



Workshop

Battery Park District. Arbatax-Tortolì Evolutionary City

The main urban challenge(s) tackled by the project. The main urban challenge tackled by the project is the fight against the abandonment through the valorisation of the area called Battery Park (Parco Batteria) of 40.551 sq.m., through an integrated naturalistic-cultural itinerary.

It is a peripheral part of Arbatax in the municipal territory of Tortolì the most populous and economically important municipality in Ogliastra (Sardegna). The context area is a hill that during the first and second world war, was used by the military. Thanks to the strategic position, military defended the territory, and above all the Port - a point at higher risk of attack, through anti-naval and anti-aircraft batteries. The incredibly beautiful panorama sweeps like an amphitheatre from the Gennargentu mountains to the Tortolì plain and the Gulf of Arbatax. The municipality and the concessionaire of the area aim at "the enhancement of an integrated naturalistic-cultural itinerary through the development of RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL COMPATIBLE ACTIVITIES, concerning natural areas, as long as they do not conflict with the needs of naturalistic protection and in full respect of ecological functionality".

The proposed project aims to enter into the debate between cultural goods and economic-social good. On the one hand, it highlights the complex patrimonial dimension, which has placed at the centre of attention the cultural value of historical and natural territories as a quality factor and, therefore, a possible driving force for the development of different settlement contexts. On the other hand, there is a vision that recognises, in those same resources and material presences, a fixed capital waiting to be put to use. It seems real today that the engine for the reactivation of the natural and historical heritage can be tourism. Moreover, the mechanisms linked to real estate capital prefer to concentrate investments on renowned landscapes and consolidated areas. There is such growing concern that the urban real-estate market will once again feed a mechanism that distances the tourism project from the real needs of individuals and communities. In our analysis, the Battery Park District actual state is linked to:

- 1) the relevance of its geographical position;
- 2) the contraction of economic growth (stagnation of private investments);
- 3) the lack of "modern" urban public, private and collective services (which are required by the evolution of the models of social life and use of the city and define the quality of citizenship in the contemporary European society). This situation of abandonment motivated part of the local population to commit acts of vandalism that have exacerbated the situation of degradation of the main battery structures (now protected) located at different levels of the hill.

Since these three factors are interlinked and active as circular causes on the present condition of abandonment of Battery Park District, the proposal tackles the challenge with an intervention working on them. We address this challenge since the experience worldwide shows that in a situation of abandonment the next scenario is very likely to be the loss and dispersion of the cultural heritage and an "artificial" and globalised city, taking place with the intervention of the real estate.

Worldwide, if we look at most of the natural areas transformation projects, we see built contexts that are mainly the result of real estate operations. The search for the capital production-reproduction characterises these even at the cost of communities, people and their lives. Built and natural areas, are becoming financial products, where public good values such as cultural heritage and built and natural capitals, are taken into consideration only in their capacity of maximising profit. Tourism is no exception, and in some cases, the recognised economic value doesn't mean valorisation of the public good. Our proposal aims to avoid the transformation of Battery Park District into a tight space to the low-middle classes and, or the more marginalised due to the dizzying increase of the cost of services. Starting from the demonstration of how private speculative real estate activity can transform the city's historic and natural areas, we aim to counter the negative repercussions and contradictions of the capitalist city's ways of transformation.

Proposed solution. Battery Park District that until now was neither transformed, nor maintained has to be transformed in a renowned touristic centre.

We intervene on its three challenges defining a whole project within an integrated approach that determine the plan and the result of its impact monitoring (Metropolitan Cartography). The Arbatax-Tortolì Battery Park District proposal is based on a cross-cutting, non-linear scientific method for integration between a structured system of projects and a participatory process approach to provide an alternative to the city's mode of production, bringing new life to urban planning based on the principles of equality, inclusion and civility.

1) To enhance its geographical position, we propose a mapping process through open-source data (Metropolitan Cartography), remote sensing and OSM of the territorial state of the context necessary to establish a local community project dedicated to local strategic value implementation.

2) To counteract the economic stagnation, we propose an integral project.

First, we want to analyse the relationships between Ogliastra Region and the metropolitan area of Cagliari. The question of research between Battery Park, its district and the Port, which can attract investments (in the social, economic and energy spheres) on the heritage of local material and immaterial culture. It is a project of urban regeneration that starts from the integrated accessibility between the two historical centres (Arbatax and Tortoli), and that through their connection transforms the district, currently considered peripheral, in a new centrality and incentives so the return of investments.

The project, through alternative proposals of collaborative urban regeneration of the areas leveraging heritage and culture to also regenerate the socio-economic realm through participation and innovation.

3) To contrast the lack of "modern" urban services and products (right to the city) necessary for the evolution of new social models and community (right to the lifestyle), we define local product development actions able to activate new productive processes related to food and wine and related supplies. The reactivation of ancient trades is connected to the study of historical references linked to territorial intelligence and competences (The Sixth Framework Programme (FP6)). That brings us back, more than anything else, to the recovery of ancient fruits, wood, linens and canapés, to the horticultural production rich in traditional and precious varieties—the production of cheese, but also to stone, iron and ceramics.

New productions linked to ancient skills reactivated, attract new "futurist" inhabitants: city users, city commuters and city businessmen. These will have different lifestyles, unique needs and therefore the demand for new services such as integrated mobility, welfare places, schools, places for relaxation. For a collaborative urban regeneration, the process will be leveraging on heritage and culture as means for inclusion (spatial and social), prosperity (reviving tradition through innovation), productivity (creating integrated access

to the productive territorial system through the physical and virtual access) and sustainability (environmental inclusion and protection).

That involves the creation of innovative governance and ownership model, able to activate new production processes for the collaborative urban regeneration of abandoned, underutilized sites, leveraging heritage and culture also to regenerate the socio-economic realm through participation and social innovation.

As such, the project identifies five thematic domains of systemic and inter-related change through which organise the various activities:

- 1)Cultural Tourism
- 2)Cultural Landscapes
- 3)Arts and Cultural Drivers
- 4)Territorial Productivity (Agri-food productions and Culinary traditions)
- 5)Social Inclusion and Innovation

The identified solutions to the challenge mentioned above are therefore in the form of a meta-project that sets the framework and starts implementing a collaborative and integrated regenerative process of the Battery Park District while developing the organisational environment for its linkage to the broader territory and the harbour.

Acquired competence. The approach: innovate to invent something that changes the rules
In our proposal, Battery Park District within Arbatax-Tortolì municipalities are understood as an *Evolutionary city*. Our vision and approach first clarified the issue and the processes – occurring at different scales – that concurred to determine it. Then, we plan an intervention not on the question directly, but on the factors that could determine the challenge (as circular and non-linear causes according to our vision of complexity). Our method differentiates from today typical development practices, which could manipulate the identity of a historical place without producing a sustainable long term project, but only a private and not collective project (Planning gentrification and risk).

A widespread vision. First of all, the participants will acquire an interscalar vision in which the Battery Park District is located within the vast area of Ogliastra. The coast and its valleys are the reference system and Cagliari the related metropolitan area. Considered within this dimension the Battery Park District project is paradigmatic because it does not find the park only as a single and separate case, but as a "spark" that can trigger transformations in the whole area. The leap in scale is made necessary by the current moment in the history of the world that we call Anthropocene. The Battery Park District project that intervenes on the causes of the abandonment of the area is an effect of contemporaneity. It is an innovative practice project too. It is a project that cannot be solved in the Battery Park, but that from the local scale recalls political choices that give answers at another level to the need for a change of geography, society and politics for space policies. The way to conceive the area strategy for our project is, according to the DPS. 2013, the purpose of indicating the guide-ideas to modify the negative trends in the territory. Results achieved in terms of quality citizens' life, and actions through which to pursue these objectives, revolve around innovative pivotal points not directly acting on the issue but its causes. Concerning that context which could be the role of the Metropolitan Architecture Project?

Prompts for urban authorities. According to our method, municipal authorities are invited to test innovative solutions to manage demographic trends, to attract relevant economic activities for sustainable urban development from one side, and to counterbalance the effects of demographic decline. Without being prescriptive in terms of the types of projects expected, the Arbatax – Tortolì cities are invited to consider in particular the following points and issues (Strategia Nazionale per le Aree Interne , Dps 2013):

- 1) access to community-based social and health services, incentivising labour force participation through cultural heritage management and improvement; child/elderly care

solutions, improve quality of life including through participatory methods with a focus on gender and inter-generational dialogue;

2) accessibility and sustainability of essential public services;

3) reorganisation of existing civil infrastructure and services;

4) improvement of land use and public buildings;

5) development of society 2.0 and 4.0

6) development of the "silver economy";

7) strengthening the active labour force by retaining and requalifying the local one and attracting productive workers;

8) stimulating local entrepreneurship, especially for the new young population.

They are reinforcing the capacity of labour market institutions, vocational education, training facilities and life-long learning. In parallel with larger cities, we strongly think that attention could also be devoted to smaller and medium-sized shrinking cities. Innovative solutions require an urban-rural interface or functional area approach, such as in Battery Park District. It will be possible under this topic to include local administrative units defined as rural according to their degree of urbanisation or biodiversity values, the harbour and the coast (blue economy) within a joint project partnership.

Every city, to make decisions linking the urban to regional metabolism, needs a tool that helps politicians to define objectives based on SDGs and their impact indicators.

Our Design Thinkers approach (the designer produces innovation through experimentation in the field) wants to change the typical rules of the managerial procedure. Our method starts from the problem (issue) and proposes a vision: what we can do. Then it acts by innovating, making even wrong decisions (it is an experiment). Then it allows us to learn through the creation of a balance between existing proposals that are recalibrated concerning the original context. That creates a budget of mistakes, as data history—fundamental material for the transferability of the project and its implementation.

Workshop Draft Program

12.10.

Morning_ Arrival in Cagliari and transfer with mini van to Tortolì.

Afternoon _ Preliminary meeting (the time will be established according to the arrival time of the participants)

13.10_ Visit to the Project and Ogliastre area

14.10_

Morning_ Workshop

Afternoon_ Introduction to the area from the regional scale, to the subway to the local.

Lessons offered by local and international experts

15.10_ Seminar with the participation of Local Governments

16.10_ Workshop+ Pill Lesson

17.10_ Workshop+ Pill Lesson

18.10_ Final Review

20.10_ Bays trekking

21.10_ Bays trekking

22.10_ Bays trekking

23.10_ Departure for Milan

Workshop _ Info

Date: 12.10/22.10

Place: Arbatax-Tortolì

Language: English

Credit: 4cfu

Fee: The fees required will be in proportion to the number of participants and may not exceed 200 euros.

Facilities: The organizers will provide us with accommodation at an affordable price and a lunch at a set price.

Participants: The workshop will take place when the minimum number of 10 participants is reached. Participants will have to book their own trip (plane or ferry) with arrival in Cagliari, and pay for board and lodging.

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Note: In addition, we propose also two-day excursion organized by the association “Salinas Escursioni” (<http://www.supramonteselvaggio.it/contatti-salinas-excursioni.html>)

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