**TOPIC****Transformation of built-up areas**

The conversion of the industrial activities which supported the economy of the town, into activities for tourism, requires a new project approach to the urban fabric. The area is formed by heterogeneous elements which clearly face the landscape of the town, both the historical (the castle rock) and the natural. The definition of the public spaces able to create sociality, and the introduction of new building typologies will have to solve the fragmented and inhomogeneous vision of this area.

CONURBATION

The town of Milazzo is situated on the northern coast of Sicily, at the base of a long and thin peninsula giving it a particular physical connotation. Milazzo is 40 km. far from Messina and is easily reachable with all transport means (roads, highways, railway, sea). In the past, it has suffered from a development policy based essentially on industrialisation. Staking on natural resources, the artistic historical heritage and an intense activity directly connected to the innate tourist vocation deriving from its privileged geographic position, turned into an effective program of actions.

SITE

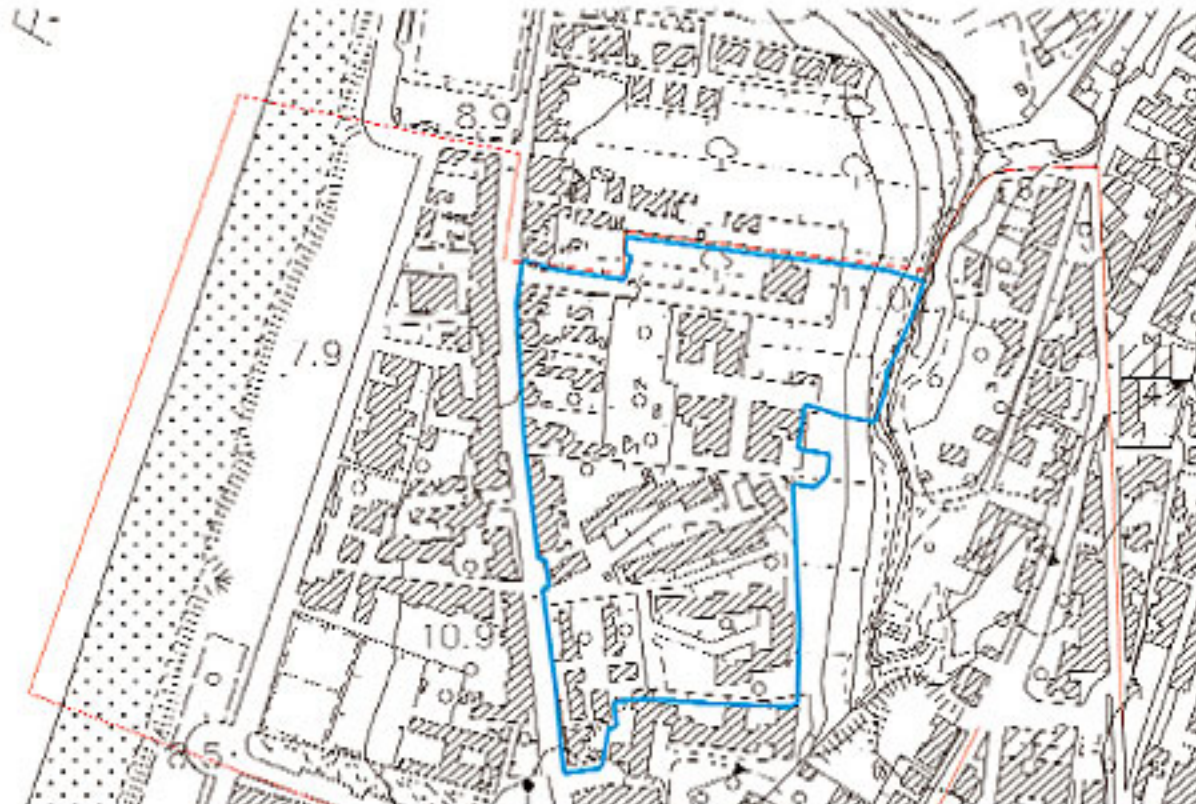
The site is in the western part of the town, near to the football stadium Grotta Polifemo, a hundred meters far from the so-called Riviera di Ponente (Western Riviera), just below the rock of the Castle (national monument, with a surface wider than 7 ha, 12'000 m² of which covered with buildings), of Arab origin, finally fortified by Spaniards who gave it the dimension of a "Citadel". The competition site develops on an almost flat area whose fabric is formed by recent buildings and others included into zones pertaining to Messina IACP, some of them realised with the former Gescal funds. The perimeter of the site follows the shape of spaces deriving from buildings and the areas of connection.

Population: about 10.000

Location: Grotta Polifemo

Study area: 10 ha

Project area: 5.2 ha



PROGRAMME

The Municipality of Milazzo, in co-operation with Messina IACP, aims at the recovery of the existing urban fabric, where it is run-down, through an operation of urban regeneration directed to create flexible collective spaces able to improve the life quality of the district. Interventions of completion of the residential fabric, also through partial substitutions, are also foreseen. The program integrates a project, already under execution, of upgrading of the coastline to improve the use of the sea and of the landscape.

ISSUES

Social / functional

In the study area there are several residential complexes characterised by the almost total absence of aggregation spaces and services to the residences, if excluding the presence of S. Papino Church (1566) and the pertinent structures.

Sensitive

It is defined the need to create a complex system of relationships which, starting from the lack of services and aggregation spaces, keeps into high consideration the peculiarities of the site.

Sustainability

The site presents a special value as landscape and environment due to the Castle rock and to the sea. The location of the area and the aforementioned characteristics must represent an unavoidable element and a flywheel of proposals for a territory which needs a connection among very heterogeneous elements, through the rehabilitation of architectural, environmental and social qualities.



