The recent urban development of the city of Genoa has led, as in many other cases, to an uneven distribution of urban services, as social, commercial, and public spaces and infrastructure. This has, in turn, implied the dependence of the peripheral areas to the city center. This has, and continues to, implied the dependence of the peripheral areas to the city center.

**BEGATO**

The uneven distribution is what has led to the so-called ‘problem of peripheries’. This is usually approached by the authorities with different perspectives and approaches depending if the interest area is a former industrial area or a social housing area. While for the first it is usually put effort, the latter is usually felt as a too big problem to be dealt and so either considered for demolition or abandonment.

**SECTOR 9**

The area has been for years considered for demolition, however, despite numerous studies and proposals, very little has been done. For the area to be considered for ‘amelioration’, there must be an identification of the most urgent needs for social, infrastructural, and environmental parameters.

**THE CITY OF GENOA**

Despite the neighborhood is composed by different parts, Sector 9 is the symbol of the social housing area of Begato. This is due to the negative connotation it has assumed in the public opinion, thanks to different problematics it has been protagonist since its creation.

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THE PLACE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DISORDER, OF CAOS AND UNGOVERNABILITY.

**CAROLA GENOA**

It mixes a punch in the stomach and beauty.

A. Fava (Journalist)

**PERIPHERIES**

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**NOT PROBLEMS BUT ASSETS**

The city of Genoa

PERIPHERIES, as a result of a common negative perspective, are often considered problematic areas for which ‘amelioration’ is possible just by their demolition. The project, taking the case of Begato (Genoa, Italy), shows instead possibilities for intervention by interpreting peripheries not as problems but as assets. Making the most of the potentials, it is then proposed the activation of the existing spaces and social capital through a community gardening network.
The current approach, seeing Begato as a lost cause, is the result of a negative perspective, from years of stigmatisation and of looking univocally at the problems of the area and limitations to intervention. But it is important to point out how there is also another perspective which sees Begato not only for its problems but also for its potentials, which if combined together can make it an asset, base for successful interventions.

The ‘perceived importance’ is an approximate measure of the number of times (and people) the topic in question in the research and interviews.

The key is to start from the resources of the inhabitants and the landscape.
UPON POTENTIALS

EXISTING SOCIAL NETWORKS

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER & LAND USE

HISTORICAL FEATURES & TRADITION

CONNECT NEIGHBOURING CENTERS

RECOVERY TRADITIONAL LANDSCAPE

ACTIVATE CITIZENSHIP

DIFFERENT LEVELS OF INTERVENTION

UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF COMMUNITY GARDENING

WHAT IS AND WHY COMMUNITY GARDENING

AGRICULTURE

PRIVATE GARDENS

COMMUNITY GARDENS

NO MUNICIPAL FUNDING & INTERVENTION

COMMUNITY GARDENS NETWORK

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PRIVATE GARDENS

COMMUNITY GARDENS

IF I MUNICIPAL INTERVENTION

IDENTIFICATION OF LAND

ACCESS TO LAND

GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE

SUGGESTION OF USES AND DESIGN

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

Community gardening is a form of gardening carried out by people in a group and often sharing space and resources. It is proven to strengthen the community involved while giving a purpose to urban spaces otherwise unused or unmanaged.

The project entails guidelines and directives for the project to be developed by the local community. The professional role here played is then of facilitator and indicator of measures for this to be possible.

Community gardening, put at network, brings together the different levels of intervention by connecting physically and socially, recovering the traditional agricultural use and features of the area, giving accessibility to land and public active quality spaces, and activating the population in taking care of their spaces and their social relations.

In turn would be also reduced stigmatisation of the area and its inhabitants and stimulate initiatives.
First step is to identify which areas could be suitable and available for community gardening, as well as their connection paths, basing on its ownership, past use and current conditions. Once the potential areas are identified, basing on their ownership status, is then formulated the process through which can get hold of them. The entire areas can be given in responsibility to two different associations which, by stipulating a cooperation agreement, can become part of the common project of community gardening in Begato. While they have separated bureaucratic responsibility, the decision should be taken in collaboration and agreement.
In order to facilitate and provide more specific indicative zones of the physical development of the network are then given guidelines on where the paths could lie, and on how the areas could be subdivided among the different community gardening typologies. It is suggested a mixture of types for each area for contributing to a mix of users and interaction, as well as the presence of common spaces of socializing character to be shared by all, so to allow more directly the above mentioned interaction.

The collective garden
The orchard
The forest garden
The elderly garden
The allotments
IS A STRUCTURAL INTERVENTION NEEDED?

The spacious and plain surfaces of the rooftops could provide viable spaces for gardening. However, due to the size of the building itself, they become often hard to access and unsafe places. Moreover, they would allow access just to those living in the building. While not included in the first phase of the project, they could be used in a secondary stage, where the gardening network proves to be working and willing to expand.

Why not use THE rooftops?

To present what at a smaller scale the suggestion of design entails, is shown the case of area 1 'Begato Diamante', where it corresponds to Sector 9 itself. Despite the project moves from the current situation for which the municipality is lacking both fundings and will to invest in the area, it is identified the need for a more structural intervention, to provide the neighborhood with a safer and encouraging socialisation and gathering environment. Such is wished to be coming as a result from positive inputs that the community gardening network might bring and so coming as phase 3.

LOCAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Topography & Architecture
- Streets & Pedestrian Paths
- Accessible & Unaccessible Green

LOTS SELECTION

The punctual selection of lots in the area is based on the previous analysis of the neighborhood and its specific characteristics. The selection of the lots is based on accessibility, centrality, sunny exposition, green spaces, and playgrounds. The punctual selection of lots in the area is based on the previous analysis of the neighborhood and its specific characteristics. The selection of the lots is based on accessibility, centrality, sunny exposition, green spaces, and playgrounds.

TYPE DEFINITION

- Social Garden
- Allotments
- Collective Gardens

USE EXISTING STRUCTURES

- Low Impact & Flexible Solutions
- Use Traditional or Inspired Features

PRIORITY TO PRACTICITY

- Variety and Mixture of Uses

USE EXISTING STRUCTURES

- Low Impact & Flexible Solutions
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PRIORITY TO PRACTICITY

- Variety and Mixture of Uses
Within the area 1 ‘Begato Diamante – collective gardens’ it is then presented the zoom in of one of the collective gardening lots, so to indicate at an even more detailed level how the design and its principles could be translated.

The area has been chosen for its dynamics because of its existing features for the shape and layout and borders are considered of particular difficulty.

Due to the topography, in order to gain the most surface available and improve the accessibility, it is suggested the management of the slope by the realization of terraces. These can be achieved through the application of low impact and easy to realize techniques, with the regularization of the height difference along the height curves.

**RECYCLING BINS**

**SENSORY AREA**

**GATHERING**

**PERGOLA + GRAPES**

**USE EXISTING STRUCTURES**

**USE TOPOGRAPHY**

**KEEP FENCHING - BORDERS**

**KEEP VEGETATION**

**LOW IMPACT & EASY REALIZABLE SOLUTIONS**

**RECYCLED MATERIALS**

**DISMANTLEABLE ELEMENTS**

**USE TRADITIONAL, INSPIRED FEATURES**

**TERRACES – PERGOLA**

**LOCAL CULTIVATIONS**

**VERTICAL GARDENING**

**STREET**

**EDU. - SPACE DIV. ELEMENTS**

**PRIORITY TO PRACTICALITY**

**USE OF MAXIMAL SPACE**

**SIMPLE SHAPES - CONSTRUCTION**

**VARIETY AND MIXTURE OF USES**

**CULTIVATION**

**EDUCATION - WORKSPACE**

**USE TRADITIONAL INSPIRED FEATURES**

**TERRACES - PERGOLA**

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**USE OF MAXIMAL SPACE**

**SIMPLE SHAPES - CONSTRUCTION**

**VARIETY AND MIXTURE OF USES**

**CULTIVATION**

**EDUCATION - WORKSPACE**
Due to the possible reduced fertility of the soil it is suggested the use of raised beds. By the realization of shredded trees and the addition of wooden terraces (because stone ones are already in place) so to recall the traditional feature as well as apply low impact techniques with the reuse of locally available material (the wood can be in fact available from the woodland cleaning necessary in most of the other areas).
THE OUTCOMES

Different CE can use to be the general outcomes and benefits of the pro-
pact, with influence and effects assessed at different scales. On the
other hand, we can see benefits for all of the users for instance in health, partic-
ularly for local economy arising from the gardening practice itself. In the after
years, the CE model can support a culture of deeper social and political rachachan.
Among these elements is the contribution to community empowerment, which
reduces the process by which communities increase their sense of control and build capacities to gain access, partners,
networks and a voice, in order to gain control on their lives.

POWER RE-NEGOTIATION

COMMUNITY

AUTHORITIES

LAND PROVISION

BUREAUCRACY

INITIATION

DEVELOPMENT & USE

NETWORKING

ACTORS HIERARCHY & ROLE

The new participatory process proposed for the com-
nunity, which enough organisations have the
power of decision-making over the develop-
ment of a project, is thus the factor of mutual
agreement and mediation among the com-
nunity, the authorities and the private
land owners. The latter are or for fund-
ment can be according to their interests without nonsense, influence or pressure on the project.

DISCUSSION ON THE PROFESSIOANL ROLE

ENABLING & FACILITATING FIGURE

CREATION OF STEPPING STONES

MEDIATION AMONG ACTORS

LEAVE DECISION FREEDOM

NO TOP-DOWN IMPOSITION

PROJECT CHAIN ON

ELABORATION OF PROCESS - STRUCTURE OF DIALOGUE

PHASE 1

PHASE 2

INITIATION

TOP DOWN

BOTTOM UP

TOP DOWN

BOTTOM UP

TOP DOWN

BOTTOM UP

TOP DOWN

BOTTOM UP

TOP DOWN

BOTTOM UP