

# PARK OF DANCING GRASSES



## Master plan

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|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Charcoal shed converted in a restaurant | 7. Wooden pergola          |
| 2. The flowering pear-tree wood            | 8. The oval stopping place |
| 3. Raised flower beds                      | 9. The waterlily pools     |
| 4. The rounded resting place               | 10. Restaurant             |
| 5. The airon tunnel covered by roses       | 11. The restored jetties   |
| 6. Parking                                 |                            |



Location:  
Paratico (BS), Italy  
Landscape Design:  
Cristina Mazzucchelli Green Design  
Photography:  
Daniele Cavadini  
Area:  
9,500 sqm  
Award:  
Landscape Award 2015 of the European  
Council

A lacustrine park is born in Paratico, on Lake Iseo's shores, Northern Italy, on an unused terrain previously belonging to the Italian national railways. It harmoniously conjugates the requirements of a recreational area open to the public with the need to emphasize the beauty of the environment, as well as restoring traces of the location's past. Vestiges of industrial archeology, which have been both preserved and highlighted, are the leitmotiv connecting several green areas within the park, while each area actually focuses on a different theme, striving towards interpretation of the location's many souls.

The park develops, uninterruptedly, along the lake's shores with a sequence of "rooms" or sections. Two lengthwise routes cross the park: the first path follows the shore, whereas the second one cuts right through the park, as it purposefully retraces the old railway lines. You find hedges in bloom, made of large metal tanks brimming with graceful plants placed in a diagonal section, leading the eye towards the lacustrine environment; the room where the gravel draws a pattern of waves, reminding one of the waves rising from the lake's rippled waters, alongside spacious fields with their beautiful ears of grass; then the room dominated by a large wooden arbour, covered in American grapevine embracing scented roses, hinting at the farming tradition of those Franciacorta hills, cultivated for their grapes crop; the final landmark, a room containing numerous seatings, stemming from oval-shaped design,







and two rectangular stone tanks with white water lilies, thus recalling concisely all the different sceneries the lake offers along its shores. In front you can find the stone "tongues", strips of land used as piers by bathers, which have been cleaned and reinforced, providing shelter for water fowls. The restored jetties enclose the park, and become the cornerstone of the last room; only fields and grass surround the jetties, so they are the key element as far as the eye can reach, to remind you of their history, and of the crucial role they played. The pedestrian trail, made of local stone settled with an irregular scheme, following the "roman way" in order to create rhythm, is characterized by the presence of the old train tracks, embedded between the stones that accompany the entire length of the path. Combinations of colors, shapes and patterns give a feeling of great spontaneity to an overall view of the park, hinting at harmony, gracefulness and movement; by the way this is how the "Park of Dancing Grasses" got its name.









