

The problem of remediation

Reclamation techniques with natural methods

We can consider the Rhine as the dividing line between two types of reclamation.

To the north, in the area between the Po and the Reno, we see over the centuries numerous interventions, from the Benedictines to the Este family.

By building a new hydrographic network, thanks to natural drainage, man tried to eliminate excess water by carrying it to the sea.

Important reclamation work of this kind was that of Polesine, ordered by Alfonso II d'Este between 1564 and 1580, which used vincian gates at the outlet of the canals to the sea.

These opened, like giant valves, causing the waters to flow out at low tide, and closed again under the action of the high tide. This is the process that leads in nature to the formation of so-called floodplains.

Reclamation by fill is very slow and in order to soon be able to use the land that is gradually reclaimed, the affected area is divided into boxes or compartments.

The paraduro

It's a wooden piece of equipment formed by stakes inserted along the bank of a watercourse that together form the structure on which thinner flexible branches, such as those of the willow tree, are woven.

This device forms a strong retainer barrier which, when filled with soil and debris, allows the bank level to be raised.

This technique, also called "Este paraduro", has been in use for centuries in our territories.