

## Summary of the studies

**subject area:** *Theories and policies for landscape*

*Quod agendum? Rosario Assunto, between report and design*

Matilde Bonato

The focus of the study was a reflection on landscape carried out by philosopher Rosario Assunto (1915-1994) and more specifically the design aspects of his system. In order to identify Assunto's directions on how to steer present and future activity, an extensive part of Assunto's philosophical production was analysed (works, magazines, essays, letters to colleagues and articles on national newspapers), first and foremost with the aim of seeking to define the general features of the philosopher's ideas, the era in which they were developed and their distinguishing peculiarities. After this initial survey of Assuntian ideas, the study then delved into the elements conducive to interpreting Assunto's philosophy as a design philosophy open to evolution, identifying them in the multi-shaped character of beauty and man's ability for critical thinking and discovery. Lastly, in its final stage the analysis sought to acknowledge the main cues provided by Assunto on how the territory should be managed so that contemporary landscapes are «beautiful and alive» once again, by highlighting the importance that a shared, responsible approach to landscape issues – aware of the history and unique qualities of the sites – would have in this respect. (M. B.)

**subject area: *Nature and garden***

*In the underbrush of Ippolito Pizzetti, natural genius*

Pierfrancesco Stella

This six-month project, presented on the occasion of the scholarship announcement at Fondazione Benetton Studi e Ricerche, conducted a preliminary survey following the tracks of Ippolito Pizzetti.

«Landscape architect and gardener, translator and writer, publicist and university professor», is the definition by the University of Ferrara, where he taught for over a decade.

Ippolito Pizzetti's cultural legacy can be considered as endless as it is scattered, ranging from personal mementos, to professional archives and magazines from his era.

The first steps of the study aimed at reconstructing a network of contacts and information to lay stable foundations for future critical analyses into Pizzetti's life and works.

Interviews with his relatives, friends, associates and clients helped reconstruct his personality and peculiar design poetry: originally a scholar-essayist, Pizzetti went on to devise a personal constellation of notions of nature which, in his manifold endeavours – from popularising to teaching, to design – added a new way of looking at landscape and changing it. Pizzetti's editorial traces were acquired by consulting the decade-long wealth of his collaboration with «L'Espresso» magazine, followed by the less assiduous association with «L'Europeo» magazine, while additional important projects of his were found in the archives of Einaudi, Fondazione Benetton Studi Ricerche and the IUAV University of Venice, in addition to the recollections of public and private clients.

In the best gardening tradition, as a mediator between European and Italian cultures and focusing on quality production, Pizzetti also promoted concrete commercial initiatives, which resulted in a more perceptive approach by nursery owners.

Pizzetti's underbrush harbours the possibility of an approach based on knowledge and awareness, as well as on natural, literary and oneiric epiphanies. His unique and personal natural genius, that Pizzetti made every possible attempt to convey to our country, distractedly drawn to other priorities, was embodied in that new apperception that the studies initially attempted to decipher. (P.F.)

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