

LIVING WITH EARTHQUAKES

FROM A COMMUNITY MAP TO STRATEGIES FOR CONSTRUCTING A RESILIENT FUTURE OF FALERONE

MAPPA DI COMUNITÀ

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CONCEPT

Living with earthquakes is an interdisciplinary research project devoted to post-earthquake reconstruction in central Italy. Directed by professor Antonello Alici from Università Politecnica delle Marche, it has been developed in international collaboration and in constant dialogue between disciplines: architecture, art, engineering and social sciences. Through annual summer schools, conferences and workshops, it focuses attention on damaged towns in urgent need of support — one of them being Falerone, a medieval town in Marche with unique craft traditions. In November 2021, in an attempt to help (re)connect its broken community, we organised a series of activities culminating in the creation of the giant *mappa di comunità* — a psychogeographic map of Falerone as seen through the eyes of its residents.

CENTRO STORICO
FALERONE



PROCESS OF MAPPING

Representing cultural characteristics of the town, it aimed to involve local population in rediscovery of local heritage. Citizens were asked to map places which had played important roles in their lives, to write down associated memories and to propose visions for their future. At the same time, university students from different backgrounds presented their ideas for activating public spaces to the local community. The process of mapping has been very stimulating — suddenly, many forgotten urban spaces appeared as full of potential for productive transformations. Soon after, the map was hung on the facade of one of the damaged buildings in the historic centre, and the citizens were invited to continue adding their inscriptions.

RESULTS

As the map will change over time, the hope is that this process will prompt the local community and authorities to confront the identity of their town and to rethink its future. As a result of the 2021 workshops and subsequent 2022 summer school, an official Heritage Community was established in Falerone and the town prepares to join the European Faro Convention Network, which seeks creative ways of developing and managing cultural heritage with active involvement of local citizens. Joining Faro Convention also provides new possibilities for funding heritage-related projects as part of the Italian PNRR scheme — it can be hoped that Falerone's inhabitants will soon become protagonists designing the future they wish for: happy, healthy and equitable.



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