbs.
Photo: Apicultura
**Piazzale Tripoli**

Piazzale Tripoli is a large and well-equipped green space bisected by city streets. Previously, one of these streets hosted neighborhood children with inflatable attractions and games for a few months a year, but for the remaining months it was used for street level parking. Now, the area is has been resurfaced and completely pedestrianized, with a new artwork, dedicated to Gianni Rodari, that adds color, and gives life to the space.

There are also new benches that allow residents to enjoy this vibrant street mural while surrounded by greenery, as well as picnic tables by the adjacent flower beds, offering pedestrians an opportunity to rest under the trees and truly take in the experience of the square. Since its transformation, the whole community has been enjoying the space, which is inviting and fun all year round.

**Via Monte Velino**

The new Monte Velino public space has been created near the Tommaso Grossi K-14 school. The program was guided by the proximity of the school, aiming to create a space where children can play and socialize, and improve pedestrian access to the area at the same time. The project redesigned the footpath along Viale Molise, creating of a pedestrian area with benches, ping-pong tables, and potted trees, freeing the central tree-lined promenade from unregulated parking and combining them into a a single public space. The new features continue along Via Monte Velino with the creation of a cycle lane protected by parked cars, which connects the various school buildings and improves connections with nearby green spaces.
Via Laghetto

Location
Via Laghetto
Borough
1
Year of completion
2020
Total area
700 m²
New Pedestrian Area
450 m²

Thanks to the outdoor dining and public space regulations designed to respond to the COVID-19 health emergency, it is now possible to expand the outdoor spaces used by commercial businesses, including the conversation of parking areas into new pedestrian areas. Via Laghetto, in conjunction with a similar program in the adjacent Piazza Santo Stefano, is completely transformed from 10 parking bays into a fully fledged plaza. The project also includes the pedestrianization of the stretch of street in front of the Santo Stefano churchyard (in anticipation of future permanent plans) and space for the outdoor pop-up businesses along Via Laghetto, which end in the new plaza at the intersection with Via della Signora.

Via Toce

Location
Via Toce, Via Cusio, Via Boltraffio
Borough
9
Year of completion
2020
Total area
1400 m²
New Pedestrian Area
1000 m²
Furniture
10 benches
4 ping-pong tables
2 picnic tables
8 bike racks
Community partners
Repubblica del Design
Comitato di quartiere Isola
Associazione Genitori Confalonieri
Associazione Genitori Govone
Comico
Ideas Bit Factory
Pavement design
Repubblica del Design

The Via Toce project consists of partly pedestrianizing the street, near two existing parks: Giardino Santa Maria alla Fontana and Giardino Bruno Munari. The aim is to connect the two green spaces, while the proximity to the local day care inspired the creation of a play and social space for children and parents. In particular, the area between Via Cusio and the school building has been pedestrianized and furnished with picnic tables, ping-pong tables, benches, and bike racks. The measures also extend along Via Cusio, where a new contraflow cycle lane has been created to connect the new area with Piazza Spotorno. The program is capped off by the extension of the pedestrian area and new crosswalks at the Via Alserio and Via Boltraffio intersection.
**Piazzale Fabio Chiesa**

- **Location**: Piazzale Fabio Chiesa
- **Borough**: 5
- **Year of completion**: 2020
- **Total area**: 3500 m²
- **Furniture**:
  - 20 benches
  - 40 planters
  - 10 garden boxes

**Community partners**
- A.T.I.R- Ass. Teatrale Indipendente per la Ricerca
- Associazione Alveare
- Associazione L’Imprenta
- Gruppo Informale Le Pianiste
- Progettopersona Onlus
- Associazione X-contemporary
- Nina Bassoli

**In collaboration with**
- Direzione Città Resilienti
- Towards climate-proof living landscapes

**Pavement design**
- Gayarama, Nina Bassoli, Maria Spazzi

For over a decade, La Plana has hosted events promoted by local associations, street art projects, and activation supported by local residents. An elevated pedestrian area, La Plana is part of a multi-functional complex from the 1970s that houses several organizations, including the Teatro Railhiera, managed from 2007 to 2017 by the Atir theater company and closed in recent years due to renovation work.

In the new plaza there is a space with a large, colorful asphalt surface, as well as street furniture and planting boxes. What’s more, almost fifty new potted plants have been added, each with different fragrances, to increase comfort and enhance the possibilities of use.

Atir theater company now uses the new square for performances, representations and public events.

**Via Val Lagarina**

- **Location**: Via Val Lagarina
- **Borough**: 8
- **Year of completion**: 2020
- **Total area**: 800 m²
- **New Pedestrian Area**: 650 m²
- **Furniture**:
  - 8 garden boxes
  - 5 planters

**Community partners**
- Elementary school “Via Val Lagarina”
- Vill@perta
- WAU! Milano
- Serena Confalonieri

**Pavement design**
- Serena Confalonieri

The measures put in place along Via Val Lagarina are part of a series of Piazze Aperte initiatives involving schools and nearby public spaces. In this case, a parking lot near the school entrance on Via Val Lagarina has been transformed into a new green plaza with 5 potted plants and 8 garden boxes.

The project design combines play and education, visually dividing up the 600 m² area into a square grid, like the graph paper in workbooks. This grid has been decorated with primary colors and geometric shapes, like the ones children learn and draw at school in their workbooks.

The project also included the streamlining and creation of new parking spots on nearby streets to retain critical access to the school.
**Via Pontano**

Location: Via Pontano, Via Morandi  
Borough: 2  
Year of completion: 2020  
Total area: 4000 m²  
New Pedestrian Area: 400 m²  
Community partners:  
- Associazione Tiz-Lab  
- Cooperativa Sociale Comin  
- B-CAM Cooperativa Sociale  
- ComunicareArte  
- Atelier Spazio Xpò  
- MM Metropolitana Milanese  
- Progetto Mobi

Measures put in place at Pontano/Morandi include the broader activation of the railroad viaduct from Via Padova to Viale Monza. After the addition of the walls in Free Walls mural project in 2019, the tactical roadway intervention this year focuses on the Pontano/Morandi/Pimentel/Russo intersection with the aim of creating a connected cycle route along Piazza del Government Provisional at Parco Trotter and Via Rovereto, the location of another measure aimed at promoting sustainable mobility. Pedestrian access along the railway will also be made easier along the stretch from Via Morandi to Viale Monza, with the addition of new sidewalk space. The measure is part of the larger plan for Tunnel Boulevard, which aims to transform the area into an open-air museum.

**Piazza Tirana**

Location: Piazzale Tirana  
Borough: 6  
Year of completion: 2020  
Total area: 1700 m²  
Furniture:  
- 2 benches  
- 2 picnic tables  
- 2 ping-pong tables  
- 1 petanque field  
Community partners:  
- Nuova Acropoli  
- WAU! Milano  
Pavement design: G4 Italy/architecture

Piazza Tirana is a large square that connects Via Giambellino with the Milano San Cristoforo station. In the coming years, the structure and layout of the square will be radically transformed. The space will accommodate the pedestrian walkway connecting the Milano San Cristoforo station with the new M4 station, bypassing the railway line that has always been a physical barrier. In anticipation of its permanent transformation, the local associations have decided to take part in an activation process, promoting the addition of new furniture throughout the square. What’s more, the pavement has been painted in different colors, with the addition of new floor games, enhancing the visual impact of the square and the connection to the station.
Piazzetta Capuana

Piazzetta Capuana is a large pedestrian area in the heart of Quarto Oggiaro. Over the past few years, the space has been renovated, with new asphalt and improved organization of the green areas. The porticoes that line the public space accommodate various organizations and activities. As part of the suggestions regarding the public call "Piazze Aperte in ogni quartiere", locals demonstrated a desire to activate the space with a series of social events, requesting the installation of new furniture and potted plants. The new greenery lines the central space, adding a new green area to the pedestrian area. Activities in the square are also now promoted on the new neighborhood notice boards included in the project.

Location
Via Luigi Capuana
Borough 8
Year of completion 2020
Total area 2500 m²
Furniture
1 ping-pong table
2 neighborhood notice boards
10 planters
2 bike racks
Community partners
Acli Milanesi
Associazione Errante
Circolo Arci Itaca
Auser 20 Milano
SPI CGIL Sempione – Quarto Oggiaro

Piazzale Ferrara

Piazzale Ferrara is the heart of the Corvetto neighborhood, with the historic weekly market located in the center of a spacious square. For years, thanks to the assistance of local associations and residents, the area has hosted social programming, recognizing its significance and potential as a neighborhood gathering place. The new measures put in place give this space back to pedestrians by furnishing and expanding the pedestrian area in the square. On the north side, a new cycle lane along Via Comacchio has reconnected the market with Via Mincio, continuing along Via Polesine. The previously wide and redundant intersection has been redesigned, and is now characterized by a series of shorter and more functional pedestrian and cycle crosswalks that are used by a growing number of people looking to access the market.

Location
Piazzale Ferrara
Borough 7
Year of completion 2020
Total area 4400 m²
New pedestrian areas 940 m²
Furniture
16 benches
2 picnic tables
7 planters
5 bike racks
Community partners
Made in Corvetto project group: (Associazione Culturale Terzo Paesaggio; Coop. La Strada; Milano Bicycle Coalition)
Fondazione SNAM
APS Casa per la Pace Milano
With support from
Laboratorio di Quartiere Mazzini
Fondazione Cariplo
Labsus - Laboratorio per la sussidiarietà
Italia Nostra Milano
Pavement design
Terzo Paesaggio

Photo: Bruno Pulici e Alberto Dedè
Piazzale Loreto

Location
Piazzale Loreto

Borough
2

Year of completion
2020

.in collaboration with
CLEAR | EIT Urban Mobility

Pavement design
Camilla Falconi + Jungle

Viale Monte Ceneri

Location
Viale Monte Ceneri

Borough
8

Year of completion
2020-2021

Project
Unpark

in collaboration with
Furnish EIT Urban Mobility | Polisocial Award

Via Quarti

Location
Via Quarti

Borough
7

Year of completion
2020

Community partners
DAStU Politecnico Milano
Cooperativa Comunità Progetto
Cooperativa Sociale Tuttinsieme

Via Pacinotti

Location
via Pacinotti

Borough
8

Year of completion
2020
Piazzale Bacone
Piazzetta Santi Patroni d'Italia
Via Saponaro
Via De Nora
Piazzale Bacone

Born from a proposal made by a large group of local associations and supported by many local business owners, the "tactical" intervention in Piazzale Bacone offers new spaces for socializing and makes it safer for both the students exiting the school and waiting parents. From the street design perspective, Via Spontini has been made one-way to eastbound, while the roadways in Piazzale Bacone has been narrowed to create a new pedestrian space near the school. The intervention also includes a bike path on Via Morgagni-Matteucci, while pedestrian widenings at the corners of the square facilitate the use of commercial spaces. The street furniture helps to define the perimeter of the new pedestrian area and offers citizens the opportunity to stop and enjoy the new public space.
Piazzetta Santi Patroni d’Italia

Location
Piazzetta Santi Patroni d’Italia

Borough
6

Year of completion
2021

Total area
1000 m²

New Pedestrian Area
550 m²

Furniture
9 benches
2 picnic tables
2 ping-pong tables
12 planters
2 bike racks

Community partners
Starbucks Italy srl
WAU - We Are Urban
active citizens

Piazzale Santi Patroni d’Italia is located in Arzaga, a western district of Milan, and has been used for many years as a parking lot. With the new configuration, the western sidewalk has been extended from the churchyard, creating a new pedestrian space. Vehicle travel towards Via Rosa Vergani Marelli has been retained, while the parking has been incorporated into the new design. Finally, the public space has been equipped with seats, tables, racks and sports equipment. Great care has been given to the positioning of potted plants, to ensure adequate shading of the seats in the summer months. This intervention brings a public space back to its neighborhood, for the benefit of the visitors and citizens who live there.
Piazza Torri Bianche

Location
via Saponaro, Gratosoglio

Borough
5

Year of completion
2021

Via De Nora

Location
via De Nora

Borough
3

Year of completion
2021

Community partners
Industrie De Nora
WAU - We Are Urban
Associazione Ortica Memoria