



### Acknowledgements:

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ASF ITALIA  
architetti senza frontiere



Regione  
Lombardia

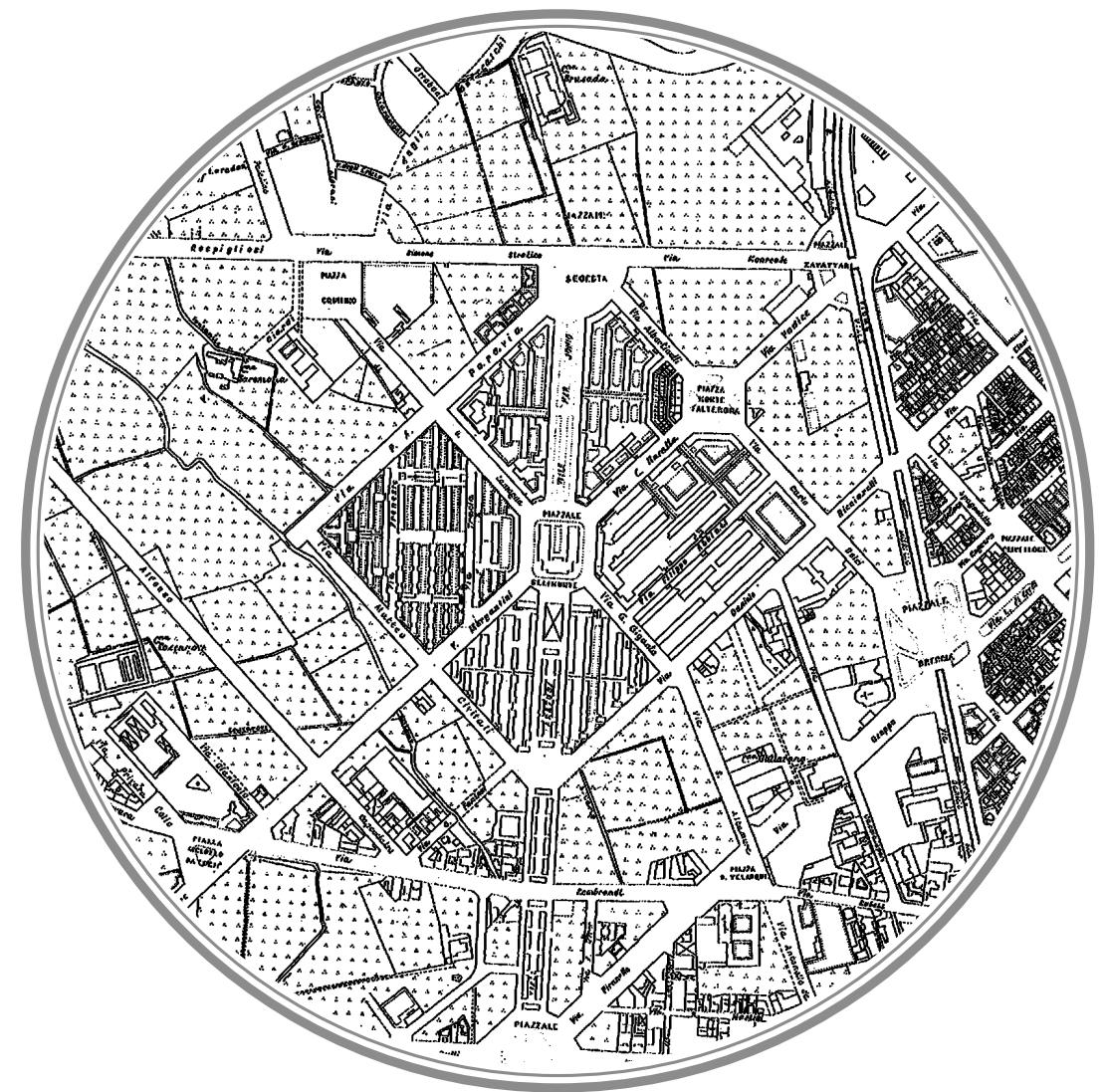


MAPPING SAN SIRO  
Un laboratorio di rigenerazione nel quartiere San Siro a Milano



AZIENDA  
LOMBARDA  
EDILIZIA  
RESIDENZIALE  
ALER  
MILANO

# //The San Siro Charter//



—From the Functionalist City  
to A Place for the People—

MArch Thesis Project: Arrival City

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“There are not more than five musical notes, yet the combinations of these five give rise to more melodies than can ever be heard.

There are not more than five primary colours, yet in combination they produce more hues than can ever been seen.

There are not more than five cardinal tastes, yet combinations of them yield more flavours than can ever be tasted.”

- Sun Tzu, The Art of War

# Chapter I Design Manifesto



# //Foreword

## An Introduction to CIAM

The summer of 1933 was a turning point in architectural history. The Congrès Internationaux de l'Architecture Moderne (CIAM) held their fourth meeting to address matters of the 'Functionalist City' aboard the *Patris II* (Fig.1) – which sailed from Marseilles to Athens. Onboard were a selected band of European modern architects including Moser, Aalto, Van Eesteren and Le Corbusier. This meeting led directly to a document known as the Athens Charter\*: 'a radical vision of urban functional order' (Gold, 1998), which would form the basis for contemporary architecture and modernist planning practice. The authority and simplicity with which its written is a reflection of its technocratic origins and writers.

The Athens Charter maps out four key functions of the city: work, leisure, connectivity and dwelling- being the most important (Gold, 1998). However, the influx of migrants has challenged these notions of the functionalist city.

'Urban spaces have increasingly become the territory of negotiation between public and private interests, yet the physical solutions remain stubbornly uniform' (Clos et al., 2018). Therefore, whilst the Athens Charter played an instrumental role in shaping cities and their form, its principles for rational organization and efficiency fail to accommodate the complexities of the 21st Century. Moreover, the potential for unplanned encounter and spontaneity is lost amidst the unadorned surfaces, straight lines and scientific orders of its modernist architecture – as will be illustrated in the case of San Siro.

This calls for a revised and more up-to-date doctrine: The San Siro charter.

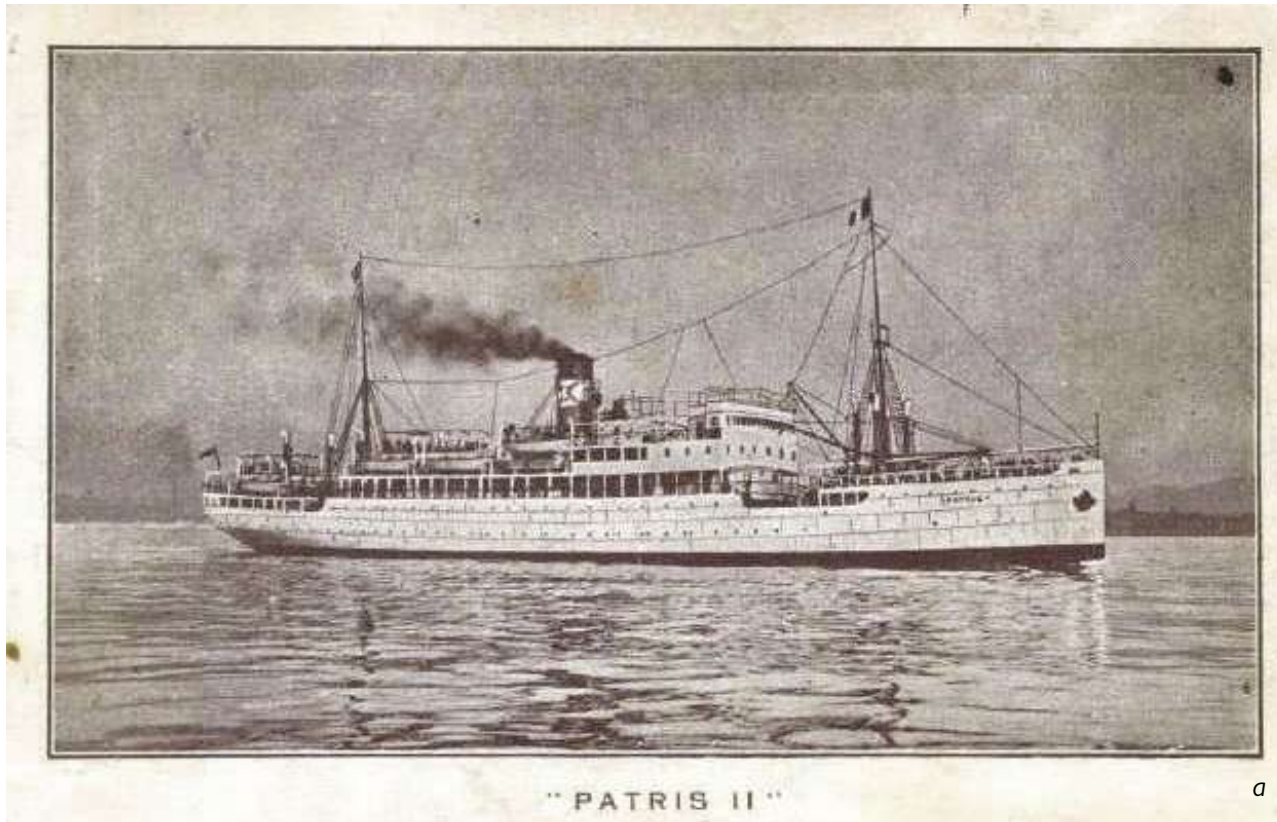
\* The Athens Charter: Published by Le Corbusier in 1943 & 1973

**Fig.1:** CIAM: On-board the *Patris II*

a.)The *Patris II*

b) A working session on the promenade deck

b) Meeting on board (left to right): Giedion, Helena Syrkus, Bardi, Sert, Van Eesteren, Giedion, Le Corbusier







**Fig.2:** Summary of Events

a) Departure from Libya

b) General meeting on board the 'Yuhajir II'

c) Rescue following the capsized migrant boat

d) ASF General Assembly meeting

## Towards a New Charter

85 years after CIAM 4, history rewrote itself. The Architecture Sans Frontières International (ASF-Int)<sup>1</sup>, which was founded in 1979, had their 2018 General Assembly Meeting on board the *Yuhajir II*<sup>2</sup>, a boat which followed the central Mediterranean route to Southern Italy, from Libya. Members of the ASF-Int coordinated efforts with a local team from the Architetti Senza Frontiere Italia (ASF-Italia) to organize the annual GA meeting themed '*Migrant inclusivity in the City*'. Members on board shared a host of interests, from issues of Identity and Status, to Borders & Boundaries. Inspired by CIAM 4, the quest to create better and more inclusive urban environments led to discussions surrounding social justice, migrants' rights to the city, challenges to housing and the role of arrival cities as a point of transition or destination.

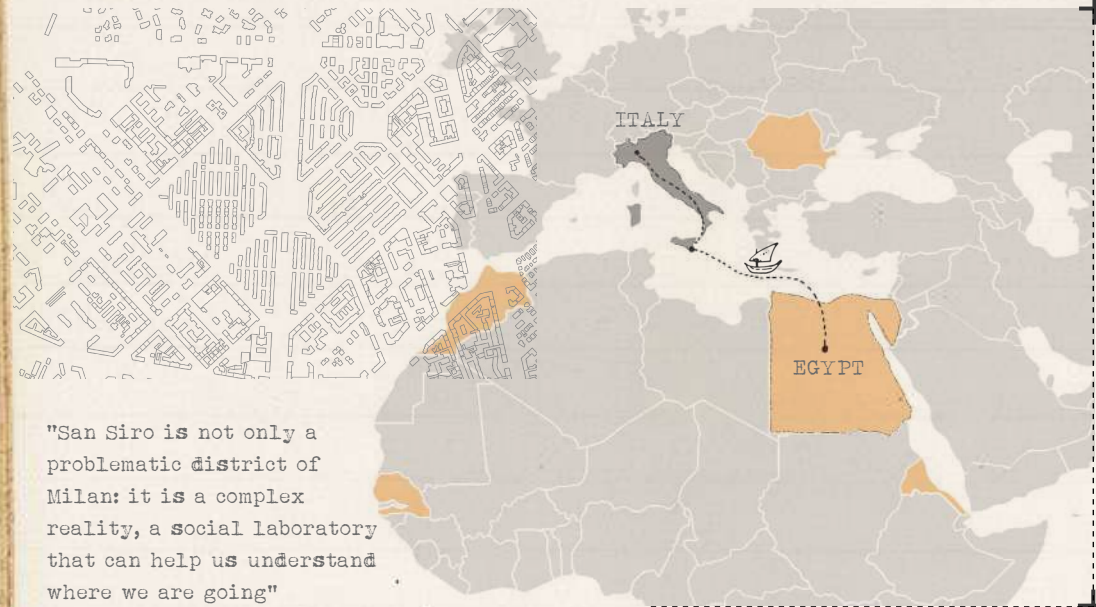
The boat and its facilities offered ideal spaces for group meetings, debates and informal discussions (Fig.2). The participants were fully engaged and entertained; critical dialogue was sprinkled with anecdotes, and personal stories clouded the social atmosphere, until midway through the journey – when the unexpected occurred. Along the migratory passage, the *Yuhajir II* encountered a capsized life boat carrying hundreds of migrants from Northern African and the Middle East. Most were rescued by the Italian Navy on board, but some didn't make it. The team had been investigating migration processes and challenges during their meeting, but at that moment, they experienced it first-hand.

Amongst those rescued was Hakim and his wife Fatima, who fled from Egypt with a desperate wish to reconnect with his brother in San Siro, Milan (Fig.3). He had with him a diary sent from his brother, containing detailed accounts and stories of the San Siro neighbourhood – a place of refuge and disrepair (see part 2.1). Therefore, while architects and city planners formed the nucleus of the General Assembly, those who were rescued were given an opportunity to voice their opinions.

<sup>1</sup> ASF exists to 'enable vulnerable and marginalised communities access to architectural services, research, and educational resources in order to enhance their resilience and challenge inequality' (ASF, 2017).

<sup>2</sup> *Yuhajir* يهاجر : Arabic meaning 'Migrate'

## MOMENT OF ENCOUNTER



"San Siro is not only a problematic district of Milan: it is a complex reality, a social laboratory that can help us understand where we are going"

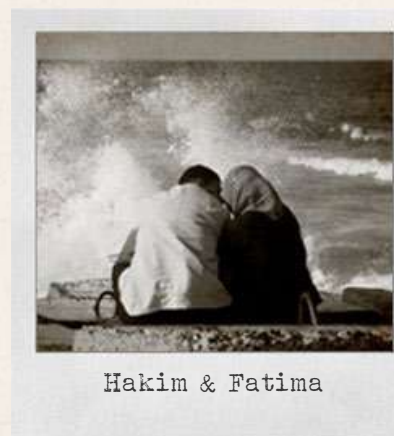
## - SAN SIRO STORIES

## THE JOURNEY OF:



- Two Popular Neighbourhoods in Milan -

S.Siro:  
Built between 1935 and 1948



Hakim & Fatima

"It's really difficult leaving everything behind, but my brother tells me there's unoccupied properties in the area, that's our only hope so we must find a way to get there"

With limited English proficiency, Arabic-speaking members of the ASF listened and presented Hakim's story to the delegation. It could not have been more suitable given that the San Siro neighbourhood was built as an experiment of rationalist style, with roots to the Functionalist City and the Athens Charter.

Upon arrival to Italy, members from the ASF travelled to San Siro, where a series of detailed investigations were undertaken (see *Part 2 for team findings*). The journey back to Libya raised several concerns on the need to re-evaluate modernist paradigms and rethink the radical infrastructures to create a more sustainable and inclusive model – one that caters for the complexities of daily life. Thus emerged, *The San Siro Charter*, a contemporary extension of the Athens Charter which considers needs of diverse communities and global cultures, but demonstrates strategies for change at a local scale.\*

Looking back, it is almost unimaginable to think that on a small Libyan vessel, under the burning sun in the middle of the Mediterranean, emerged a hand-crafted charter: for the people, by the people.

**Fig.3 (left):** Moment of Encounter

\*Note: This document illustrates the processes and investigations involved in the creation of the Charter.

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## //Part I: The San Siro Charter



1.1 Grounding

The San Siro charter, as a product of the 2018 ASF-Int General Assembly, is grounded by a theoretical framework which draws on wider principles and literature in the field:



Fig.5: Theoretical Framework and grounding .

1.2 Preface by Architectural-Planner [AP]

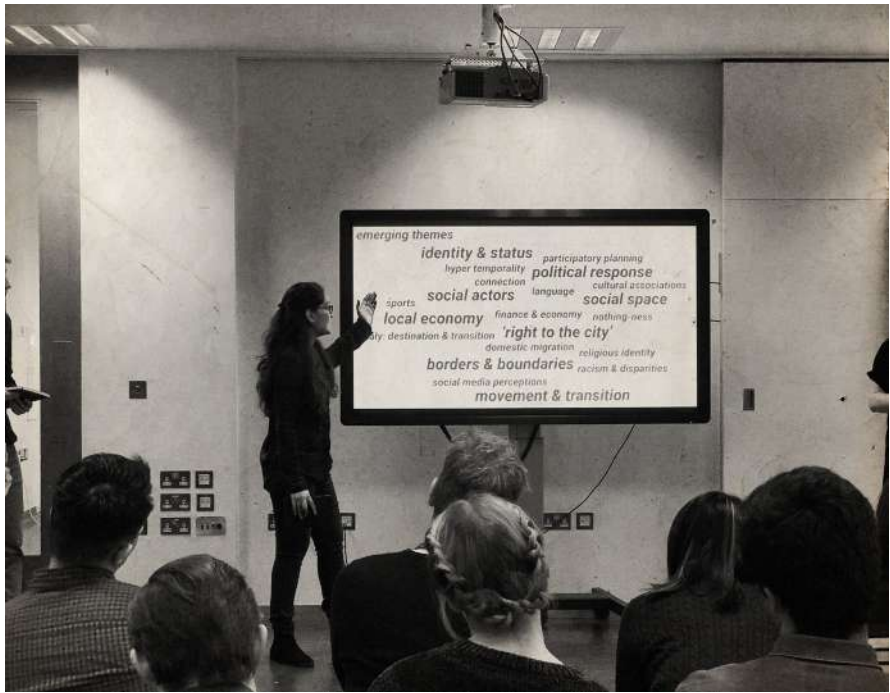


Fig.6:  
Aboard the Yuhajir II, a presentation by The AP\*

This charter is grounded by a research praxis that links both architecture and planning. The authors positionality as an Architectural-Planner provides an opportunity for neighbourhood intervention at a micro and macro scale.

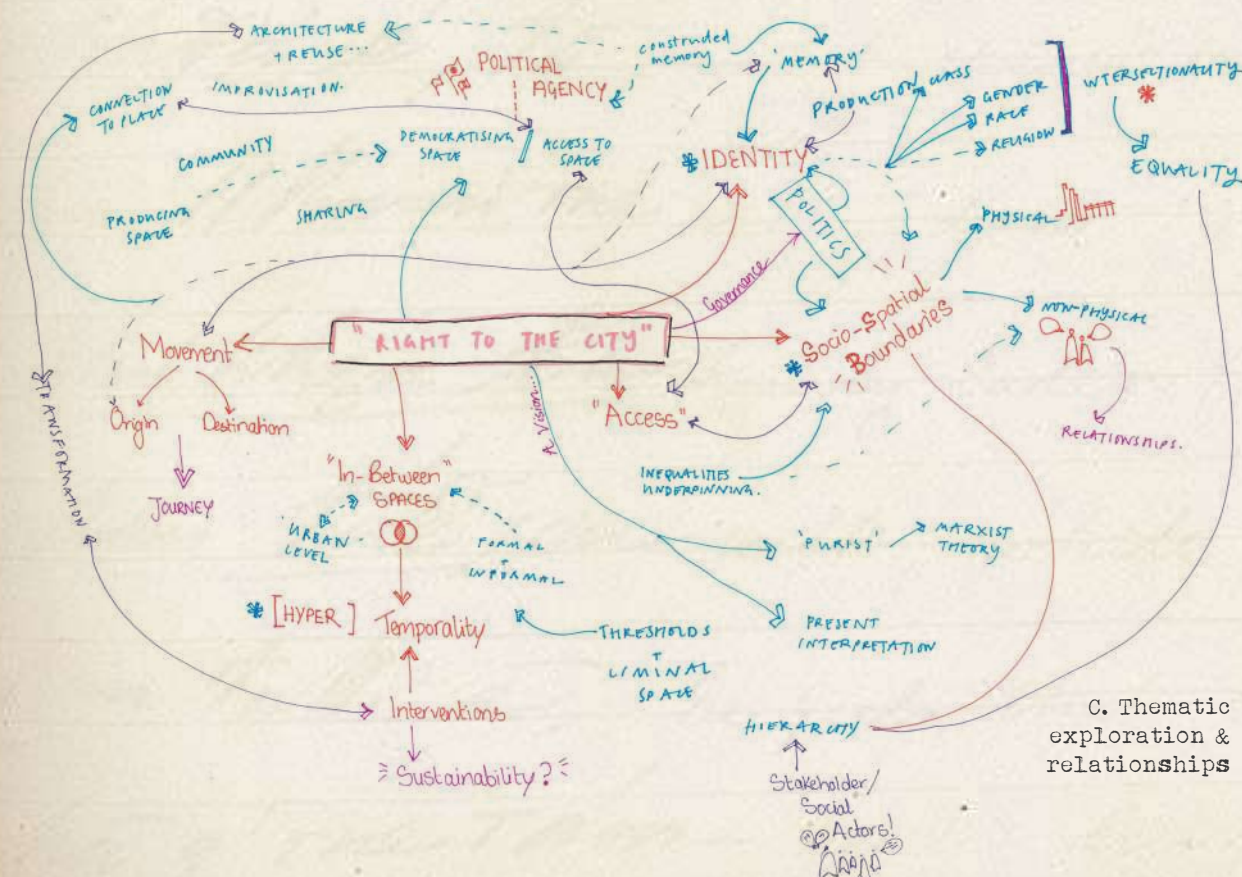
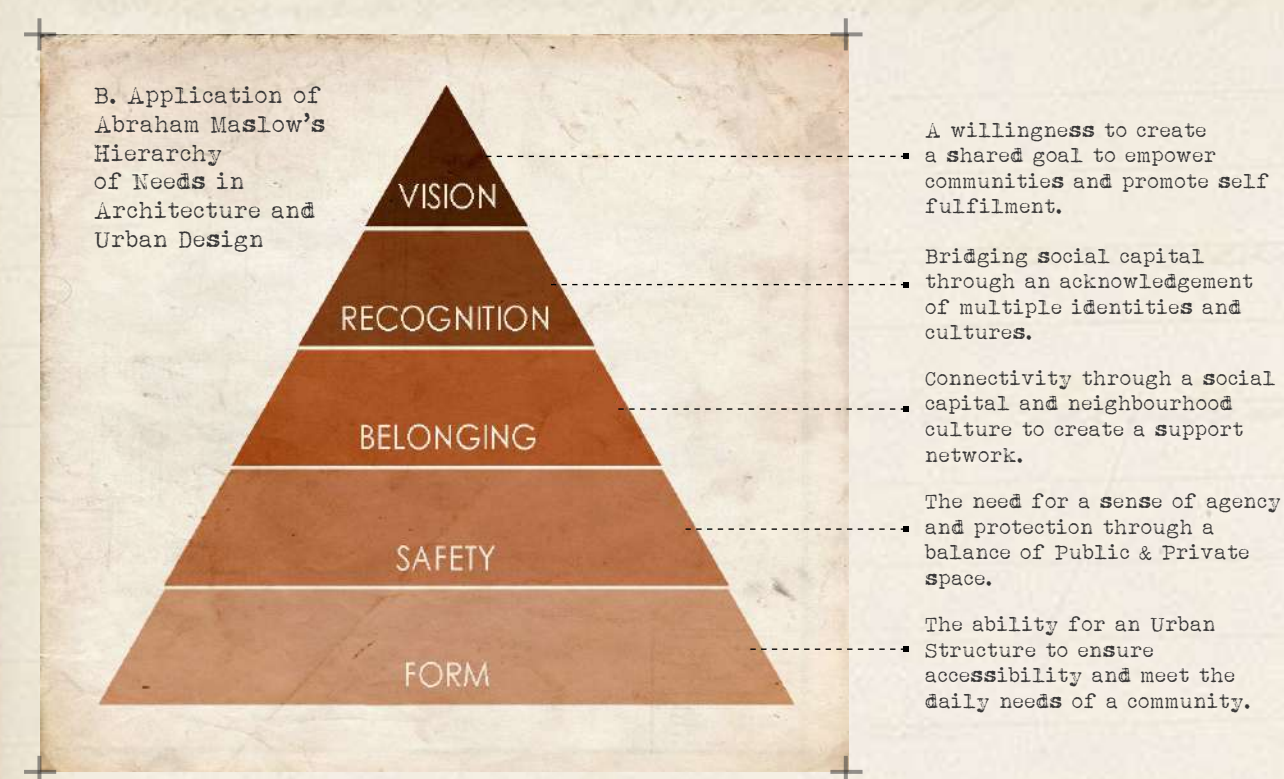
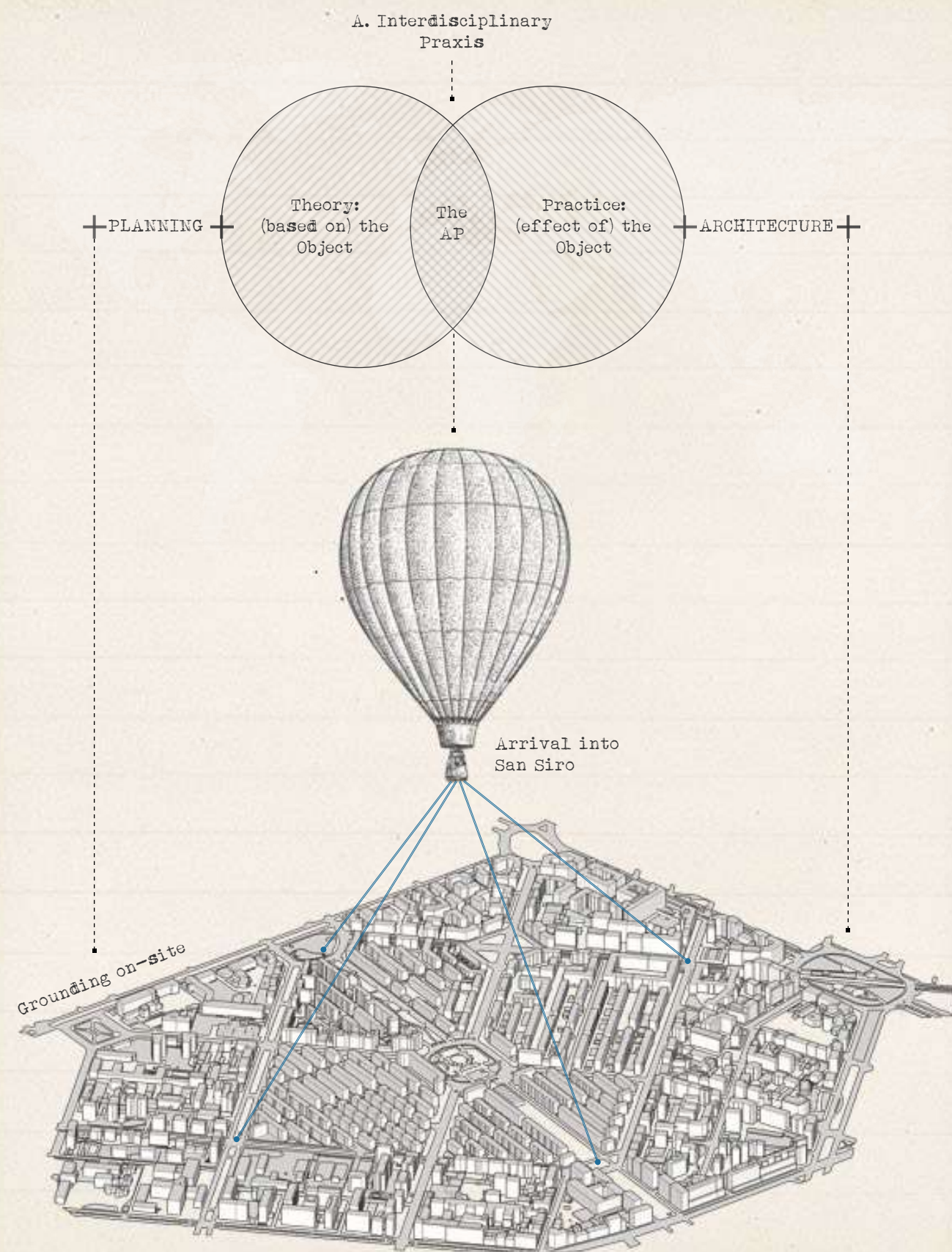
'Architecture is shelter before it's anything else' (Brady, 2018), placing it firmly at the base of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs (Fig.7b). People who are displaced due to conflicts or disasters face additional constraints such as legal status, trauma, loss of assets and social tension. Such issues are rarely factored into urban planning and architectural design. So, if architecture exists to drive social justice and improve the environments in which we live, then 'the Home' becomes a primary domain through which to shape and improve one's quality of life. Quality housing is a basic necessity and above all, a right. As agents of change; architects, planners and professionals alike must effectively respond to growth and changing population demands, while working with communities to create vibrant and liveable cities.

Therefore;

By critically reflecting on the 'Home' as a place of refuge, how can architecture and planning promote social integration within the residential neighbourhood and beyond, while bridging the socio-economic gaps between a diasporic community?

\* The AP has been in charge of coordinating efforts in the Charter creation.





# [THEMES]

- + Planning: Rights to the city | Mixed communities | Social Justice
- + Architecture: Tactical Urbanism | Biophilia | Loneliness in the City
- + Other: Inclusion | Home | Diversity | Coexistence

Fig.7: The AP's positionality and grounding (from Archive)

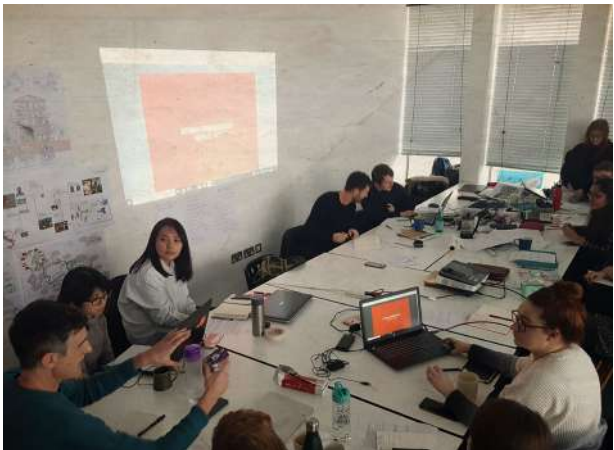


ON-BOARD RESEARCH:

- Position: An Investigator
- Ontology: Objectivist
- Epistemology: Positivist
- Methodology: Deductive (Narrative, Critical Theory)
- Method: Mapping, Drawing, Statistical Analysis, Policy Analysis
- Collaboration: Multidisciplinary interaction between delegates

//Notes:

- Acknowledge Objectivity
- Overarching themes identified



ON-SITE RESEARCH:

- Position: A Visitor
- Ontology: Constructivist
- Epistemology: Interpretivist
- Methodology: Inductive (Cartography, Action Research, Ethnography)
- Method: Walking, Photography, Sketching, Notes
- Collaboration with: Mapping San Siro research group, SMS, ASF-Italia, Politecnico di Milano

//Notes:

- Consider Subjectivity
- Understanding of Neighbourhood complexities



1.3 The Team

The Charter is underpinned by a rigorous and reflexive approach to various research methods which is grounded by a collaborative team approach. A qualitative analysis of stories and personal insights of the neighbourhood provides what Malinowski calls the 'native's point of view' (Ybema et al., 2010: 2). Quantitative research grounded these findings, allowing correlation between the both methods.

Exploring the San Siro district through the eyes of groups 'in-residence' provided first-hand perceptions of the neighbourhood. Discussions involved: vacant spaces, activity and engagement in the neighbourhood, existing tensions, and lack of government support. Working across a range of scales and analysis allowed a shift in the researcher's role, from 'detached observer to participant observer to full participant' (Olson, 2010: 2).



Fig.8: Research approach and working methods

Fig.9: The Team





//Part 2:  
Understanding A  
Complex Territory



## 2.1 An Introduction to San Siro

While almost every city in the world is being affected by rapid urbanisation, climate change and migration, the pressure to think about immediate and long-term strategies for socio-economic integration is increasing (ASF-Int, 2018).

However, in regions like Europe, response has generally been slow, poor and uneven. The Dublin Regulation<sup>3</sup> has resulted in a 'bottleneck' situation in Milan, with 19% of its population (over 1.3 million people) having a migration background (Eurocities, 2018). Many migrants<sup>4</sup> are undocumented and disenfranchised, 'frequently living in insecure and low-quality conditions in terms of housing and public services' (UN DESA, 2013: 66). San Siro is the epitome of this phenomenon; built between 1935 and 1948 as a model for rationalist architecture - organised and functional for daily life.

While it seems homogenous and highly defined in its architectonic structure, it is spatially and socially fragmented, facing a complex set of issues (Cognetti and Padovani, 2017: 61). What was once a system of open space and shared courtyards is now a fenced, segregated and progressively in decay.

---

### FACT FILE:

- + Approximately 6,110 Dwelling
- + Over 11,000 inhabitants (at least 45% are foreign)
- + A place of fragile populations
- + Economic Mismanagement has resulted in a Financial Crisis for ALER, the Regional Agency for Public Housing of Lombardy
- + In 2012, 23% of the housing appeared privatized
- + Up to 17% of the dwellings are left 'empty' (800 units) due to severe dilapidation maintenance works and sub-threshold standards (<28.8m<sup>2</sup>)

<sup>3</sup> 'A hotspot policy mandating the identification of all refugees upon arrival and therefore binding them to seeking asylum in Italy' (Petrillo, 2016).

<sup>4</sup> Migrant: 'any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person's legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is' (IOM, 2018).

+ Italy  
Population: 60,483,973  
8.5% Foreign

+ Lombardy  
Population: 10,036,258  
11.5% Foreign

+ Milan  
Population: 1,366,180  
19.2% Foreign

+ San Siro  
Population: 11,727  
48.7% Foreign

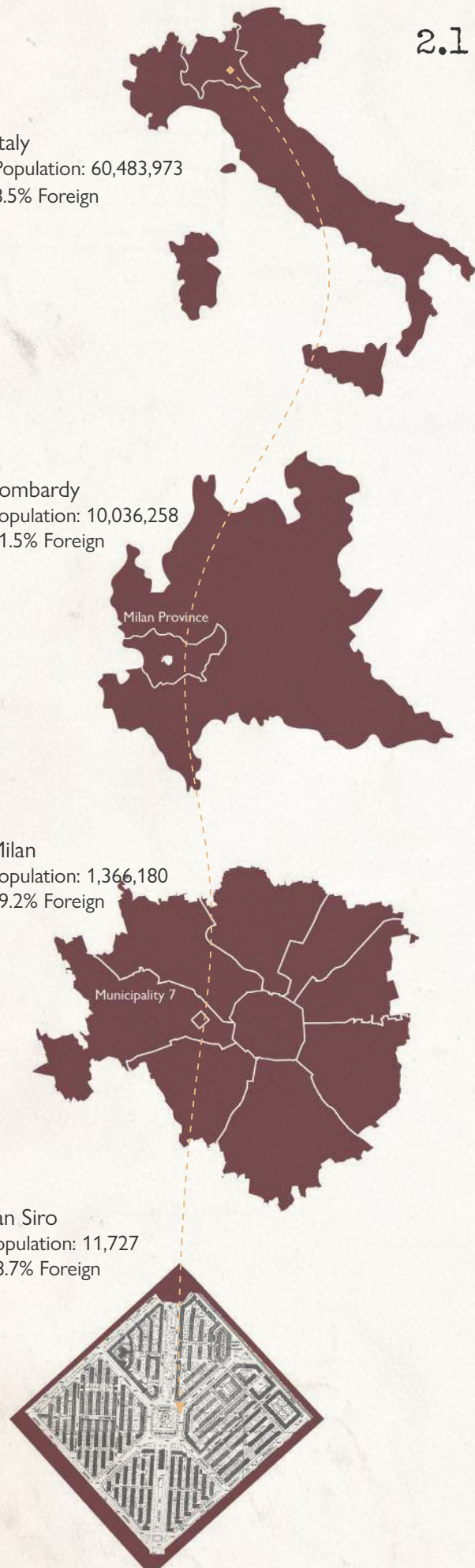


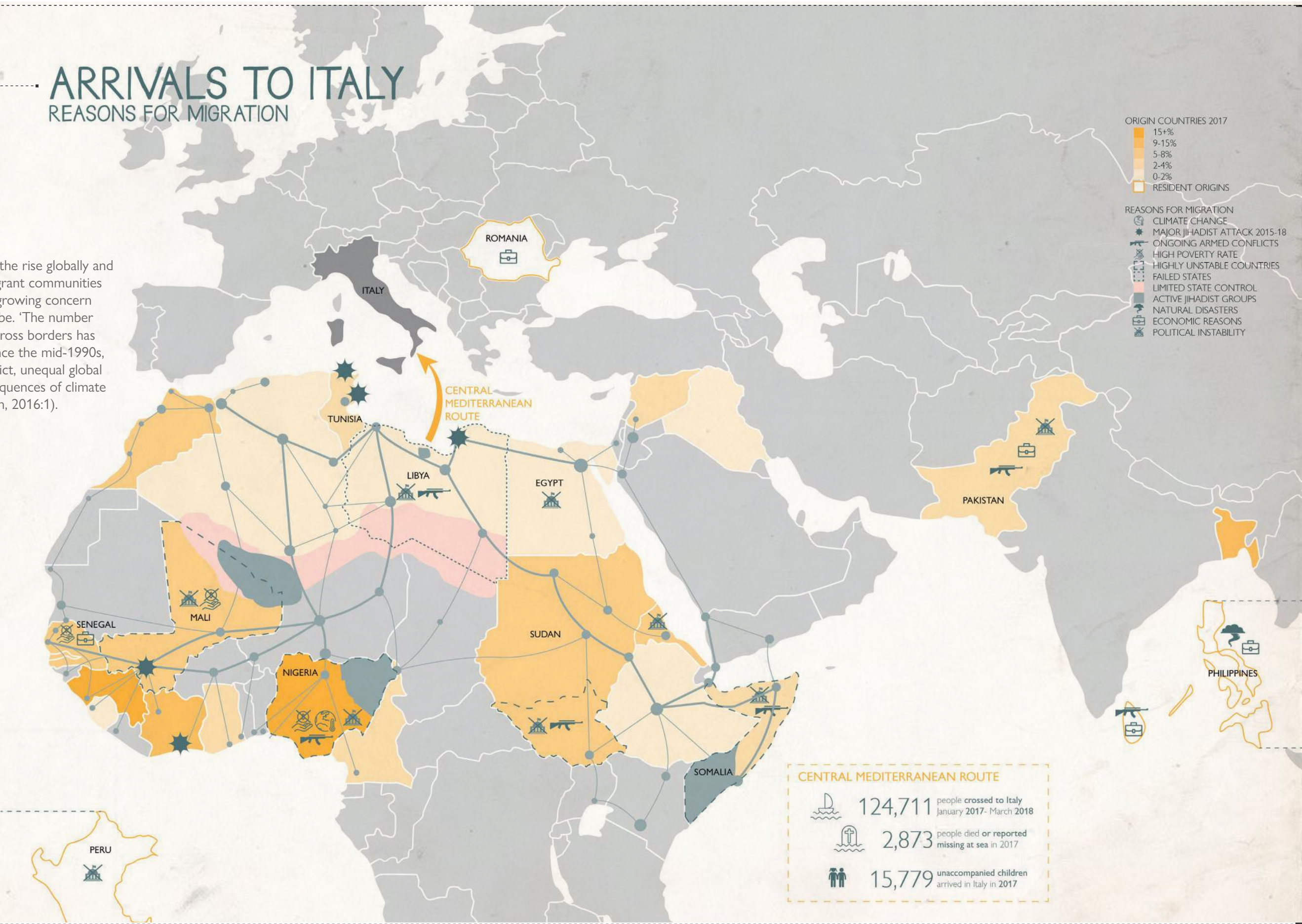
Fig. 11: Aerial view showing location of the San Siro neighbourhood



2.2 Patterns of Migration and Diversity

ARRIVALS TO ITALY  
REASONS FOR MIGRATION

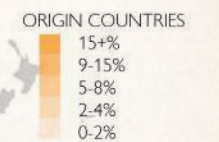
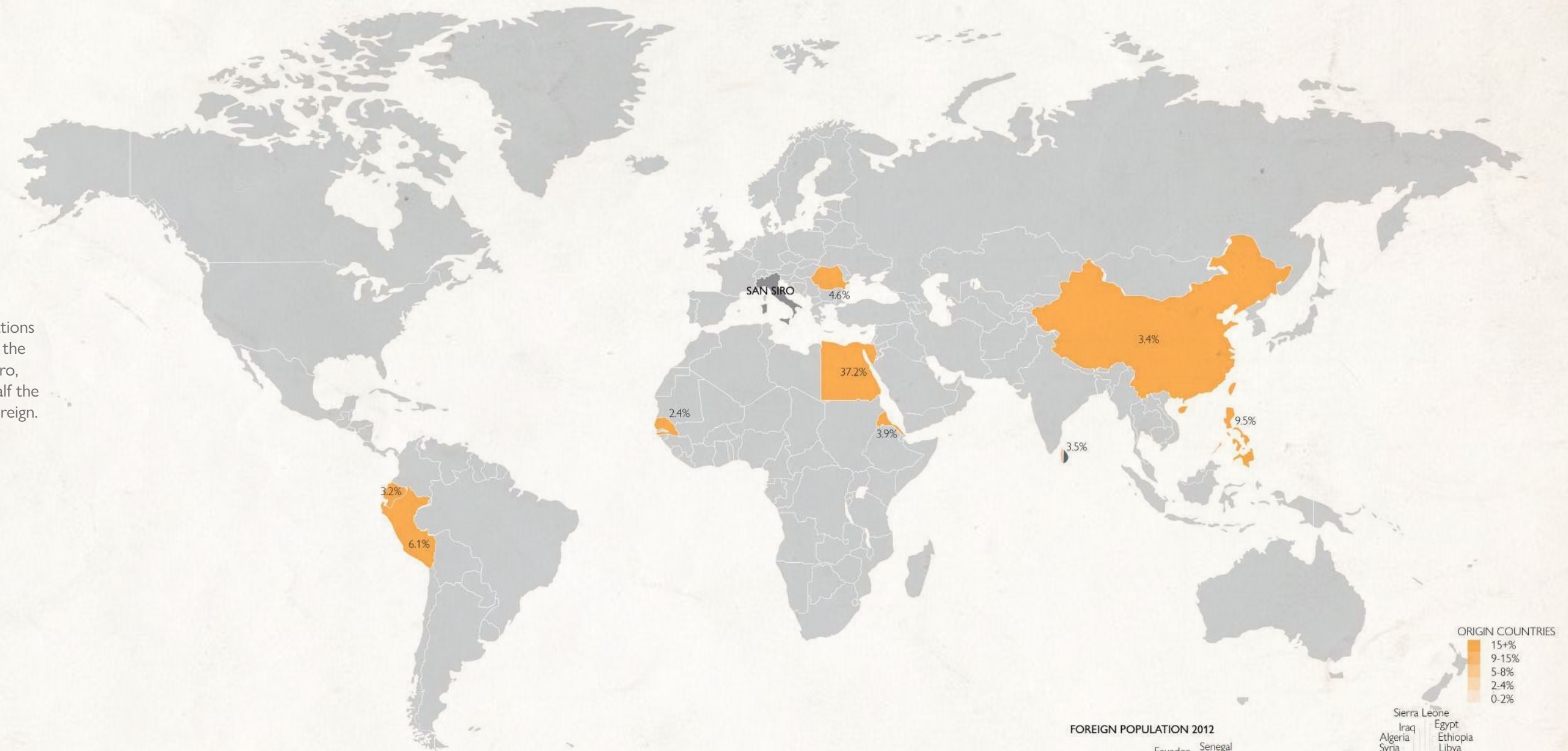
Migration flows are on the rise globally and the integration of migrant communities within the city is a growing concern for Italy and the globe. 'The number of people moving across borders has risen exponentially since the mid-1990s, whether due to conflict, unequal global relations or the consequences of climate change' (Awan, 2016:1).



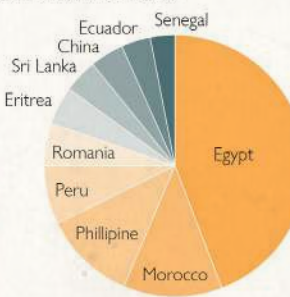


# SAN SIRO FOREIGN RESIDENTS

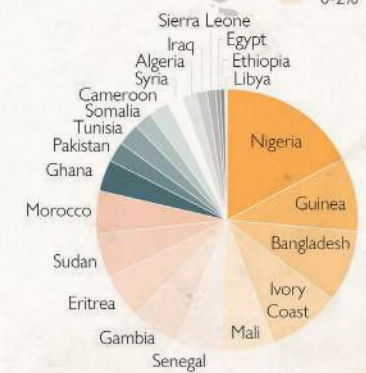
Migrant populations have been on the rise in San Siro, where nearly half the residents are foreign.



FOREIGN POPULATION 2012



TOP 10 ORIGIN COUNTRIES  
2012



IMMIGRANT ARRIVALS TO ITALY 2017  
TOTAL: 97,063

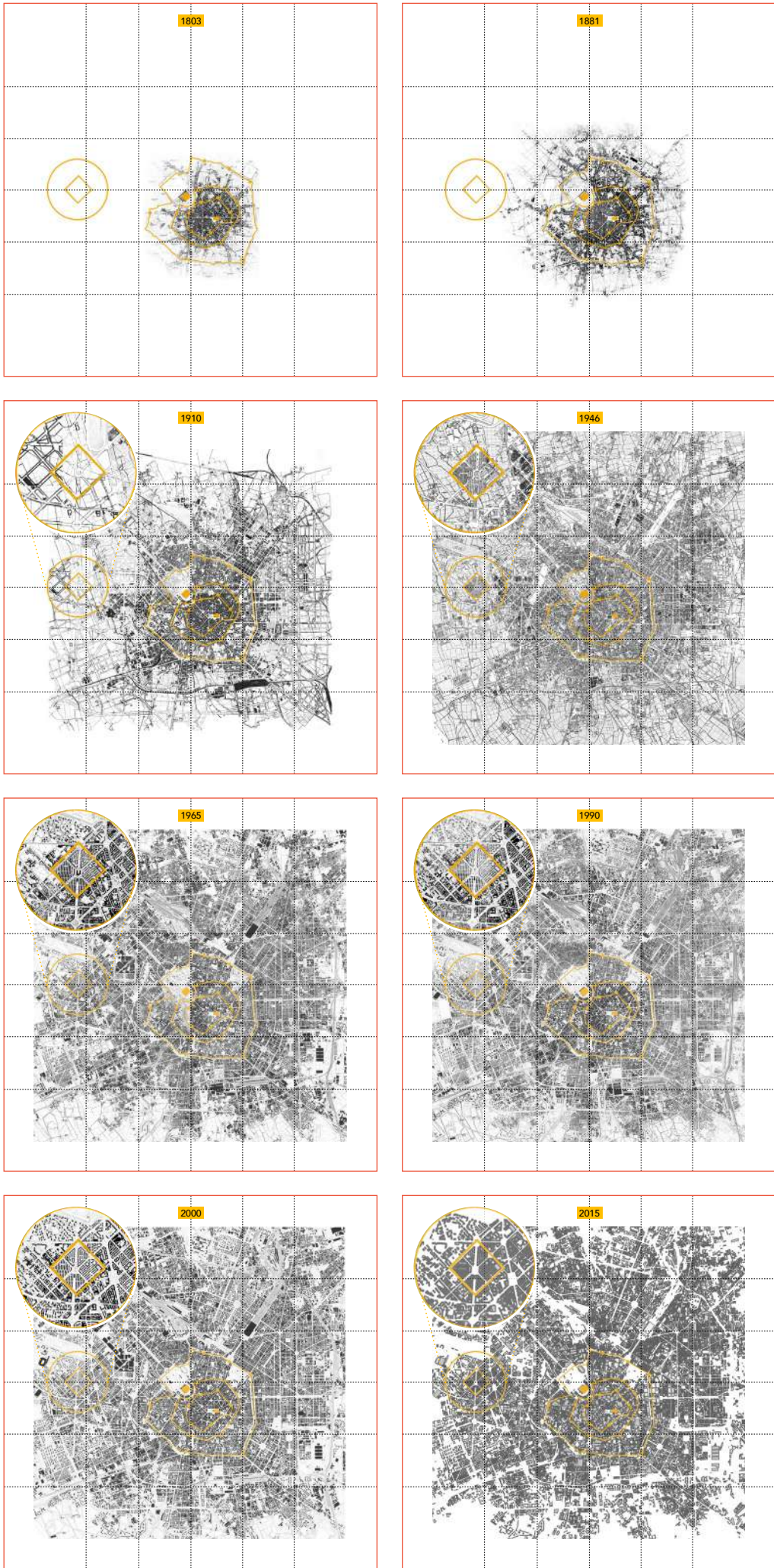


A History of Migration:

The history of Growth characterising San Siro and Milan has resulted in increasing demands for housing, resources, energy, jobs and market economies.

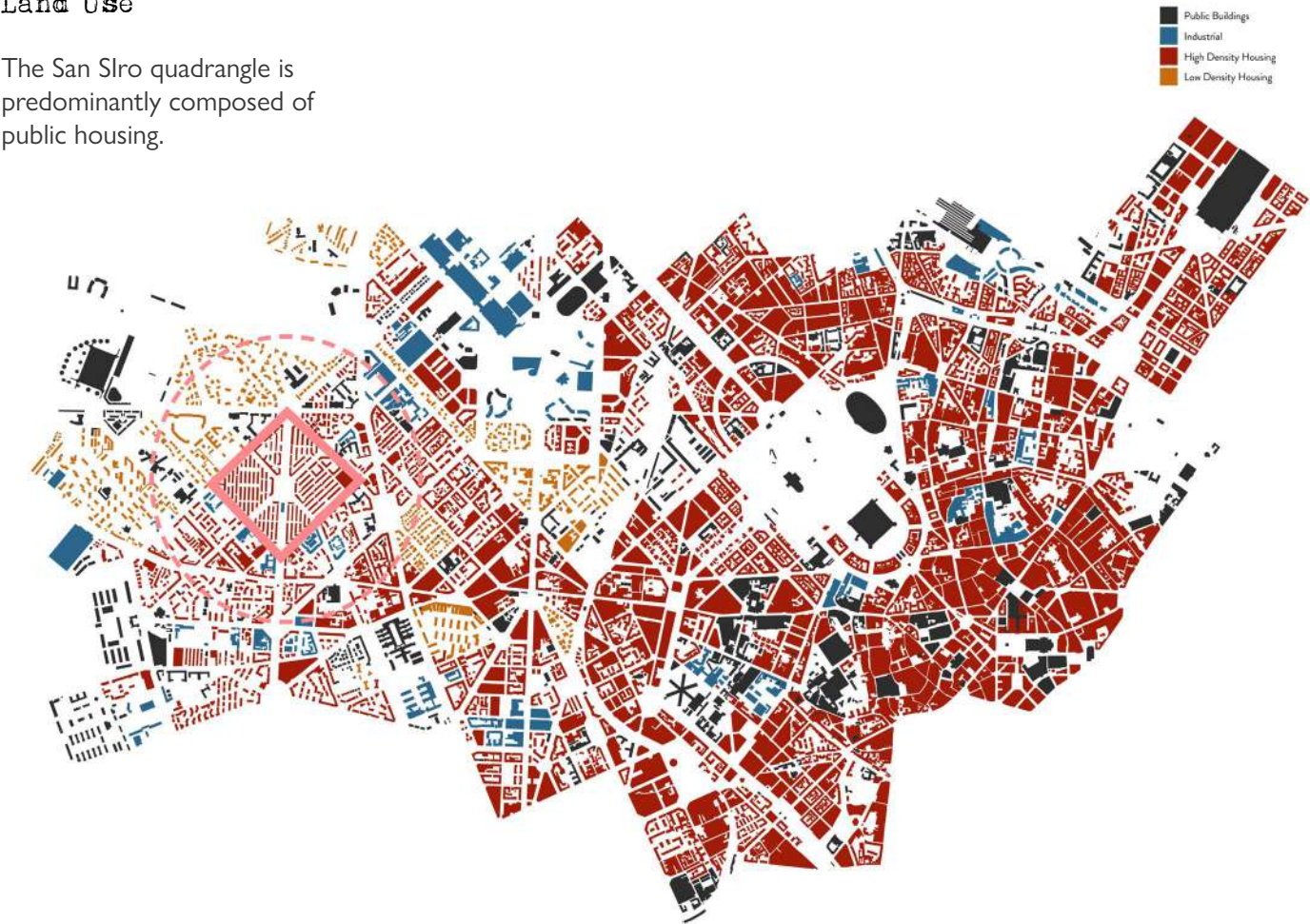
This is a challenge, but also an opportunity – to reinvent the city and reanimate its essence.

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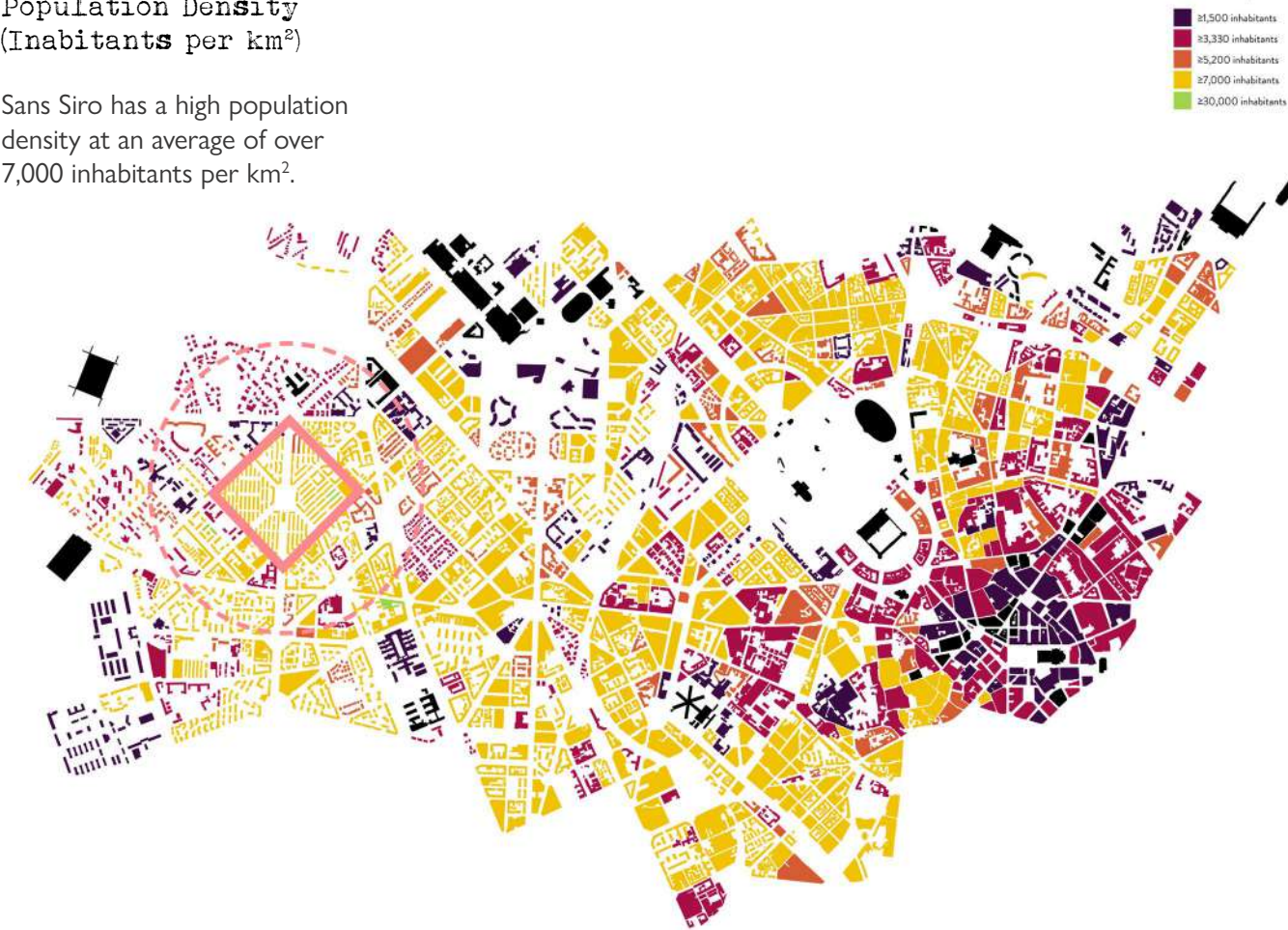
Land Use

The San Siro quadrangle is predominantly composed of public housing.



Population Density  
(Inabitants per km²)

Sans Siro has a high population density at an average of over 7,000 inhabitants per km².



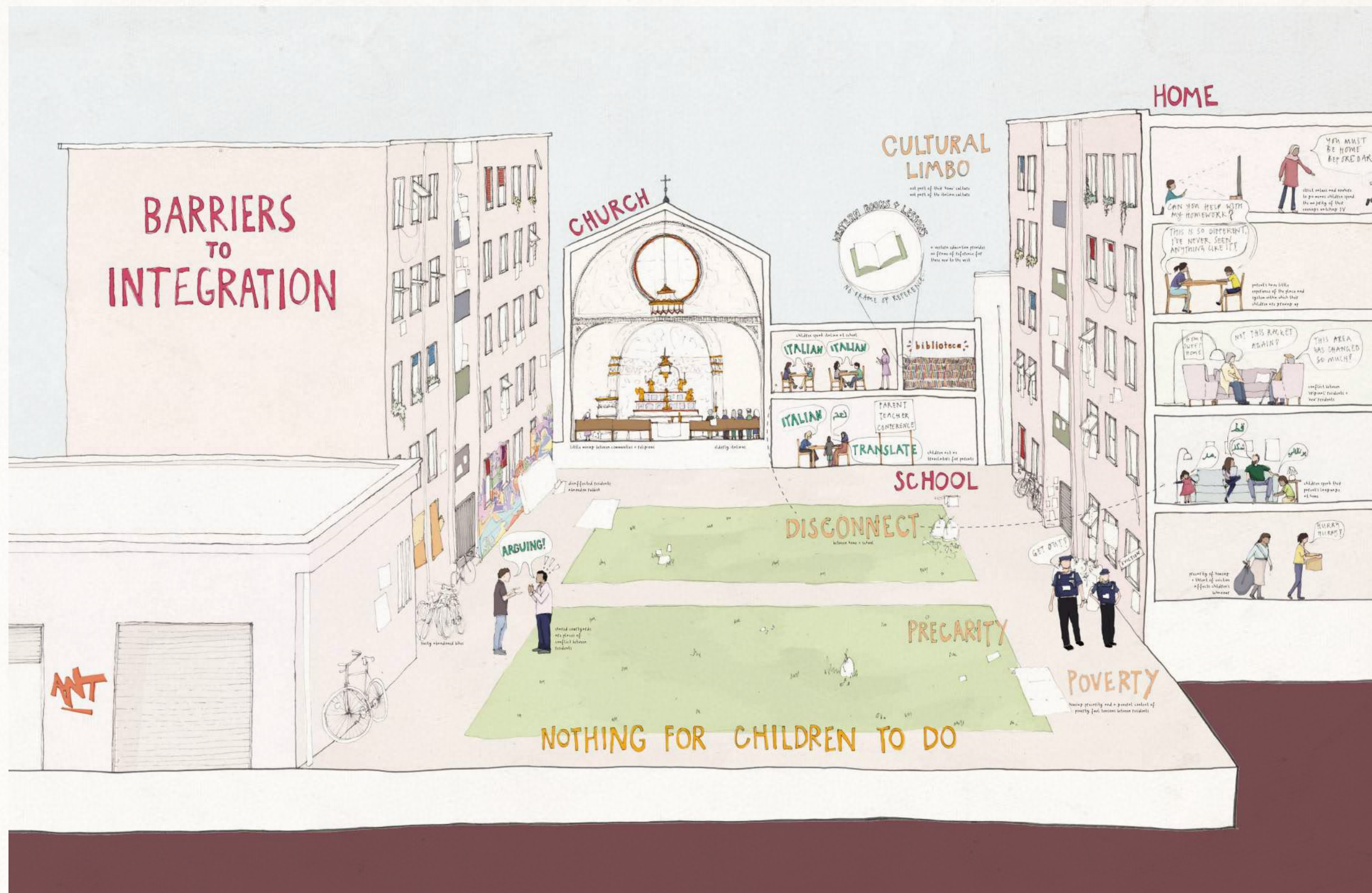


### 2.3 Difference and Belonging: San Siro Stories

*The Diary, sent by his Hakim's brother provided rich insights and detailed experiences about the housing conditions and neighbourhood in San Siro. These were illustrated by the ASF Team on board.*

KEY OBSERVATIONS:

- + Capitalization of the Housing Market
- + Abusive occupation
- + Squatting out of necessity
- + Structural issues behind social issues
- + Poor support networks:  
"School as a Jungle and Child as a ticking time-bomb"- San Siro Stories
- + A fragmented neighbourhood economy
- + Intergenerational barriers:  
Communication and Culture
- + Social initiatives are temporary and don't solve long-term issues



**Fig.12:** Barriers to intergration within the neighbourhood



ALER lacks funding and organisation, resulting in poor maintenance of the housing and shared spaces.

The third-party sector plays an important role in mediating housing challenges and promoting inclusivity, but social unrest has reached its peak.

Government support is severely lacking, therefore sub-threshold houses although not suitable for living, become prone to occupation and squatting – which directly fosters the production of informal living conditions (see Fig.14).

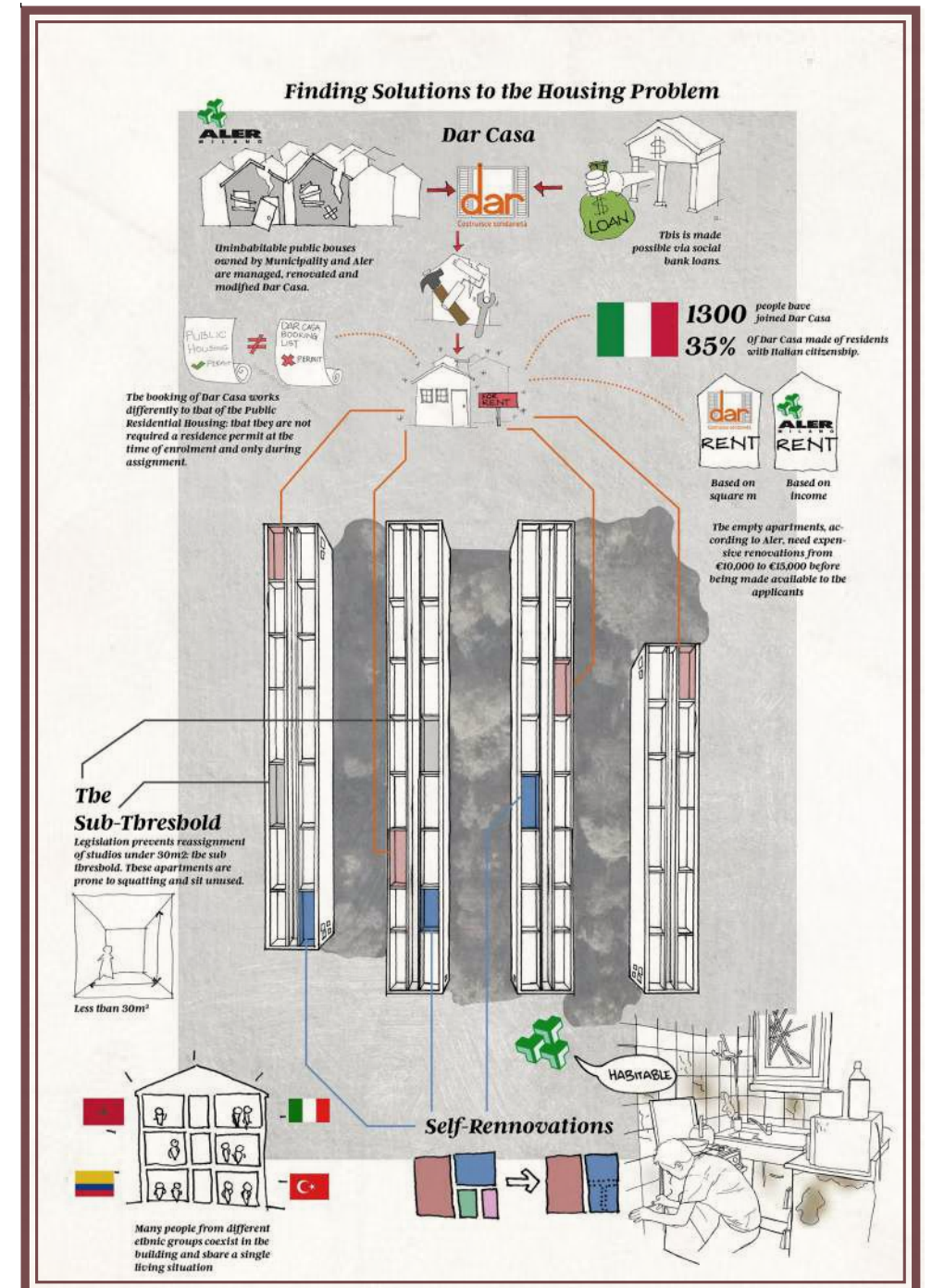
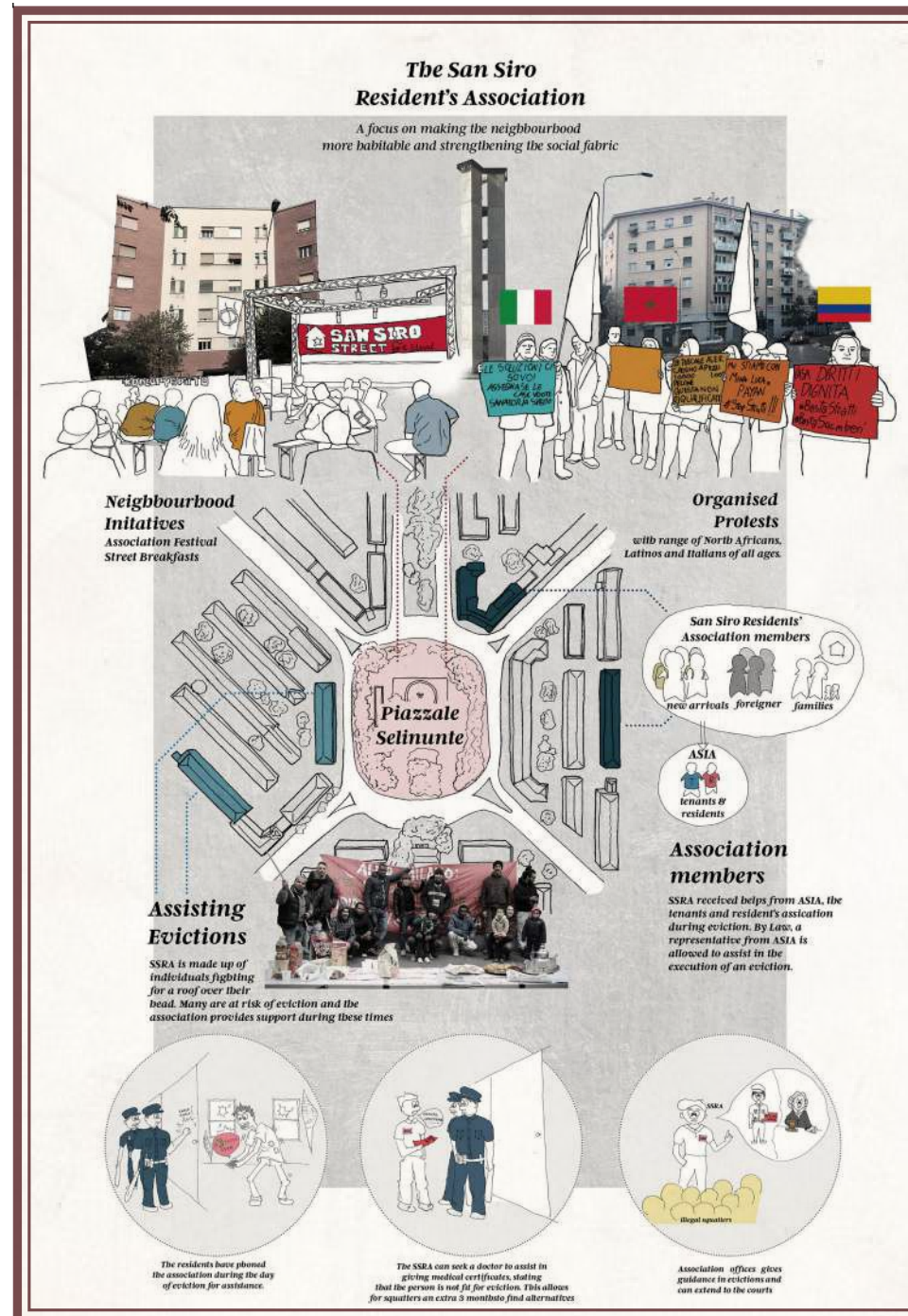
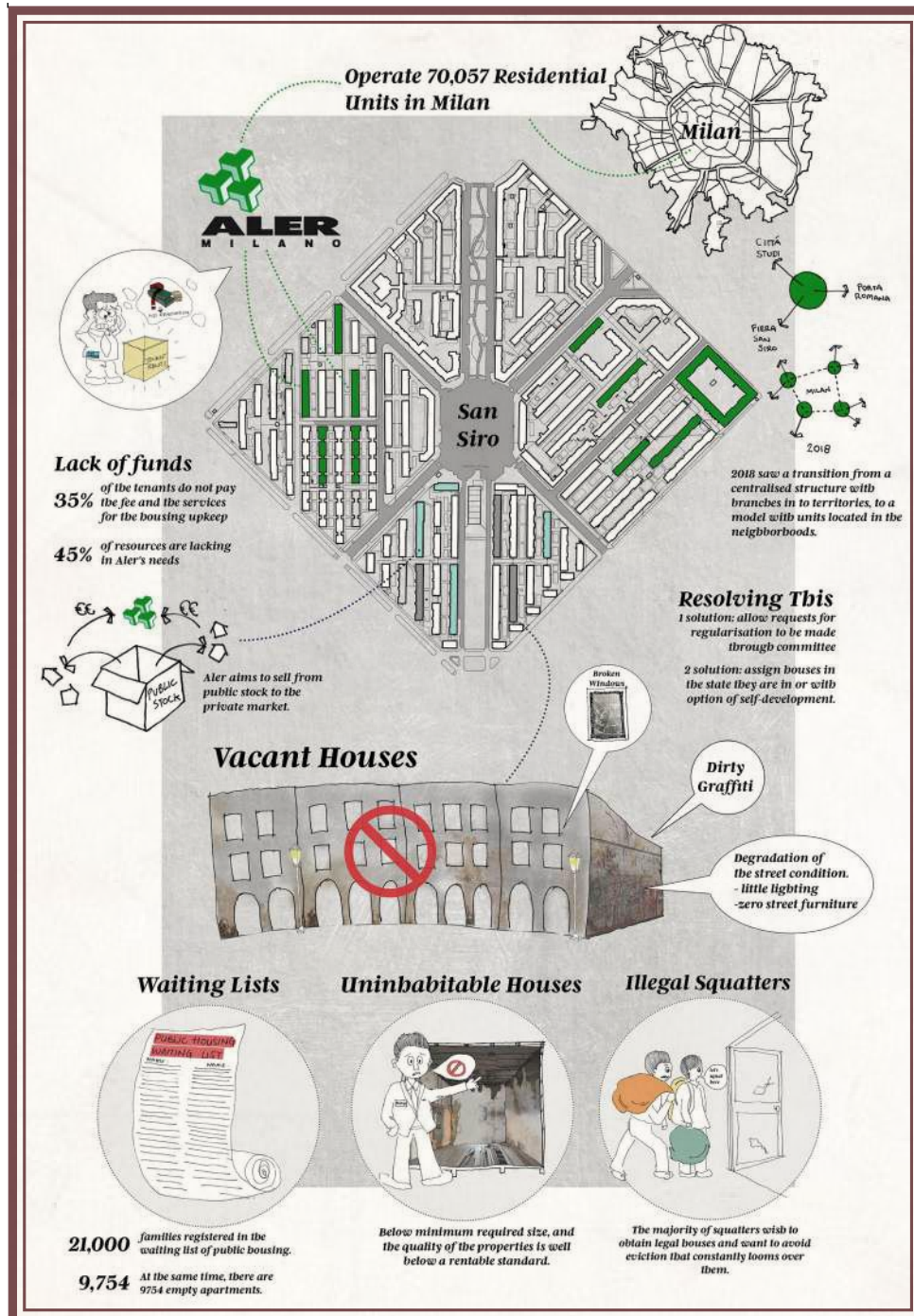
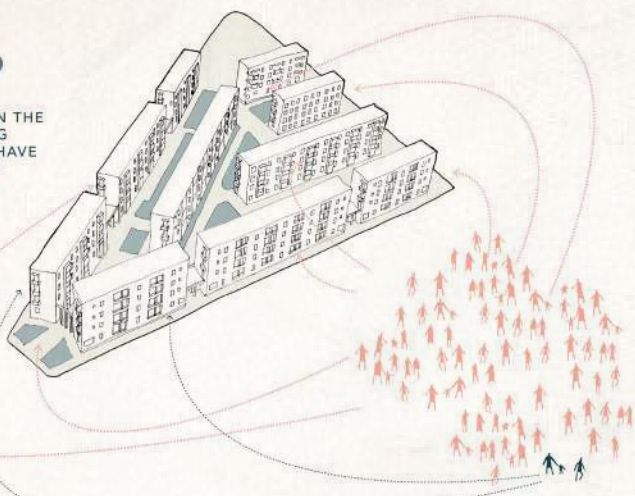


Fig.13: Housing Complexities in San Siro



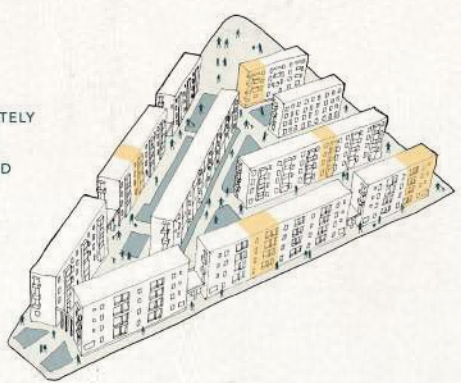
2.4%

OF FAMILIES ON THE PUBLIC HOUSING LIST IN MILAN HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN ASSIGNED TO A PROPERTY



12%

OF APPROXIMATELY 5000 HOMES IN THE SAN SIRO NEIGHBOURHOOD ARE ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED



ANTONIO

OCCUPYING IS MY RIGHT

"Public housing is full of empty apartments, renovated and ready for use, but if you ask for help they do not give you anything. People like me instigate occupation because it's the only way to have a roof over our heads"



LUCIA

THE GRANDMOTHER ANTI-OCCUPATION

"In San Siro the misleading idea that a house is a right for everyone, regardless. But there are no rights without duties. However, we risk taking the immigrant occupier as a scapegoat, when the real responsibilities are upstream"



48 HOURS+

A GUIDE TO ILLEGAL OCCUPATION IN THE SAN SIRO NEIGHBOURHOOD



**UNOCCUPIED**  
Properties lying vacant, many of which are ready for use and are yet to be allocated due to bureaucracy. Others fall below the minimum space standard and are therefore deemed illegal and unoccupiable by ALER.

**ILLEGAL OCCUPANTS**  
Some occupants are on the waiting list for housing and illegally occupy a flat in desperation for a home. Others (eg. rackets) use the properties for illegal activity such as drug deals/stores, hang outs and look outs.

**LEGITIMATE OCCUPANTS**  
The majority of residents have been allocated a property via ALER. This creates a complex social dynamic across the building, with 'legitimate occupants' living side by side with drug dealers and gangs.



A public housing entity who own and manage 70057 residential units across Milan. Yet due to bureaucracy and economic difficulty, much of its housing stock lies vacant and in a state of disrepair.

**SAN SIRO NEIGHBOURHOOD MILANO COMMITTEE**

Since 2009 the committee have staged a political, cultural and social intervention leading the battle against ALER in light of the squalid living conditions in San Siro by organising pickets and blocking evictions.

**THE RACKETS**

The Rackets are local gangs who are actively exploiting the housing crisis by offering a service which helps people to find, illegally enter, and occupy ALER's vacant flats, fuelling tensions in the neighbourhood.



Aspiring occupiers should look out for key signs of an empty apartment such as overflowing letterboxes, or hire a racket to locate an empty property for you.



Use a racket to help you enter the property. This typically costs €2000 and paid in two installments: the first on entering the property, and the second after 48 hours.



DO NOT LEAVE THE PROPERTY FOR AT LEAST 48 HOURS  
From this point it is harder for the police to evict you. Make the space look lived in and be alert to intruders.



Move in your belongings as quickly as possible. Secure the property by changing the locks and installing a burglar alarm, and always keep the lights on.



Make friends with your neighbours and work together by sharing resources and looking out for each other. Be aware, evictions will be more frequent come summer.

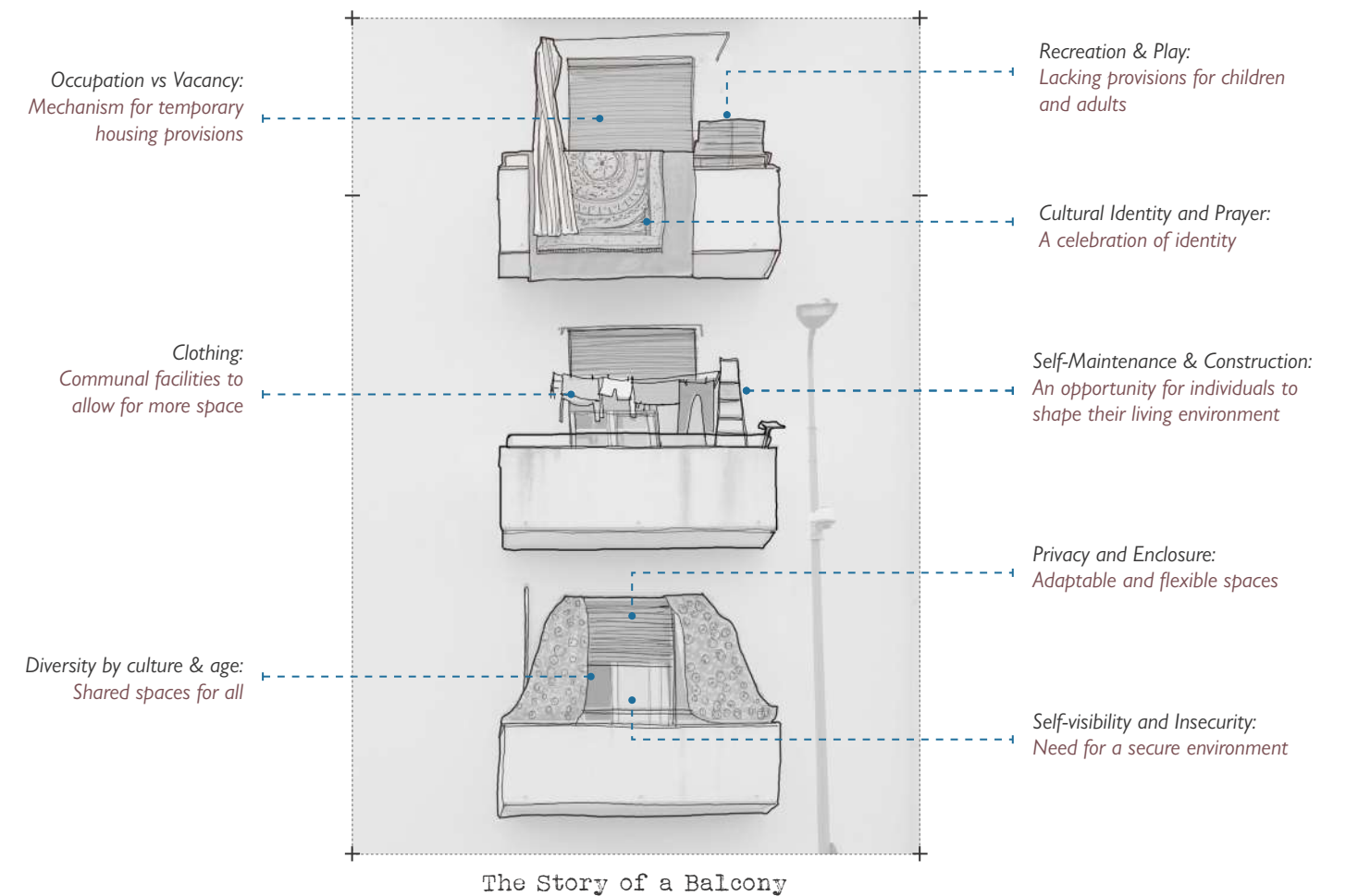




## 2.4 Identity and Inhabitation: The Home

The Home is a place of abode and a physical manifestation of its inhabitants. It encapsulates identity, character and culture. The transitional journey across physical and psychological borders can be challenging and often, the mechanisms for adaptation within a new environment can be lacking, especially regarding housing provision.

Through the *Balcony*, one can visualize these complexities and the needs of its residents, but also opportunities for betterment:



The book, *Making Heimat* (2016) presents the city as 'an idea of density and difference materialised as a space'. This concept is strongly linked to one's personal attachment to the Home; from the Balcony and the Everyday, to the wider connections of community, neighbourhood and place.





**Fig.15:** A collection of balconies and their individual stories



The use of Semiotics<sup>5</sup> and Assemblage theory by Deleuze's illustrates that objects and human interaction with the urban environment matter, making people's relationships to objects equally important. A collection of objects within the neighbourhood reinforces the *Everyday Mundane* and the opportunity to rethink our practice of daily life (Fig. 15, 16).

A policy of inaction results in the stigmatized image of the district. Thus, the story of a balcony or the display of an object is a symbol identity, hope or even of the emptiness behind an armoured door.

<sup>5</sup> Semiotics: The study of signs (words, things, pictures, actions) for the construction of meaning (Crang, 1997).

**Fig.16 (right):** A taxonomy of daily objects: Tokens of meaning & memory.





## 2.5 Borders and Boundaries: The Neighbourhood

A first-hand exploration of San Siro highlighted barriers to integration within the neighbourhood.

The closed neighbourhood structure results in poor accessibility to communal spaces and negative effects on the quality of living due to insecurity and urban decay.

Therefore, San Siro is commonly referred to as a 'District-Ghetto' (Cognetti and Ranzini, 2016: 9), (Fig.19).

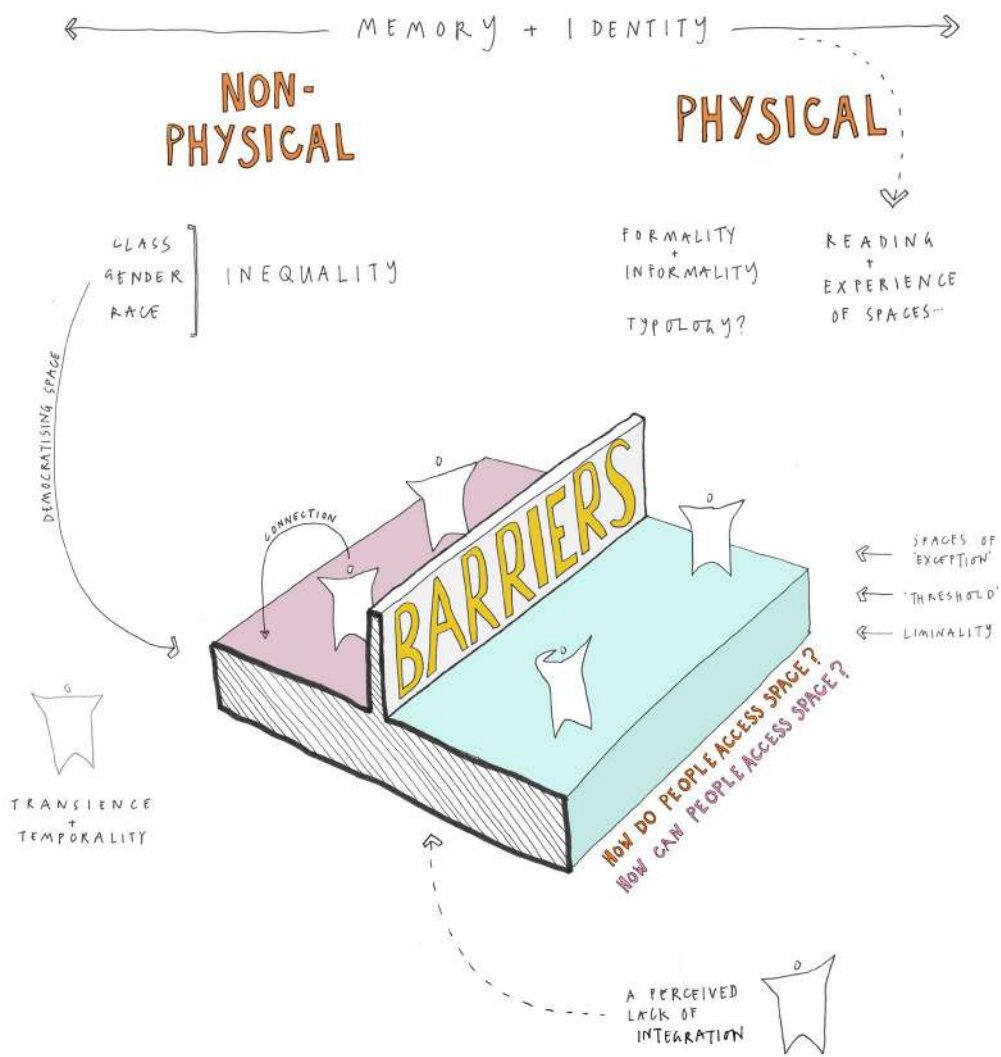


**Fig.17 (top-left):** Structured Walk around the urban boundary and across the neighbourhood along the urban edges and paths.

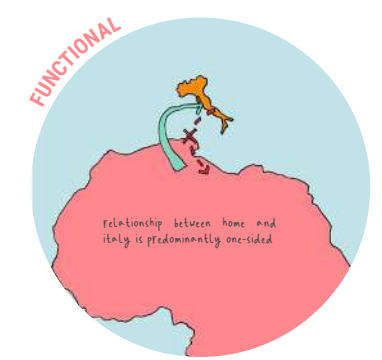
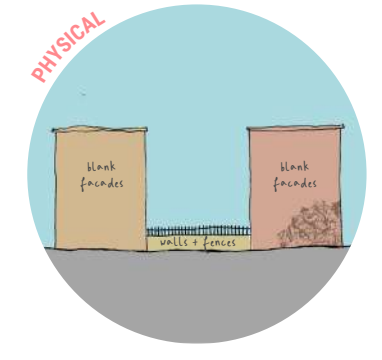
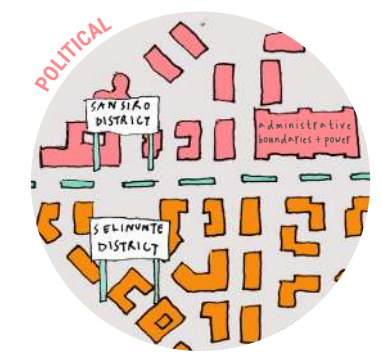
**Fig.18 (bottom-left):** Unstructured Walk following an intuitive walk through any accessible courtyards in San Siro.

**Fig.19 (above):** Cliff Dwellers by George Bellows: An Artist's impression of the density and daily life of New York's lower East-side: a bustling district ghetto.





Borders and Boundaries [in San Siro]



Political  
Physical  
Socio-spatial  
Psychological  
Functional

"we need mass cleansing here in Italy too, street by street, district by district, square by square, with forceful methods, if necessary"

- Matteo Salvini  
Lega Nord Leader

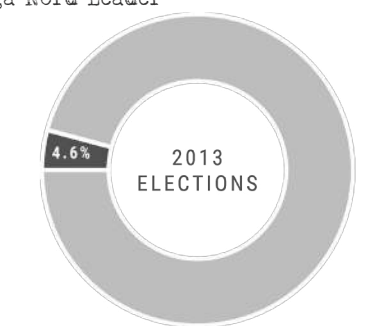
Italy's Salvini vows to end migrant arrivals by boat  
Interior Minister says pregnant women, children & refugees will remain in Italy.

Salvini Seizes on 2nd Italian Teenager's Death to Push Immigration Issue

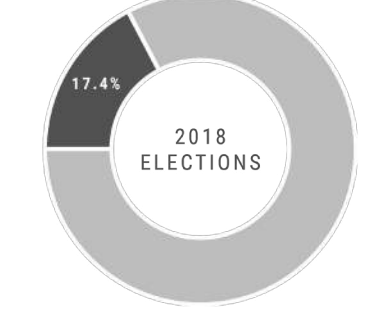
Italy: failed Northern League candidate held over migrant shootings  
Far-right election candidate arrested in city of Macerata after shooting spree targeting Africans

Italy migrant crisis: Government passes tough bill

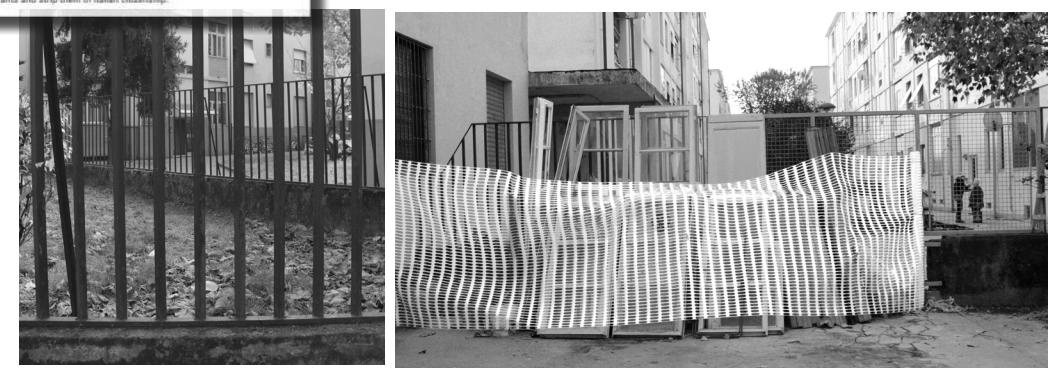
Italian politician pledges to kick out half a million illegal migrants if elected prime minister



INCREASING POPULARITY OF FAR-RIGHT LEGA NORD



Physical Boundaries



"RIOT"

"ALER MERDA"



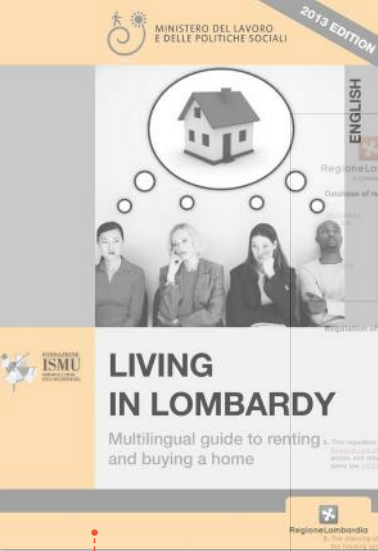
Werner Breitung (2011) proposes five ways of understanding intra-urban borders and boundaries. When applied to San Siro, these divisions become even clearer:

- + POLITICAL: The influence of politics, governance and power structures on migrant inclusivity and housing provision.
- + PHYSICAL: Visible boundaries that control movement: fences, walls, gates and enclosures.
- + SOCIO-SPATIAL: Socio-economic and socio-cultural divisions between local and foreign residents.
- + PSYCHOLOGICAL: Invisible borders in people's minds: the perception of migrants.
- + FUNCTIONAL: Barriers to cross-border mobility and social networking.




2.6 Existing Policy Context

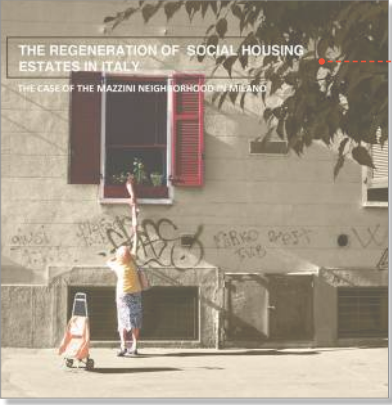
LOCAL



Living in Lombardy: Public and Social housing regulation-allocation, access and management.



Contratti di Quartiere II - Milano



THE REGENERATION OF SOCIAL HOUSING ESTATES IN ITALY

“Housing is a **social need** and an inviolable **human right**”

**Dar:** the right to stay

“In San Siro, out of 5,000 rental houses, over 600 are **occupied illegally**”

Contratti di quartiere (Neighbourhood Contracts):


Launched by the Ministry of public works as a **multidimensional approach to neighbourhood renewal and re-integration** into the city.

legislation prevents relocating studios <30sqm: “**subthreshold**”

**Art. 36. Contracts below threshold**

**Art. 238. Contracts for amounts below the Community threshold**

**Article 121. Common rules applicable to public contracts for works, services and supplies, for amounts below the Community threshold.**




WILCO Welfare innovations at the local level in favour of cohesion


WORK PACKAGE 4

URBAN POLICY INNOVATIONS IN LOCAL WELFARE IN MILAN, ITALY

“The existing law **prevents** the police to carry out **immediate evictions**”



Expo Milano 2015



Agenda 21 (2015-2017): Milan, a leading **City of culture**

IL FORUM DELLA CITTA' MONDO AL MUDEC

MILANO CITTA' MONDO #01

MILANO CITTA' MONDO

Space encounters for **ethnic communities**

2015 Milan World City Forum: A local **multicultural policy** unpacking the discourse about **immigrant presence** in the city and methods of **cohabitation**.

INTERNATIONAL



OECD Social, Employment and Migration Working Papers No. 176

**Policies to promote access to good-quality affordable housing in OECD countries**

Angelica Salvi del Pero, Willem Adema, Valeria Ferraro, Valérie Frey



World Inclusive Cities Approach Paper

May 2016

GSUR

OTHER

JEL Classification: H24, D38, R21, R31

OECD

“Issues related to **displaced population** are **rarely** factored into **urban planning**.”



Partnership with the Cities

The URBAN Community Initiative

The URBAN Community Initiative (1994-1999): **Innovation** in tackling the problems faced by urban areas and **urban communities**.

People who are displaced due to conflicts or disasters face additional constraints such as **legal status, trauma, loss of assets & jobs, and social tensions**.

International strategies and insights in addressing the challenges of **housing and urban development**



International Approaches to Land Use, Housing and Urban Development

NESC Secretariat Papers

Paper No. 14

April 2018

Politics and public institutions directly shape the housing practices in San Siro. An analysis of existing policy regulation, both local and international highlight efforts to ensure integration and liveability within the city (Fig 20). However, the central challenge is poor implementation of the law and inefficient mechanisms for immediate support.

If originally San Siro was the land of urban and social experimentation, today the neighbourhood is peripheral territory, subject to a deliberate de-enhancement policy which augments its problematic character and weakens habitability (Cognetti and Ranzini, 2016: 13). Far-right attitudes towards refugees exacerbate this phenomenon and enforce an ethos for divide.

Fig.20: Key Local and International policy and regulatory considerations.





**Fig.21:** The San Siro Neighbourhood





//Part 3: A  
[non] Functionalist  
Zone



### 3.1 An opportunity for betterment?

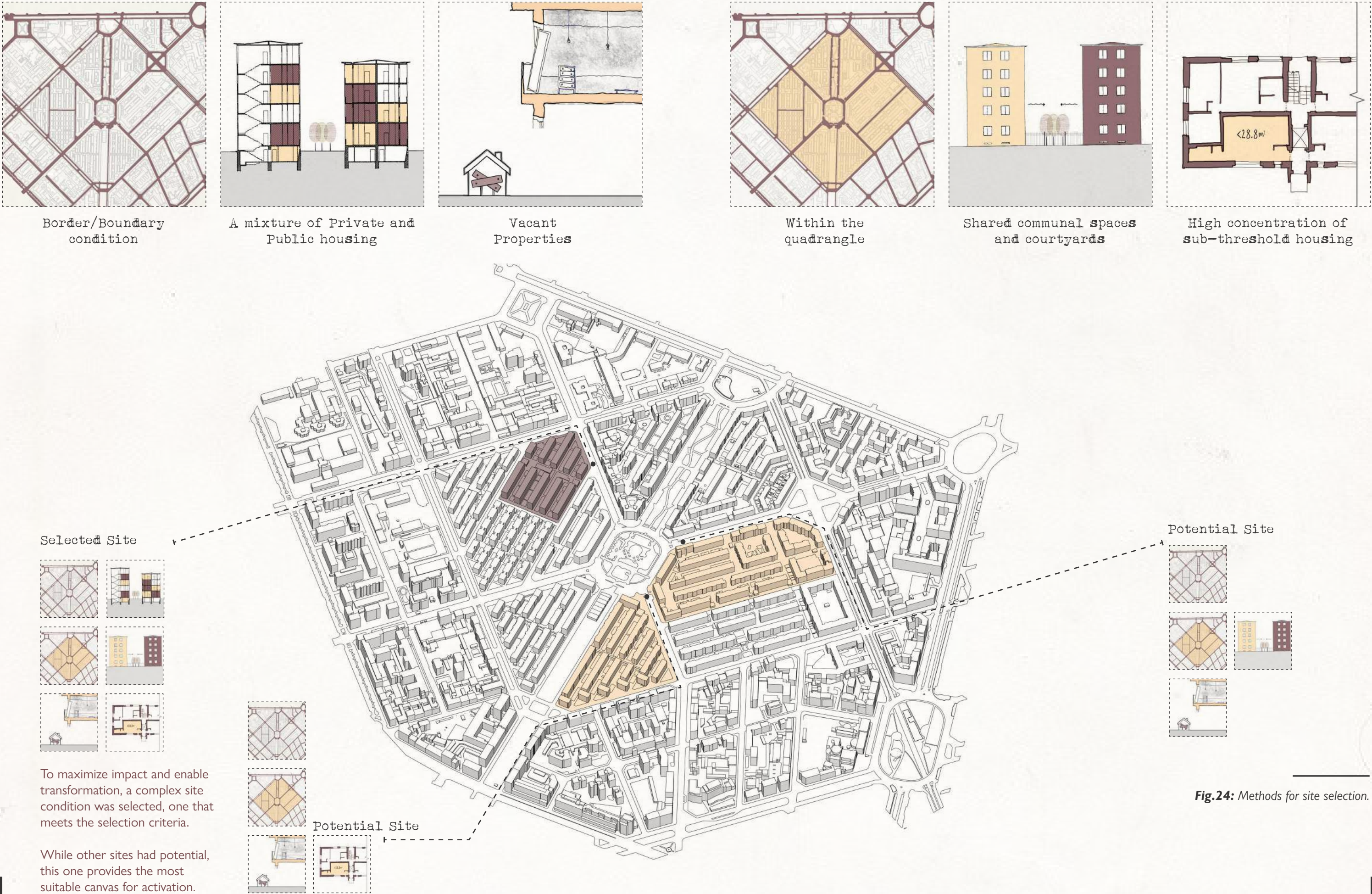
Cultural diversity, as a result Migration, makes the city a melting pot of dissimilar, yet rich identities – which when embraced, can empower communities and create positive change. However, ‘there is important patterning of social isolation and loneliness by migration status and ethnicity’ (Salway, 2017:1). For San Siro, social mix is aspired to but often difficult to achieve because of evident socio-spatial barriers. As such, many communities become marginalized and detached from daily city life. This can lead to problematic living conditions because of an urban blight that exacerbates the co-existence of different populations (Fig. 23). The consideration of a complex zone within the neighbourhood will be a starting point for transformation.



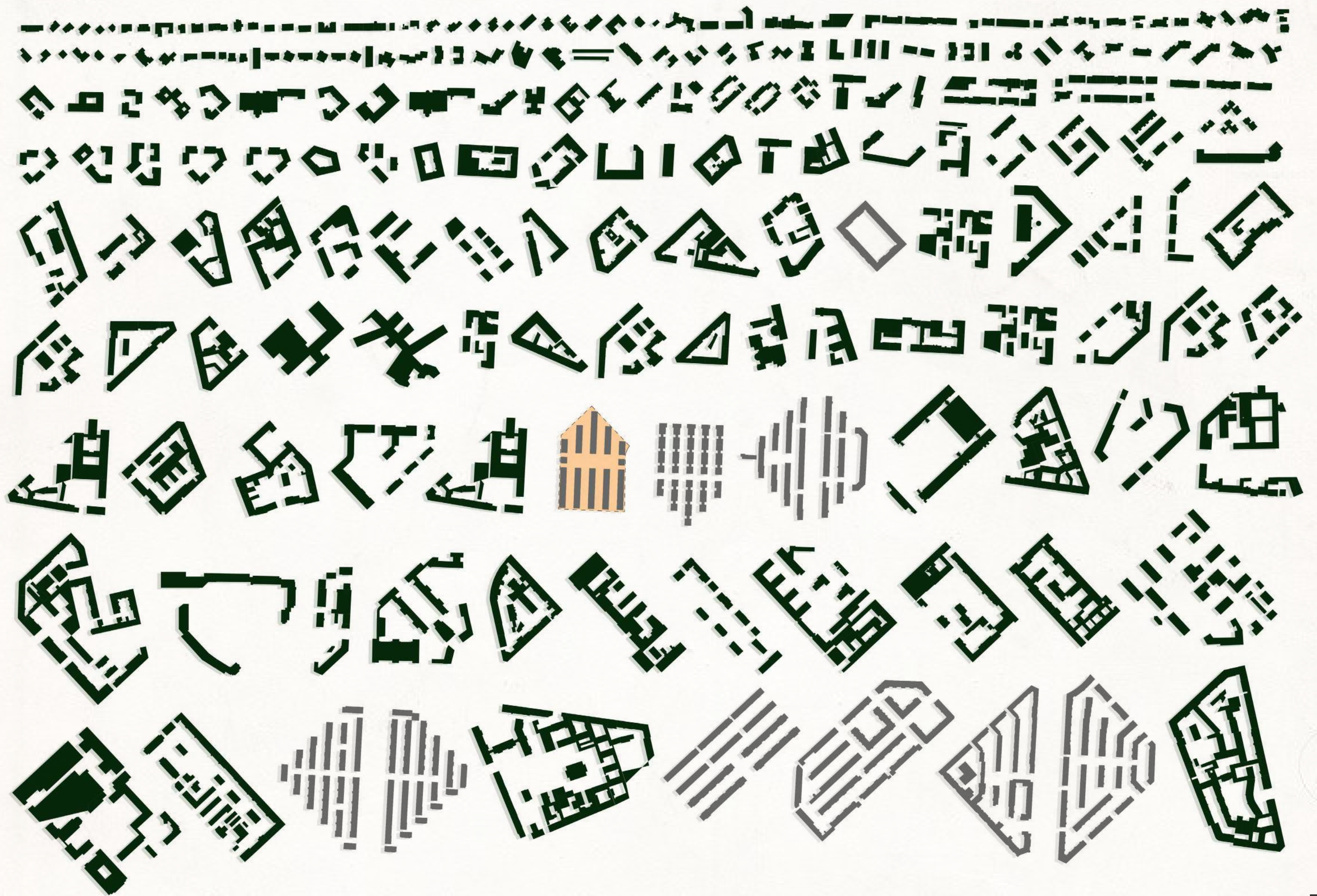
Fig.23: Montage of complexities within the Neighbourhood



### 3.2 Site Selection









### 3.3 The "Lotto D'Annunzio"



**Fig.26:** Site location showing border-boundary condition

While the neighbourhood appears homogenous in style and aesthetic, there are differences in the socio-spatial fabric within each zone. 'Contrasts are evident in all the areas of the district at all levels: demographically, culturally, socially, economically' (Kempen, 2005) – as seen from the maps (right).

#### ANALYSIS:

A: Concentration of Subthreshold housing (<28.8sqm). Highest in the selected site.

B: Potentially vacant and unassigned housing (not in a state of habitation due to maintenance, repair or poor condition). High vacancy in selected site.

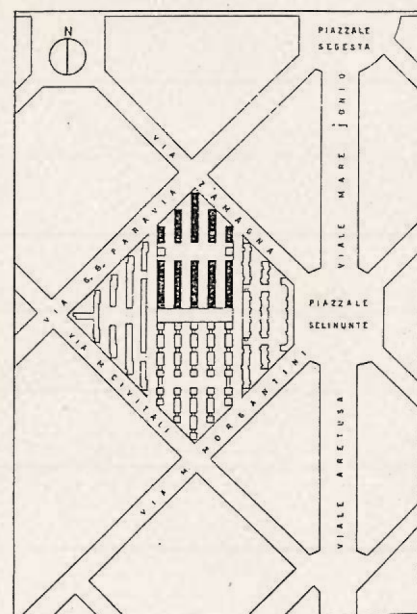
C. Percentage of housing sold within the district Total houses: limited housing ownership in selected site.



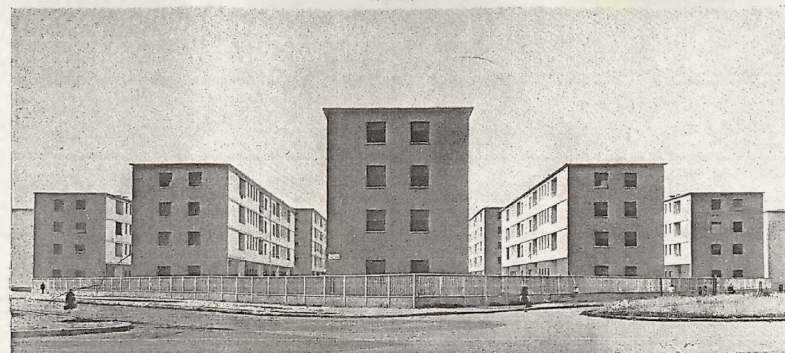
**Fig.27:** Maps showing housing characteristics within the neighbourhood.

Note: all values are an absolute value as a % of the housing units.

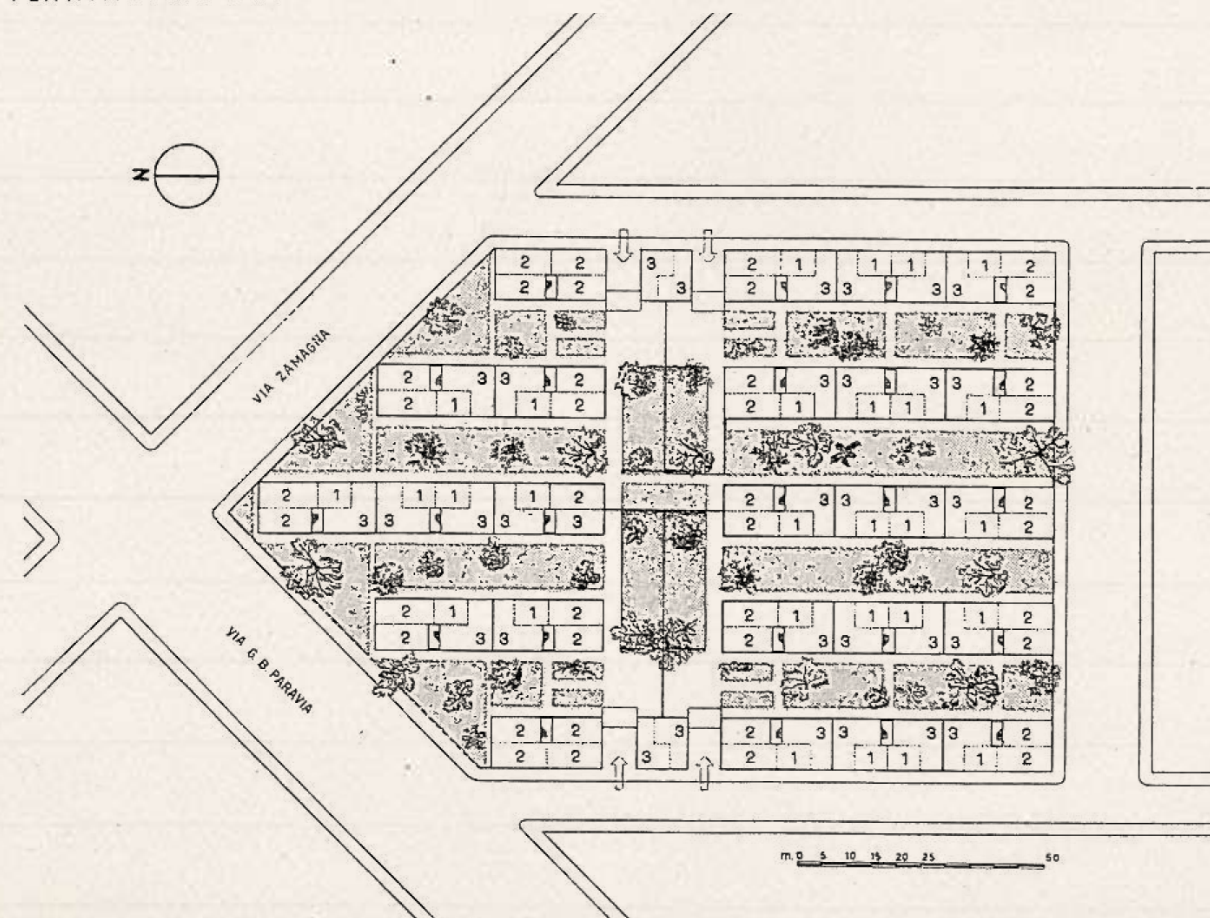




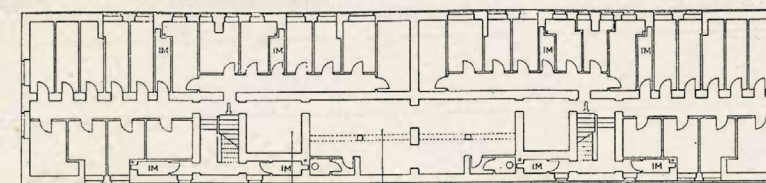
QUARTIERE D'ANNUNZIO  
PLANIMETRIA DELLA ZONA



QUARTIERE D'ANNUNZIO (LOTTO A) - VEDUTA DA NORD DELLE CINQUE FILE DEI FABBRICATI



TIERE GABRIELE D'ANNUNZIO - LOTTO A



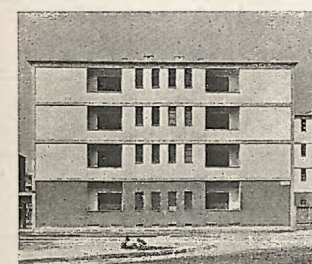
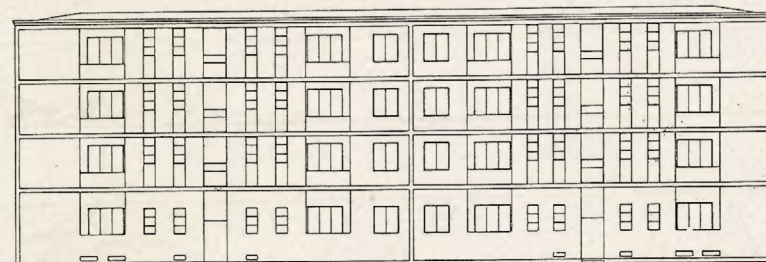
ITA DEL SOTTERRANEO DI DUE ELEMENTI CONTIGUI



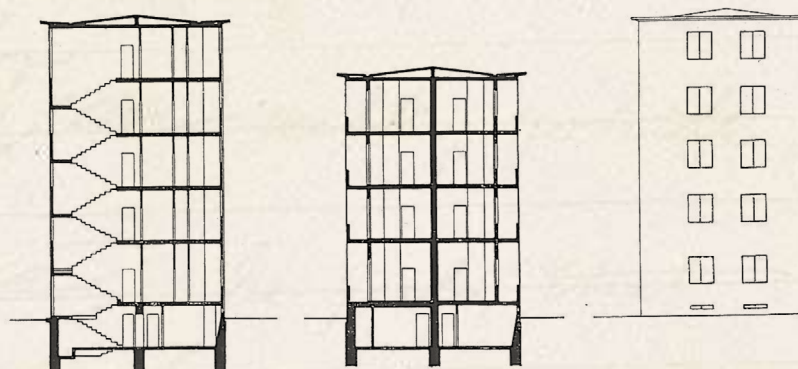
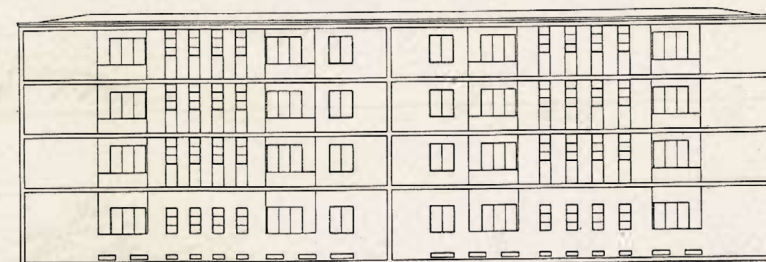
ITA DEL PIANO-TIPO DI DUE ELEMENTI CONTIGUI



ACCIAIA DAL LATO DELLE SCALE



DIATA DEL LATO OPPOSTO A QUELLO DELLE SCALE



I E TESTATA DEI FABBRICATI A 4 E 5 PIANI

Fig.28: Original plans, sections & elevations of the Lotto D'Annunzio, from archive



3.4 Site Characteristics and Opportunities

Streetscape:



Limited pedestrian activity and circulation due to vehicles

Housing:

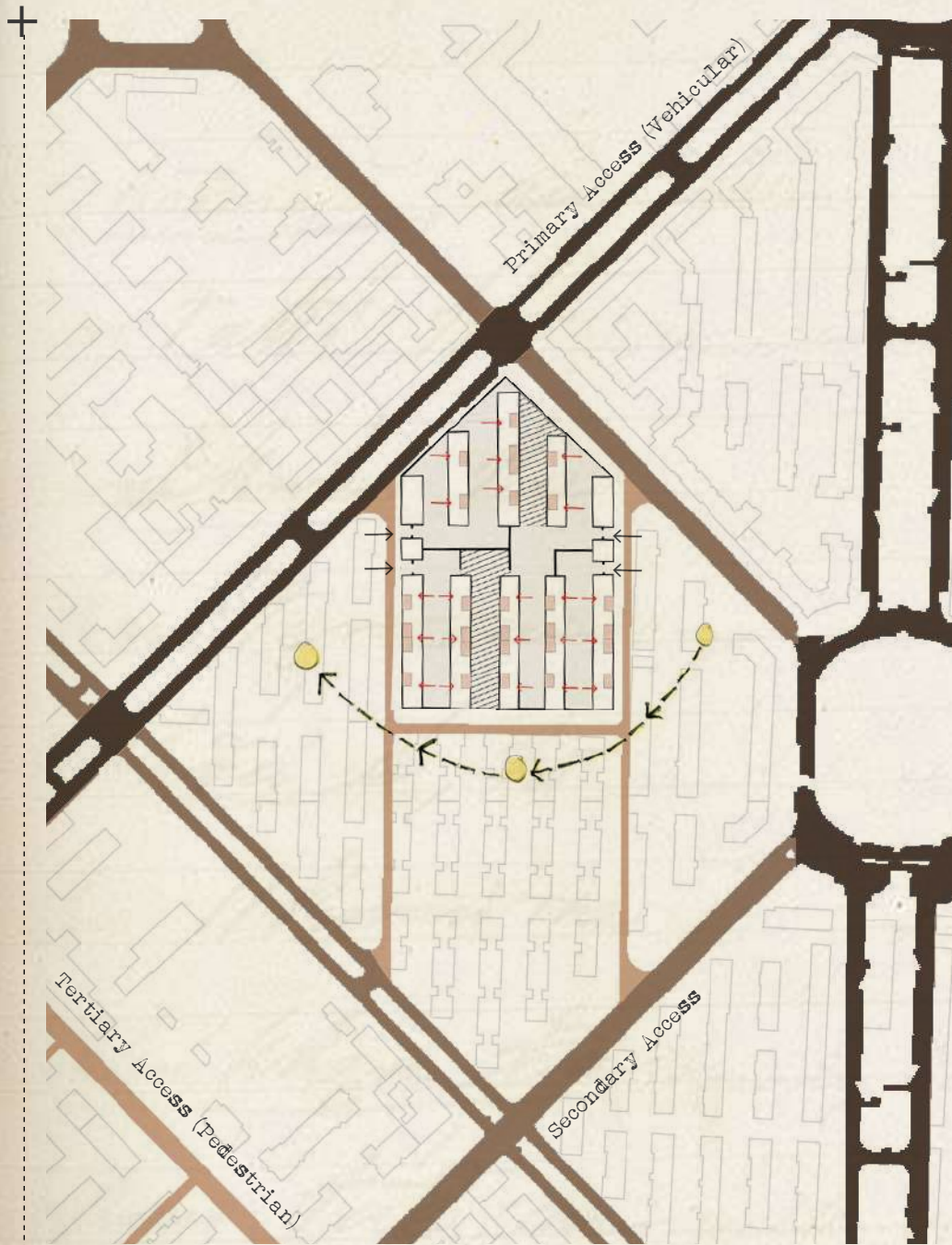


Rigid and Homogenous, lacking a sense of identity

Courtyards:



Fences and barriers limit access and movement



Site Analysis  
KEY:  
← Main access  
← Individual dwelling access  
Sub-threshold housing  
Communal courtyards  
Private back gardens

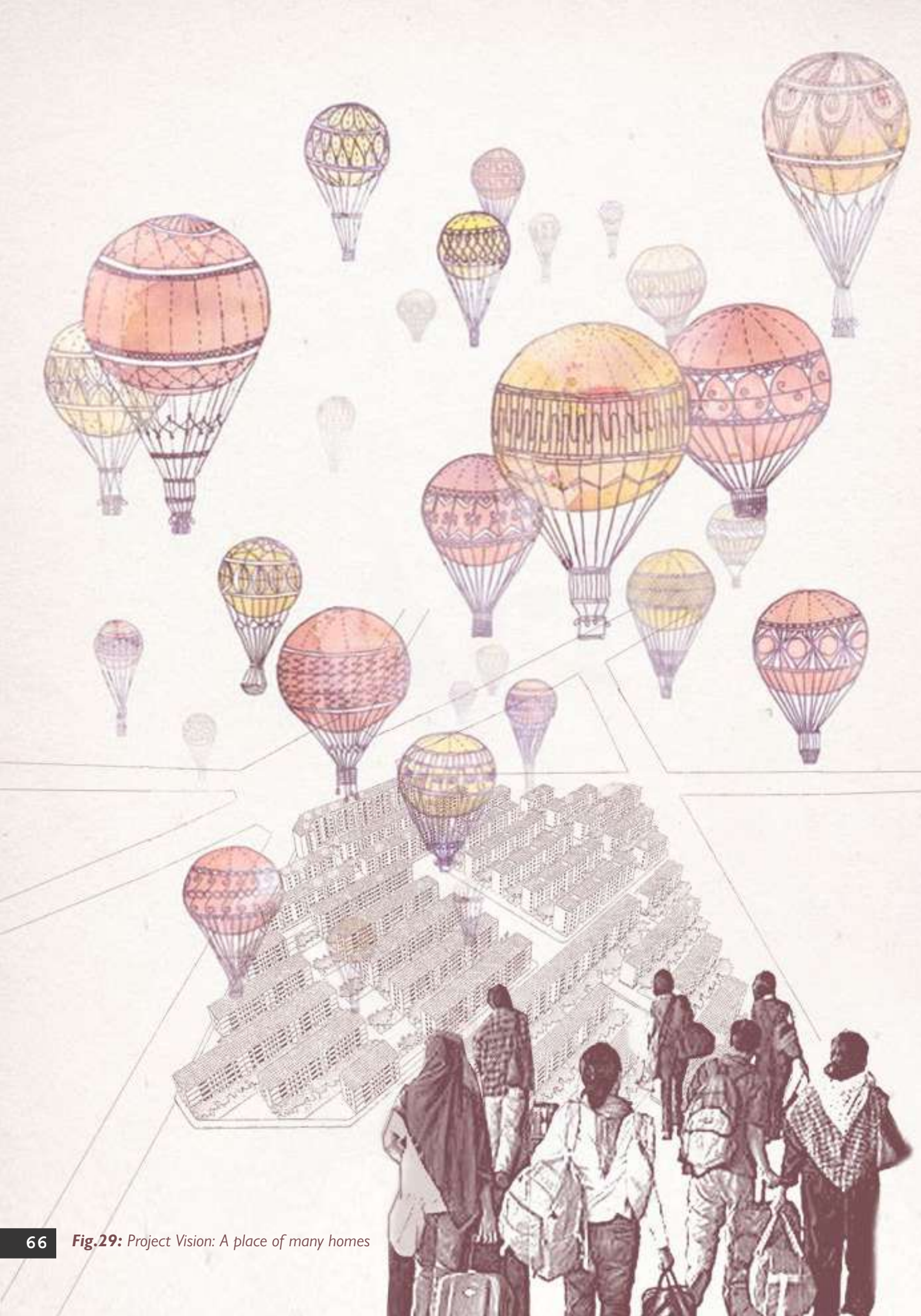
FACT FILE  
Lotto D'Annunzio:  
Foreign Population: 41%  
African Population: 26.7%  
Average Age: 43 yrs  
Age 60+ years: 26.5%  
Family households: 73%

Total Site Area: 16,470m<sup>2</sup>  
Housing: 6,140m<sup>2</sup>  
Courtyard: 10,330m<sup>2</sup> (GF Footprints)



Materiality and Textures





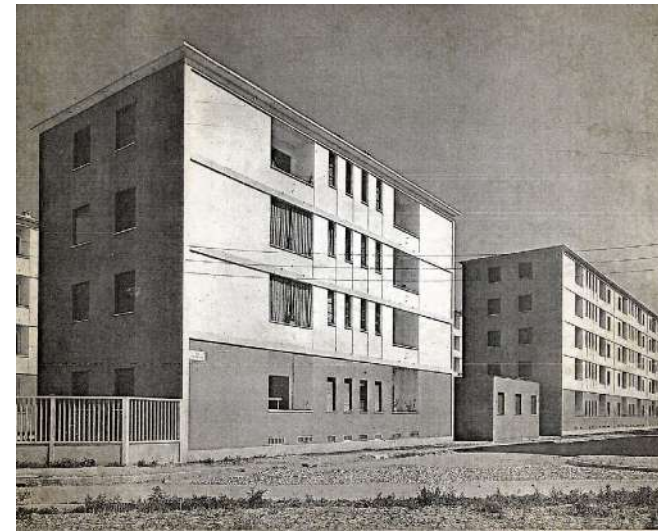
## //Part 4: Towards a New form of Habitation



## 4.1 Lessons from the Athens Charter

The Athens Charter was born out of the conclusion that 'conditions in most cities appear chaotic and do not meet the populations primordial, psychological and physiological needs' (Bergeijk, 2015: 475). The machine-age gave rise to high density living, unsanitary slums and overcrowding, which transformed cities into repositories of poverty, chaos and ill-health. Thus, the Charter was an active attempt to ensure a humanistic approach to the design of cities - which planning practice at the time was seen to overlook. The proposition, as a product of modernist thinking, resulted in technical instruments and strict guidelines for design and planning. 'The combined effect of these apparently neutral technical propositions are the highly fragmented, starkly differentiated and, at times, sparsely populated 'planned' urban landscapes of the late 20th and early 21st century city' (Clos et al., 2018). A popular example of this is Le Corbusier's Villa Radieuse (Fig.30), a utopian vision for the ideal city and a blueprint for social reform. One can draw clear parallels with the housing district in San Siro.

The four functions of the city: work, leisure, connectivity and dwelling, are equally important today as they were at the time of their conception. While these elements form the foundation of urbanity, the imposing urban structure with which they're linked enforce a degree of inflexibility and order, as illustrated in the images. Therefore, there is a need to rethink these elements through a socialist lens; one that prioritizes people, communities and personal interactions.



*San Siro during and after construction*



*Villa Radieuse: 'The Radiant City' by Le Corbusier*

**Fig.30:** Aesthetic similarities between San Siro and Villa Radieuse

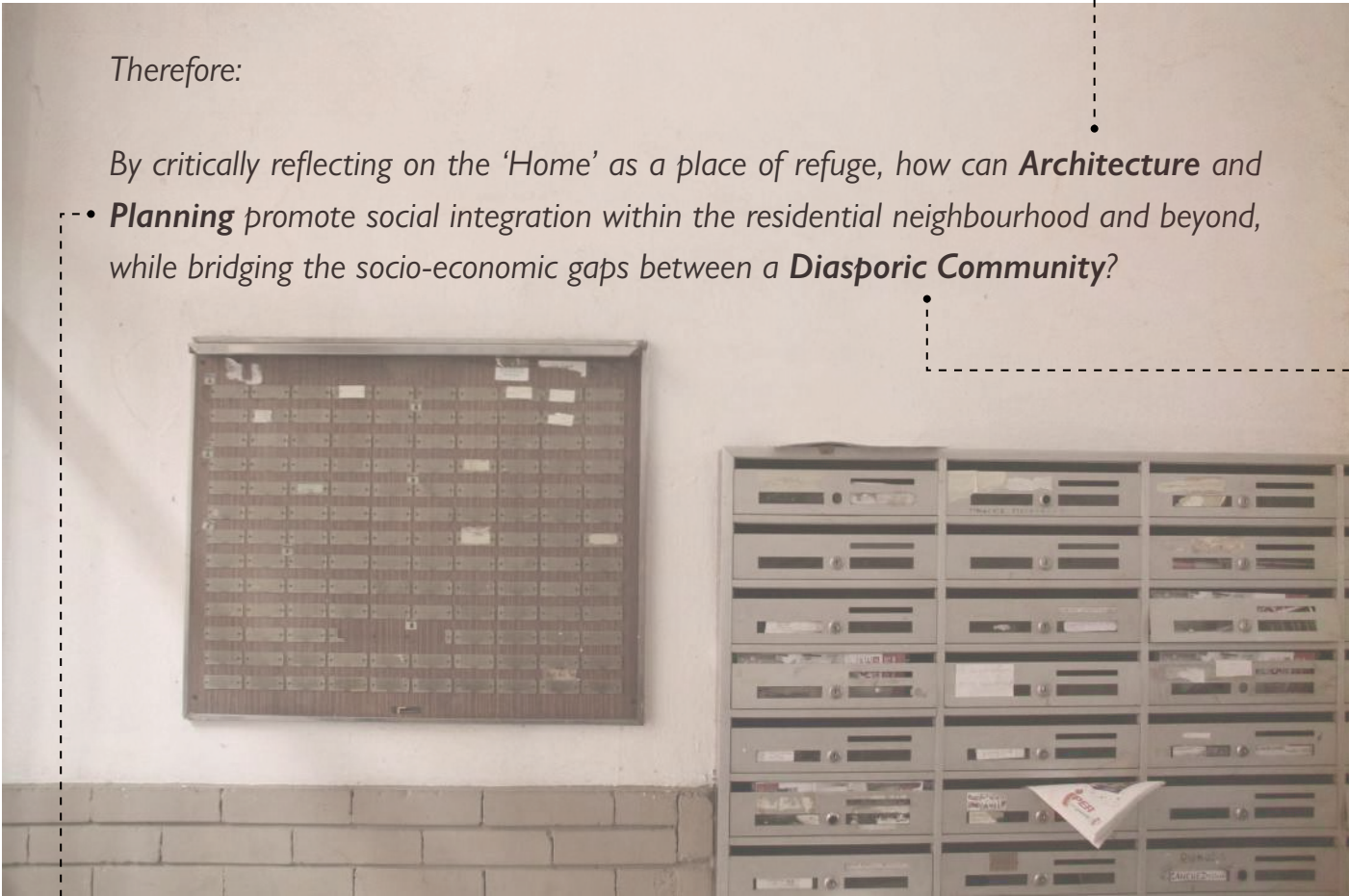


# 4.2 Ingredients for living: Brief

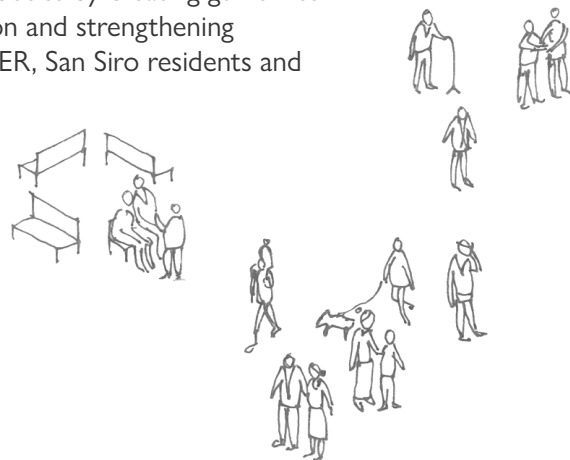
The ingredients for a functionalist neighbourhood are informed by the Athens Charter which suggests that the four keys to urban planning are the four functions of the city: Habitation, Leisure, Work and Connectivity. When socially applied to the context of San Siro, these elements can create a progressive, interdependent and sustainable environment.

Therefore:

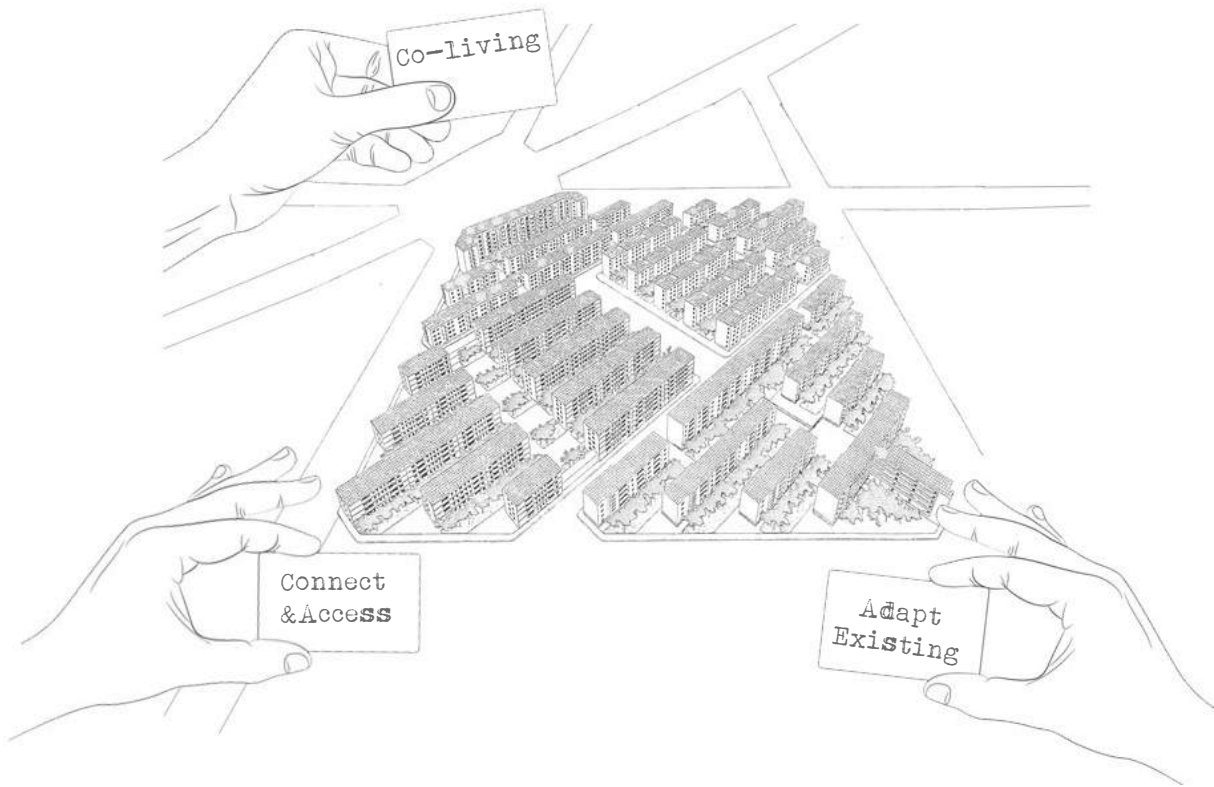
By critically reflecting on the 'Home' as a place of refuge, how can **Architecture** and **Planning** promote social integration within the residential neighbourhood and beyond, while bridging the socio-economic gaps between a **Diasporic Community**?



'The tabula rasa approach to planning is predicated on the notion that problematic, unhealthy neighbourhoods should be demolished to make space for new development' (Clos et al., 2018). This charter promotes the opposite by creating guidelines for socio-spatial adaptation and strengthening relationships between ALER, San Siro residents and the Lombardy Council.



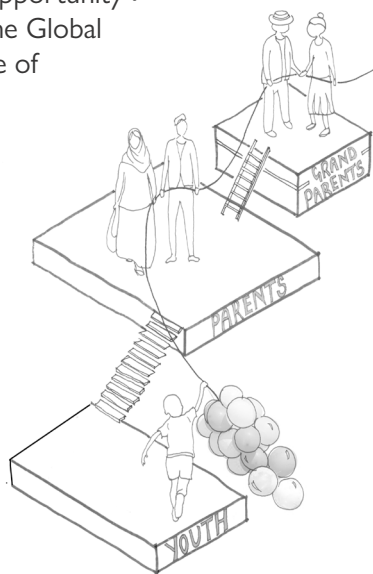
The creation of an inclusive proposal will aim to meet the needs of a diverse residential population including: Foreign families, Single-parents, Lonely elderly, Single-income families, Youth and Mentally-disabled. This will enhance neighbourhood liveability by creating a self-sustaining housing model, which serves as a platform for integration through everyday activity.



41% of inhabitants on the selected site originate from a foreign background (Cognetti, 2014). At a city scale, 92% of Milan's migrant population come from developing countries (Eurocities, 2018). This provides an opportunity to challenge the existing dichotomy between the Global South and Global North, which is currently one of hierarchy and meliority.

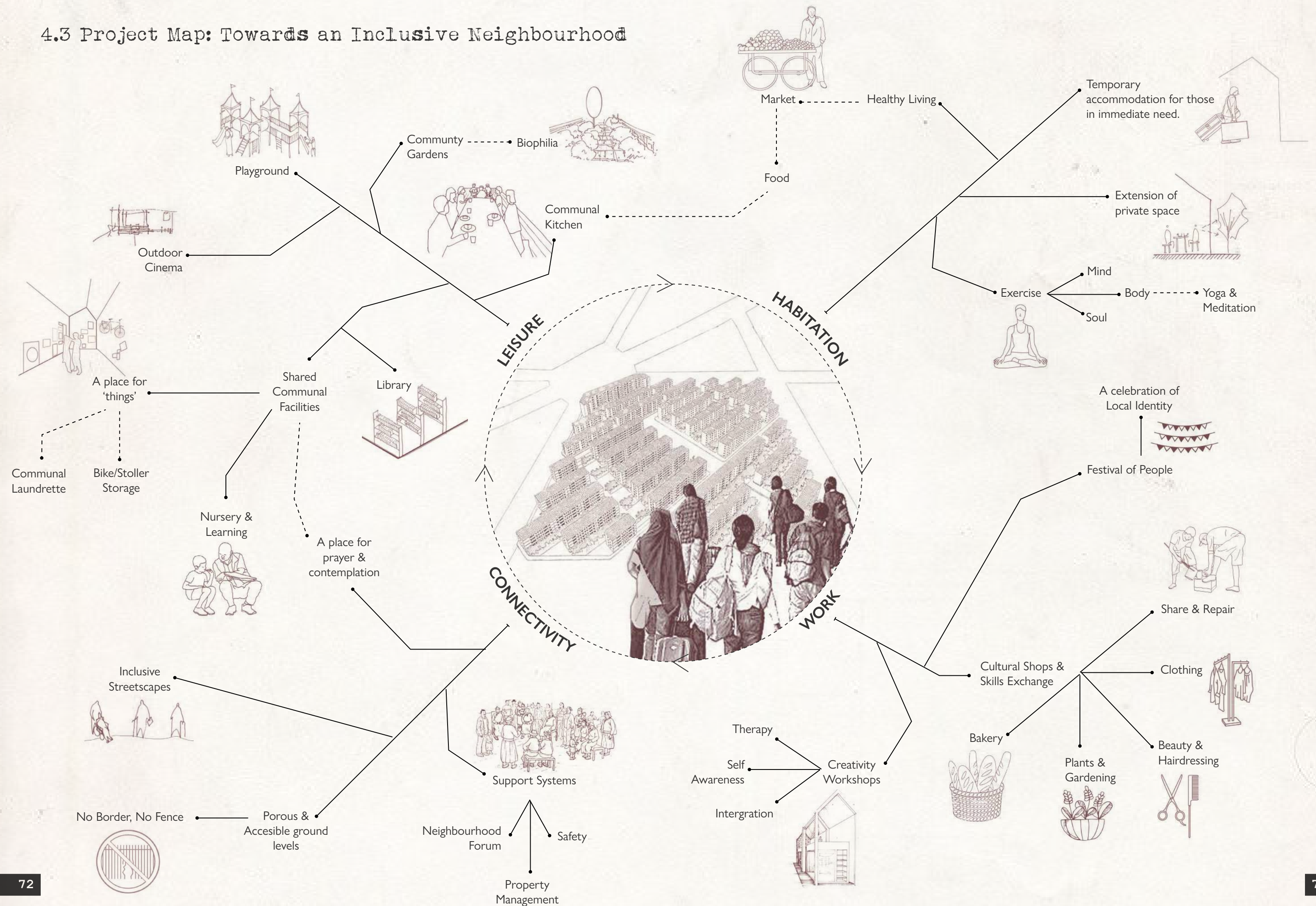
Opportunities of a Migrant Population:

- + Intergenerational skill transfer between children, youth and elderly.
- + Intercultural exchange.
- + Indigenous knowledge to shape the living environment.





## 4.3 Project Map: Towards an Inclusive Neighbourhood



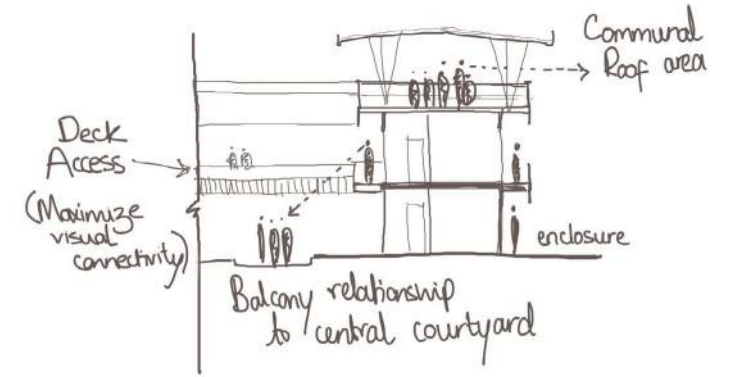


Title: A Co-living Complex  
Designer: Alexis Dornier  
Year: 2015  
Location: Bali, Indonesia

A micro-society born out of the transformation of old apartment blocks into a community housing development with spaces for education, movement, gathering and social exchange.

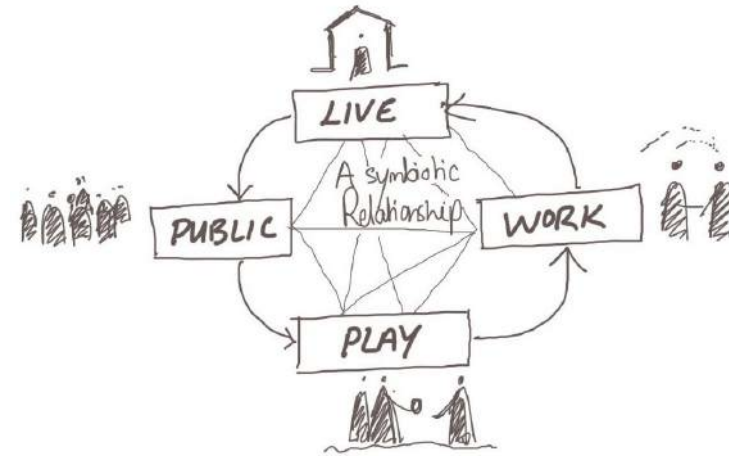


## Opportunities



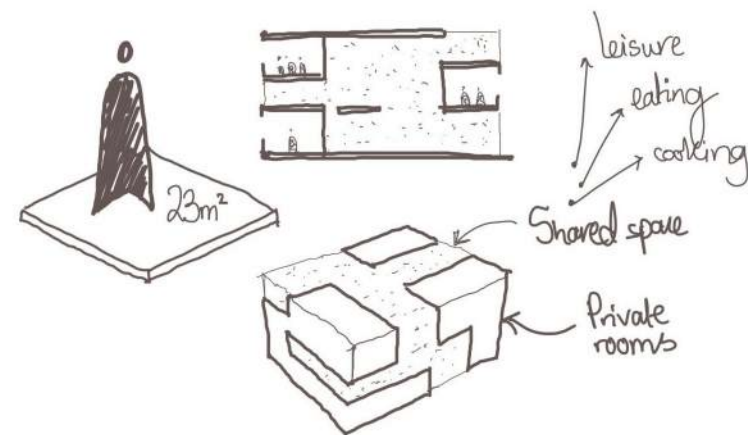
Title: MINI Living  
Designer: MINI  
Year: 2017  
Location: Shanghai, China

Maximizing the quality of life by transforming an industrial complex into living, work and leisure spaces.



Title: Share House LT Josai  
Designer: Naruse Inokuma Architects  
Year: 2013  
Location: Nagoya-shi, Aichi

Adapted from existing property, this shared occupancy housing scheme combines private living with communal spaces for interaction.

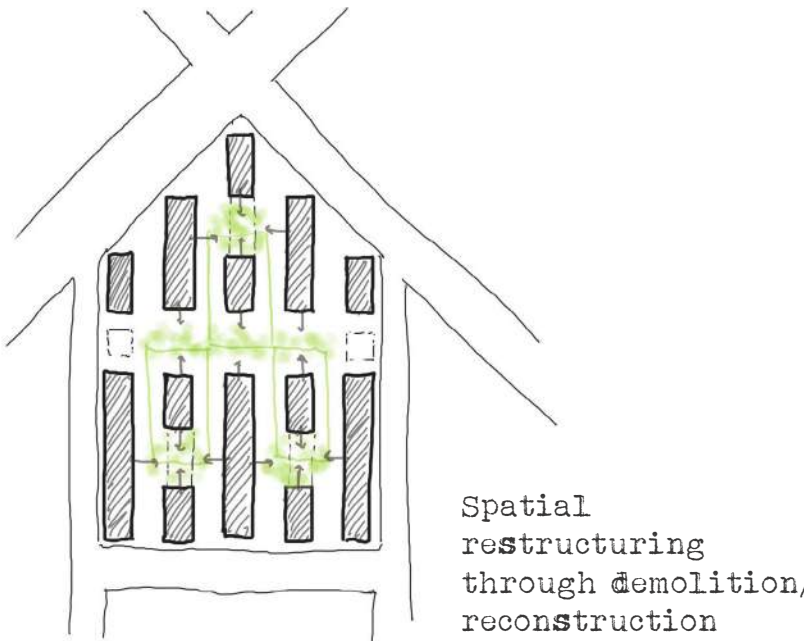
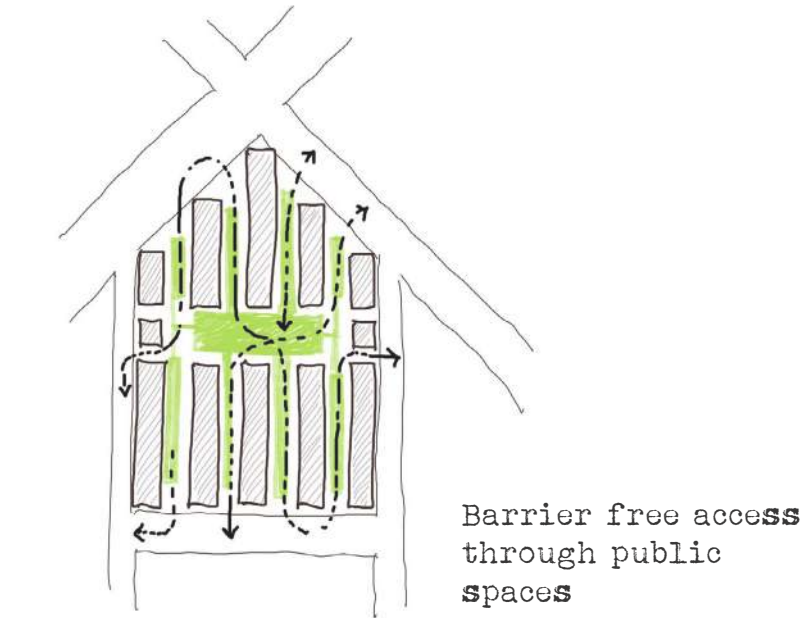




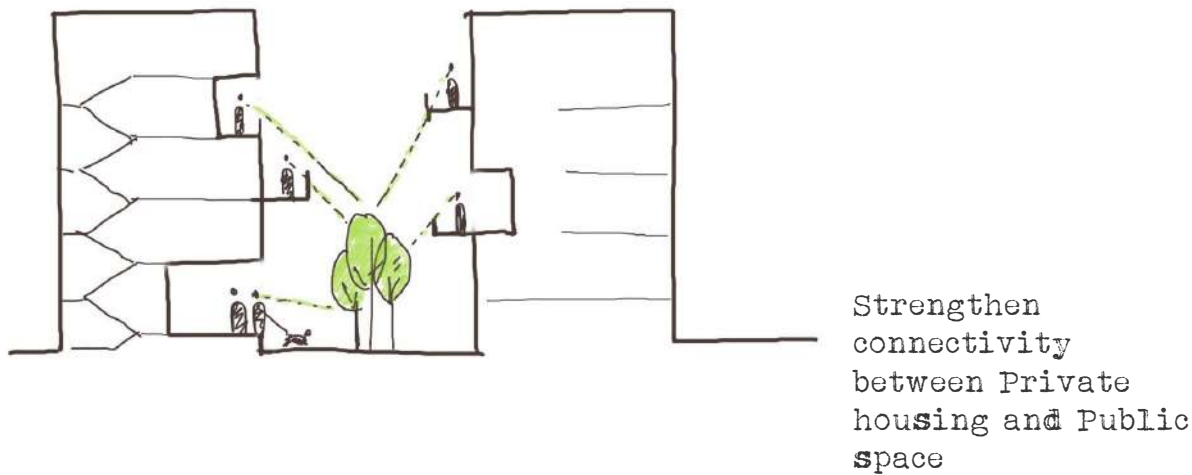
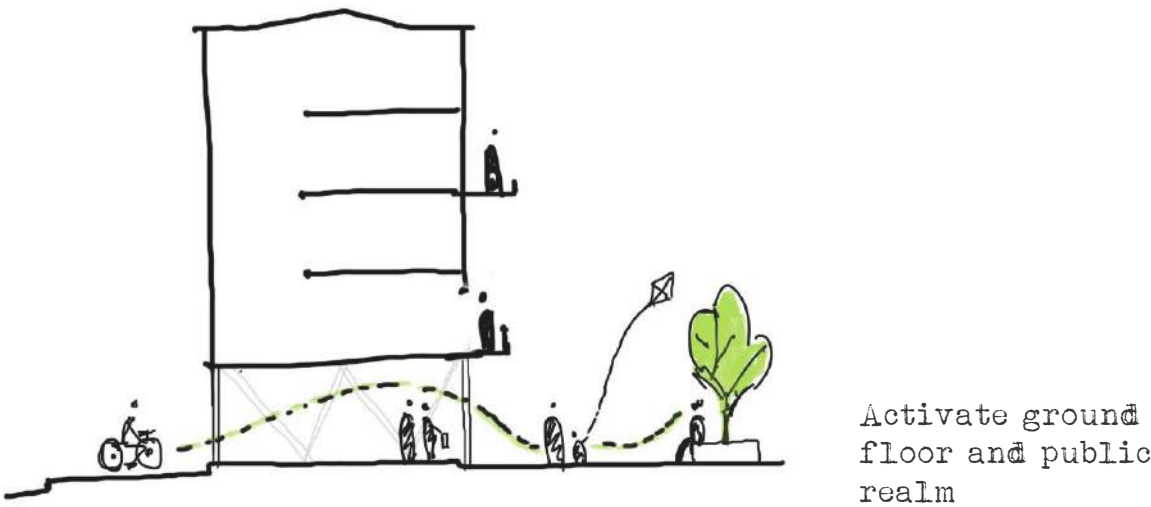
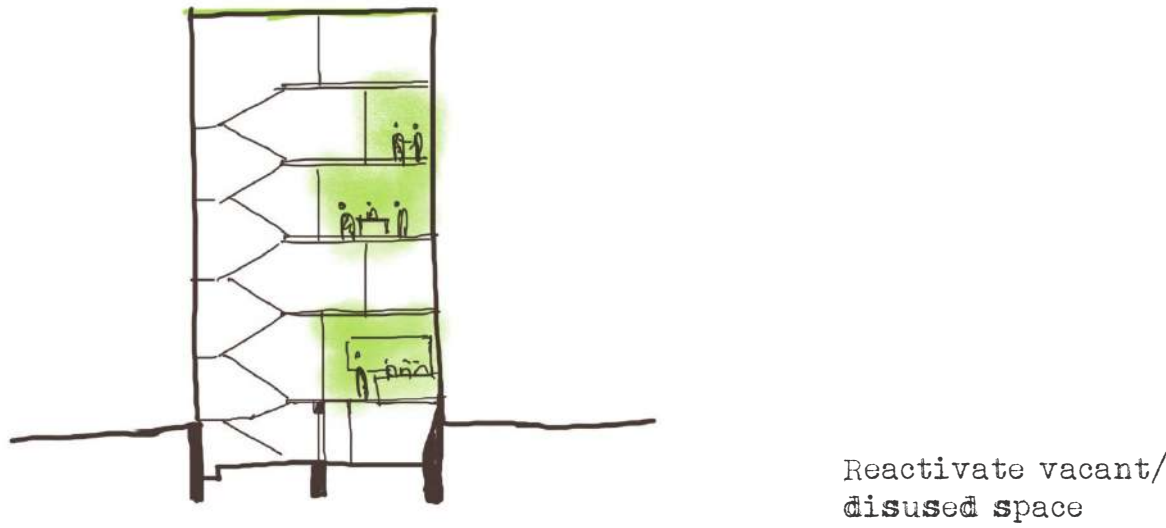
# 4.5 Methods for Neighbourhood Activation:

## Spatial Strategies

The Lotto D'Annuzio, as seen in Part 3, is a complex site with challenging issues. The existing structure is rigid and robust. To maximize functionality and flow, the existing fabric needs to be altered and adapted, both socially and spatially.



**Fig.31:** Diagramatic explorations and opportunities





# 4.6 An Aspiration for better habitation



## Habitation

Create self-supporting and interdependent communities by empowering civil society and building local capacity within the living environment.

## Work

Reactivate the local economy and provide effective resource management through co-working strategies and skill transfer.

## Leisure

Reinvigorate the in-between spaces in buildings through adequate provision of green space and leisure activity as a source of integration between the migrant population and local residents.

## Connectivity

Establish an interconnected and accessible environment which is free of physical and social barriers through the use of participatory planning and codesign.





## //Part 5: Doctrine Summary



## 5.1 Role of Charter

- + The implementation of the San Siro Charter is grounded by an understanding of 'Borders and Boundaries' and Henri Lefebvre's 'Right to the city'. This will potentially uncover how cities can be planned and de-signed to be more inclusive for people in transition.
- + This Charter is a contemporary extension of the Athens Charter. It aims to inspire new discussions concerning the revitalisation of modernist architecture and the functionalist city movement.
- + The Charter employs a transformative intent. It seeks to contribute to wider planning and design practice by identifying the challenges to integration, understanding their relationship to socio-economic segregation and proposing best practice solutions to address the needs of a migrant community.
- + Understanding and addressing these complexities at a microscale will serve as a testbed for positive change – which can be amplified at a macroscale. Each place is unique. Therefore, while the overarching principles are similar, the approach remains context specific.
- + The Charter serves as a guide to:
  - + Promote capacity development of various communities including locals and migrants
  - + Make cities more inclusive through an engagement with different knowledges and cultures
  - + Tackle the rise of 'dehumanised housing' using innovative design and technologies
  - + Encourage equity in planning and design
  - + Provide urban actors with a resource for housing innovation and sustainable urban development.
  - + Create accessible, well-connected and inclusive neighbourhoods
  - + Demonstrate an awareness of multiculturalism and diversity despite socio-economic difference
  - + Cultivate a sense of collaboration and co-creation between various stakeholders
  - + Propagate a positive cultural and political shift for societal betterment
  - + Develop self-sustaining and secure environments



# The San Siro Charter

-From the Functionalist City to A Place for the People-





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Fig. 1a:  
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