EXPO | Gracianne Gialanzè | Master of Architecture in Architectural Design (Year 2)

ARCHITECTURE FOR RESILIENCE

WORKING WITH NATURE TO GENERATE PSYCHOLOGICAL AND COASTAL RESILIENCY

The chosen site is a stretch of land across the Delimara peninsula which includes Il-Ballut Nature Reserve and the road leading to Delimara power station. The initial concept was to design a therapeutic experience through the transformation of the edge of the coast and the amalgamation of green and blue landscapes that allow psychological and coastal resiliency.

Moving on to the masterplan, although its design was not included within the project, the Hunter’s Tower Restaurant would be transformed into a bird-watching hide and the aim behind this concept is to create a destination point and encourage bird-watching whilst reducing impacts from visitors on the site. In addition, it was decided to make use of a sustainable drainage system here in order to filter runoff water. Since the areas that are occupied or available for colonisation are restricted, an extension of the wetland onto the land that was part of the remnant marshland was proposed in order to conserve the site’s habitats and species of importance. On the other hand, designated paths within the natural area was designed to mitigate the effects of trampling. Also, it was decided to pedestrianize the road except for emergency access and power station employees making it a transitional space whilst improving the connection to the water’s edge by removing the harsh drop and stepping down towards the sea. Improved recreational opportunities were also proposed through the extension of the coast and the proposal of the floating wetlands which would also act as an extension of the natural wetlands. The masterplan also included a shaded area in order to encourage the current activities. Solastalgia due to coastal erosion would also be avoided through coastal defense provided by the extension of the breakwater. Finally, a destination point was provided by the addition of a number of floating islands which would also serve as an extension of the waterfront onto the sea.