

COST-Action Urban Agriculture Europe  
Open Conference | 7th Working Group Meeting  
Politecnico di Milano, Milan, Italy, 21-25/09/15

## FIELD TRIP GUIDE

21-22 September 2015

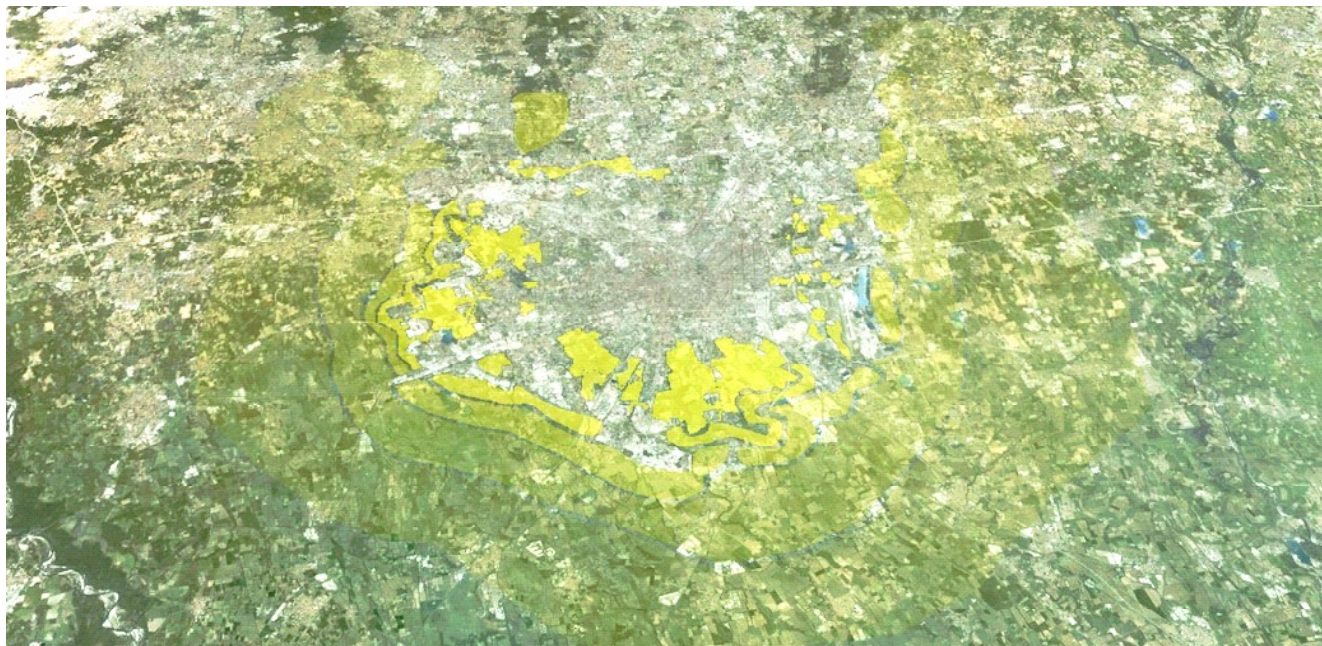


### Monday 21 September 2015

18.00 - 20.00 Cascina Linterno, Via Flli Zoia 194, Milano (Meeting point: Metro Station Bisceglie)  
*Presentation of AgriCultura project by Cascina Linterno Friends and Politecnico of Milano.*  
*Presentation of Bosco in città and Italia Nostra urban gardens. Aperitivo*

### Tuesday 22 September 2015

9.00 - 18:30 Meeting (Politecnico, Campus Leonardo, Piazza Leonardo da Vinci - Via Celoria)  
Battivacco farm, Milan  
*Visit to Parco Risaie, presentation by Lucia Nordio (farmer), Parco delle Risaie Association, Gioia Gibelli (architect), Alessandro Caramellino (Parco Agricolo Sud Milano)*  
Tavernasco farm, Zibido San Giacomo  
*Lunch. Visit to marcite (water meadows), presentation by Angela Rossi (farmer)*  
Femegro farm, Zibido San Giacomo  
*Visit to the farm, presentation by Francesca Pesenti (farmer and vice mayor of Zibido San Giacomo)*  
MuSa laboratory of landscape and taste, Zibido San Giacomo  
*Visit to Naviglio Pavese and MUSA museum /laboratory of landscape and taste*  
*Presentation by Matteo Mai (director of museum)*  
Sant'Ambrogio farm  
*Visit to farm and community gardens by Andrea Volsa, Cascinet association*



The historical influence area of Milan city to the agricultural land

## Milano South Agricultural Park

The Milano South Agricultural Park was established in 1990 as an “agricultural and metropolitan belt park”; its originality lies in its combination of protection and support of agricultural activities, natural conservation and recreation for the urban population. Among its objectives are the protection and re-qualification of its significant historical elements, evidence of its agricultural heritage, whether they retained their productive functions or not. As an “agricultural park”, it aims at preserving the traditional landscape character of its rural areas, through the qualification and development of agricultural activities, acknowledging their multifunctional role for landscape maintenance and improvement and for education, culture and leisure. As a “metropolitan belt park” it has strategic importance for the safeguard of the landscape and environmental recovery in the areas connecting the city and countryside, and to provide connection between peri-urban areas and the urban green system. Its management tools are the territorial coordination plan, including regulations, specific plans for the urban belt and reserves; the management plan and sectoral plans, including the agricultural sector.

Its historical significance resides in its being primarily a man-made landscape, developed over two millennia and especially since the middle ages, when the Cistercian abbeys (Chiaravalle and Morimondo) start operating on large estates, winning land for cultivation from the marshlands and building a network of irrigation channels; in the same years the city of Milan developed its infrastructural networks to strengthen its control on the nearby territories, by improving roads, controlling and enhancing

the waterways. Since the end of the 13th century and especially during the 15th century a “capitalistic” phase of the agricultural development opens, under the Duchy of Milan, with large reclamation and canalization works and the introduction of new, more productive crops. In particular, corn and rice progressively substituted earlier crops like rye and millet; the crop rotation significantly changed, and by the 17th century the agricultural production was sufficient to supply the city, as well as export rice and silk. In the following century a true capitalistic productive structure was shaped around the basic social and productive unit, the *cascina*, a farmstead with vast plots of land, characterised by crop diversification, mainly cereals and hay, sided by small vegetables production and cattle breeding.

Although influenced by the 20th century trends of agricultural mechanisation and expansion of the metropolitan area, the landscape still retains strong historical features, whose continuity is documented, especially through the cadastral and archival documentation from the 18th century onwards, as well as many other historical sources interspersed in private or institutional archives. This historical continuity is being studied and should be further investigated to guarantee a correct assessment and appropriate measures and interventions on this heritage rural landscape, in a wider area with shared characteristics, stretching beyond the administrative limits of the Park, between the rivers Ticino to the west and Adda to the east, surrounding the city.





Cascina Linterno and its plots constitute a whole that has survived to this day



XIX century iconography

## Cascina Linterno

Cascina Linterno is a farm situated in Milan, built between the 16th and 19th century, with buildings for animal breeding and horticulture. It is a municipal property and a cultural heritage protected by law. It is located at the limit of urban area and of a public and agricultural park. The farm is currently disused. The fields related to the farm belonging are cultivated by the neighborhood farmer based in Cascina Caldera. In the farmhouse are carried out, since fifteen years, socio-cultural activities organized by the association "Amici di Cascina Linterno".

The municipality of Milan has developed a project of preservation and functional recovery, designed by the City of Milan and the Politecnico di Milano (Department of Architecture, Engineering Construction and Built Environment ABC ), in agreement with the Ministry of cultural heritage: the proposed functions integrate the cultural role (memory, archives , documentation) with production (horticulture) and education. A participatory process with farmers, associated citizens, public institutions was built up in order to define the new functions of the farm.

Buildings are being restored and used for many activities: a cultural centre, an archive of a local newspaper, a seat / venue of a beekeeper activity and his educational farm, a farmer's market, a public historic oven, an agro-tourism service and common spaces for food gardeners. Some meadows are cultivated in the traditional way. This old technique is maintained and used by local farmers and explained by the association managing the cultural part of the farm. Allotments gardens are continuing the vegetable supply for the city, formerly provided by the farmers cultivating the vegetable fields.







Excerpt from  
Parco delle risaie  
project plan (Studio  
Arch Gioia Gibelli)

## Parco delle risaie

“Parco delle risaie” is an intra-urban agricultural area (650 ha) located in the Southwest of the city of Milano and, partially, on the municipalities of Buccinasco and Assago.

The project was started in 2008 by the homonymous association of farmers and citizens that have been working with the purpose of preserving the agricultural production and the landscape of rice fields, perceived as important for the quality of life, the environment and local identity. It is a pilot project based on a bottom-up approach; the agricultural landscape of rice fields is a water landscape belonging to Milanese culture for centuries; its value is not only related to the production, but also to the landscape as aesthetic, cultural, environmental and social value. The landscape project allows to use and ap-

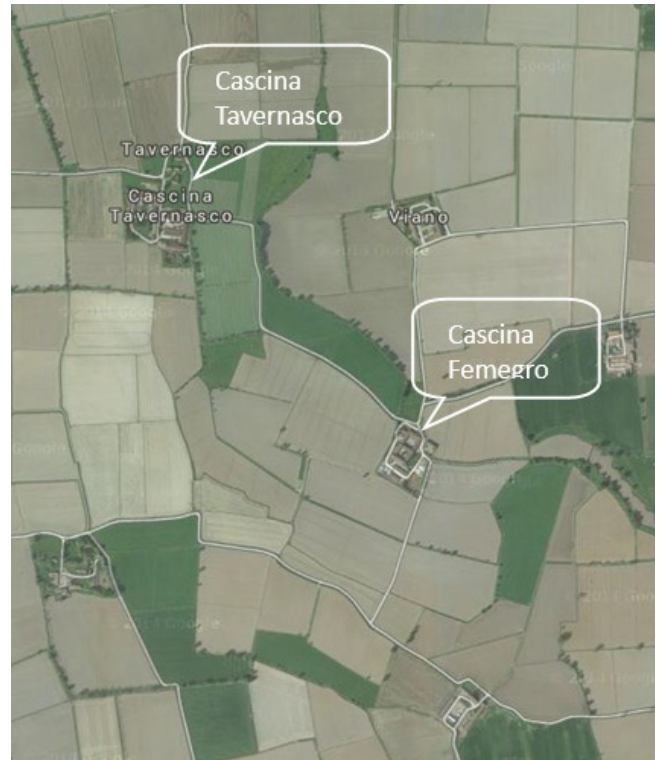
preciate this landscape without interfering with agricultural activities.

Inside the area, between ten active farms producing primarily rice, Cascina Battivacco is a very ancient agricultural settlement dating back to the XII century. Since 1965 it is managed by Fedeli family and combines the rice production, of about 150 ha in traditional rotation, with education, direct sale and agrotourism services. Furthermore 20 ha of farmland produce fodder for the breeding of beef cattle. It is an effective entrepreneurial model thanks to her multifunctionality and its ability to network.

“Parco delle risaie” project is a strategic scenario to be built over time; it is currently a reference point for municipal policies on the area.



Habsburg cadastral map, 1722, showing the rice paddies (green), irrigated crops (stripes), the springs of two fontanili, the cascina and its orchards.

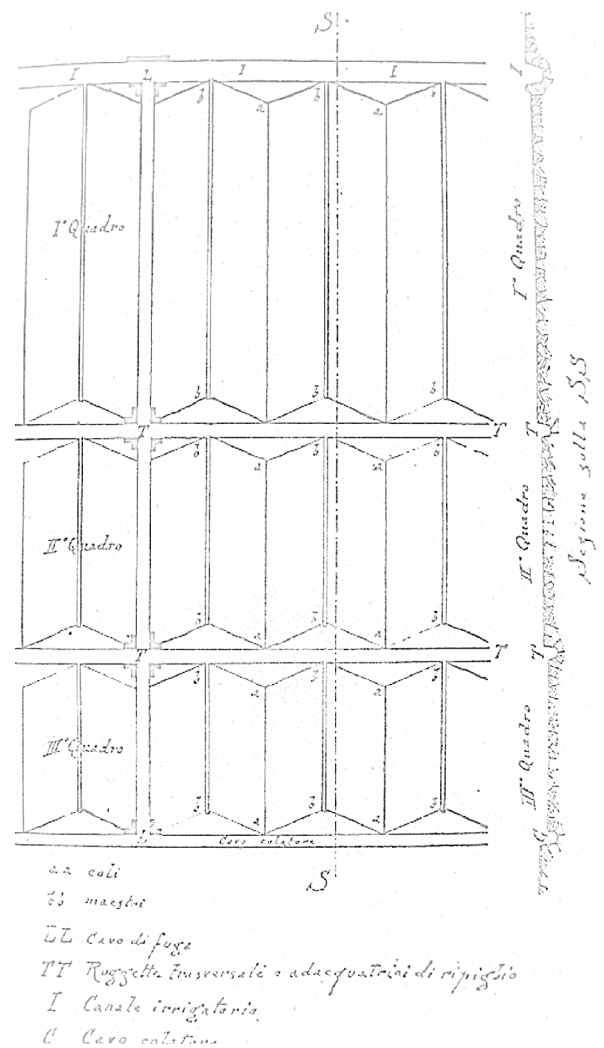


Google Maps.

## Cascina Tavernasco

A close look at the marcita system

The peculiarity of this settlement is the high number of marcite which are still functionally preserved. It is another example of how the traditional cropping system helps maintaining the breeding of milk cows along rice production, while aiding historical landscape maintenance. The complex is early documented in the 16th century; it was organised around a central courtyard, which only in part survives to this day. The new courtyard was built in the 19th century and includes buildings for different functions such as the pigsty and cattle stables, the house for the cheese-maker. On the western side the creamery, the workers' dwellings, the tenant's house, the drying warehouse, the rice husking mill; on the southern side the farmers' dwellings, the horse and cattle stables. Most importantly, this settlement presents a good readability of the old irrigation system of fontanili, forming a consistent landscape unity testified by the sequence of historical cadastral maps.



Marcita (G. Soresi, La marcita Lombarda, Casale Monferrato 1914)





# Cascina Femegro

A heritage-compatible modern farm production.

A fortified nucleus earliest mentioned in a 13th century document, Cascina Femegro is an example of protected rural heritage where agricultural production has never come to an end, thanks to the careful choices of the farm operators. The 18th century configuration included a central building, home to the tenant farmer, including the stables, barn and granary. It was surrounded by a number of dwellings for salaried workers, each with its own garden allotment. More than half of the surrounding estate was cultivated as paddy fields, with the remaining portion dedicated to irrigated crops and meadows. The marcita system was absent in the static record displayed on the 18th c. cadastral maps, indicating the

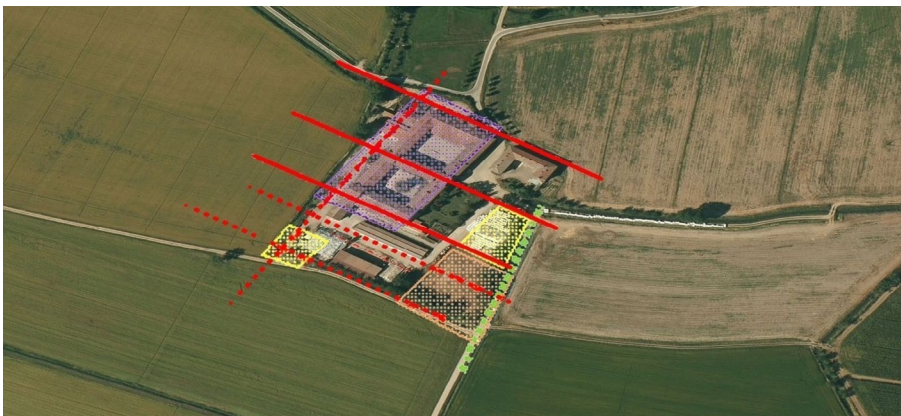
trend that saw permanent rice crops increase in the area. The 19th century maps show in fact marcite, that still survive to this day, along with a building configuration with two consecutive courts and a clear relation of the roads connecting the nucleus to the fields and to the greater network. Documents testify the presence of both water grain mills and rice husking mills in the small administrative area which included Femegro. The complex includes traces of 20th century production innovation, namely prefabricated stables, a milking room and two cylindrical concrete silos. The youngest generation has managed to keep the historical configuration unaltered by employing a robotic milking system.



Landscape reading at intermediate scale put in evidence the relationship with the nearest urban settlements, Zibido San Giacomo and other urban centers, the ratio of the farm with the settlements, the fields mesh, the distribution of vegetation (extract Bing Maps®, visualization PB)



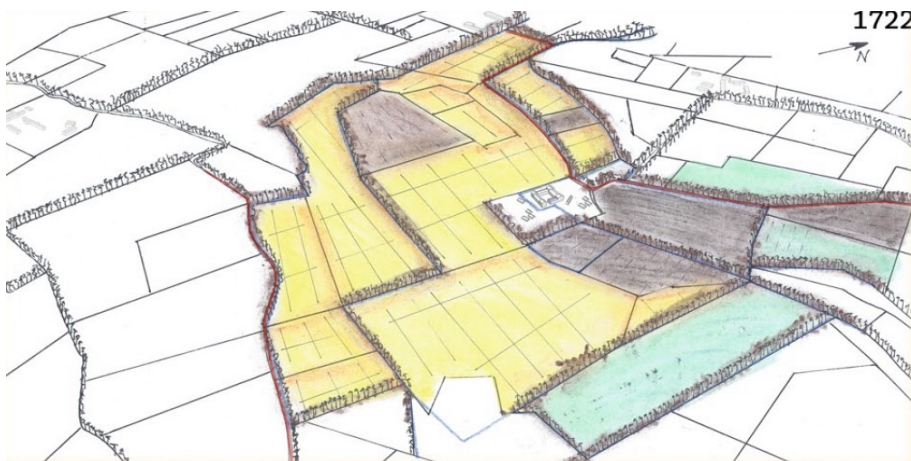
Landscape reading at closer scale put in evidence the relationship of farm with his fields, the crops and linear vegetation with the nearest urban settlements. The recent additions of farm buildings are keeping inside the historical limits (extract Bing Maps®, visualization PB)



Landscape reading at closer scale: the building system. New constructions (stables\_red) and open spaces for stocking (horizontal silos\_yellow) respect old alignments (violet); pastures area (orange) in located at a coin of the area and surrounded by informal edges (green). (estratto Bing Maps®, rielaborazioni PB)

(Scazzosi, L., Branduini, P, 2014, *Paesaggio e fabbricati rurali. Suggerimenti per la progettazione e la valutazione paesaggistica*, Ministero dei Beni e delle Attività Culturali e del Turismo, Maggioli ed. Sant'Arcangelo di Romagna)





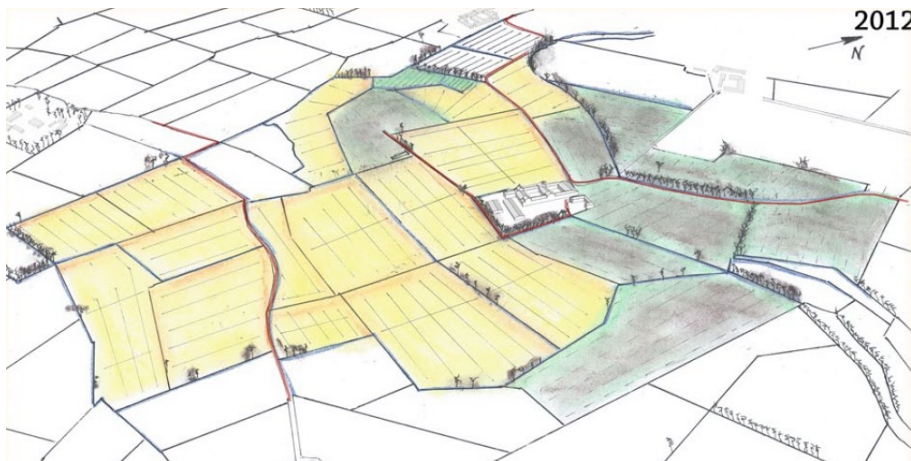
1722

The farmstead in 1722. The predominance of rice paddies (yellow) over irrigated crops (brown) and meadows.



1865

In over one century the property grew bigger with no essential changes in land use. The continuity of the marcite technique is clearly documented.



2012

Today. Land use is similar to the historical, as well as the parcel geometry, major roads and channels; it is to be noticed how mulberries and tree rows have become scarcer after the mechanisation.

Visualisations by Andrea L'Erario





MUSA. Exterior.



Multimedia Exhibition.

## MUSA

“Museo Salterio Officina del gusto e del paesaggio” was born in the framework of the ‘MI LAND’ project, established to support cooperation between the public and private sector for the management of rural cultural heritage in the area between Naviglio Pavese and Naviglio Grande, within Parco Agricolo Sud Milano.

The newly opened spaces offer a cultural project that aims at building a new sensitivity to the themes of contemporary and historic local landscapes and nutrition. It hosts both experimentation and research, educational courses and training for users ranging from school pupils to professionals and includes a botanical garden, a thematic library, a laboratory/kitchen, an exhibition space and a multimedia room.

MUSA aims at communicating the complexity of the Landscape, allowing for a more aware experience of its surroundings and of rural landscapes. It hosts a multimedia exhibition, which works as a didactic tool for the educational and training activities offered by the museum and the documentation centre located in the library. MUSA is not structured as an ethnographic museum of traditional farming, but as a laboratory to exchange knowledge through direct experience inside the museum and in the landscape. On the ground floor of MUSA, along with the open shelf library, a tasting workshop is to be found, providing information and lectures on the topics of nutrition and food knowledge and products.

## Cascina Sant’Ambrogio

To the east of the city, inside the Forlanini Park, outside the railway belt, Cascina Sant’Ambrogio is placed in an agricultural landscape between urban and built infrastructure; due to its compactness it is still easily recognizable. The area is historically and currently dedicated to horticulture, which remains are for instance the so-called hedges of gardeners, to protect gardens from thieves. Here the association CasciNet, founded in December 2012 by a group of young people united by the will to study, protect and enhance the historical, artistic and environmental identity of the farm, starts to take care of the indoor and outdoor spaces: they restored ancient frescos in the former farm chapel and create a community garden with a process of “sustainable design” in balance with management, land art and aesthetics. They are organizing a multiservice hub hosting from urban gardens to co-working, space for children to pottery workshops and carpentry, from festivals to the studio, to the events of music, philosophy and theater, with the placement of artists.

Cascina Sant’Ambrogio in 1977. The complex was built around the remains of a romanian church.



Cascina Sant’Ambrogio, Aerial View





## How to move around

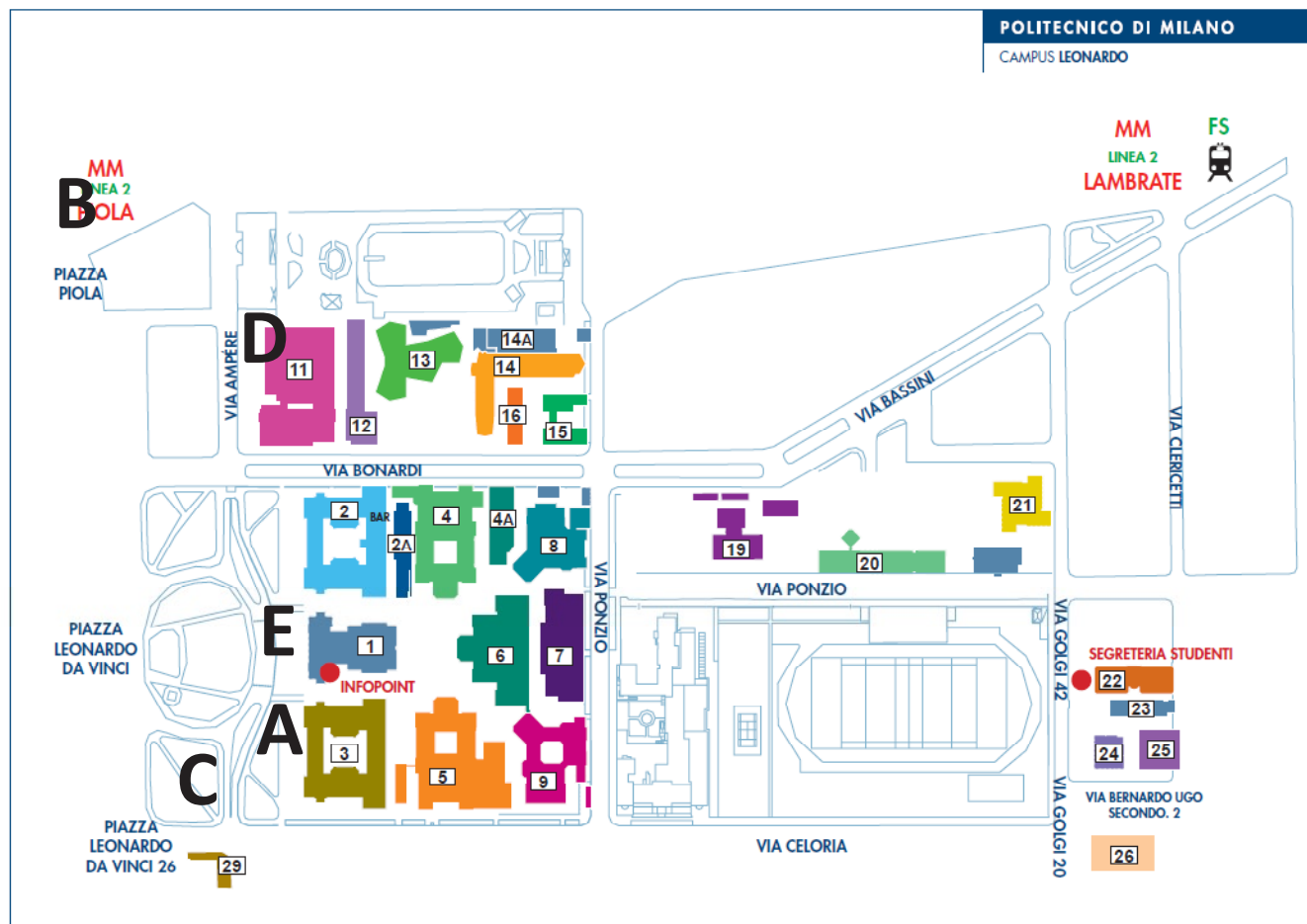
**A: Aula De Donato** - Main Conference Room. Building 3, ground floor

B: Piola Underground Station MM2

C: Meeting Point for the excursion on Tuesday 22, Piazzale Leonardo corner with Via Celoria.

**D: Carrot City Exhibition**, Building 11, ground floor, Exhibition Hall (entrance on the left)

E: **Fondazione Politecnico** - Building 1, ground floor



## Meeting Point Monday 21, 18:00

- From Leonardo Campus, Piola metro station, you need to take the underground green line MM2 headed to Abbiategrasso or Assago, using an ordinary one-way urban ticket.
- Get off after one stop at Loreto station. Take the red line MM1 headed to Bisceglie (do not get on the trains headed to Rho). The journey takes approximately 30 minutes.
- The meeting point is situated at the MM1 Bisceglie station mezzanine. You will then be guided on foot to the address Via Fratelli Zoia 194, along the green path on the map.

