

meet MILAN

Piazze Aperte

Open Plazas in every Neighbourhood

Piazze Aperte (“Open Plazas”) is an urban regeneration project based on the principles of “Tactical Urbanism”, an approach founded on the involvement of inhabitants in the restyling of their neighborhood through easy-to-implement, cheap and scalable spatial interventions.

As part of the “Piano Quartieri” (“Neighbourhood Plan”), the goal of Piazze Aperte is to introduce new public space to residential districts that lack it, providing local residents with community gathering places, improving street safety, and making local businesses and attractions more accessible to inhabitants and visitors.

This is realized, first, by clearly identifying the new pedestrian spaces through planters, bike racks, bike sharing stations, and artistic painted surface treatments, and, secondly, by installing fixed and movable chairs, benches and tables, as well as playground equipments including ping-pong tables and hopscotch patterns.

Once the re-styling of squares is realized, the City cooperates with residents to manage, maintain and use the plazas, organising events according to people’s needs and preferences.

Up until now, four squares previously used as car parking or crossroads have been redesigned (Piazza Dergano, Piazza Angilberto, Porta Genova and Piazza Gasparri) and three new plazas will be opened in Autumn 2019.



Milan 2030, a city for people



Action Plan

- 1 Piazze Aperte builds on Mayor Sala’s “Milan 2030” City Plan. The goal is providing all neighborhoods with more access to active and healthy mobility options. Piazze Aperte aims to improve the quality of life in the peripheries, enabling social interaction and fostering local identities.
- 2 Interim low-cost solutions can anticipate the typical time-consuming process of proposing, designing and building a plaza under the traditional construction timeline. They also have the advantage of being reversible at very little cost, if the local community faces issues with the arrangement of the plaza.
- 3 The City of Milan worked with local communities to identify sites in neighborhoods and redesign them according to their needs and preferences. Ex-post interviews have revealed that most residents are happy with the new plazas and would like to make the redesign permanent.

meet

MILAN

Piazze Aperte

Benefits

Benefits

By encouraging the use of bicycles and walking paths, more people are prone to use local services and shops. In this way, neighbourhoods become livelier, small commercial activities gain in visibility and customers increase.

Residents will benefit from the increase in physical activity induced by the use of bikes and pedestrian pathways. Furthermore, the redesign will decrease the risk of accidents and the level of stress for both drivers, bikers and pedestrians.

More gathering spaces will be available for children, elders, families and for local organizations to use the space to promote their activities.

Innovation

Experimental pedestrianisations allow the test of different urban layouts and uses of spaces prior to construction works, through a “soft” regeneration of the space with cheap and flexible urban furniture.

The plazas are renewed using temporary materials, which can be easily removed without producing any waste. If residents do not like the outcome of the public space, it is possible to modify or eliminate the arrangement altogether without permanently damaging Infrastructures and at no environmental cost.

The projects are implemented through volunteers participation.

Governance

The Piazze Aperte program has initiated a new level of inter-agency collaboration amongst previously isolated departments, such as the staffs of the Deputy Mayors for Planning and Mobility, the Police Department, the Greenery Agency, the Transit Authority, the Taxi Commission, the Neighborhoods Department, etc. The process has been so successful that the city is now building out a dedicated Urban Design team to apply this integrated approach to all city projects.

Piazze Aperte has also employed volunteers from the initiative called “Volontari Energia per Milano”, organized by the City of Milan and the Centre for Volunteer Services.

Before



The first two Piazze Aperte projects were realized together with citizens and volunteers in Piazza Dergano and Piazza Angilberto II in September 2018. In particular, Piazza Dergano was inaugurated on 22nd September 2018 on the occasion of the World Car-free Day.

In Spring 2019, two more projects were implemented in Milan. Porta Genova, main public transport hub and gate of the Milan Design Week in April and Piazza Gasparri in May.

After



Three new plazas are expected to open in Autumn 2019.

The City plans to scale the program to all city neighbourhoods. For this reason, it invited local associations and Councils to suggest new places fit to be revitalized through similar projects at a dedicated e-mail address (piazzeaperte@comune.milano.it).

The City is looking to expand its ability to find local partners for each project and work with them, planning the space and making sure that it is used by as many people as possible.