

Stalker

Imagining Corviale

www.stalkerlab.it

The project

Comune di Roma
Council for Suburban Policies

Municipality XV
In collaboration with the ATER

By the
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Imagining Corviale
Shared spatial practices workshop
Stalker/On project

This is a project on how public space is lived, remembered, imagined, transformed. It is structured into various interventions plans:

The workshops held inside and around the building by the group of artists, architects and researchers from the Nomad Observatory;

The production of a filmed narrative documenting the work of the artists in the territory. This product responds to a widespread need of the inhabitants of Corviale: to change the stereotyped image of the building as a symbol of the abandoned suburbs, and aiming to involve them in the creation of a new image for the area.

Aims

To make Corviale into a place of artistic and cultural production focused on public space and social relations.

To stimulate the inhabitants to develop a subjective elaboration regarding the public space.

To identify a number of the "demands" of the population with respect to the public space, which could offer some indications for the design of the area.

To realise a shared cultural production addressed to the entire city that contributes to changing the stereotyped image of Corviale and encourage involvement of the inhabitants in works toward creating a new image for the zone.

To experiment with an innovative 'public sector client' structure that leads to a co-production realised by various groups (a research foundation, a group of artists, architects, musicians, videomakers) aimed toward identifying new forms of shared cultural and social action in the urban context.

Social context

The public housing quarter of Corviale comes under Municipality XV and extends over an area of 60 hectares in Rome's south-western quadrant.

Designed by Mario Fiorentino in 1972 and completed at the end of the 'seventies, Corviale, 958 m long and inhabited by circa 6000 people, is one of the last examples of the application of public housing law 167 (1962).

The complex, owned by the IACP (ATER), is significantly degraded due to the fact that it was never fully completed and at present is also poorly managed.

At the centre of numerous debates on the role and function of large residential infrastructures, their success or failure, and among proposals for demolition or re-launch, the "Imagining Corviale" project aims build a pathway toward understanding whether this action could instrumental in revitalising and rebuilding the poor relations between politicians, designers and inhabitants.

Relational dynamics

Living in Corviale

Proposal for a 'condominial' use of the space.

Some questions in an attempt to understand and develop a self-organising system to safeguard a shared heritage.

A form of socialisation to attempt to redefine relations and behaviours capable of facilitating the exchange of ideas and spaces shared with others.

A 'condominial' workshop to imagine, transform and experiment other ways of living together. The first phase of the project envisages works on communication. Information points will be installed at the six entries to the building to permit the highest possible level of involvement of the Corviale residents. The flyer will have questions on the functional problems of the building, social dynamics, use of space, organisational proposals. The responses will be used in the second phase of the project, which envisages meetings of the Condominial Workshop.

The meetings will involve events that, in addition to taking on real problems, should stimulate the visualisation of other ways of living in Corviale.

The meetings will take on the following arguments:

Workshop results

September: Freestyle

September: Galleries and Squares

September: Urban gardens

Self-organisation

Meeting with the Institutions

Methods

Being open to listen to try to bring out and render visible or audible the ideas, arguments, facts, appraisals, inventions that weave the social context: projects, individual experience, original relational forms, organisational experiment.

Being open to listen with attention to the demands and proposals rather than the simple information, returning the word to the collective.

Being open to listen in such a way that the individuals and groups can express the problems that seem nearest to them for life in the community, taking a stance and formulating arguments to support their positions.

The political identity of an individual is no longer characterised by a belonging to a category, but by a particular and temporary collocation in the open space of problems, proposals and arguments.

Initiatives are an essential dimension because they allow the exploration of alternative solutions to the problems of the collective. Highlighting the collective effects of individual and shared decisions tends to reinforce responsible feelings and practices.

This is the way Stalker/On works on: relations, public space, communication, imagination, co-production.

The project's real carrier is a constant presence in the territory: making it easier to get to know the area, define the fields to investigate and work on, and making it possible to identify ideas for long term works based on the demands of the local participants that are, at least potentially, self-organising.

Critical points and adopted solutions

To get over the problems related to communication and involvement, the idea of a local TV was thought up, independent and at the service of the local population, the Quarter Workshop and artists or various guests to activate participation, exchange and responsible awareness. TV also becomes a tool for monitoring, observing and directly communicating the processes of transformation involving Corviale. With the direct assumption and development of the instrument of local TV by the citizens themselves, by realising the first experimental by realising the first experimental programs authors, directors and artists, through the Workshop and along with the participants, will lay the foundations for a training course in the language and techniques of audio-visual production. During the start-up period the Nomad Observatory will lay out a professional training course with the Corviale enterprise incubator.

Interaction

Stalker/On works in the territory in collaboration and confrontation with the Corviale Territorial Workshop – Rome West. The artists, through playful, aesthetic, analytical and creative forms of involvement, reveal critical aspects, the potential and submerged desires in the territory. The confrontation of this method with that of the Territorial Workshop is aimed toward harmonising the two approaches to the territory, different but compatible: on one hand the revelation of the artists, on the other the identification of the concrete needs and negotiated forms of re-valorisation promoted over the years by the Territorial Workshop. This protracted form of collaboration is a unique case in the Italian scenario.

Examples

Presentation of video and printed documentation of the works done up to now.