

A JOURNEY THROUGH AN ORCHARD

'My first emotions are linked to the land and the agriculture. That is why I may have an agricultural complex, as psychoanalysts would say. I love the soil. I feel connected to it in all my emotions. My earliest memories taste like soil. The countryside has brought great things to my life. The lands creatures, the animals, the country people caused interesting suggestions that come to very few. I perceive them now with the same spirit than in my childhood years. Otherwise, I could not have written Bodas de Sangre'.

GARCÍA LORCA, FEDERICO
Interview in *Crítica*, Buenos Aires. 1934



The project consists in the enhancement and requalification of an abandoned orchard that has remained undamaged at the boundaries of the town and the agricultural lands. Through a memory exercise, the project is offering the inhabitants a new public space: a collectively managed orchard, a park and a stage area used for the summer movie theater, performances and concerts of the well-known local bands.

Many inhabitants used to play in this particularly orchard, spending the days bathing in the ditches, hiding behind the quinces or picnicking under the oak's shades, while their parents or grandparents cultivated it. The intervention intends to recover those memories using and enhancing the pre-existing elements. The budget is very low, so a single action is carried out to realize the project : the materials displacement.

A path is dig in the garden unifying the identified strategic points that make possible the understanding of the place : the smell of the quinces, the oak's shade, the views of the valley and the water sounds roaming through the ditches, which is now accumulated in two pools used for watering the orchard, and managed by workshops of employment, the local school and the senior center. The soil removed to generate the path is stacked to regenerate the orchard.

To alleviate the high unemployment rate of the town, it was decided to establish 15-days shifts so that the maximum number of inhabitants could be able to work on this project. This led to a sense of ownership of the orchard, i.e. the re-appropriation and the protection of the identity it had. The project has then revealed the previous layers buried over the years and added a new one, realized by the inhabitants, to complete the history of this place.