RHIZOMATIC

RELATIONSHIPS

CURATING THE COAST BY

INSTIGATING

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN PEOPLE, PLACE AND SEA

Clara Grech/ Final Project/ M.Arch (Masters in Architecture and Conservation)/ 2020

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DESCRIPTION:

The San Pawl il- Baħar, Buġibba, Qawra Coast- is Emblematic of rhizomatic growth: ever growing places and identities. Also characterized by temporality, it witnesses people constantly coming and going through. Such that insiders feel like the community is divided, that everyone is individualistic.

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How can the coast and sea be exploited to address this reality ?

How can that which has happened be allowed to happen better?

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It is a complex coast with several spaces which allow for individual appropriation- however lacks a programme which brings people together. Following the rhizomatic nature of the coast, the project presented is one of three proposals which curates spaces which sprout from the existing places.

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The rhizome by definition describes something which grows out of another, multiplies, and changes every time. So the aim is that a rhizomatic program which feeds into what is already there curates resiliency, being stable enough to sustain locals however open to appropriation by insiders and outsiders alike.

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The project presented, a Transformation of the Parish church into a music centre is a program which stemmed from identifying the activities which already take place in the area. By making the place more permeable and less politicized, insiders can be able to negotiate their daily life by the sea during the year. At the same time, outsiders, who might be wanderers or people temporarily living there would have the possibility to interact with these spaces and the people dwelling there and feel like they belong. Formally, this was done by moving most of the program underground to free most of the space above. This allowed for the inherited Wignacourt tower and the parish church to be integrated into the transformed landscape as valuable everyday spaces.