Project

“Meeting place”: a new 70 m² surface has been created, a meeting space which can be accessed from above by means of a new stair. The area is delimited by two reinforced concrete walls – one straight, the other curved.

Reinforced concrete walls: two new walls, one straight, the other curved, were built to delimit a horizontal surface. These are made from reinforced concrete, with separate formworks (250x50 cm panels with exposed fixings for the straight wall, vertically aligned shuttering for the curved wall).

XL bench: a new bench has been built against the straight wall along the road. This is a modified version of the historical design of the benches located on the promenade along lake Lugano. The cast iron legs are specially fabricated on the basis of the historical model. The seat is formed by wood slats and painted red. At 6.5 m long, the red XL bench is the longest red bench in the city.

Mound and oak tree: the curved wall ends in a large circular planting bed, whose edge can be used as a seat. The circular area has a diameter of 4.8 m and establishes a small mound, with terraces formed by Sasso di Caprino stones. A tall oak tree (Quercus pseudoaceraea) stands at the top of the mound.

Dry meadows: This landscape design is based on the plants found in the chalky dry meadows typical of the mountain range known as “Denti della Vecchia” (“Old Woman’s Teeth”) which characterize the landscape around Sonvico. This is the first time a selection of chalky dry meadows is sown or planted in Switzerland. Plants have been specially selected for the project.

Biotope: a low wall/flowerbed has been built to contrast with the ‘sterility’ of the reinforced concrete walls and host various forms of life. This consists in a gabion made from steel rods filled with mortarless lime stone (Sasso di Caprino), so that typical plants and small animals can colonise its nooks and crannies.