



# Geology for a sustainable management of our Planet



Bari 3-5 settembre 2024

## Children's Eco-Museum (I.C. Via Santo Savarino, Rome): History and memory of the Genius loci of the "Agro romano"

Bilotta A.M. (1), Canali M.G. (1), De Caterini G. (1,3), Fiorelli C. (1), Lucarini M. (2), Milighetti C. (1), Nappo E. (1), Mattei A. (1), .

(1) Istituto Comprensivo Via Santi Savarino, Scuola Secondaria di Primo grado "Ottorino Respighi", Roma  
(2) ISPRA - Geological Survey of Italy Department, Roma  
(3) Società Geologica Italiana- Sezione di Storia delle Geoscienze



### A STORY THAT BEGINS FROM AFAR

Every place is protected, according to the ancient Romans, by the Genius loci, a spirit that sometimes plays tricks and dwells among the houses, forests, springs, and within the souls of those who reside there. If we wish to know ourselves, we must then meet our own Genius loci by dedicating ourselves to the discovery and exploration of our land, beginning with Nature. Every place tells the stories of people, heroes, nations, and that intricate machine of Nature, which, with its complex course, influences the destiny of each of us. The place where we are born will shape our character, our disposition, and even our physical features.



The school situated between the city, the Decima Malafede Nature Park, and in the background, the Castel Porziano Estate State Nature Reserve.

### THE MONUMENTALITY OF A NEW TOWN

Place Awareness as a Fundamental Element of Personal Development. The Spinaceto - Tor de' Cenci district was established in 1966 as a residential neighbourhood to address the severe housing shortage in the city of Rome. The urban planners opted for a model that preserves the Roman countryside (Agro Romano), minimising land use in favour of enhancing the natural environment. In this context, the monumental element that highlights the sense of place is the original landscape itself: the Agro Romano.



The new town set within the context of the Roman countryside (Agro Romano)

### PLACE AWARENESS AS A FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENT OF EDUCATION AND LIFE FORMATION

The concept of "sense of place," cultivated through excursions into the city and the surrounding countryside near the school, was employed as both a backdrop and a guiding thread to bring out the emotional and educational connections with the various academic subjects.

This pedagogical approach allowed for the organic integration of students' lived experiences with the curricular content, making learning more meaningful and grounded in reality. In 2023, the chosen theme to guide these reflections was ENTROPY, while in 2024, the focus shifted to HARMONY.

These themes, introduced within the context of the excursions, provided a conceptual framework through which students could deepen their understanding of the subjects by maintaining a constant dialogue between experience and theory. The reflections, discussions, and debates that ensued in the classroom culminated in the creation of a synthesis volume.



Students at work



Museum entrance panel



Symbolic representation of harmony, edited by Amena Mimhaali



Meditation in front of the Tor de' Cenci Geological Unit site (Middle Pleistocene).

