

# **Cagliari. Continuità**

Diploma 2019  
Direttori: João Nunes e João Gomes da Silva

---

**Atelier Grafton**

**Water Culture**

**Marghertia Lurani Cernuschi**

**Flamingos Necklace**

**Molentargius & Santa Gilla**

---

---

## **Marghertia Lurani Cernuschi**

Flamingos Necklace, Molentargius & Santa Gilla

“Sa’ genti arrubia (the red winged people)” is the way Cagliari’s citizens refer to flamingos, by now perceived by the city as part of its inhabitants.

Thousands of flamingos every day fly over the city connecting the two big bodies of water that enclose the urbanization of Cagliari - Molentargius Pond and Santa Gilla Lagoon.

With a surface of 5 000 ha and its incredible biodiversity (more than 36 000 specimens of water birds)) these two areas represent a fantastic environmental resource that has not yet been understood and valorized properly. The fascination of these areas is the condition of proximity with the city. A proximity that is not yet a continuity, both the lagoons are now perceived as a limit.

The project wants to enhance this natural resource by trying to establish a continuity. An acupuncture intervention that redefines the borders of the natural areas opening them to the city, connecting the two lagoons and providing a system of structures with the aim of getting people involved in nature’s life.

The work started with a territorial strategy that identified existing canals as a big potentiality to achieve this continuity and connects the areas taken in consideration. Together with the idea of reading the Molentargius Pond as a big plaza for the whole Cagliari metropolitan Area, these two first approaches led the development of the project.

What is the meaning of a building in such a fragile ecosystem? The project has to be read as a process that is searching for an answer.

A system of structures where air, sun, and water are conceived as building materials. A series of spaces that adapt to the continuous changes of nature: the sun’s revolution, the wind direction, the amount of rain water, temperature, the sky, moon and stars.

As one of the aims of the project is to make people aware of the natural resources they have so close to their home, the interventions developed have an important pedagogical approach. Each structure is thought in order to follow nature and, in different ways to map its changes and movements.

The impact of the project on the context tries to be minimal, the different buildings are thought as little “creatures” that touch the ground as little as possible, the aim was to think of them as elements landed on the site without changing it but adapting to the existing conditions.

The 7 interventions:

- a working space to monitor and do research on water birds thought as a building that change together with the succession of seasons
- an archive/library for the Park with all the materials concerning local flora and fauna where the space is generated by light. A building that map the sun revolution in the way the openings are placed and oriented
- a floating platform to visit Santa Gilla lagoon, to follow the stars in the sky and host concerts at night that with a rotation mechanisms maps constellations through the year
- a tower to look at flamingos. A structure that moves with the wind
- a shelter without a specific function but open to people’s needs that provide a protection from the sun, the wind and the rain
- a service diffused in the landscape. A self sufficient system that use rain water and decompose its waste
- a seat to welcome visitors placed at the entrances of the park. A mechanism that follows the sun in order to provide shade all day long and to map the sun movements.

These 7 interventions are part of an open system that could expand in the future. They are linked by a common structural principle: stone external foundations (the feet), thin steel pillars (the legs), a timber structure defining a livable space (the body) and movable outer facades that change with seasons, temperature, sun and wind (the skin).

The structures by being suspended o tall legs provide a public usable ground floor space: a place to rest, play or eat as it is shaded during summer and provided with drinkable water (collected from the roof, purified and stored.)

