

Dream sharing brings change



Project author or developer:
Cittadellarte

Where:
MT / Malta / Triq Il - Marsa

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www.cittadellarte.it/attivita.php?att=44

A workshop to improve the migrants' life conditions in the Marsa Open Centre (MOC)

The setting for the start of this project, in 2009, was Malta's shelter, the Marsa Open Centre (MOC), a former school turned into a refuge for migrants requesting political asylum. The refugees are temporarily put up in the shelter, whose official aim is to favour their integration in the Maltese society. However, at the time of the workshop, the MOC was a ghetto for social outcasts. Through various visits, we started to perceive forces, reasons and tensions revealing a desire for change in the people populating the shelter (both staff and guests). Love Difference has involved the MOC's staff and an interdisciplinary group from the outside to bring to the surface a shared dream through a process of active listening. During the workshop tools and practices of observation, listening, analysis and planning were transferred onto the participants. Technicians and cultural mediators found themselves working together, designing a new environment which met the requirements, the values, the expectations and the dreams the workshop was enabling them to share, obstacles were considered and creatively transformed according to a new regenerating perspective. Starting from that activity, throughout the years, the MOC's staff have worked to bring radical changes, like a better space management and the reduction of the number of guests in the centre, aimed at creating a respectful, healthy and welcoming environment. The workshop is part of the project As_Tide, curated by Cittadellarte with the support of the European Commission's Culture Programme.

