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Stretch the Edge

Design Driven Processes for Reactivating
Small Walled Towns and Inland Areas

Università degli Studi della Repubblica di San Marino
Antico Monastero Santa Chiara, San Marino
22-23.06.2023

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Contents

14
University Network

18
**Stretch the Edge. Design Driven Processes
for Reactivating Small Walled Towns
and Inland Areas**

20
People and Partner

Research Contextualization

34
**Design, Microcosms
and Guardian Communities**
Massimo Brignoni, Riccardo Varini

46
**The Paradigm of Small Walled Towns.
An Advanced Design Driven Approach
to Reactivate Cultural Heritage**
Flaviano Celaschi, Elena Formia,
Andreas Sicklinger

58
**Design for the Enhancement and
Reactivation of Small Walled Towns.
Stretch the Edge: A Case Study Analysis
and Data Visualization**
Giorgio Dall'Osso, Silvia Gasparotto,
Michele Zannoni

76
**Challenging Design Practices
at the Edges. Values, Networks,
Evaluations in Territorial Regeneration**
Federica Natalia Rosati, Margo Lengua,
Anna Guerra, Francesco Mancuso, Chiara
Amatori, Federica Francia

88
**From the Metropolis to the Village:
The Art of Designing Disorder
as a Transitional Practice. An Interview
With Pablo Sendra**
Laura Succini, Riccardo Mercuri,
Pablo Sendra

Track 1

Activate the Edges

100 Editorial

Activate the Edges

Daniele Fanzini

104

Design Research Reload: Architectural Strategies for the Reactivation of a Rural Village in China

Gerardo Sempredon

116

I Live in Vaccarizzo. Social Transformation Lab for the Repopulation of the Italian Inland Areas

Federica Benatti

130

Restart Oliena – Innessi Urbani 2016–2024. A Reiterative and Participatory Regeneration Approach

Giuseppe Boi, Barbara Camocini, Laura Daglio, Roberto Podda

Track 2

Join the Edges

168 Editorial

Join the Edges

Raffaella Fagnoni

172

Design for Island Activation: The Architectural Practice of Jiming Island Wedding Hall

Li Li, Yang Xinyi

182

Tremona Archeological Park and Virtual Reality

Matteo Besenzoni, Tiziano Leidi, Achille Peternier

142

(Dis/Re)Articulate Contexts Identities: Places as Platforms for Community Regeneration and Interdependence

Annalinda De Rosa, Davide Fassi

154

Slack City - Slack Land. Strategies, Processes and Projects for Intermediate Territories

Francesco Alberti, Eleonora Trivellin

192

Designing an Expanded Shared Memory: The Civic Digital Collection of Quero Vas

Emanuela Bonini Lessing, Alessandra Bosco, Mario Ciaramitaro, Gabriele Toneguzzi

204

Innovations and Practices in Responsible Planner System, Taking Xingfeng Sub-District in Beijing as an Example

Yuefang Rong, Jian Song, Yuang Zheng, Zhiyuan Ma, Shuhan Guo

Track 3

Enhance the Edges

218 Editorial

Enhance the Edges

Claudio Gambardella

224

Design as a Dialogic Practice for Fragile Heritages. A Community Micro-Museum in the Heart of Sicily

Francesco Monterosso

234

Play Alghero - Playful Itinerary: Identity and Public Experience

Nicolò Ceccarelli, Nada Beretić

244

Design Driven Processes for Identifying Urban Evolution. The Workshop Firenze Forma Continua / Urban Scenographies

Vanessa Staccioli, Gaia Vannucci

254

Perceptual Place and Identity Space in the Regeneration of Historic Villages

Francesco Saverio Simone

264

Ecological and Cultural Resources Help Rural Revitalization: a Case Study of Industrial Planning in Beizhuang

Xiaoxi LIU, Rui LIU, Yichen Yang

Short Stories

288

Archivio Atena

Martina Alessandrini

290

L'isola del Futuro

Elena Marsiglia, Alberto Sogni

292

Pecioli

Comune di Peccioli, Belvedere Spa, Fondazione Peccioliper

294

Ghost 'n Found

Claudia Molinari, Matteo Pozzi – We Are Muesli

296

I Fumi della Fornace

Giorgiomaria Cornelio, Roberto Paci Dalò

298

Unpae

Andrea Croce, Alessia Delli Rocioli, Michele Sablone

300

Buonanotte Contemporanea

Fabio Armillotta, Carmela Palmieri, Marco Santomauro – CASa Associati

302

Junça da Beselga Mask

Álbio Nascimento, Kathi Stertzig – Origem Comum

304

The Crin Collection

Camila De Gregorio, Christopher Macaluso – Eggpicnic

306

Robida Magazine

Robida Collective

Stretch the Edge

Design Driven Processes for Reactivating
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University Network

Università degli Studi della Repubblica di San Marino Dipartimento di Economia Scienze, Ingegneria e Design

The Research Unit in 'Community Design' joins together researchers and experts in the field of design. It imagines and develops system strategies and new design actions that have environmental, cultural, economic and social impacts in the contexts in which they operate.

Through tools and practices typical of the design field, the team proposes research and project actions to support local communities in the identification and enhancement of resources and tangible and intangible common assets.

Thanks to participatory and collaborative processes, using open source languages and digital tools, we work alongside the actors of the process in the valorization of their assets, generating greater awareness among citizens and institutions.

Alma Mater Studiorum — Università di Bologna Dipartimento di Architettura — Advanced Design Unit

Advanced Design Unit is a community of educators, researchers, and experts dedicated to project cultures and their continuous innovation. It operates within the University of Bologna, in the Department of Architecture, pursuing the following objectives:

- University teaching and advanced training
- Scientific, theoretical, and applied research
- Consulting, dissemination, and engagement with local communities.

Advanced Design is configured as a research methodology that approaches design in systemic, participatory, and relational terms, focusing on processes related to the industrial, cultural, and social dimensions. It prioritizes a responsible and sustainable approach, constantly seeking original, challenging, and cross-sectoral themes. By observing and studying the changes in society and the planet, design cultures become active and transformative agents within contemporary contexts.

Beijing City University

Beijing City University (BCU) is a comprehensive university officially approved by Chinese Ministry of Education. Founded in 1984, BCU is the first new-type university in the public-owned and non-governmental system since the founding of the People's Republic of China, renowned for its innovation and vitality.

BCU has several campuses offering over 70 specialties under the disciplines of Science, Engineering, Arts, Law, Finance, Economics, Fine Arts, Foreign Languages, Management and others; over 21,000 full-time students and 2,000 teaching and administrative staff.

BCU lays emphasis on broadening teachers' and students' international horizon, and has been committed to alliances with more than 50 colleges and universities abroad. International exchange programs have been established in the target countries and regions for BCU students in various discipline programs. Meanwhile, an array of students are awarded financial supports every year to expand their academic and cultural scope.

In order to better promote the cultural exchanges between China and the rest of the world, we have jointly established 2 Confucius Institutes in the Republic of San Marino, Europe and the United Mexican States, North America respectively. Since 2015, BCU starts recruiting international students. Now every year, students come from different countries to study in BCU for a short or long period of time.

The Symposium

Stretch the Edge — Design Driven Processes for Reactivating Small Walled Towns and Inland Areas was an international symposium held at the Università degli Studi della Repubblica di San Marino (Antico Monastero Santa Chiara) on June 22–23, 2023. It was promoted by the Research Units in Design of the Università degli Studi della Repubblica di San Marino, the Advanced Design Unit of the Department of Architecture at Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna, and Beijing City University.

The event explored how design can serve as a valuable tool for reactivating territories located in inland areas, enclosed by natural or artificial barriers. These territories, due to their size, morphology, and environmental or anthropic characteristics, often face significant challenges. However, their unique attributes also grant them a strong identity, making them socially, economically, and environmentally attractive. The values of uniqueness and identity represent tangible opportunities for natural, urban, and rural development. As such, they must be enhanced, revalued, reinterpreted, and systematized in future processes of repopulation and community settlement — with the goal of transforming these territories into multi-species and inter-species ecosystems, tangible places of sustainable living.

Sixteen international case studies — in which design played a central role in reactivation and regeneration — were presented in three sessions. These sessions were moderated by Raffaella Fagnoni, Full Professor at Iuav University of Venice; Daniele Fanzini, Full Professor at Politecnico di Milano; and Claudio Gambardella, Full Professor at Università degli Studi della Campania Luigi Vanvitelli.

Each session was introduced by a keynote speaker: Helena Casanova, architect and author of *Public Space Acupuncture*; Agostino Riitano, cultural manager and director of *Pesaro Italian Capital of Culture 2024*; and Pablo Sendra, architect, Associate Professor at the Bartlett School of Planning, and co-author (with Richard Sennett) of *Designing Disorder: Experiments and Disruptions in the City*.

The symposium opened with the presentation of a mapping of 150 national and international case studies. This collection was compiled through contributions from a network of international researchers and professionals who responded to a call, submitting effective examples where design interventions impacted circumscribed spatial contexts. The case studies were organized in an online database, shared with the network before the symposium. The presentation addressed both the theoretical framework that emerged and an analysis of the collected data.

A parallel activity, conducted before and after the symposium, involved the establishment of three working groups — 'Reactivation Strategies,' 'Community Engagement,' and 'Networked Territories'. These groups were aimed at fostering a spirit of

knowledge-sharing and discussion, strengthening the network, and increasing stakeholder participation in debates on specific issues. The discussions were preceded by the sharing of case studies and best practices. This initiative, structured in two meetings — one online and one onsite — was intended to examine key aspects of the diverse reactivation efforts undertaken by practitioners, academics, and communities. The goal was to encourage collective reflections and develop conceptual frameworks. The working groups explored issues, approaches, and objectives related to engaging different types of communities (both onsite and online) in the reactivation of small fortified towns and inland areas. Particular attention was given to the tools through which design facilitates community engagement (e.g., participatory activities, co-design, etc.) and the stages of the design process in which these tools are employed.

One of the goals of the symposium was to amplify diverse perspectives. Academics, professionals, members of public agencies and administrations, associations, and volunteers all had the opportunity to share their knowledge, insights, and experiences in this setting.

These proceedings bring together the work conducted by the research team, with contributions of the participants of the working groups and those of the speakers. These contributions are presented in two formats: 'Research Papers', which showcase research activities, and 'Stories', which are short fact sheets describing the case studies presented during the two-day symposium.

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Un Viaggio nel Passato. Il Castello di Faetano tra Storia e Racconti

Saverio Simone

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TABLE — TWO

WG 2 — REACTIVATION STRATEGIES

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Restart Oliena–Innesti Urbani 2016–2024. A Reiterative and Participatory Regeneration Approach

Giuseppe Boi

Politecnico di Milano
giuseppe.boi@presting.it

Barbara Camocini

Politecnico di Milano
barbara.camocini@polimi.it
ORCID 0000-0001-6967-1329

Laura Daglio

Politecnico di Milano
laura.daglio@polimi.it
ORCID 0000-0002-0645-1094

Roberto Podda

Xi'an Jiaotong - Liverpool University
roberto.podda@xjtlu.edu.cn
ORCID 0000-0003-3389-6221

Abstract

This contribution presents an ongoing experimental participatory design activity aimed at exploring the regeneration of the historic village of Oliena in Sardinia, which suffered from depopulation and abandonment due to economic and social changes tightened by its territorial features. The activity was implemented through a reiterative design-driven process based on multidisciplinary, research by-design, and community co-design approach. The research team guided the five annual event editions, involving young researchers from worldwide and collaborating with local associations, institutions, and experts. These contents stimulated community storytelling and narrative-building, increasing a sense of cultural identity, helping envision future urban regeneration scenarios, and going beyond the village borders to activate mutual connections with the territorial assets. The new awareness encouraged the establishment of the Oliena Centro Association and led to the reassignment of use and value to abandoned buildings.

Keywords

Small town regeneration
Participatory design
Narratives
Scenario building

In the past decades, extensive research and experimentation were carried out on an international scale in different fields to address the social and economic issues of inner areas and small historic villages, complemented by numerous policies and programs to trigger a redevelopment, and reverse depopulation and abandonment processes. Despite their diversity in terms of approaches and permanence, regeneration projects usually stem from a deep understanding of the local tangible and intangible features. Such a place-based approach adopted in regenerative design (Mang & Reed, 2012) can support addressing the complexity of cultural heritage.

This paper reports an ongoing experimental participated design-driven process aimed at reactivating the historic town of Oliena (Nu) in Sardinia in the compelling natural landscape between Supramonte and the Cedrino River, based on multidisciplinary, participatory, research-by-design approach implemented over the years through organized planned events.

Although in Oliena the three main concepts¹ of inner peripherality (ESPON, 2017) are hardly identified, a peculiar phenomenon of abandonment and isolation of the historic urban centre can be recognized due to a paradigm shift that took place in the second half of the XX century following national governmental policies (Piano di Rinascita) targeting the economic, social, and cultural renovation of Sardinia. The dense ancient urban fabric, featuring a homogeneous morphological typological and technological structure, based on the typical courtyard aggregation, intrinsically tied to the surrounding landscape, and reflecting the rural society organized in family clans, soon became obsolete in the face of the emerging new modern lifestyles and employment opportunities in the public sector in the nearby provincial capital of Nuoro. Accordingly, the doughnut appearance of Oliena population distribution determines a virtual edge between the new low-density single-family outskirts where the inhabitants moved and the empty centre, an area of more than 27 hectares, left to a slow but inescapable decay. Local planning regulations de facto froze to an unspecified conservation restriction, lacking guidelines for renovation, thus hindering the possible upgrading and thwarting any attempt at a potential transformation.

Therefore, the local community, particularly proud of its historical roots and culture, as well as holding a strong sense of belonging and identity, has progressively lost contact with the tangible heritage of the town's historic built environment. This has led to a lack of confidence in the potential for regeneration, and in its capacity to embody and transfer the original cultural legacy although in a renewed and modernised way.



Fig. 1
Oliena village and the
Supramonte mountain
range, by Gianni Careddu.

Following the recognition of such a detachment, the research team soon realised that addressing the exploration of regeneration paths could not be disjoined by the goal of involving the local community in the process. Cultural heritage and local communities are in fact co-dependent since the first plays a crucial role in the enhancement of local communities, and conversely, the latter gives meaning and supports the safeguarding of cultural heritage (Court & Wijesuriya, 2015). Recent European projects such as RURITAGE has successfully interpreted Cultural and Natural Heritage as the main driver and catalyst of socio-economic development (De Luca et al., 2021), applying a system of methodologies for the mobilisation and engagement of the community and carrying out a set of defined activities to co-develop regeneration plans for the local rural landscape. Moreover, the ongoing SMOTIES project stems from the Human Cities European interdisciplinary network and aims at improving the liveability of public spaces in remote areas developing social cohesion (De Rosa et al., 2023) through participatory design activities (meetings with locals, prototyping, co-design workshops, traveling exhibitions, masterclasses and training).

Accordingly, a specific design-driven approach was implemented over the years, combining, on the one hand, the strategic interdisciplinary exploration of regeneration alternatives focusing on heritage, envisioning new economic, cultural, and social activities, as well as assessing the architectural and urban feasibility of the existing built environment. On the other hand, an intertwined process of awareness raising in the community was devised, involving the engagement of the local population in the interpretation of the possible renovation paths as well as in the development of scenario-building techniques to visualize and share the transformations. Therefore, the research, diversified and enhanced over yearly curated and organized events, attempted to respond to the following research questions: can we conceive novel place-based contemporary functions for Oliena's historic centre, analysing and rethinking its ancient relationship with the landscape? Can we trigger a novel consciousness in the local community of the potentials of their tan-

approach allows for visualization and guidance in both the design process and its progression, emphasizing the iteration aspects — hence the verification of results and implementation of the model — the leadership role and the importance of social innovation prioritizing user, partner, and stakeholder engagement.

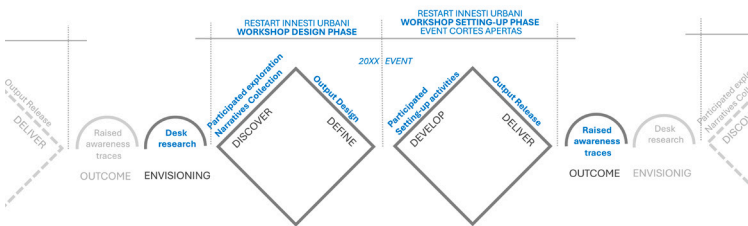
The preliminary phase of Envisioning aims, on the one hand, to investigate the wide repertoire of local cultural, environmental, economic, and social assets and, on the other hand, to build up a literature review of strategies, policies and case studies of reactivation at an international scale. This phase was built and continuously expanded through extensive desk research and design exploration carried out remotely within academic studios at different levels. From here, the format of the intervention, the activities to be undertaken, and the citizens' engagement mode are envisaged.

The first diamond phase of Discovering — characterized by a divergent type of analysis — based on the interpretation of the collected data, explores a set of topics, collecting narratives, and mapping testimonies and existing local resources conducted by the stakeholders with the group of junior and senior researchers. In the subsequent phase of Definition — through an effort of convergence — the research team coordinates the definition of the intervention program, after checking possible resignification perspectives, assessing the richness of content offered by the selected topics, and the feasibility of the planned formats, according to the economic and human resources.

The Development phase builds up the events (e.g. a round table, workshops, an exhibition, an art installation, a conference/debate) outputs. The Delivery phase, which takes place through a public presentation during the city's annual Autumn festival³, involves a more extensive but less in-depth level of engagement with the local population and helps gathering data on the first outcome of the activities.

Finally, by reiterating the application of the process, it is possible to enrich the mapping of resources over time and to build a perspective of critical interpretation on the opportunities and fragilities that emerge through the experimentation.

3
Cortes Apertas, which takes place in September attracting visitors from all over Sardinia and Italy.



Tab. I
Design-driven reiterative approach adopted in the five editions of 'Restart/Innesti Urbani'.

Implementing the Process Through Experimentation, Participation, and Narratives

The activity of the research team was developed through a sequence of n. 5 events, which took place from 2016 over n. 8 years, temporarily suspended from 2020 until 2023 due to the pandemic outbreak. The sixth intervention planned for 2024 is currently in the first step of concept.

Over the years, the implementation of the process involved a progressive enhancement, stemming from the deepening of the knowledge, the scalar and field enlargement of the investigation perspective, the diversity of the participation modes put in place, and the scenario-building techniques and narratives experimented.

Changing the Format

All the described process phases were maintained although changing and conceiving a different format of the yearly event. For the starting initiative, also launching the 'Restart/Innesti Urbani' branding, a seminar and round table were organised. The discovery phase focused on the state-of-the-art exploration of regeneration strategies portrayed through the speakers' contributions and the local community was involved as public to be informed about the limits and potentials of the reactivation project.

The following 2017 to 2019 events were structured as design workshops including different activities [Tab I](#) — representing the staging of a preparation work developed over the previous months — and organised as testbeds to experiment with the setting of different modes of community engagement, storytelling, and creativity, including a co-designed installation (2018 edition).

For the recent 2023 event, an exhibition was curated and set up also to last for educational purposes, and to be visited by school children for more than one month.

Finally, the 2024 concept envisages further experimentation: a digital database, collected through social media to delve into the potentials of representation stepping from the supported (by the team) to the autonomous (by the community), from the physical to the virtual.

Tab. II
Portrait of the 'Restart/
Innesti Urbani' editions.

1 / 2016 - INNESTIURBANI 2016 @ Casa 'Canudu Medde' (Oliena, NU)		
Initiative/Funding	Local association / Municipality	Level of participation informing Insights & Impacts: starting up the process exploring potentials
Format / Duration	round table, one day (10 Sept.)	
Players (research team/ stakeholders)	n. 12 Politecnico di Milano (Dip. ABC, Dip. Dastu); Università di Cagliari Istituto Mario Negri; Local community, Municipality	
Topic / Research question	Which are the current potentials and opportunities for historic small towns regeneration?	
Goal	Forestaging Oliena's historic centre regeneration	
Methodology	Multidisciplinary experts brainstorming	
2 / 2017 - INNESTIURBANI RE-START 2017 @ Sebastiano Satta Library (Oliena, NU)		
Initiative/Funding	Local association, Politecnico di Milano / Self-financing, support (hospitality) of the local community	Level of participation informing, scenario building Insights & Impacts: raising awareness (Formazione associazione Oliena Centro initial drafting of the scenario building (proposed scenarios)
Format / Duration	Workshop & seminar, 10 days (1-10 Sept.) Design workshop + open seminar (multidisciplinary international architects, researchers, local institutions experts and authorities)	
Players (research team/ stakeholders)	n.40 / Politecnico di Milano (Dip. ABC); Univ. di Cagliari; Univ. Di Cagliari, Tianjin University (Cina), Universidad de Alcalá de Henares (Spain) Universidad de Lisboa (Portugal); local community	
Topic / Research question	Which can be new or renewed economic and cultural activities for the regeneration of Oliena's historic centre?	
Goal	Exploring transformations, setting the problem for urban, architectural, economic, institutional feasibility checking	
Methodology	Research through design, dialogue and interaction with multidisciplinary experts	
3 / 2018 - INNESTIURBANI RE-START 2018 @ 'Corte Mulas' (Oliena, NU)		
Initiative/Funding	Local association / Fondazione Sardegna, Self-financing, support (hospitality) of the local community	Level of participation informing, consultation Insights & Impacts: shared understanding of the place
Format / Duration	Workshop, seminar & exhibition, 10 days (30 Aug - 9 Sept)	
Players (research team/ stakeholders)	n.25 / Politecnico di Milano (Dip. ABC; Dip. Design); Tianjin University (Cina), local community (Ass. OlienaCentro);	
Topic / Research question	How can we portray the landscape and the local heritage in a creative way?	
Goal	Sharing the experience of the local identities	
Methodology	Guided visits to emerging landscape and built heritage features, creative set-up for an exhibition of the findings, dialogue and interaction with multidisciplinary experts	
4 / 2019 - INNESTIURBANI RE-START @ Auditorium S. Satta / M. Ciusa Romagna (Oliena, NU)		
Initiative/Funding	Local association / Municipality, Self-financing, support (hospitality) of the local community	Level of participation informing, scenario building Insights & Impacts: deepening the understanding of immaterial legacy
Format / Duration	Workshop & seminar / 9 days (6-15 Sept)	
Players (research team/ stakeholders)	n. 30 / Politecnico di Milano (Dip. ABC; Dip. Design); Tianjin University (Cina), local community (Ass. OlienaCentro);	
Topic / Research question	How can we enhance immaterial heritage within the regeneration of the historic centre?	
Goal	Integrating material and immaterial heritage in the regeneration design	
Methodology	traditional events, arts and crafts experiences, research through design, results presentation through videos dialogue and interaction with multidisciplinary experts	
5 / 2023 - INNESTIURBANI 'DAE PREDAS NOSTRAS' @ Collegio Gesuiti (Oliena, NU)		
Initiative/Funding	Local association / Municipality, Self-financing, support (hospitality) of the local community	Level of participation informing, scenario building Insights & Impacts: New perspective on the local territory as a natural, cultural and social heritage sedimented in history; Autonomous active participation of citizens
Format / Duration	Workshop, seminar & exhibition / 20 days (9-30 Sept)	
Players (research team/ stakeholders)	n.15 Politecnico di Milano (Dip. ABC; Dip. Design); Tianjin University (Cina), local community (Ass. OlienaCentro);	
Topic/Research question	How can we foster citizen's awareness about the local territory as a natural, cultural and social heritage sedimented in history?	
Goal	Integrating urban and territorial heritage	
Methodology	Exploration of the territory, collective narratives, exhibition	
6 / 2024? - INNESTIURBANI (Oliena, NU)		

Moving on to the Steps of Participation

The enhancement of citizens' engagement in various levels and actions has acquired an increasing bottom-up character since its beginning, rising in number of people and group types involved.

In fact, referencing the ladder of citizens' participation (Arnstein, 1969) the first level of informing (in 2016 edition) was implemented with consultation (in 2018) and partnership (in 2023 and 2024).

In addition, the set of stakeholders and participants was enlarged to bring together inhabitants, experts, the locals related to and working with cultural heritage and in the territory, institutions,

and authorities in order, on the one hand, to encourage and facilitate engagement between groups of citizens, specialists, and governments (Li et al., 2020) and, on the other hand, to valorise local skills and place-specific knowledge (Harvey et al., 2002). Consortia, commercial, cultural, sport, and handicraft associations were partners in the different events according to the topic investigated, together with the Municipality and the LAG (Local Action Group), to offer the team of researchers a knowledge base with an increasing extension and depth of local heritage and cultural landscape, stressing the role of the broad communities in the process of protection and management (Court & Wijesuriya, 2015).

In fact, they took part in different phases of the methodology starting with the discovery and then adding the definition and delivery step. Local stakeholders specifically contributed to the ongoing process of knowledge development in the organization of immersive explorations, guided tours of the place, and shared social and learning experiences thus providing unique insights to the experience of the sites.

Moreover, the various stakeholders and the research team interact in a social learning activity (Manzini, 2015) that stimulates collaboration in social groups, in different ways for each edition.

The community role and awareness increased when involved in the recent initiatives, contributing to the design and setting-up of the 2018 installation and engaged in the participatory mapping leading to the curation of the 2023 exhibition, providing a deeper and original interpretation of the geographical, cultural, historical, economic, and social background of the place.

Over the years, with the iteration of the different interventions, greater autonomy of the stakeholders emerged and will be further tested, which will allow the process to run even in the absence of the team of researchers. In fact, moving from passive to active participation (Rifkin & Kangare, 2001) represents on the one hand an opportunity to enhance a shared cultural identity and sense of belonging and on the other hand a possibility for individuals and communities to “challenge themselves to expand their capacity of expression, to re-negotiate their expectations and beliefs, to reshape their own social identity” (Sacco et al., 2018).

Setting-up the Narratives

The ‘Restart/Innesti Urbani’ activities experimented with storytelling practices to foster the raising of the population’s awareness of their cultural identity value and the participatory construction of future scenarios of urban regeneration. Indeed, if, on the one hand, collective community storytelling (Anzoise et al., 2014; Czarniawska, 2004) is part of a consolidated co-design practice of strengthening the shared memory and relations between members of the local society, on the other hand, the construction of narratives can allow for the introduction of new elements of reflection. It can stimulate and enrich a creative approach within the design-driven process, where cultural heritage can bring unexplored insights, conceiving and sharing new elements of development stemming from stakeholders’ interests and knowledge about the sites (Maye & Claisse, 2023).

The value of storytelling emerged in the initial stages of exploration and pre-site knowledge in the design process, as well as in the more advanced stages of scenario development and delivery. This was achieved by varying the role and relationship between storytellers and listeners, experimenting with mediums and modes of communication, and moving within different themes in the various events.

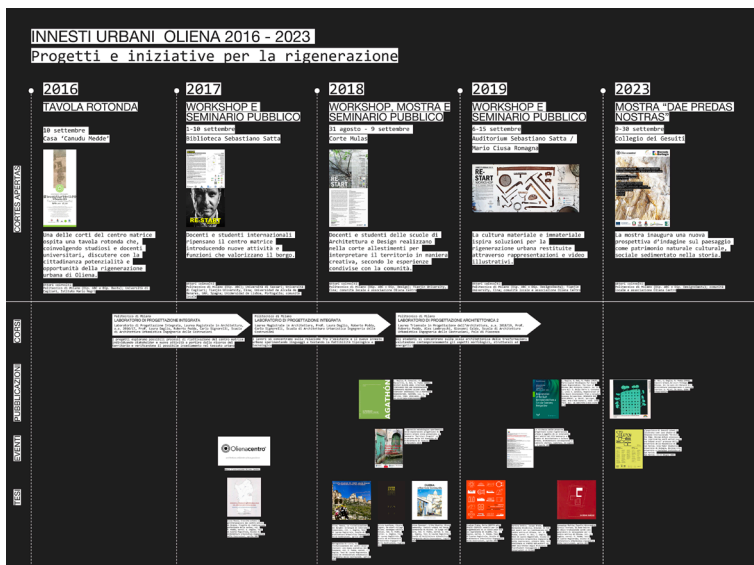
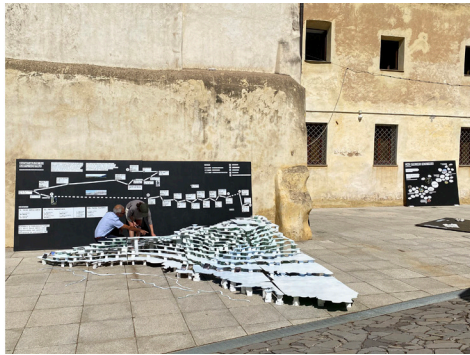


Fig. 3 Introductory panel of the exhibition 'Dae Predas Nostras'; a synoptic representation of the performed activities over the years.

The topics narrated in the exploration phase drew directly from the tangible and intangible cultural heritage, the existing built environment, and the immaterial living testimonies of the local identity. The importance of themes linked to certain emerging activities, such as new economies and networks related to the enhancement of the natural and archaeological heritage (e.g. tourist guides) or sports (e.g. climbing, speleology, biking), were also brought to light allowing to introduce new perceptions of the heritage.

The role of the narrators and listeners involved in the storytelling during the field experimentation succeeded in fostering citizens' engagement and the construction of new narratives. On the one hand, the guidance of adults and elderly inhabitants as bearers of memory was enriched by the contribution of the young members of the community, who brought a novel interpretation of the values and use of the territory. On the other hand, the mediation role of the research team and the involvement of young Italian and foreign researchers contributed to the setting of new scenarios.

The insight emerging from this experimentation in constructing narratives allowed to experiment a higher autonomy of the community in the construction and narration of future scenarios. Accordingly, the next planned edition will assign the inhabitants the task of selecting the themes and beginning the construction of the narratives to be debated in the final September public seminar managed by the team of researchers, thus testing a new format to reiterate the process.



4
The Casa Calamida temporarily reused for the 2018 event now hosts a permanent photo exhibition on historic Oliena and its population.

5
The Oliena Centro association asked the municipality to continuously manage the unused ancient Jesuit College that hosted the last edition of Restart for educational purposes, exhibitions and events.

Fig. 4
'Restart/Innesti Urbani' 2023. Views of the exhibition *Dae Predas Nostras*.

Conclusion

Although, as an iterative process, the 'Restart/Innesti Urbani' project builds on results emerging each time from the previous intervention, and each further step requires an evaluation of the achievements, new resources, critical issues, and values, especially in the face of the new global emergencies and developments (Roberts et al., 2017), it is possible to categorise at least two types of outcomes. One stems from the research and design activity developed over the past eight years and the second emerges from indirect signals of the raised awareness and the real renovation interventions started or completed.

In the first case, the research activity collected, on the one hand, a significant amount of knowledge about the place and its environmental, tangible and intangible heritage, albeit still requiring a systematisation to be disseminated and deployed as a consolidated background for future activities. On the other hand, a likewise considerable volume of organised design explorations, including strategic, feasibility, and planning studies focused on selected plots and systems of open spaces, demonstrates the viability of a possible regeneration and sustainable development of the area.

In the second case, the participated activities of knowledge transfer, of consultation about the reactivation directions, the training for the scenario building practice, and thus the ability to see beyond the limits of the existing condition, indeed succeeded in raising and enlarging the community awareness, in augmenting the engagement till acquiring an active and autonomous role in launching proposals also beyond the scheduled Autumn events. In fact, since the second workshop organised in 2017, a group of citizens gathered in the new Oliena Centro Association, established to actively promote and support the initiative for the reactivation of the historic centre. Moreover, the different locations selected for each of the yearly events in abandoned buildings show the real possible reuse disclosing new adaptability scenarios. In two cases, such a transformation took place⁴ or was started⁵ as evident albeit minor result of the process developed. In addition, new hospitality structures thrive in purposely renovated buildings of the historic centre. Therefore, the still ongoing process will develop new augmented and enriched modes to achieve the goals of investigating the reactivation perspective and valorising

the cultural heritage and its transmission as a legacy to responsibly take care of and enhance.

However, the 'Restart/Innesti Urbani' project, founded by a small group of inhabitants, in spite of the enlarged and activated participation, is conditioned by its predominantly spontaneous and bottom-up nature in terms of long duration and available investments. Successful regeneration depends on multiple interested parties collaborating over the long term and requires a balance between local initiative and extra-local, often financial, support (Powe, 2015). Only recently, during the 2024 event, has the Municipality acknowledged the increasing involvement and awareness of the population, thus politically and financially supporting the kick-off of the 'Innesti Urbani' project as permanent living lab for participated activities, hopefully paving the path for institutionalised initiatives to start private and public funding research and enlarge the partners at a regional and national level. Although cultural, social and political long-term impacts can be accordingly recognised, new economic processes are yet to be triggered and evaluated and difficult to control.

Giuseppe Boi

Architect and Ph.D. in Architectural and Urban Design - DASTU Department of the Politecnico di Milano, carries out research activities related to the reactivation practices of minor urban centers and inland areas. Co-Director of the '#InnestiUrbani - ReStart Workshop'.

Barbara Camocini

Architect and Ph.D. in Interior Architecture and Design, she is an Associate Professor in the Design Department of Politecnico di Milano, where she studies the processes of interior Adaptive Reuse, particularly of living, work, and educational spaces, including the consequent strategies of place reactivation at the urban and territorial scale.

Laura Daglio

Architect and Ph.D. she is an Associate Professor in Architectural Technology at the ABC Department of Politecnico di Milano, Italy, where she carries out research activities in the field of environmental design and sustainability for both new construction and the place-based regeneration of building urban and landscape heritage.

Roberto Podda

Ph.D, MA, BArch at Politecnico di Milano. From 2009 to 2019, he taught at Politecnico di Milano, and since 2019, he has been an Associate Professor of Architecture at Xi'an Jiaotong - Liverpool University. From 2019 to 2021, he was the Director of the Under-Graduate program at XJTLU. Since 2023, he is Director of the Sino/Italian Urban Regeneration HUB at XJTLU School of Design.

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