

Technical information

Client: Patriziato di Arzo
 Architect: Enrico Sassi
 Date: 2011 - 2017
 Surface area: 5'000 mq
 Photographers: Alberto Canepa,
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 Simonetti

Concept

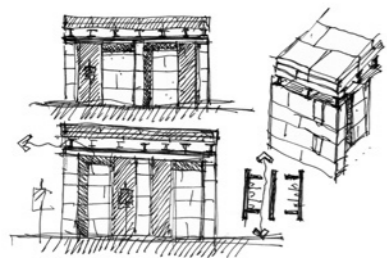
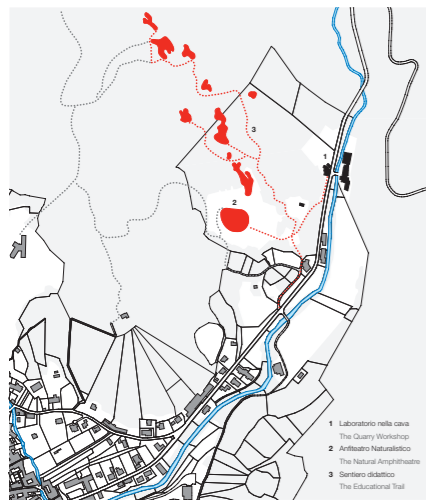
The project for the redevelopment of the area and the reuse of the buildings within the Arzo quarries promoted by the Patriziato di Arzo underwent a long and complex process of gestation; what has been achieved is the result of much discussion and of the constant questioning and adjusting of the initial ideas.

The sedimentary breccia found in Arzo is generally known as Arzo marble. The quarrying of this stone, which was used throughout Europe, started in 1300. The project for the redevelopment of the area and for the re-use of the buildings focussed on three areas: the educational trail (a path that leads to the ancient quarries in the wood above), the natural amphitheatre (a project for the reuse and promotion of the great disused Cava Caldelari approximately 4,500 square metres of rich natural diversity; the quarry workshop (the conversion of the ancient sheds where marble was processed into workshops and exhibition spaces).

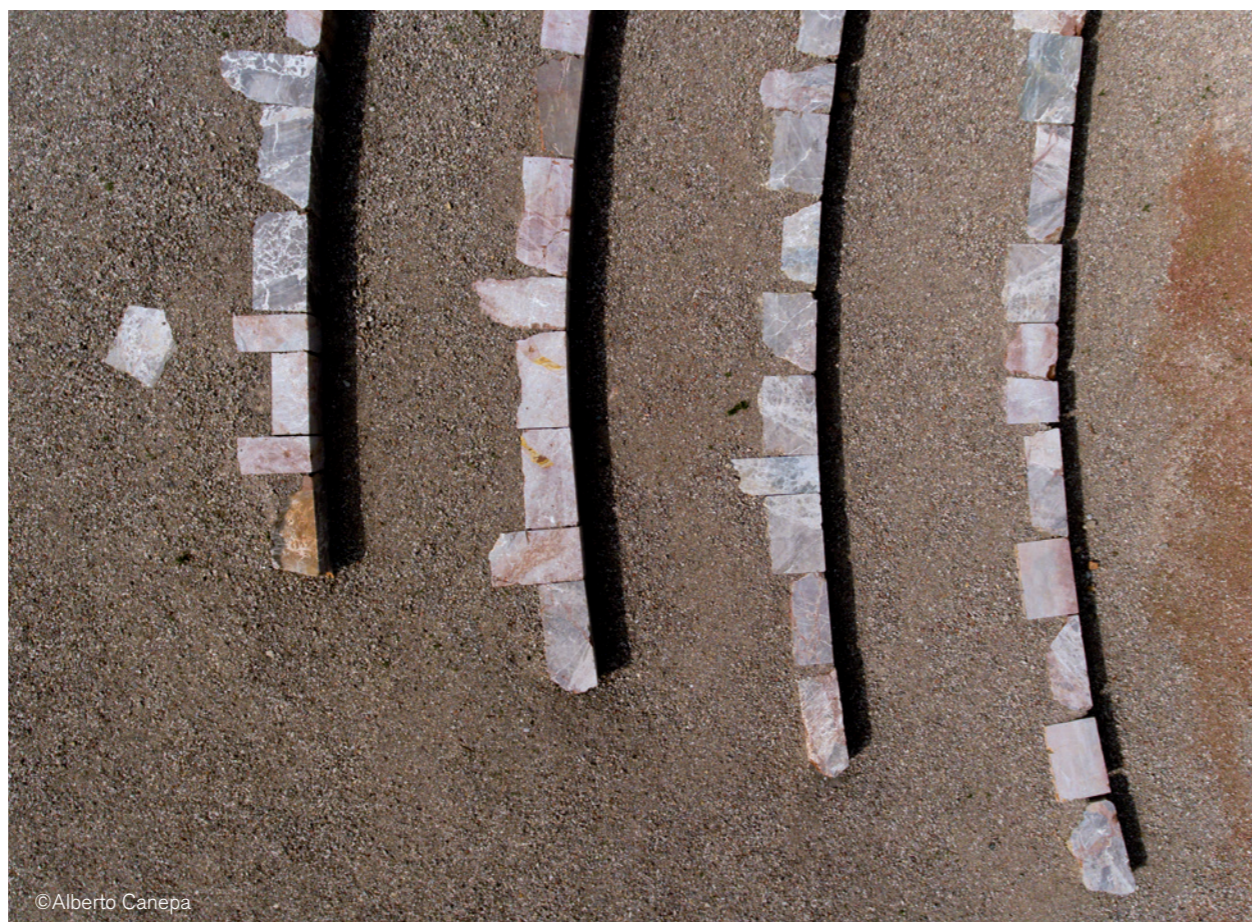


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The Educational Trail – The project entails organising and marking a pedestrian route (an educational trail) to the disused caves revealing the different quarrying techniques (chisel, helical wire) and the various types of stone that were extracted (red Macchiavecchia, Rosso Arzo, Broccatello). The doors are made from oxidised metal grills. The structure is lit from above and naturally ventilated from the open band between the roof and walls. The washbasin was made from an ancient hand-quarried block of marble. The walls were built from blocks of marble with different surfaces and finishes.

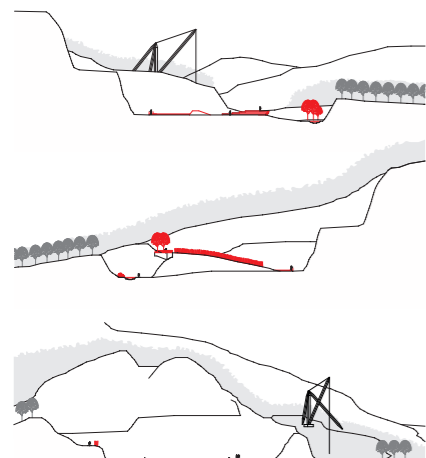


The Natural Amphitheatre – The former Cava Caldelari is an area of great significance in terms of geology and paleontology, as well as for its flora and fauna. The project known as “Natural Amphitheatre” has been developed in collaboration with the environmental engineering firm Oikos and involves the organisation of spaces to make them accessible while preserving particularly significant natural environments, by creating specific biotopes that capitalise on the natural features of the site. The project has cleared an area that was cluttered with quarrying detritus, now replace by four rows of seats made from marble blocks, arranged in a semi-circle. The steps can be used as seating and allow the staging of public events. A timber walkway was built in locally sourced black locust wood to extend the footpath across the marshland area along the quarry face. The trail leads to an area characterised by some imposing reinforced concrete walls (the base of the old crushing plant) which have been made safe by the addition of a railing made from rebars. This area - known as the baluardo panoramico (the belvedere) overlooks the quarry and has been fitted with three tables made from marble slabs. A stair made from timber and marble connects the trail to another footpath above it. Two new biotopes were also created: a small pond where rainwater from the area is collected, and a biotope for small animals – a mound of piled marble blocks that recreates the habitat removed to make way for seating.



Planted essences

- Carpinus betulus (Hornbeam)
- Fraxinus (Ash)
- Laburnum anagyroides (Golden chain)
- Corylus avellana (Hazel)
- Cornus mas (Cornelian cherry)
- Sambucus (Elderberry)
- Ligustrum (Privet)
- Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn)
- Viburnum opulus (Guelder rose)



The Quarry Workshop – The quarry workshop project reuses and upgrades the ancient buildings of the original production facility, which consists of two discrete volumes: the main building (known as the marble shed) and a secondary building that organises access and circulation. The elevation of the main building faces on to the cantonal road and is entirely built from marble blocks. This unique feature is highlighted by a new roof cover that emphasises the material and the construction technique.

