



Aerial view on Dock1. Credits: Patrice Peyre

Dock1 Regeneration Project



Exploring the built heritage to strengthen communities



THE THREE CITIES:

BIRGU, SENGLEA, BORMLA



10,379



Quality of interventions on cultural heritage



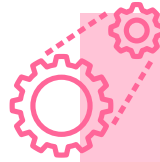
Challenge

Wedged in between 16th century buildings and post-war architecture, Dock 1 was an abandoned dockyard area on the shores of Vittoriosa, Cospicua and Senglea, known as 'The Three Cities'. The waterfront, which was walled off to the public, was a spatial and physical barrier. The industrial heritage was not enhanced and the whole area was poorly connected to the surrounding urban fabric, resulting in its spatial and social separation.



Solution

The Dock1 Regeneration Project aimed at an urban, social, environmental and landscape regeneration of the area, to once again unite, rather than divide, the 'Three Cities'. A continuous 2.5 km long promenade was created, linking Senglea's and Vittoriosa's waterfronts with gardens and public spaces and retaining the industrial heritage of the dockyard. As a result, the connectivity across the harbour was improved, while urban spaces of greater quality were provided to inhabitants.



How ?

Several traffic calming measures were introduced to give priority to pedestrians. The two main squares along the waterfront were rehabilitated as car free public spaces, which can now host social and cultural events.

The landscaping of the waterfront and public spaces around it can be viewed as a series of nodes. Each node is linked through the waterfront and street level promenade.

A series of lawned dunes create tiny pockets of public yet personal spaces, with the use of public furniture recalling the dockyard's industrial identity. A busy roundabout was transformed into a pedestrian-priority open piazza that extends to the water's edge following the removal of the gate and wall.

Its landside perimeter is lined with shops and bars, turning the space into an established town centre and gateway for visitors and locals to access either side of the waterfront.

A research project (NEPTUME) developed in collaboration with University of Malta was implemented to filter and decontaminate water through vegetation that absorbs and breaks down pollutants.

CULTURAL HERITAGE IN ACTION

Sharing solutions in European cities and regions



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Budget/Financing

€ 10.4 million

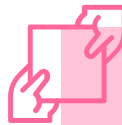
The project was carried out for a total budget of €10.4 million, financed 80% by the European Regional Development Fund and 20% by the Maltese State.

Management

- Grand Harbour Regeneration Company (GHRC) is the manager of the project. It was formed by the Maltese government in 2007 in order to regenerate the Grand Harbour region through twenty major projects, for the benefit of the capital city Valletta and its urban surroundings.
- Bormla Local Council was the primary stakeholder as most of the project area is located in its jurisdiction. Valletta Local Council was a secondary stakeholder as it benefitted enormously from the new connection with the other side of the harbour.
- AP Valletta was the main architectural, urban design and landscaping consultant, which designed the master plans and regeneration scheme.
- Other local entities, NGOs and associations like the neighbouring Senglea Local Council and various band clubs were also consulted.



View on Dock1. Credits Luis Rodriguez Lopez



Transferability

- Evaluate the values that heritage embodies in the light of new economic and social needs.
- Give priority to the needs of communities and take action to enhance communication between them.
- Pay attention to connectivity both within the project area and with the surrounding areas.
- Dock1 was a successful operation mainly because of its public, free from commercial pressures, green and open character.



Impact

- The project has greatly improved the connectivity among the Three Cities.
- It has become an area that is intensively used by residents and visitors alike, as if it had always been there.
- It has enabled the preservation and valorisation of an important part of Malta's maritime and industrial heritage.
- As a consequence of the project and the Barrakka Lift rehabilitation, a ferry service across the harbour was reinstated, making possible new, fast and sustainable access to the capital city of Valletta.



Links

Video presentation: <https://bit.ly/3iC7sPu>

Additional photos: <https://bit.ly/3gxfRSg>



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