

Marsa Potato Shed Regeneration Concept 'Incubation & Training Centre'

NIGEL CINI

The 'Marsa Incubation & Training Centre' came to realisation after analysing the gaps in the system of the migrant situation in Malta as well as the role of the harbour town of Marsa. Being strategically located in the deep part of the grand harbour, its close proximity to the capital Valletta and important road networks as well as possessing a considerable number of vacant and derelict sites the potential for the regeneration of Marsa is immense. In the recent years of its history Marsa had moved away from being an important commercial hub, and energy supplying locality. Following the rise in Mediterranean migration crossings in recent years it became one of the hosts for migrants.

The Project aims to transform the employment system for the migrant community.

As many migrants resort to loitering waiting for jobs, most of which end up working in construction or the various marine engineering companies around the area, most of which without any training or health and safety knowledge. Thus the programme aims to help bridge this gap between migration and employment through this architectural intervention, which was built on the following principles; A place for basic education, Training for work, Integration, Revival of the area, Creation of self sufficient migrants.

The Programme is to create a place where migrants (80%) and Maltese (20%) can come and get training for work. There will be a focus on three streams, the construction industry, basic marine engineering, and health and safety. The programme will also provide lessons in basic Maltese and English, as well as personal finance management. The process of this Incubation Centre will be built on five steps; Apply for a Job, Obtain Training, Integrate, Get Certification, work. In order to make the programme attractive to employers a compensation system is also proposed when employing people who have completed this programme.