

An Ode to Marsaxlokk

An Overarching Concept: 'A Factory as it Might Be'

'A factory as it might be' is an article published by **William Morris in 1884**, an advocate for traditional craftsmanship and founder of the arts and crafts movement. It imagines the ideal factory as one which reflects ideals, celebrates art and craftsmanship and fosters a sense of community and belonging. Its workers work for pleasure, not profit.

During a time where factories and machines were replacing traditional techniques of handmade production, Morris's 'factory of the future' emphasises the importance of **three main pillars within the establishment: work, leisure and education**. The presence of these three pillars fosters a love for the art and a desire for artistic creation, around which the production of beauty can be ensured.

Morris encourages the participation of the public within his factory. He believes that **knowledge can be imparted between the workers and the public** which fosters a general interest in the work and in the realities of life. This, in turn, elevates labour, creates a standard of excellence in manufacture and breeds a strong motive towards exertion to the workers.

Morris' philosophy is implemented as an overarching concept to the 5 elements that come together in the floating platform, attached to the coast adjacent to the Marsaxlokk hardstanding. The 5 elements are namely:

1. Small Scale Fishing Artisanal Workshop

This will house a space for the fabrication of the traditional Luzzu and tools of the trade, such as casting nets. A large open space will have within it all the tools that a fisherman or carpenter may need for the fabrication of traditional tools and equipment.

The space will be strategically placed so as to serve as a visual anchor for visitors and coastal pedestrians, together with allowing a clear view of ongoing activities inside the workshop, thereby intriguing the public.

2. Amphitheatre

The Amphitheatre will serve as relaxation space for the workers, and can double up as a more formal space for the exhibition and applauding of local talent.

It is envisioned as an open air performance space, looking towards Xatt is-Sajjieda, intriguing pedestrians and using the sea as it's backdrop.

3. Education Centre

This will house dedicated spaces for both formal, and informal sharing of knowledge. This will be done through the use of: a dedicated lecture room serving as a public lecture hall or as an innovative learning centre for the workmen on the pod; a test kitchen, in which classes can be held where people can book sessions in which they are taught traditional sustainable fish recipes; and the canteen, placed strategically at the heart of the workspaces, encouraging the sharing of knowledge between the different trades and the visiting public.

4. Sustainable Fishing Centre

As voiced by representatives of local fishing communities, in order to support the consumption of sustainable fishing in Malta, it needs to be as available as the alternative. In order to achieve this, the centre will comprise a processing plant for the preservation of sustainable catches and their presentation in an array of local, traditional flavours.

Adjoining this, a market will promote product sales and will also serve as a source of excitement and enjoyment to visitors.

5. Spaces in Between

The spaces in between the main structures, serve many purposes.

A central Piazza will serve as a space for people to orient themselves within the pod, and, like all great piazzas, provide an element of space and exploration.

A sun-bathing area serves as a relaxation spot for locals, tourists and workers, to stop, enjoy the sun and the Marsaxlokk Peninsula.

The fishing spots adjacent to the workshop provide a dedicated space for fishermen to test their equipment, or test their luck.

Check out the full Design Booklet here: bit.ly/AnOdetoMarsaxlokk