

Diary:



La Rivoluzione delle Seppie is a small enterprise in Belmonte* which proposes a new pedagogy for all the creative fields; where the boundaries between student and teacher are blurred and the actions undertaken are set in the real world; using design techniques & process to understand and act upon societal issues.

This is an account of events that happened in the first workshop of, and the preparation leading up to, La Rivoluzione delle Seppie. Containing archival material that documents the workings of the collaborators and participants. This is an insight into the manifesto and modus operandi, and what it means to [#bemoresquid](#).



Last day at the Beach,
Amantea, Lido

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Diary:

Workshop Week 15.07.16 - 22.07.16
Belmonte Calabro



Landed



“Amantea, used to be very different... water levels used to reach the edge of the former fortress walls, the whole of its history came through the sea, from Byzantines to Arabs and the Napoleon's invasions. We were the last Calabrian city to surrender to the French!”



Beppino, the sailor

Day

1

As the Squid gathered at the house of the Adamo family in Amantea, we started exploring its sea-side context, meeting the locals between coffee and a quick visit to the typical morning market.



AM

- Gathering Casa Adamo
- Tour of Amantea
- Meeting the locals
- Marketshop



PM

- Gathering materials
- First day at the centre
- American School theatre performance at Ex-Convento
- Dinner by Paola and Stefano

Summer 2016 saw the first installment of La Rivoluzione Delle Seppie in which 30 people took part in a residency, hosted by Ex Convento, an old monastery in Belmonte, Calabro. The week long workshop aimed to blur the lines between tutor and student, exploring aspects of the wider Italian context and the micro environment surrounding the Ex-Convento and revaluing the idea of process.



View from the
Ex-convent

15.07.16

15.07.16

AM



We gathered some material from the beautifully chaotic workshop of Luciano's father close to the water's edge; while there we found a desk and stool, left on the beach after the storm: these opened a week-long conversation on the reuse and re-interpretation of found material.

ma —

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RE-
USE

RE

—ke

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USE

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USE

RE-

—ke

USE

RE-

—ke

USE



Luciano

—ke



Nicolo Spina

interpret

RE-

interpret

RE-

interpret

RE-

interpret

RE-

interpret

RE-

interpret

15.07.16

PM

Although a little embarrassed at first, not being too sure of how to kickoff conversation, we quickly learned that all you really needed is a ball, a skipping rope and some cameras/ camera phone to get people talking.





Ninfa Marina
Refugee Centre

WOP hOP WOP

15.07.16 - Friday

15.07.16

PM

Evening event at the Ex-convento. We had a night time glimpse of our hosting context while attending a theatrical performance from an American company reinterpreting an Italian minor classic - After the show Stefano and Paola hosted a dinner for the public and the performer, part of the initiative: **Con il teatro non si mangia.**



Ma è TERRIBILE!

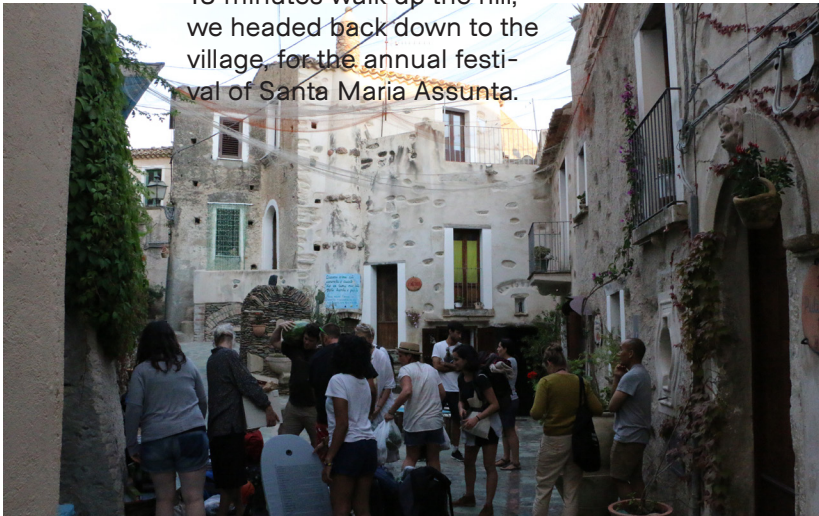




Day

2

With Jane the first collaborating academic joining the group, we all moved from Amantea to Belmonte, up through the hills overlooking the sea, the squid colonised the beautiful old borgo and set base camp for the week to come. After a reconnaissance of the Ex-convento and its surrounding context 15 minutes walk up the hill, we headed back down to the village, for the annual festival of Santa Maria Assunta.



AM

- Moving into our accommodation in Belmonte
- Walk around and survey of Ex-Convento



PM

- Belmonte Festival Santa Maria

In the traditional process of design, an expected or imaged output often dictates the process in which this is created. Le Seppie, believe in the reverse, in which the process is paramount to the success of a project. It can be undefined, multidisciplinary and act as it's own driver of a vehicle for exploration towards an unknown and evolving end goal. If we value 'process' in the world of creation and design, then the activities in which process happens become important. The squid have been hosting and collaborating in a variety of contexts that facilitate conversation. The drive of design, process, happens in the world through the act of conversation.



16.07.16

16.07.16

AM



+ Jane Mc

Collaborating
Academic



Allister

16.07.16

PM



With Panini, butchers grilling meat outside their shops, beer and fireworks! The first night in Belmonte was truly welcoming in the local culture!

Gham Slurp



Dal Macellaio!



Day

3

live learn work



AM

Workshop commences

- Initial individual site responses through mixed media
- Talk on the history of the ex-convent by Paola & Stefano
- Lunch by Paola & Stefano

PM

- Group gathering to share thoughts, presented on the washing line
- Establishment of small groups
- Dinner cooked by the Squid in Belmonte

The participants; graduates, students, academics and refugees from across the world who have recently arrived at a local refugee centre in Amantea, came together for a cultural exchange. ‘Conversations’ were used to collectively investigate the context with small interventions, drawings, singing and very importantly the sharing of food, which acted as key forms of communication between the group.



These different approaches and responses led to a collection of installations being undertaken for the rest of the week, under the theme of ‘Elogio dell’ozio’, where points for reflection and idleness were created to allow for a moment of escapism from the chaos of life.



17.07.16

17.07.16

AM



Sandra joined us as Paola and Stefano showed us their site & gave us an introduction to the history of the Convento and its allotments, we used the first day to understand and respond to this fascinating site through different media, gathering around the garden washing line to share our impressions, continuing the conversation on features and potential of the place, resulting in the creation of four mini groups



+ Sandra Denicke-



11:05 - 12:30

-Polcher

17.07.16 - Sunday

17.07.16

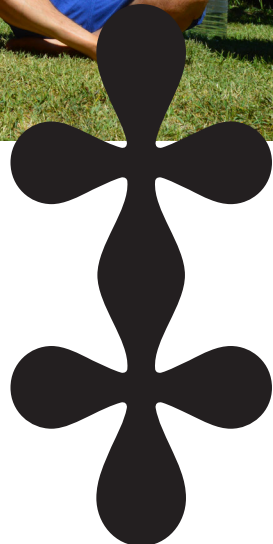
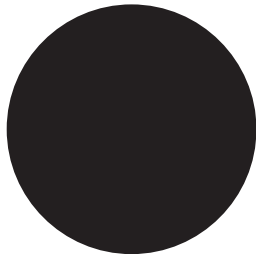
AM → PM



Mini Groups

- ~ little sea, ⇨ horizons,
- memory, ‡ monkey tree .

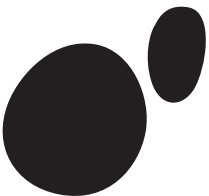


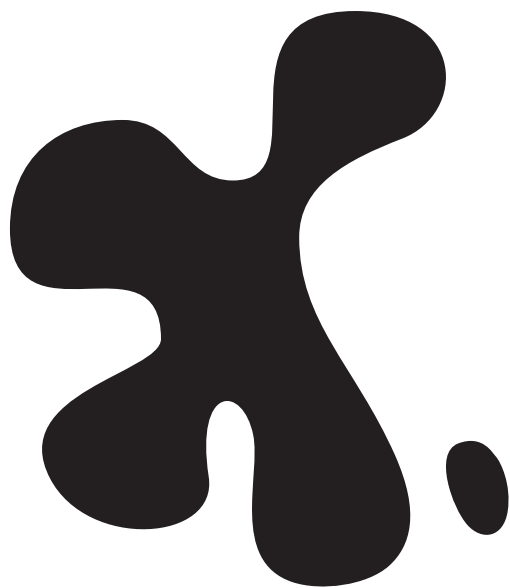


17.07.16

Lunch

Never ending food, the event of the day! Not quite used to the calabrian standard we surrendered and had to draw a line under the eating for the day plenty of leftovers for tomorrow. Amazingly tasty ! But the garden afterwards looked like a battlefield!





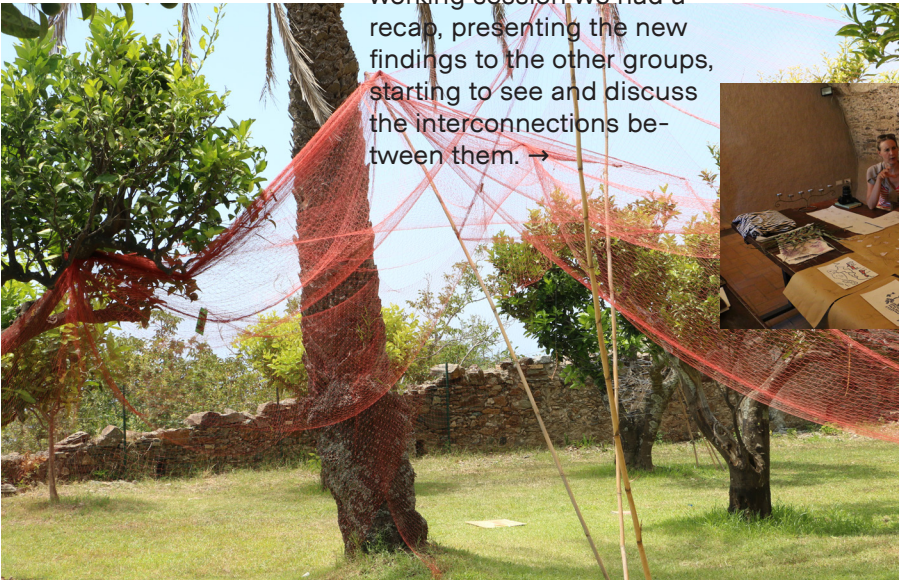
‘Elogio dell’Ozio’

17.07.16 - Sunday

Day

4

Divided in mini thematic groups, we further explored the site starting to identify specific moments within it. With lunch provided by the leftovers of the previous day, while continuing discussions before we kept exploring. At the end of the working session we had a recap, presenting the new findings to the other groups, starting to see and discuss the interconnections between them. →



AM

- Continued site explorations in mini groups
- Lunch cooked by the Squid
- Smaller groups present to all

PM

- Talk and dinner offered by Belmonte accommodation hosts →



Combining a mix of people from Europe and Africa, with diverse educations and backgrounds, the playful task of this design process allowed everyone to reveal their talents and aspirations while learning from each others. Although conversations and themes had strong architectural connotations, those not from an architectural background didn't have any problem in taking part in the activities, providing some insightful understanding of the context.



18.07.16

18.07.16

The Democratic Process



- 1. Academics, students and guests are involved equally in the discussions as in the making.**
- 2. Facilitators make sure every voice is heard.**
- 3. Groups are formed organically and are able to fluctuate in size and composition throughout the process.**

+Marco lu



liano

18.07.16

Dinner Recipe:

Ingredients:

1 1.5kg (3.3 pounds) leg of mutton, sliced
400g (14 ounces) ripe but firm tomatoes
80g (3 ounces) unsmoked bacon, chopped
3 tablespoons finely chopped fresh parsley
100g (3 1/2 ounces) onion
50g (1 3/4 ounce) celery steaks
150g (5 1/3 ounces) carrots
3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
2 glasses dry white wine
Vegetable stock
Salt
Freshly ground black pepper

Preparation:

- Clean, wash and chop the carrots.
- Clean, wash and slice the celery.
- Clean and chop the onion.
- Chop the bacon
- Peel and chop the tomatoes.
- Put the bacon, onion, celery, carrots and olive oil in a large saucepan.
- Remove the visible fat from the mutton slices.
- Place the slices of mutton leg in the saucepan and season with salt and pepper.
- Prepare some vegetable stock and keep it boiling or, simpler, water.





**Non nobis Domine, non nobis,
sed nomini tuo da gloriam**



Day

5

Today we used postcards to define ideas for potential interventions; lunch, cooked by the squid, revealed once again a key moment in the development of the day, with conversations leading to the need of drawing a 1:50 map on kitchen paper mats.



AM

- Discussion to identify similarities between groups ~ ↯ • ‡
- Making of personal or group postcard to convey and define ideas

PM



- Lunch cooked by Squid
- Recap of events to new arrivals
- Locating ideas within the site
- Identifying potential site locations
- Walking Tour up to Fiumefreddo Calabro and Church+Talk
- Dinner offered by local restaurant
- Tarantella dancing with Enzo and locals

By locating the ideas on the larger scale we started to identify and propose sites for interventions, drawing on observations from our days so far.



19.07.16

19.07.16

AM→PM



+ Joseph
Kohlmayr

+ Cathy

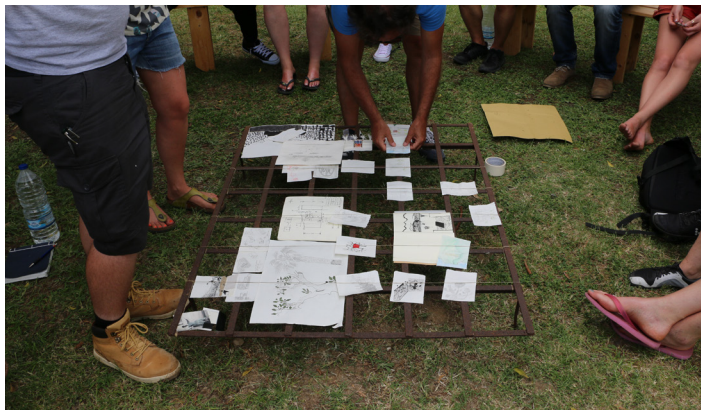


Heller Jo

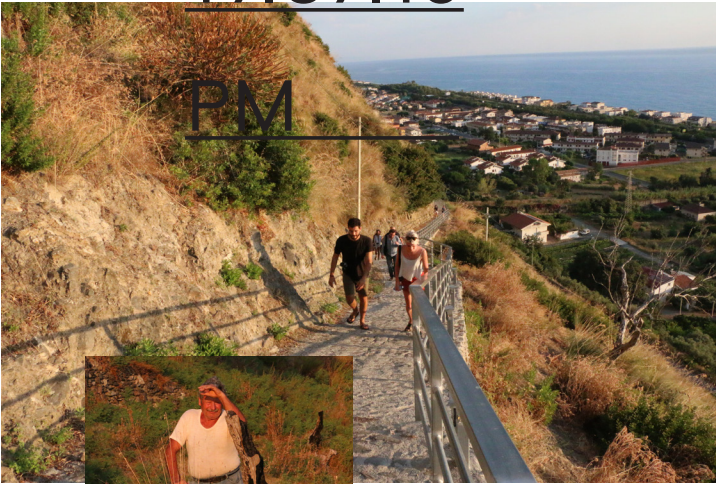
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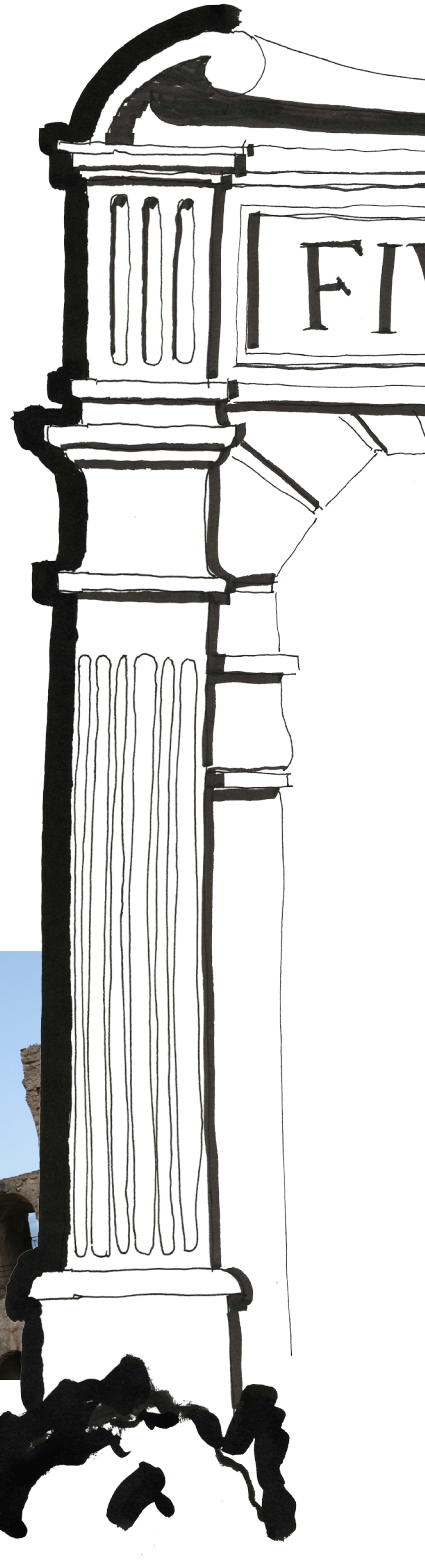
ones



19.07.16



Event of the day - a climb, with a great reward. Shattered, after a long and really hot day, we climbed 220m up the steep walkway leading to Fiumefreddo Calabro. A nightmare under the afternoon sun. The reward, an ancient castle, its history and a spectacular view; to be followed by dinner in piazzetta with music and dances with the locals. Calabria keeps it coming!





MA
MA
MA



Day

6

The day started with a tour of an old olive press building owned by Stefano and Paola, with their intentions to adapt it to a new use in the village centre. Continuing the morning with our new daily singing routine in the church, directed by Cathy and Joseph.



AM



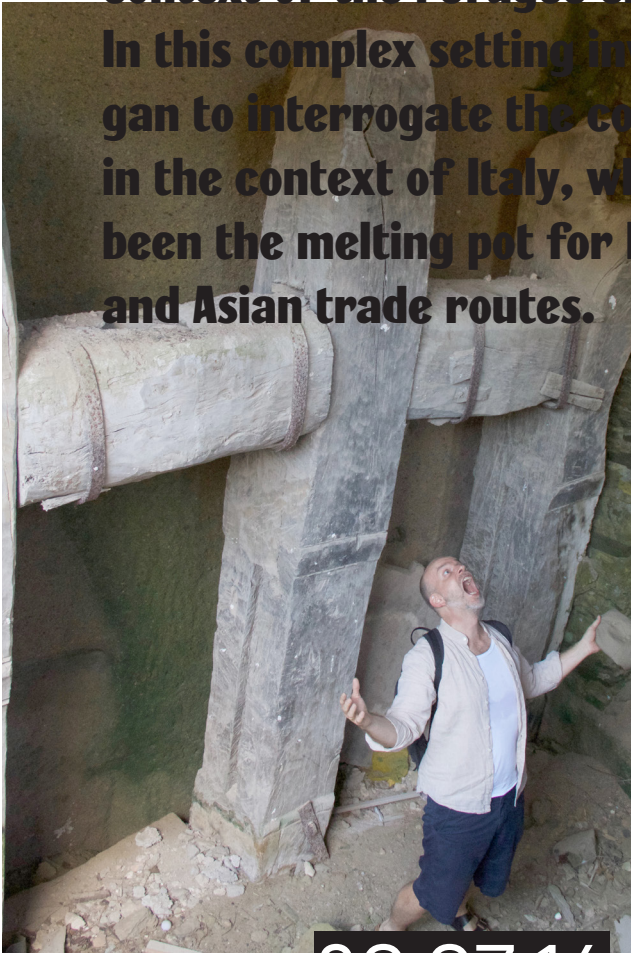
- Visit with P&S to potential renovation site project in Belmonte
- Singing with Cathy and Joseph in the church and piazza of the Ex-convent
- Introduction to working area and developments of small interventions to Robert and Katrina
- Talk by Joseph Kohlmaier
- Traditional Nigerian and Cameroon lunch cooked by Stanley, Henry, Austin, Precious and Cabrel
- Prototypes and interventions begin to be built

PM

- Acting performance by Paola Scialis
- Dinner by the squid

The success of the residency was due to the otherwise unlikely collaboration of people from different cultures and backgrounds. Together they subsequently explored the different forces at play in the region of Calabria, from the depopulation and financial disinterest of public institutions and businesses, to the role the region is currently playing in the international context of the refugee crisis.

In this complex setting investigations began to interrogate the concept of 'local' in the context of Italy, which has always been the melting pot for Mediterranean and Asian trade routes.



20.07.16

20.07.16

AM → PM



Before lunch a detailed recap of the group-work and ideas for interventions so far have for our final guests of the week Robert, Catrina, Joseph and Cathy, with a lecture to follow by Joseph. During these conversations have been defined the common theme uniting the interventions, the '**Elogio dell'Ozio**'; with the group slightly changed we started working on prototypes, to end the day with a performance by Stefano and Paola in the church.

+ Robert M

+ Catrina E



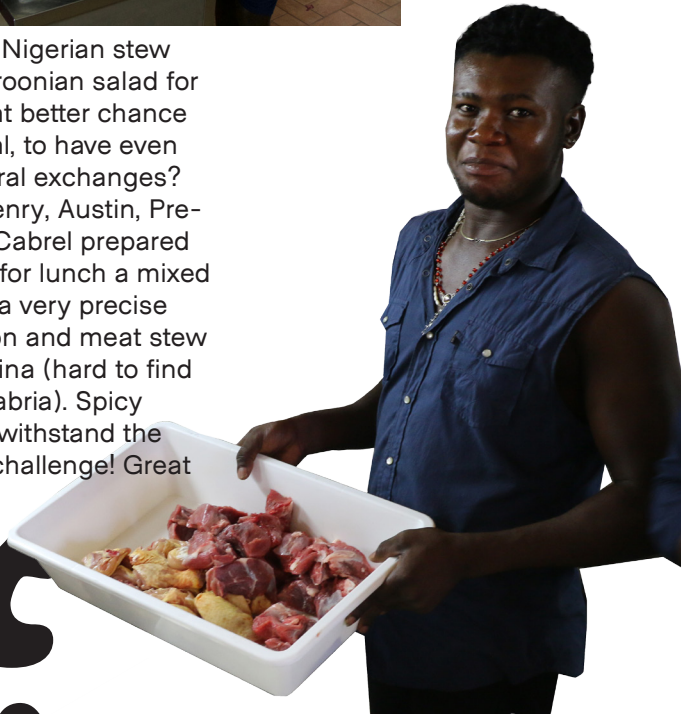
Mull Beevor

20.07.16

Lunch



Traditional Nigerian stew and Cameroonian salad for lunch. What better chance than a meal, to have even more cultural exchanges? Stanley, Henry, Austin, Precious and Cabrel prepared the dishes for lunch a mixed salad with a very precise presentation and meat stew with semolina (hard to find garri in Calabria). Spicy enough to withstand the Calabrian challenge! Great Stuff!



**Meat
Stew
+ Egg
Salad**

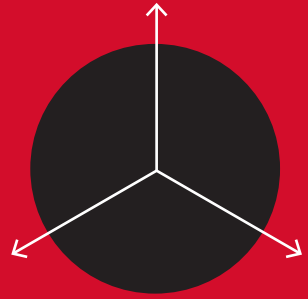


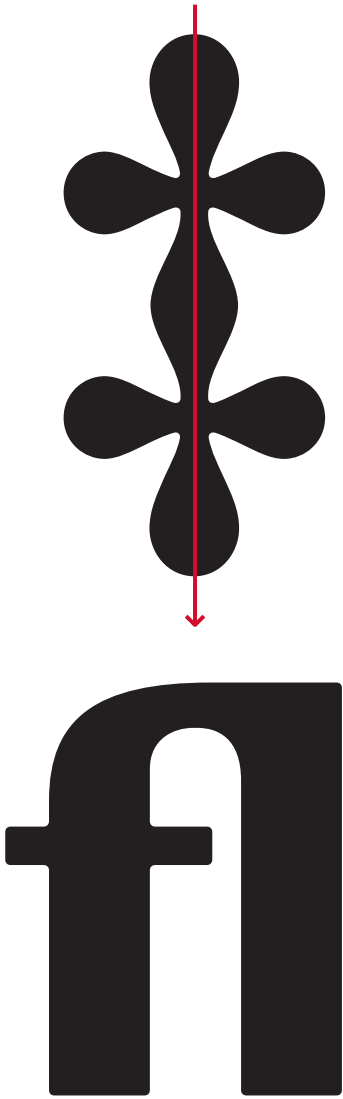
Food always brings people together: the guys shared stories related to the typical meal, confessing it was the first time they had some 'homely' food since arriving in Italy. Automatically the comparison with the 'mum's version' of the dish came up, and if most admitted that mum's stew is the best and only, someone else dared saying he cooked it better!



20.07.16

PM





In Bocca al Lupo

Stefano and Paola introduced us to one of their passions, performing. Performing a version of little red riding hood, adapted to highlight the issue of the refugee's perception and integration, they showed us what a strong medium of sensitisation performing can be, also when working on delicate themes like immigration, either that is presented to a kid or an adult.

Day

7

With academics walking, discussing and helping to build the different installations, the day was mostly think, work & discuss Through work people have started showing their interests and working methodologies, starting to give shape to 'idleness' in the context of an allotment. Fofana also revealed us his secret skills as a carpenter, building a set of table and chair with some scrap timber found on site.



ma—

ma—

think—

AM

- Continuation of open process with the main projects
- In-between building of interventions and design discussions ~ → fl

PM

- Dinner offered by Belmonte accommodation hosts- President of Calabria attends dinner



ma—

ma—

—ke



—ke

—ke



DISCUSS

DISCUSS



DISCUSS

21.07.16

21.07.16

AM → PM



fi



Accomodation in Belmonte

Another great dinner offered by our Belmonte accommodation hosts, completely based on anchovies, typical product of the area, has represented a chance to introduce our activities to the president of the Calabria region, and open a discussion on its potential and future developments of projects on this territory, as well as confronting each other on the progress of the last few days.



Day

8

With the deadline in sight, the last day was once again a work, work, work, situation, with the bench, the little sea and the portal being finalised in the afternoon.

Even lunch was quick today!



AM

- Continuation of making ~ – fl
- Fofana decorates furniture design
- Lunch cooked by the squid
- Conclusion of building

PM

- Visit to Ninfa Marina Refugee Centre, Amantea for talk by Robert Mull on art, culture and architecture of the refugee crisis
- Dinner and celebration party for final workshop day held at Gabbiano Lido, Amantea





22.07.16

22.07.16

AM

“if
You relax
in The
allotment,
You don't
Eat”





A final tour with Stefano, Paola and his father, together with all participants, took place around the garden and the allotments, to present the installations finally in context, collect feedback and also have a reflection about the residency, its processes/products and its future developments in Belmonte.



22.07.16

The Feedback

- 1. The interventions in the convent, ranging from miniature car models, diversion of water path, creation of sitting areas, have all demonstrated an understanding of the site as well as quality in term of design, creativity & humour.**





2. The process has been undeniably an amazing time of exchange, might it be of personal stories, traditional techniques, ways of thinking. The life and joy brought to the convent during the week of workshop as been acknowledge as bringing the convent back to life, as it might have been in the start of the century.



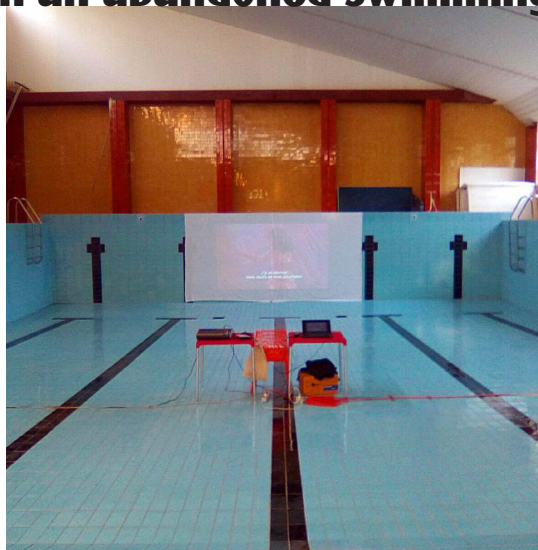
22.07.16



The events in both Belmonte and Arcevia, have led to the natural evolution of Le Seppie, who now aim to continue with a residency in Calabria next year. A group of designers and students from different European cities will move to Calabria to continue to study the forces in play in the region. Their aim is to demonstrate how contemporary inescapable issues of immigration can be considered a positive resource, rather than stigmatised burden throughout the region.



After its first residency in Calabria, Le Seppie, hosted by Operazione Arcevia, went to Loretello (Arcevia, Marche) to experiment their approach in a different context. The ‘conversations’ used in Calabria were again employed and became key in developing an initial dialogue between participants, locals and the refugee centre in Arcevia. Together with Operazione Arcevia’s philosophy of making, Le Seppie continued to investigate the already existent question, what is local? Through a series of events such as a community dinner and pop up cinema in an abandoned swimming pool.



18.08.16



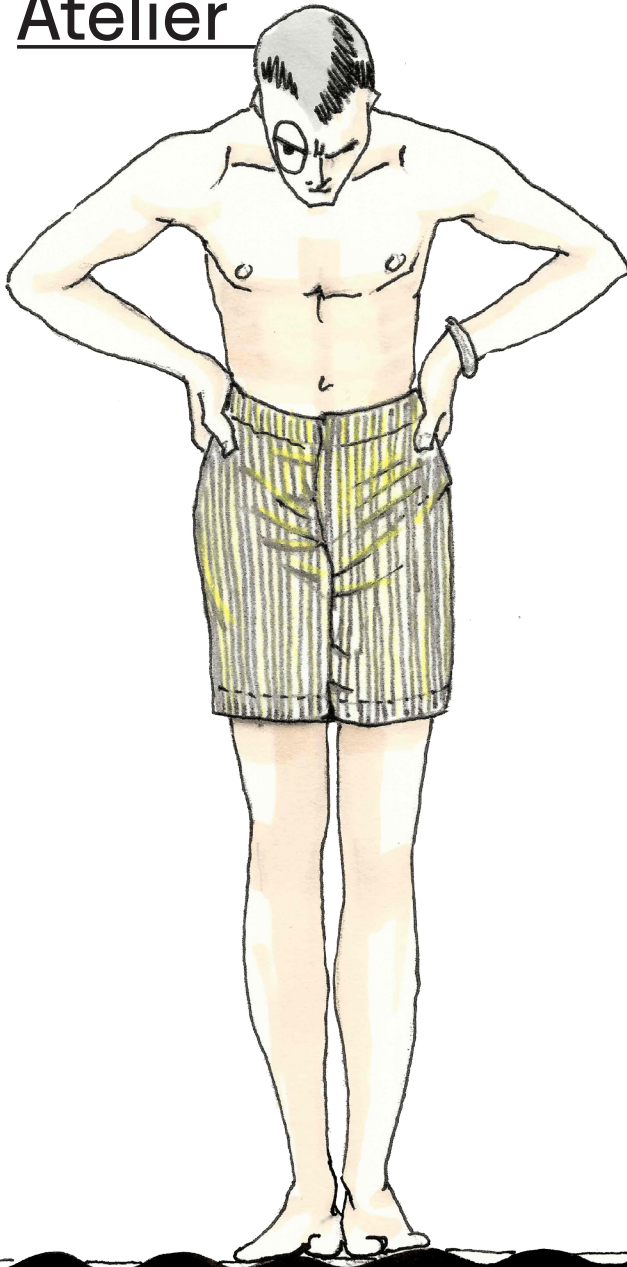
The guys at the center played music and presented the works of Henry, the tailor. It was an important moment for them that evening especially because they felt part of something.



Colour N



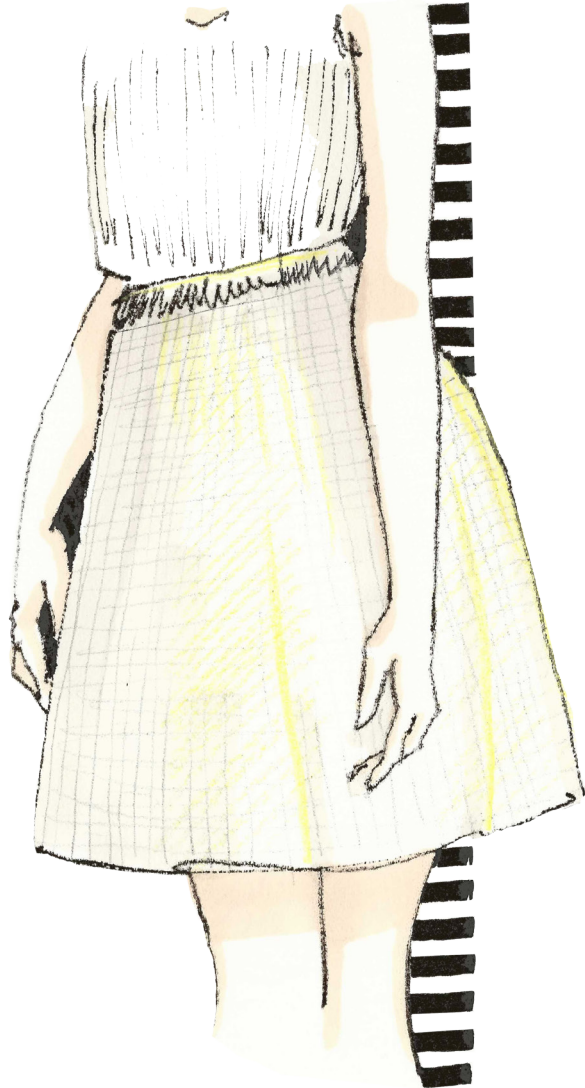
Atelier



Henry

Tailor Workshop

Henry Igbineweka: Nigeria.
He studied fashion design
in Legos. After studies
he started his own atelier
in Benin producing and
design is own handmade
clothes. Since he became
part of the squid he is
now following again his
passion in fashion design
in Amantea.







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+



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Rita Elvira Adamo: Italian. Studies at The CASS, Prof Dip Architecture (RIBA 2) in the Free Unit. She is currently curating the exhibition; "Invisible Architecture - Japanese and Italian architecture movements in the 1960s and contemporary debate" that will take place in Rome, Italy, in the Museum Carlo Bilotti, within the historical park of Villa Borghese in Rome. Has been previously practicing as a junior architect at Santiago Calatrava office in Zurich and as an architectural intern at Foster & Partners in London.

Nicolò Spina: Italian. Studied at The CASS, Prof. Dip Architecture (RIBA 2). He is a "Social Activator". He initiated a series of community projects across Italy looking at refining a participatory way of engagement with local issues and people. He has previously worked in a series of practices in London.

Luke Miles: British. Studied at The CASS, Prof Dip Architecture (RIBA 2). He is an Architectural Designer and Landscape Carpenter. Working closely with local communities, he has supervised and built exhibitions, micro architecture, interiors and landscapes intervention projects in England, Scotland and Italy.

Chloe Anderson: British. DipArch with Distinction. 2014 RIBA Stephen Williams Scholar, 2016 RIBA NWLSA Live Projects Award. Her portfolio consists of collaborative projects self-initiated with communities that otherwise remain misrepresented in global issues at a local level; from social exclusion to natural disasters and mass migration. Across Bulgaria, Nepal and UK, this has included the creation of playgrounds, pavilions, exhibitions and alternative methodologies that promote the process of design as a tool for positive social change.

Florian Siegel: French. Studied at the CASS and at KADK in Copenhagen. MAA Architect. Specialized in 3D modeling and rendering, Florian developed interest for the role of architecture within current societal changes which he is working on with La Rivoluzione Delle Seppie and Operazione Arcevia in Italy, and Atelier Kite in London.

James Rubio: Canadian. Degrees from University of Manitoba in Philosophy, Nursing, and Architecture. Nominated for Canadian Architect's 2012 Student Award of Excellence for his thesis "Rhizomic Thresholds". Worked as an RAIC/MAA architectural intern and U of M research assistant

in Winnipeg from 2012-2015. Completed the MA Architecture degree at The CASS in London, UK; and is now attending Kingston University's MArch (RIBA part 2) programme.

George Sinclair: British. Studies at the Cass, Prof Dip Architecture (RIBA 2) and previously at Edinburgh School of Art (RIBA 1). He is a designer and maker that in 2014 was selected to participate in the world's first championship of 'Gamefull Architecture' taking place in Witten, Germany. He is a co-founder and director of the community organisation Making Lewes, which promotes the exchange of knowledge in the fields of making, architecture and sustainable design.

Matteo Blandford: British and Italian. Has studied architecture at the CASS and at ual: LCC MA Contemporary Typographic Media. He is currently freelancing as type designer and graphic designer for startups worldwide, whilst assisting teaching at the Politecnico di Milan; Matteo has worked for small design firms in London and has run projects across Italy and Hong Kong.

Mariam Yasmin Gulamhussein: British. Studies at the CASS, Prof. Dip Architecture (RIBA Part II) and previously at University of Liverpool (RIBA Part I). She received the Holt Travelling Scholarship 2014 and was recently awarded the British Council Biennale Research Fellowship 2016. She is interested in active community-based projects and passionate about the role research has on informing future design. Mariam has worked in practice both in the UK and in France.

Danielle Mimran: British. Dip. Architecture (Part II), The CASS and previously at the University of Westminster. Academic work has focused on the research of alternative models of dense living in the context of urban migration and city densification, with cross-collaborative research in both London and Kathmandu. Volunteered in construction projects in Cambodia and Nepal. Professional experience in both architecture and graphic design.

Henry Igbineweka: Nigeria. He studied fashion design in Legos. After studies he started his own atelier in Benin producing and design his own handmade clothes. Since he became part of the squid he is now following again his passion in fashion design in Amantea.

Precious Ehigie: Nigeria. He studied business management in the federal polytechnic of Benin Auchi. During his studies he worked in a barber shop as an assistant. He has not only a business mind, but also a creative one. His passions are dancing and drawings that he is exploring more in depth since he started to be part of the squid in Belmonte

Ashley Badjan: Gambia. He studied video and photography for 1 year and a half at Quantum Net, in Serekunda, Gambia. After studies, Ashley worked on documentaries about the history and nature in Gambia. He then worked for the United Democratic Party, covering their 2013 to 2016's campaign. On the side, Ashley worked on producing videos for Gambian artists, among which Mahaa D Hammer. He is now collaborating with the film festival Guarimba in Amantea, as part of the video and photography team.

Anastasia Glover: British and Greek. Dip. Architecture (Part II), The Cass. Japanese & Chinese BA (Hons), SOAS. Anastasia has been Project Architect for a meditation retreat centre and the reoccupation of a 16th century tower house in Ireland, a period renovation of a London townhouse and the reinhabitation of ruins in Greece. She is currently working in a small architectural practise in London and tutoring part-time. Anastasia trains in self-development coaching and sings in Musarc, a progressive choral ensemble.

Special Thanks:

Presidente della regione Calabria Mario Oliverio

Director of the Refugee Centre Ninfa Marina:
Vincenzo Pati

Refugee Centre Ninfa Marina, Amantea Calabria:
Maristella Costa, Marianna Zaffino, Aldo Aloe, Ab-
ielfettah Qablaoui,

Ex-Convento: Paola Scialis & Stefano Cuzzocrea

Tonino Ciappetta, Social Promotion Association Bor-
go Fiume, Fiume Freddo Bruzio, Calabria Italia

Ecobelmonte, Hotel diffuso in Belmonte Calabro:
Gianfranco Suriano & Pino Suriano

The Adamo family for their hospitality and support

-

Comune di Arcevia

Comitato di Loretello

Refugee Center 'Le Terrazze': Elena Vecchi

Riserva Privata San Settimio

Consorzio Agricolo di Loretello

info.respiro: Roberto Coda Zabetta

The Verdini family for their hospitality and support



La Rivoluzione delle Seppie



Manifesto:

- ¶ Don't make a product, create a process.
- ¶ Examine the artistic expression beyond the traditional academy.
- ¶ Come together and create.
- ¶ Make a commitment towards the world through social creativity.
- ¶ Blur the conventional social and cultural barriers.
- ¶ Learning is a way of teaching.
- ¶ Accept any impactful method.
- ¶ Integrate living, learning and working.
- ¶ Valorise the complexities of culture and context.

Partners:



operazione
arcevia™

Hosted by:



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DI TORINO



Istituto Superiore sui
Sistemi Territoriali per l'Innovazione