THE TIME LINE OF THE ROMA CAMP

1970
A small Roma community moves to Milan and begins an illegal occupation of Bonfadini area, destined to nomad camp.

1987
Municipality plans equipped rest area for caravans and mobile homes but over the years the number of houses grow and the caravans are progressively modified in self-built houses. The places designed for common use, bathrooms and shelter, lose their identity and go in disuse.

2008
Padri Somaschi

2015
ENTRY POINT
ASF Italia

A women's action group arise within the camp, aimed to improve the life quality of Bonfadini Camp but they don't have the resources to find long-term solutions. ASF Italia starts working with Padri Somaschi in the Bonfadini Camp to implement the project.

The project concerns the informal settlement of a Roma community situated in via Bonfadini, Milan. The informal settlement grows up on a regular camp area for nomad people but community, that is living there, is no more nomadic. The caravans are progressively modified and they become self-built houses. The community is today constituted by families where often men are in prisons, and so there are a group of women alone with childrens, that request to be helped to improve their skills.

The site is placed in a triangle between three railroads and beside an industrial area. The fields around are used as abusive garbage dump and by criminal organization. The informal settlement does not have common spaces, and the children's do not have space to play. The community live in a very isolated and poor situation.

The goal is to upgrade the living conditions of the community, and to foster the relationship between the families of the communities and the neighbors, breaking the actual physical and social isolation.

The project aims to involve the community in a participatory process, starting from the children's and the group of women, to build a playground inside the settlement and to promote the cleaning and the reuse of the fields around the settlement. The common has the purpose to be used as an interface between the community and the neighbors.

THE CAMP SURROUNDINGS AND CAMP INSIDE

SOCIAL COMPOSITION

97 inhabitants
37 children
58 adults

CRITICAL ISSUES

LOCATION
between rails
only access via underpass

INNER ORGANIZATION
lack of common spaces
garbage and degraded spaces

ENERGY ISSUE
no connection to gas supply line

ISOLATION SECURITY

INDIVIDUALISM CONFLICTS
UNSAFETY MISEDUCATION

CONSUMPTION UNSAFETY IRRESPONSIBILITY

ERSILIA INFORMALE BONFADINI
ASFITALIA ONLUS, S. Nessi  F. Albertoni M. Olivieri M. Saletta M. Tommaseo
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CRITICAL ISSUE: DISCRIMINATION-ISOLATION
ANSWER: BREAKING ISOLATION

POINT 1-HASSELL CHART: Cooperate for fair and sustainable development initiatives in active collaboration with disadvantaged people or communities. This process shall follow principles of human solidarity, non-discrimination and will be aimed at promoting their self-sufficiency.

The camp’s Roma community lives in a discriminatory situations due to cultural and economic conditions. The families of via Bonfadini are used to be isolated and to don’t have any relation with the neighbors.

The abandoned fields, that actually separate the informal settlement from the residential neighborhood, are covered by garbage. Those areas, used as an abusive garbage dump and as a criminal organization, plays a key role of social barrier between the community and their far neighbors. In the other hand, inside this camp, some men of the community builded repair's laboratories activities to their own use. At the border with those areas there is a public park with a big temporary market place to sell used things.

The project, according with the first point of the Hassel Chart, develops a self-improving process with ten families of the Roma community, promoting the re-use of an area near the single access to the camp, as a resource to be transformed and re-activated in relationship with the residential neighborhood and with the market place and the public park.

The community will be encouraged to take care of this space implementing on it their own skills.
STEP ONE COMMON PLAYGROUND

By improving the public space, it increases social cohesion and responsibility within the community.

Planning project; it connects the people who live in the neighborhood.

Common Playground

- Empowerment
  - TIME 1 Clean-up operation
  - TIME 2 Urban furniture and playground equipment
  - Streetlights to improve security
  - TIME 3 Co-operative activities
  - Public space management

STEP TWO NEW URBAN OPEN SPACE

By improving the public space, it increases social cohesion and responsibility within the community.

To improve the skills of the women and the men and to disseminate their values inside the social context

FUTURE STEP
Reach the empowerment of the community and promote self-sufficiency and responsible energy systems

New Urban Open Space

- Empowerment
  - TIME 1 Clean-up operation
  - TIME 2 Landscape design
  - Urban furniture and playground equipment
  - TIME 3 Small scale commercial activities
  - Public space management

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CRITICAL ISSUE: LACK OF OPPORTUNITY
ANSWER: EMPOWERMENT

Point B-Hasel Chart: Support participatory, democratic, multicultural and interdisciplinary processes and approaches in strengthening community solidarity as a factor of rural and urban social development.

The actions of the project will be focused on a participatory process that will involve the Roma Community and the neighborhood’s communities to implement skills and knowledge sharing opportunities.

The goal of the participatory process is the empowerment of the Roma community living in the Via Bonfadini camp.

The first action proposed will involve the children and their families in a participatory process that aims to project the commons and opens space of the camp. Using some plays the associations team’s will drive the children to individuate some scenarios that will be sharing, in a second moment, in their school classes to be implemented with their schoolmates visions.

The second action proposed aims to involve the institutions and the association, working beside the camp area in a participatory process with the Roma community, to project the re-use of the area beside the public park and the underpass used to enter in the camp. Starting from the participatory process the team will drive up a group, composed of Roma community and neighborhood’s families, who will be responsible to take care of the field, to realize the project and to implement inside the camp some new activities.

The goal will be to improve the skills of the women and the men and to disseminate their values inside the social context.