di Luca Negrini

I'M_MIGRANT

Tesi di Laura Magistrale di Architettura
BAS Bergen Architecture School 2016
Lampedusa

“Sleep, dear Chevalley, the Sicilians want Sleep and they always hate the one who wants to wake them, even if he would bring them the most beautiful presents; the Sicilians never want to improve for the simple reason that they think themselves perfect; their vanity is stronger than their misery; every invasion by outsiders, whether so by origin or, if Sicilian, by independence of spirit, upsets their illusion of achieved perfection, risks disturbing their satisfied waiting for nothing”

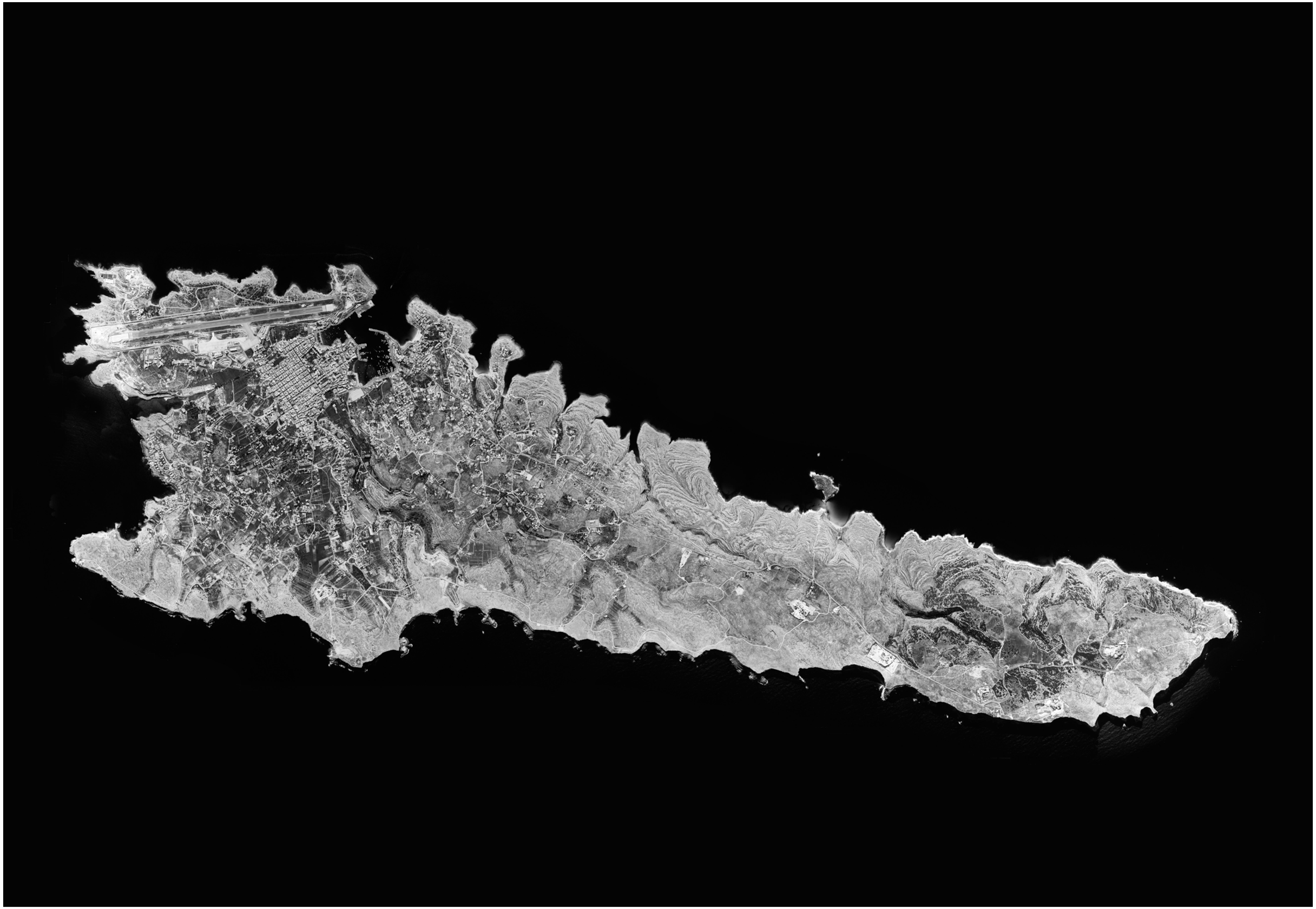
da “Il Gattopardo” , Tomasi di Lampedusa

INTERPRETING THE MATTER OF CONSTANT TRANSITION FOR THE DIFFERENT ACTORS INHABITING LAMPEDUSA (ITALY) AND GATHERING THEIR COMMON NEEDS TOGETHER WITH WHAT THE ISLAND IS LACKING.

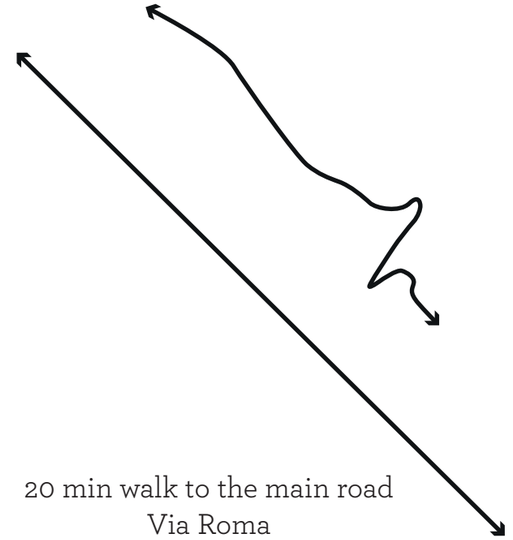
The island of Lampedusa has for many years seen a constant flow of newcomers and tourists, staying only for a short period of time and then leaving. This has brought significant changes to the Lampedusian society that is slowly abandoning local traditions and methods in order to prioritize tourism. Through the creation of a meeting space, the project aims to exploit the big flow of people in a positive way to create different opportunities among the people inhabiting the island.

The project aims to fill up what the Island and its people are lacking and, at the same time, have a symbolic value as landmark and memory of what Lampedusa has been going through in the last years.

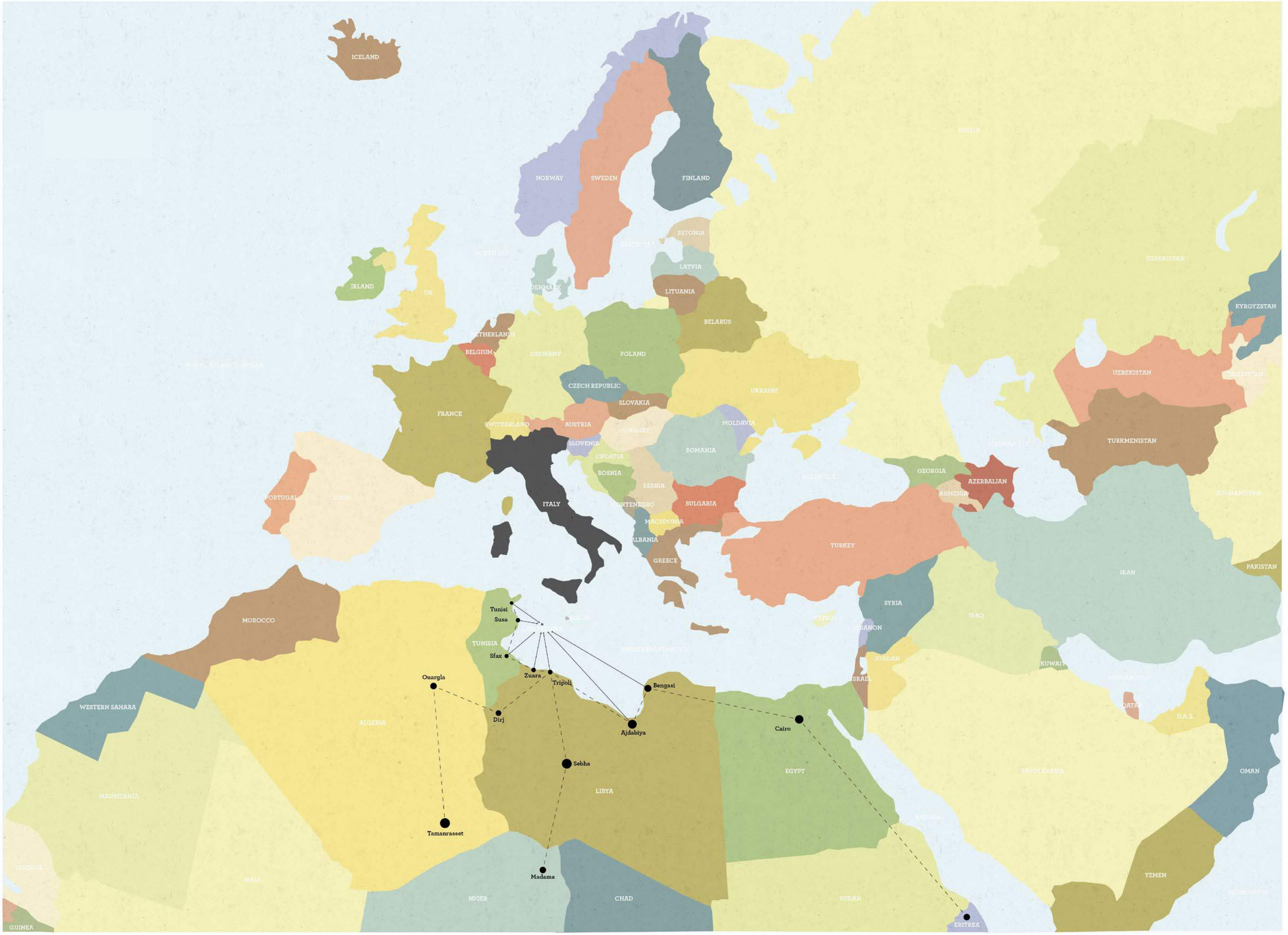
My reaction to the reality of this small Mediterranean Island, full of contradictions and potential, is a “bridge building” which wants to connect the main town street to the sea and be a clear response to the actual stillness of the government and local authorities in front of the current situation.



The Welcoming Center



20 min walk to the main road
Via Roma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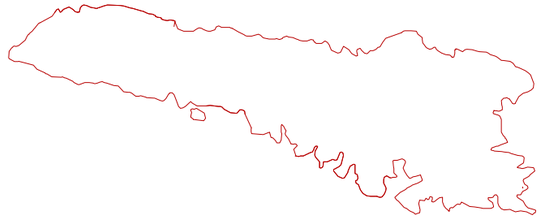
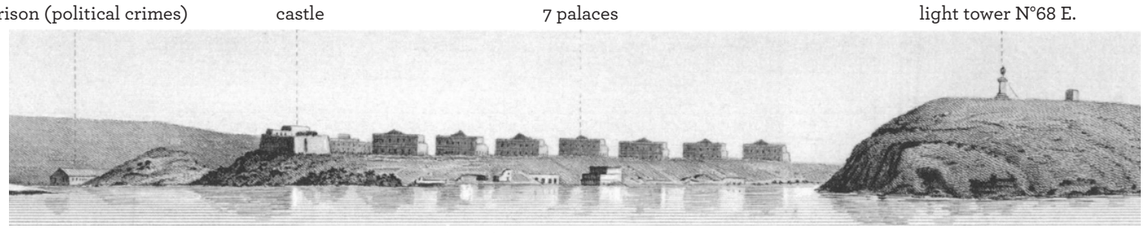
GERMANY
POLAND
CZECH REPUBLIC
SLOVAKIA
UKRAINE
FRANCE
SWITZERLAND
AUSTRIA
HUNGARY
MOLDAVIA
SLOVENIA
CROATIA
ROMANIA
BOSNIA
SERBIA
PORTUGAL
SPAIN
ITALY
MONTENEGRO
BULGARIA
MACEDONIA
ALBANIA
GREECE
TURKEY
GEORGIA
AZERBAIJAN
ARMENIA
UZBEKISTAN
KYRGYZSTAN
TURKMENISTAN
IRAN
PAKISTAN
SYRIA
IRAQ
JORDAN
KUWAIT
MOROCCO
WESTERN SAHARA
ALGERIA
TUNISIA
Tunisi
Susa
Sfax
Zuara
Tripoli
Ouargla
Dirj
Bengasi
Ajdabiya
Cairo
Sebha
LIBYA
EGYPT
Tamanrasset
Madama
NIGER
CHAD
SUDAN
ERITREA
YEMEN
OMAN
MAURITANIA
GUINEA

Italian centers for immigration

Lampedusa



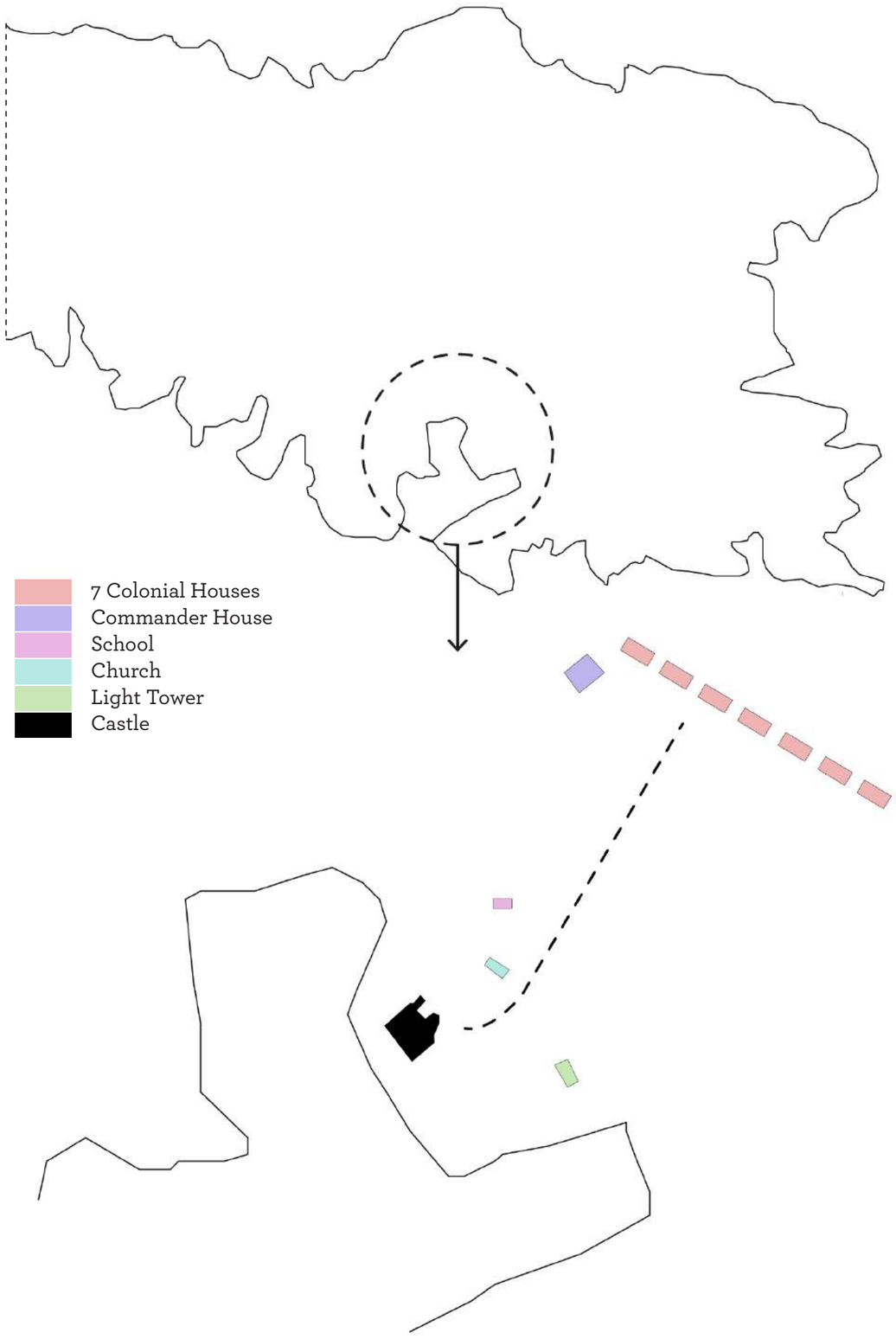
HISTORY

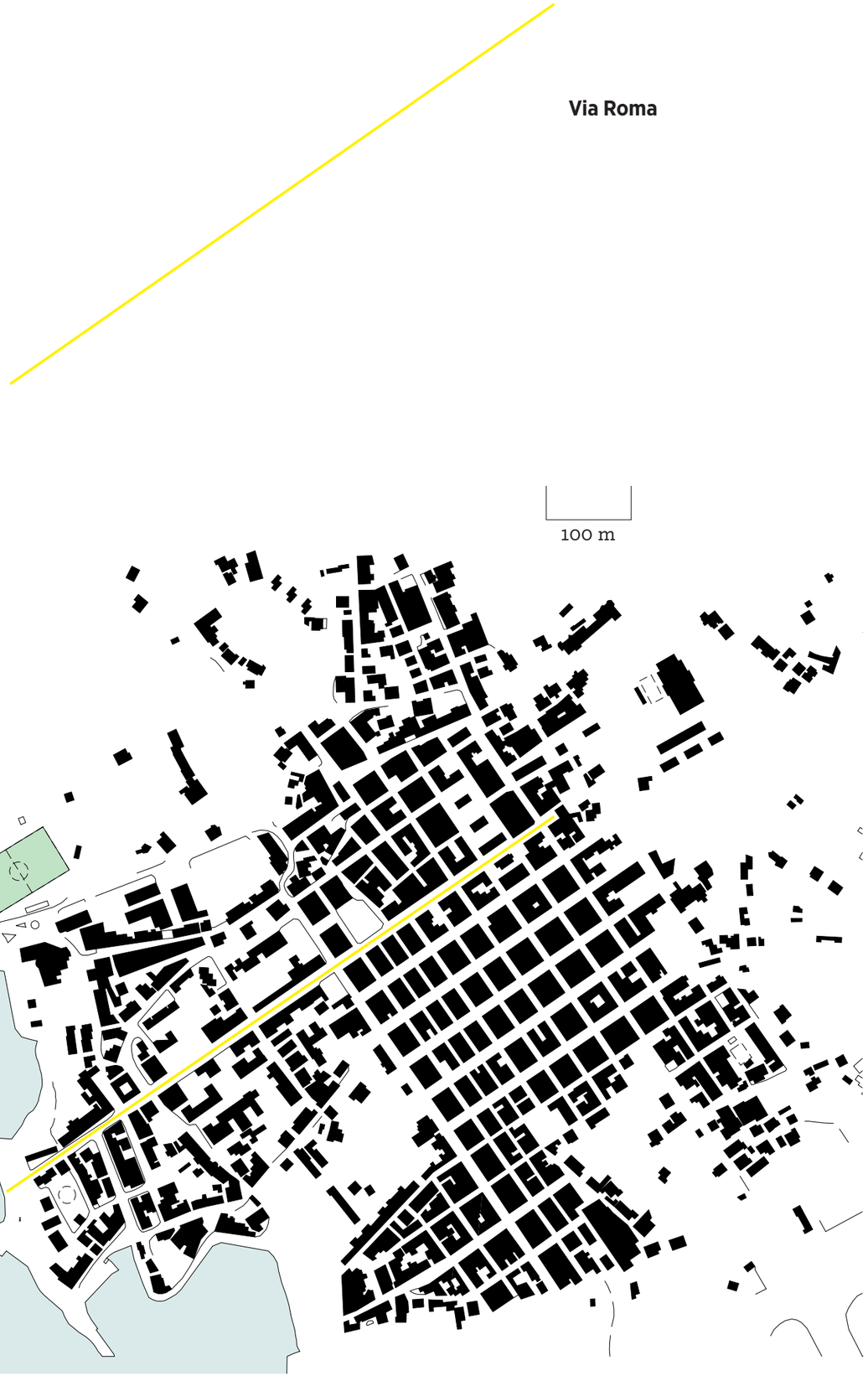


Lampedusa: dalla Preistoria al 1878, G. Fragapane

In 1839 the Island is Bought by Ferdinando II the King. Sanvisente with the title of Governor landed in Lampedusa together with 120 settlers with the job of making the whole island cultivable.
They started reusing anything they could find such as water tanks, mills, etc. and they started constructing the first buildings: customhouse, furnaces, warehouses.
After 5 years the number of settlers increases from 100 to 700 and this was the time of the so called " great development": 7 Palaces with 10 apartments each (this represents the start of the orthogonal grid), houses, streets, medical centers, cemetery and extension of the church were built.
Later the government decided that Lampedusa would become a place for exiles and imprisonment for around 1000 people.
One of the results of these massive interventions on the territory is the destruction of the natural landscape and the beginning of a fast process of desertification.
Officially in 1872 the Island is converted into Penal Colony by the Italian State. In 1887 a wealthy period for the population of Lampedusa starts dued to the discovery of precious sponges that started being sold to Africa, Turkey and Greece.
During the Second World War, dued to its strategic position, Lampedusa was central for military stations and operations and the population has been urged to leave the Island.
In 1951 a power station was built and this allowed the completion of the orthogonal grid and new infrastructures.
Fishing takes over agriculture.
In 1975 a LORAN NATO base is built together with Hospital and schools.
In 1986 Libya threatens to bomb the NATO base and the news is all over the newspapers and this actually brought something new to the island: Tourism.

DEVELOPMENT





NEW COMERS

NEEDS:

- place for sleeping
- food
- wifi
- activities

SLEEP - EAT - REPEAT

TOURISTS

NEEDS:

- wifi
- cinema
- (social) dinners
- activities

A SOCIAL HOLIDAY

FISHERMEN

NEEDS:

- fish-market platform

- Fishermen Association meetings hall

- workshops where to share tecniques

A TRADITION THAT IS GETTING LOST

LOCALS

NEEDS:

- library

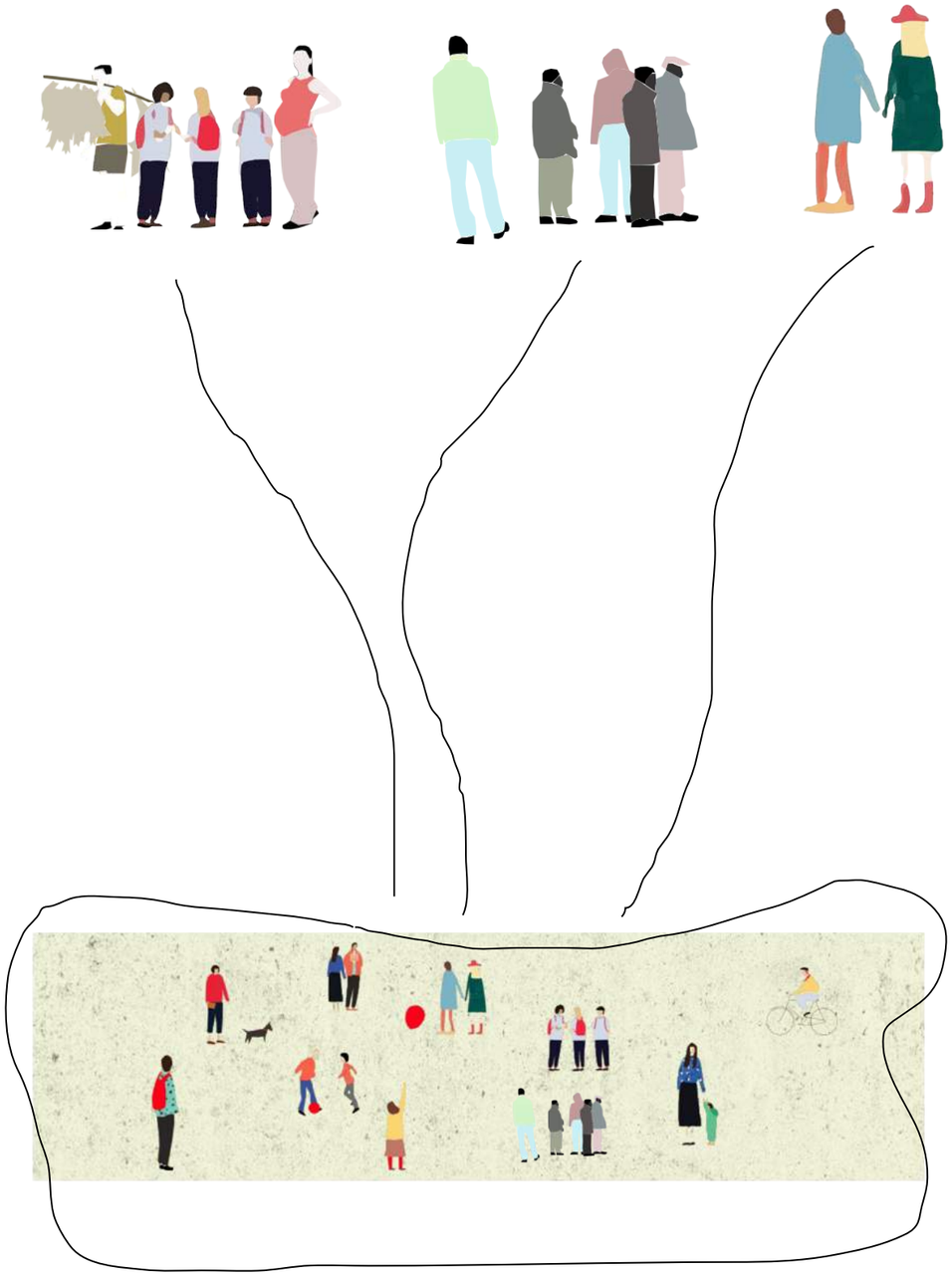
- fun-playhouse

- bookshop

- midwifery center

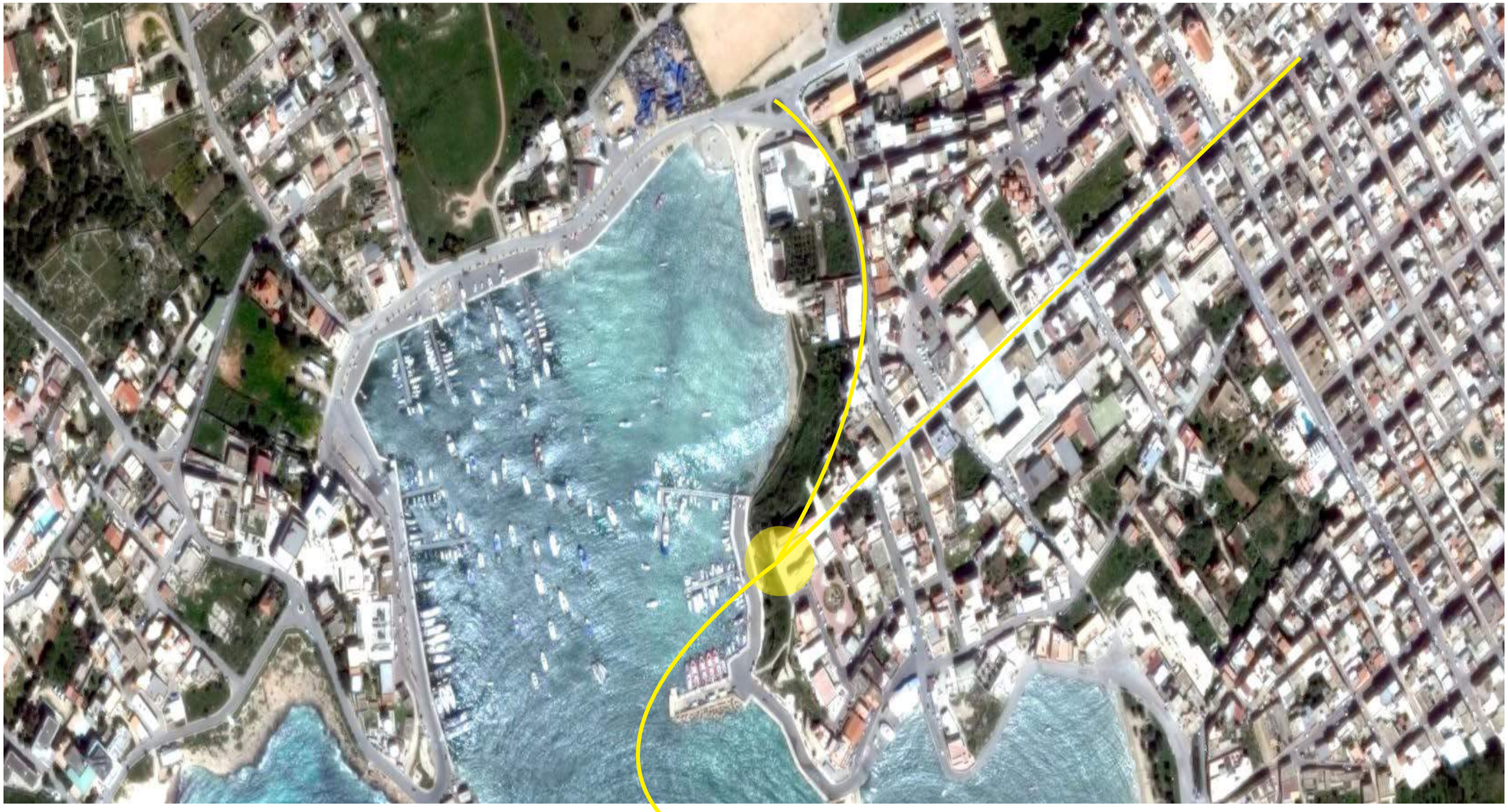
THEIR RIGHT TO STAY and BELONGING

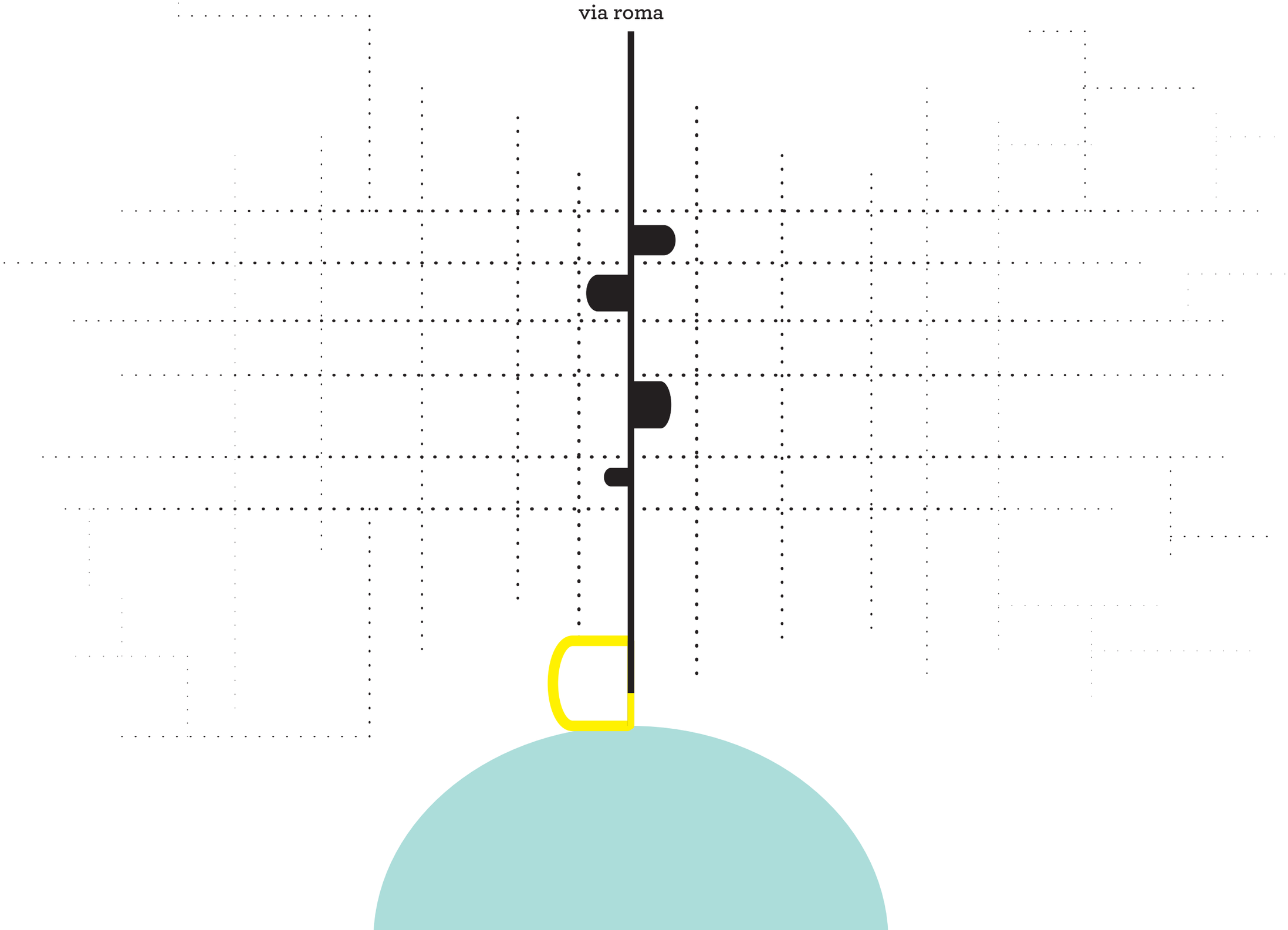
HOW ?



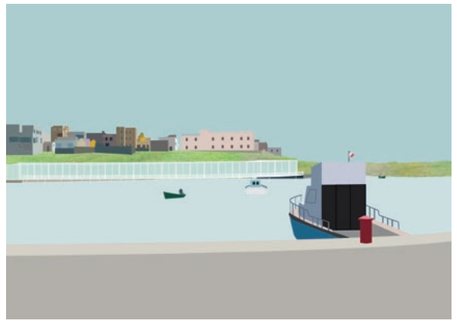
WHERE ?

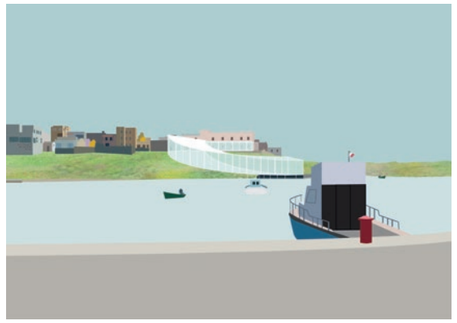
By studying the paths undertaken by all the people on the Island it is possible to understand where a spontaneous meeting point is created.

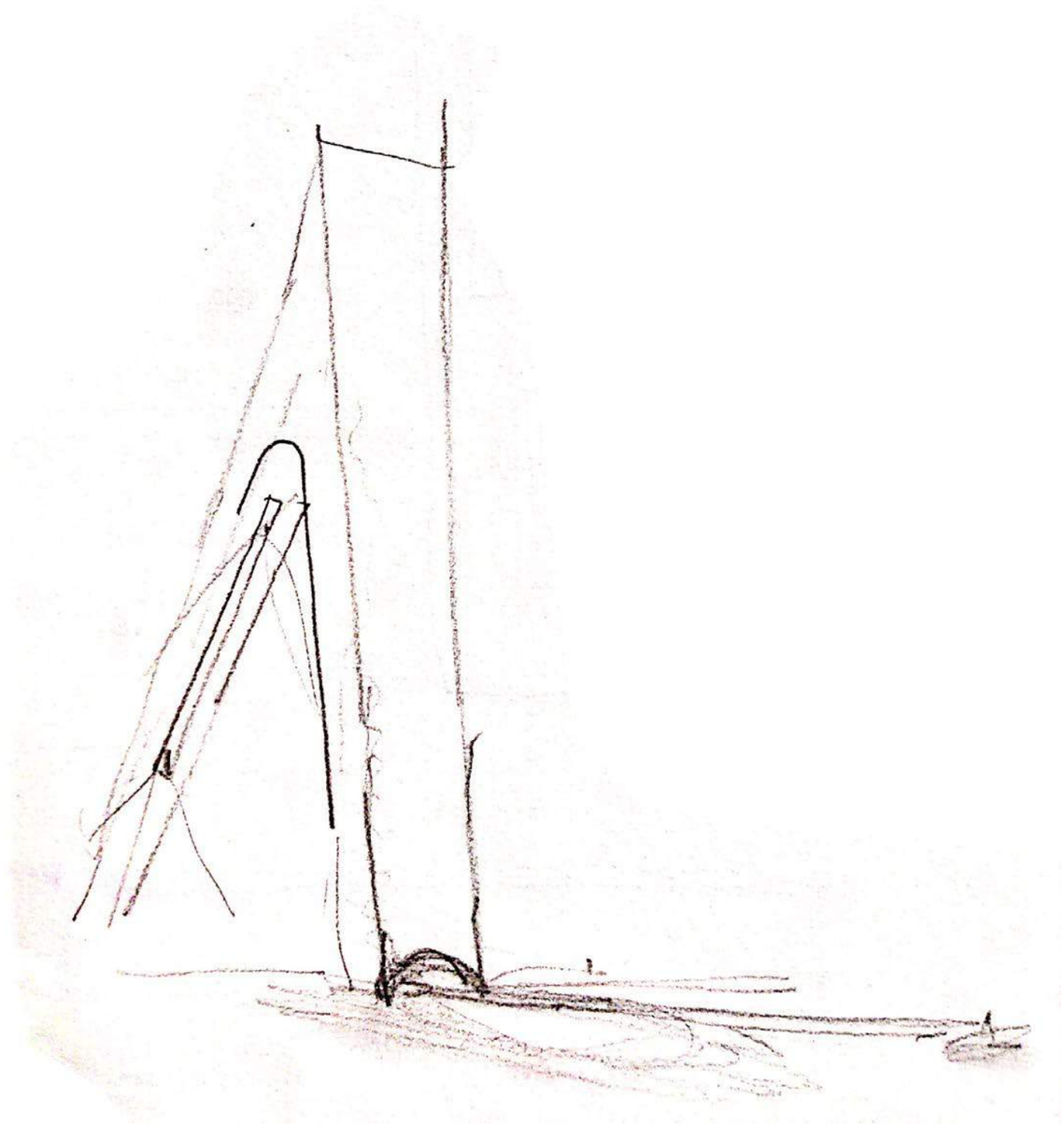



via roma

Formal experiments







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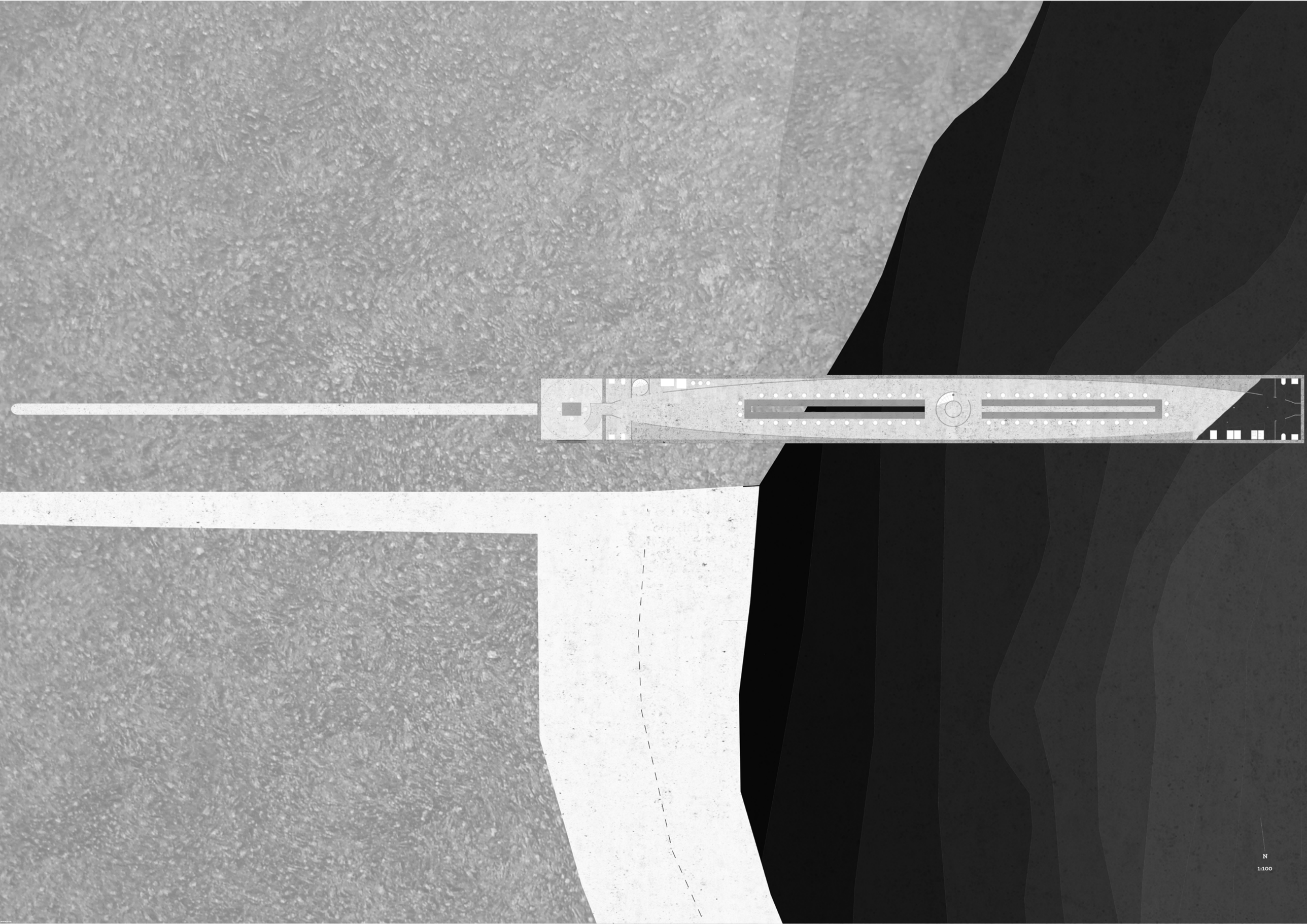
N


N
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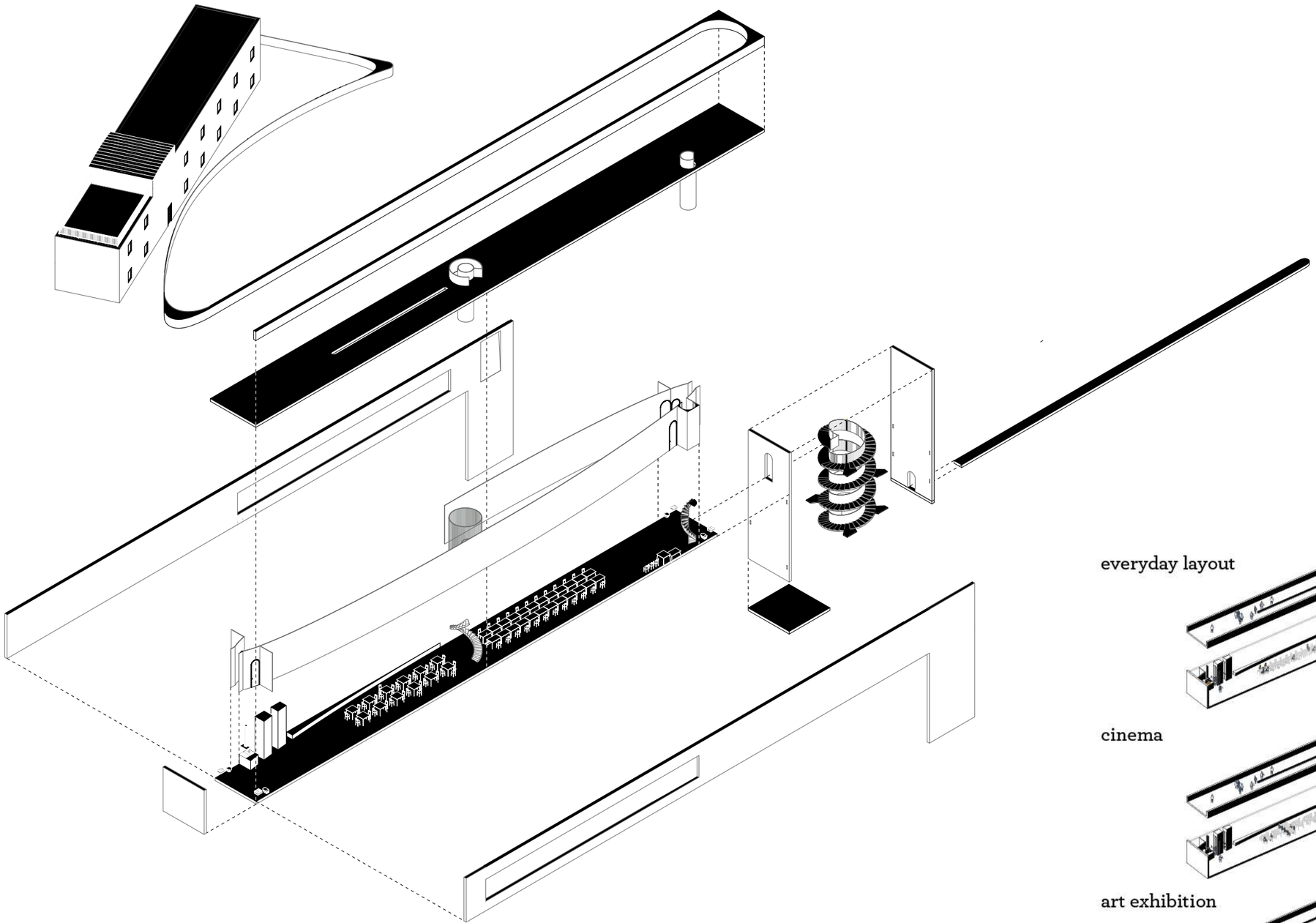
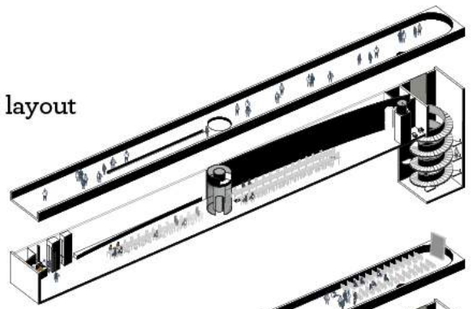
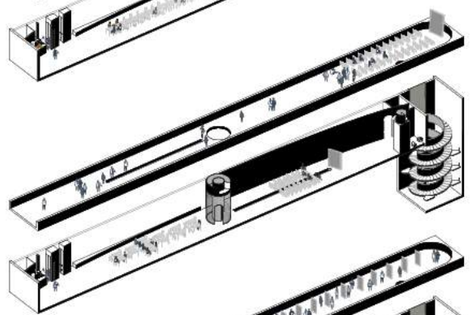
Axonometry
Intervention



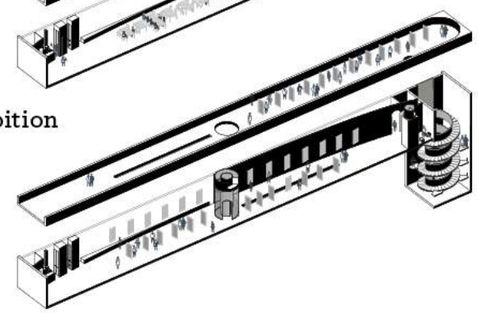
everyday layout

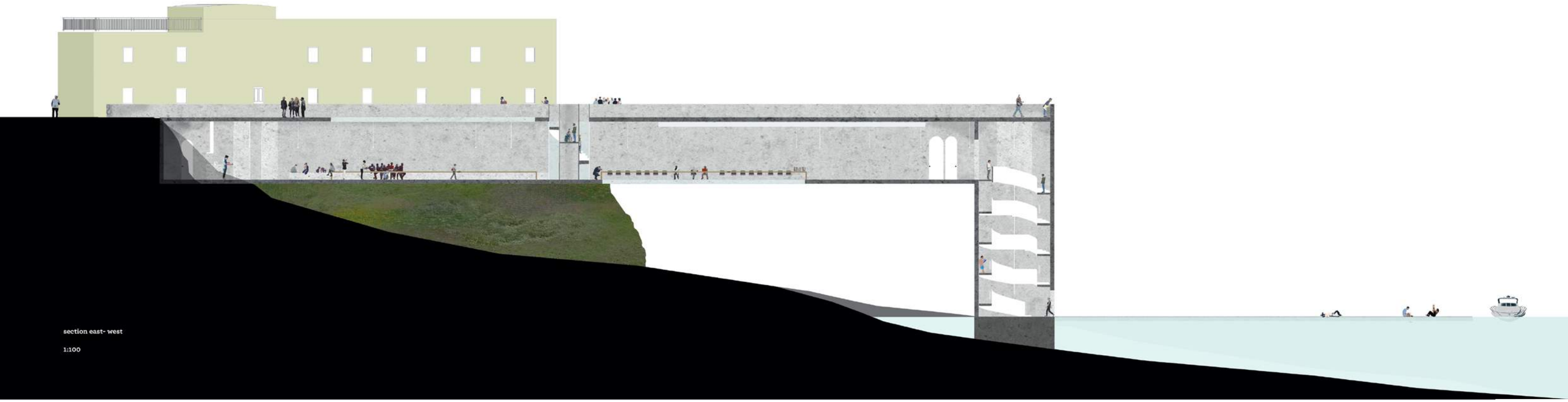


cinema



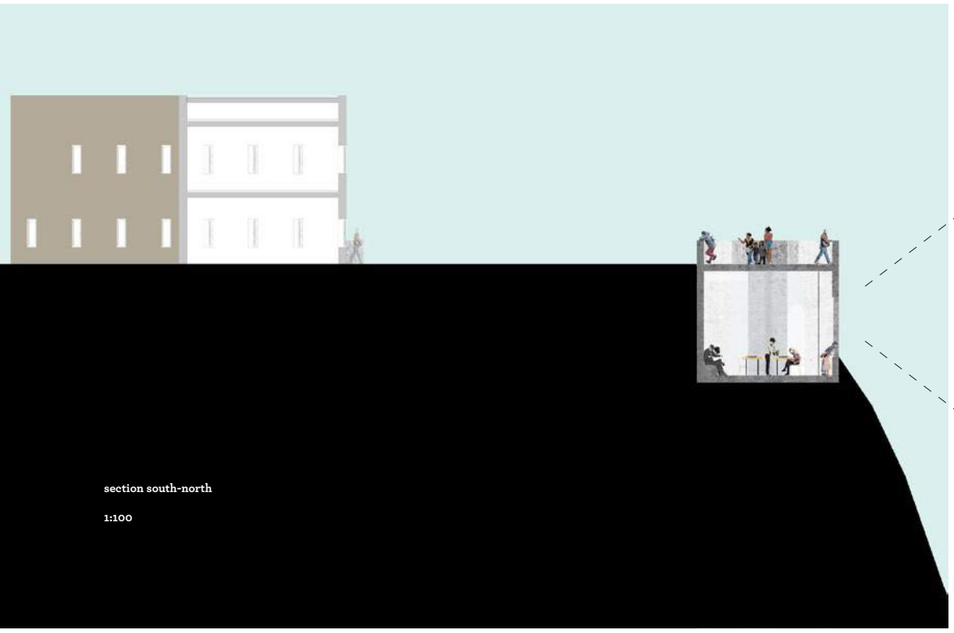
art exhibition





section east- west

1:100



section south-north

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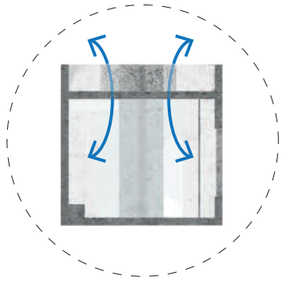
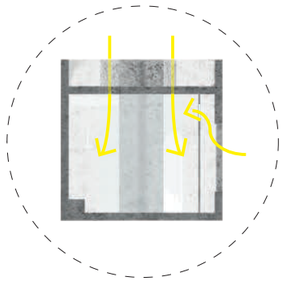
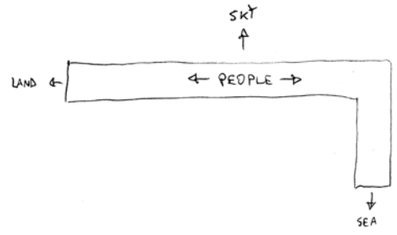
air circulation

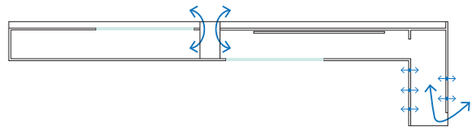


source of natural light

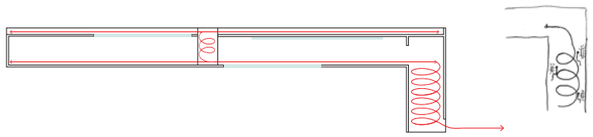




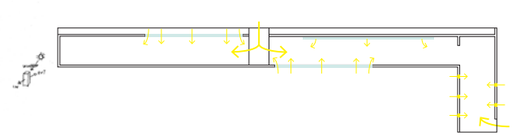
main air circulation

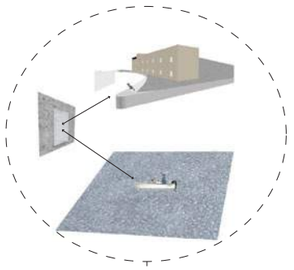


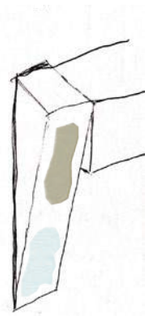
circulation



source of natural light







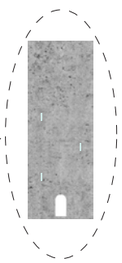
SYMBOLICALLY A LIGHTHOUSE

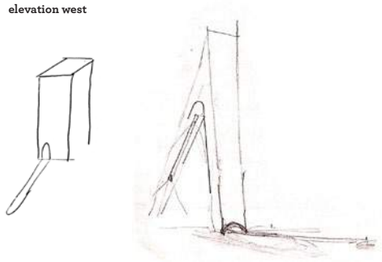
From the sea, one can see the land reflected; from the land, one can see the sea reflected. One surface, two elements reflected. The idea is that the building must work for the people, and should represent a safe point to reach, and to be.

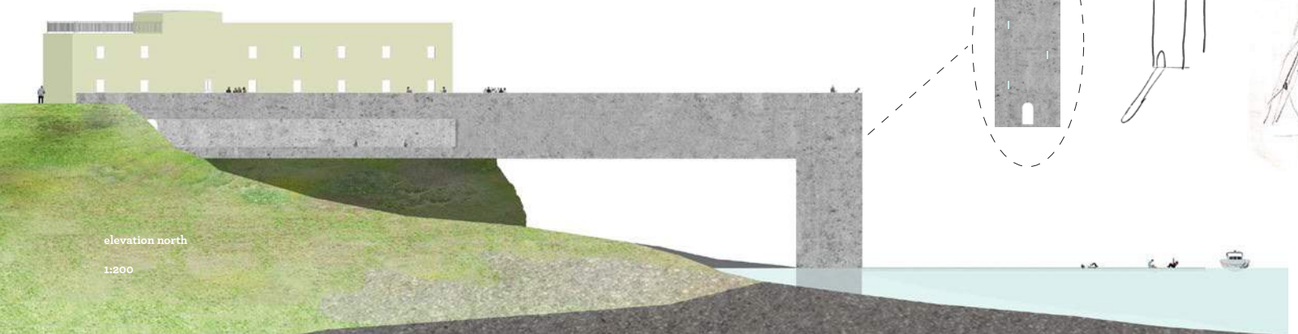
Safety and reassurance.

When far away in the sea with the goal of approaching the Island of Lampedusa in the smallest time possible slowly the land together with its people appear in the reflection through this surface and this could make the last part of the journey shorter.

elevation west

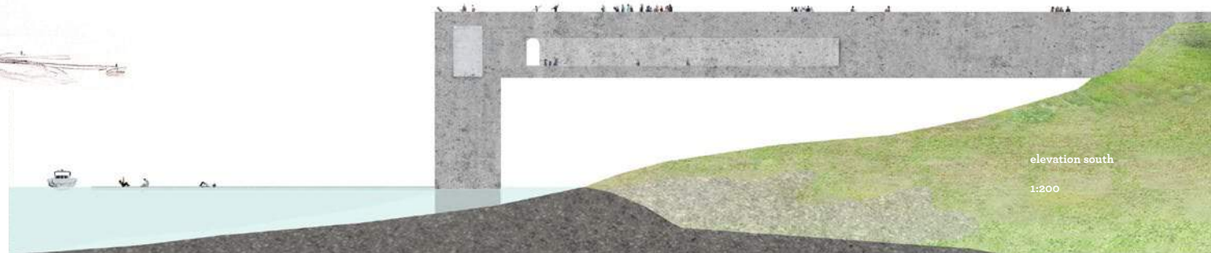






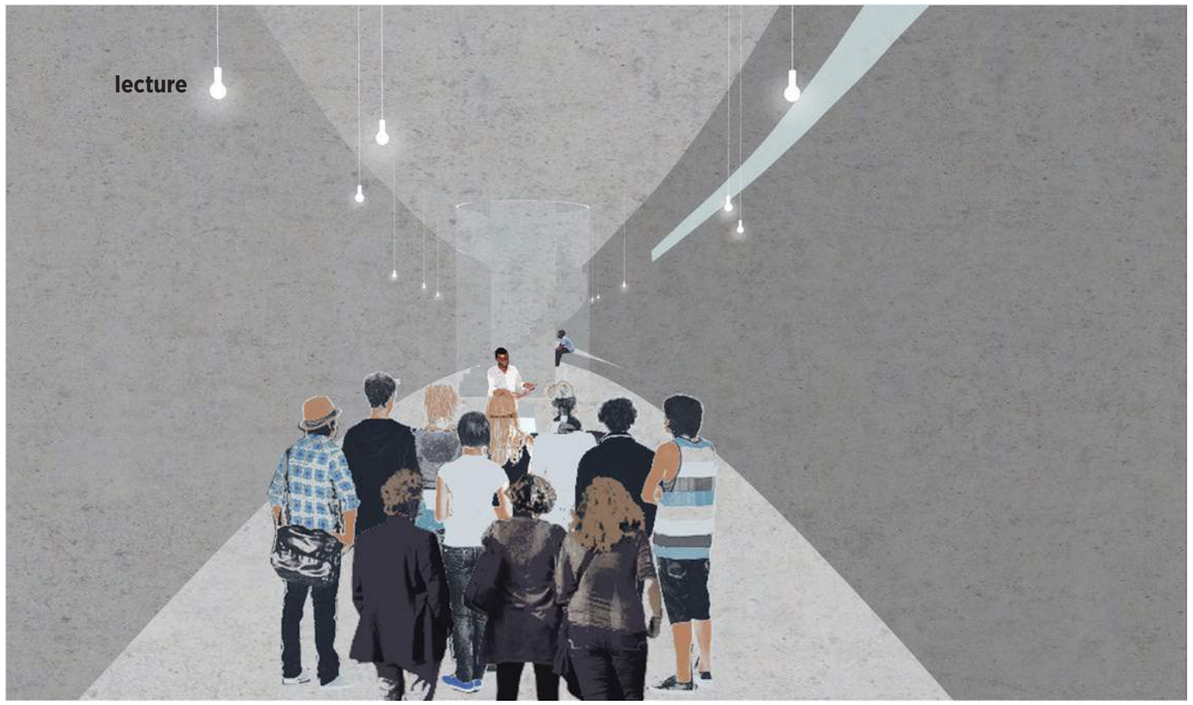
elevation north

1:200



elevation south

1:200


lecture

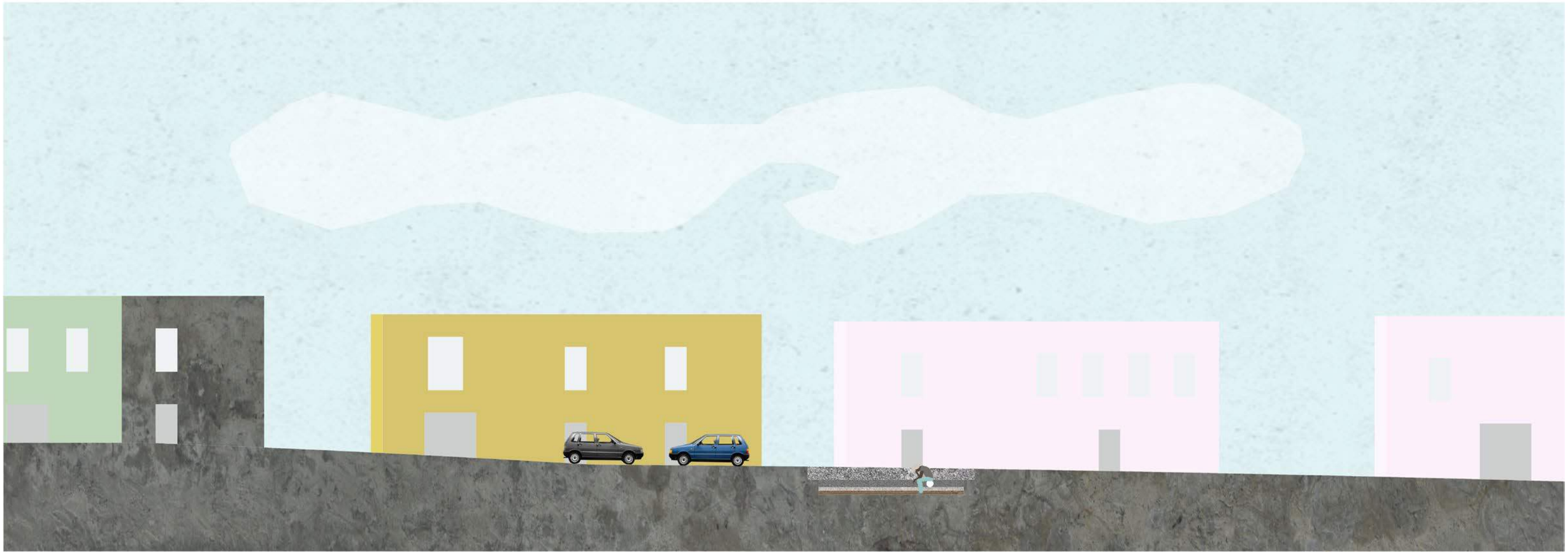
vertical
library
A
B

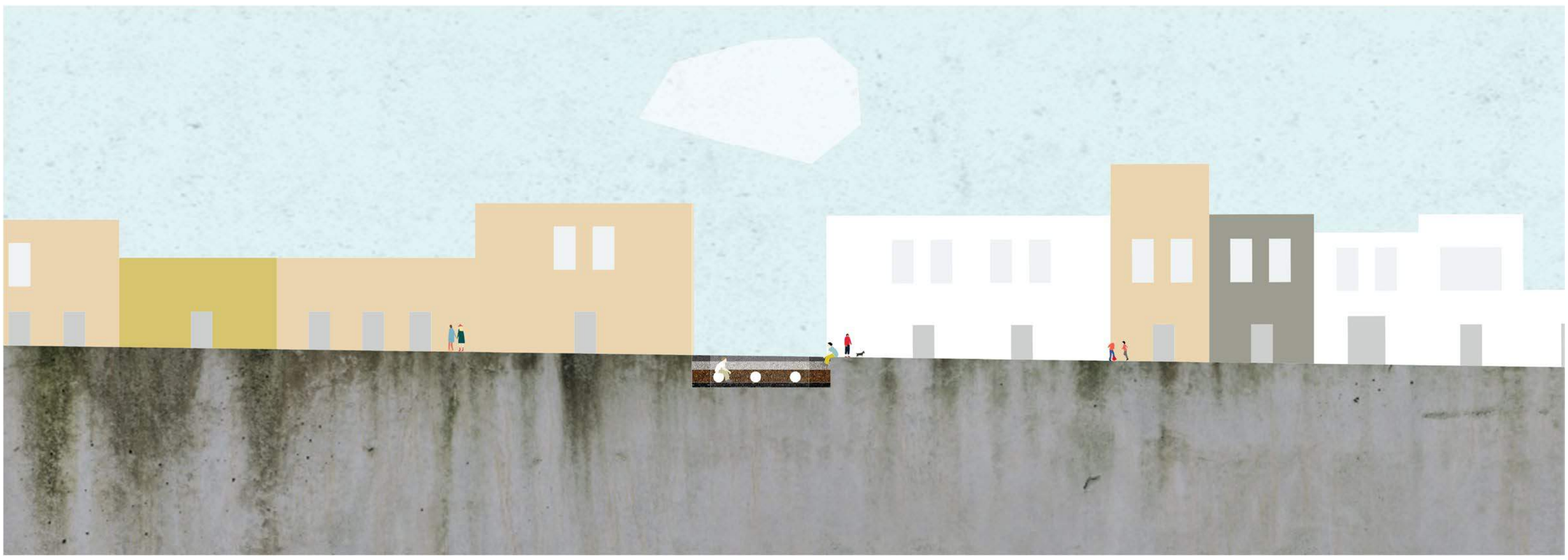
terrace

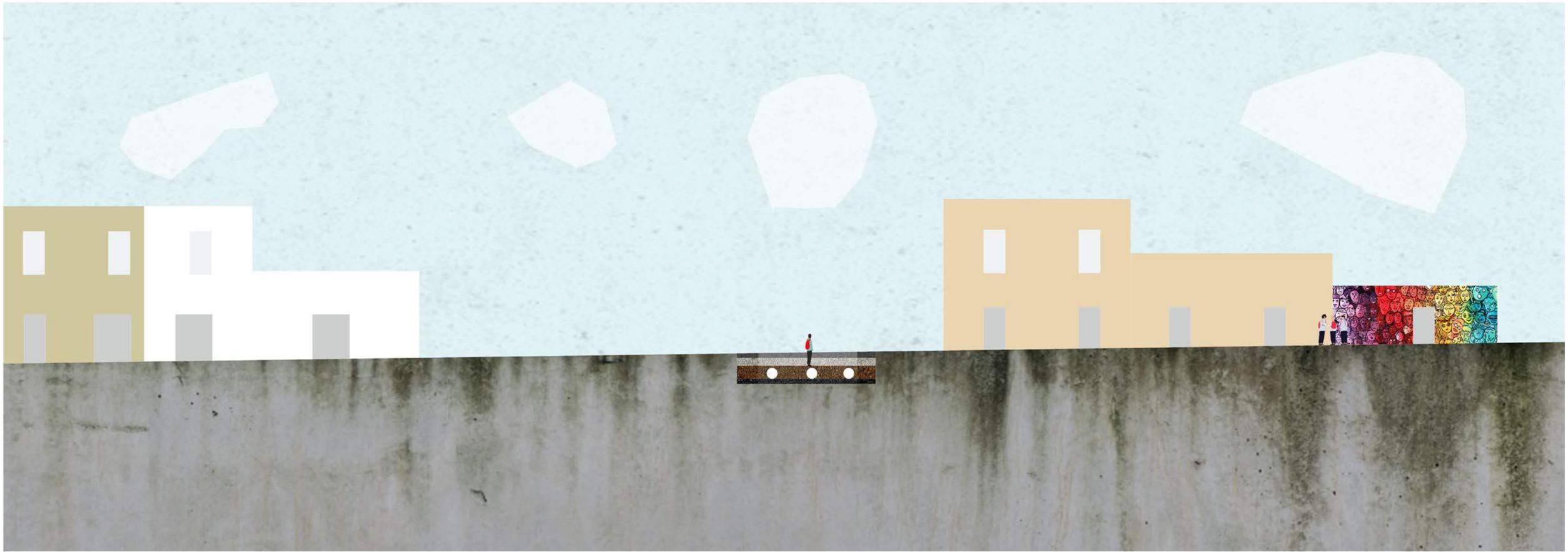
outside
space

INTERVENTIONS ALONG VIA ROMA THAT CAN CREATE AN HISTORICAL PROMENADE AND INTRODUCE THE NEW BUILDING WHILE APPROACHING IT

historical layers







1839

Islands are solid thresholds made out of stone and cliffs; their outlines only exist in presence of their negative, in presence of liquid matter.

Geographical position and topographical characterisation, hence make of these limbs of land exceptional case studies.

What symbolical, physical and metaphorical implications does the intangible line dividing land and water embody?

Isolation becomes a human condition that is strongly intertwined with finitude, with borders (material or psychological), with the ambiguous and ever changing lines marking the unknown.

The following is an exploration into the contradictory meanings that thresholds can acquire; it is an investigation on the collision of history, nature and geography.

It is the story of Hirta and its abandon, of Lampedusa and the longing for freedom, of Surtsey and its disappearance.

J. R. Maj