

This thesis forms part of a larger strategy for Fort Ricasoli, entitled “a tale of two cities” - a masterplan which aims at giving this forgotten landscape a central role within the pandemic crisis. What this strategy proposes, is a city which is able to transform from one that accommodates the creative industry and the public realm, to one which becomes a contemporary quarantine city; carefully negotiating the interaction between the local demographic and the incoming demographic from overseas.

The ‘new’ normal shaped by the pandemic, looks at social interactions from a different perspective - a standpoint which becomes almost void of any affection and interaction. Since the times of the Greek Agora and the Roman Forum, civic engagement can be seen to have always represented a pillar upon which the city was based; with spaces and places being given over as a theatre for encounter and public life.

This intervention seeks to provide a platform for different programs - previously set within private space - to trickle into the public realm, thus initiating a new socio-political encounter. However, whilst questioning the role and transformation of space and program within the public realm, the focus of the architect is then directed towards the curation of the in-between spaces where the two demographics can interact safely - providing a stage for interaction to happen once again.