

## **“I giardini di Myplant&Garden” design competition: the winning project of the V edition**

*Creative competition for garden designers:*

*the winning project selected to transform part of the roof of Caselle Open Mall (COM)  
in Turin into a vegetable garden.*

Milan, 23-25 February 2022 - **Myplant & Garden** and **Fondazione Minoprio**, in cooperation with real estate company SATAC SIINQ S.p.A. controllata da AEDES SIQ SpA, launched a creative competition in order to enhance the work of designers and operators involved in the design, construction and conservation of gardens and landscape at the end of 2019.

The theme of the competition, managed by architect Umberto Andolfato (AIAPP), was the designing of a vegetable garden (**SKY FARM**) on the rooftop of the new **Caselle Open Mall (COM)** in Caselle Torinese, near Turin airport.

The aim of the competition was the development of a garden area (project area size: 3,900 square meters) equipped with educational, sensorial and convivial paths, also fit for rehabilitation, contemplating the presence of traditional garden vegetable gardens and automated cultivation and structures for hydroponics, aeroponics and aquaponics cultivations.

**The winner of the competition and the 10,000€ prize is landscape architect Elena Varini**, who developed her project with landscape architect Enrico Turini, agronomist Giuseppe Baldi and Planet idea Srl.

Developed on two levels, Elena Varini's project is based on simple and direct gestures that bring the pattern of the surrounding agricultural landscape into the two macro-areas (associated with the levels of the structure and the themes of the project) and develops in autonomous functional areas connected by a common design: cultivation and recreation on the upper level, innovation and experimentation on the lower level.

### **Hanging gardens**

**On the upper floor of the Sky Farm** project there are the main hanging garden, that has both cultural and ornamental purposes, a recreational area for workshops and events and the commercial area with bistro and seating area.

The vegetable garden is developed in containers built with recycled wood. It is cultivated both with traditional techniques and with automated technologies capable of sowing, removing weeds and irrigate.

Plants selected for cultivation should be both vegetable and ornamental, scattered around seating, meeting, event and didactic areas. Vegetable gardens become places where people can learn about living a healthier life, biodiversity, ecology, sustainability.

### **Recreational area**

The social hub of the Sky Farm features seasonal cultivations and bee hives, with ample areas for groups and activities, where lectures, concerts, classes and workshops can take place.

### **Commercial area**

Visitors can access the Sky Farm through a glasshouse where the bistro and the shop where produce of the vegetable garden is sold are located. The building is characterized by a wooden roofing to allow shading. Tables are scattered around the containers.

### **Experimental garden**

**The lower level of the Sky Farm** revolves around the themes of experimentation and innovation. This area is inspired by intensive cultivation, it features a greenhouse that hosts a technological garden and an experimental garden, where crops that have a didactic, sensorial and rehabilitative value are cultivated.

### **Technological garden**

In the middle of the experimental garden one finds the building where crops are cultivated with innovative technologies such as hydroponics, aeroponics and aquaponics. In this area also fish can be kept, thus creating a closed circle of production, that is also accessible to visitors.

The jury was presided by Umberto Andolfato together with a member of the Order of Architects in Milan, two representatives of Fondazione Minoprio, one each from Myplant & Garden and AIAPP, and by Giuseppe Roved, CEO at SIIQ. The jury has also announced the projects in second and third place, that have been awarded 2,500€ each: Cristian Ovidiu Pavel and garden designer Lucia Giangrandi.

### **Myplant & Garden – International Green Expo**

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### **Myplant & Garden – International Green Expo**

Myplant & Garden is the most important professional trade fair for horticulture, garden and landscape in Italy. It is the meeting point for the Italian gardening industry and a reference for international companies. The event promotes green culture, circular economy, the protection of the environment and sustainable landscape design.