



The quarter named after the composer Vincenzo Bellini, referred to as "Piazza Teatro Massimo" (Massimo Theatre Square) by the Catanese, is located in the historic downtown area and is surrounded by many monumental buildings. Various buildings are of public nature (such as the Massimo Vincenzo Bellini Theatre, "Palazzo delle Finanze", the Arengario - also known as the "Monumento ai Caduti" - while others are privately owned (such as the Convitto Cutelli). Residential buildings are for the most part situated along the Michele Rapisardi and Teatro Massimo streets.

The situation of this square, prior to the beginning of the municipality's project, was not part of a specific plan. In fact, repairs and maintenance concerning the two streets that parallel the square, also resulted in the square's improvement. The focal point of this area is Vaccarini's "Fontana dei delfini" (Fountain of the dolphins) created in the 1700's and situated in the center of the square. This fountain, prior to the project, was wrongly utilized as a traffic island. The square along with the two streets, all paved in lava rock, were in particularly poor condition. For years nothing was done to repair or renovate them and the entire area was open to traffic. Furthermore, both the plaza and the streets lacked seating and other urban fixtures.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Vegetation: Adult Jacaranda trees ("Jacaranda mimosifolia") and Eugenia Newport bushes trimmed into spheres and situated in planters.

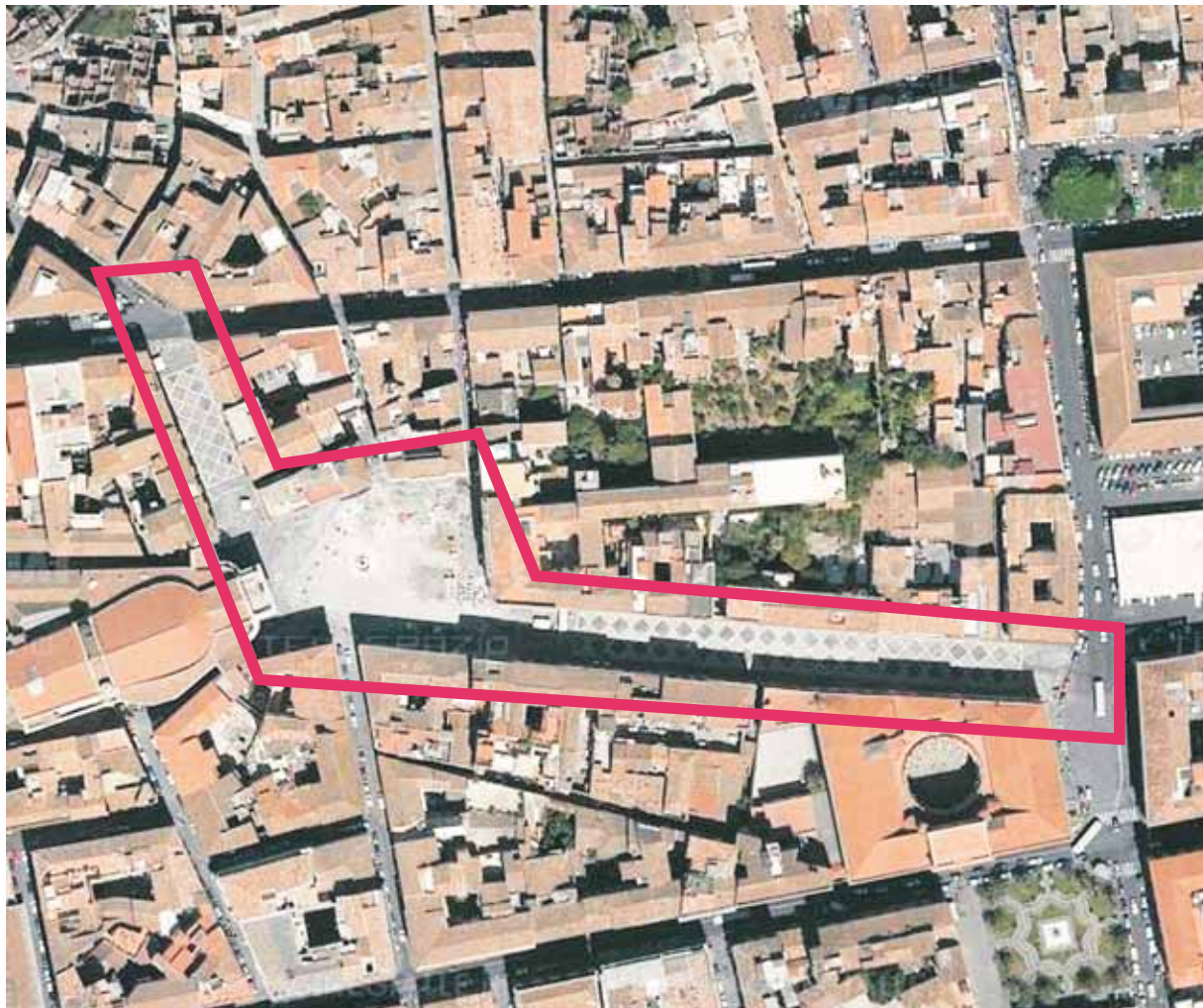
Seating and Resources: Restoration of the monumental Vaccarini fountain, located in the center of the square, now closed to traffic, was elevated on a base made of white stone from Modica. The design of the square's pavement was created utilizing circles and concentric ellipses made of white stone from Modica and lava stone. This design was embellished with red porphyry stone mimicking the colours of the buildings situated around the square. Additional enhancements included planters, benches, cast-iron waste receptacles and spherical concrete barriers sculpted from Modica white stone to block traffic from entering the square.

Selection Criteria: The project is part of the Municipality's broader historic district restoration program. Particular attention is given to districts that are of urban and architectural value. These areas also represent locations in which the city's historic ("Civita" district) and urban areas dating from the 1800's converge. Today, these districts are in particularly poor condition.

Objectives Accomplished: The primary objective accomplished with this project was the transformation of the entire area into a pedestrian zone. This initial phase represents the beginning of a broader plan which does not strictly apply to traffic-related problems. This project has shown that the creation of areas closed to traffic improves the quality of life from an architectural as well as functional point of view.

Regeneration of Piazza "Vincenzo Bellini"

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Year of political decision: 2003
Year of technical project: 2003 - 2005
Years of implementation: 2005 - 2007

PROJECT FUNDING

Autonomous initiative of the Municipality



Initiative induced by normative measures
/ economic incentives:

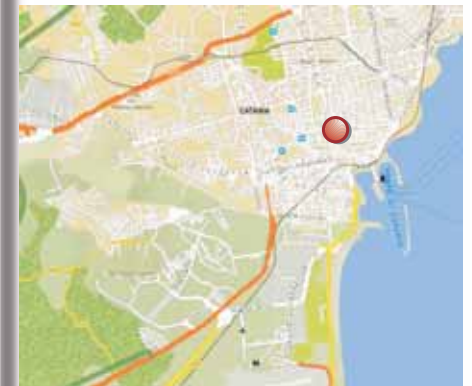
- European
- National
- Regional



LEGISLATIVE REFERENCES

Regional Operative Program 2000-2006 Sicily
Axe V "City" – Measure 5.02.

The program's objective regarded urban regeneration and the improvement of living conditions through projects regarding the restoration of public areas



Regione Siciliana



REGIONE
PIEMONTE



Comunidad de Madrid



Comune di Catania



Comune di Novara



Ayuntamiento de
Navalcarnero



INTERREG III C SOUTH
REGIONAL FRAMEWORK OPERATION
PROGRESDEC
ESDP steps



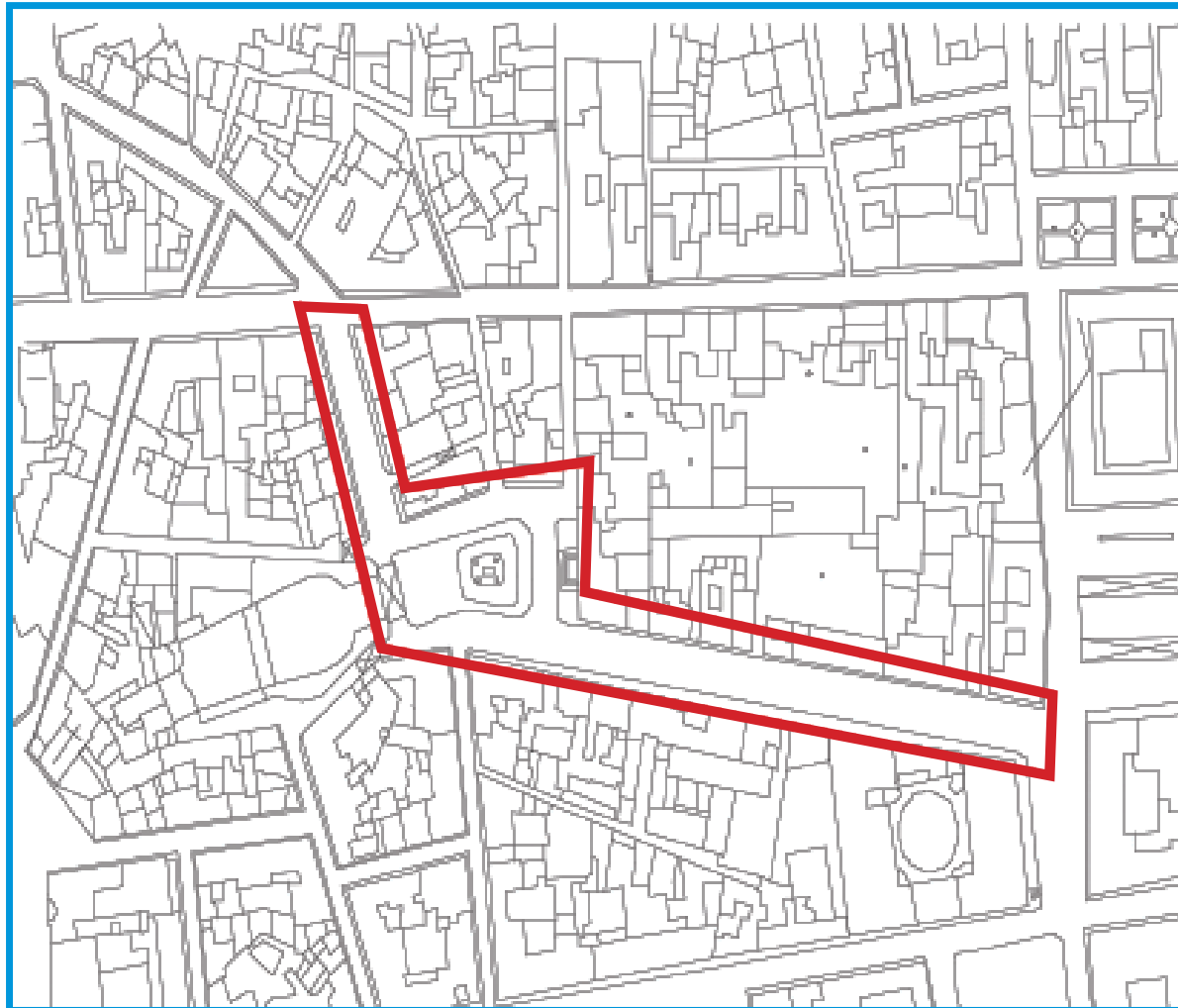
PROJECT PART-FINANCED
BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

Sub project:
"RegeneratioNet" - "PO3IT3"

CATANIA

Regeneration of Piazza "Vincenzo Bellini"

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DIMENSIONS

DIMENSION OF THE AREA

8.450 sq m

SIZE OF POPULATION


496.118 (year 2001)

BULK OF BUILDINGS INVOLVED


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TIPOLOGY

PHYSICAL INTERVENTION

Transformation / demolition - reconstruction
(functions and features before and after) 

- Pavement and urban furnishings

Preservation or restoration 

SOCIAL / ECONOMIC MEASURE 

- Creation of a pedestrian area
- Improvement of living conditions



INTERREG III C SOUTH
REGIONAL FRAMEWORK OPERATION
PROGRESDEC
ESDP steps



PROJECT PART-FINANCED
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CATANIA

Regeneration of Piazza "Vincenzo Bellini"

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PROJECT TOOLS

DESIGN TOOLS

- Construction projects regarding public spaces

FINANCIALS TOOLS

OTHER TOOLS OF PUBLIC POLICIES

- Transformation of the square into a pedestrian zone



Sub project:
"RegeneratioNet" - "PO3IT3"

CATANIA



Regione Siciliana



REGIONE PIEMONTE



Comunidad de Madrid



Comune di Catania



Comune di Novara



Ayuntamiento de Navalcarnero



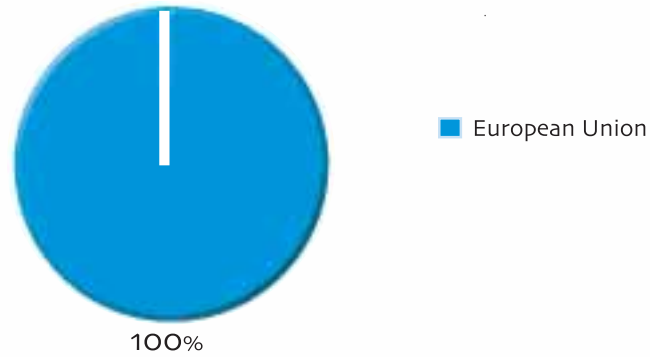
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PROJECT PART-FINANCED
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MAIN ACTORS AND THEIR FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION



PUBLIC ACTORS

European Union: € 2.509.980,53

PRIVATE ACTORS

EXPECTED / ACHIEVED RESULTS

PUBLIC BENEFITS

- 8.450 square meters of regenerated territory
- The project was part of a restoration plan launched in an historic and degraded downtown area.
- It allowed for the improvement of private social, cultural and economic activities in the surrounding area

BENEFITS FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR