



**Spatial and  
Community  
analysis  
a virtual immersion**

The virtual visit to Piazzale Corvetto started from La città intorno, a program by Fondazione Cariplo, that “aims to develop and improve the well-being and quality of life for the inhabitants of the neighbourhoods around the centre of Milan, by increasing cultural and creative initiatives” [1] and involving the local community.

One of the most important online sources that this program has developed, is Quaderno Corvetto-Chiaravalle, that has been useful for our spatial survey. In the general introduction, they present the Corvetto-Mazzini neighbourhood as a space full of contradictions, that “consists mainly of well-consolidated areas, but also of areas that are undergoing profound changes.” [2] This idea emerges also from the description of Piazzale Corvetto, our main area of intervention.

[1]<https://lacittaintorno.fondazionecariplo.it/>

[2][https://lacittaintorno.fondazionecariplo.it/live/media/uploads/2019/11/Lacittaintorno\\_quaderno-Corvetto-Chiaravalle.pdf](https://lacittaintorno.fondazionecariplo.it/live/media/uploads/2019/11/Lacittaintorno_quaderno-Corvetto-Chiaravalle.pdf)



# Area

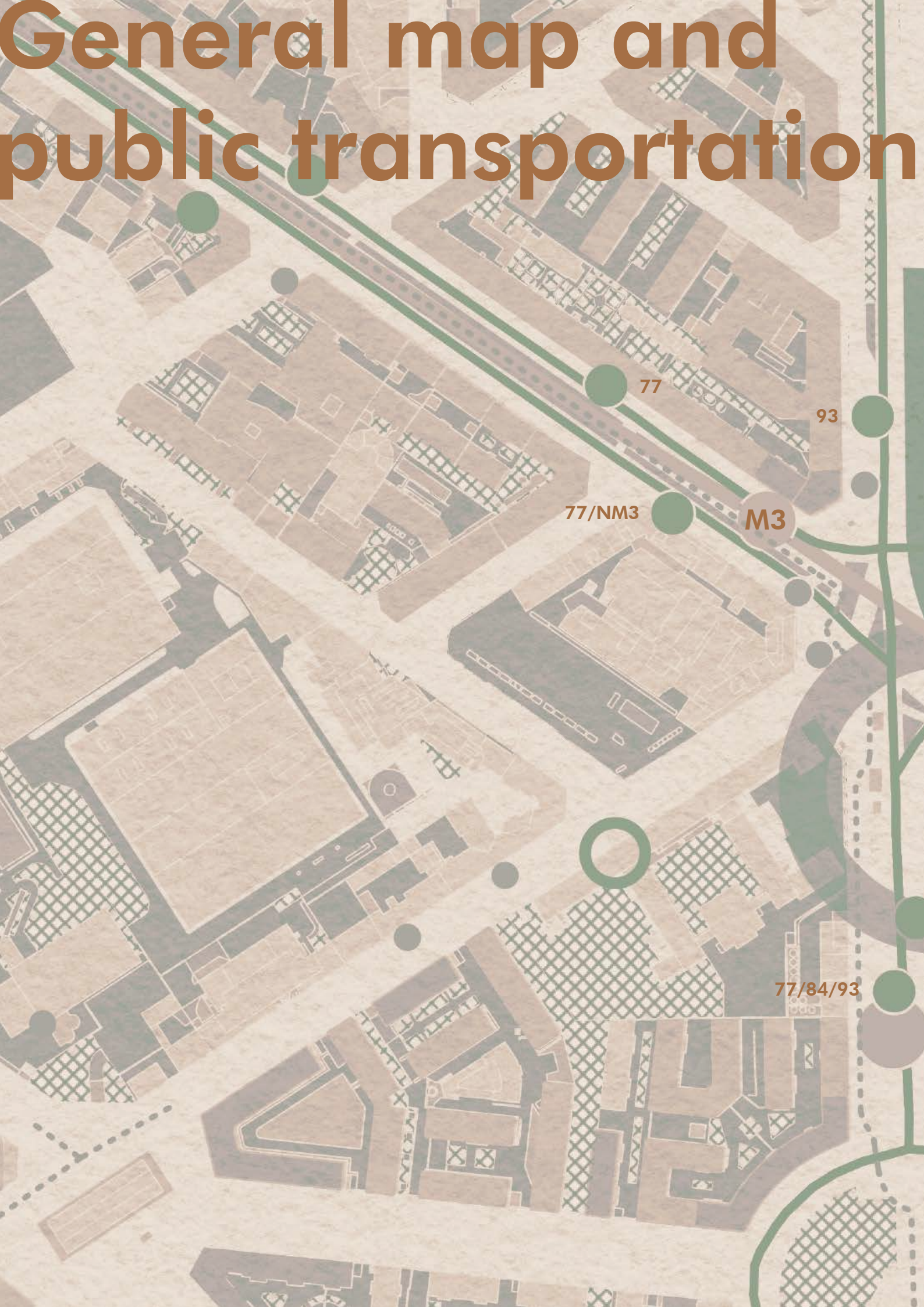


*"The Corvetto metro station opens itself on a square that looks like a border puzzle, composed of silent spaces such as the parking lots, but also of more dynamic spaces such as the UPIM facades that make the sidewalk a crowded meeting point, the triangle attached to the school gardens, with its clothes stalls, the newsagent, the florist and the kiosk of Giacomo."*

# of Intervention



# General map and public transportation




















84/93

77/84  
93/95

**scale 1:2500**

- Green Areas 
- Residential Buildings 
- Public Housing 
- Culture**
- Cultural Associations 
- Primary Schools 
- Secondary Schools 
- Transport**
- Metro Line 
- Metro Stop 
- Bus and Tram Line 
- Bus and Tram Stop 
- Car Sharing Parking 
- Bicycle Lane 
- Bicycle Parking 

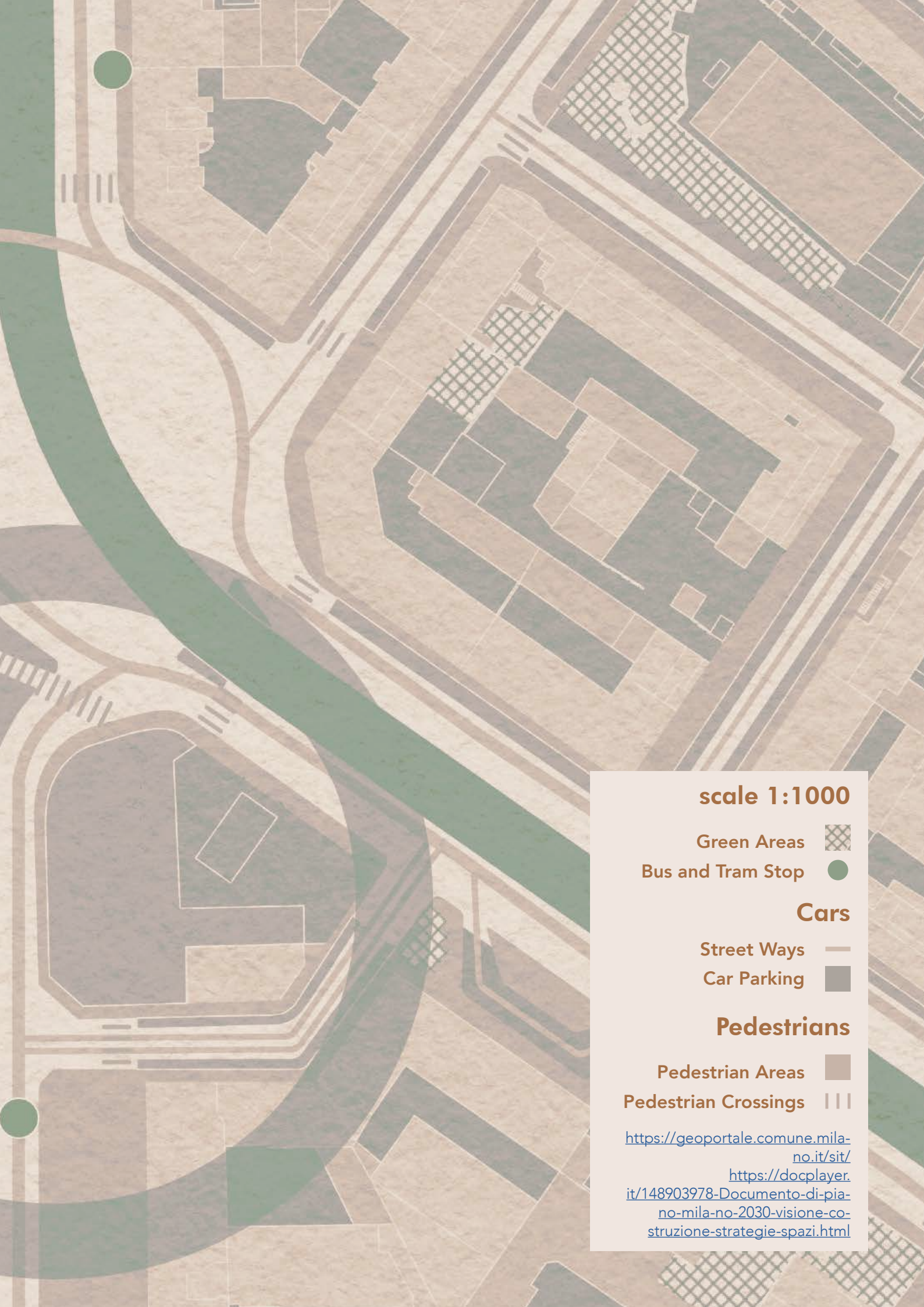
<https://geoportale.comune.milano.it/sit/>



# Roads and pedestrian areas








**scale 1:1000**

**Green Areas** 

**Bus and Tram Stop** 

### **Cars**

**Street Ways** 

**Car Parking** 

### **Pedestrians**

**Pedestrian Areas** 

**Pedestrian Crossings** 

<https://geoportale.comune.milano.it/sit/>  
<https://docplayer.it/148903978-Documento-di-piano-mila-no-2030-visione-costruzione-strategie-spazi.html>



# Services near the area of intervention



Via Polesine

Viale Martini



A stylized, top-down map of the Piazzale Corvetto area. The map uses a muted color palette of greens, browns, and greys. A prominent green road, Viale Lucania, runs diagonally from the bottom left towards the top right. To its left, a brown road, Via Marocchetti, runs parallel. Further left, another brown road, Via Marocchetti, is shown. The area is filled with various shapes representing buildings and parking lots. Two circular icons are placed on the map: a car icon on the left and a gas pump icon on the right. The text 'Piazzale Corvetto' is located in the upper left quadrant. The text 'Via Marocchetti' appears twice, once above and once below Viale Lucania. The text 'Viale Lucania' is placed along the green road. A scale bar is located in the bottom right corner.

**Piazzale  
Corvetto**

**Via Marocchetti**

**Via Marocchetti**

**Viale Lucania**



**scale 1:1000**



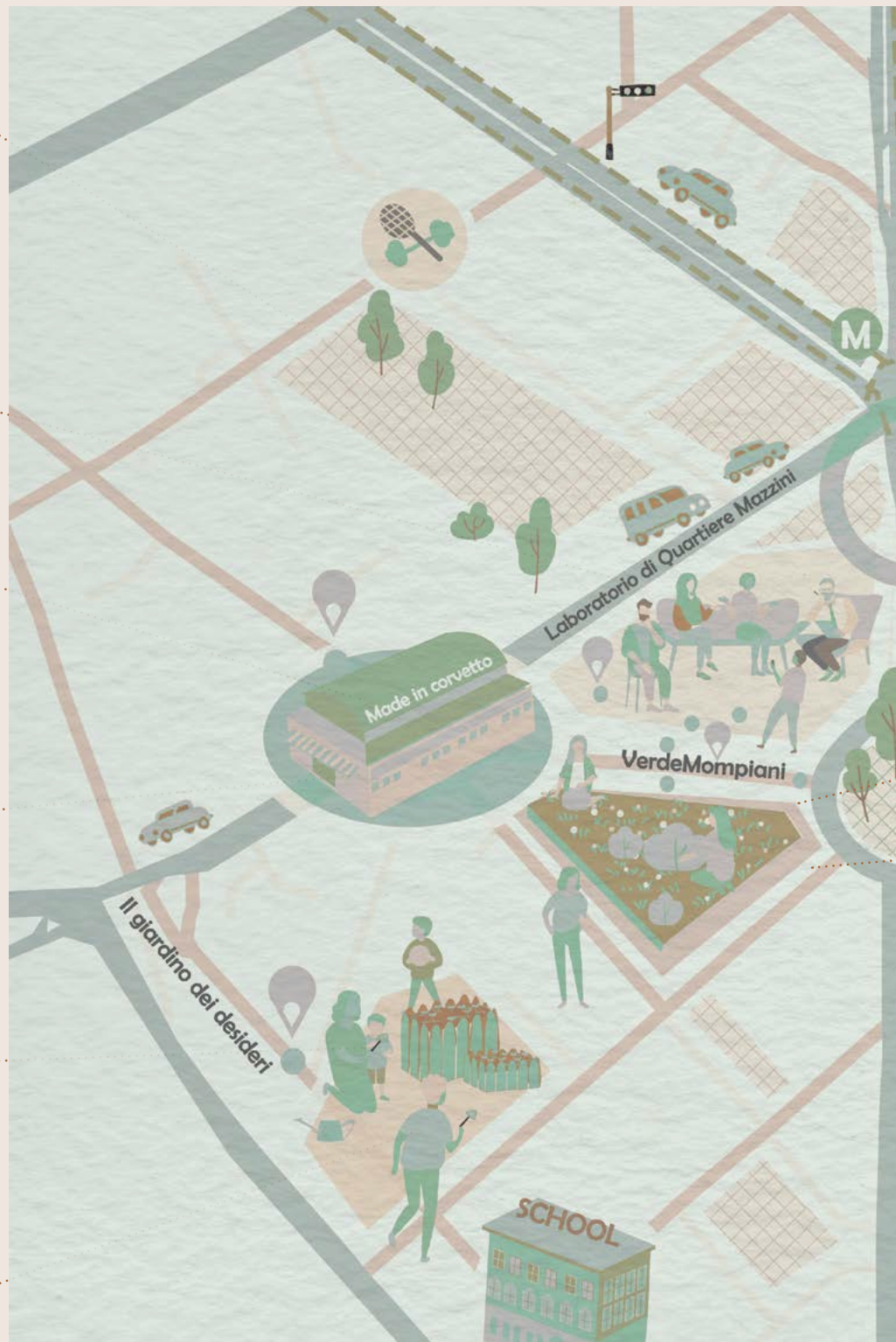
Laboratorio di Quartiere Mazzini



Made in Corvetto



Il Giardino dei Desideri



La città intorno, in collaboration with **Labsus** [3] and **Rete Corvetto**, a reality that connects the social actors of the territory, has developed many projects of tactical urbanism that clearly show how the Corvetto community is active and interested in improving social life in the neighbourhood.

One of these interventions is **VerdeMompiani**, in which the residents have been involved in the renovation of six flowerbeds on a street where there is also a public housing program administrated by ALER (the Lombard Institute for Residential Buildings).

Assoc





During this intervention, one of the signatory inhabitants said something really interesting about the social structure of the neighbourhood [4]:

***"In the 70s the street was a very liveable area, with a large social tissue. Nowadays, however, there are many difficulties in carrying out an intergenerational dialogue. In this sense, the program has been a useful tool: the care of the flowerbeds is a tool for an inter-generational re-engagement."***

[3]<https://www.labsus.org/progetti/luoghicomuni-2/>

[4]<https://www.labsus.org/2019/04/mompiani-corvetto-la-via-di-milano-che-rinasc-grazie-agli-abitanti/>

# ations and initiatives

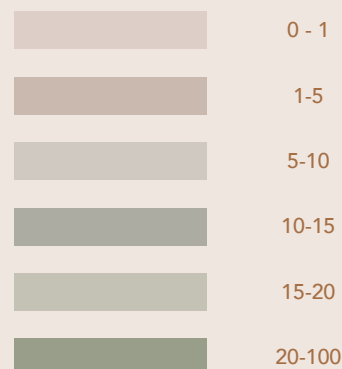


Starting from this consideration of Leonardo, we have decided to analyze the demographical data of the neighbourhood, to understand which elements make up the Corvetto social tissue.

We have found, according to the 2018 municipal registry data of the Lodi-Corvetto NIL (local identity unit)[5], that the percentage of foreigners citizens amongst the total residents is higher than in the rest of Milan (26% of foreigners, while amongst the total population of Milan the percentage is about 19%).



**Foreigners Distribution**

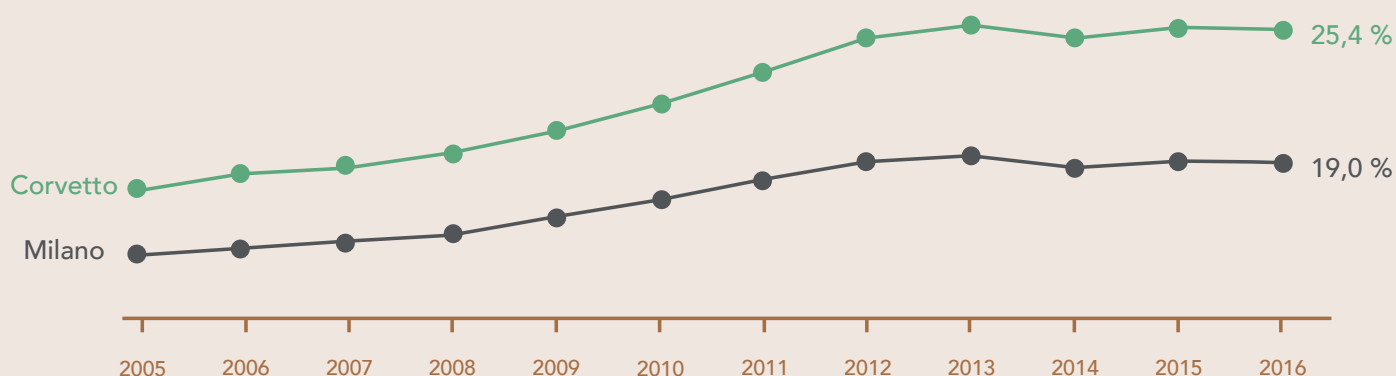


## Population residing in the Municipality of Milan in 2018 Local Identity Unit 35: Lodi-Corvetto

[5] The NILs are statistical units introduced to identify a set of areas, connected one by infrastructures, mobility services and open spaces that define the "neighbourhoods" of Milan.

[https://www.comune.milano.it/documents/20126/2313917/nil\\_sesso\\_stranieri2018.pdf.pdf/c35c4012-343b-5b2e-728d-e3e04b1b214c?t=1555407547492](https://www.comune.milano.it/documents/20126/2313917/nil_sesso_stranieri2018.pdf.pdf/c35c4012-343b-5b2e-728d-e3e04b1b214c?t=1555407547492)

	Total	Foreigners
Women	18.957	4.805
Men	17.405	4.795
Total	36.362	9.600





Then, using ISTAT data from the 2011 census [6], we have tried to understand the percentage of some social classes near the area of the intervention of Piazzale Corvetto.

The most interesting aspect that emerges is that the biggest part of the working residents moves daily from their neighbourhood, using private or public transportation.

If we consider the number of workers that goes there to work, but also the primary services in that zone, such as the post office, it is clear

that Piazzale Corvetto represents a central node for pedestrian and automotive traffic flows.

***“The square is an important hub. The subway and many buses arrive there, the***

***station of Rogoredo is near, and also the one for bikes. This is a crossroad of various paths: people come here for work, go through the square to go home, and for the facilities.”***

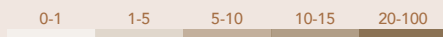
#### Workers



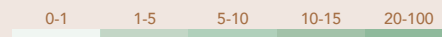
#### Unemployed



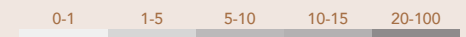
#### Children 5-9



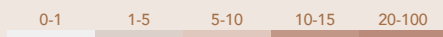
#### Children 10-14



#### Children 15-19



#### Retired 65-69

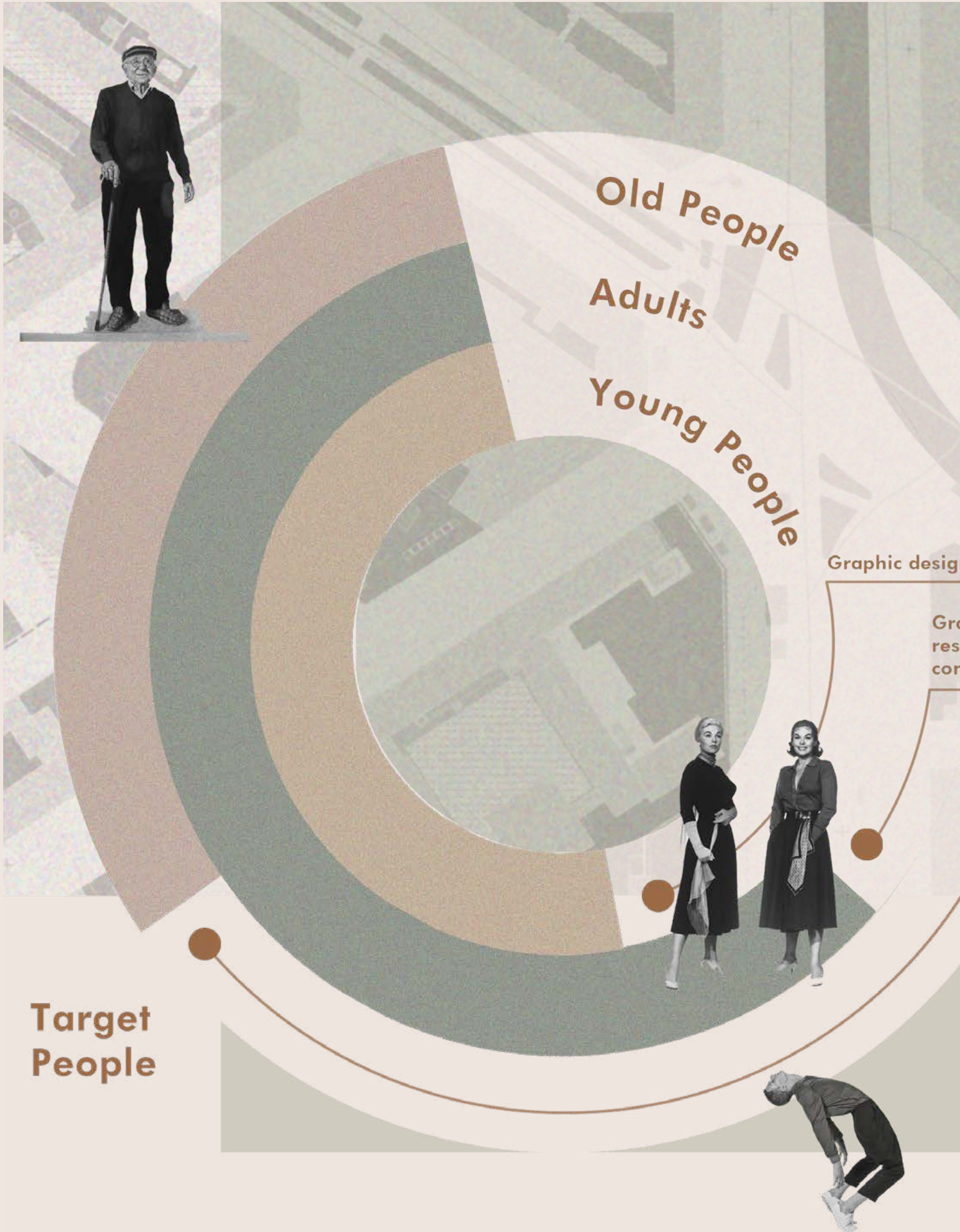


[6] In the graphic elaboration made with QGIS, the census sections (the minimum territorial unit for aggregating the data that may vary in size in terms of spatial extent and of the resident population) has been used to highlight the spatial distribution phenomena of the various census variables analyzed, such as children from 5 to 9 years old.

<https://www.istat.it/it/archivio/104317>

# monographical research





Old People

Adults

Young People

Graphic design

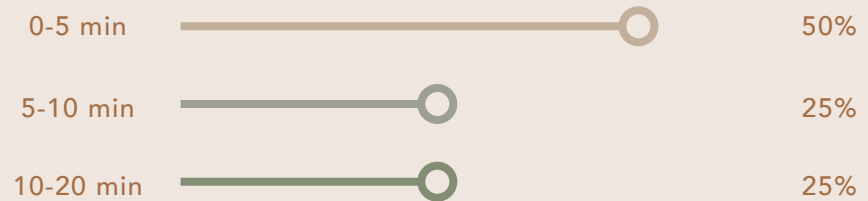
Graphic  
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Target  
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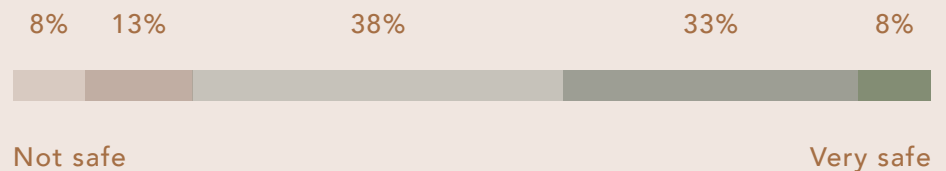


The survey has been developed using the Google Forms platform. The link has been shared during a virtual meeting of Rete Corvetto and published on: the Facebook page of Casa di Giacomo, the Facebook group "Social Street del quartiere Corvetto/Bonomelli, a Milano" and PoliMi groups. Unfortunately, only 25 people have answered.

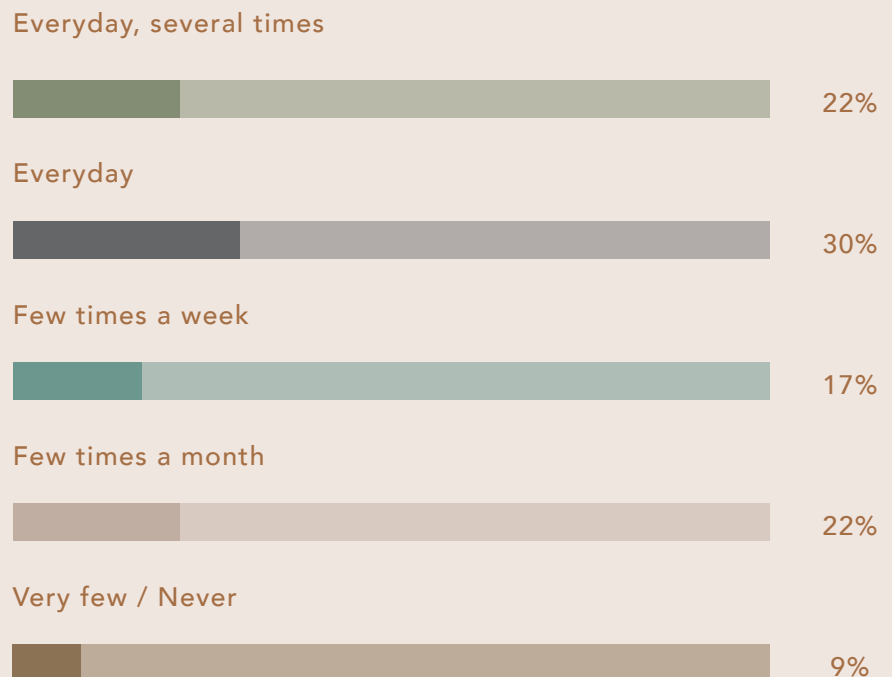
### 1. How far do you live from Piazzale Corvetto?



### 2. How safe do you feel when you walk through Piazzale Corvetto?



### 3. How do you frequent Piazzale Corvetto?



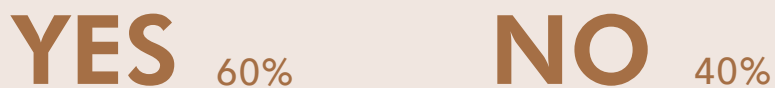


# Negative Aspects

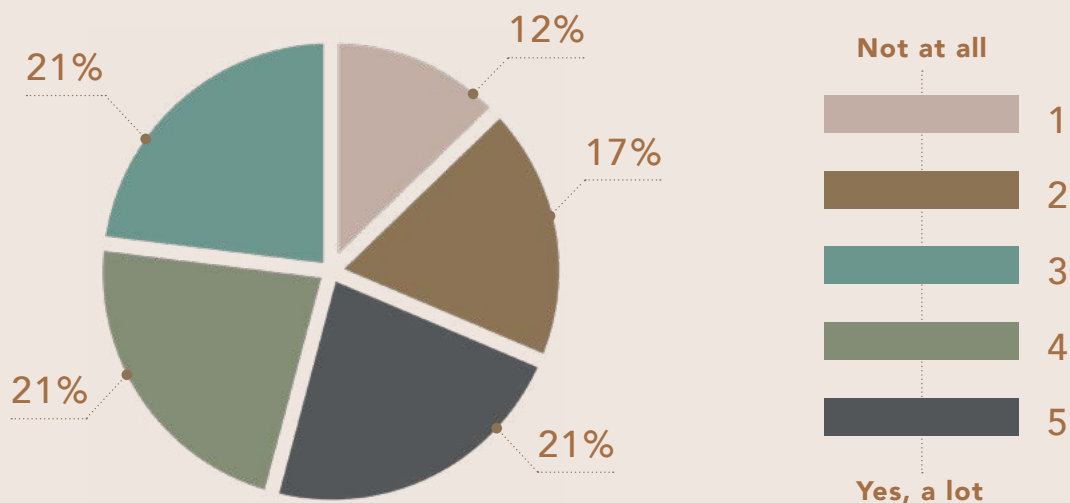


# Positive Aspects

1. Do you know what book crossing is?

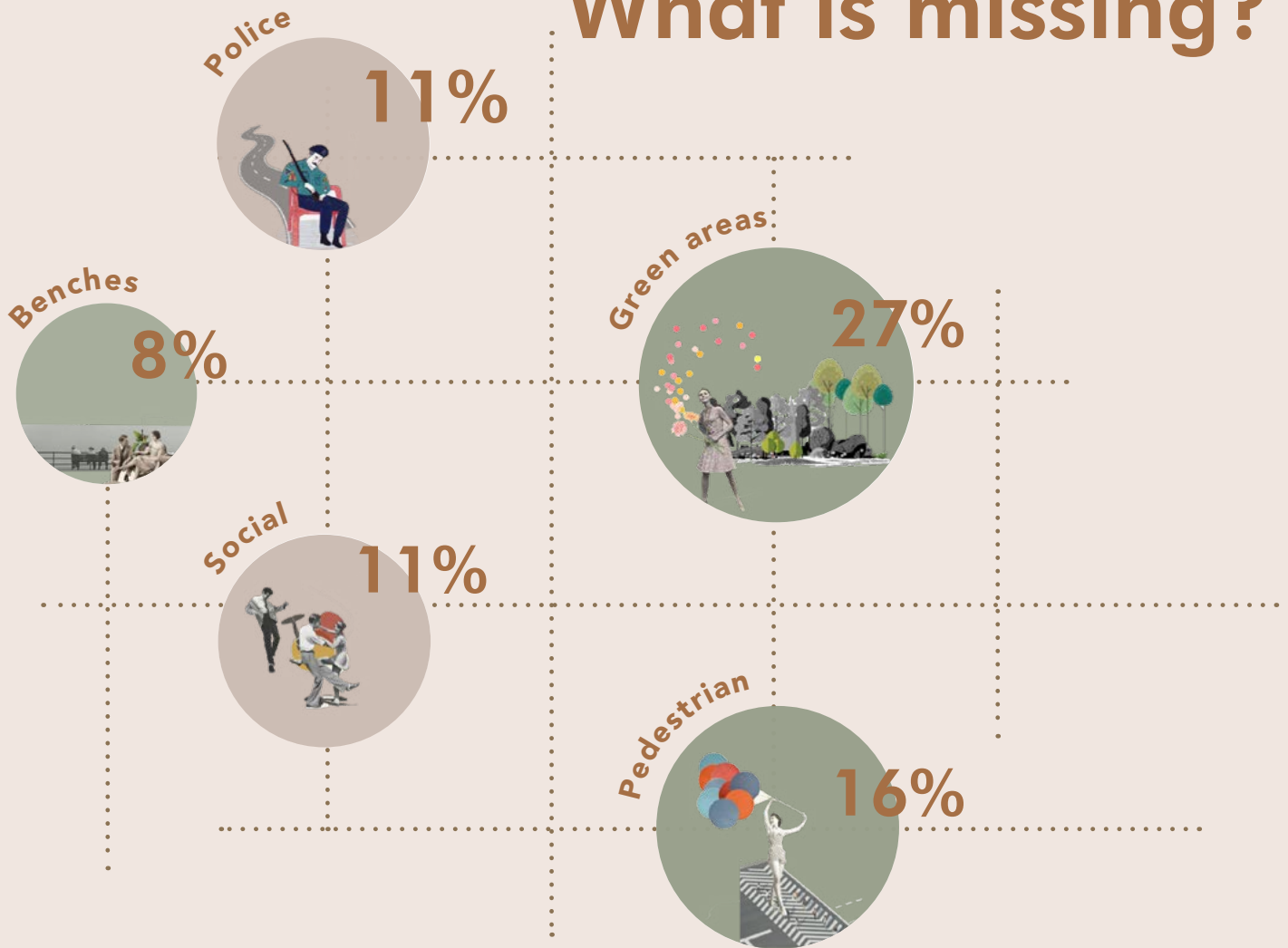


2. Could you be interested in bookcrossing?





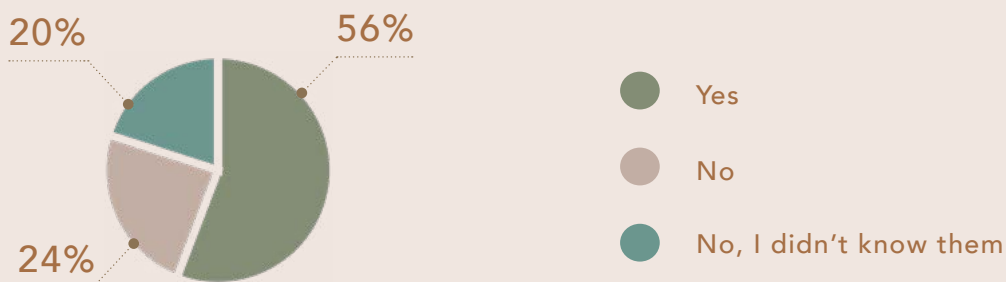
# What is missing?



3. Do you know the initiatives of "La casa di Giacomo"?

**YES** 80% **NO** 20%

4. Have you ever participate to one of them?



# Survey



# Interview with Giacomo

## How did you decide to start a new business with your kiosk? And how is it changed?

G: I left my job as a rapresentant and that's where the idea of doing something new in Milan was born. Piazzale Corvetto in a certain way did represent me: a neglected place that needed new vital energy. Therefore, I have run my business for a year and a half and from that definitely changed.

When I opened my kiosk it didn't even have a name. I called it "Casa di Giacomo Chiosco Bar" the day before its first anniversary, on May 29th 2019. I took two small boards, which I still keep as a souvenir, and wrote the name on them. Now when a client comes, I feel like I'm hosting him or her in my home. **Now I feel more at home here than in my actual home.**

## So, do you think that a positive change occurred?

G: Yes, this place changed a lot. People often come here "in search of" a neglected, abandoned place, and they are almost disappointed when they just don't find it! I am one of the pieces, maybe the

most visible one among a lot of activities that associations in the area do, together with the local administration. There are more than 20 associations here in the neighborhood. As a private, I invested in this area and this gave trust to the people who lived here.

## Which negative aspects remain? What is missing in the area?

G: There is a problem of equity. The initiative "Azzaip" taken here has remained limited: here we had a lot events that changed the way of living the square, but only 100 m from here you would not feel anything of this. **I think the square is not enough. This thought led to the idea of expanding the interventions made so far.** Something beautiful is missing, a representation of beauty. A colleague once said to me: "In the outskirts the inhabitants are so used to a lack of beauty that they "base" their life on its absence. We often lack the idea of sitting and look around in search of beauty. In my project I thought of adding a "lamp of words", because I'd like people to stop to observe.

## This change that occurred to your kiosk has come anyway in a place usually full of activities. Do you think that a similar business could have worse results in a nearby area that is not so watched?

G: That is definitely a problem. Anyway, I know some people who would support the project and maybe watch it to preserve it. I'm gathering some people that share my views, thinking that coming here is good business, because if this area improved, everyone would benefit from that. I have also the idea of a twinning with the piazza Corvetto of Genoa. Genoa, in fact, is a port city, and this square is like a door for Milan, a point of arrive.





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## What kind of people come to the kiosk?

G: It is noticeable that around me there are people of many different cultures: Italian culture is not deeply represented in this area, it is kind of leaving room for cultures of other areas of the world. I've seen people from all over the world passing here.

## Do you remember any significant story about your kiosk?

G: There was not a single day in which something significant did not happen. One day a band came to the square to play, once we planted a tree together, we often read poetry and once we drew with chalks on the ground. This last activity was a very strong symbol. There were adults and children with chalks that made free drawing all over the square in front of the three kiosks and one child of Indian origins drew

a house with the Italian flag as the main part of the building and a roof upon it. One could feel a spirit of union, like in a family or in a house, that really makes you understand **social cohesion** in this neighborhood.

## Did the theme of water originate from this?

G: There is an aqueduct in this area. **We are near Chiaravalle, an area full of farmhouses, and from here an irrigation system for the Po Valley started.** In my opinion water and sociality are the two dimensions of life, the biological one and the emotional one. We have leaves on one side, maybe in this next project we could use fishes.

## How does book crossing work in your business?

G: Book crossing would be usually located outside the kiosk. Now I try to do it inside my kiosk, which is a thing that a lot of people appreciate and meets the interest of many of them. Everyday someone asks if there are any books left.

A lot of people want to bring their books and to know if there is a place where they can share them with others, a place where it is possible to cultivate culture. I'd like to turn the wall behind the kiosk into a Wall of Kindness, where people can bring books but also other kinds of items to others. The initial idea was of using all the wall, but now I've realized that maybe it's better somewhere that can be closed at night.

## In which way did you want to promote this intervention?

G: I'd like to do a demo to make the inhabitants understand how they could live the change in this area, to give people an idea of what could happen to the community with these changes. I'd like to do that during Design Week and to call it "**design of fragility**", because within the fragility of a neighborhood that is rising again there is a strong community.

# Interview with Veroni

## Why do you frequent the area? What do you think about it?

V: I frequent the area four times a week for my job. I've worked as an educator for the project "Parrocchie e Periferie" for a year. Corvetto is a district that embodies the history of old Milan and which represents the Milanese suburbs. It contains many very active third sector associations. The life of the neighborhood gravitates around Piazza Gabriele Rosa, a complex square, but also full of critical issues. Corvetto is a first bulwark of the city of Milan, coming from the countryside. Bring some Milan out and a little of what is out in Milan.

## How do people live their neighborhood?

V: I am often in contact with middle school kids in my work. I have noticed that although many of them complain about Corvetto, it is rare that they leave the neighborhood to meet and gather among themselves.

I notice an inadequacy to get out of their world, which in theory should be Milan, but in reality it is limited to Corvetto.

## Did you noticed any change?

V: To be honest, no. Indeed I notice a little stagnation. Some problems continue not to be eradicated despite all the initiatives. There is an image problem with the neighborhood. Giacomo's kiosk is an important reference point for advertising events inside the neighborhood, but the problem is that the neighborhood's beautiful initiatives can't leave Corvetto and reach other neighborhoods, also because of the prejudice.

## What are the negative aspects of the neighborhood?

V: Bags of crime that preside over some squares, such as Piazza Gabrio Rosa. The latter, for example, is beautiful in itself but proves to be a favorable environment for illegal activities. From the urbanistic point of view there are some dark points that favor

crime. Stores are always discount stores and therefore do not attract people from outside the neighborhood. There are not many chain stores for shopping.

## What are the positive aspects of the neighborhood?

V: The people in Corvetto are welcoming and creative and there are many associations. It is an authentic and genuine neighborhood that remains true to itself. A good redevelopment was carried out in Piazza Angilberto which brought the square back to life, with paintings on the ground and wings painted on a wall by the head of an association and to a place that has made table tennis and table football available.







