**a landscape of affordance**

**Alexandra Abela**

In a deactivated, forgotten fortification, an investigation is carried out to understand how large, historic pieces of coastal, open space can be tackled during a pandemic, in which individuals should comply with social distancing. The main concern here is adapting the site for users who are visiting the country or who require a quarantine phase. Additionally, this is considered in light of opening up the unique site for the local public realm. The three strategies for intervening on this landscape are: to add, to layer and to cut.

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The project develops as a mode of growing public space for two demographics. Local flow makes use of the top plane interfacing with commercial and creative programs, while incoming travellers use the lower level plane to access public space and exhibition spaces. The project sets a base for affordances where different mass events can take place in the future or various additions can grow from the vast space. The landscape is cultivated, and the surrounding fabric is adapted for re-use; relating to programs pertaining to tourism, the film industry and the general public realm.

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The resulting public space comes together as a process of layers, in which prefabricated elements are detailed in a way to mark the user’s possibility of finding an individual realm, within a public realm. These elements form a sloped plaza for the local demographic. This interfaces with an excavated park, for the incoming demographic. These elements are used to disperse the green character of the intervention; as a means of cultivating green space within a wide and barren fortification. The entire intervention is assembled on site and bears design cues which can encourage physical distancing. This results in a language for individual space in the public realm, within the greater context of scarce public space in Malta. The landscape is a base on which users are free to appropriate, as if each pre-fabricated block is a performative platform, sharing an insight into how an individual spends time in public space, during planned or unplanned public events. The interface between the sloping plaza and the excavated park is subtly detailed in a way to keep demographics at a safe distance from each other but still maintaining the idea of sharing collective space.