



RE.LA.TE. HANDBOOK
To build new urban scenarios
of the "Multiethnic" City

edited by Mauro Francini

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TO BUILD NEW URBAN SCENARIOS OF THE "MULTIETHNIC" CITY

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5. Orientations and principles for a multicultural city6. Conclusions

(Reception Centre Santa Chiara). In collaboration with the I.U.P. Association, this event is one more moment to know different cultures, the way they express themselves and a moment to have fun together at the end of the course.

12th June 2007 - <u>Study day:</u> Riesi Waldensian Spiritual Centre at 'Villaggio Monte degli Ulivi' by Leonardo Ricci.

Speeches: M. Panzarella (Degree course in Architecture Chairman)

12th October 2007 - Press conference

Introducing the results of the collaboration between the territorial laboratory in Palermo and the *Architecture and Architectural Composition 1 course* of the Facolty of Engineering of Palermo.

15th October 2007 - <u>Final seminar</u> The city of the future: a community of similars or a community of differents? (Villa niscemi, Sala delle Carrozze)

Presentation of the results of the Territorial Laboratories in Crotone, Palermo, Valencia, Villa San Giovanni. Speeches: M. Gentile (psychologist, Regional School Office), F. Lavaggi (Rear Admiral), L. Barbera (CRESM), C. Fallanca de Blasio (D.A.A.C.M. Director, University of Reggio Calabria).

Presentation of the projects by the Course teachers and a representation of the students.

14th November 2007 - Sicilian Interpartnership <u>Commission</u> to choose the final result of the laboratory among the 35 projects of the students of the Degree course in Construction Engineering/Architecture.

6. THE PROJECT OF AN INTERCULTURAL LOCALITY

by Antonino Margagliotta, University of Palermo

Architecture has always played the role of the dialogue catalyst in building cities and in defining languages, thus becoming a symbol of union in the suffered relation among the individuals. Today it is more than ever necessary to ask architecture to propose new transformations based on acceptance and sharing, to make space and give space.

Architecture, though its ability to speak (both to people and their time), gives its own contribution to create new lifestyles and to express the will to understand the problems and values in the modern age. It is also one of the meaning of the architecture aesthetic on an ethic base, so that it contributes to let the mankind live in the new 'landscapes' (ethnic and social-cultural), to offer foundations to build cities of coexistence and dialogue.

The Architecture and Architectural Composition 1 course (Degree course in Construction Engineering/Architecture of the University of Palermo, 2006/2007) carried out some project activities for the territorial Laboratories in Palermo: more than 70 students (who made 35 projects, some of which are presented in this booklet) have been involved in this participated project together with their teachers and the contribution of some cultural mediators. The project deals with the creation of a cross-cultural space, seen as a place to meet and organize the necessary services for the immigrant communities and, at the same time, as a space for cultural knowledge and interaction. This project has also been chosen as a recognizable element for the integration with the rest of the citizens and like a kind of architecture able to communicate the symbolic values of the host culture (role that has always characterized the City of Palermo), thus aiming at explain the multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multilinguistic reality which nowadays marks the big contemporary cities. The building has been studied to satisfy the needs of the different cultures, thinking that the centres of reception, assistance and association are essential structures for the concrete integration of the immigrant communities in the urban and social structure of the city.

In the definition of the functional program, the analysis of the needs has been carried out by considering the requests and the wishes that had emerged in the various work steps which have involved foreign and local communities, thanks to the work of cultural mediators, communities representatives, operators in the multicultural field; beyond the enclosed spaces, we have also provided an open space that can host open-air events for the district and the whole city. This has contributed to empower the public aim of the project and its identity of "place of meeting". The presence of a square (that can also be used for ceremonies and games) underlined the social value (besides the urban and spatial one) of the project which wants to be seen as element which gives shape to the idea of citizenship. This theme has become the opportunity to give quality to important urban spaces through the changes brought about by the architecture project in the current context. Urban spaces full of potential but which are left to urban blight and linked, at any rate, to a remarkable presence of immigrants; during the identification of the intervention areas, we considered the possibility to undertake the project of a cultural space also as a chance to ameliorate some urban contexts and to explore the way the city (seen as an architectural organism besides a social structure) can interact with the project depending on the features and the identities which are typical of its areas (old town centre, well-established city, outskirts), also in relation to the communities who have settled there.

Every place presented features that the project has revealed and expressed in relation to the settlement logics, the morphological and spatial features, the ethnic and social composition of the communities, starting from which every narrative program began.

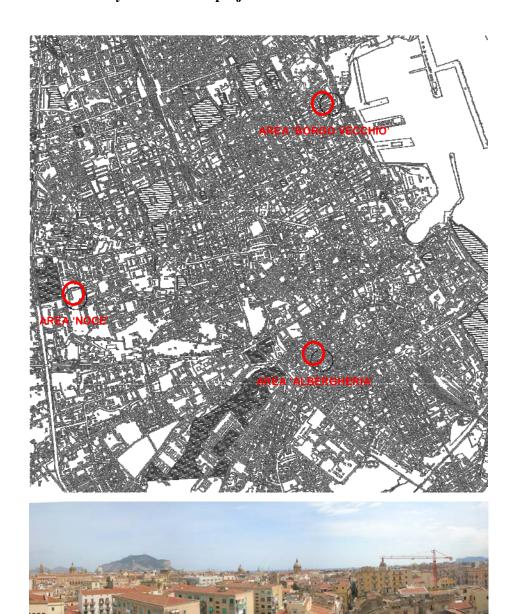
The areas that have been chosen for the project are:

- the old town centre (Albergheria), in a zone near the ruins of SS.
 Crocifisso Church, where the project was born from the idea of the signs stratification and overlap;
- the well-established city (Borgo Vecchio), in an empty space caused by the bombings of the Second World War. It is near the port, where the projects felt the theme of the completion and the yearning towards the sea;
- the new-born part of the city (Noce), where the projects were affected by the weakness of the relational links and by the presence of more open spaces.

From the point of view of the architectural research, this experience let us think about the architecture project through the dialogue ability of the architectural composition which (starting from its own state), uses differences and heteronomies as materials of its elaboration and then it synthesizes them all. If on the one hand experience has deepened the way architecture can give its own contribute (as if it was finding again its integrity) to build values such as respect and coexistence, on the other hand has let the confrontation with themes like otherness, respect of the differences and the identities.

After going over the value, but also the limit, of the project exercise, the awareness of how the project itself can be a reason and a symbol to grow by understanding ourselves and the others, lasts in everyone who took part in this project experience («Knowing the other means thinking over our existence», Orhan Pamuk says): architecture can educate to dialogue, to self-knowledge and to respect the other; it activates relation actions on principle, and can teach how to get out of ourselves to go beyond, towards the other.

Plan of the city Palermo. The project areas

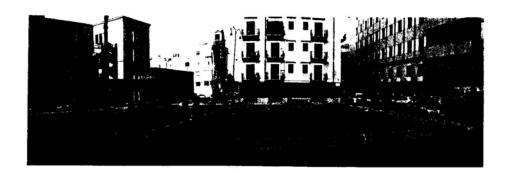


10.1 ALBERGHERIA Area

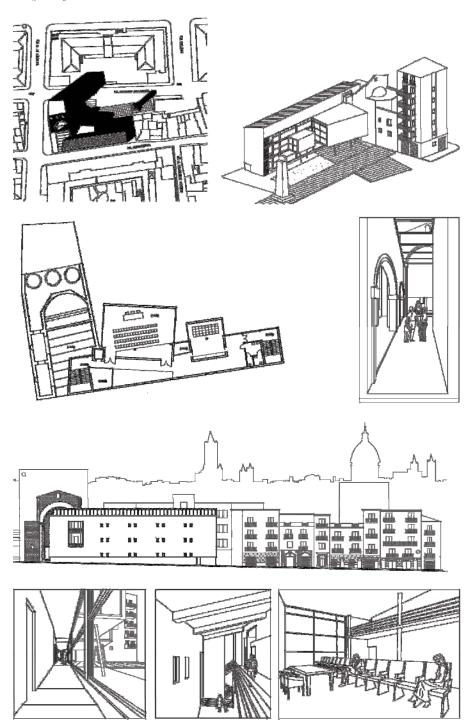
In this district, many problems are due to the collapse of the whole structure. At the end of the Second World War, it has been involved in a rebuilding process (thanks to public agencies) which has seen the birth of new big buildings, economic-popular housing estates, various houses, some services (like elementary schools, the social centre and, then, university dorms). These interventions determine a break in the ancient, homogeneous and compact urban texture by depriving it of its own identity. The unbalances become bigger because many areas of the district, which had been knocked down and destroyed by the war, are still in ruin. The district is organized all around 'Via dell'Albergheria' whose architecture is composed by little houses, and its conformation implied the need for places of social relation, to extend the residence towards the collective space.

After being depopulated because of its degradation, it got first settled by immigrants from Morocco and Tunisia, then from Ghana, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and, in a lower percentage, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Haiti and India. Even today, a real integration between the immigrant population and the locals is still needed, despite the activities carried out by the social centres (Maricò, San Saverio, Santa Chiara reception centre) and the presence of many university students living in the San Saverio dormitory. Here, most immigrants have a precarious job, especially as hawkers, while only in the neighbouring areas (Ballarò market, via Maqueda) some people run their own shop. Even in Mandamento, a zone of this area, there is the mosque of the Muslim community hosted in San Paolino dei Giardinieri Church.

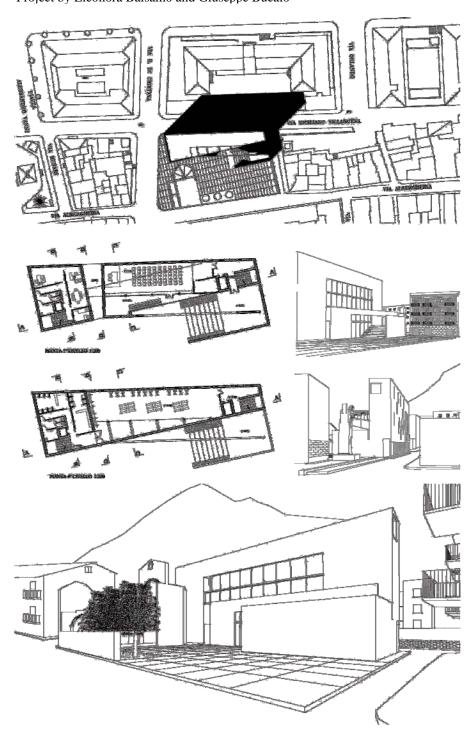
The project area is located in the final part of via dell'Albergheria, near a square born from demolitions and recent constructions (the dormitory and the school). Not so far from there, we can see the ruins of Ss. Crocifisso church, built in the XVI century and destroyed in 1958, around which we are planning the cross-cultural centre.



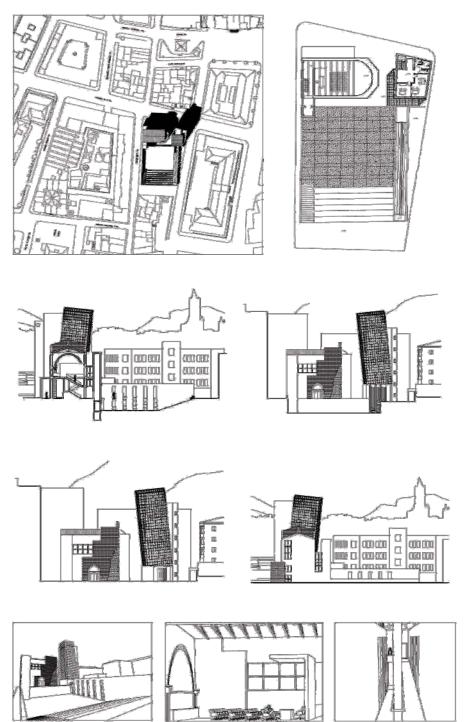
Project by Ambra Abbate and Francesco Fanara



Project by Eleonora Balsamo and Giuseppe Bucalo



Project by Salvatore Culcasi and Maria Pia Maiorana



10.2 BORGO VECCHIO Area

Set outside the walls of the ancient city, it was the old seafaring town. The road infrastructures represented by via Francesco Crispi have removed the area from the sea, which comes now to the port area.

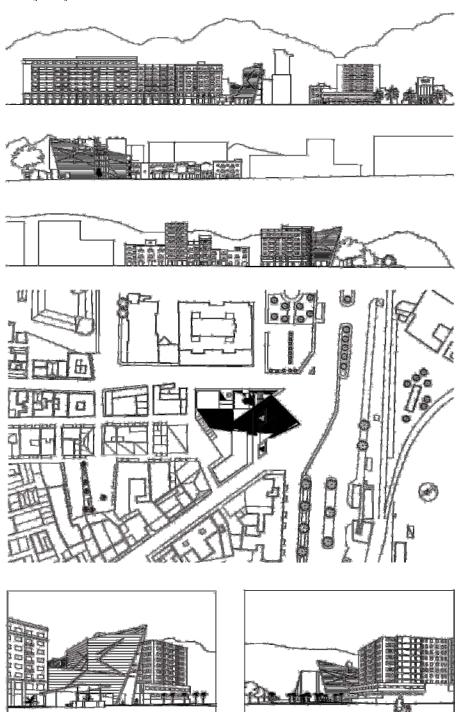
This zone constitutes one of the residual and unsolved urban emptiness caused by the Second World War bombings and it is located among Piazza della Pace, via Crispi and Corso Scinà, which constitute the connection with the centre of the city.

The main foreign communities come from Philippines, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan. From the religious point of view, they are mainly Catholic and Muslim. For the religious rites, Muslims are compelled to go to via de Ruggero, while the Tamil community celebrate its services at the St. Rosalia sanctuary, where they can officiate their ritual processions. Anyway, places and spaces for meeting, integration and expression of single cultures are still needed.

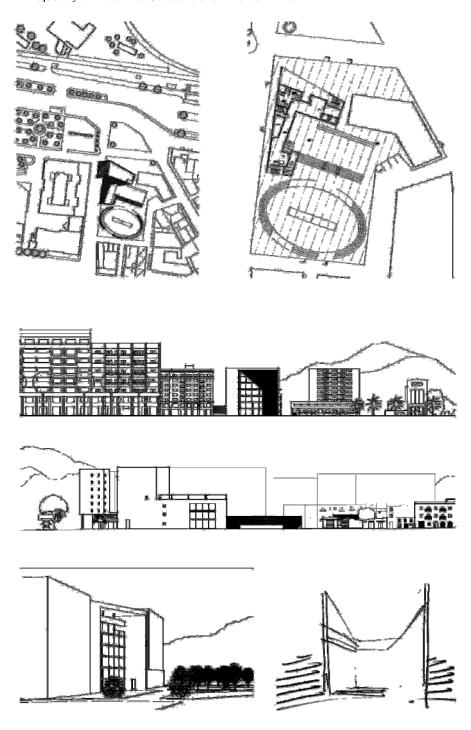
The project has been realized by considering the closeness to the sea and the pre-existence of streets like via Domenico Scinà and via Archimede. From the formal point of view, several poetic-symbolic solutions have used the image of the boat-building: it is an echo to the history of the area, to its closeness to the sea and, at the same time, the metaphor of the immigrants' landing through the sea. Another theme taken into consideration is the yard, seen as a meeting space than can be both open and closed, regular and irregular, linear and notched, interpreting the functional, social and symbolic values through its form.



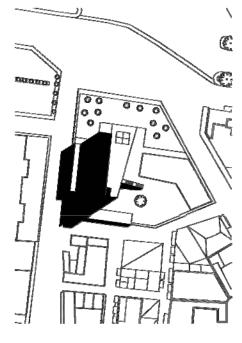
Project by Umberto Giambelluca and Annibale Fabio Inzerillo

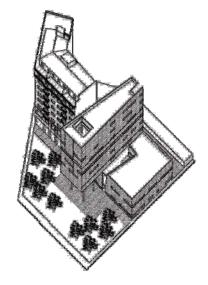


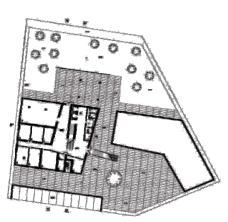
Project by di Maurizio Gulisano and Andrea Viviani



Project by Andrea Deidda and Salvatore Piombino















10.3 NOCE Area

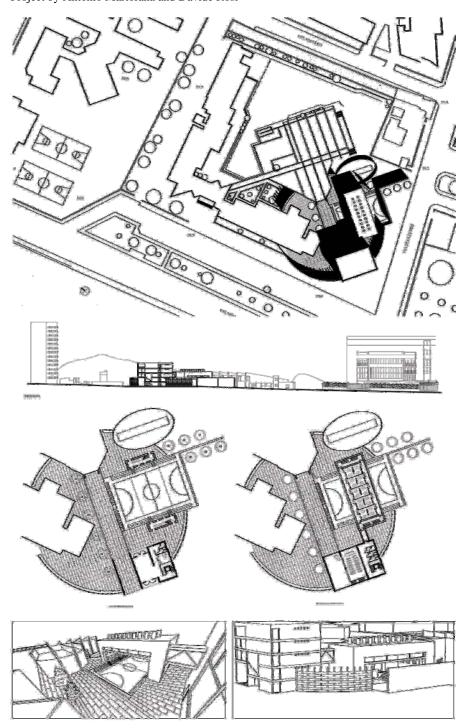
There is a big presence of immigrants coming from Mauritius, Ghana, Tunisia, China, Sri Lanka, India. However, the biggest community is the Bengali one. The only religious reference point for the Muslims (the prevalent religion among the immigrants) is a modest shabby building used as a mosque, in via Arfuso. Many of them work in the home-building sector, in the grocery stores or as hawkers; some of them own a little market. Many of them also work as house servants or carers. The great number of settled immigrants made us create several projects to help them in becoming part of the social texture, in orienting themselves and to support children and families. Some important association work there, such as Narramondi O.N.L.U.S., working with various public and private institutions, Mowgly Cultural aggregation centre, hosted in the 'A. Ugo' Comprehensive Institute, which promote social integration, young socialization, information quality improvement. The proposed initiatives deal with educational activities, after-school activities, Italian courses even for adults, laboratories (drawing, theatre, sport, music). They also offer psychological and pedagogical consultancy and an information office.

The project area has been chosen in a space very close to the big urban viability and next to the I.T.C. P. La Torre, often used to organize cross-cultural events.

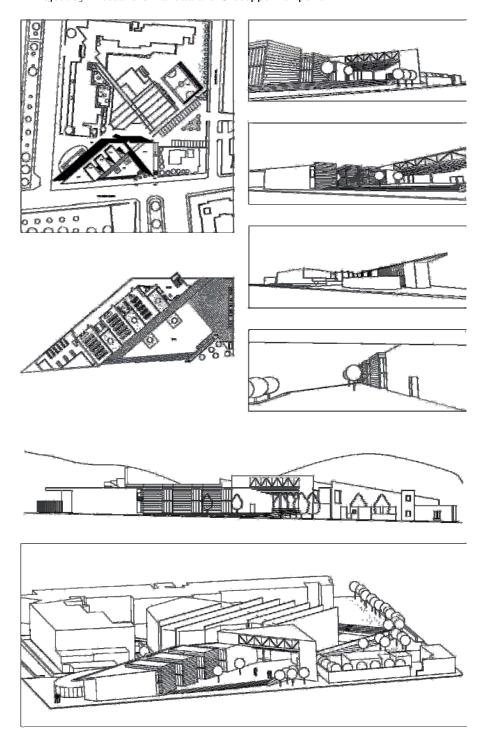




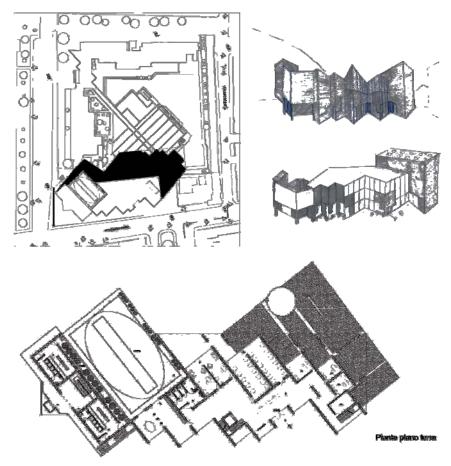
Project by Antonio Martorana and Davide Rosi



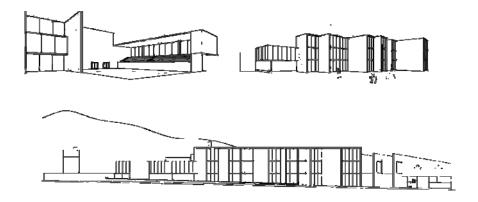
Project by Alessandro Navetta and Giuseppe Rampulla



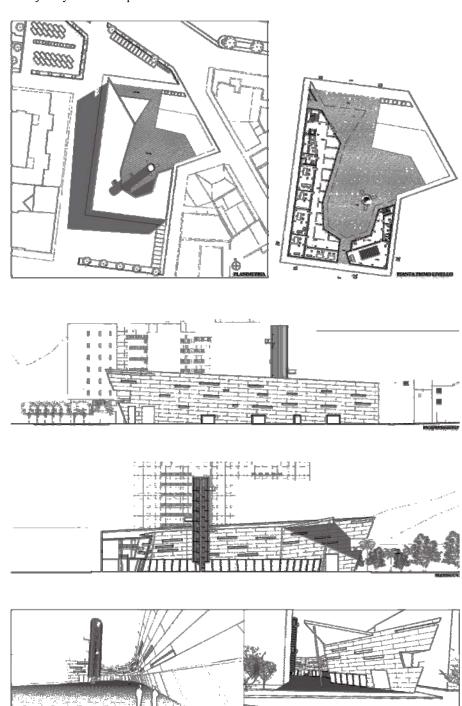
Project by Domenica Pollina and Irene Vinci



Légendes 1. legrésés, 2. Sportéloiséntesfier, 3. Ludobou, 4. Spoglistois, 6. Princisteraisdis jacresso alle spazie foigéagt 6. Portés ; 7. Campe autilié, 6. Bionar S. Chantamentoiscalais: 42. Luteratoris d'arte: 11. Assistance: 42. Invientification.



Project by Rosalba Lupo and Stefania Tilotta



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