

IL LIDO IN PRIMO PIANO

*Processo partecipativo per la definizione del
Piano di Recupero dell'area del Palazzo del Cinema e Casinò*

This document contains the guidelines for the Recovery Plan of the area of the former Palazzo del Cinema and Casinò as expressed and shared by the people who intervened in the participatory process and discussed matters at the plenary session in the final workshop of July 18, 2013.

General objectives that emerged from the participatory process

The area covered by the Recovery Plan is not used as it should. The main purpose of the plan is to create a new urban centrality characterised prevalently by the functions of the Venice Film Festival, conferences, cultural and social activities related to the cinema and other activities at the service of the citizens. All of these activities must ensure the fruition of the area year-round. Other priorities that emerged are the maintenance and protection of the existing green areas and enhancement of the remains of the Fort.

1. Square in front of the Casinò and sea-facing terrace.

Proposals of a functional character

The square in front of the Casinò will have to become a gathering place for the inhabitants of the Lido and be functional to the realization of activities and public events. To do this the square must be equipped with technological networks and specific systems (connections to electricity and to the water system).

Proposals of an architectural character

The square will become the connecting element between different adjoining areas at different heights (sea-facing terrace, terrace of the Casinò, Palazzo del Cinema entrance, "hole").

In the design of the square, it will be necessary to adopt suitable solutions to increase the safety of pedestrians and bicycles in order to characterize the square as an urban hub.

The design of the small square must guarantee a better awareness of the stretch of sea in front of it, by raising the height of the small square.

The project must provide for the enhancement and improvement of the accessibility of the sea-facing terrace.

To this end, the following workarounds have been identified:

- raising the level of the stretch of road in front of the Palazzo del Cinema, Palazzo del Casinò and the hole, with the goals of slowing traffic and creating a continuity between the forecourt and the sea-facing terrace
- lowering the same stretch of road with the objectives of improving the perception of the sea from the small square and mitigating the visual effect of the passage of vehicles

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In order to characterize the area as a gathering place and a hub for holding public events, it is necessary, especially during the summer months, to increase the comfort of the open spaces, partly through the creation of shady areas.

The project must provide for the recovery of the historical/archaeological/testimonial value of the Fort. To this purpose, it will be necessary to start from a survey on the consistency and the current state of conservation of the property and from a technical assessment of the cost implied in making the site more visitable, or alternatively, more visible.

The proposed solution is the installation of a glass window and of suitable facilities required to prevent the formation of condensate below it. The window should be designed to make the visiting of the Fort consistent with the intended uses for the square.

Only as a last resort, and in front of the clear technical/economical impossibility to build the aforementioned solutions, other solutions could be suggested for making the Fort more prominent, such as the creation of a trace outline that sketches the layout of the Fort on the surface of the square.

2. New building intended for the cinema market

Proposals of a functional character

Through the design of flexible multi-purpose spaces, the new building should host a concentration of urban functions (theatrical workshops, cineforum, conference rooms, game room, meeting rooms, music rehearsal rooms, and sports compatible with the spaces built).

Related to the new building have been identified specific functions: a bar/restaurant open all year round, also to support conferences and an outdoor arena. Specifically, the arena will be a small, green arena, geared especially towards usage by citizens, and available to citizens and operators during the Venice Film Festival as a dining space (the arena park on the island of San Giorgio was shown as an example).

Additional arrangement: a place set up for street markets in the hole area.

Proposals of an architectural character

The design should try to minimize the impact of the building on the context, in terms of both height and volume. Solutions must therefore be proposed that take advantage of the difference in height created by the hole to realize partially underground buildings.

The design of the building should enhance the relationship with the garden and the surrounding open spaces.

The building should also allow the partial use of individual portions of it to facilitate the flexibility of its use. In this vein its plants and systems must be designed so as to supply heating or air conditioning even to portions of the building; the furniture must be designed also in this perspective, thus limiting as much as possible the fixed elements.

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The bar, restaurant and outdoor structures must be integrated with the context, easily accessible and directly visible.

The placement within the 2500 sqm of all the "non-temporary" functions must be evaluated (mostly rehearsal rooms and the bar/restaurant).

Proposals of a management character

While recognizing the priority of the function of the Venice Film Festival for the whole period of the event, including the periods necessary for the setting up and dismantling of the spaces, there is a request that the building guarantee usage by the citizens of the new equipment for the remainder of the year; the existing structures (Palazzo del Cinema, Paladarsena and Casino Palace) should be used for conference activities.

3. Garden/Public Park

Proposals of a functional character

The project must provide for the arrangement of the current green area in the garden without fences, preserving all the existing trees and building a system of connections between the lagoon and the promenade, through a pedestrian connection.

The new garden will be the "green lung" of the area and must be equipped for a general use.

Proposals of an architectural character

The garden expanded towards the waterfront will have to integrate with the new building and the outdoor green arena.

The project must provide for the review of the overall design and of the interior garden paths, increasing the permeability of the soils and the green areas.

The project will also provide for the removal of the internal division of the garden and for an efficient night lighting system.

4. Viability

In order to transform the area into a new urban centrality, active all year, it is necessary to increase its accessibility by public transport.

In this sense a key role could be had by the creation of a waterbus stop for Line 20, which would continue its course up to Riva di Corinto, as already envisaged in the planning instruments which in turn incorporate the results of a participatory process on the issues of mobility of the Lido, held in 2011. The arrival of Line 20 up to Riva di Corinto could also be an opportunity to enhance the island of Lazzaretto Nuovo.

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The current stop in the dock behind the Casinò, as well as the arrival of the Alilaguna motorboats, will be kept active for the line 5.1 and 5.2 with existing modes of transport.

In creating the landing place and the connected facilities (parking, bike park) it will be necessary to take into consideration the specific landscape of the area, reducing the maximum impact that the interchange structures will have on the area.

The accommodation operations of the area are an opportunity to create a part of the "Biciplan". The bikeway could be placed in a portion of the current square.

It is explicitly requested that the areas to be allocated to parking be placed outside the area covered by the Recovery Plan, except those strictly related to the use of the area.

5. Palazzo del Casinò

Functional needs

The Palazzo del Casinò plays a central role for the revitalization strategy. Inside, there is a request to set up a **Cinema Museum and a historical archive of the Film Exhibition**, transferring here portions of the **ASAC** (Historical Archive of the Contemporary Arts) regarding film, and to activate a Cinema Museum Tour open all year round, as well as economic activities linked to the cinema (restoration of films, film production centre). Alongside this, it would be necessary to provide for initiatives such as **international workshops and exhibitions** on the theme of cinema.

Request has also been made **to enhance the congress-related activities**, identified as the engine of the whole area and a complementary activity to the Venice Film Festival, and to enhance the **activities and events** for the citizens throughout the year.

Architectural requests

There is a request to **restore and preserve the whole** Casinò building, removing all elements of degradation currently present and showing the utmost **respect for the interior** spaces, by creating, if necessary, solely **reversible and identifiable interventions**, distinct from **the existing parts in the colours and materials chosen**.

The project will provide a **new system of accesses to the building to replace the earlier main entrance staircase**, which should connect effectively the neighbouring areas: Palazzo del Cinema and the square in front of it and the facilities to be built in the hole.

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6. Additional requests

6.1 Big tent

Functional needs

The big tent is seen as an element of degradation and a solution of the problem is requested. Therefore the proposal is to reallocate all the places necessary for the Venice Film Festival to the Paladarsena, creating a reasonable number of halls.

Architectural requests

The extension of the Paladarsena must not exceed the current height of the Palazzo del Cinema.

6.2 Agreement for managing the spaces

The Assembly notes that the Venice Biennale Foundation, the managers of the **Citadel of Cinema** and the citizens are subjects that should be considered as peers.

In this perspective, the citizens ask to be involved in the definition phase of the agreements on the use of the spaces.

With the aim of ensuring the use of the spaces by the citizen in the period in which they are not used as a cinema-related market, the citizens request that the space intended for the cinema market be subject to a separate agreement from the other **Citadel of Cinema** components, so as to keep its management and, consequently release its use.

6.3 Continuation of the participatory process

The citizens request to continue the Participatory process "The Lido in the Forefront" also during the defining stage of the architectural solutions.