



## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Poggio Picenze multi-aged community centre, located near the urban park, is dedicated to three young victims of the 2009 earthquake. This place, for 130 people, was completed thanks to the solidarity of many Italian citizens, gathered in a committee, and to the tenacity of all the actors involved in the building process. Moreover it's one of the few public buildings built in a territory still marked by the earthquake.

The building answers to the people's current and future needs which are both physical and psychological. It commemorates the destructive event with its zigzag shape, but at the same time, it wants to inspire, with its green facades and roof, hope for the future both in nature and humankind.

The work, whose appearance will change in every season thanks to the vegetation covering the facades, celebrates the cycle of life and wants to remember the courage of the parents who, digging with their bare hands in the ruins, have saved not only their children but also those of others.

The greenery consists in bushes under the facades and white and red flowered vines, climbing on ropes. The centre is open to the public and everybody can use it for free.

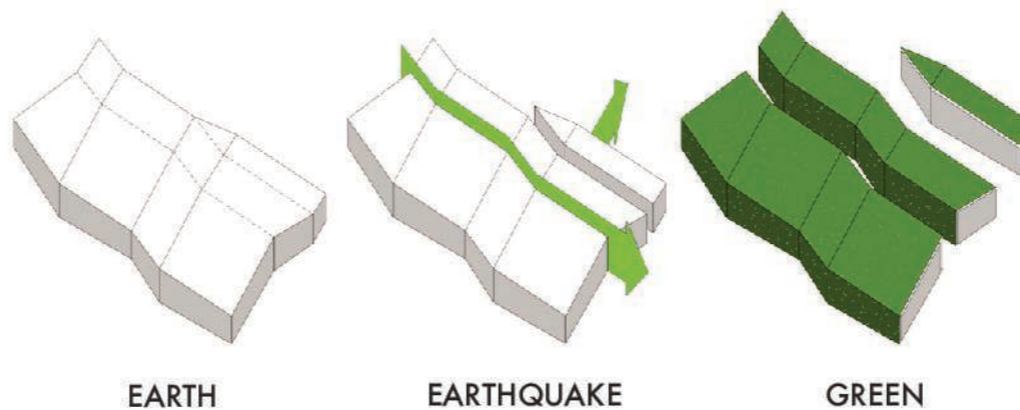
CLIENT: Comitato Centro Ricreativo Poggio Picenze (Associazione Nazionale Cantanti, Un Salvadanaio per l'Abruzzo, La Provincia Editoriale, Comune di Poggio Picenze)

LOCATION: Poggio Picenze (L'Aquila), Italy

YEAR OF COMPLETION: 2015

# MULTI-AGED COMMUNITY CENTRE

## BURNAZZI FELTRIN ARCHITECTS



#### HASSELT CHARTER

1. Cooperate for fair and sustainable development initiatives in active collaboration with disadvantaged people or communities. This process shall follow principles of **human solidarity**, non-discrimination and will be aimed at promoting their self-sufficiency.

After the 2009 quake the monuments and the historical buildings of Poggio Picenze were badly damaged, the old civic centre was in the Red zone, so it was forbidden for people to enter.

Above all five people died and one thousand were living in a camp. The photograph of a mother and her baby was published on many newspapers, read by Italian citizens, and it gave the way to start a private collection funds for a new civic centre to be dedicated to the three young victims of the earthquake.

A company involved in the reconstruction called us to design this building in 2011; our goal as designers was to build a structure which was not only functional, but also able to touch people's feelings and to be a space of social aggregation for the community.

To the desire of constructing a building respectful of to the landscape of Abruzzo, has been added the value of memory.

Municipality, companies, suppliers, and designers had been working together and finally the construction started in January 2014. One year later, the building was completed. Nowadays the centre is in full swing and the users are expected to take care of the plants.



# MULTI-AGED COMMUNITY CENTRE

## BURNAZZI FELTRIN ARCHITECTS



#### HASSELT CHARTER

8. Support participatory, democratic, **multicultural** and interdisciplinary processes and approaches in strengthening community solidarity as a factor of rural and urban **social development**.

Rebuilding after an earthquake means not only to rebuilt the private houses but also the public spaces since they serve as a stage for citizens' public lives.

Public spaces promote the social development of a local community, they are the ones in which a community identifies itself. The idea to design a new social centre was born from this belief.

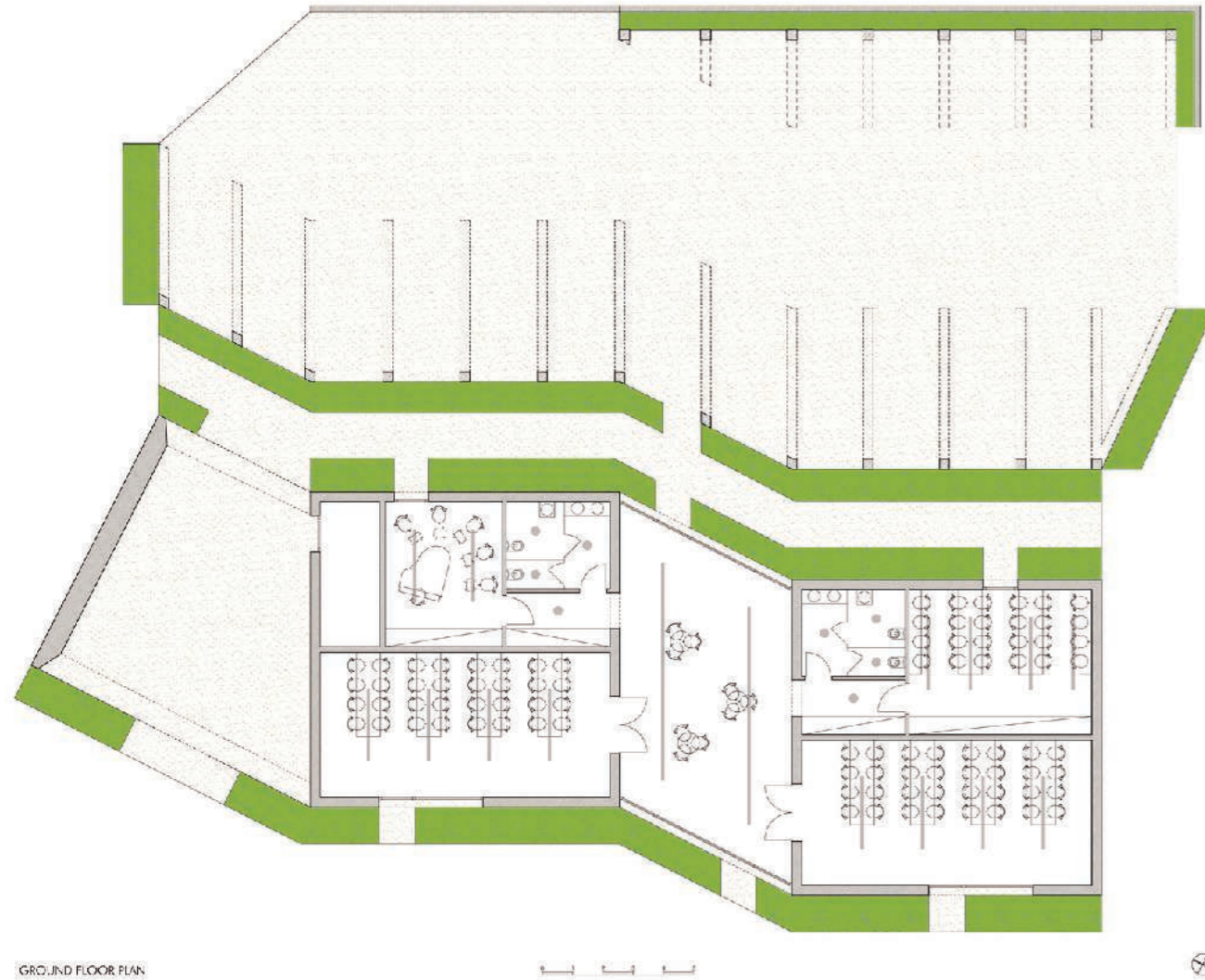
The goal was to design a public space which helped to promote multiculturalism, gender equality and strategies against discrimination.

The centre hosts different kinds of activities, for people of all ages. For example last summer the adults used it for training courses, for dancing, or for parties and the children for kung fu and gym practice, and for doing homework.

Among the many activities, great importance is given to sports. Centro Sportivo Italiano, the association that manages the centre, views sports as tools of social aggregation and inclusion. Through them people can learn how to resolve conflicts in a non violent way and, therefore, they help to teach the value of peace. In particular the female rugby team that plays in serie A, the Belve Nero Verdi, uses the centre for the third half, a post-match socialization with the opposing team.

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### BURNAZZI FELTRIN ARCHITECTS



## HASSELT CHARTER

9. Endorse the integration of post-emergency relief interventions into **long-term sustainable development strategies**.

This building is sustainable from the environmental point of view, to the economical one, to the social one.

### Environmental dimension

The building uses ecological materials and technologies. Its envelope has a double insulation: mineral wool and extruded polystyrene (reusable and recyclable). Green roof and walls help to improve thermal comfort during summer time. The exterior pavements are made by a special type of concrete that is highly permeable and exploits albedo.

### Economical dimension

The centre was built with limited funds and it's low budget in its management and maintenance. The main goal was to design a multifunctional centre, addressed to people of all ages: people can use this centre freely for every kind of activity. This strategy is having a positive impact on its management too; since there is such a variety of users, the centre is always full and used everyday.

### Social dimension

The project's core idea was to give the local community a new public space of social aggregation in which people could meet, talk and carry out activities together. Public spaces are fundamental to achieve a multicultural and open minded society. It has given new hope and new expectations to the local community. This is the power of architecture.

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