

IL PROGETTO DI RESTAURO DEI MANUFATTI ANTICHI DELL'ORTO BOTANICO DI PADOVA. SOSTENIBILITÀ E PREVENZIONE

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Abstract.

In 2023, Sirecon Srl was commissioned by the University of Padua to design the restoration of ancient structures in its Botanical Garden, made of both natural and artificial stone. The site's humid, vegetation-rich environment presents conservation challenges that cannot be resolved through a single extraordinary intervention but instead require ongoing maintenance to ensure long-term preservation. A highly context-sensitive approach was essential, particularly in the use of biocidal treatments, which could have unintended interactions with the garden's cultivated flora. To balance effectiveness with ecological compatibility, the project prioritized environmentally friendly solutions, such as essential oil-based treatments, tested alongside conventional biocides and protective coatings designed to reduce water infiltration. The study also emphasized the importance of regular monitoring to sustain restoration efforts and minimize the need for direct interventions. To achieve this, structured first- and second-level monitoring protocols were established, ensuring a systematic approach to preventive conservation. The resulting project is both economically and environmentally sustainable, ensuring long-term preservation through careful material selection and routine maintenance carried out by those responsible for managing the garden. Ideally, restoration should become an increasingly rare necessity, replaced by a proactive strategy of preventive conservation.

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