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The students and tutors of the MSc Building and Urban Design in Development (BUDD) would like to thank the members of LDA Local Democracy Agency Zavidovici for their generous hosting of BUDDcamp in Brescia. In particular, we would like to thank Agostino Zanotti, head of LDA Zavidovici, for his continuous collaboration with BUDD and his meticulous assistance in planning this workshop with Maddalena Alberti. We also wish to thank all the people who showed us around, talked to us and made our weekend in Brescia successful.

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Content

Introduction

With an increase in forced migration, cities have a pressing responsibility to deal with refugees and asylum seekers. Their presence in contemporary European cities challenges the ability to create inclusive communities. In this context, students from the MSc in Building and Urban Design in Development (BUDD) run a three-day design charrette (BUDDcamp) in conjunction with the Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Zavidovici in Brescia, Italy.

LDA focuses on social and educational projects with immigrants and refugees in Brescia and promotes democracy and peace overseas, especially in the Balkans. The organisation currently coordinates the SPRAR project (K&l] e Y`aHjg] r&f] `J d` d \] fl&9k&f`

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The current 'refugee crisis' is the "largest wave of refugees and the biggest sum of misfortune on the continent since World War II (...) flooding the systems of control and admission of European member states" (Balibar, 2015).¹ But what are Governments doing? Europe, as a supranational entity, has for long postponed decisions and action, while grassroots institutions, local NGOs, activists, human rights associations and few state authorities have tried addressing the issue, arguably in an uncoordinated and non multi-scalar manner. The 'new' policy of *fgf]fj]]*, or 'cooperative deterrence' (Gammeltoft-Hansen & Hathaway, 2015)² projects Europe's borders out of Schengen territory, pushing the responsibility of emergency relief and protection to peri-European states. A controversial agreement with Turkey was signed in March 2016, while similar protocols exist with regards to the UK's extraterritorial border in Calais, in what Toscano calls 'intra-European negative solidarity'. With little reductionism, we could call this another project of expulsion and exclusion.

Beyond the evident moral vacuum, it begs the question why Europe is acting this way? The argument, it seems, is not only the crisis of refugees, but a crisis on the notion of Europe itself. The *fge gk* of Europe lies in the mutualisation and legitimisation of its borders and territories, which is enacted through the 'open border' scheme of the Schengen Area. The large waves of

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are exceeded, the crises of the state of control will turn the system towards collapse, eradicating the Westphalian order of things.

With these geopolitical tensions reaching a climax, so has our appetite for visual storylines. It is unclear where

L'edizione 2016 del BUDD CAMP è stata caratterizzata dall'analisi di come i richiedenti protezione internazionale e riconosciuti inseriti nel progetto di accoglienza SPRAR Cellatica "A braccia aperte" interagiscono con i nuovi contesti urbani che abitano. Gli studenti del master, divisi in quattro gruppi di lavoro, hanno potuto incontrare i beneficiari del progetto SPRAR, conoscere gli operatori sociali, dialogare con i cittadini che abitano i territori dove sono inserite le strutture di accoglienza e confrontarsi con le autorità locali che amministrano i territori.

Lo SPRAR, Sistema di protezione Richiedenti Asilo e Rifugiati, si caratterizza dalla presenza attiva degli enti locali che assegnano ad una organizzazione del terzo settore la realizzazione dei servizi previsti nel sistema asilo italiano.

L'obiettivo dell'accoglienza SPRAR è quello di consentire ai richiedenti asilo di avviare un percorso personale di inserimento socio-economico in vista della (ri)conquista della propria autonomia. Per "realizzare" l'obiettivo di una accoglienza integrata viene fornito al beneficiario un alloggio condiviso con altre persone, un contributo economico per vitto e abbigliamento, servizi alla persona come: corsi di lingua italiana, assistenza socio-sanitaria, orientamento al territorio e ai servizi, supporto legale. Il percorso individualizzato condiviso con il rifugiato comprende l'inserimento socio-economico.

Le problematiche più rilevanti che l'Associazione riscontra nel tentativo di dare forma all'autonomia del beneficiario si rappresentano attraverso alcune parole chiave: sospensione, standardizzazione, accoglienza, autonomia, consapevolezza. Sospensione in quanto il sistema dell'asilo è caratterizzato da lunghi tempi di attesa e da un percorso molto articolato che costringe i richiedenti asilo a periodi anche di due anni prima di vedersi riconosciuto o meno il diritto a stare definitivamente sul territorio italiano e/o a circolare in altri paesi europei. In questa attesa la persona difficilmente trova gli stimoli utili a definire il proprio percorso

migratorio. Standardizzazione per dare uguali servizi e possibilità a tutti, ma è una parola che tende a vedere l'insieme dei beneficiari come omogeneo con bisogni uniformi che confligge con la prospettiva di realizzazione di progetti individualizzati. Accoglienza risulta essere una parola che si scontra con l'aumento di un pensiero cinico e razzista alimentato dalla paura dello "straniero" in quanto minaccia, portatore di malattie e insicurezza. Accoglienza e ospitalità sono pratiche quasi dimenticate dal nostro tempo che ci costringono a riconoscere il diritto dello straniero a non essere trattato come nemico.

Autonomia che i beneficiari chiedono non si concretizza solamente nella richiesta di una casa e di un lavoro, ma spesso passa attraverso la possibilità di rappresentarsi compiutamente per quello che sono e non per quello che vorremmo fossero. Imbrigliati in un sistema di tutela che spesso ass

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**Different faces; shared spaces; same traces.
Torbole-Castelmella**

"I think there's just one kind of folks. Folks." Harper Lee.

Dan Daley. Like Perseus, we flew with lightness
Hand-bags in tow, traveling light
Overcoming the fright of missing that fight
To board a singing coach via fair Verona,
Past brimming smoke of industrial choke, this was no
Barcelona,
There sat Brescia where Frances became Francesca
And the hotel Leonardo served no avocado, Ago and
Magda brought us onstage
Turning the page in our development age,
Full from ceaseless pizza
We entered speechless into municipal halls
And within walls of asylum seekers,
Where we were reapers of stories
In their shoes for a day
Learning of their way
Trying to portray hope from beyond their doorway,
We laughed and played
Were surveyed for being waylaid in the night,
The next day we displayed our campaigns
And were told we made great gains,
Pained to leave, we made off with lightness
Revelling in the "delightness" of absolute tiredness.

I feel that sometimes verse can say it better than
prose, with less specificity, but with more emotion.
My experience in Brescia brought many emotions. At
times I felt weighed down by the process and just when

"humanity seem[ed] condemned to heaviness, I [felt] I
should fly like Perseus into a different space", I found
perspective and renewal to drive ahead.
As we learned from Italo Calvino's lecture, language
cannot always serve justice to an experience, but many
great writers have attempted this feat with fantastic
creativity. Exactitude, as he describes, can bring a
precision to language, "both in choice of words and in
expression of the subtleties of thought and imagination."
My challenge was to ask the right questions, to work with
specificity and clarity.
We met with two groups of young men, each with
vastly different experiences and *they* imag *ing* "
page, *and* whe *re* " " "

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SEEING A CITY THROUGH NEW EYES

A DESIGN-RESEARCH PROJECT
EXPLORING THE EXPERIENCE OF ASYLUM SEEKERS IN COLLEBEATO, BRESCIA



"The first day I was here, a neighbour offered to show me around... this way I go to the sink now"



"If I have a choice, I go to Brescia"

"There is a sad town, there is public space"

"I wouldn't want to see people here... It's the moral mess"

"I don't have any friends here, and I don't go with the Pakistani community"

"I don't have any friends here, and I don't go with the Pakistani community"

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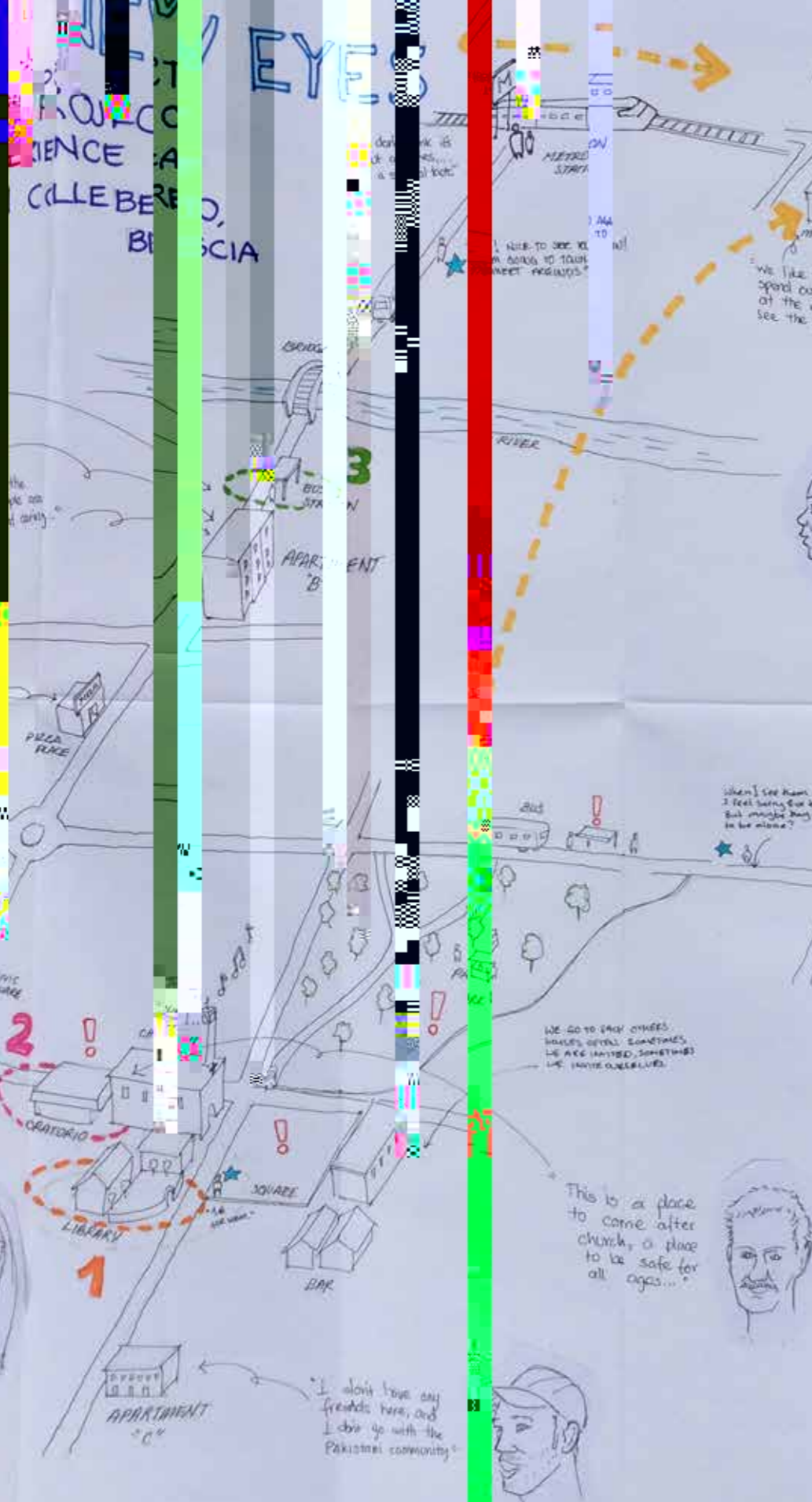
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RECIPROCAL RESPECTS
The act of reciprocating is a fundamental social cohesion of

LOCALS
Graciously receiving and returning another's kindness some jobs for connected communities

QUALITY
Use their skills and feel welcome

HUMANISING and EQUALISING
Spaces of contact
- Limiting paternalistic interactions and creating opportunities for meeting those with shared experiences

SPACE
as our entry point for understanding and improving the interactions between refugees and migrants with their host community

RECIPE
Reciprocal space is SPACE THAT ENCOURAGES AN INTERCHANGE BETWEEN DIFFERENT CULTURES OR WAYS OF THINKING THAT IS MUTUALLY PRODUCTIVE AND BENEFICIAL. It cross-fertilises cultures.

FOUR
We've identified FOUR key aspects of Reciprocal Space and principles for achieving them.

GESTURES and the importance of BEING ABLE TO ACT FIRST.
- Creating spaces, at home and in the community for refugees and migrants to be able to offer a gesture.

When one person makes a gesture towards a fellow human; a gift, an inclusion or a favour we are hard-wired to return it, to doing to be create a thread of shared experience and understanding.

During our time in Collebeato, the refugees and migrants made gestures towards us offering to us their **TIME, FOOD, STORIES** and an

REBALANCING power relationships:
- Limiting activities that label refugees and migrants as different

Collective Community
From our understanding of the Collebeato experience we

their **PLACE OF WORSHIP**
We have based our suggested design interventions around these resources they value and are able to offer.

We identified what we see as existing or potential reciprocal space as key areas to focus on.



LOCALS	LOCALS - REFUGEES	REFUGEES + IMMIGRANTS	SPACE & ACTIVITIES	Social work as a visible mark of second class citizenship.
different	Racism.	Immigrants adapting in time.	Lack of places for encounter and events.	Inequivalent levels of education and skills.
difficult	Toxicity of tolerance!	Community: transcending boundaries.	People would rather going to town centre than staying in Collebeato	They're not a group yet they are treated like one.
older	Changing attitudes towards refugees.	International language of no language	"We go to the church every Sunday, that's where we meet other Nigerian friends"	Paternalistic housing rules
the	different religious people.	their houses.	"I've lived here for 5 years, I wouldn't call it home. People would still judge you."	"I've never met any Italian friends here because this is not my flat." - Afghani
opportunities	Working with immigrants for 20 years in Brescia made me racist" - Italian resident	ORGANISATION PROBLEMS	"I like Brescia, you can meet people from everywhere in the world" - Congolese student	

such a sensitive topic and indulge in a conversation with the people concerned. With a lot of improvisations, brainstorming, asking the 'right questions' and learning on the go, we managed to make the most out of the conversation to gain a deeper insight into the current situation. The field trip was the first time that we were immersed into the real scenario where we dealt with the socio-economic, cultural and political issues concerned with a place. It was a fast track process of understanding, listening, learning and reflecting at the same time and first step out of our comfort zone of institutional learning. The most important moment in the trip was the realisation and decision to 'STEP BACK' from all the emotions (though understanding and respecting them) to analyse / reflect as a 'development practitioner'. We needed to be rational in our thought process, break away from the emotions, zoom out and position ourselves as an external agency where we could analyse the situation without any bias or preconceived notions.

Cui Lei. Within this world, no refugee will leave his or her motherland reluctantly. However, the truth is that the world is unfair. There are many youngsters who live in extravagant life but still do not satisfy and even complain about their food and houses. There are also many young persons, however, born in poverty and could not have enough food to eat or basic space to live. Although we cannot easily bridge the gap between the poor and the rich, what we can do is to offer ourselves to the people who need our help. In order to do so, the first thing is to get along with them and know more about them, about their life, about their stories, about their views and about their values. These things cannot be finished within a short time. But we tried our best to know them more comprehensively. Maybe for the refugees our short visit and research is just as a piece of beautiful cloud in their sky that will disappear someday. But for us, it is the responsibility to analyse well and to come up with the strategies for a better living space. So the meaning of this trip is not just about completing the aim of study and workshop, but also about completing the life of the every urban participator.

Xiayi Zhou. "Past was past, Now has become past, but Future will definitely be better!" That's what I want to say for those new comers.

PAST — FAMILY & WAR: One thing I noticed is that a

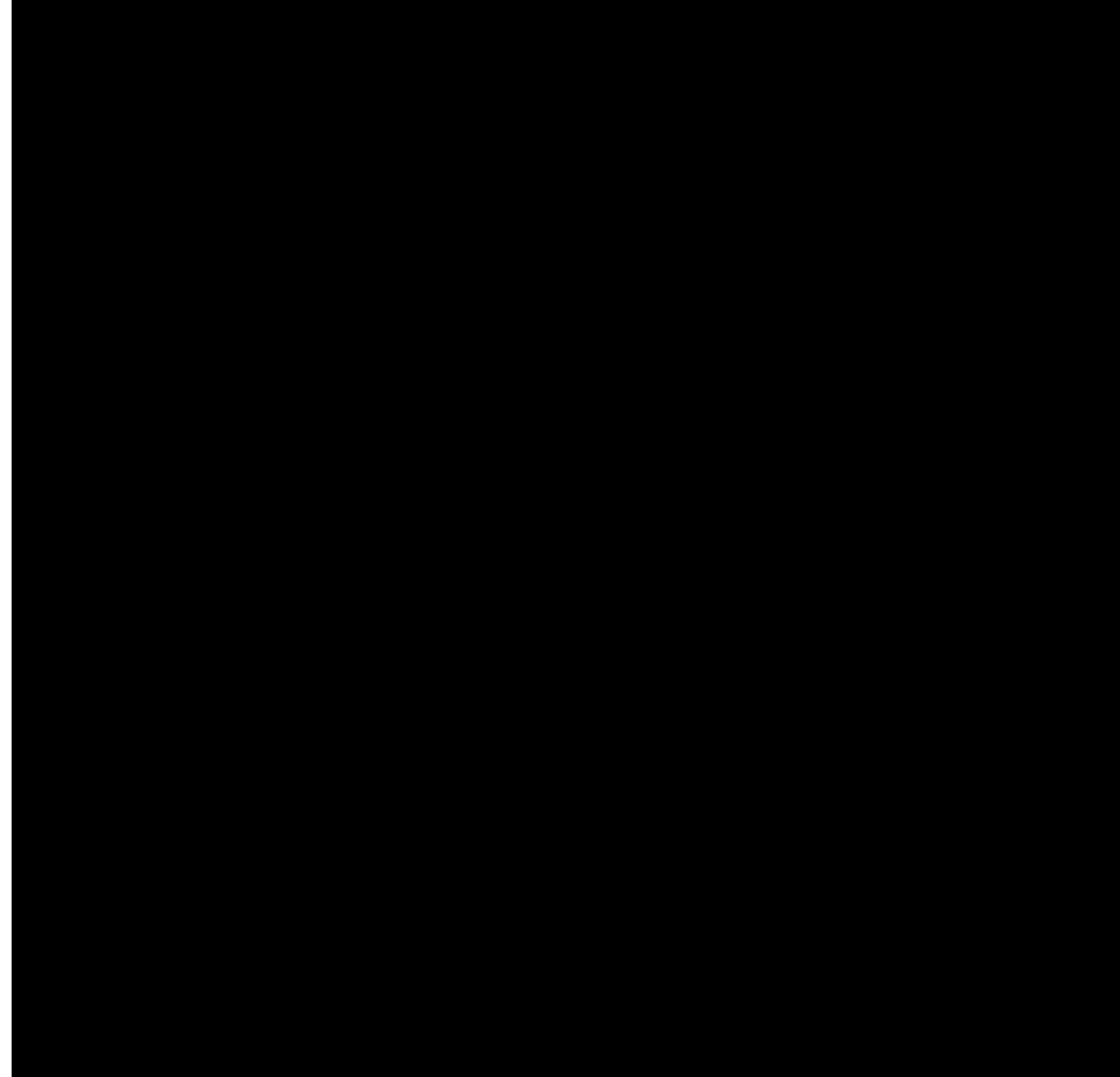
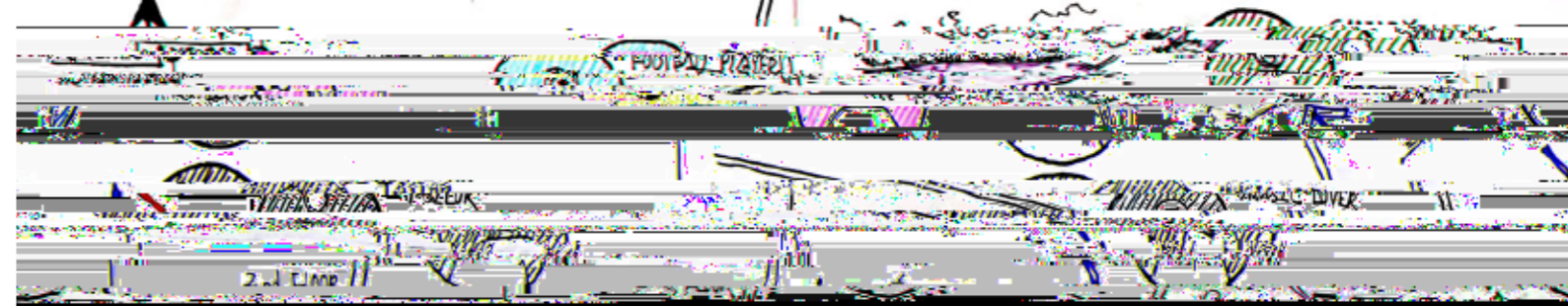
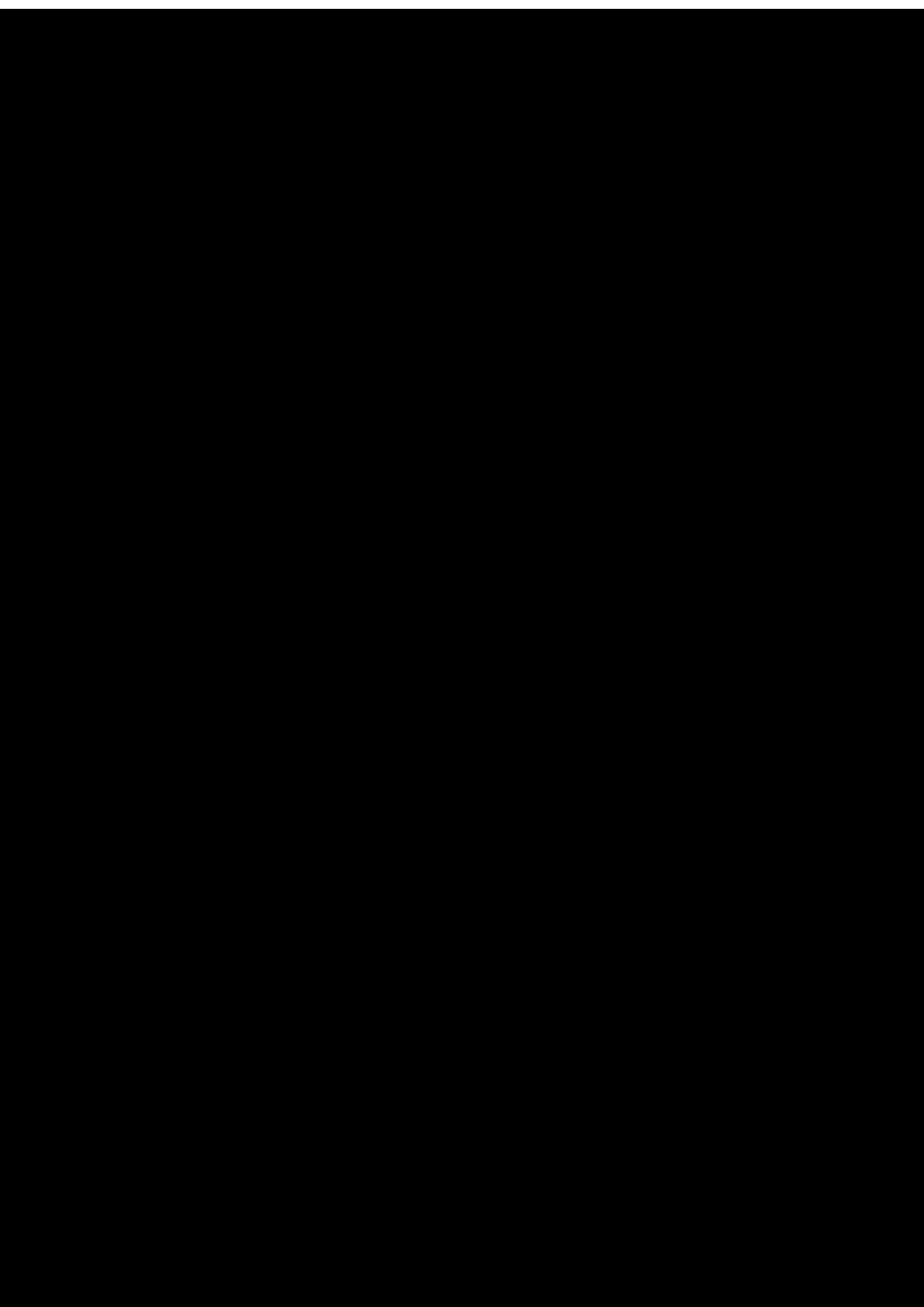
boy from Pakistan shows us a photo of his brother and another guy from Africa shows a family video. Although their countries are destroyed by the war, they still keep 'home' in mind. The past for them is the happy time with families, as well as the wound from wars.

NOW — WAITING: Most of them follow the arrangement from local government and municipality, what they usually do is just wait. Waiting for the result from the court, again and again.

FUTURE — CONFUSED: Few people know what will happen and what can they do. They are confused.

PAST — BIAS: The field trip is one of the most important reasons that I choose BUDD, but I never imagine that it relates to refugee issues. Actually, before this time, I have no chance to think about this problem which has become more and more severe in Europe. In my opinion, the living conditions of those 'new comers' may be very poor, like shelters and informal housings and they might be prone to violence. There are some bias.

NOW — RETHINK: But this camp in Passirano changed my idea. First, living conditions for new comers was much better than what I thought before. A standard two bedroom flat with multiple facilities is good. Second, we talked with two groups of people, one from Pakistan and another one from Africa. They are all nice guys with lovely a smile and easy going, except for some language



**DIFFERENT
FACES
SHARED
SPACES
SAME
TRACES**

BRESCIA

PIAZZA della LOGGIA

HOTEL

*Refugee 'is by rights'...
Some of them here for Job, not integration
Lack of jobs is main problem
Many are 'AFRAID' of 'REFUGEE'

You are not as important as us, but you are here by Magdalen

SWEET SHOP

"LUCA IS the boss" "ADL is a good job"

"Gi... about 'UK' once"



"Friendship, Respect, Rules and people." by Gaoud
"No different from us, no learning in having relationship with them!" by Cosimo (age of 20)

diverse people on the street. But they are not many, yet." by Carla

CASTEL HOUSE

"Italy is good (perfect). But if we could not possibly to Germany."

PUNTO FAMIA

CASTEL MELLA MUNICIPALITY

"need to present our culture to adapt to it." "RESPECT RULES"

ADL

"Albania refugees were fine after 'integrating' (asking) what is going to them" "education / language is way out" "big problem of jobs" by Angelo

"I want stay home and worklands"

"opinion, because they got scared by everything's ready here." "WE DON'T WANT A DORMITORY CITY."

PAMPURI

"We started in Pampuri" by Refugees.

Legal status is impeding economic development"

"Major group of people conservative" "people like being so particular of some space"

"We did organise a meeting with the villages. BUT there were not that many people who care. AND they were against to implement the program."

PARKS

CHURCH

"We go the church every Sunday. Church in Torbole is boring, so we go to Brescia church for me" "Sunday Mass" by Verony, refugee

"65 out of 200 municipalities hosting refugees"

"Environment of city needs to be protected. Not sure put in crises and by others. But also"

PARK 1: TENNIS

SPORT

football. But there are not enough people to play with." by James, Refugee

"LUCA IS the Boss"

TORBOLE HOUSE

"I want to keep myself safe of racism. violence being influence" "I want to do some work I can do what I used to do with my parties." by James, Refugee

TORBOLE MUNICIPALITY

MARKET

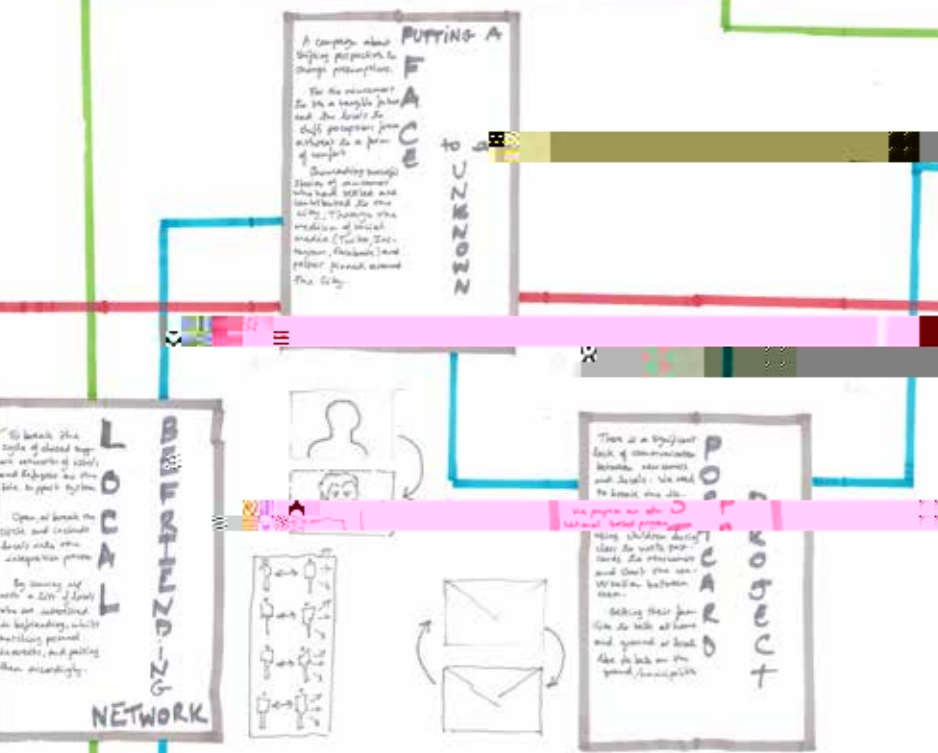
"Personal and humanisation" "moltiplicati. But operation and way you do it is POLITICAL." by Mayor of Torbole Municipality.

"I used to ride bike to school. It takes me 20 minutes. But now I have to take bus, because of the cold weather."

FRIENDO

FRIENDO

- CULTURE
- RELATIONSHIPS
- TEMPORALITY
- MOBILITY
- ECONOMY



recalibration' of urban design, and at the same time being able to actually apply it in existing and ongoing conflicts is a valuable experience. The BUDDcamp offered a comprehensive sample of what we have already learnt. We didn't map the actors but interacted with most of them, we tried to understand power relations and conflicting interests, we proposed solutions that were far from utopic approaches, but rooted in reality and tried to understand the political, social and spatial dimensions of them. However, what I did not expect to happen was the effect at a personal level this experience had in all of us.

We are all branches of the same tree. Paderno
"We're paying the highest tribute you can pay a man. We trust him to do right. It's that simple." Harper Lee.

Ariana Markowitz. Our days in Brescia were a watershed moment for me, the first time I felt that I was seeing through designer glasses, as it were, rather than through the perspective of a development and security practitioner aspiring to be a designer. I am starting to understand scale, strategies, guidelines, principles, actors, and maps not as concepts but as tools, and to use them reflexively albeit uncertainly. [...]

I thought often in Brescia about how to cultivate empathy rather than sympathy without diminishing the importance of difference. The UK is the sixth country where I have been a migrant. I understand well the trials and tribulations of integrating into a new culture and having to define my views on topics about which I lack context, struggling to find my voice in a foreign language, and navigating the maze of immigration-related bureaucracy. But I have always done these things from a position of great privilege. In seeking commonalities upon which to base my interactions with the newcomers, I sometimes felt that I negated our differences. Finding the line between designing for empathy and accounting for difference while working towards some degree of assimilation remains a long-term balancing act.

Di Wang. During the whole process of BUDDcamp, one key question – how to identify ourselves - kept echoing in my mind. Are we practitioners, urban designers, students or just normal people? I found it really hard to engage with their lives as soon as possible in such a short time alongside with keeping a distance from outside so as to be rational. It seemed that there were two different

people deep in my heart, one is the emotional one, the other is the rational one. Without doubt we need to dissociate ourselves a little bit from their perspectives in order to dissolve the problem as a whole. But we could not further analyse their situations without being deeply involved in their conversations. So what we could do is to balance these two different roles and try not to be biased. When thinking about our strategies to intervene, our roles seemed to be less unimportant. We simply reflected our understanding of the current situation and proposed possible solution to help solve the problem from our perspectives. At this time, we are academics but not only academics. Who are we? I identify ourselves as observers and advisors. At least, we are one active member of the city who intend to create a better society.

Luis Felipe Hernandez Ventura. The different points of view applied to a single target is one of the factors that enrich the discussions and increase the range of perspectives to solve a problem. Personally, it is what helps me understand things better. It's a matter

of perspective. I think that the most important thing is to have a clear target and to be able to see it from different points of view. I think that the most important thing is to have a clear target and to be able to see it from different points of view. I think that the most important thing is to have a clear target and to be able to see it from different points of view.

SOFT ANALYSIS

EMPA
 "ARE YOU PROUD OF YOUR STRANGE AND TOTAL STRANGE?" - LEE

VS
 "MOST PEOPLE ARE SCARED, GIVE N YOU LIKE THEM" - LEE

COSSOZ
 "FOLLOWING IS NEAR" - LEE

STRATEGIES

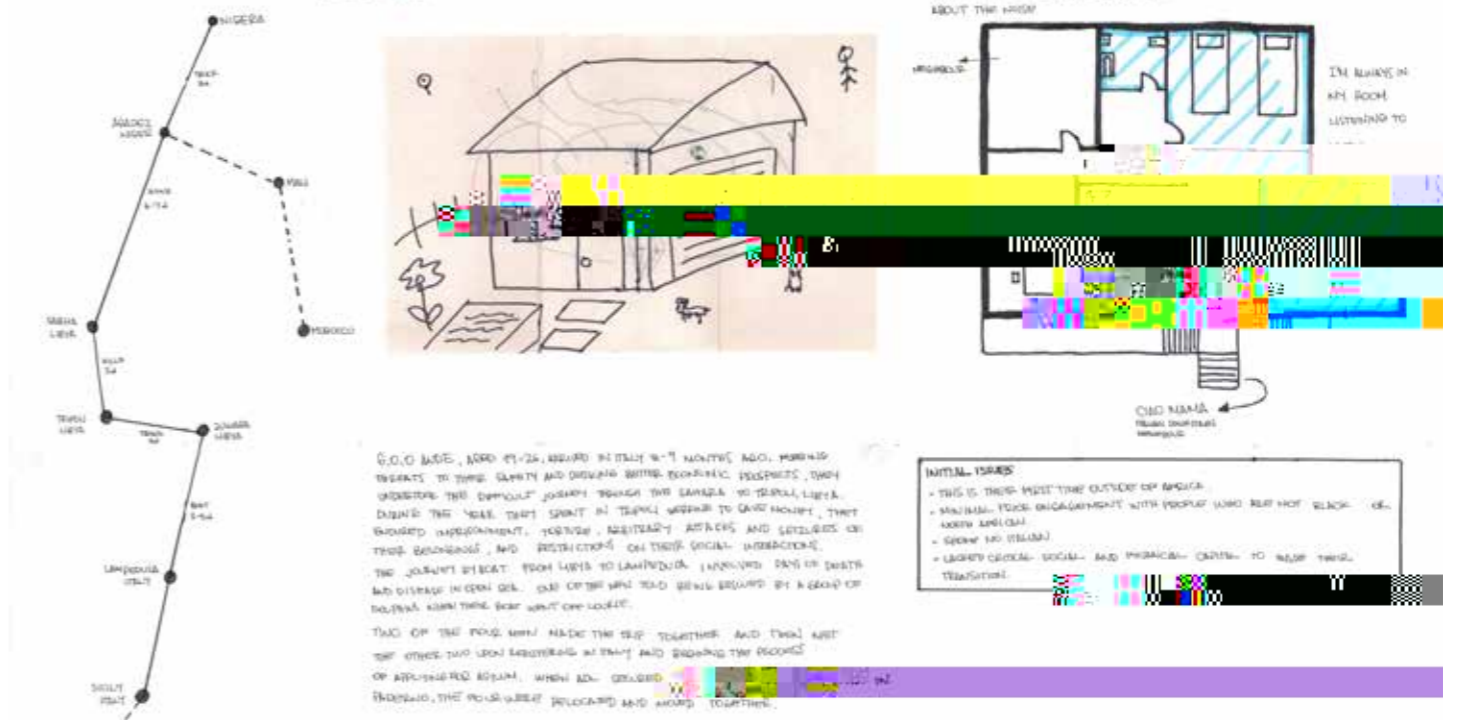
EXPAND BUILD INVEST

OPPORTUNITIES FOR NON-VERBAL INTERACTIONS

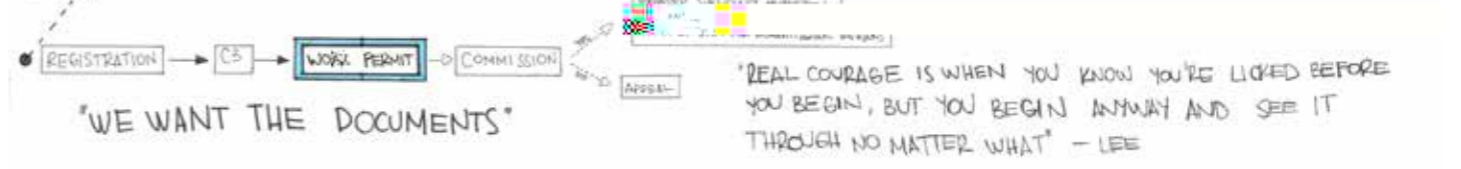
SKILLS FOR LIFE RATHER THAN EXPECTATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE

LIVING

DWELLING SCALE



LEGAL PROCESS



CITY SCALE



THE CITY OF BRESCIA CAN BUILD UPON THE STRATEGIES USED AT THE TOWN SCALE ITS GREATER OPENNESS TO DIVERSITY RELATIVE TO PADERNO MEANS THAT THE MEN DO NOT FACE THE SAME PHYSICAL BARRIERS TO INTEGRATION AND PARTICIPATION.

NONETHELESS, THE MEN MAKE USE OF A VERY LIMITED PORTION OF THE CITY CIRCLING BETWEEN THE TRAIN STATION AND OFFICE THEIR CHURCH FRECQIA RD SSMALL AND TWO SMALL BROKERLY STORES OWNED BY LONG-TERM CHINESE MIGRANTS THAT CATER TO WEST AFRICAN CUSTOMERS. WE SEEK FIRST TO BROADEN THE MEN'S ROUTES AFFORDING THEM GREATER OPPORTUNITIES TO INTERACT WITH A HIGHER NUMBER AND MORE TYPES OF PEOPLE AND TO SEE AND BE SEEN; AND SECOND TO CONNECT THEM WITH MORE COMMUNITIES THROUGH PLACES, GROUPS AND FRIENDS.

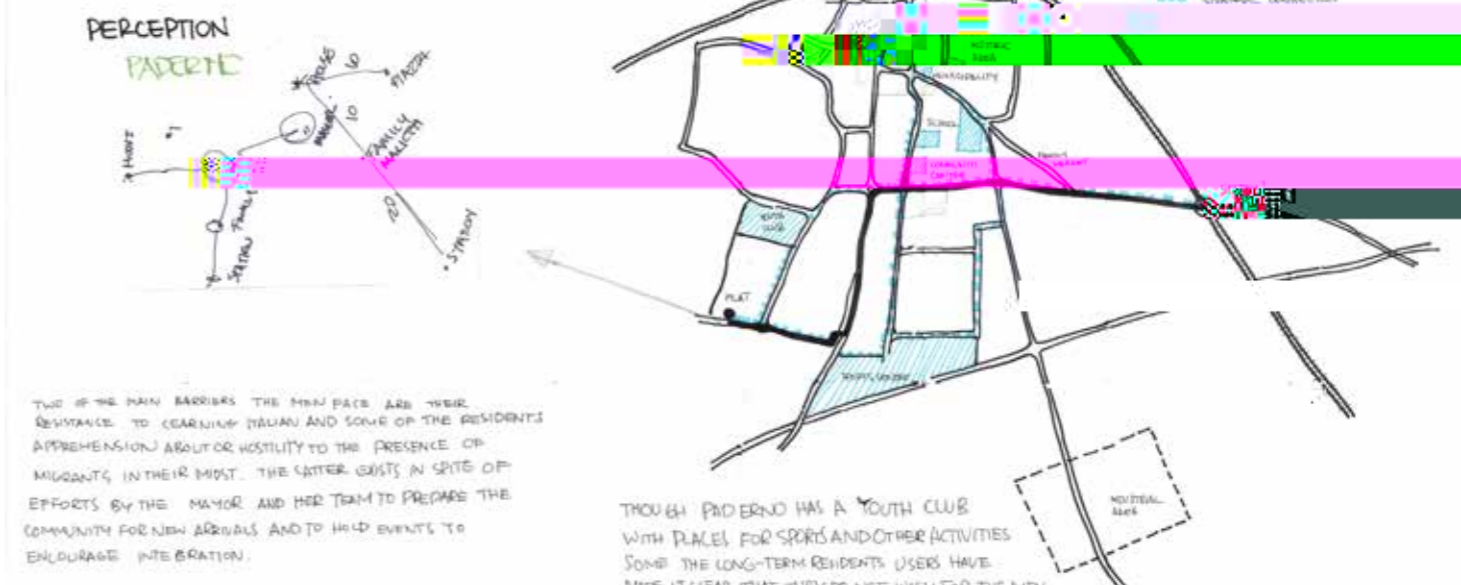
- UNDERSTAND AND MAKE USE OF SKILLS AND PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

- CONNECTING THE MEN TO TARGETED INTERNSHIPS IN TRADES OR INDUSTRIES THAT THEY ALREADY KNOW
- THE PRIOR KNOWLEDGE REDUCES THE NEED FOR COMPLICATED VERBAL EXPLANATIONS
- MAY ENABLE THEM TO DEVELOP SPECIALIZED VOCABULARY SETS
- "THE PROPER USE OF LANGUAGE (SOME THAT ENABLES US TO APPROACH THINGS (PRESENT OR ABSENT) WITH DISCRETION ATTENTION AND CAUTION WITH RESPECT FOR WHAT THINGS (PRESENT OR ABSENT) COMMUNICATE WITHOUT WORDS"

- ACTIVATING THE POTENTIAL OF CHURCH COMMUNITIES

- LINKING REFUGEES, MIGRANTS AND REFUGEE RELIGIOUS LEADERS ACROSS CHURCH COMMUNITIES
- STRENGTH IN NUMBERS MAY INCREASE THEIR VISIBILITY AND PROVIDE THEM WITH A MORE SOLID PLATFORM FROM WHICH TO EXPRESS THEIR NEEDS AND VOICING FOR THEIR NEEDS
- REPLICATING THE STRATEGIES OF THE CITY

TOWN SCALE



TWO OF THE MAIN BARRIERS THE MEN FACE ARE THEIR RESISTANCE TO LEARNING ITALIAN AND SOME OF THE RESIDENTS APPREHENSION ABOUT OR HOSTILITY TO THE PRESENCE OF MIGRANTS IN THEIR TOWN. THE LATTER GOES IN SPITE OF EFFORTS BY THE MAYOR AND HER TEAM TO PREPARE THE COMMUNITY FOR NEW ARRIVALS AND TO HOLD EVENTS TO ENCOURAGE INTEGRATION.

- MEN - REFUGEES

- NO INCENTIVE TO LEARN ITALIAN WITHOUT KNOWING WHETHER OR NOT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO STAY IN ITALY, BUT THEY CANNOT BUILD PERSONAL NETWORKS THAT WOULD FACILITATE THEIR INTEGRATION OR FIND A JOB WITH OUT SPEAKING ITALIAN. EVEN IF THEY DO SECURE PERMISSION TO STAY WITHOUT HAVING INCOME WOULD MAKE IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO MAINTAIN STANDARD OF LIVING.

- ITALIAN RESIDENTS

- ECONOMIC RESSENTMENT DISCOMFORT WITH THEIR DIVERSITY

"IF YOU DON'T SPEAK THE LANGUAGE YOU ARE IN A PRISON"

ALTHOUGH PADERNO HAS A YOUTH CLUB WITH PLACES FOR SPORTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES SOME OF THE LONG-TERM RESIDENTS USERS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY DO NOT WISH FOR THE MEN TO PARTICIPATE.

THE PRIEST WHO IS THE CARETAKER OF THOSE SPACES, HAS NOT INTERVENED ON THE MEN'S BEHALF. THIS LACK OF ACTION MEANS THAT THE MEN AND THE TOWN ADMINISTRATION MUST SEEK ALTERNATE WAYS TO ENABLE THE MEN TO INTERACT WITH TOWN PEOPLE AND ULTIMATELY SECURE EQUAL ACCESS TO PUBLIC SPACES MANY PEOPLE INCLUDING THE MAYOR ASSUME THAT ACCEPTANCE WILL COME FROM THE GROUND UP - FROM CHILDREN WHO HAVE NOT HAD TIME TO DEVELOP NEGATIVE PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR NEIGHBOURS - DUE TO THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH SIGNIFICANT SPATIAL CONSTRAINTS, HOWEVER WE BELIEVE AMEND INSTEAD WORKING FROM THE TOP-DOWN (ELDERLY) IN HOPES THAT POSITIVE PERCEPTION WILL FILTER DOWN THROUGH YOUNGER GENERATIONS.

setting out five assertions, positioned on informed critique, that certainly inform academic engagements. Amongst the variables used to develop informed critique are context, the fields of practice, recognition, as well as politics and causality. The latter particularly focuses on the need to think carefully about the validity of the criticism: "Critical thinking is essential to developing a critical architecture, but thinking critically does not guarantee a critical outcome".⁴

Acknowledging the irregularities and unfiltered schematic of design should also be part of the paradigm: "In a wider context, the design practice can be seen as an expanding field rather than being developed in isolation. The production of space is subversive to the process, which enables appropriation, wellbeing, solidarity, inhabitation and dwelling. These are not forms".⁵ With these reflections, we could certainly provisionally come to terms with the fact that design is essentially about the production of space, not as a fixed and abstract reality, but as something actively and contingently produced. As such, design needs to be understood as an impure and discrepant practice, as a way to address urban challenges from the perspective of excluded groups in contested urban spaces. Each project shows that the potential of design can no longer remain within the realms of intent, form or representation but needs to tie these to

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