**Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq; A village amidst the landscape**

The Village of Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq is located amidst a vast coastal and agricultural landscape. Despite this abundance of open space, the current coast road acts as a stark divide between residents and their natural environment. The image of Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq as a coastal village has long been replaced with that of traffic and pollution. This thesis aims to reinstate a connection between residents and the coast while also questioning how future Maltese towns and villages could be redesigned to prioritise social well-being and climate resiliency.

Vehicular traffic is secondary to pedestrian movement and is hence redirected to an underground tunnel. This intervention allows safe pedestrian access between the village and the existing coastal landscape whilst also creating the opportunity for a new green open space in between. This space would not only benefit the residents of Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq but those from nearby villages as well; providing an escape from busy urban life. A designated bus lane allows public transport to pass along the perimeter of the village and through the open space, making it easier for people coming from surrounding localities to access the area. The green open space also acts as part of the larger water management strategy which collects and filters run-off rainwater by utilizing plants’ ability to absorb pollutants. This water is then reused for irrigation and any excess is redirected back to the sea.

Driven by a need to shift our relationship with the natural world; the thesis illustrates how the design of place should work in symbiosis with nature, rather than against it.