

Technical information

Client: Città di Lugano

Architect: Enrico Sassi

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Concept

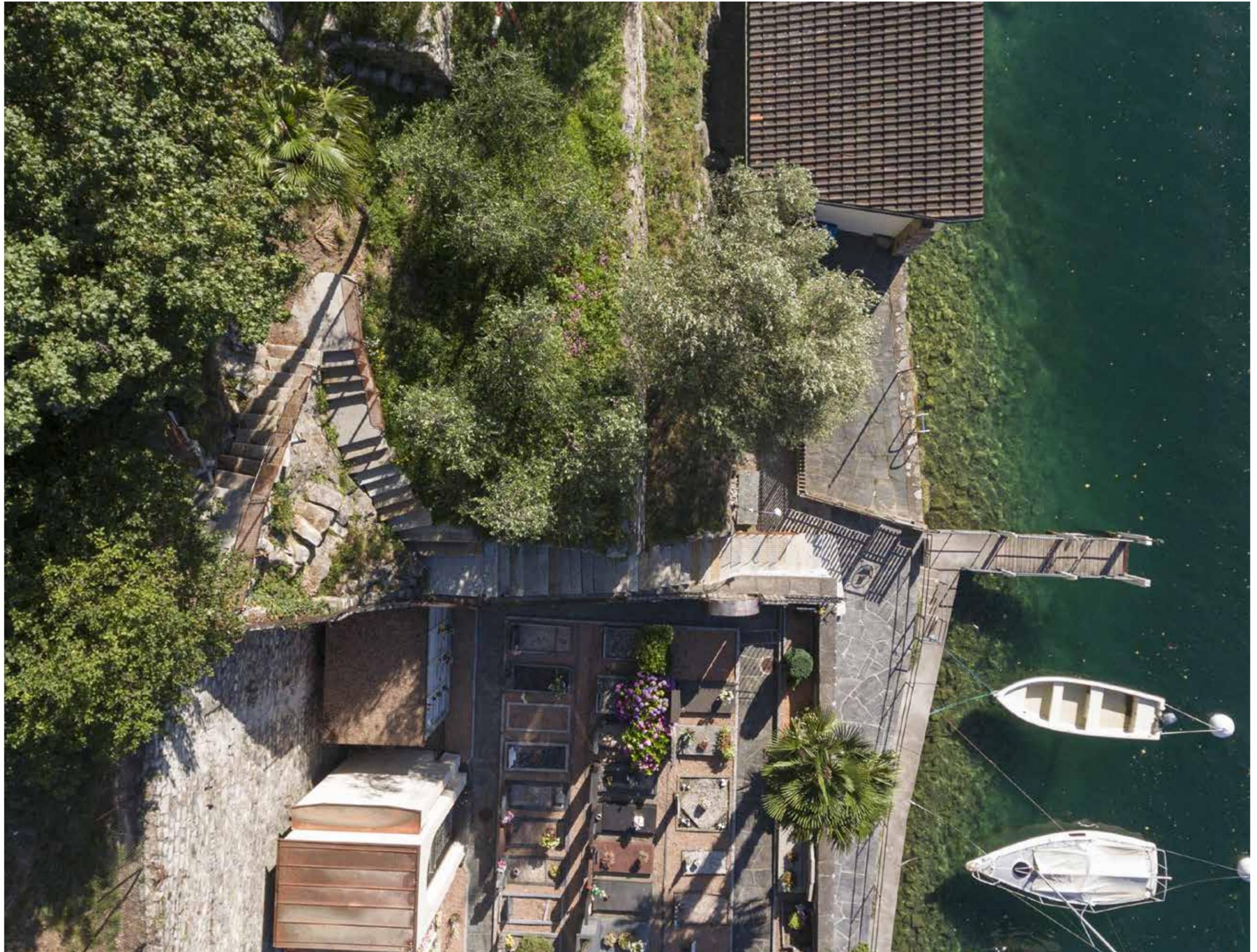
The current Gandria district of the city of Lugano is an ancient settlement of fishermen and farmers, on the shore of Lake Ceresio at the foot of Monte Brè. It is a characteristic and picturesque location, inscribed on the ISOS list (Inventory of Swiss settlements to be protected). Gandria has an important tourist relevance today thanks to its particular geographical situation and its spatial qualities.

Gandria's landscape is characterized by terraces with crops and dry stone walls since ancient times. Numerous sources testify that olive cultivation in Gandria has been present since the 14th century. Only in 1951 was the nucleus of Gandria connected to the international road built in 1936. The Gandria district is equipped with a car park that was built in the seventies alongside the cantonal road that connects Lugano to Porlezza, in Italy. Between the car park and the lake there is a difference in height of 54 meters. The parking lot and the staircase leading down to the lake are the access doors to the olive tree path.

The arrangement of the staircase at Lake Gandria is part of the larger redevelopment project of the olive tree path developed in team with the Oikos consulting and environmental engineering firm. The overall project involves the enhancement of the numerous olive trees and the arrangement of the pedestrian path that crosses the town, connecting several terraced areas cultivated with olive trees.

Before the intervention, the staircase that runs alongside the cemetery and connects with the above parking lot was in concrete and was in poor conservation conditions, the handrails and parapets were out of the norm.

The project proposed the construction of a new staircase with solid stone steps that use the treads of the previous steps as laying surfaces.



The staircase overcomes a vertical drop of 14.4 meters and has 72 steps and 5 landings. The new stone steps were built in the stonemasons' laboratory of the city of Lugano using ancient steps that were deposited there. All the steps of the staircase have already had a "previous life" and come from different places, have various types of profiles and are of different types of stone. The traces of their previous use have been kept visible. The landings are made with unique pieces, also obtained from old slabs already used. The parapets were made of raw iron with a natural oxidized finish. The uprights are plates fixed in the stone with two brackets, panels are then fixed to the panels made with a full round and rounded corners, the infill of the panels is made of rough corrugated mesh.

