

Widening plan of the Cemetery of Ponte Buggianese

The widening plan of the cemetery regards an area of approximately 4500 square metres that is adjacent to the cemetery on the west side, at the end of the area predisposed to cemetery zone.

The plan also interests the south side, where currently the side entrance is located.

The plan projects the construction of approximately 1230 loculi, 720 ossuaries - cinerary urns and 12 private mortuary chapels that will cover the necessities for the next 15 years.

The cemetery is divided in two parts.

The first part presents a clear nineteenth-century system that characterizes it as a cult place and makes it assimilable to other typically Tuscan places in the neighbourhood.

The second part was projected, built and developed in the sixties – eighties by two different planners. Their not-homogeneous languages create some kind of typological confusion and cause a loss of identity to the place.

A longitudinal axis crosses the whole complex and connects the main entrance to the church, while a horizontal axis connects a side entrance to the other.

The new plan tries to give an identity of cult and respect to the place, and is developed on the prolongation of the longitudinal axis.

The project plans the demolition of the existing church, that obstructs the only access to the widening zone, and the construction of a new church that will complete the long perspective axis.

The new church will be characterized by a great cross that will be repeated on the four sides of the church. These crosses have both a structural and iconographical function. The other parts of the church will be made of glass so that the church will seem to be compressed and embanked in the stones that cover the private mortuary chapels.

Two bodies of factory of reinforced white concrete will stand at the two sides of the church. These two buildings will be characterized by a large grille that will create a half-shadow zone.

The buildings will have two floors.

On the ground floor there will be some containers of several dimensions, in order to lodge loculi and cinerary urns – ossuaries. Moreover, in this area, there will be seats to rest and pray, small fountains, toilets and stairs.

On the top floor the loculi will be disposed in a very orderly way and there will be a long balcony that will face the ground floor.

The buildings that organize these spaces are disposed along the perimeter of the building lot and form a court.

They are, however, 3 metres far away from the boundary wall. In this area some rows of cypresses have been planted and they give an immediate characterization to the place as cemetery and, at the same time, as “garden” of prayer.

Inside the court there is a green meadow for the graves. This lawn is crossed by four bridges that give an access to the white buildings.

On the south side, in proximity of the side entrance, the construction of a functional arc has been planned. Under the arc the new flower store will be lodged and it will replace the old one, that is made of sheet.

Moreover, on this side, the old part of the cemetery will be covered with a metallic net where some green climbing plants will be planted. This has been projected in order to join the old cemetery to the new parts.

Finally, it has been projected to double the parking area.