Description of the area before the intervention

Porta Palazzo neighbourhood (11,000 inhabitants, 28% of which are immigrants) is part of the city historical centre, but has always been perceived as an outsider. It is characterized by processes of social deprivation, urban decline and environmental decay. With a growth in the number of non-EU immigrants to the city, inter-ethnic tensions visibly emerged.

Interventions

Social environment:  
• Plans developed in a grass roots way  
• Support for temporary groups and associations  
• Promotion of the potentialities provided by immigrants and of the commercial vocation of the area  
Built environment:  
• renovation of public spaces (street furniture, paving and illumination)  
• contributions for renovating private buildings  
• reorganization of market areas  
• reorganization of road and traffic network (new tunnel under the market)  
• requalification of green areas.

Activities  
• new activities (bars and restaurants) opened, all the others are renovated  
• more lively area, craftwork district  
Housing stock:  
• 4 compulsory recovery plans in the 4 most damaged blocks  
• building’s fronts renovated  
• sensitization towards indoor safety  
Social change  
• participation by residents  
• improved capacity of the local community to engage in other aspects of the city’s social and economic life  
• constant process of expulsion and replacement of Italian residents (more immigrants and overcrowding).

General results

Activities  
• the area is revitalized  
• it contributed to renovate the image of a more international city  
Housing stock:  
• value of buildings has raised and 67.5 % of the stock is in excellent conditions.

Process of gentrification and social change:
• change of average age of the inhabitants from 50.2 years in 1998-2002, to 42.7 in 2003-2007;  
• almost 40% of the people can afford real estate;  
• value of buildings has raised and 67.5 % of the stock is in excellent conditions;  
• it contributed to renovate the image of a more international city;  
• no integration with the inhabitants of Porta Palazzo.

Private Intervention in the “Quadrilatero”

Interventions

Phase 1: Social housing
Renovation of 4 blocks - Compulsory Recovery Plan.

Phase 2: Free market building trade
Other buildings are renovated and sold to privates.

Phase 3: Revitalisation and commerce
The Society builds a new underground parking, and reopen to public an old restaurant. Municipality renovates public space (street furniture and illumination) and creates pedestrian areas. New activities start (trendy and creative shops, ateliers, and overall wine bars and restaurants).

Expected effects on health

According to the knowledge collected in the Health in All Policies Project Report “Cities and Health” 2010 we can expect a reduction of:
• Injuries related to crime and car accident  
• depression and other mental health problem related to social exclusion  
• foregone care for all diseases due to an improved access to health services  
• improvement of general health profile related to changing of socioeconomic composition of the population in the area  
• gentrification has probably made a redistribution of health changing the socioeconomic, cultural and ethnic status of the resident population.

“Porta Palazzo” neighbourhood regeneration project - EU Urban Pilot Project “The Gate-living not leaving”

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Interventions

Social environment:  
• Plans developed in a grass roots way  
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• Promotion of the potentialities provided by immigrants and of the commercial vocation of the area  
Built environment:  
• renovation of public spaces (street furniture, paving and illumination)  
• contributions for renovating private buildings’ fronts  
• reorganization of market areas  
• reorganization of road and traffic network (new tunnel under the market)  
• requalification of green areas.

Activities  
• new activities (bars and restaurants) opened, all the others are renovated  
• more lively area, craftwork district  
Housing stock:  
• 4 compulsory recovery plans in the 4 most damaged blocks  
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Social change  
• participation by residents  
• improved capacity of the local community to engage in other aspects of the city’s social and economic life  
• constant process of expulsion and replacement of Italian residents (more immigrants and overcrowding).

Expected effects on health

According to the knowledge collected in the Health in All Policies Project Report “Cities and Health” 2010 we can expect a reduction of:
• Injuries related to crime  
• Injuries related to road accident  
• Depressions and other mental health problem related to social exclusion  
• Alcohol and drug abuse related to social exclusion  
• Foregone care for all diseases due to an improved access to health services  
• Obesity in children related to increased opportunities for safe physical activity  
• Cardiovascular diseases in adults related to increased safe behaviour (physical activity, alcohol abuse)