

4. Anti-raid shelter
Campo Junghans (Giudecca 494)

1940-45

Venice, during WWII, was luckily preserved by huge and devastating air attacks: only the industrial harbor was destroyed. After the war, the shelters in the center of Venice were demolished, but they still remain in the edge part of the city, like the Giudecca Island or the Arsenale. Usually during the aerial bombings people protected themselves in underground shelters: this is impossible in Venice. So, the municipality started to construct air-raid shelters at the center of main "campi", or near factories, schools, hospitals. Often they were constructed in hurry and with very poor materials: the concrete was made by sand, little stones, pieces of wood and fragments of bricks.

5. Operation Bowler
Santa Marta Harbour (Dorsoduro)

21 March 1945

After years of war, at the beginning of 1945 the road and rail network of North Italy was damaged and unusable. Consequently, the Germans used for their supplies the Port of Venice and the system of canals that branched off from here in the Po valley. The Allied command decided to bomb the port to stop the enemy activies, despite the risk for Venice and its immense Cultural Heritage. Therefore, the operation was planned in detail to avoid any hitting to artistic and architectural heritage. Soldiers who should have made any kind of mistake, would be removed from service, returning to civilian clothes, hence the name "bowler" for the action. The dive bombing of RAF fighters was actually correct, just hitting stores and ships, while some residents climbed on rooftops to watch the attack. However, the shock-wave invested and distryed a house in Santa Marta, where 25 people died.

6. Jewish deportation
Civic Hospital
Campo SS. Giovanni e Paolo
(Castello 6363)

7 October 1944

Between the end of 1943 and 1944 the Jews of Venice were deported to the camp Fossoli, to be then sent to Auschwitz. In the city, men, women and children were rounded up in prisons or in other areas, such as Foscarini School, transformed into a place of detention, as a plaque posted in 2000 rimindes. Especially dramatic was the summer of 1944, when the SS command (leaded by Franz Stangl), based in Trieste, and before that at Treblinka, moved to Venice. The machinery of deportation did not stop even in front of elders and sick people. In August 1944, seventy people were deported from the Elderly Care House of Israelite along with the hospital's chief rabbi who had refused to leave. While in October, the patients at city hospitals (saints John and Paul, San Clemente and San Servolo) were to be locked up in the chamber housing of the Main City Hospital, waiting to be sent first to Trieste, then to Auschwitz. Out of the 246 deported prisoners, only 8 returned to Venice.

European Conflict Archaeological Landscape Reappropriation

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Biennale
Sessions

RECALL
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Venice WWII 'Places & Stories' Workshop 9-13 September 2012 - aula O2 IUAV



Culture



REcall - European Conflict Archaeological Landscape Reappropriation

REcall is a research project founded by EC Culture 2007-13 Programme focused on the possible roles Museography can play when dealing with Difficult Heritage such as the ones coming from conflicts and wars. REcall wishes to envision new ways to the handling of Painful Places & Stories going behind any traditional approach: there is the need to shift from the 'simply' commemoration attitude to a more active involvement and participation of people in/with Places & Stories, through design strategies of 'reappropriation' (www.recall-dow.eu).

The Venice workshop has several goals: launching officially the project, testing its research queries in the context of WWII Venice Heritage and, last but not the least, challenging the 13th Architecture Biennale theme 'Common Ground'.



1. 'Marinaretti' Royal School for non-Commissioned Navy Mechanical Officers (Castello 2737)

Autmun 1943

The former Celestia Monastery, adjacent to major shipyards of the Arsenale, traditionally housed the Royal School for non-commissioned Mechanical Officers, managed by officers and staff of the Navy. Many teenagers from all over Italy attended the school.

The first German occupants in Venice, in the Autumn 1943, considered the 'sailor' students as soldiers because of their uniform, and decided to deport them as IMI (Italian Military Internees). But during the walk from the Arsenale to the station, many Venetians reacted, urging the boys to escape. Arrived at Holy Apostles Church, some indicated safty 'Calli' where to slip out of lane. At the Ponte delle Guglie, women in the market began to scream to escape, many children ran to the Ghetto or along the foundation of Cannaregio, taking off their uniform and throwing it into the canal. Eleven entered an open gate and were saved, hidden by the inhabitants of the house.

2. 'Nazi calle arrow' Platzkommandantur Calle Renier (Dorsoduro 3656)

September 1943

Only one sign of Nazi orientation system still remains in Venice, in a narrow calle near one of the most popular place of the city: campo Santa Margherita. The arrow showed the way to the "Platzkommandantur", that is the Nazi command located in Piazza San Marco, where a Nazi flag flew constantly. Many prisoners had to pass here to reach the Nazi main head quarter since the little calle is also on the way from railway station to the central square on Venice. Just a step from Campo Santa Margherita, now new yellow signes suggest other paths to reach the station or Piazza San Marco and the Nazi arrow remains, almost illegible, on the crumbled plaster of an old house, as a melting memory.

3. 'Harry's bar' Calle Vallaresso (San Marco 1323)

1943-1945

Venice, a town filled with romance and mystic, a city with a dedicated and unique local "kitchen" influent by century's commercial trade with the East. This local kitchen is also unfolded at Harry's Bar - a high class restaurant and at the same time a really spectacularly bar. Through history Harry's Bar has been a meeting place for big personalities; artists, models, royalties and other celebres. This sounds as an adventure. But everything has not always gone smoothly. Around WWII where fascism was in power, fatal rumors were spread about Harry's and the owner Giuseppe Cipriani, i.e. that he was a guardian that shamelessly defied the Jewish segregation laws. When World War II broke out, Cipriani was obliged to put up a big sign that said: "Jews not wanted here". In October '43, the fascists installed a mess hall for their sailors at Harry's Bar.