



A SHORT HISTORY...

The Botanical Garden of Brera is a romantic oasis of green nestling between the buildings of the centre of Milan. The garden has a long history, originating from the 14th century when it served as a place for meditation and plant cultivation for the Humiliati priests, and later for the Jesuits.

In 1774-1775 it was designated the Botanical Garden of Brera, as part of the act of renovation and establishment of public institutions for learning and research ordered by the Empress Maria Theresa of Austria, which transformed Brera Palace into a lively cultural centre in the Milan of the late 18th century: a point of reference for the arts, humanities and the sciences. For a long time, it was a seat of higher education in pharmacy and medicine, through the cultivation of medicinal species. It underwent various changes until 1935, when it was annexed to the University of Milan, which still manages it today.

In 2001 it reopened to the public after a restoration that highlighted the original design, characterized by two evocative elliptical pools, the arboretum and dense flowerbeds.

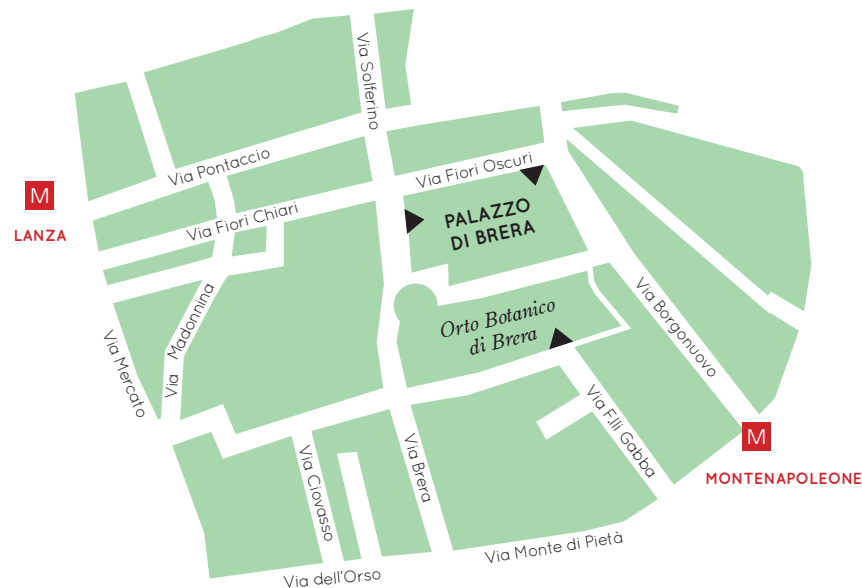
THE COLLECTIONS

Today the Garden reveals its historical character to the visitor. Several flower beds host **medicinal species** of various plant families; others are dedicated to themes of specific interest or pre-eminent use (plants used for food, textiles and paper production) or to particular environments (Mediterranean plants, arid or humid environments), the arrangement of which respects the microclimates of the different zones of the garden.

The most general criterion for sorting the species is systematic, meaning that the plants are grouped on the basis of the botanical family or order to which they belong, with emphasis given to families richly represented in **our flora** (Asteraceae, Apiaceae, Lamiaceae, ...).

There is no shortage of **rare or protected plant species** to promote the culture and diffusion of biodiversity protection, in particular for species native to Lombardy such as the carthusian pink (*Dianthus carthusianorum* L.) or the royal fern (*Osmunda regalis* L.) and the only endemic plant in Milan, the milanese hawkweed (*Hieracium australe* Fr. subsp. *australe*). Among the large trees – some of which grow in unusual places or between the flowerbeds – the patriarchs of the Garden stand out, two trees of *Ginkgo biloba* two and a half centuries old, symbol of the garden.

In each season, like a living open-air museum, the Garden offers its visitors emotion and surprises which are well worth discovering.



Tel +39 02 50314683 / +39 335 6474184
ortobotanicodibrera@unimi.it

Opening Times

1st April to 31st October

Monday to Saturday, 10:00am-6:00pm, working days

1st November to 31st March

Monday to Saturday, 9:30am-4:30pm, working days

Extraordinary opening/closures: see website

The Botanical Garden of Brera is part of:



Educational activities and guided tours

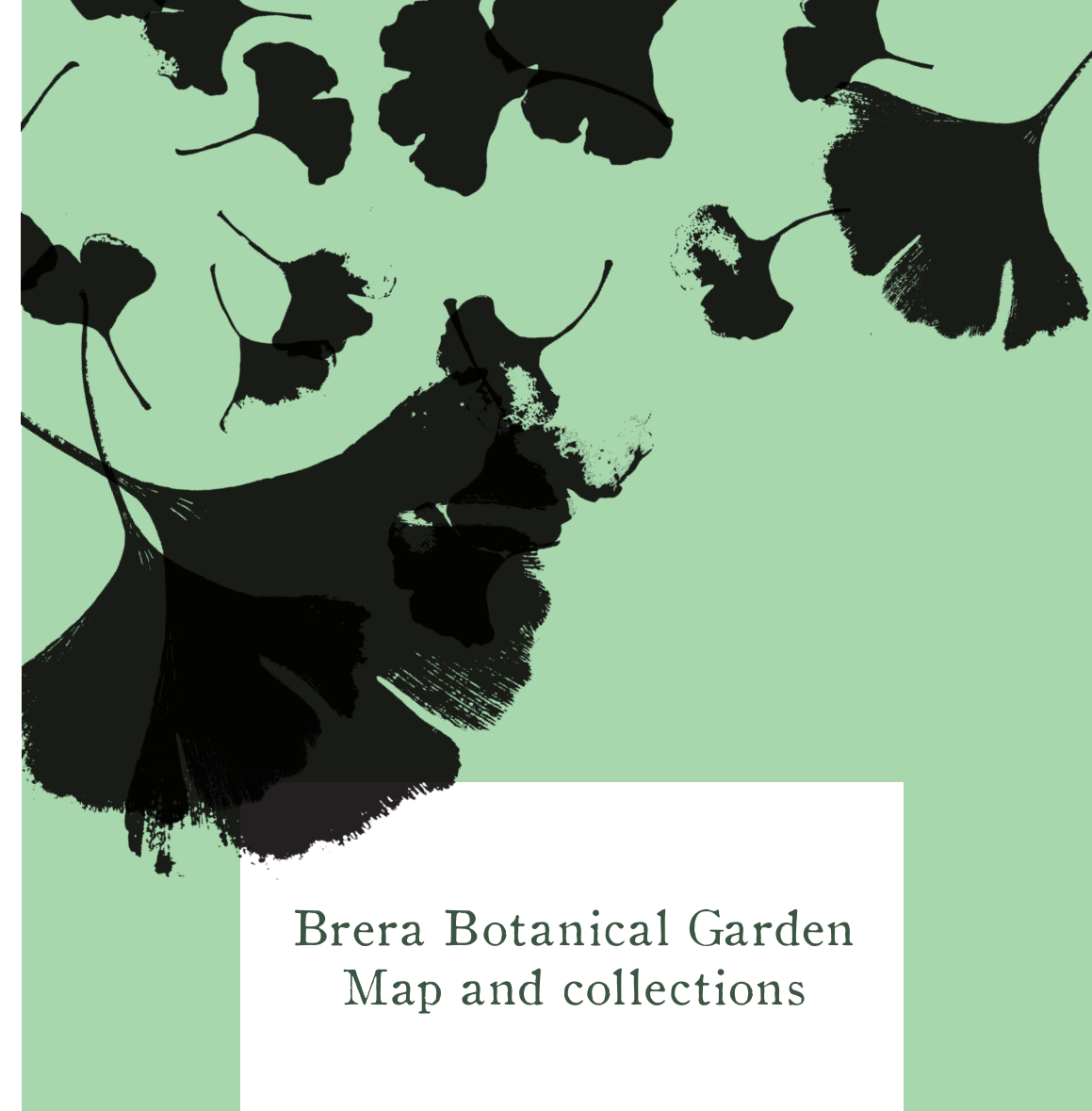
Tel +39 02 50314683 / +39 331 6171116
edu.ortobrera@unimi.it

How to reach

Orto Botanico di Brera
Via Brera, 28
Via Fratelli Gabba, 10
20121 Milano, Italy

MM3 (Montenapoleone), MM2 (Lanza)
MM1 (Cairoli)
Tram e bus 1, 2, 4, 12, 14, 27, 61, 94

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Brera Botanical Garden Map and collections



Orto Botanico di Brera





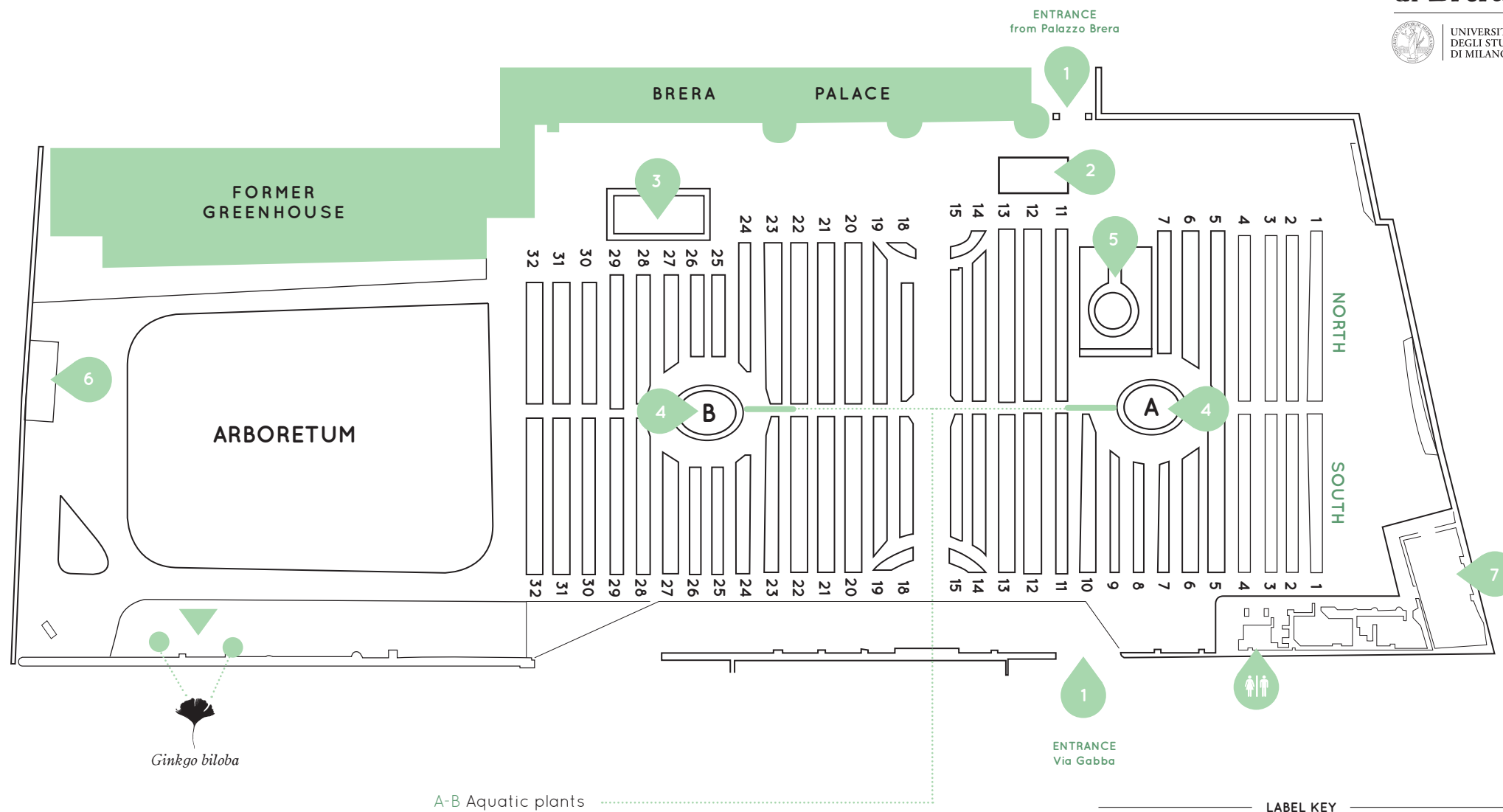
NORTH

- 1 Hosta and Hellebore collection
- 2-4 Pteridophytes (ferns, horsetails and clubmosses)
- 5-6-7 Medicinal plants
- 11 Mediterranean plants
- 12 Dye plants
- 13 Spurge (Euphorbia) collection
- 14 Lombardy flora plants
- 15 Plants used for textiles and paper production
- 18 MALVACEAE family
- 19-20 APIACEAE family
- 21 BRASSICACEAE family
- 22-23 Medicinal plants of various families
- 24-31 ASTERACEAE family
- 32 Medicinal plants of various families

- 1 ENTRANCE
- 2 INFO POINT
- 3 GARDEN WITHIN THE GARDEN
- 4 POND
- 5 ASTRONOMICAL DOME
- 6 COMPOST AREA
- 7 VITMAN ROOM

SOUTH

- 1-6 LAMIACEAE family - 1-3 Sage collection
- 7-12 HYDRANGEACEAE family, Hydrangea collection
- 13-14 Iris and Peony collection
- 15 Scented shrubs
- 18 PLANTAGINACEAE family
- 19 Xerophytic and dry environment species
- 20 CARYOPHYLLACEAE family
- 21 BORAGINACEAE family
- 22-23 Medicinal plants of various families
- 24 ROSACEAE family
- 25 Species with traditional uses
- 26 Aquatic and humid environment species
- 27 Summer-flowering bulbs
- 28 SOLANACEAE family
- 29 Cultivated food plants
- 30-31 POACEAE family
- 32 CYPERACEAE-JUNCEAE family



Ginkgo biloba

A-B Aquatic plants

LABEL KEY

PROTETTA These species are protected by regional law

These species are poisonous