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Space Caviar designs floating stages for Mantua, Italy

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Photography: courtesy of Space Caviar

Mantua has a new cultural destination: a series of lily pad-like concert stages that float on the lake.

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The Arcipelago di Ocno comprises seven circles referencing the lotus flowers that bloom in the water in the summer months.



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Named for the mythical demigod that supposedly built Mantua, and designed by Italian studio Space Caviar, the islands vary in size and can be re-connected in different configurations.

It's hoped that the new floating stages will help reconnect the city with its surrounding lakes, and may eventually be expanded further for future events.



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Mantova's citizens have been deprived for too many years of the pleasure to fully enjoy the relationship with water,' says Lorenza Baroncelli, the city's Councilor for Urban Regeneration.

'The archipelago is a further incentive to continue to regenerate the lakes, and make them part of the urban and social fabric of Mantova.'

The stages opened on 11 September, and will host a programme of music, dance and art events as part of the city's year-long status as Italian Capital of Culture.

Floating architecture also took over Italy's Lake Iseo earlier in the year, when artist Christo installed a system of that allowed visitors to walk from one side of the lake to the other.

Read next: A floating pavilion puts bathing at the heart of Manifesta art biennial in Zürich.

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