



GOING GREEN
on our 4th Anniversary

The Green Island Project



Adrian Isabella

Urban Garden (Garden of Light), 2006. Courtesy Adrian Isabella & aMAZElab

The Green Island project has been aimed at bringing into the forefront multiple, practical, constructive uses of public space. An editorial on Green Island beautifully sums up what the project is all about, it reads:

“Green Island has promoted a cultural reflection on the forms of contemporary living, stimulating dialogue between the languages of photography, architecture and design. Originally based on the need to give a strong sense of overall planning to the various interventions, ideas and art projects, it represents the desire to involve new urban spaces and to reflect on the pressing issue of collective spaces and public park areas”.

In 2006, aMAZElab decided to publish *Green Island: On City, House and Wild Gardens*, a publication that brings together the first six years of the project. The book divided into three broad sections gives an insight into the topic. It comprises essays by some of the most authoritative names on the topic: Andrea Brand, Catherine David, Manuel Gausa and Gilles Clements. There are also numerous contributions by a dozen artists, architects and activists who work in various ways towards the creation and safeguarding of urban park spaces and temporary green areas.



A section is dedicated to the group project in Milan on Via Pepe in the Isola neighbourhood. This project sheds light on the question of sustainability, the coming together of artistic languages in an urban setting.

New aMAZElab proposes the 7th edition of the event: *Green Island*. The edition of 2009 is centred on a project about the work of the 'artists of the green' Luis & Franziska Weinberger of Vienna, Austria. The project includes a selection of plants and seeds from their *Archive Of The Memory* dedicated to arboreal essences in danger of dying out.

This archive will also be presented at Milan's Quattro Isola, an area undergoing huge transformations and still lacking a public green area. The project hopes to partly and temporarily overcome this by the creation of large images, scientific descriptions of the various species of plants.

Luis & Franziska Weinberger have played a key role in the new debate about the relationship between art and nature since the 1990s. Their works centers around the idea of a garden as a 'temporary perfect territory' in borderline areas. They take into account the existing biodiversity in certain areas and interaction amongst the enchainings of cultural growth and nature. In their images, texts, video installations and site-specific works, the Weinbergers create a larger experience - they fuse art and nature, thus bringing about a fusion of elements that, for centuries, have fallen naturally together.

