

ALBERI  
FESTIVAL



AlberiMaestri

# Alberi Maestri / Master Trees

A digital platform for mapping trees  
and the green cultural heritage of the UCCN

[www.alberi-maestri.org](http://www.alberi-maestri.org)



KARLSRUHE  
UNESCO CITY OF MEDIA ARTS



# THE PROJECT

*Alberi Maestri* is a project developed by the City of Modena in collaboration with the City of Karlsruhe.

It has been designed and produced in 2025 in the context of *Alberi Festival. Building a city of trees*, curated by City of Modena and Fondazione Archivio Leonardi.

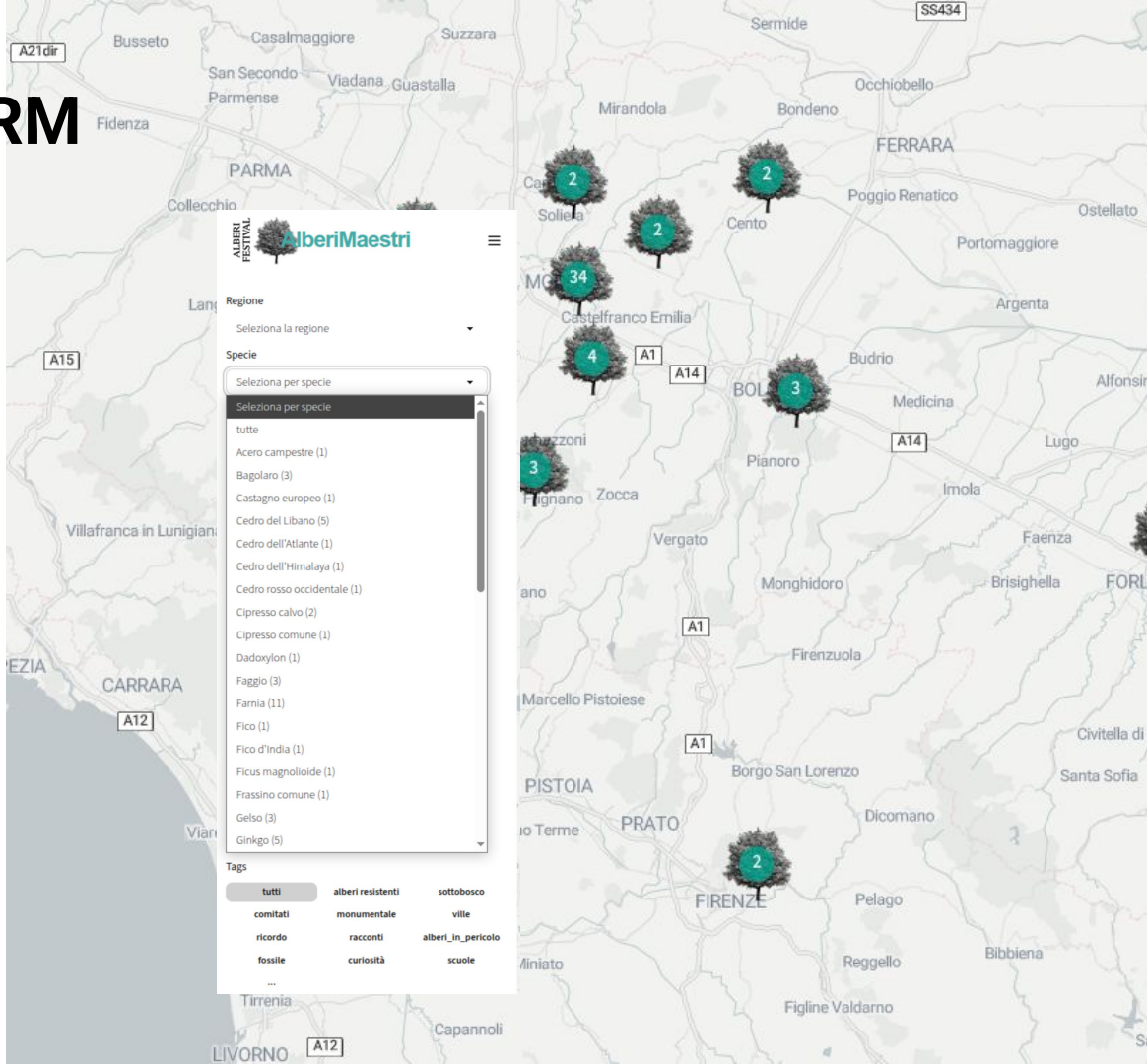
It allows citizens, associations and other subjects to highlight and propose trees considered of particular relevance for their botanical characteristics or for their history, cultural, social or community value

The platform allows for immediate use and a direct comparison with today's city landscape, putting the users in touch with the trees in their area and people from all around the globe.



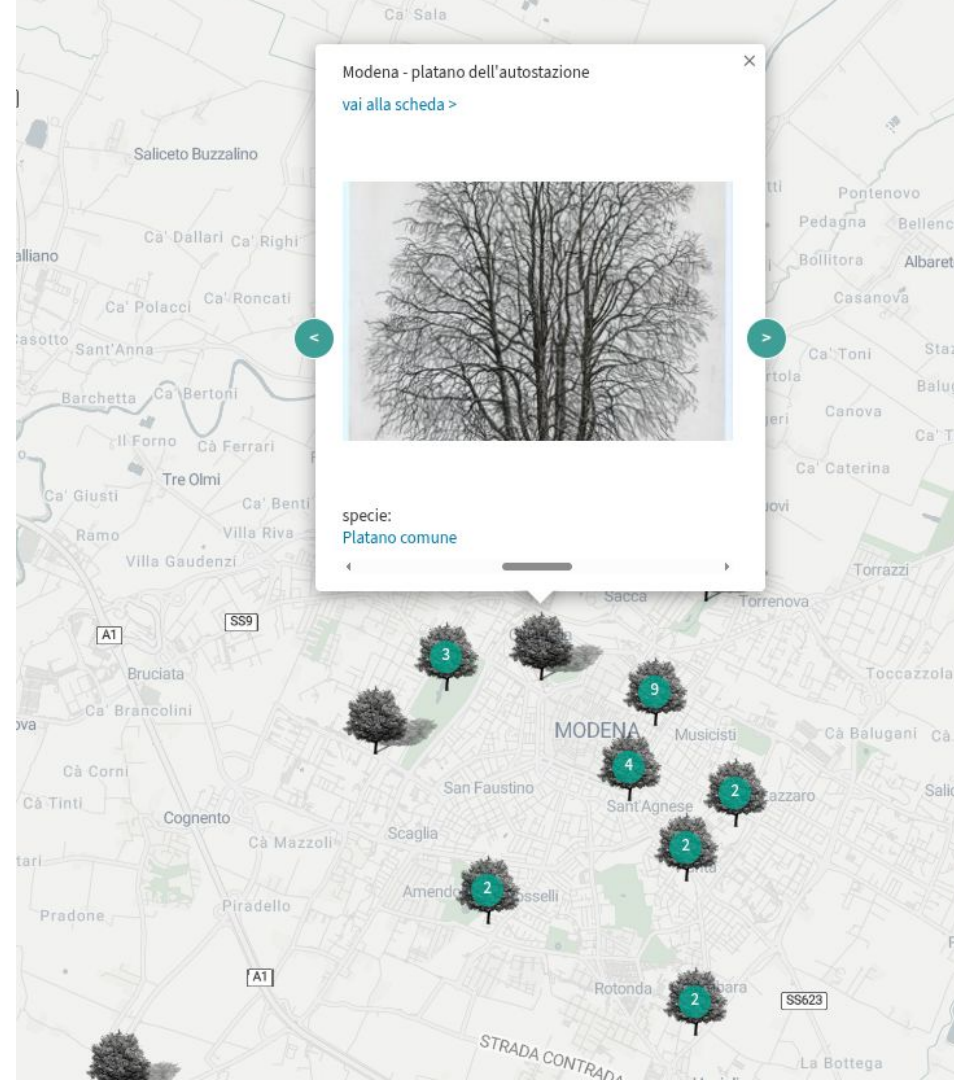
# THE DIGITAL PLATFORM

- Entirely developed with **free software and based on open-data**, self-contained, does not rely on third party services. Designed by architect and artist *Francesco Fantoni*.
- Trees are **searchable and selectable** in several ways, such as by plant species or geographical area.
- The **information is currently available in Italian, German and English**, but the multilingual structure of the platform allows for the easy addition of further languages.
- The uploaded material can be **organised into thematic itineraries or sorted by keywords**



# HOW TO PARTICIPATE?

- All UNESCO Creative Cities can join the project, and there aren't any requirements to access.
- Spread out the project on your city to engage citizens, associations and other subjects to highlight and propose trees considered of particular relevance for their botanical characteristics or for their history, cultural, social or community value.
- Currently, in the platform there are mapped more than 100 trees in Modena and all over Italy, collected by people that found the project and want to be engaged.
- Karlsruhe has launched a campaign to collect trees on the city and now there are also growing number of trees in Germany as well.
- To upload your master tree:  
<https://alberi-maestri.org/submit>



# THE PLATANO TREE OF MODENA'S BUS STATION

**information about that specific tree:**  
portrayed by Cesare Leonardi in his famous book *The Architecture of Trees*, although Leonardi considered it to be a kind of mistake as it has the candlestick shape resulting from pruning. It stands in front of the entrance to the bus station built by Vinicio Vecchi and Mario Pucci between 1949 and 1953. Pucci was a councillor in Modena for over twenty years and also the author of numerous public buildings of the post-war reconstruction.

**information about the species: botanical characteristics**

**photographs: from archives and from citizens**

**drawings: in this case are those realized by Leonardi**

**podcast: audio story about the Plane tree composed by an author / film director, in collaboration with botanics, historians and architects.**



- Regione
- Seleziona la regione
- Specie
- Seleziona per specie
- Itinerario
- Seleziona un itinerario

- Tags
- |          |                   |                    |
|----------|-------------------|--------------------|
| tutti    | alberi resistenti | sottobosco         |
| comitati | monumentale       | villie             |
| ricordo  | racconti          | alberi_in_pericolo |
| fossile  | curiosità         | scuole             |
| ...      |                   |                    |

Modena - platano dell'autostazione

Il disegno di Cesare Leonardi da "L'architettura degli alberi"

Anno  
1950

Fonte del documento  
"L'architettura degli Alberi", Cesare Leonardi e Franca Stagi, Mazzotta 1962

**Platano comune**  
Platano orientale - comunemente noto come platano comune, spagnolo o londinese, è una pianta appartenente alla famiglia delle Platanaceae, di origine artificiale. Difatti è anche indicato come platano brido in quanto si tratta di un ibrido tra il Platano orientale ed il Platano occidentale.  
Un grande albero deciduo che può raggiungere 120-20 metri di altezza nella norma e che eccezionalmente raggiunge anche 40 metri, con un tronco di 3 metri e più di circonferenza. La corteccia è di color grigio-chiara, liscia ed esfoliante, oppure più scura e non esfoliante. Le foglie sono palmate a 3-5 o 7-9 lobi e cadono come spiguglie in autunno. In primavera le giovani foglie sono ricoperte da una leggera peluria che viene persa poi con la crescita. Nella foglie stessa, i fiori si concentrano in due infiorescenze dense e sferiche, separate tra machia e femmina. I frutti maturano in sei mesi, presentano 2-3 cm di diametro e sono composti da un'arcevia con numerosi peli che aiutano la dispersione anemica. È la pianta che emerge più vistosa tra gli altri alberi di città e questo favorisce abbondantemente l'impollinazione ed il clima a ridosso.

Ha molte similitudini col Platano occidentale (American sycamore), da cui è derivato, ed oggi risulta, in due specie sono relativamente semplici da distinguere, dal momento che il platano comune viene purtroppo piantato in habitat where mentre il occidentale è comune in spazi allentati di campagna.

Modena - Platano dell'autostazione

vai alla scheda >

specie: Platano comune  
tags: ricordo

Modena - platano dell'autostazione

vai alla scheda >

specie: Platano comune

# RED OAK AT KARLSRUHE'S SCHLOSSGARTEN

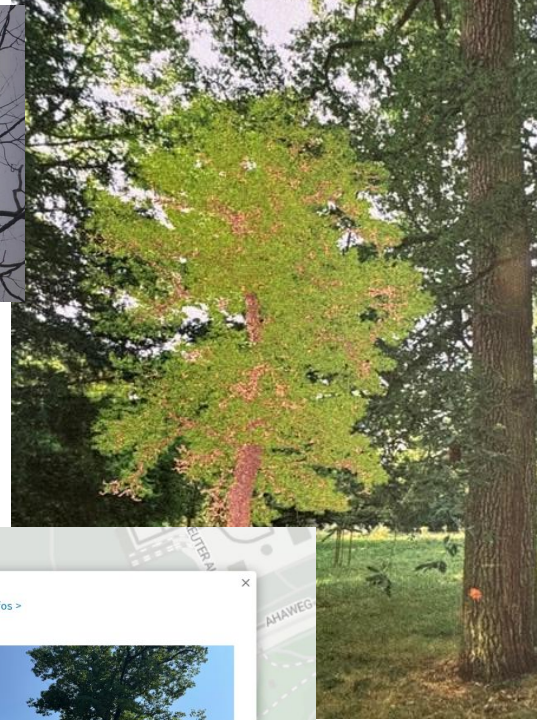
**information about that specific tree:**

Red oak brought to Karlsruhe by the Margrave of Baden in the 1740s. The is species especially good for climate change adaptation to make the city more resilient against growing temperatures

**information about the species: botanical characteristics**

**photographs: from researchers of the project "URBORETUM - for a Greener Future in the City"**

**podcast: from Dr. Somidh Saha, researcher at KIT for URBORETUM**



Region

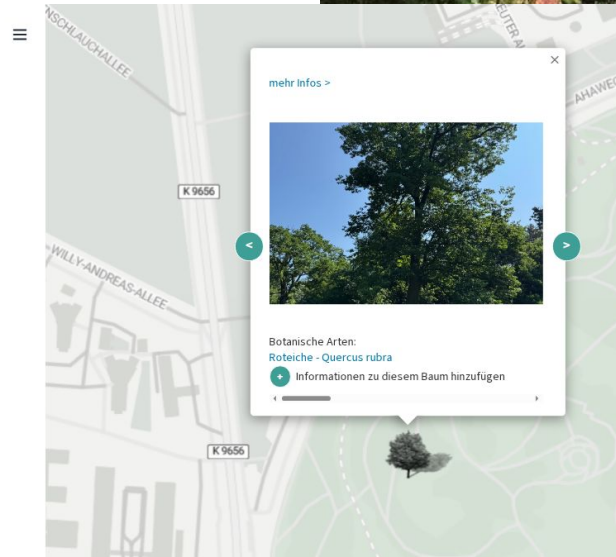
Wählen Sie die Region aus

Botanische Arten

Auswahl nach Art

Route

Wählen Sie eine Reiseroute



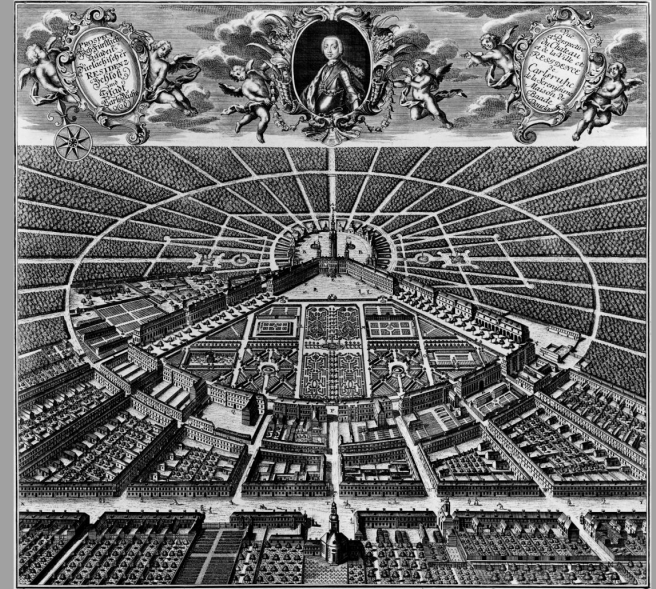
# Modena City of Media Arts

- Modena it is the only UNESCO City of Media Arts in Italy
- Its main focus is on developing projects that use digital tools in order to enhance cultural heritage and build unprecedented relationships between the physical and digital dimensions of the city, strengthening bonds among citizens
- The City of Modena is also the promoter of *Alberi Festival*. *Building the city of trees* [www.alberifestival.it](http://www.alberifestival.it), the first architecture festival in Italy focused on trees, built around the idea that trees can be a model and a tool through which to investigate, design and reorganize the contemporary city.
- Looking at the city starting from the trees, turning our usual point of view upside down, can open original ways of relating between men and nature, as well as being an antidote to an aestheticizing and merely functional drift related to the use of greenery in architecture.



# Karlsruhe City of Media Arts

- In the context of the *Alberi Festival*. *Building the city of trees*, last year the collaboration among Modena and the City of Karlsruhe started
- In order to develop a comparison study of the relationship between humans and trees in the two urban contexts, collecting data, producing a video documentary, a photographic campaign and a selection of research projects related to the theme and to media arts.
- This work was shown in an exhibition in Modena in April 2025 during the Alberi Festival.
- The exhibition, called *Karlsruhe the fan-city*, featured the City of Karlsruhe, whose origins trace back to a primordial and visionary encounter between man and nature, to the desire to build a physical and tangible bond with the forest based on respect, contemplation, crossing and the definition of boundaries.
- These visions led to a tangible urban form, a coherent expression of this relationship. This is a sort of manifesto city where the 'fan-shaped' design, which seamlessly transforms the forest into public space, seems to explicitly embody a pact of coexistence between humans and trees.



KARLSRUHE  
CITTÀ  
VENTAGLIO

Katharina Oertel / Murad Atshan

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