Further scientific analysis of trees include the authors’ shade projections, presented in the reissue as refined CAD diagrams, and their study of foliage color over four seasons, which have been reconstructed in this edition to match the documents in the Stagi and Leonardi archives.

In their practice, shade analysis was elevated as a part of landscape design. They allowed the number, type, and position of tree plantings to be guided by where those trees would project their shadows onto the earth. Further still, the designers considered how sunlight penetrates a thick-leafed, mature tree differently than the bright green leaves of the same tree when young.

For Stagi and Leonardi, annual evolution of trees’ foliage was a delightful reminder of the progress of life and a reflection of the human experience of place. Varying day-to-day and across changing seasons with shifting leaf pigments, a tree’s foliaged appearance reflects important distinctions among forms and places.

This compendium of aesthetically beautiful tree diagrams serve as a reminder to the complex, living experience of plants and our neighborly relationship to them that defines the distinct quality of any planted landscape.