

# FAVARA FUTURES

Research workshop, Start conference  
Dynamics of periphery

Chair for Regional Building and Urban Planning | Department of Urban Design and Planning | Leibniz University Hannover  
in cooperation with the Department of Architecture | University of Palermo



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Image 1: Gibellina

**GIBELLINA - REBORN FROM ITS ROOTS  
THROUGH ART AND ARCHITECTURE**  
Luciano Macaluso

Gibellina (from the Arabic *gebel*, mountain) is a small town in central Sicily, in the former Province of Trapani, destroyed by the earthquake in the Belice Valley in 1968. The new town "Gibellina Nuova" was rebuilt 18 km from the old one, in a rural plain near the train station of Salemi.

The ISES (Institute for Social Building Development) drew the general plan on the example of the "garden town". The new settlement was unrelated to the urban local tradition and to the agricultural patterns of the site. In 1971, when the residences were ready but the facilities had still to be made, the Mayor Corrao called many of the most prominent artists and architects to "humanize" the town. Even though the final result is a collection of different art and architectural pieces with little relations to each other, Gibellina is the most known rebuilt town of the Belice Valley.

Its inhabitants recognize the identity that art and architecture aroused and strengthened. The city's core is the Civic Center with the Town Hall by the group led by G. Samonà, the Main Church by L. Quaroni, Palazzo Di Lorenzo by F. Venezia; residences by O. M. Ungers, by P. Nicolini, and by F. Purini and L. Thurnes, and squares by F. Purini and L. Thurnes.

The town, large about 150 ha, is an open-air museum with more than fifty works of art spread in it: a sculpture for each road, murals, art installations, and pieces from theater sets.

## IMPRINT

FAVARA FUTURES  
Research workshop, Start conference  
DYNAMICS OF PERIPHERY

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Maurizio Carta, Jörg Schröder, Barbara Lino, Sarah Hartmann

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Urban regeneration and impulses for local development in new constellations of peripheries and centres are in the focus of „Dynamics of Periphery“. What are research, practice, design, and planning contributions to successful initiatives and models in small cities? How are they linked with innovative models of urban design, architecture, re-cycle and artistic creativity? How can sustainable use of territorial capital, concepts of social innovation, and governance improvements enhance creative dynamics of specific assets and spatial characteristics?

In a research project between the University of Palermo and Leibniz Universität Hannover, „Dynamics of Periphery“ have been discussed in a start conference in Palermo. The conceptual approaches collected in this book are combined with a project report of a workshop in Favara with master students of both universities; in collaboration with the municipality of Favara and with FARM Cultural Park Favara. The project „Dynamics of Periphery“ is funded in the University Dialogue Programme Southern Europe of DAAD. The transversal research between architecture, urban design, arts, local and regional development highlights the need and the potential of new ways to integrate „Dynamics of Periphery“ in debates and policies about futures of habitat in Europe.