

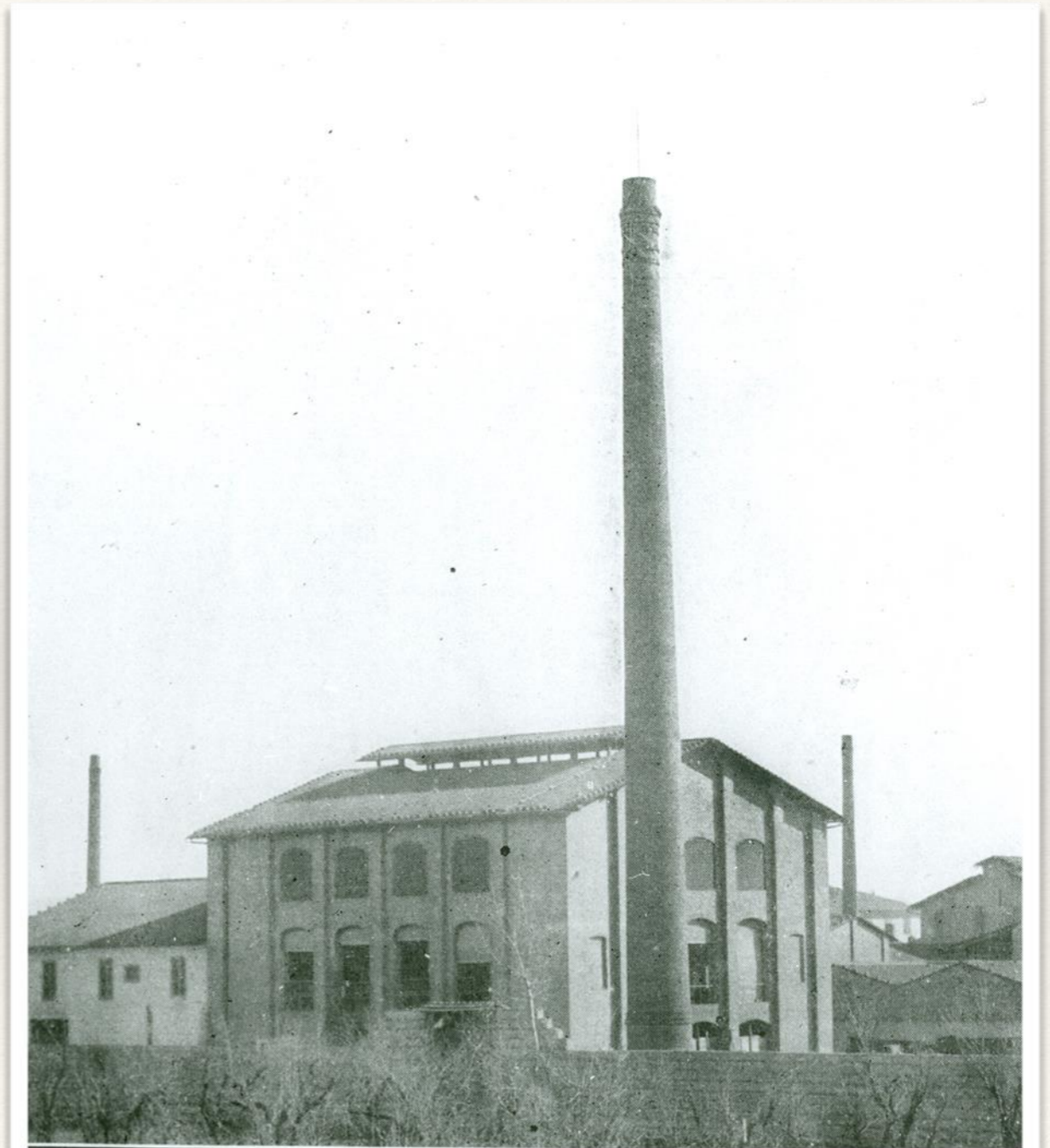


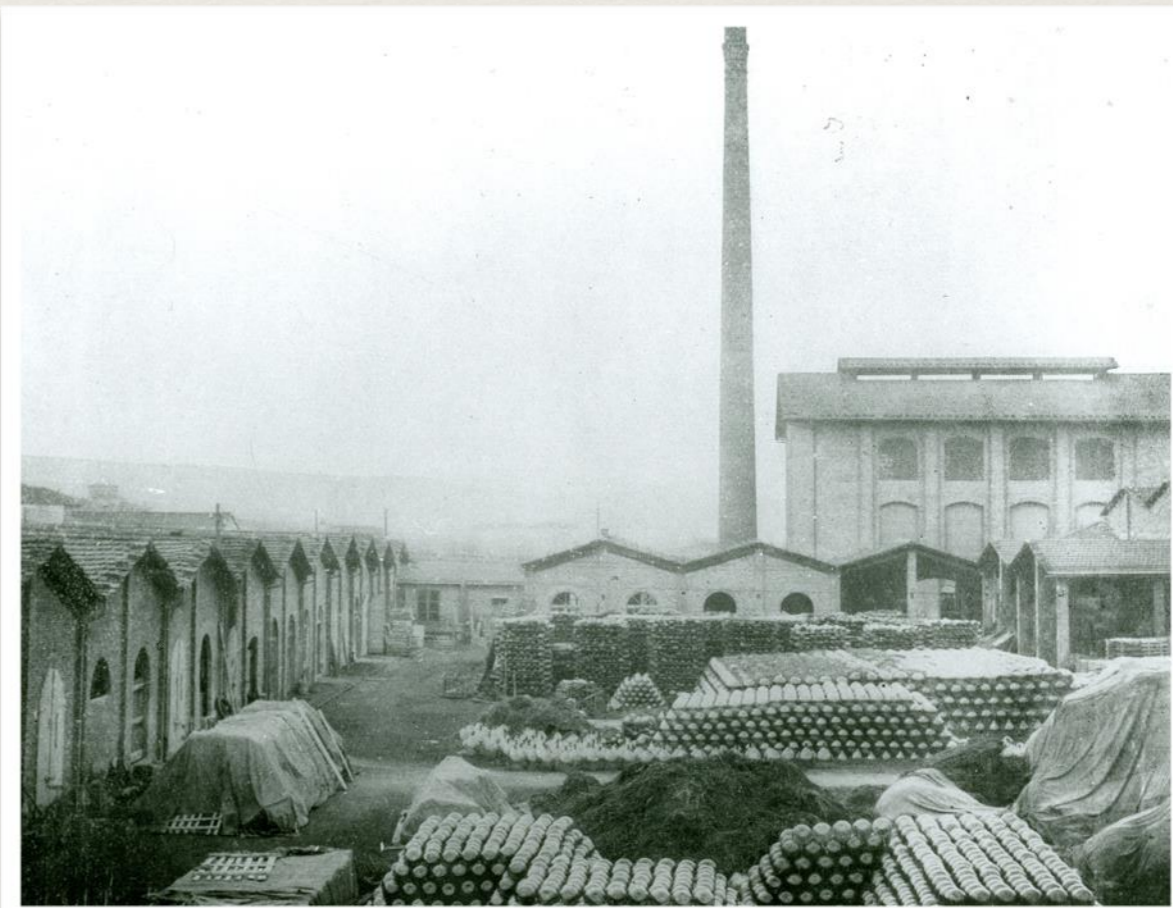
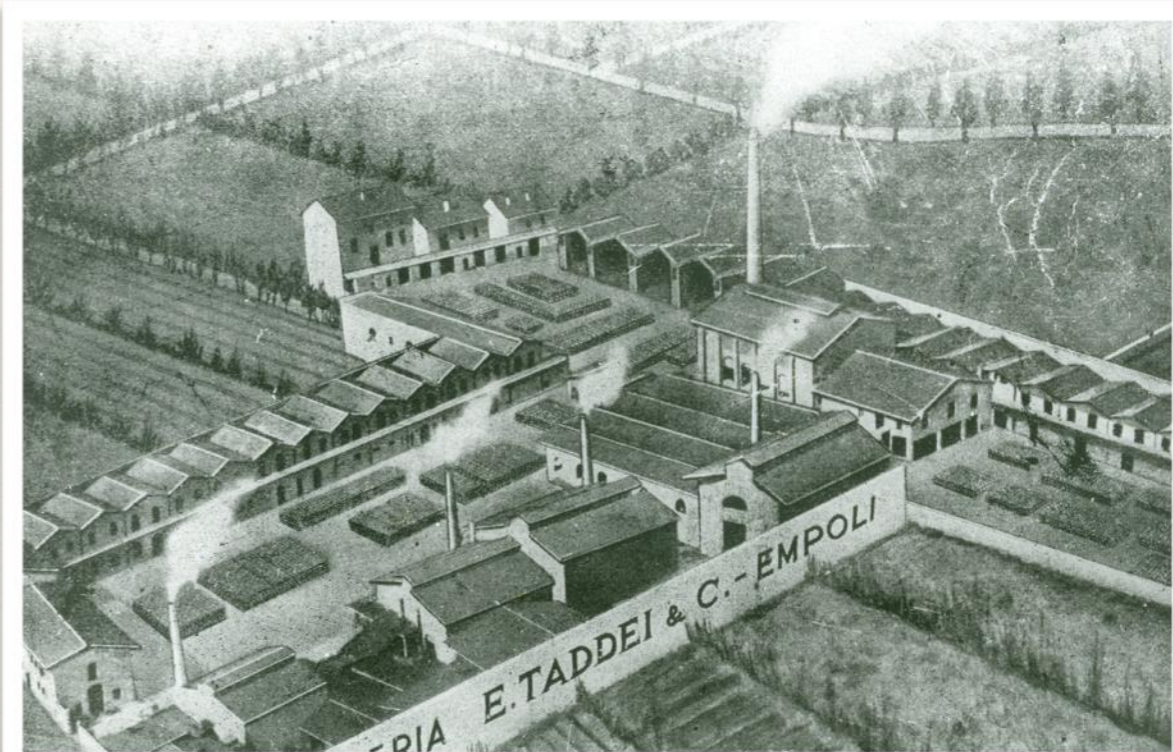
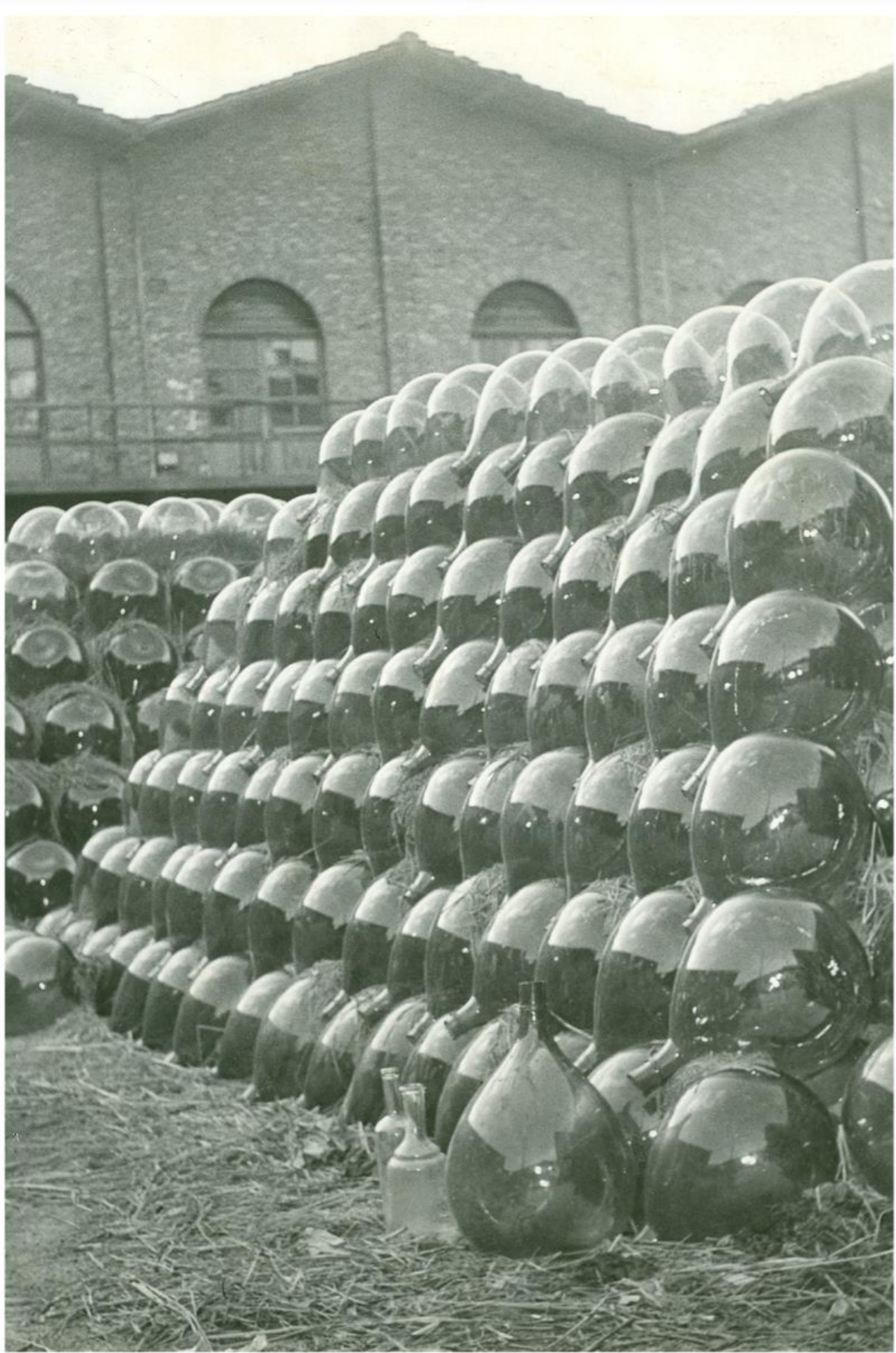
Environmental THREATS

I.I.S.S. "Federigo Enriques"
Castelfiorentino

Once upon a time...

In our area, a lot of factories have been abandoned in the last few decades, such as the Montecatini factory in Castelfiorentino or the Montevivo factory in Empoli, and many others. These factories are very large and dangerous for people living in the nearby as they are located in the centre and they might release wastes in the air or in the ground, which might cause hygiene or health problems.





Source: Archivio regione Toscana



TALLEPIA

KAPPA

...still nowadays



This picture shows the Montevivo factory situated along the railway line from Empoli to Florence. In the past, it was known as the operative and profitable glasshouse called Montepagani. The production of glass was essential for the economy of Empoli and that's the reason why there are dozens of this kind of structures all around. Due to the economic changes and development, it was converted into the Montevivo chemical industry. This factory produced sulfuric acid, chemical fertilizers and other materials that were used with pyrite. This is the main cause of pollution in our area.





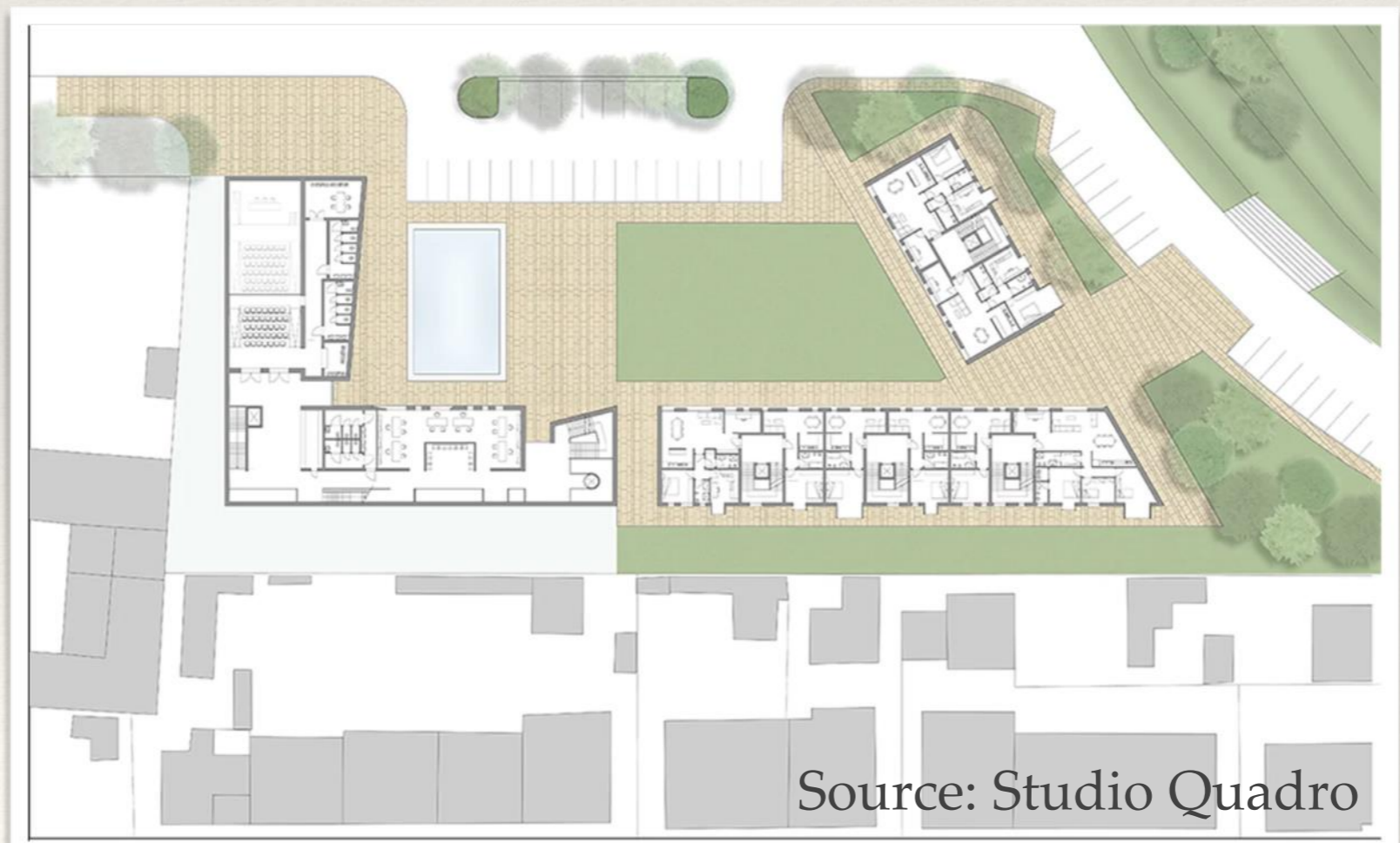
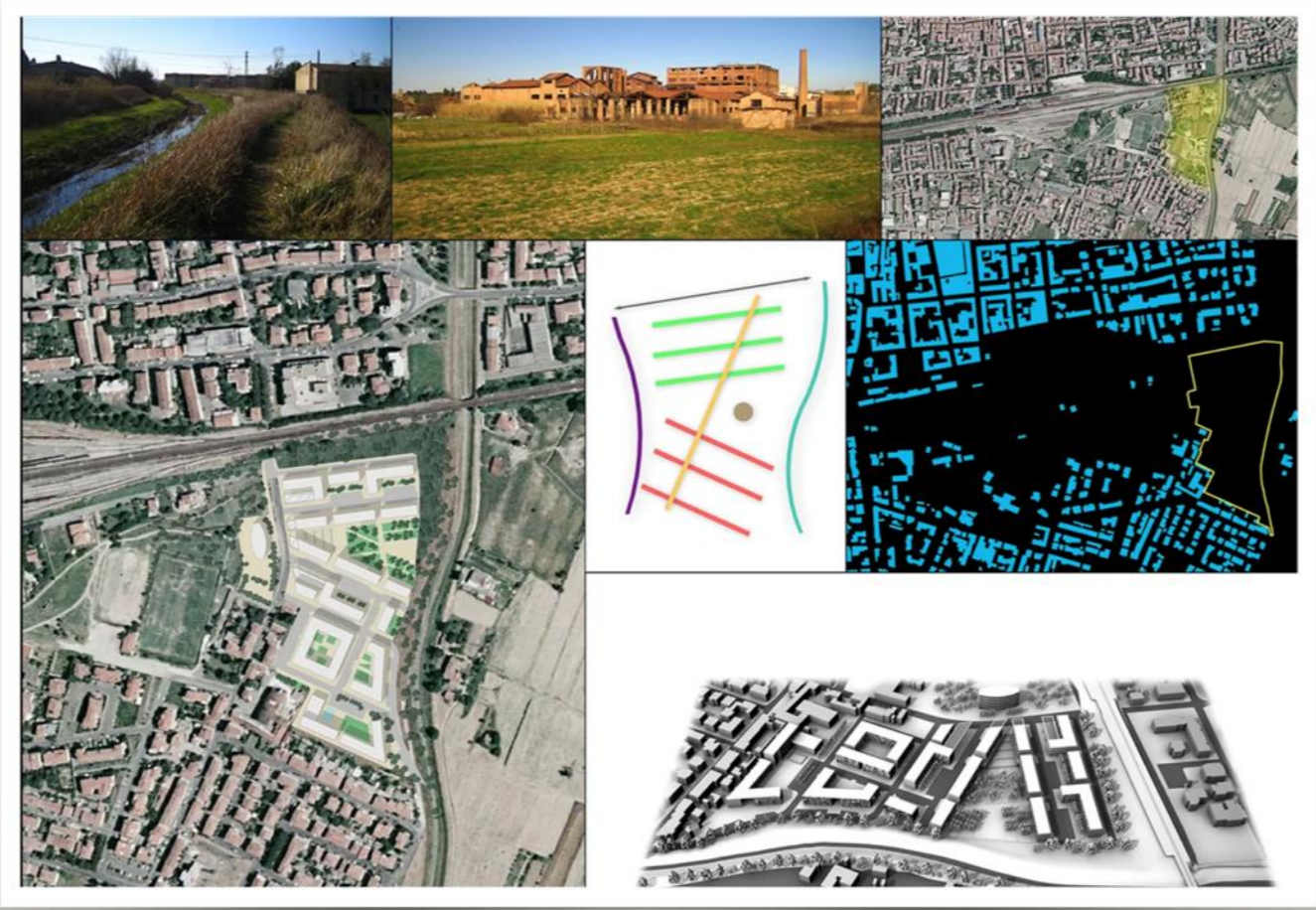


The Montecatini factory was founded by Tuscan businessmen in order to exploit copper mines in the centre of Florence. Since it became one of the most important industries in Italy, the production increased to chemical manufacturing such as pyrites, sulphuric acid and nitrogen fertilizers. In the last few decades it has been abandoned but now the Municipality is trying to put up a restoration project with the purpose of opening new public spaces.



And in the next future?

After observing these old buildings, we strongly believe that it is necessary to modify their current conditions, given that we are young and we will have to spend a lot of time in this area. Firstly, we should reclaim them because there could be some toxic materials, which are dangerous for the environment and the inhabitants' health; secondly, one of the best ways to take advantage of them could be refurbishing these old buildings in order to create new sustainable ones. Even new shopping centres or sport facilities might be built in their place. Furthermore, these new spaces would offer interesting opportunities in terms of employment and entertainment.



Source: Studio Quadro

As a conclusion, modern technology has increased our ability to produce goods but at the same time, it is leading us to the end of raw materials and to environmental pollution through the discharge of wastes. Chemicals products have brought immense benefit to society, but we need to keep in mind that they are dangerous as well.





“Be the change you want to see in the world.”

–Gandhi

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