

# CASAMIGRANTE

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**Casamigrante** is the name of the project, located in Calabria's small touristic town of Fiumefreddo (Southern Italy), characterized by the presence of the sea, a medieval center and a beautiful natural scenery, therefore with a strong touristic vocation.

The project stems from a few basic considerations: 1. the presence of obsolete and unused buildings, in this case the complex chosen for the project was built several years ago and never used. It's a dry port, where boats are supposed to be dragged and stored for the winter. 2. The second consideration is a great social emergency represented by the daily arrivals at the ports of Calabria and Sicily of boats packed with masses of migrants and refugees from the ports of Northern Africa. Many of these people are housed in hotels as a temporary measure, but in time this became semi-permanent, since the stays of migrants in the local hotels last for years, with a great effort of public money.

So, why not merging the two problems and try to give a constructive, productive and human answer to the questions raised by the new times?

In order to do so, the basic assumption is pragmatism. No visionary or futuristic forms that impress the viewer but that are frankly unrealistic. The idea was to "complete" the existing buildings based on understatement and subtleness.

Casamigrante are not apartments, but shelters, meant for a limited time. They are reasonably sized, spartan but comfortable. They are based on the demographics of the newcomers, young people, mostly men, and sometimes two members of the same family. But there's also an attention to the potential future use, once the migrants' emergency is over: renting to the tourists that will enjoy the proximity of the sea. Each block of shelters consist in single and double rooms with shared balcony and a few full height studios with their kitchen, meant for people with a baby. The services are common (kitchen, living and dining, meditation/prayer room). The smallest block on the south side will house social services (areas for lecturing, screening, seminars), workshops and municipality offices for running the place.

The site is located on the northern edge of town, by the beach. The shelters are all "suspended" on a high level to leave the bottom part open for common use (organic food market, orchards, play of kids) and, with temporary enclosures, areas for workshops can be created to produce goods meant to be sold, too. So the place has the potential to encourage and allow people to be proactive and productive, as a first measure to blend in the place and be a part of it.





### The shelters:

- S - single rooms
- D - double rooms
- SH - full height studios

- A - stairs
- B - common storage
- C - common areas
- D - offices building

- 01. stairs
- 02. storage
- 03. hallway
- 04. bedroom
- 05. bathroom
- 06. kitchen
- 07. shared balcony
- 08. shared entrance
- 09. shared kitchen
- 10. dining area
- 11. balcony
- 12. water tank

- 13. dining area
- 14. prayer/meditation room
- 15. office
- 16. lecture/seminar multiuse areas

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residents' access

public access

residents' access





**Energy, sustainability and structure.** The complex will mostly function on its own. Each block has a big tank to collect rainwater that, after purification, will be used for kitchen and bathrooms. Solar collectors and pv panels will provide hot water and electricity. In summer there will be an overproduction of electricity, which will be sold to the electric company, as the Italian law prescribes. The existing structure will be reinforced with additional concrete pillars and metal rebars to support the new load. The shelters will be built with light insulated wooden system and the skin made with inexpensive metal sheets and veneered with a metal mesh which will serve as a visually

unifying protective element and shading from the sun.

Main project elements:

01. Fakro flat roof window (type F)
02. Photovoltaic panels on flat roof
03. Water tank
04. Fakro wooden top hung window (FPP-V)
05. Fakro windows shutter (type ARZ)
06. Entrance to units
07. Fakro solar collectors (type SKC)
08. Photovoltaic panels on south oriented pitch
09. Inspection boxes
10. Operable windows





Night view of the northern block showing the orchards areas and the open bottom, left free for market and common use

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