

Andrea Moneta

Title: *Discovering the Altera Forma Urbis of Rome through a site-specific project and performance at Garbatella district, Rome.*

Non-standard multiple Output (Performance and exhibition)

Also further disseminated in:

Moneta, A. 2012. *Scenarchitettura*. Rome: Edizioni Nuova Cultura.

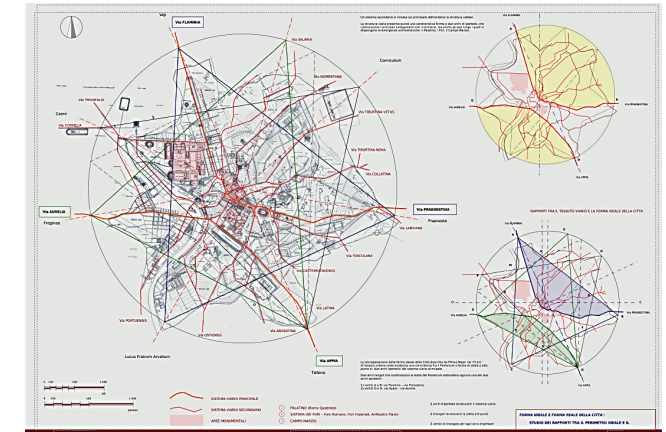
Moneta, A. 2022. *Discovering the Altera Forma Urbis of Rome through a site-specific project and performance at Garbatella district, Rome*. [online] Zenodo. Available at: <https://zenodo.org/record/5899009#.Ye739fvP2Cg> [Accessed 24/01/2022].

Narrative:

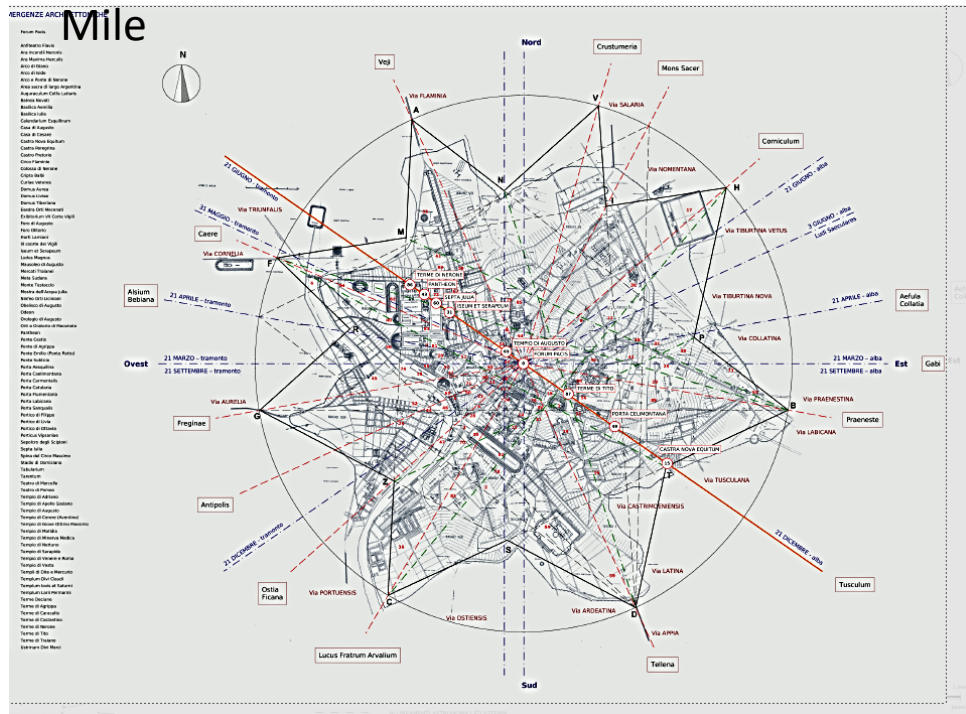
The research enquiry involved experimental research and case study using location-based digital technologies (*Geo-Blog*) and perception mapping as a further methodological development of *Scenarchitecture*, a trans-disciplinary methodology developed by Moneta (2012) for reading and interpreting the Genius Loci. It was based on recent work of Italian archaeologist Giuseppe Lugli and his son Pier Maria Lugli (2006) about the 'Altera Forma Urbis' of Rome, which investigates the hidden, 'secret' structural urban form of Rome in the shape of a 'Star'. The research was aimed at uncovering old and recent past history of Garbatella district and XI Municipality, as the place in which exists a concentration of urban modifications of Rome, through its connections with Lugli's studies. Using a hermeneutic phenomenology approach with a focus on making meaning of experiences as they are lived, the research revealed both physical and intangible connections between the Altera Forma Urbis of Rome and its contemporary urban structure within the area of study. Findings evidenced that extending the shape of the 'Star' from the original 1st mile radius of the Ancient Rome to 5-mile radius of contemporary city limits, there is a correspondence between the area of study's main monuments and landmarks with the Star's generating axes. Evidence of the originality of the findings were an exhibition (*Segni Percorsi*) commissioned and funded by 'Urban Centre - Municipio Roma XI', and a sited performance (*Tramandala*) commissioned and funded by Festival Teatri di Vetro 3, a renowned Festival of performing arts, and Fondazione Romaeuropa, one of the most prestigious cultural institutions in Europe. Feedback collected during the exhibition and after the performance evidenced the engagement of the audience with the themes and methods of the research. The dissemination of the work included the authored book *Scenarchitettura* (2012), article on journal Hortus (2009) and research report on Zenodo (2022).

Context: the Altera Forma Urbis of Rome

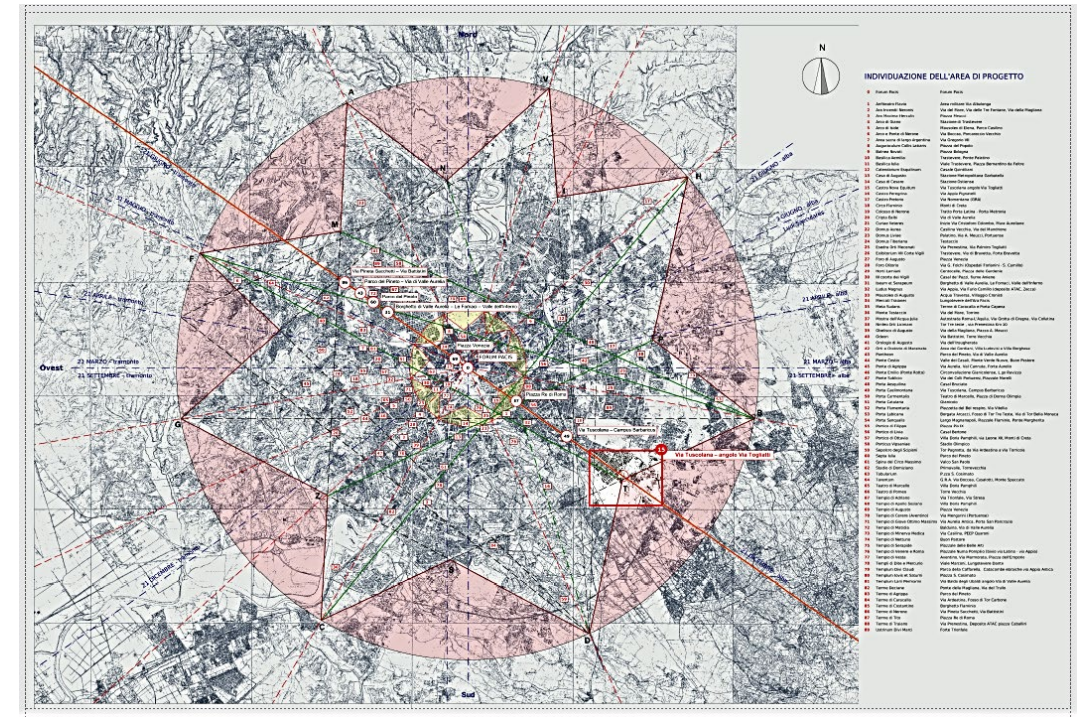
The **'Star of Rome'** was a research study by architect Pier Maria Lugli, that identified the hidden alignments in the topography of ancient Rome and the reconstruction of the **'Altera Forma Urbis'** of the city, or its 'other' (secret) form. The research was taken up by prof Gianfranco Moneta within his academic research on the urban morphology and transformation of the city of Rome, and then applied to his Module of architectural design at University La Sapienza.



The original 'Star of Rome' built at 1st Roman Mile



The expanded 'Star of Rome' built at 5th Mile



Images from: Leante, M. (2008) Una Stella chiamata Roma. Lecture at University La Sapienza

Context: The historic Garbatella district in Rome

My Module of Scenography developed an interest on the theme of urban transformations, and identified the XI Municipality (Ostiense and Garbatella districts), as the place in which exists a concentration of most evident and **substantial urban modifications** of the city of Rome. The aim was to use Lugli's and G. Moneta's research to investigate the **relationship between ancient and present urban form**.

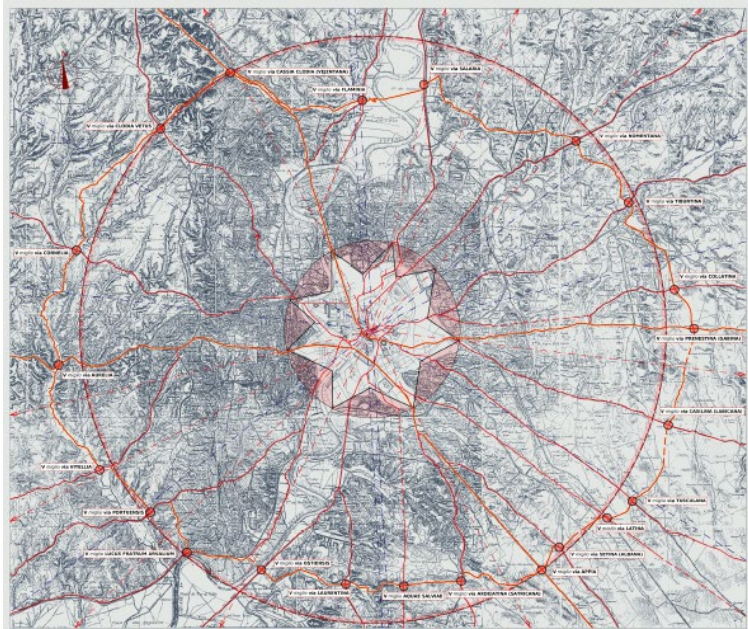


Research Questions:

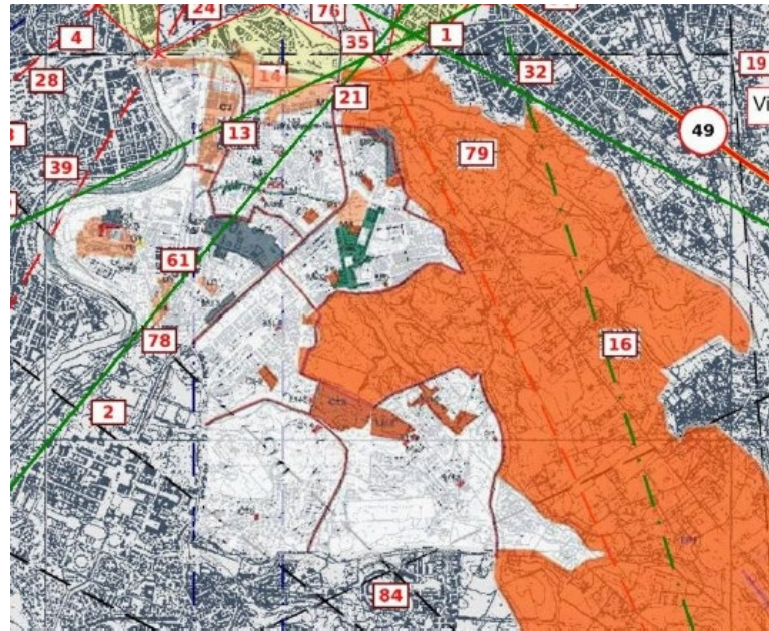
- How the 'Altera Forma Urbis' of Rome, the 'other' (secret) form of the city might be shared, showcased, and promoted to maximize the research project's reach and significance?
- What are the links between 'Altera Forma Urbis' of Rome and more recent history of Garbatella district?
- How can we creatively use Ancient Rome and recent history of Garbatella to enhance both the Urban Centre's cultural activities and Public Programme, and Teatri di Vetro's site-specific performance Festival?

Methodology: Mapping through location-based digital technologies (Geo-Blog) and the Altera Forma Urbis

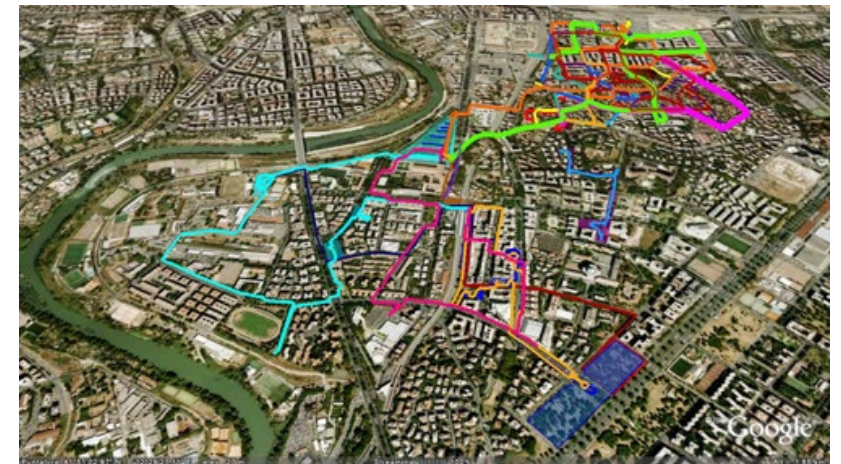
Using a hermeneutic phenomenology approach, the research revealed physical and intangible connections between the Altera Forma Urbis and its contemporary urban structure, identifying significant patterns that led its development. A perception mapping was also used to explore the Garbatella district through the senses and a relational engagement with it, to record feelings and moods, to discover the hidden stories of the places, to experience direct contact with the inhabitants and to report all of this in the form of graphic indications, texts, photos, videos, interviews.



The Star's radius at 1st and 5th mile;



Area of study with axis, nodes and monuments (Leante, 2008)



Research constitutes a further development of *Scenarchitecture*, a research methodology developed by Moneta (2012) for interpreting the Genius Loci.

Context: Teatri di Vetro Festival

Teatri di Vetro 3 Festival in the Garbatella district was the perfect opportunity to disseminate the research. It is a one-of-a-kind and well established site-specific performance festival that take place in the courtyards of building lots of Garbatella. It is organised in collaboration with the **Roma Europa-Palladium Foundation** and the Municipality of Rome. Both the exhibition 'Segni Percorsi' and the performance 'Tramandala' were included in the festival program.

TRAMANDALA

Associazione Archabout
Corso di Scenografia Prof. Andrea Moneta
Master in Scenografia Urbana Teatrale Digitale

SEGNI PERCORSI

Casa del Municipio Urban Center Roma XI
Progetti di scenografia urbana nel territorio del Municipio XI



Urban Center - lotti 12/14/16/25

16 / 22 MAGGIO

Sabato 16 ore 18.00 SEGNI PERCORSI

Inaugurazione della mostra. Progetti degli studenti del Corso di scenografia, lavori che costruiscono una sorta di racconto del Municipio XI, realizzato mettendo a sistema spunti, dati, pratiche, memorie e immaginari emersi dall'incontro con il territorio. Verrà anche illustrata la metodologia alla base del lavoro di mappatura eseguita sul territorio, materiale di analisi su cui lavorerà successivamente il Master in Scenografia Urbana, Teatrale, Digitale a partire da ottobre 2009.

Apertura: 19 / 22 maggio dalle 18 alle 20.

Domenica 17 dalle 20.45 TRAMANDALA

Gli studenti del corso di scenografia guideranno gli spettatori nei loro percorsi che attraverseranno le diverse performance previste dal programma del festival. Si arriverà infine alle 23.15 nel Lotti 12, ove sarà realizzata un'installazione-performance che ridisegnerà l'Altera Forma Urbis Romae, traccia iniziale delle 70 mappature effettuate sul territorio da altrettanti studenti del corso.



Andrea Moneta

Romaeuropa Festival2009

PULSAZIONICULTURALI

MANSUKU INO-KAI KYOGEN COMPANY
Bambini / Bambini / Kids
22 set in 20.30 Palladium

8 Falso Pugno secondo
ORCHESTRA DI PIAZZA VITTORIO
13, 14, 15, 16 set in 20.30 Teatro Olimpico

WILLIAM KENTRIDGE e
HANDCRAFTED PUPPET COMPANY
Winged on the Highway
16 set in 20.30 Teatro Eliseo
coordinatore Teatro Eliseo

SABURO TESHIGAHARA e KARAS Guss Tooth
2 set in 20.30 Auditorium Concittadini

PETER WELZ e WILLIAM FORSYTHE
Reproduction: Final Unfinished Project
(French Bacon) / Figure inverting / Figure
3 set in 20.30 Teatro Eliseo
Galleria nazionale d'arte moderna
coordinatore Galleria nazionale d'arte moderna

FRANCESCO TRISTANO SCHULME Not for Place
3 set in 20.30 Palladium

MARC DUCRET concerto
4 set in 20.30 Palladium coordinatore CPH

MARIO BRUNELLO e ORCHESTRA ACCADEMIA
NAZIONALE SANTA CECILIA Shuffle Bach
7, 8, 13, 14 set in 20.30 Palladium
coordinatore Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia

HYPERION GOURNAY Corinne
OLIVIER DUBOIS Pour une far de monde
16 set in 20.30, 14 set in 17 Teatro Olimpico

ORCHESTRA SINFONICA ABRUZZESE
concerto direttore MARCELLO BUFALINI
11 set in 20.30 Palladium coordinatore CPH

RAMPINO MOGHE Seleni Vortice
24 set in 20.30, 25 set in 17 Teatro Olimpico

RYUCHI SAKAMOTO Ring the Piano
18 set in 17 Auditorium Parco della Musica
Sala Santa Cecilia coordinatore Sala Santa Cecilia XV Wunderli

JAN FABRE La tempête
16 set in 20.30, 14 set in 17 Teatro Olimpico

Phaso Carlo Biondi coordinatore Phaso in Comune Roma

SOCIETÀ RAFFAELLO SANZIO
CHAKA GUDU, TENO TILANDU
Ingrata, una ingratitudine per ingratitudine
25, 26, 27 set in 20.30 Palladium

JAN FABRE e THOUSSLEY Orig. of tolerance
4, 5 set in 20.30 Teatro Olimpico

Peter Brook L'arte di un arte
5, 6, 7 set in 20.30, 8 set in 17 Palladium

HOFESH SHECHTER COMPANY
Upstream / In your name
11 set in 20.30 Auditorium Concittadini
coordinatore Terzium

IRAZEL GALVAN Toluca rosa
13, 14, 15 set in 20.30, 16 set in 17 Palladium

ORCHESTRA ACCADEMIA NAZIONALE
SANTA CECILIA
concerto ANTONIO PAPPANO
16 set in 20.30 Auditorium Concittadini

14 set in 18, 16 set in 21, 17 set in 19, 20
Auditorium Parco della Musica - Sala Santa Cecilia
realizzato da Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia

SANTASANGRE
Francesco 2 primo spettacolo
17, 18 set in 21 Fondazione 900

PIETER WAGGON Mafiosa
19, 20, 21 set in 20.30, 22 set in 17 Palladium

ARJON LINKE
Ridotti
24 set in 20.30
Goethe-Institut realizzato da Goethe-Institut

NOHAD VOICES OF CENTRAL ASIA
24, 25 set in 20.30 Palladium
coordinatore Federazione

CRISTINA RIZZO, BEYTER SALAMON,
MATTEO LEVAGGI, CLAUDIA TRIQUEZZI
Danza 24
28 set in 20.30, 29 set in 17 Palladium

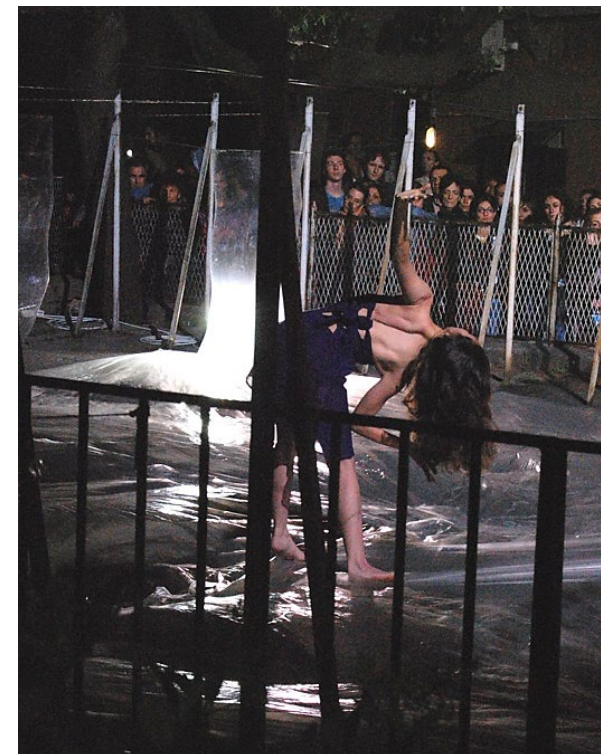
ROBERTA LENA, STEFANO BENNI,
CHIARA CASALI, MARIO BRUNELLO
La Buona Novella
1, 2 set in 20.30 Palladium

MARIA PAGÉS e SIDI LABRI CHERKADOU
Danza
2 set in 20.30 Teatro Olimpico

Seasawall (distribuzione) Brattolone
LAME / PRANDIAMA BARONIGUIT
TON SHOWCASE FEAT. MARCEL
DETTMANPROSPER / PRANDIAMA
VITALIC / REG. (S) HYPER / JONON TONIN
CASSINO

Concerti TEMPI D'ORAGGI
Gondolieri Circolo degli Artisti
DAVID DOLLA / CORNELIA / ANNA FRANCONI
/ GASPARE BALSANO / MARIO D'ANGELO
4, 5 set in 20.30 Teatro Olimpico

Produttore di
TELECOM
Sponsor di
ROMA EUROPA PALLADIUM
FONDAZIONE 900
GOETHE-INSTITUT
FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA
CINEMA ITALIANO
FEDERAZIONE ITALIANA
MUSICISTI



15 24 MAGGIO 09

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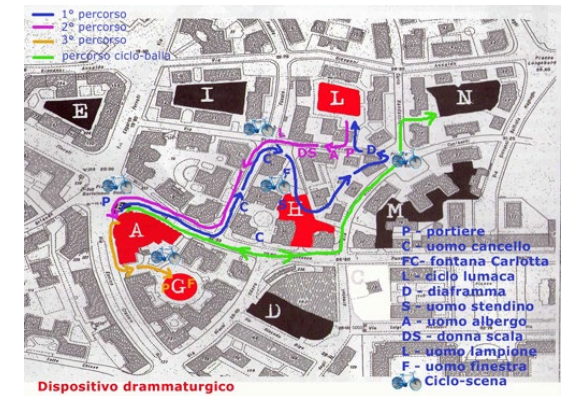
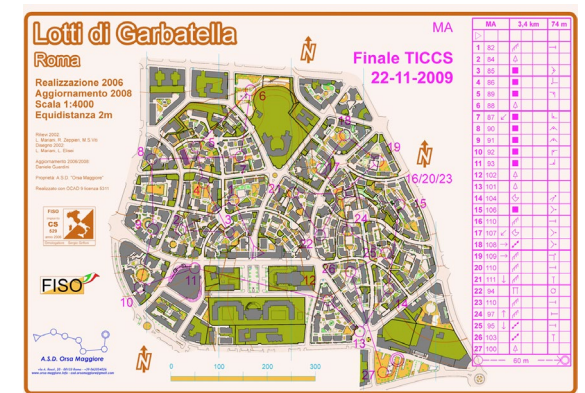
TEATRIDIVETRO



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Performance Tramandala 15-24 May 2009

The research materials and methods informed a site-specific performance, using the 'Altera Forma Urbis' of Rome physical and intangible connections with Garbatella district and the stories of the people that lived there. It included the **Reading the site** using Psychogeography methods (Debord et al, 1981; Powell, 2010); **Script writing** inspired by historical facts balancing authenticity with interpretation; **CosProp, Bike-scene design** for each selected story/character as wearable/portable scenic elements during the promenade storytelling; **Devising performances** to depict and interpret the places and characters, pairing stories with a specific place of the building lots of Garbatella.



Performance Tramandala 15-24 May 2009

Being part of a site-specific theatre festival that used different locations, the students' performance was designed to be a 'fil rouge' to link the different Lots where the performances of the festival were held in a scheduled sequence during each day. Tramandala was then a '**walking performance**' with three different paths, each of them including a number of 'stations' used for short performances. In final station, the audience gathered in a courtyard where a 'Star' made with laser beam, physically connected the 'Altera Forma Urbis' with each of the performers/characters of the performance.



Exhibition Segni Percorsi 16-22 May 2009

The rich material of the project analysis offered an equally rich production of operational and design proposals, which then merged into the design material exhibited in the *Segni Percorsi* exhibition held at Urban Centre of Rome Municipality XI. The idea of giving visibility to the research's original methodology and territorial analysis was enthusiastically welcomed by the Urban Centre Director, Federica Zampa, who included the official opening of the exhibition and launch of the project in the Urban Centre's public programme of events, during the same timeline of Teatri di Vetro's programme.



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Slide 9



Outcome/Impact

The two outputs received substantial support for **promotion and further dissemination by the partner organisations of the project** through their marketing and communication channels, increasing the reach and impact of research outcomes: Output 1 by Roma Europa-Palladium Foundation, Triangolo Scaleno Teatro and Festival Teatri di Vetro 3. Output 2 by the Municipality XI of Rome and Urban Centre. Feedback collected during the exhibition and after the performance evidenced an improved engagement of the audience with the ancient and recent past of Garbatella. The dissemination of the work includes published articles on (H)ortus and Zenodo.



Andrea Moneta



Slide 10



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