

A large, sunlit park with many tall, slender trees and a group of people walking on a path. The scene is bright and clear, with a blue sky and green grass. The trees are tall and thin, with dense green foliage. In the foreground, a group of people is walking away from the camera on a path. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

PRENESTINO

Creating Connections:
Reclaiming Lost Space and Reinforcing Social Bonds

Maddie Collins | Eli Learner | Helena Park | Joseph Reigle

Acknowledgements

We want to acknowledge the vital guidance of our instructors Professor Nancy Brooks, Professor Greg Smith and Marco Gissara PhD., all of whom helped to contextualize our observations within local and contemporary academic perspectives. Additionally, we extend our gratitude to the individuals who were willing to speak to us for our interviews--Silvano and the bocce club members, Astro Nascente, Giulia Barra, Debora, Cristiana, Sabrina, Enzo, Marco, and Allesandra.

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Introduction

Our neighborhood study of Prenestino was conducted under the Cornell in Rome Workshop course during the Spring 2020 semester. Our class consisted of eight undergraduate students who were separated into two groups of four to conduct separate neighborhood analyses. The neighborhood study is designed to provide students with opportunities for experiential and reflexive learning.¹ Our learning process went through stages of on the ground observations in the neighborhood, statistical and policy analysis, interviews with residents, and the completion of a final report.

Our semester took a unique turn at the end of February when students and non-resident faculty were sent back home in response to the spreading COVID-19 virus. We were forced to quickly complete our on the ground survey of Prenestino before we left. After a two-week hiatus, our class resumed via Zoom video calls. The remainder of the study was completed from our separate homes. This change in environment undoubtedly affected the shape and methodology of our final report. Most of our interviews with locals were conducted by the class through Zoom or by phone or

video call by Professor Greg Smith or our Teaching Assistant Marco Gissara who could speak to residents in Italian and then translate their notes into English for us. Additionally, we compensated for the brief time we spent in the neighborhood itself through reflexive exercises such as cognitive mapping as well through virtual tools such as Google Maps. This summary of our unique learning experience hopefully communicates the unavoidable limitations of our study. On the other hand, our study is also an example of the peculiar ways current technology makes distance learning possible in the realm of urban studies.

1. Gregory Smith, Mildred E. Warner, Carlotta Fioretti & Claudia Meschiari (2014) Rome undergraduate planning workshop: A reflexive approach to neighborhood studies, *Planning Theory & Practice*, 15:1, 9-25, DOI: 10.1080/14649357.2013.866265.

Overview

Prenestino is a peripheral neighborhood of Rome located to the east of the historic center. From our interviews we learned that the boundaries and the name of the neighborhood can differ from person to person. Several residents refer to the area as Pigneto-Prenestino to include the triangular area directly to the west. Pigneto is undergoing a process of gentrification as the nightlife of new bars and clubs invites younger residents to the area.¹ While Prenestino lacks Pigneto's popularity, it has strong social capital with many neighborhood associations and opportunities for social involvement. Two Bocce clubs reside in the neighborhood, providing social activity for the elderly population. Local activists are bringing life to Energy Park, a plot of land in the north that had been illegally developed as a mall;

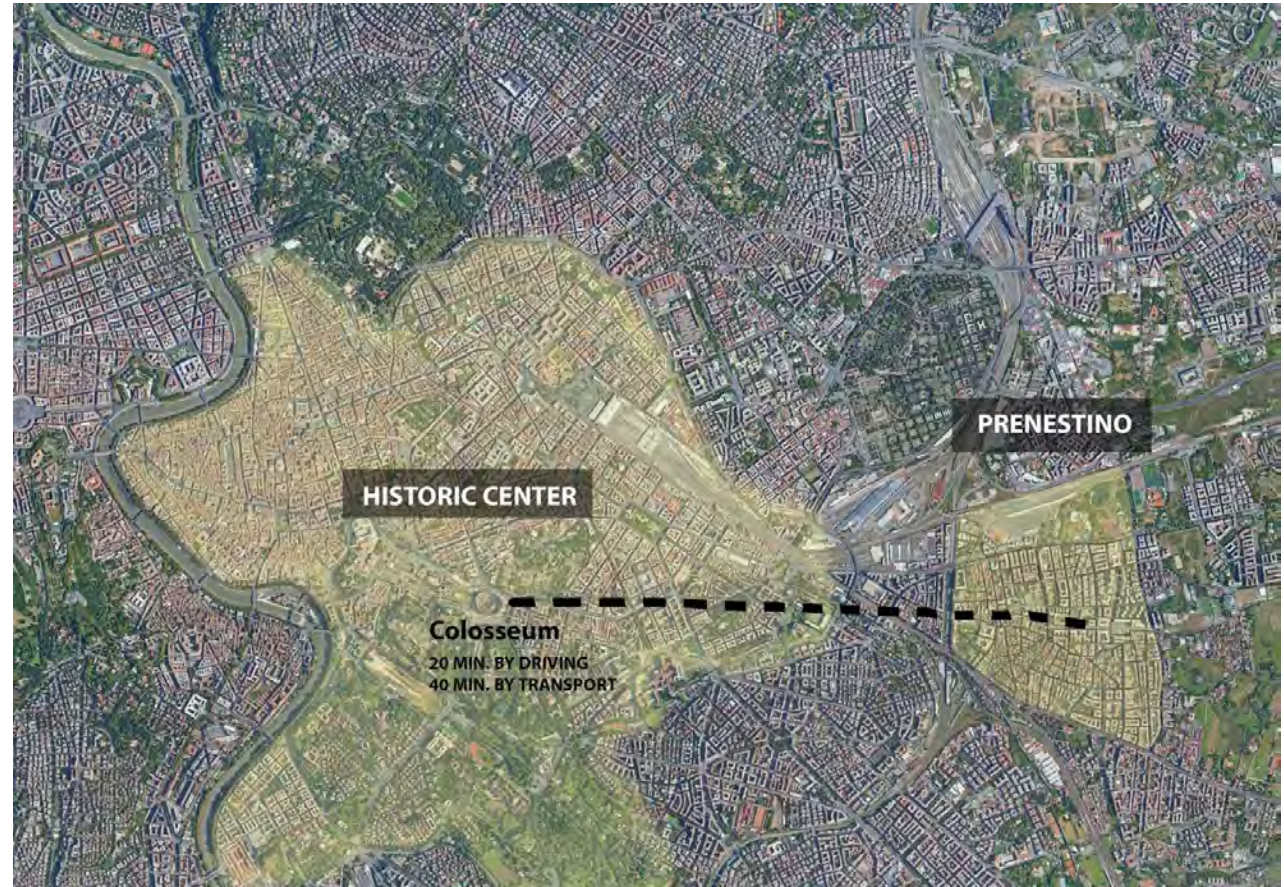


Figure 1: Map of Prenestino in relation to Rome's historic center

Overview

construction was halted after developers found a reservoir where the structure was built. The Condottieri Market in the west area of the neighborhood is well frequented and expected to receive a large federal grant.² The social service Progetto Dritti helps the African and Asian immigrant communities in the neighborhood find legal assistance and integration.

However, the most significant change in the neighborhood occurred in 2015 when a new transit stop, Malatesta Station, opened. The new station is a commercial asset to the area, increasing its connectivity to the city center.

While some residents are pleased by the economic boost, many residents also feel that the renovations stole a beloved public space in the neighborhood.³ Lack of shade and

Places of Reference

- Energy Park
- Condottieri Market
- Piazza Malatesta & Malatesta Station
- Garden City
- Area Near Via Fanfulla da Lodi
- Church of San Luca & Bocce Courts
- Area of Marranella
- Prenestino

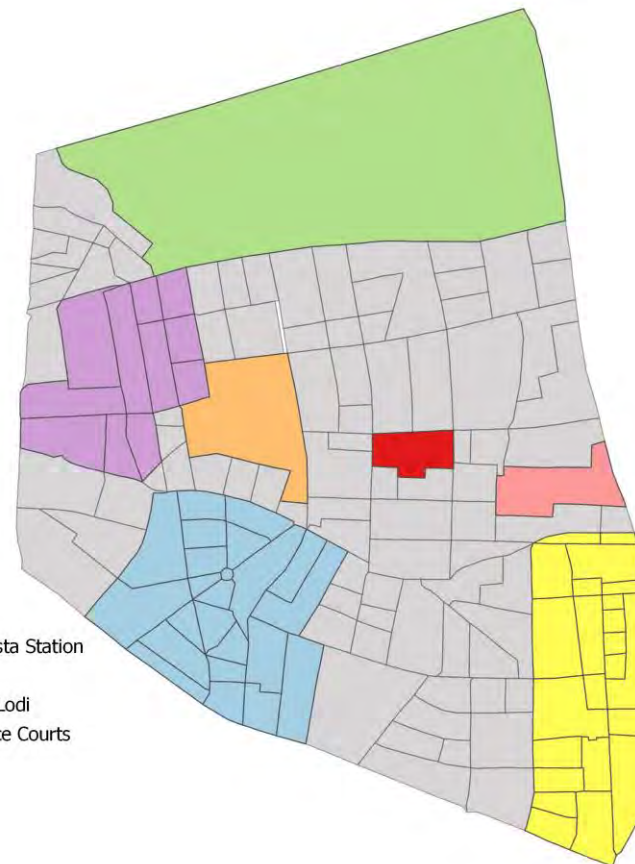


Figure 2: Map of Places of Reference in Prenestino

Overview

spatial orientation leave the piazza Malatesta area feeling barren.⁴

Our recommendations for the neighborhood echo the concerns of residents we interviewed. The local administration in Prenestino should invest in revitalizing the Malatesta Station area, decreasing the needed green space in the area, and increasing the areas for social interaction and social cohesion in the neighborhood.

1. Appendix C: Interview with Giulia Barra.
2. Appendix C: Notes from Impromptu Interviews in Prenestino.
3. For an exposition on the phenomenon of “lost space” in neighborhoods see *Trancik, Roger, 1943-. (1986). Finding lost space : theories of urban design. New York :Van Nostrand Reinhold.*
4. Appendix C: Interview with Giulia Barra.



Figure 3: Photo of Residents Lounging in piazza Malatesta by Joseph Reigle

A scenic landscape photograph of a pond at Energy Park. The pond is the central focus, reflecting the clear blue sky and the surrounding greenery. In the foreground, a rustic wooden log fence runs across the bottom of the frame. To the right, tall, golden-brown reeds stand prominently. The background is filled with a variety of trees, including several tall, thin trees with flat, umbrella-like canopies. A tall, thin tower is visible in the distance on the right side. The overall atmosphere is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

Historical Background

Historical Background

Our neighborhood, Prenestino is located in the eastern Lazio region of Rome. Spreading towards the outskirts of Rome, it is not as appreciated as a notably touristy site like other central areas in Rome. However, Prenestino can be seen as a transportation hub from the early AD until today. It is proximate to the remnants of the Aurelian Walls from 271AD and two most important streets, Via Casilina and Via Prenestina lead out radially from the wall defining the Northern and Southern boundaries of Prenestino. Prenestino takes its name from the street, Via Prenestina.

Before Prenestino was shaped into what we see today, it was mostly agricultural land with several notable landmarks before urbanization in the area. One of the notable landmarks from the early stage Prenestino area is Porta Maggiore. It is facing the Pigneto triangle and Prenestino from the West. Porta Maggiore translated to “Major Gate” is one of gates that was built to support two aqueducts by emperor Claudius in 52 AD . When emperor Aurelian ordered the building of the Aurelian walls in 271, Porta Maggiore was included and naturally became one of the main entrance gates into Rome. In

1838, Pope Gregory XVI decided to free the monumental arches of the aqueduct from later additions. The remaining fortifications were pulled down after the unification of Italy and in 1956 the ground was brought back to its original level.

The south eastern side of Prenestino is Borgata Marranella, which arose in 1920.¹ It is an area in Prenestino that was named after the Marranella stream, which disappeared in 1934. There lies the Marranella stream ditch which is located in between Via di Acqua Bullicante and Via Casilina and is also flowing from the South of Rome to the Aniene river. With constant influx of immigrants from Bangladesh and China since the 1920s, Borgata Marranella was permeating with an immigrant population and this trend is continued today. In 1921, the 15 quartiers (quarters) of Rome were created and they were the first administrative districts to be created in the expanding periphery of Rome.² Our study area is part of the Quartiere VII Prenestino Labicano.

Historical Background

In the 1920s, the first urbanization process embarked. The CISA Viscosa chem-textile factory was opened in the northern part of Prenestino, which is known as the ex-SNIA (*Società di Navigazione Italo-Americana*) area today. SNIA was a textile shipping company that worked jointly with the CISA factory until its closure. Villini, multiple unit low-density building types, were first devised in the 1909 Sanjust plan of Rome but was first introduced to Prenestino in the 1920s. The initial Villini were built as cooperative housings for the railway workers of the Termini Station. This was the start of the Prenestino garden city located near Borgata Marranella. Looking at the 1924 map of Prenestino provided in the timeline, the central section of Prenestino called Parco Tavoletti was still remaining as agricultural land while southern and western sections were showing significant urban growth. Prenestino was continuously urbanizing throughout the Fascist period in the 1930s and 1940s. The CISA factory closed down in 1954 and was left abandoned.³ The central area of Prenestino persevered to stay as agricultural land despite the urbanization around it.

Post WWII, development continued in the Garden City/Marranella

areas. In addition, the introduction of developer-built, high-density, mixed-use buildings called Intensivi transformed the previously agricultural central area around Piazza Malatesta in the 1960s. By now, Prenestino was completely planned and built with a clearer urban structure of streets and buildings.

After the rapid change until the 1980s, not much changed until the 1990s. Towards the end of the 1990s, advancement of green areas and public spaces accelerated. The once abandoned Ex SNIA factory was acquisitioned by a private developer in 1990 and transformed into a shopping mall. In 1992, forced illegal construction of the shopping mall parking lot resulted in the lake emersion. Just West to the Ex SNIA area, the Energy Park opened in 1997. Energy Park is the new community social hub of the neighborhood. People of all ages and genders from students to families come to meet and mingle with each other. The park has large shared open green spaces with a community house, playgrounds and basketball courts.

Historical Background

Stepping into the 2010s, Prenestino is solidified as one of the most important transportation hubs. The main traffic points are at the convergence of tram stations at the starting point of the Pigneto triangle and metro lines at the Pigneto and Malatesta station. In the 2012 map, Malatesta and Pigneto station is under construction. Pigneto station was opened in 2015 and it is going to be the interchange with the FL 1 and FL 3 railway line that is to be completed in the future. The Malatesta station also opened in 2015. It was built beneath the Piazza of the same name and the square of Malatesta was renovated to house community events and to provide commercial and social activities. However, the new square was censured by the residents as it was “too concrete with no nature and lack of shades”.⁴ Both Pigneto and Malatesta are stops on the Metro C line and connect Prenestino with other urban and suburban metro lines.

1. Ecomuseocasilino. 2016. “Memorie Della Borgata Della Marranella - Percorsi Dell’Ecomuseo Casilino Ad Duae Lauros.” Percorsi Dell’Ecomuseo Casilino Ad Duae Lauros. 2016.
2. Italo Insolera, MODERN ROME: from Napoleon to the Twenty-First Century (S.I.: CAMBRIDGE SCHOLARS PUBLIS, 2011))
3. “Cronistoria Della Lotta.” 2015. Lago eXSnia. Lago eXSnia. May 24, 2015.
4. See Appendix C: Interview with Giulia Barra.

Prenestino Timeline

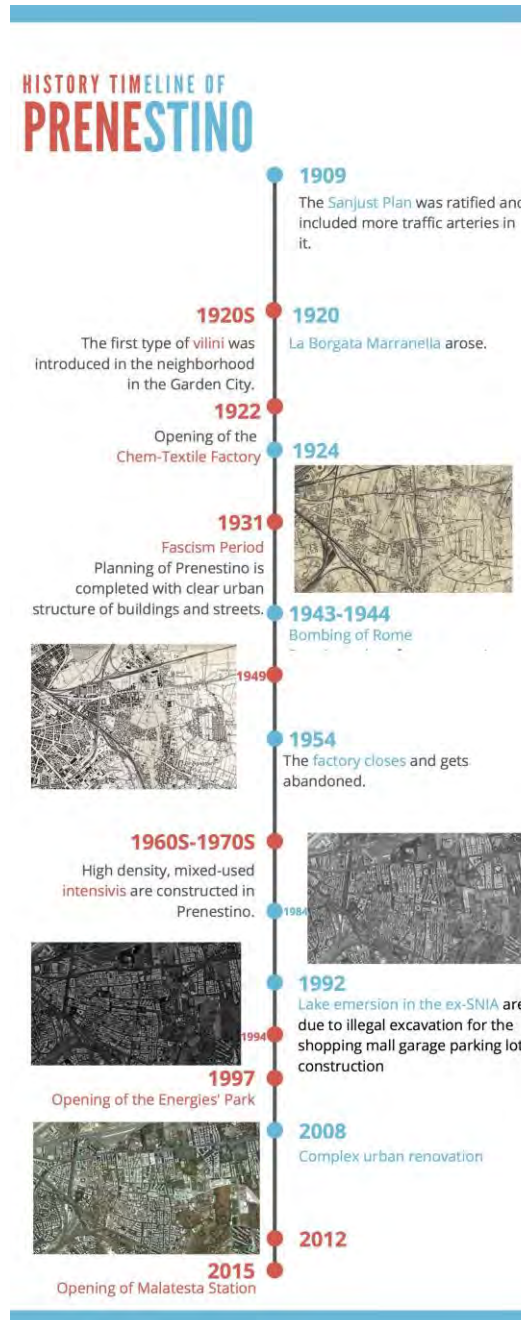


Figure 4: Timeline of Prenestino's History

Methodology



Methodology

Quantitative Methods

As a main source of quantitative data collection, we have used the ISTAT census 2001 and 2011 data provided by Roma Capitale website. We have organized and analyzed the data into three specific categories: Prenestino study area, Prenestino, and Rome. Then, descriptive statistics for the three categories were compared, in the end demonstrating great demographic similarity between our study area and the neighborhood of Prenestino as a whole. Our maps were generated by Quantum Geographic Information System (QGIS) for physical spatial analysis.

Qualitative Methods

We spent most of our time in the neighborhood taking street and building surveys on foot. We had an initial introduction to Prenestino, led by our TA, Marco. Starting at the Pigneto station, we had a day-long stroll around Prenestino and decided on our specific study areas after getting each of our first impressions. We decided to focus mainly on the north-eastern section of Prenestino by choosing 26 census tracts. We created a base map and numbered each building in different sections to easily navigate through while surveying. Our teammates split up into two groups of two. Each group gathered street/building surveys and recorded it on a shared Google Sheets document. After the collection was done, we organized our data into categories such as: land use, building typology, composition, and condition and filled in any gaps in data collection with information from ISTAT.

Physical data collection from maps, ISTAT and walking surveys was not enough to get further insight into the lives of the residents of Prenestino. We had lunch at a local sandwich shop called Dar Ciriola every time we were in our neighborhood. By building relationships with some people who work and live in our neighborhood, we were able to conduct some informal interviews. If the interviewee did not speak English, our professor Greg or TA Marco who spoke fluent Italian helped us with the translation.

However, an unprecedented obstacle interrupted our research in the middle of the semester. The outbreak of COVID-19 led our program to shut down. We were all sent back home, leaving Italy just before it entered lockdown. Despite this situation, we were able to reach out to interviewees we met previously via email and zoom interview sessions. We gathered and typed up guided questions for each interview and our Italian-speaking faculties did the interviews for us.

As part of a small reflective exercise, we each hand drew a Lynch map of Prenestino based on our memory.¹ We followed the guidelines laid out by Kevin Lynch in *The Image of the City*.

1. See Appendix B: Lynch Maps

Demographic Analysis



Overview

	Prenestino	Rome
Male Percentage	46.3%	47%
Foreign-Born Percentage	13.4%	8.6%
Percentage Over 65 Years of Age	24.9%	21.9%
Percent Holding Higher Education Degrees	16.3%	20.2%

Figure 5: Overview Chart of Prenestino Statistics

Prenestino has a unique population distribution, similar to Rome’s as a whole, but with the distinction of a greater elderly population and a more recent stream of younger people. Originally home to almost entirely life-long residents, Prenestino has seen great growth and minor gentrification in recent years, drawing in more working-age men and women as well as a lively immigrant population. Mostly of Asian origins (primarily Chinese and Bangladeshi¹) these immigrants are primarily of working age, moving to Prenestino in a time of growth, searching for work.

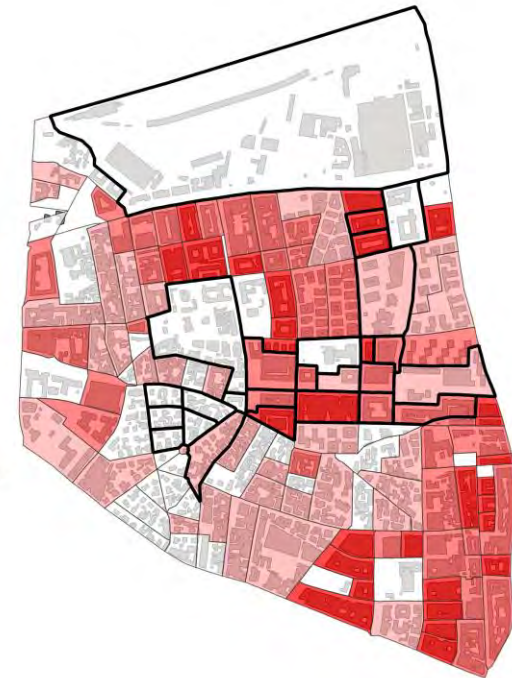


Figure 6: Map of Population Density in Prenestino

The population density map showcases the distribution of Prenestino's residents. The findings highlight the higher density areas being in the southeast near the Marranella area and the central area surrounding Piazza Malatesta. The Garden City is the least dense area in the neighborhood.

Age

There is some spatial segregation in the distribution of residents by age. The younger residents occupy the areas in the Garden City, indicating that younger people are occupying lower density homes, while older residents prefer to live in higher density areas. This may be due to the fact that those who first moved into the Intensivi when they were built in the post-war period are still living in those same apartments. The areas with lower percentages of residents over 65 may be the areas that are gentrifying, as some residents have pointed out.

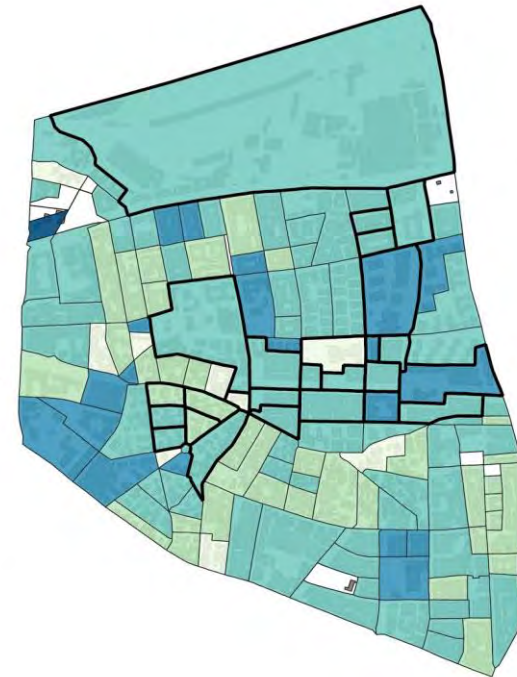


Figure 9: Map of Population Over the Age of 65 in Prenestino

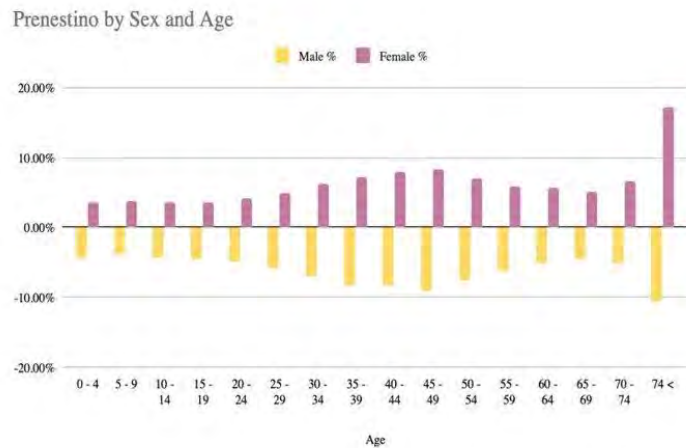


Figure 7: Population Pyramid of Sex and Age for Prenestino

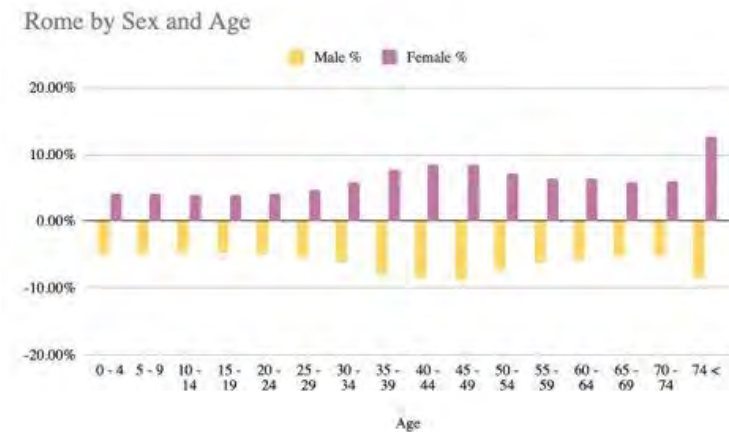


Figure 8: Population Pyramid of Sex and Age for Rome

Age and Ethnicity

Polarization in age and nationality has led to some clustering among the neighborhood. Our interviews described a North/South divide between older long-time residents and younger immigrant groups, respectively. Analysis of census data demonstrates these foreign-born residents clustered near Borgata Marranella and Via Fanfulla da Lodi.

Prenestino Foreign-Born by Nationality

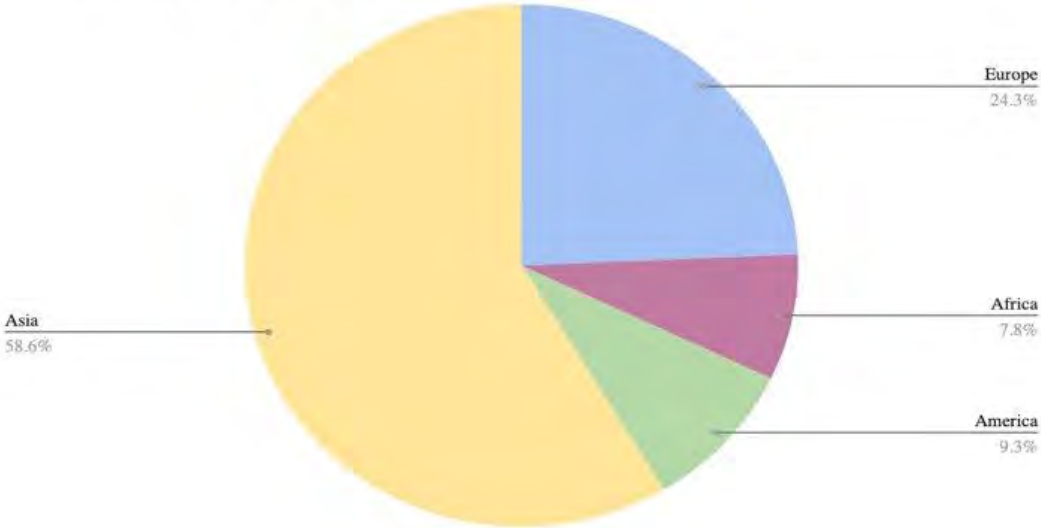


Figure 10: Pie Chart of Prenestino Foreign-Born by Nationality

Age and Ethnicity

It is also important to note the spatial distribution of foreign residents from Asia, as this is an important demographic group due to its increasing presence in the neighborhood. Research and data show much of this subject clustering along the Southeast edge of the neighborhood along the border of what is considered the "Chinatown of Rome."

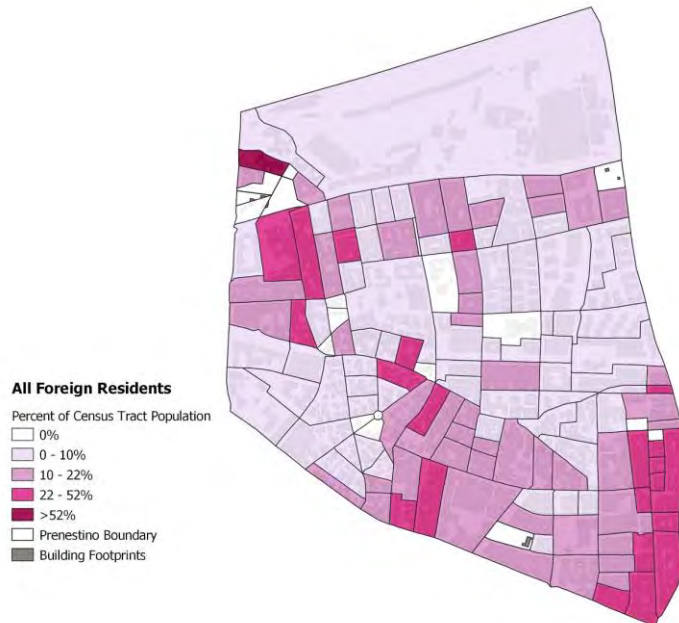


Figure 11: Map of All Foreign-Born Residents as a Percentage of Census Tract Population

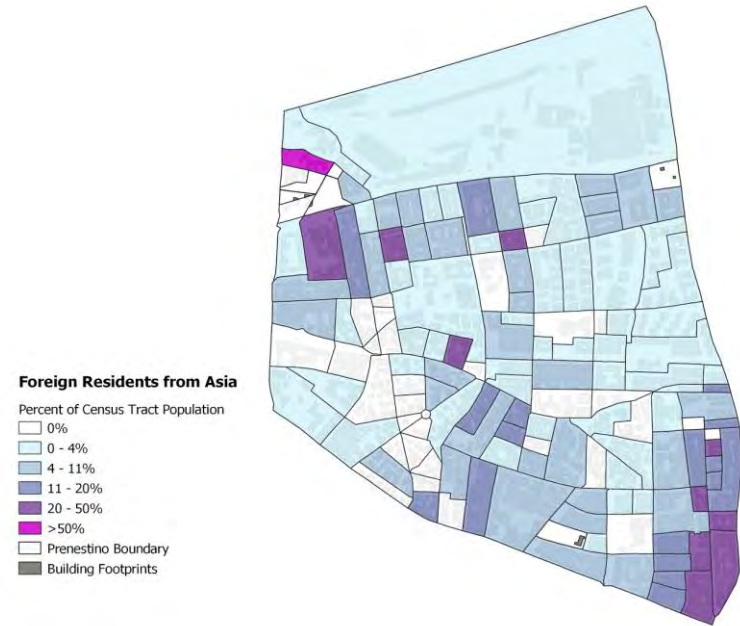


Figure 12: Map of Asian Residents as a Percentage of Census Tract Population

Education

Compared to the entire city of Rome, Prenestino has a lower percentage of residents with degrees of higher education. Normally this difference could be taken as a sign of lower prosperity and growth, but it is quite different in this case. With an extremely high population of elderly inhabitants, it is expected that there would be greater dilution of educational statistics as higher education is a more modern value. Also, the most recent census data is from 2011 and we can assume that as younger, working people move into the neighborhood we will see a spike in residents with higher educational degrees, most likely passing that of Rome.

Prenestino Education by Degree

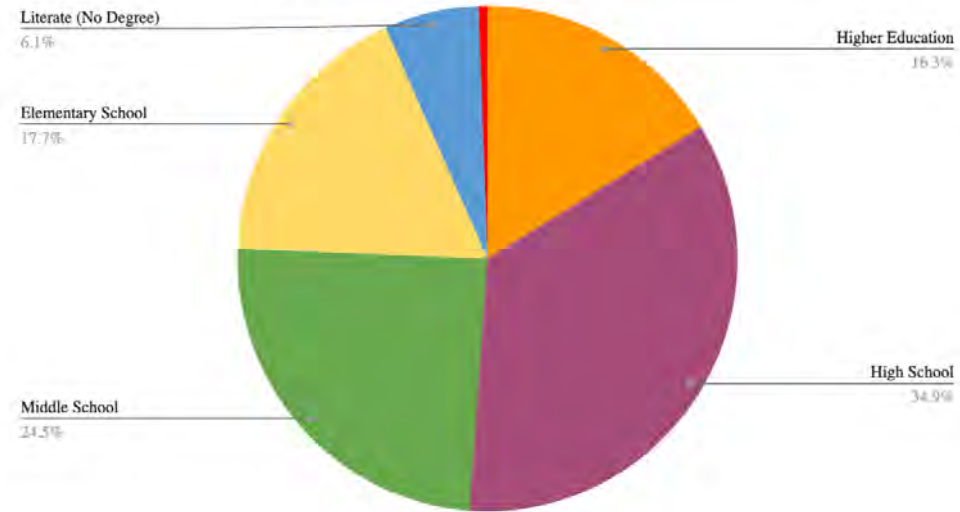


Figure 13: Pie Chart of Educational Attainment in Prenestino

Education

The aggregated data for Prenestino shows that 16.3% of the population has a university degree. The map of the percent of the population of each census tract with a university degree highlights this trend, with the vast majority of the neighborhood falling in the 10-20% bracket. There are some areas that have a lower average and of note is the low rates among certain census tracts that have large immigrant populations. The areas with a higher than average population with university degrees are somewhat dispersed, with a few clusters in the Garden City following along Via del Pigneto and another cluster along the north-eastern side of the neighborhood, along Via Fanfulla da Lodi. In general, the areas with higher percentages of degree holders are younger, reflecting an influx of working professionals into the low-density parts of the neighborhood.

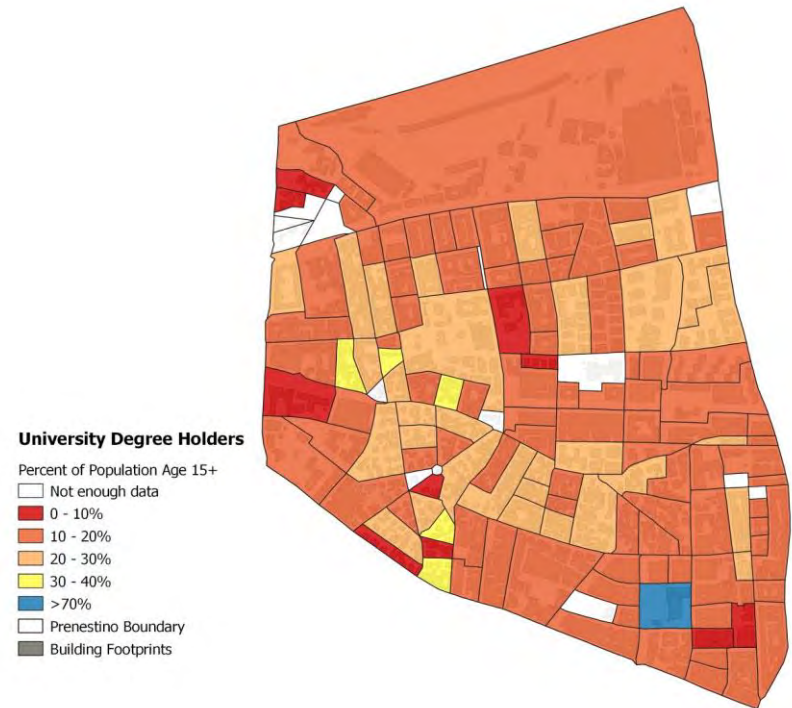


Figure 14: Map of University Degree Holders by Census Tract

Real Estate

There is a very strong correlation between the tenure types of Prenestino and the city of Rome. At both scales, there is a much larger proportion of families that own their property than those who rent. This divide is even slightly more accentuated in Prenestino where three quarters of families live in owner-occupied units.

From our interviews we learned that in Prenestino, most dwellings are smaller, and meant for young couples that will not stay in the area permanently, leading to high turnover rates and loss of local residents.²

Given the development of Malatesta station, finished in 2015, we expected to find a correlating increase in real estate values. Several people we interviewed expressed concern or pleasure regarding rising housing prices in the area.³ However, the data retrieved from Osservatorio Mercato Immobiliare, a government real estate observatory, indicates a significant decrease in real estate values from 2010 to 2019.

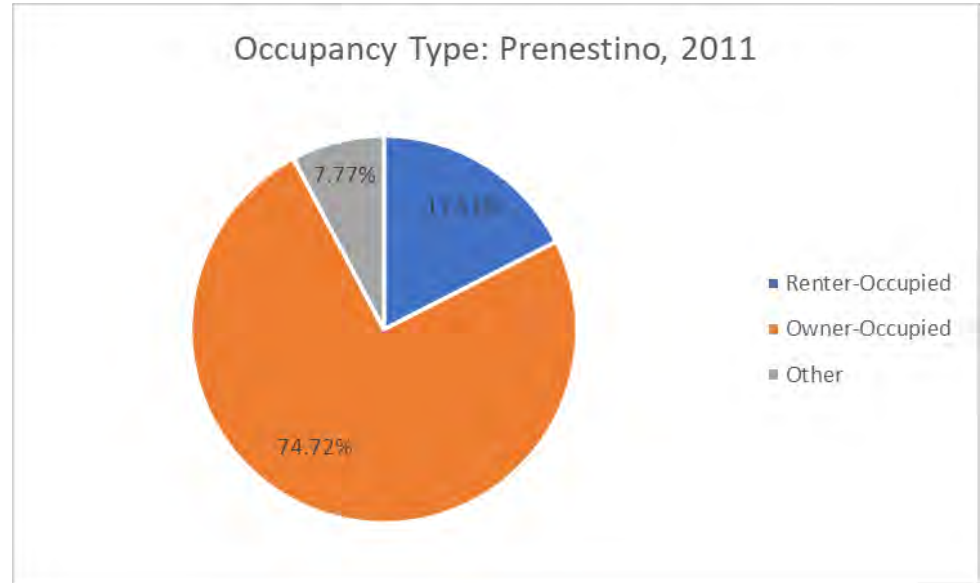


Figure 15: Pie Chart of 2011 Occupancy in Prenestino.

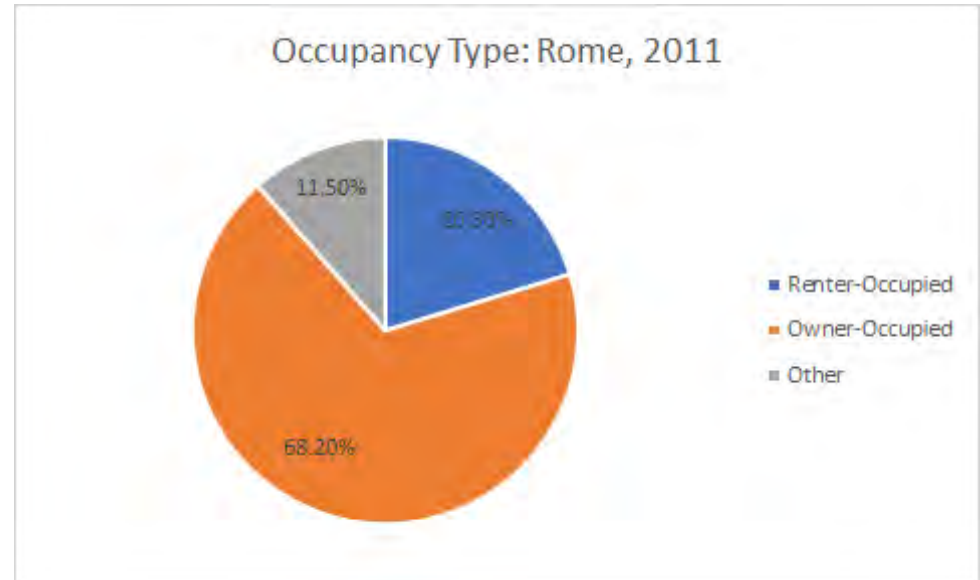


Figure 16: Pie Chart of 2011 Occupancy in Rome.

Real Estate

The Osservatorio Mercato Immobiliare divides land into categories defined by “microzone” and “area.” Areas are supposed to be roughly equal in value. And “Microzones” are defined by cadastre for coordination between the two databases. Our neighborhood study-area falls within two area codes: PIGNETO (PIAZZA DEL PIGNETO) C30, microzone 25, and PRENESTINO LABICANO (VIALE PARTENOPE, VIA TEANO) D1, microzone 71. The Pigneto area contains much of the residential housing. Whereas Prenestino includes piazza Maletseta, Energy Park and some of the nearby Intensivi.



Figure 17: PIGNETO C30 District, Osservatorio Mercato Immobiliare

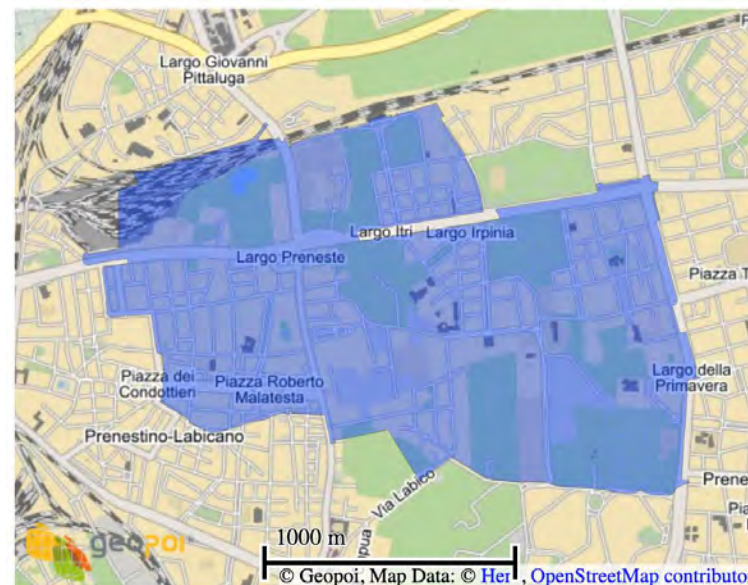


Figure 18: PRENESTINO D1 District, Osservatorio Mercato Immobiliare

Real Estate

There is an increase in market values for Pigneto (C30) from 2006 to 2010. But the value drops even lower than 2006 levels in 2019. In Prenestino (D1) there is a similar pattern although less dramatic. Some housing types decreased slightly in value from 2006 to 2010.⁴

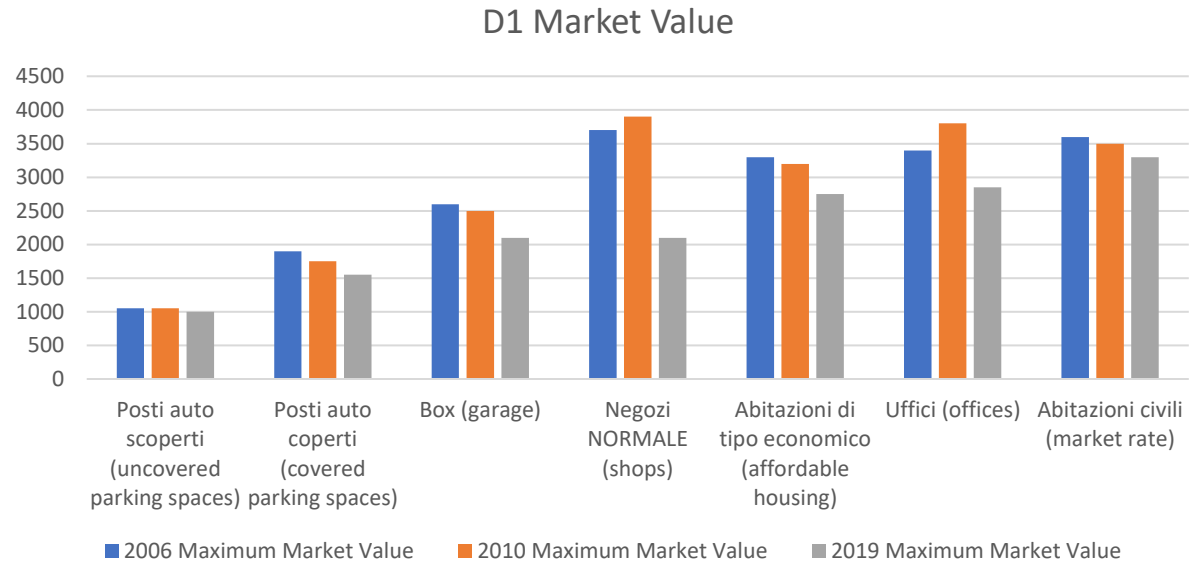


Figure 19: Chart of 2006, 2010, and 2019 Market Values in Prenestino (D1)

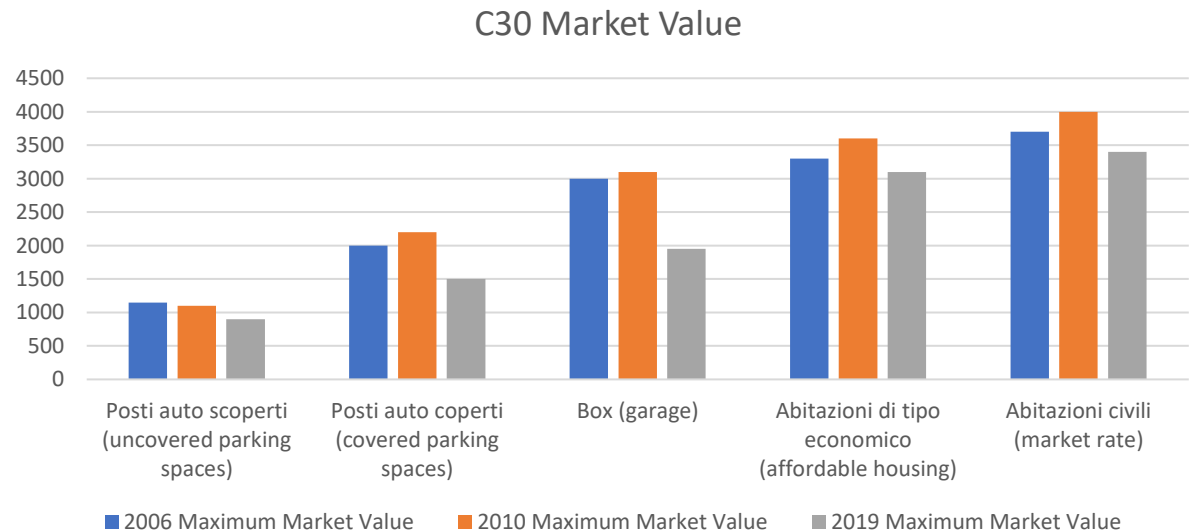


Figure 20: Chart of 2006, 2010, and 2019 Market Values in Pigneto (C30)

Real Estate

In Prenestino (D1) and Pigneto (C30) the rental values have a downward trajectory from 2006 to 2019. The overall downward trajectory of real estate can be explained in part by comparing the real estate values of these areas with other neighborhoods in Rome.

C30 Rental Values

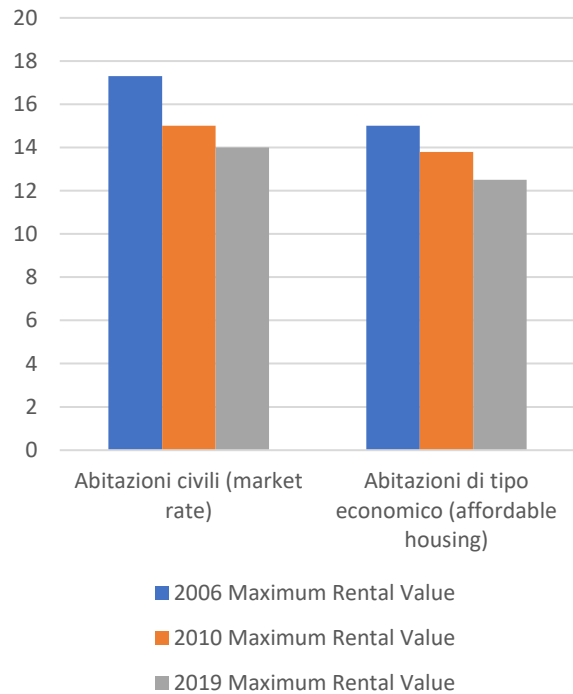


Figure 21: Chart of 2006, 2010, and 2019 Rental Values in Pigneto (C30)

D1 Rental Values

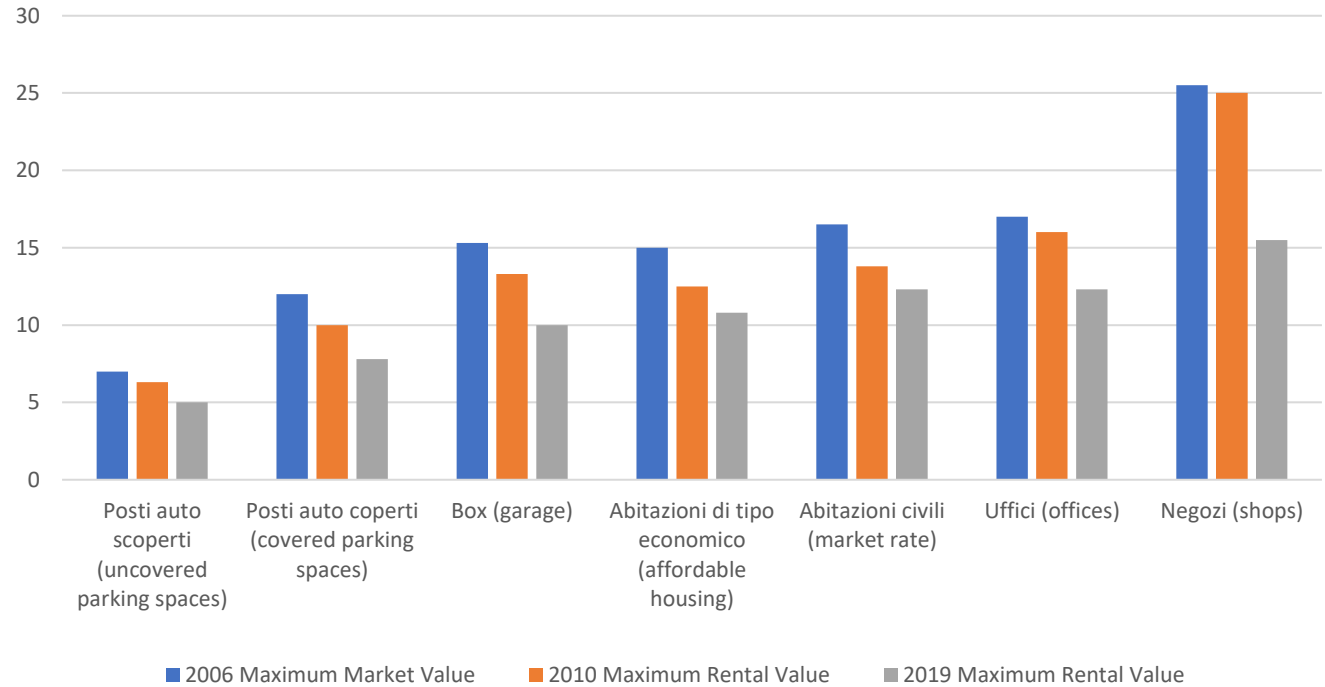


Figure 22: Chart of 2006, 2010, and 2019 Rental Values in Prenestino (D1)

Real Estate

Charts produced by Enrico Puccini show that there is a decrease in rental values across the city of Rome from 2006 to 2018.⁵ In Pigneto, real estate values stop decreasing and remain steady from 2015 to 2018. This pattern is in contrast to most other neighborhoods which continue to decrease in real estate value while there are a few which experience an increase in real estate value.

ISTAT reports on the real estate sector corroborate the general theme of real estate value decline throughout Italy.⁶ The volume of real estate sales peaked in 2006, when sales volumes were 50% higher than in 1997. Afterwards the peak volumes declined until 2013, when sales volume was half of what it had been in 2006. The steepest drop was in 2012; the market has been picking up since 2014. The volume of sales increased in 2018 but was still a third lower than the number of transactions recorded in 2006. 2019 real estate prices overall are 17% lower than they were in 2010.

Real Estate

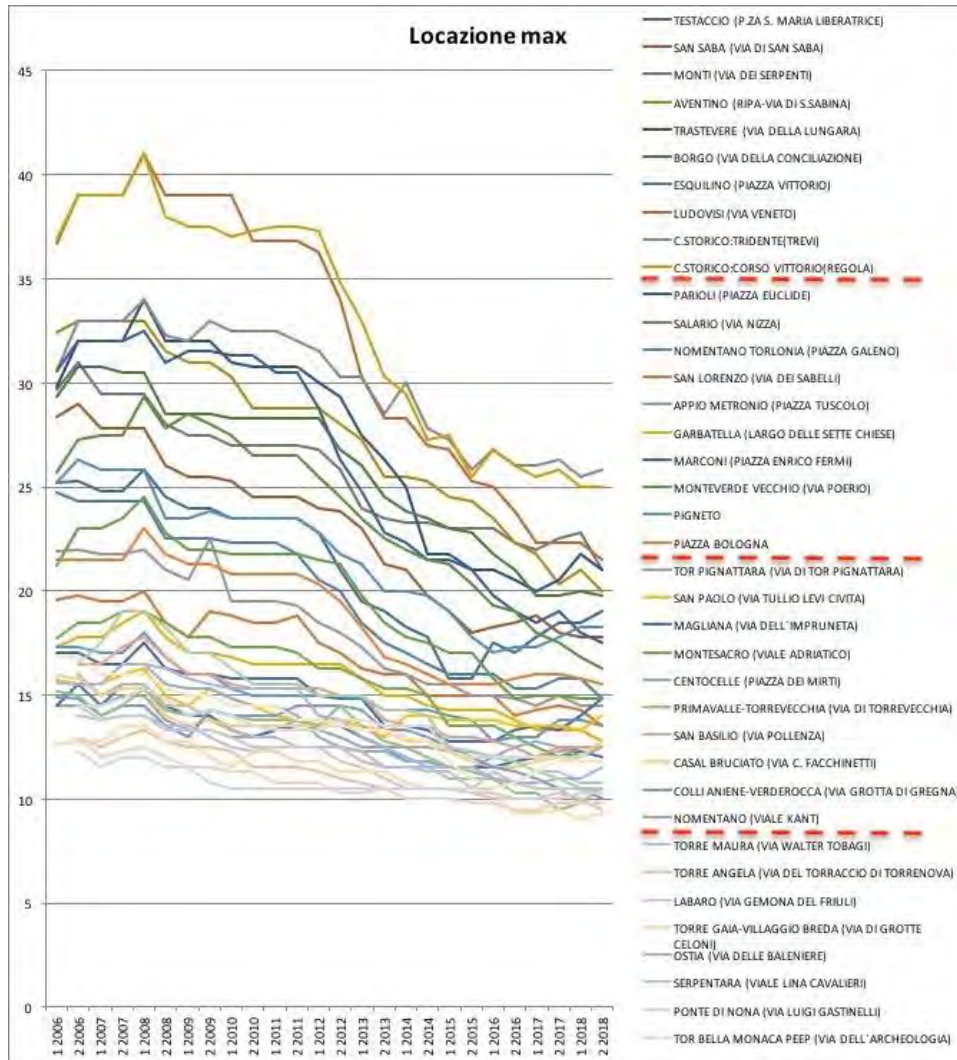


Figure 23: Chart Comparing market values in Rome neighborhoods.
 Produced by Enrico Puccini

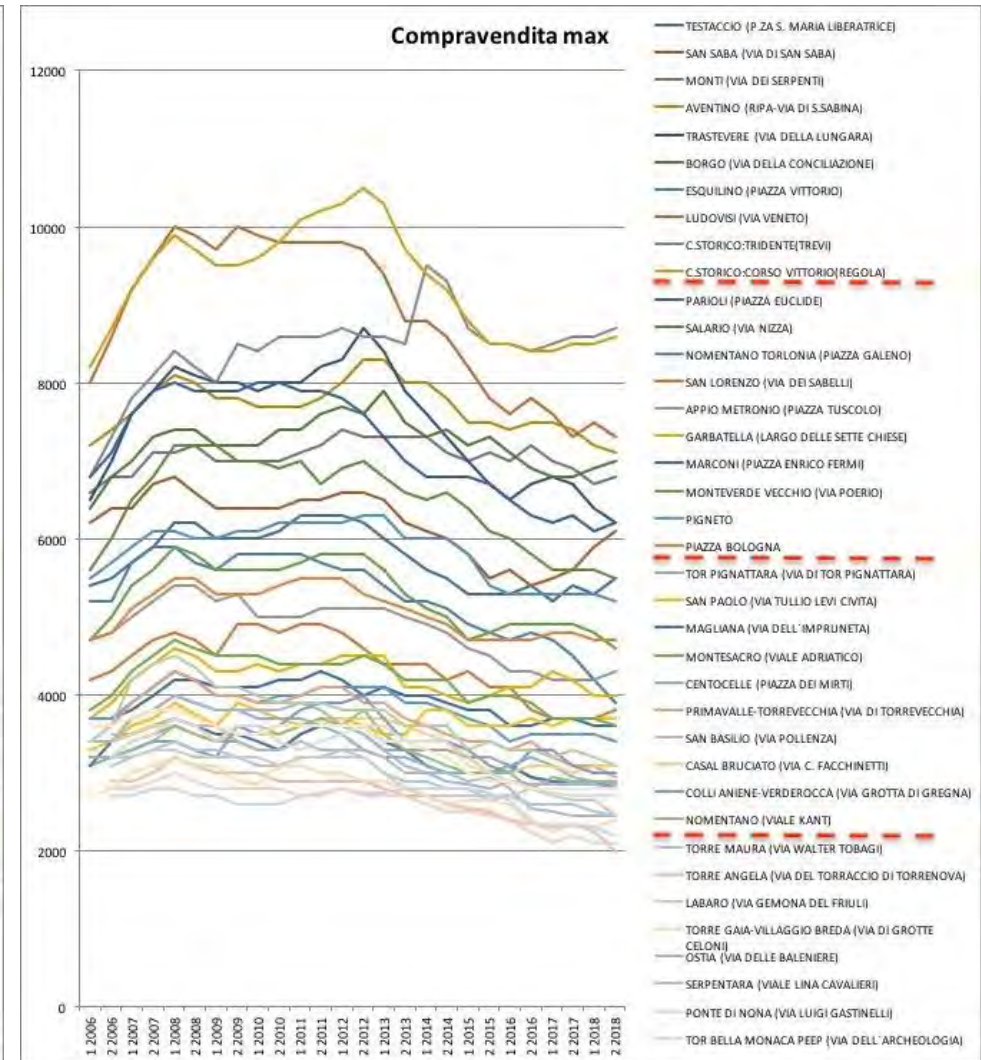


Figure 24: Chart Comparing rental values in Rome neighborhoods. Produced
 by Enrico Puccini

Real Estate

The 2019 real estate values between the Pigneto (C30) and Prenestino (D1) is relatively similar. However, the rental and market value of affordable housing and market rate dwellings are higher in Pigneto (C30).

D1 and C30 2019 Rental Values

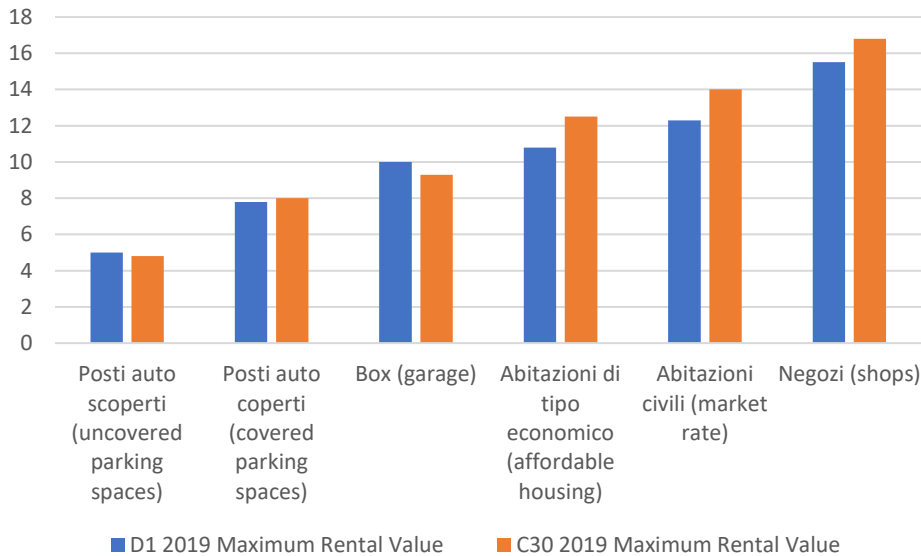


Figure 25: Chart 2019 Rental Values in Prenestino (D1) and Pigneto (C30)

D1 and C30 2019 Market Values

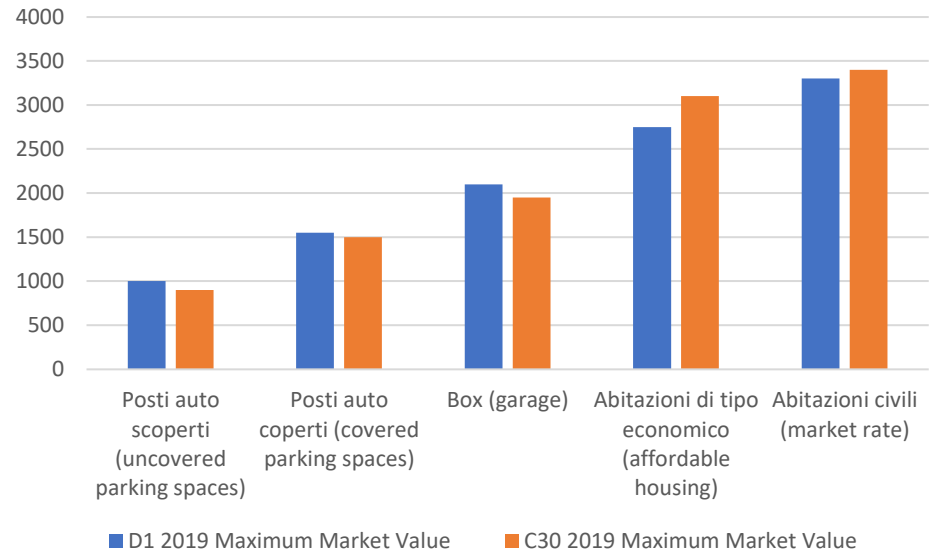


Figure 26: Chart 2019 Market Values in Prenestino (D1) and Pigneto (C30)

Real Estate

In general the real estate data appears to contradict the narrative of gentrification we heard from our interviews.⁷ Instead of an increase in real estate prices we see a decrease in market values and rental values from 2010 to 2019. While this data can be contextualized with the trend of decreasing real estate values throughout Rome, the results were still unexpected. It seems that the primary form that

gentrification in Prenestino takes is not in the economic world of real estate but in the loss of public space to commercial forces, such as the hipsterfication of Pigneto and the renovation of Malatesta Station.⁸



Figure 27: A parody Trip Advisor advertisement mocking the gentrification of the area, posted in a Pigneto-Prenestino market

1. See Appendix C: Interview with Cristiana from Progetto Diritti.
2. See Appendix C: Interview with Allesandra from Torpignattara.
3. See Appendix C: Notes from Impromptu Interviews in Prenestino and Interview with Giulia Barra.
4. The English descriptions (in parentheses) in the bar charts of real estate data are rough translations from the Italian labels into the most equivalent United States real estate categories.
5. Puccini, E. (2020, March 13). 1.1 Il mercato immobiliare a Roma: gli ultimi 12 anni di compravendite e affitti in 40 quartieri. Retrieved May 3, 2020, from <https://osservatoriocasaroma.com/2020/02/26/il-mercato-immobiliare-a-roma-gli-ultimi-12-anni-di-compravendite-e-affitti-in-40-quartieri/>
6. Andamento mercato immobiliare Italia 2019, la fotografia dell'Istat. (2019, July 26). Retrieved May 3, 2020, from <https://www.idealista.it/news/immobiliare/residenziale/2019/07/26/135452-andamento-mercato-immobiliare-italia-2019-la-fotografia-dellistat.>
7. See Appendix C: Notes from Impromptu Interviews in Prenestino and Interview with Giulia Barra.
8. For a description of the “hipsterfication” process in Pigneto see the 2008 Cornell in Rome Workshop report, “Il Pigneto.” Retrieved from <https://aap.cornell.edu/sites/default/files/2008-pigneto-111813.pdf>



Physical Analysis

Overview

In order to conduct our street survey, 26 census tracts were chosen that would provide a sampling of the different sections of the Prenestino neighborhood, as characterized by building typology, land use, building age, street types, and differing population demographics. It was important that there was connectivity between all chosen census tracts to understand the internal boundaries. It was also essential that key landmarks of the neighborhood were included, such as the Condottieri Market, the Energy Park, Ex Snia, Malatesta Station, and the Church of San Luca. ISTAT Data which informs the physical characteristics of the neighborhood, such as the age and condition of residential buildings, was then used to provide a clearer picture of the physical characteristics of the neighborhood beyond what was identified in the study area.

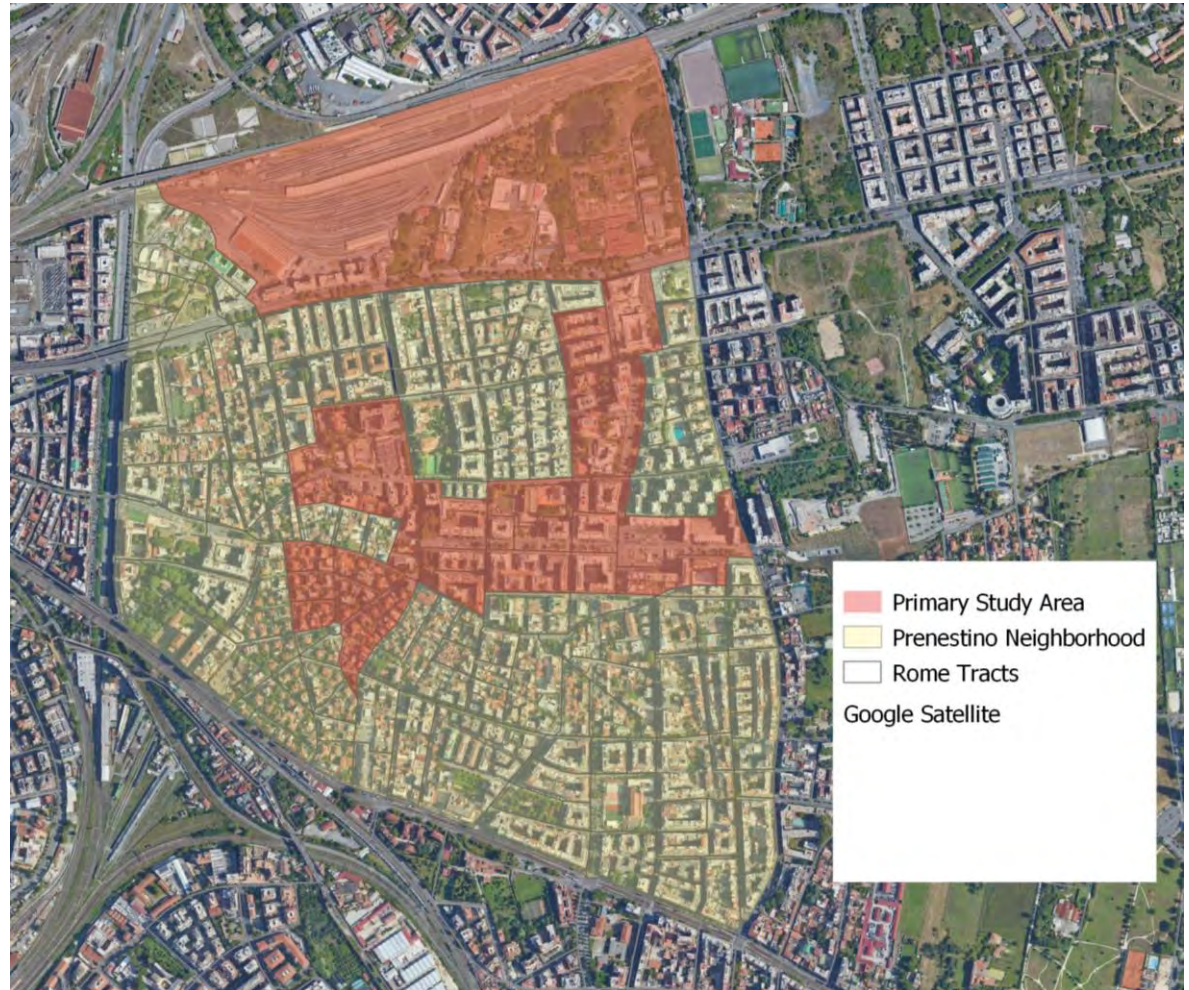


Figure 28: Map of Prenestino Neighborhood indicating primary study area

Land Use

The land use categories that make up the study area in our neighborhood are Commercial, Residential, Mixed Commercial and Residential, Institutional, Park, and Other abandoned industrial sites.

There is a clear separation between the strictly residential area and the mixed residential and commercial area. The differing land uses represent different time periods throughout the neighborhood's history and cater to different demographics.



Figure 29: Map of Land Use Types

Land Use

The most common land use types are residential and mixed-use, which both provide housing options. There are very few strictly commercial spaces, although near the Energy Park there is a cluster of buildings that house a gym, rock climbing facilities, and a nightclub. The increasing presence of nightclubs in the neighborhood is seen as an invasion and may speak to the changing character and demographics of Prenestino, which is seeing an influx of younger residents.¹

The institutional land use classification is used to designate schools, religious buildings, social and cultural centers, and hospitals or other overnight medical care facilities. The Church of San Luca is an important institution in Prenestino, as well as the cultural center, SNIA.

There are a few parks within the study area that house buildings for public, recreational use. These include basketball courts and soccer fields. There is a general consensus that Prenestino lacks sufficient greenspace, especially given that it is perceived to be one of the densest neighborhoods in Rome.² The abandoned factory and industrial railway section of the neighborhood houses building remnants, which may be viewed as lost space, presenting an opportunity for regeneration efforts.

Building Typologies

The different building typologies represent the distinctions in characteristics of any building that includes residential units. The identified typologies in the study area are: Intensivi, Palazzine, and Villini.³



Figure 30: Photo of Palazzine on Via Gentile da Mogliano



Figure 31: Photo of Intensivi surrounding Piazza Malatesta



Figure 32: Photo of Villini on Via Pausania

Building Typologies

Intensivi are 7-8 stories tall, high-density apartment buildings with many units. They are developer built, with most being constructed in the 1960s and 1970s. The Intensivi in the study area are clustered around Piazza Malatesta.

Palazzine are 5-6 stories tall and still typically high density, multi-unit apartment buildings. Terraces are a common characteristic of this typology. Some Palazzine in the neighborhood are gated communities, while others are not.

Villini are 2-4 stories tall, low-density buildings that have multiple units, but typically no more than 4. It is common for there to be detached garages, gates, and private gardens. This typology was introduced in the 1909 Plan of Rome but implemented in our neighborhood in the 1920s. In this case, the Villini in the area were constructed as cooperative housing for the railway workers who built Termini Station.



Figure 33: Map of Building Typologies

Building Composition

In total, there are 1,500 residential buildings, representing 79.2% of the total building stock, and 17,995 residential units in the Prenestino neighborhood.⁴ To better understand the composition of the buildings beyond the scope of our study area, the aggregate data for the number of floors and number of units per building is presented. It can be hypothesized that buildings with 5 or more units and 4 or more floors would either fall into the Intensivi or Palazzine typologies. Thus, this means that there is a roughly equal breakdown of buildings that would be classified as Villini and those that are either Intensivi or Palazzine in Prenestino.

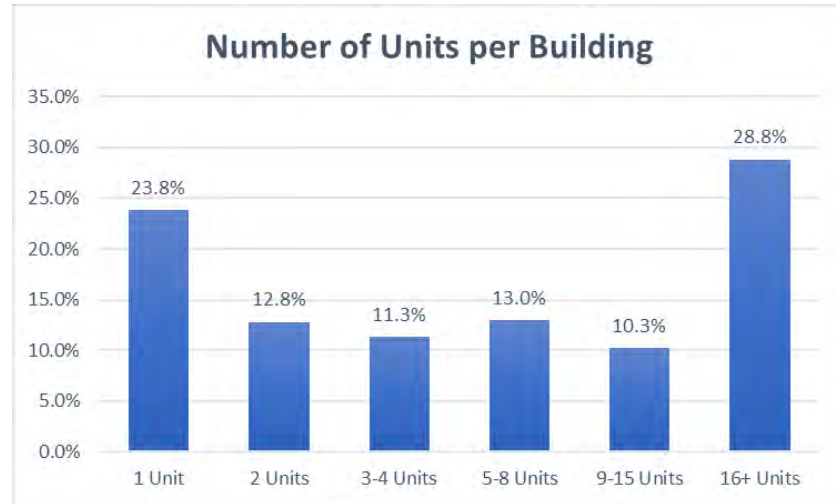


Figure 34: Chart of Number of Units per Building in Prenestino

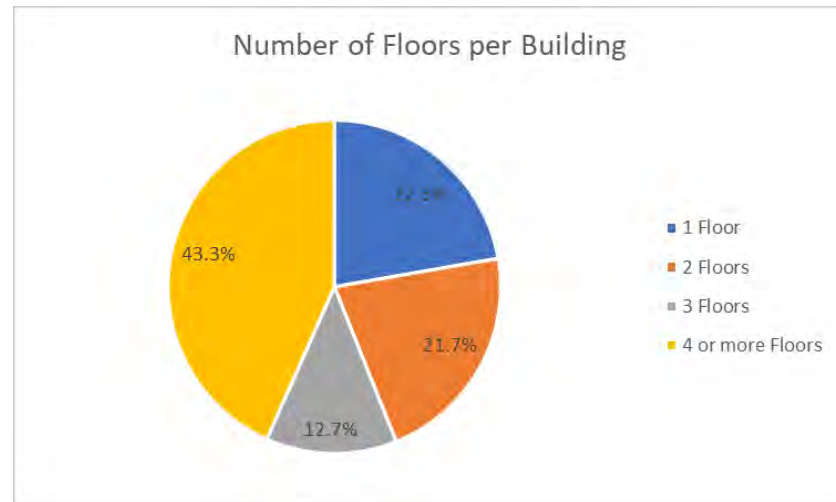


Figure 35: Chart of Number of Floors per Building in Prenestino

Building Construction

In order to visually understand the patterns of development in Prenestino, a map of the most prevalent year of construction in each census tract is provided. The first part of the neighborhood to be developed were the Villini style housing of the Garden City as well as the Borgata Marranella that can be seen in the south-east corner of the neighborhood. Additionally, the chem-textile factory was built at roughly the same time, in the 1920s. While some development continued in the post-war period, especially to the south between the Garden City and the Borgata Marranella, it wasn't until the 1960's that the large-scale development of high density, mixed-use blocks were constructed.

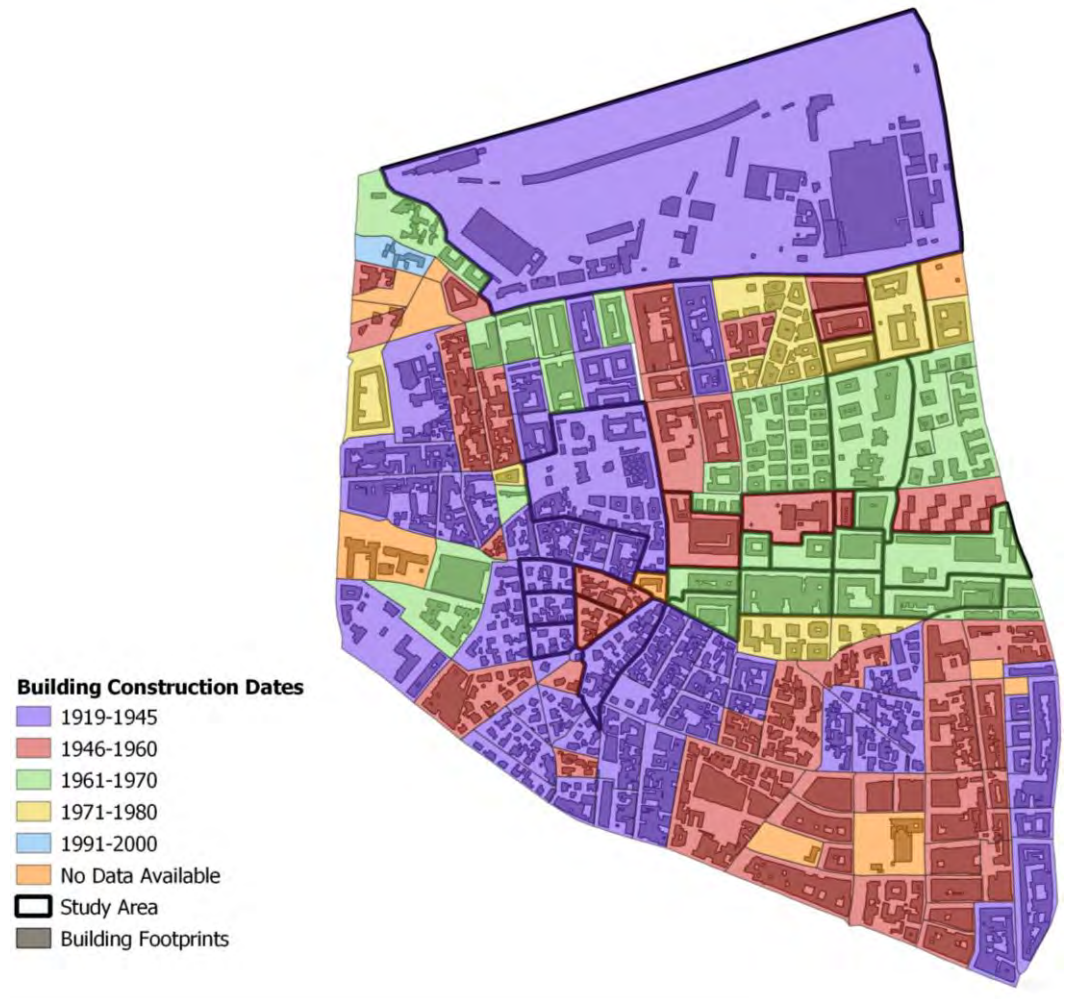


Figure 36: Map of Building Construction Dates in each Census Tract

Building Construction

This style of development continued into the 1970's, but from 1980 to 2010 there was little new development in the neighborhood. That all changed once the construction of two new stations for Metro Line C began in 2007 and was completed in 2015. Since that time, while not documented with official ISTAT data, there has been some transformation of the urban landscape due to the increase in demand for housing now that Prenestino has strong connectivity to other parts of the city.

In comparing the aggregate building construction dates of Prenestino and Rome as a whole, it can be seen that the neighborhood development during the fascist and post-war period in Prenestino was disproportionately high compared to the overall building development of Rome during this time. Additionally, while there was a large decline in development in Prenestino after the 1970s, with less than 2% of building construction from 1981-2005, this was a more significant development period for the entirety of Rome.

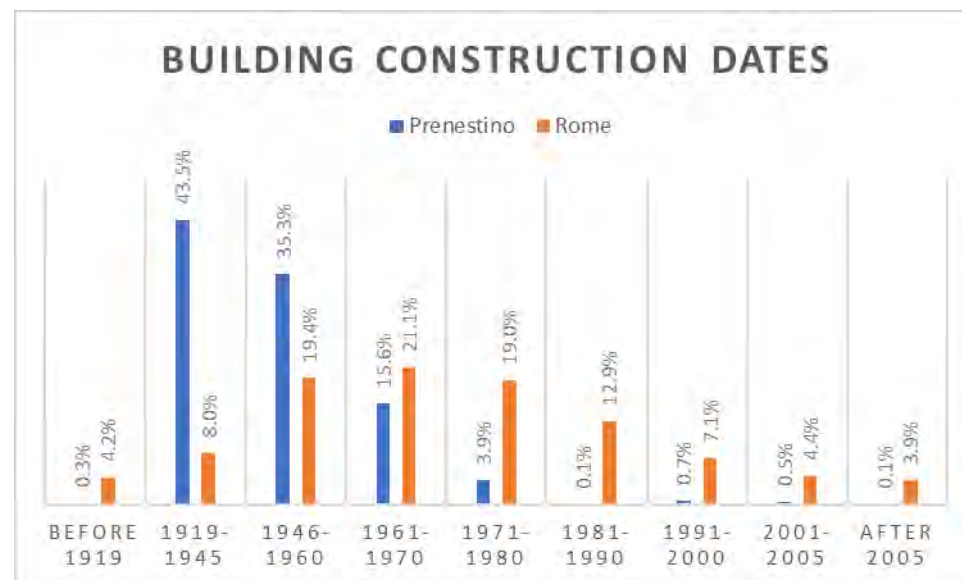


Figure 37: Chart of Building Construction Dates in Prenestino and Rome

Building Condition

It can be seen that in both Prenestino and the city of Rome that Excellent and Good classifications for residential building conditions comprise the majority of the total housing stock. Prenestino does slightly better than Rome with its stock of buildings in Excellent condition and has fewer buildings in both the Fair and Poor categories. However, a similar overall trend can be seen at both scales.

Additionally, while the majority of residential buildings in every census tract are in either Good or Excellent condition, there are census tracts that also have housing in Fair or Poor condition. There is a correlation between census tracts with Poor or Fair housing, the oldest housing stock, and the highest levels of foreign residents. This can be most easily seen in the Borgata Marranella and the area along Via Fanfulla da Lodi. Combined, this could indicate that immigrants have lower incomes, thus excluding them from gaining access to newer housing that is in better condition.

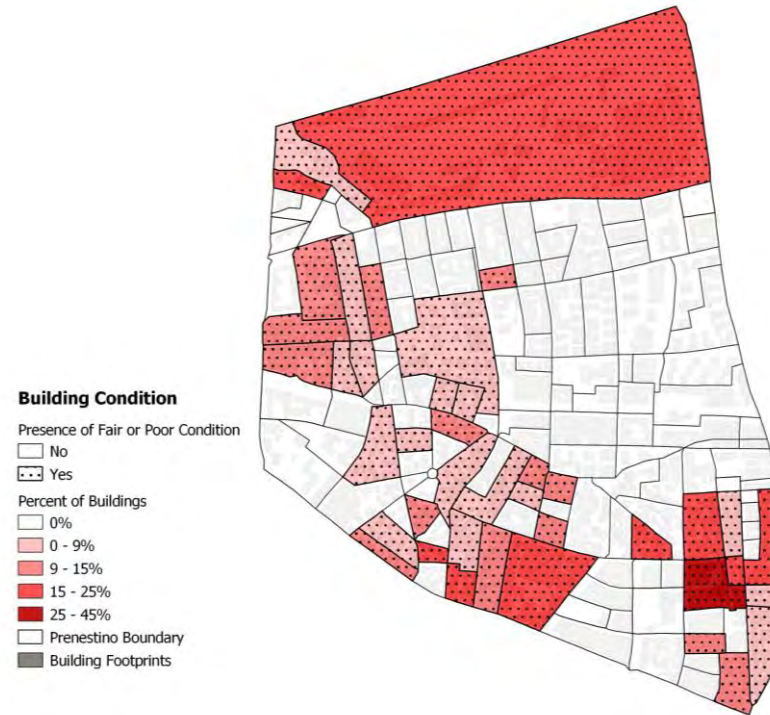


Figure 38: Map of Residential Building Conditions

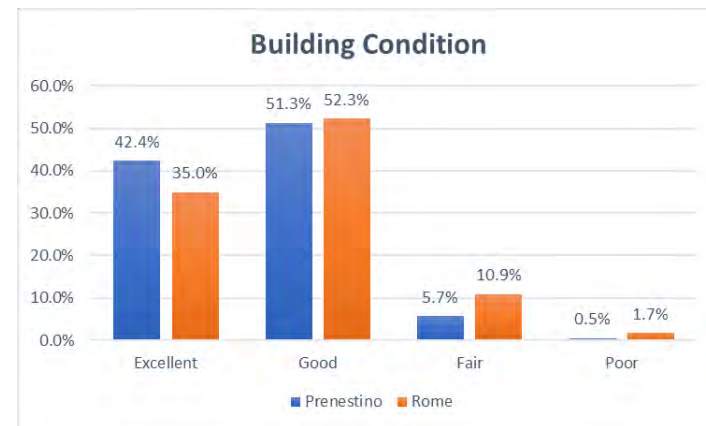


Figure 39: Chart of Residential Building Conditions in Prenestino and Rome

Streets

The streets within our study area were classified into three levels based on many characteristics. These included: number of driving lanes, number of parking lanes, level of traffic, and connectivity to other parts of the city.



Figure 40: Photo of Via Prenestino, a Primary Street



Figure 41: Photo near Piazza dei Condottieri, a Secondary Street



Figure 42: Photo of Via Giovanni Marinelli, a Tertiary Street

Streets

The classification of **Primary** indicates that the street is of major importance for traveling by car in the neighborhood. These streets have multiple driving and parking lanes and are heavily trafficked at all times of the day. These streets are also the connecting streets between Prenestino and the other areas of Rome and as such are used for bus traffic.

The classification of **Secondary** indicates that the street is important just in the context of the neighborhood. These streets typically have 1-2 driving lanes and 2 parking lanes, moderate traffic levels, and are connected to the Primary streets.

The classification of **Tertiary** indicates that the street is only of local importance. These are typically one-way streets that have no parking or 1 lane of parking. They have low traffic levels and are connected to the Secondary streets.



Figure 43: Map of Street Classification

The main artery of the neighborhood, Via Malatesta, is intersected at many points with secondary streets. This speaks to the central importance of Via Malatesta as the commercial center of the neighborhood, and also a transit hub with both the Malatesta metro station and bus stops which can connect residents to other parts of Rome.

Public Transportation

Prenestino is well connected to other parts of Rome, with access to Metro Line C, many bus routes, and the tram lines that run along Via Prenestina and Via Casilina. As seen on the public transit map, bus lines connect the neighborhood to the historical center by way of Porta Maggiore. In the opposite direction, bus stops along Via Prenestina and Via dell'Acqua Bullicante connect Prenestino to other peripheral neighborhoods. Bus stops are centered near Piazza Malatesta with fewer connections in the Garden City area of the neighborhood. However, the Garden City is well accessed by Metro Line C with the Pigneto metro stop.



Figure 44: Map of Public Transportation in Prenestino

Cognitive Mapping

In asking community members to identify key edges, pathways, districts, nodes, and landmarks, we were able to understand the key physical elements of the neighborhood beyond our study area.⁵ While there was some disagreement about the edges, the most broad respondents defined the edges as Via Prenestina, Via Casilina, and Via dell'Acqua Bullicante which includes the area our group has defined as "Prenestino" plus the pedestrian island that we refer to as Pigneto.⁶

The chief pathways have been repeatedly noted as the Consular roads (Via Prenestina and Via Casilina) and the internal neighborhood roads such as Via Malatesta and Via del Pigneto. The districts that have been identified are the Garden City or "Villini Area," the "Zona Malatesta" which surrounds Piazza Malatesta, and the area surrounding Via della Marranella which is thought of as an extension of Tor Pignattara.⁷ The interviews largely confirmed our assertions that the neighborhood is somewhat divided along boundaries differentiated by building typology and historical settlement patterns.

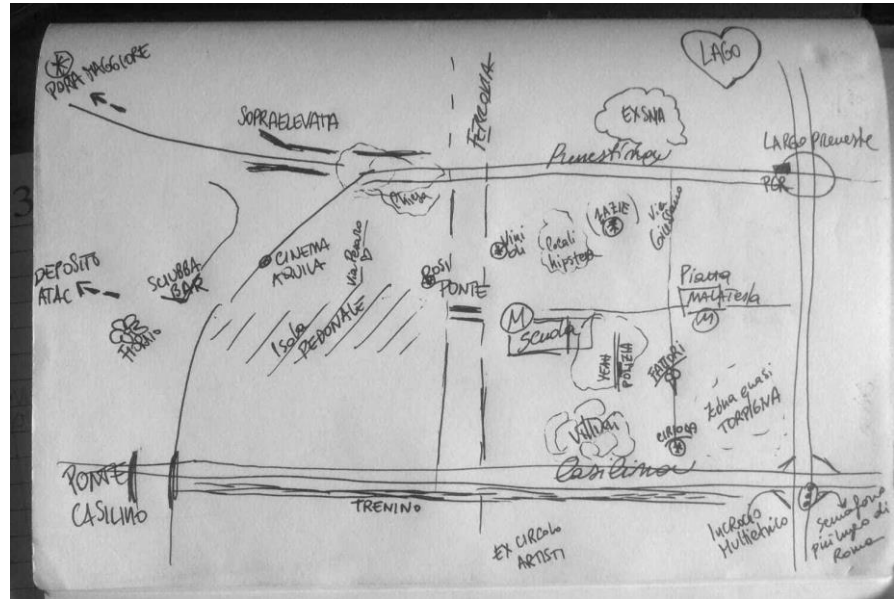


Figure 45: Lynch Map by Giulia Barra

1. See Appendix C: Interview with Cristiana from Progetto Diritti.
2. See Appendix C: Interview with Giulia Barra and Interview with Enzo.
3. Reale, L. (2011). *Densità, città, residenza : tecniche di densificazione e strategie anti-sprawl*. Gangemi Editore.
4. ISTAT, 2011.
5. Lynch, K. (1960). *The image of the city*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press.
6. See Interviews in Appendix C.
7. See Interviews in Appendix C.

Community Engagement



Photo of a mural outside of a school in Prenestino by Joseph Reigle

Community Engagement

Prenestino has a thriving network of social organizations and community networks. It has been described that the people are the strength of the neighborhood, with their mix and multiculturalism.¹ This has made for many opportunities to engage with different actors within the community, who all had something to contribute to the strong social fabric of the neighborhood.

Just within our small study area, we located two bocce courts. Bocce offers the more senior residents in the neighborhood a place to congregate and have fun. The players that we met operate within a large sphere of bocce teams from all over Italy, and their space was adorned with lots of trophies to showcase their success. The bocce team that we spoke with rents their space from the Church of San Luca, which most members consider an important landmark within the community.²

We spent some time speaking with the President of the Condottieri Market, Debora, while we were in Rome. The market is a community hub, with many different types of vendors. Debora herself owns a children's clothing shop. Other vendors include a tea

shop bakery, produce stands, meat shops, beauty salons, and clothing stores.

Among our more formal interviews, we spoke with Giulia Barra, Cristiana, Sabrina, Enzo, and Marco. All five are residents of Prenestino and work in the neighborhood. They do work in multiple sectors. Giulia has done work for the regeneration of Piazza Malatesta. Cristiana is a legal worker for Progetto Diritti which offers legal services for immigrants. Sabrina and Enzo both work for the Energy Park. Marco volunteers for CSOA Ex SNIA.³ All of their work requires direct engagement with the Prenestino community, which gives them a unique perspective to comment on the characteristics of their neighborhood and offer insight into what challenges the community faces.

The insight from these community members has been considered by our group and guided us in the identification of key neighborhood strengths and weaknesses.

1. See Appendix C: Interview with Cristiana from Progetto Diritti.

2. See Appendix C: Interview with Silvano president of the San Luca Bocciofila.

3. See Appendix C for various interviews.



Assessment & Recommendations

Strengths

Prenestino hosts a bustling and prosperous local outdoor market. Any need a resident could have is met here from finding fresh meat and produce to a selection of children's clothes and toys to a legal office. It is a diverse marketplace that serves a greater purpose than most neighborhoods' markets, which are usually limited to food and produce and can act as tourist draws rather than as a core function of the neighborhood. According to the market's president there are greater advantages to opening a business in her market than in traditional business lots along streets. The most apparent benefit being the significantly cheaper price of renting a small, but well displayed, standing space in a grid of vendors. Another key benefit is the exposure to local residents. Every vending lot is visible to every market-goer and provides great benefit in terms of attracting new business. A Prenestino resident can walk into her local market in need of bread and happen upon a brand new tailor that opened up in the place she goes daily, providing ease of access and likely a cheaper price compared to the tailor she goes to that has to pay for a

premium street-side commercial space. A key aspect of the local Italian market is the social benefit as well, and this is not lost in Prenestino. The market serves as a central point for the community. When surveying the neighborhood it was impossible to go through or past the market and not see two people who had strolled in for something specific or



Figure 46: Photo of Condottieri Market

Strengths

just to browse know each other and strike up a conversation. The vendors know all of their customers and all of their orders, and the community is strengthened by the presence and functions of this market. In conjunction with Prenestino's own recent prosperity and gentrification, the market is incredibly successful financially, recently receiving five-hundred-thousand euro in funding from the local government in order to expand and open itself to new businesses. A symbol of the community's strength and opportunity, the Prenestino market serves many functions for the neighborhood's residents and provides a centerpoint for the community.

"Strengths: solidarity. It is a lively neighborhood, active, moving, with a high percentage of kids, a sense of community.. at the end, people are the strength, with their mix and multiculturalism."

-From Interview with Cristiana from Pigneto Diritti

Strengths

Prenestino is iconically defined by the three important Italian railways that create its unique triangular shape. They are demonstrative of the strength of Prenestino's public transportation. With the Pigneto and Malatesta train and bus stations, the neighborhood is easily accessible from central Rome and similarly easy to traverse through. The Yellow Tram line also runs along Prenestino, making it just as reachable from peripheral neighborhoods along the edges of the city. Because Prenestino was a borgata instead of an original standing neighborhood, it is more efficiently laid out —from an urban planning perspective— than much of Rome which has to lend itself to accounting for historical landmarks and small, winding streets without sidewalks. Prenestino follows a grid layout, with wide streets and sidewalks that create great advantages to pedestrians and public transportation alike. Prenestino is as accessible if not more so than any neighborhood in Rome outside of the center. It is peripheral but not far from the center and can be accessed easily from other outer neighborhoods, which is a rarity to say the least. It is just as easy to navigate by car, on foot, or by public transportation, and its strength in transportation and efficiency lend itself to preparedness for growth at a great scale.



Figure 47: Photo of Pigneto Tracks



Figure 48: Photo of Pigneto Station

Strengths

Prenestino is very well maintained and also safe. There is a large police station, whose authority spans the whole neighborhood. There is little to no crime in Prenestino —another rarity for Rome with the large amount of petty left in the city and Italy as a whole. The streets and buildings themselves are also very clean and well-kept for Rome. There is little litter in Prenestino compared to almost any urban space, and streets are upkept well. One would be hard pressed to find large potholes, cracked sidewalks, fallen street signs, or even vandalism in the neighborhood, despite the bustling street art scene. There is also very little self-built housing in the neighborhood. Buildings are properly constructed to code, with the occasional self-built addition to the roof or terrace, creating an unusual cluster —for peripheral Rome— of strong, fortified buildings with regular upkeep and clean appearances. The great upkeep and appearance of these buildings allow for great business opportunities as well where almost every apartment building in Prenestino has a sold-out commercial level with stores and restaurants of all kinds. The great maintenance of the buildings and streets are reflective of the neighborhood pride Prenestino boasts, and the prosperity and success of the area.

"There is a very active social context... the Pigneto-Prenestino Neighborhood Committee, in the Ex Snia Social Center and in projects they have generated, last of which the Park of Energies Forum. They express community character because they are composed by people living in the neighborhood and in these years have had an influence in the transformation of the neighborhood..."

-From Interview with Marco from CSOA ex SNIA

Prenestino's great neighborhood values and strong community sense are its greatest assets, the needs and concerns of which are protected by its many public groups. Between Ex SNIA, the Pigneto-Prenestino Neighborhood Committee, the activists of Energy Park, and the Church of Saint Luke the Evangelist, the community is well covered and cared for. The neighborhood committees oversee the needs and wants of the community on a daily basis, keeping a strong feel on the pulse of the neighborhood and serving an essential role in times of neighborhood growth like that which Prenestino is currently going through.

Strengths

Energy Park activists oversee the reformation of this previously abandoned chemical factory into a community-rich greenspace with a public garden, picnic area, and playground with even more to come. The Church of Saint Luke has not only been crucial in providing assistance and food to those in need during the COVID-19 isolation, but always stands as an epicenter for community care and assistance. (It also boasts one of the greatest bocce teams in the history of Italy, still standing strong today as a dominant force throughout the country and as a great pride to Prenestino.) Each group serves many purposes including community outreach, collaboration with and checks of local government, community service and activities, etc. But they all serve the main goal of protecting a very proud and history-rich community while leading it into a very bright and growing future.

Weaknesses



Figures 49 & 50: Photos of Malatesta Station

Prenestino's greatest downfall, quite possibly, is the Malatesta transportation station. A focal and convenient location for transportation (bus or train) into, out of, and around Prenestino, the Malatesta station is a catastrophic bust in the eyes of the community. In our interviews with locals, we discovered that every cognitive mapping of the neighborhood had the Malatesta station as a fundamental landmark of Prenestino, but a majority of interviewees had very few positive things to say about the bus and train station. Originally designed to be a great public space that would enhance the neighborhood aesthetic and function, Malatesta turned out to be a plain, hot, concrete space with busses running alongside and trains below. There is seating built down into the space that is designed for public gatherings for events such as movies and shows, but this nice idea has received little follow through and lost much—if not all—of its steam. Elderly residents, of which there are many, complain about the lack of shade and the heat from the immense amount of concrete while waiting for the bus in the hot Roman sun.¹ The only people who seem to enjoy Malatesta for reasons other than its transportation benefits are the occasional skateboarders we saw passing through the neighborhood, kick-flipping and grinding off the concrete benches. The idea of the Malatesta station is a

Weaknesses

promising and appreciated one, however. There is a clear effort to provide community space and create a positive image for Prenestino, but the execution was, in all facets, botched.

The neighborhood has not necessarily fallen victim to over-industrialization during its development over the years, but there is an incredible shortage in greenspace. Much like Malatesta Station, Prenestino is essentially one large patch of concrete city. There are some small parks throughout, but none are large draws to the w and there are few and far between. The only exception is Energy Park, which boasts large amounts of greenspace and open area, but is yet to be fully developed and is also extremely peripheral and too difficult to get to for much of the neighborhood to be bothered. Most of the greenery in the neighborhood is, in fact, found opposite Energy Park in the Garden City —an entirely residential area in the South of Prenestino with smaller, multi-family homes that actually have private gardens and greenspace. Even though this area is beautiful and acts as a great attraction and diversity in real estate typology, this greenspace is again *private* and serves no real benefit to the

community as a whole. Causing no real harm to the neighborhood and its inhabitants, the lack of greenspace is a major complaint amongst almost all residents of the area and would provide great benefits such as added shared space, improved neighborhood image and real estate growth, and greater opportunities for community activity and activism.

The minor amount of greenspace sheds light on a similar but different matter, the lack of cohesiveness between major areas in the neighborhood. That is not to say that it is difficult to travel around Prenestino, because it is actually incredibly easy,

"Our neighborhood is one of the most dense. Perhaps second most dense... We have [a park] but [it is] not so near, it is a good park but you feel that you need more... It took too long to renovate the square... People thought the square was worse than the one they had all their life. High trees are needed for the shade but there is no shade."

-From Interview with Giulia Barra, Local Activist in Pigneto-Prenestino

Weaknesses

but rather to say that there is little flow between major areas of the neighborhood.² The market does a good job of filling this void but is not an all-encompassing solution to the lack of overall cohesion. Some people do not care as much about the personal and community-centered experience of the open market and are content with their local grocery store. One may even find a small patch of greenspace in her niche of Prenestino that is not necessarily the park but serves as good enough. We see people get comfortable and settle for what is provided nearby and fail to leave their spaces, a great failure caused by the absence of connected space and community flow.³ Most landmarks of Prenestino, e.g. the Pigneto border, Energy Park, the Garden City, are peripheral and span across all the corners of the neighborhood. Without significant, attractive focal points throughout the neighborhood, there will continue to be a lack of movement throughout Prenestino and this lack of cohesion can lead to great divides, especially with the growing immigrant community and ensuing gentrification.

Opportunities

"I imagine [Energy Park] like a place where everyone can find the answer to the his/her needs, meet people with different culture and experience and work together to improve themselves."

-From Interview with Enzo, Activist in Energy Park and the Pigneto-Prenestino Neighborhood Committee



Figures 51: Photo of Energy Park



Figures 52: Photo of Abandoned Factory

The Energy Park revitalization project presents Prenestino with countless opportunities for growth and community fortification. For decades, this plot of land has been a hazardous wasteland as the result of a failed excavation for a mall parking lot that flooded the grounds and caused a total abandoning of the area. Thankfully, the watchful eye of the Prenestino community saw this mishap as a chance to make something truly great. Still in development, this project is not only a strength of the neighborhood, but a great opportunity. Once completed, and even before fully refurbished, Energy Park will help to mend the tremendous greenspace problems of Prenestino, with a diverse public garden, bee farm, picnic space, and small playground already in operation. The project has made a focused effort to include the residents of the community in this iconic rebuilding, which lends itself to greater future use and pride for the park.⁴

Opportunities

An underappreciated but very promising aspect of Prenestino is the formidable art presence in the Neighborhood, particularly street art. Much of the neighborhood is covered with beautiful murals and art, including a massive piece by famous street artist Blu. This aspect of the neighborhood signifies its outstanding culture and current growth; the art brings great vibrance, respect, and draw to the neighborhood. There is a great opportunity to add tourist value and a new art market to bring prosperity to Prenestino. Not only will there be added external value, but it will also help with the internal problem of cohesion, bringing people to different parts of the neighborhood to see new installations and creating the flow that currently lacks. This effect will be especially strong because much of the popular street art in Prenestino lies along its borders where many do not venture without specific purpose. One of the greatest hubs of the local street art is just opposite the lake in Energy Park: the Ex SNIA project. The main building, performance center, and all surrounding structures are covered head-to-toe in beautiful and varying street art. It is a popular community space for skateboarding, biking, running, and walking, as we experienced

"The neighborhood [changes have] accentuated the variety of the social fabric both due to the origin of the inhabitants partly also from other European countries, but also from Asia and Africa, and for the activities carried out, workers, employees, but also artists, third sector operators, university students, teachers, professionals."

-From Interview with Sabrina, an Activist in Energy Park and the Pigneto-Prenestino Neighborhood Committee

Opportunities



Figure 53: Photo of Ex-Snia



Figure 54: Photo of Prenestino Street Art by Blu



Figure 55: Photo of Malatesta Station

first-hand during surveying. They also offer classes and community projects that are of huge benefit to Prenestino, creating new art and more community function and pride. The promotion of the growing art scene in Prenestino can make for a greater neighborhood in terms of external appeal and internal pride and function.

A current weakness, but a certain opportunity, is Malatesta Station. A great tragedy in execution, the sentiment behind a central community space was and is incredibly well received throughout Prenestino.⁵ There is a strong desire for something to be changed about Malatesta, something as small as more coverage from the sun even. The station is still just as vital to the

Opportunities

neighborhood if not more so than it was at its inauguration as a shared space. Initially, the proposal of this great project was incredibly well received and anticipated by the community, and now they wish that anything would take its place.

Opportunity is exactly the word to describe Malatesta: the chance to turn a weakness into a strength. People frequent Malatesta daily by necessity, making it possibly the greatest landmark in Prenestino, proper renovations and revitalization of the station could stand to add greenspace, external and internal flow, neighborhood cohesion, and even stronger community pride.

In order to exploit Prenestino's areas of opportunity, we must consider the actors who need to comply with these wishes of neighborhood growth: the local government. Thankfully for Prenestino there is a seemingly active and engaged local government. From interviews with local project leaders, a picture has been painted of a local government that wants to see Prenestino grow and prosper through these local projects and organizations.⁶ There has been little to no resistance or red tape

progressing with Energy Park, Ex SNIA, or local market projects. For a neighborhood with so much potential and so much in the works, the local government and similar actors are, in our eyes, a great opportunity for Prenestino and its citizens.

"The work is to build, through participation and social relations, an active subjectivity able to take hold of its own existence. For instance, I can talk about the realized and ongoing projects regarding sport (e.g. Polisportiva Lokomotiv), art and culture (e.g. theatre, the annual event Logos Festa della Parola), history (e.g. Archivio Viscosa), mobility (e.g. Ciclofficina), childhood (e.g. Ludofficina kindergarden and summer camps), food (e.g. vegetable garden, buying group, Eat!Up festival), popular celebrations (e.g. Carnival, Spring Festival), etc."

-From Interview with Marco from CSOA ex SNIA

Threats

With so much potential and strength in Prenestino, the possible threats to the neighborhood must be considered. As in all urban areas in the midst of great growth, one must fear gentrification. The opportunities and strengths discussed are only so beneficial because of their values as cultural supports for the strong community sense present in Prenestino. Many long-time or life-long residents fear change. They support projects to help improve and grow Prenestino, such as a revival of Malatesta, but fear the loss of the character that makes Prenestino special to them. With so much opportunity for growth, it has to be assured that Prenestino becomes a greater version of itself rather than something else entirely.

In the vein of fear from long-time Prenestino residents, we must be careful of the tensions caused with the growing influx of immigrants into the neighborhood. There is division amongst the residents as to whether or not these incomers mean harm. The large elderly population fears their new neighbors greatly, charging them with drug trafficking and bringing danger to

Prenestino.⁷ The younger, working-class residents see no harm, but rather make note of the geographical divide with many of the new immigrants living South of Malatesta and long-time residents



Figure 56: Photo of Housing in Garden City, Prenestino

Threats

often living North of the station.⁸ There is no major conflict amongst the residents yet, but certain rising tensions as more and more newcomers (immigrants or not) move into Prenestino. As the area continues to grow and prosper both culturally and economically, one must be careful to ensure the strong sense of community that Prenestino holds currently and use it to further fortify the neighborhood rather than let it create a divide.

"An area that is distinguished is Villini area, a richer 'island' Inside the neighborhood. Another one is the 'pedestrian island' (is becoming wider) as place for night life. The area of via della Marranella is something like an "extension" of Tor Pignattara."

-From Interview with Cristiana from Pigneto Diritti

"The neighborhood has lost its historical component and commercial activities. From a popular neighborhood, it has now become a tourist neighborhood with the investment of commercial groups..."

-From Interview with Enzo, Activist in Energy Park and the Pigneto-Prenestino Neighborhood Committee

Recommendations

Taking into account our SWOT analysis of Prenestino and our interviews with its inhabitants, we see fit to recommend a continued emphasis on public works projects and neighborhood groups; the use of the supportive local government; and an overhauling project of Malatesta Station into a community-shared greenspace fit for functions and activities. The benefits of revitalizing Malatesta have been made clear, but by transforming it specifically into a greenspace that would further solve issues of neighborhood cohesiveness and sparse greenspace. We see this renovation as an opportunity to give back to the community what they have wanted for so long with Malatesta. It will provide Prenestino with greater community space and cultural strength in a time when its fast-growing reality is creating tension and could create divide in the long run. In social, cultural, economical, and environmental contexts this project will provide great prosperity and growth, along with the ongoing support of current and future neighborhood projects and groups and utilization of the active local government.



Figure 57: Photo of Lago Bullicante Ex-Snia

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2. See Appendix C: Interview with Silvano, President of the San Luca Bocciofila.
3. See Appendix C: Interview with Cristiana from Progetto Diritti.
4. See Appendix C: Interview with Enzo, Activist in Energy Park and the Pigneto-Prenestino Neighborhood Committee.
5. See Appendix C: Impromptu Interviews in Prenestino.
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Figure 58: Photo of Study Group with Champion San Luca Bocciofila Team

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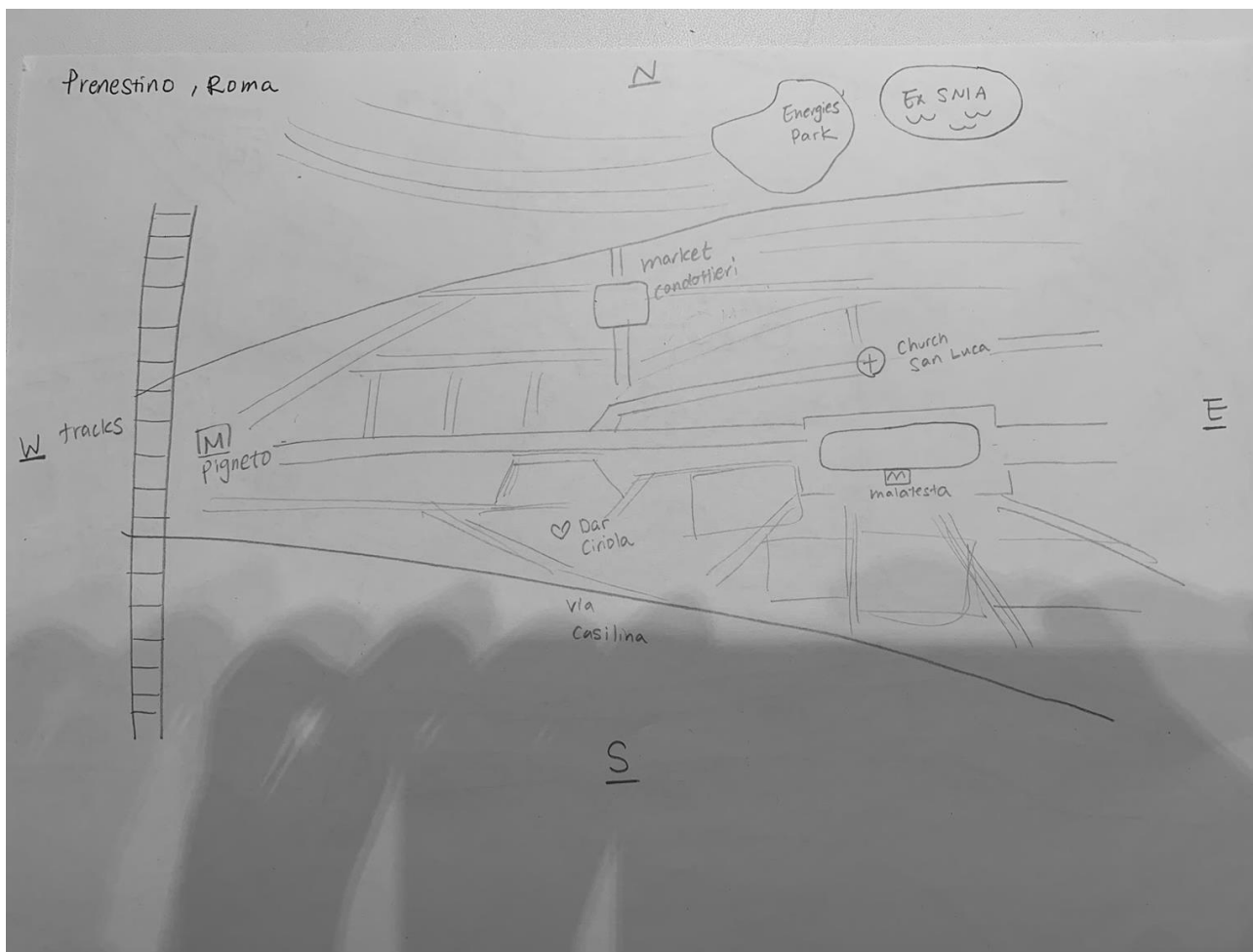
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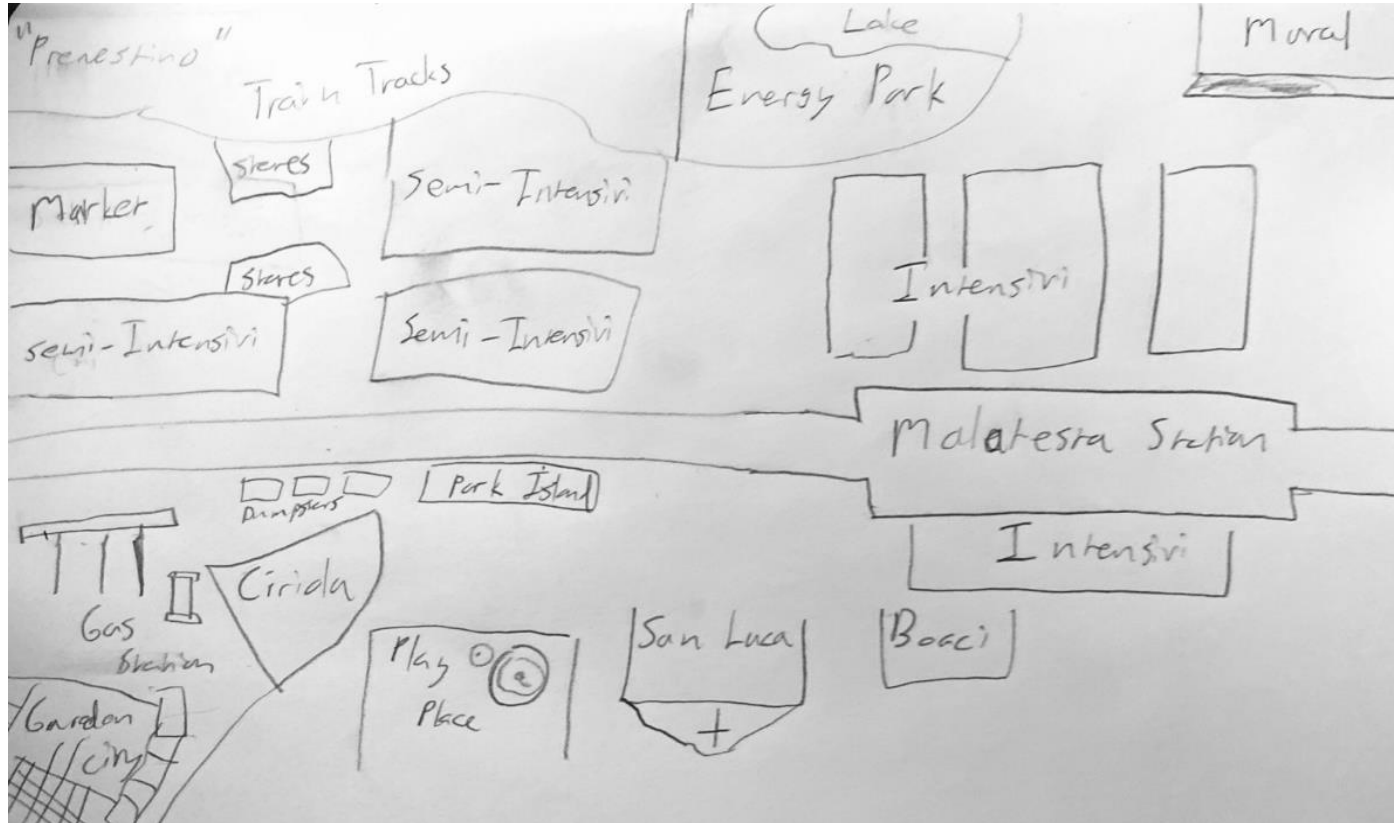
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Appendix B: Lynch Maps



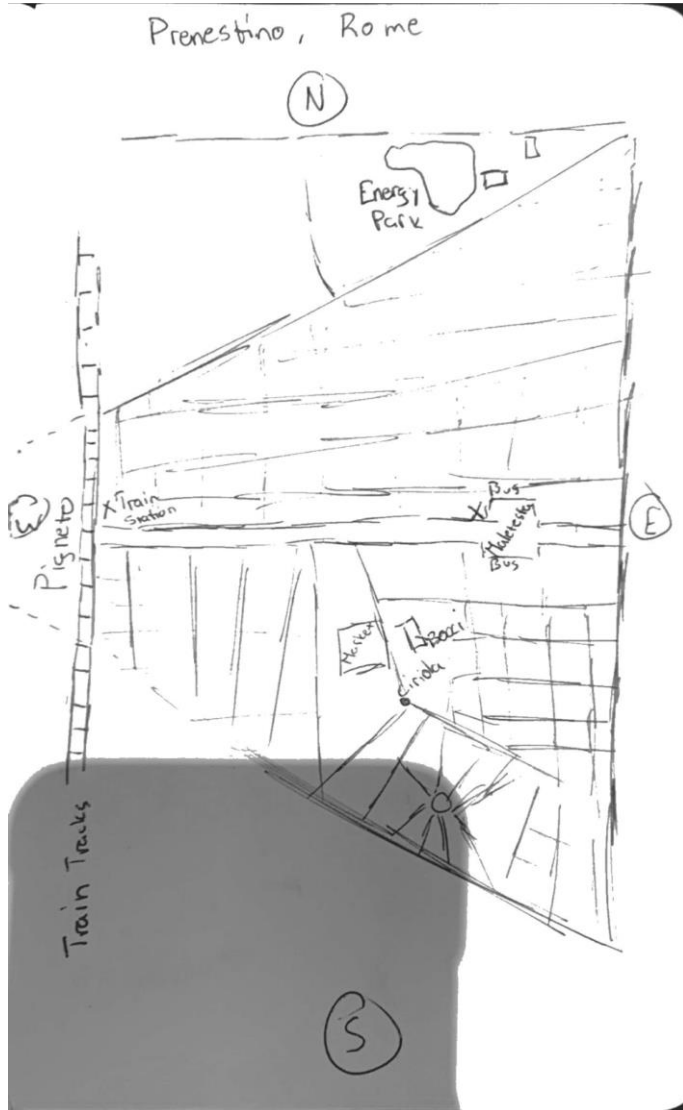
Lynch Map by Helena Park

Appendix B: Lynch Maps



Lynch Map by Joseph Reigle

Appendix B: Lynch Maps

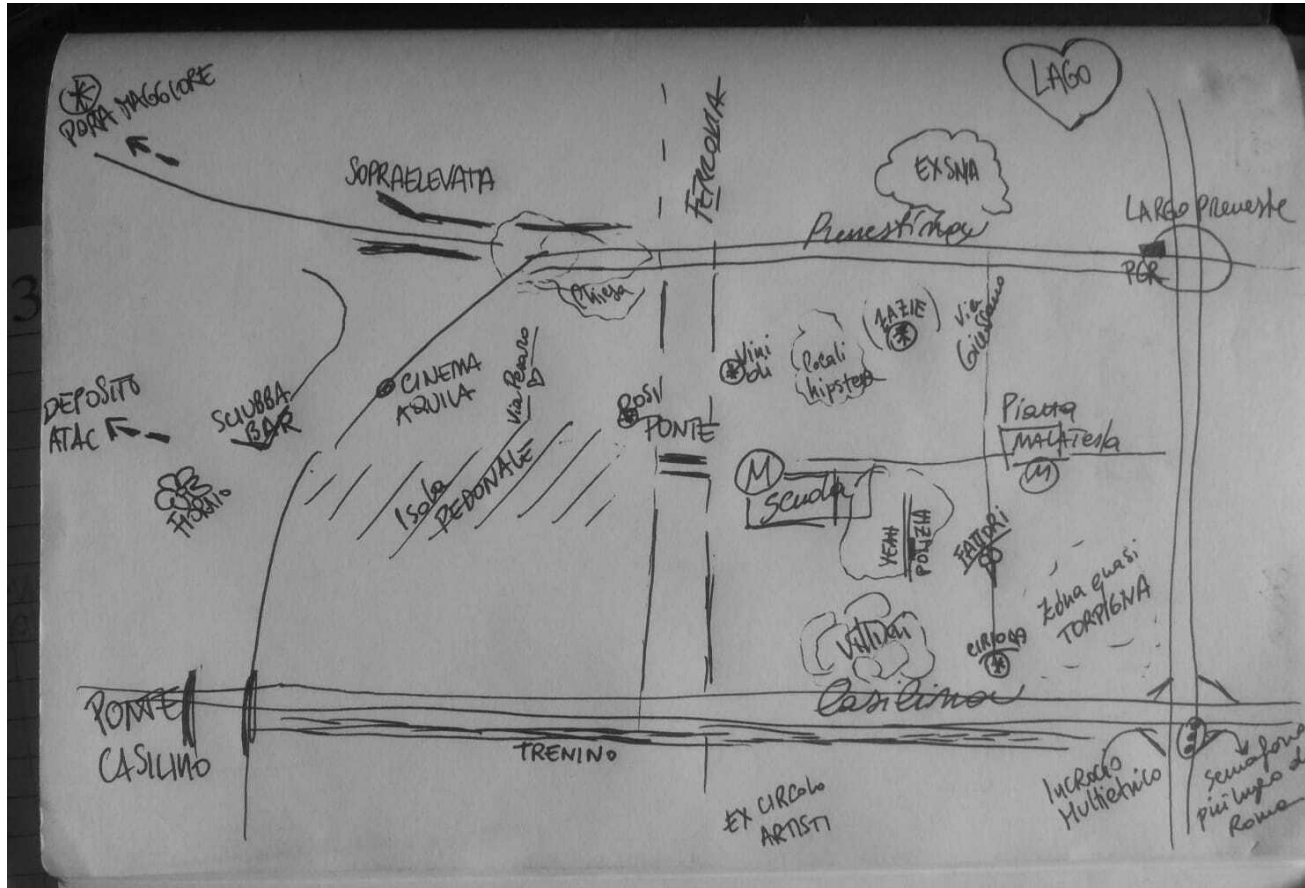


Lynch Map by Eli Learner



Lynch Map by Maddie Collins

Appendix B: Lynch Maps



Lynch Map by Giulia Barra

Appendix C: Interviews

Notes from Impromptu Interviews in Prenestino

Transcribed and translated by Greg Smith

February 27, 2020

Meeting with three men about age 60 at a bar in Via Malatesta. They indicate that to the north of Via Malatesta one finds more of an immigrant community, to the south more native Italians. This seems to be a conceptual divide of the neighbourhood.

In Piazza Malatesta we met with the VP of a neighbourhood association, Astro Nascente. Their neighbourhood newspaper is called Via Vai and has offices in Via Zeno. The entire area was once called Parco Tavoletti, and the bocce players later confirmed that this was farmland up until the 1950s, specialized in the cultivation of flowers. He stated that the community hub in the early postwar period was Largo Bartolomeo Perestrello, once home to the neighborhood's most important market. This market encircled a public park. He also indicated that the Mercato dei Condottieri is of a later date. Before it was developed as a purpose-built market it lined a street and comprised only a few stalls. He stated that the first building erected in P. Malatesta was the one to the north, in the early sixties. The developer was Gabanelli. The other buildings were constructed shortly later.

On this same day we visited the parish church of San Luca, and learned that it was founded in 1956, restructured in 1996. The latter restructuring initiative divided the church into two levels. This was probably connected to the 2000 Jubilee.

We also visit with Condottieri market president, Debora...They have received a €550,000 grant to restructure the market. Work will be carried out in August.

Appendix C: Interviews

Interview with Silvano, President of the San Luca
Bocciofila

Transcribed and translated by Greg Smith

April 8, 2020

1. How long have you lived in this neighbourhood?

He lives near Circonvalazione Casilina, just to the east of the train tracks, on the side by Via Prenestina. He referred to this area indirectly as 'Pigneto' in his conversation. He has lived there since 1966.

[Dal 1966.]

2. What is the name of the neighbourhood? What are the boundaries?

He denied that this is Prenestino. He instead calls this 'Zona Malatesta', which would include San Luca and the area around Piazza Malatesta.

[Non è Prenestino. Lo chiamiamo San Luca, Piazza Malatesta. Zona Malatesta.]

3. What are the chief pathways, monuments, nodes?

The main street is Via Malatesta. Via Pigneto is also an important pathway, but minor in comparison. The main node is Piazza Malatesta. He has high regard for this

area, it is more prized than Pigneto, which he described as having a bad, even dangerous, reputation. The only monument in what he described as his neighbourhood is the church of San Luca.

[Una strada importante è Pigneto. Ma la strada principale Via Malatesta. Malatesta è pregiata. Pigneto è malfamate. San Luca è il monumento.]

4. Are there separate districts within what we think of as Prenestino?

I explained the idea of district meaning a fairly distinctive subarea within a neighbourhood. He has a narrow conception of neighborhood. But in the broader trapezoid he identified Pigneto as a district being the area around via Fanfulla di Lodi. This dates mostly to the early 1900s, and has an elder population. The garden city area is another district, although he didn't seem to find the area of particular interest. Marranella was once important, of which today there is no trace, hardly even in local memory. He was not much concerned about the loss of Piazza Perestrello, saying it was normal all over Rome for informal markets to be closed. Its closure seems to coincide with the opening of the Condottieri market.

[Pigneto è dagli inizi del secolo. Molto anziani specie a Pigneto. La zona dei ferrovieri è degli venti. Non dà molto peso a questo distretto. Più recente è San Luca, anni Sessanta. Marranella era importante, ma oggi non rimane traccia della vecchia borgata, nemmeno nella memoria. Piazza Perestrello è stata trasformata perché i mercati ormai si fanno al chiuso. Non era molto preoccupato del fatto. Il mercato dei Condottieri è recente.]

Appendix C: Interviews

5. How has the neighbourhood changed over the years? What forces were involved?

It has improved, thanks especially to the new metro station. This is Malatesta, but also the Pigneto station which will be expanded and improved over the coming years. These improvements have led to an increase in real estate value, and a general improvement in the neighbourhood. He seemed to be referring to attracting new residents and new services to the neighbourhood. He says the merit is of the City of Rome, not the Raggi administration, but the previous one.

[Il quartiere sta cambiando per il meglio. La metropolitana ha migliorato ha fatto il quartiere, e anche incrementato il valore degli immobili. Nel futuro si farà una nuova stazione al Pigneto - da anni se ne parla - e questo porterà altri vantaggi. Il merito è del comune: non Raggi, ma l'amministrazione precedente.]

6. What other activities are carried out in the bocciofila?

He stressed the importance of bocce, reminding us that they are affiliated with the Italian Olympic Federation (CONI). On Sundays they have competitions. On other days the members also play cards. He says there are only fifty members left, since the elders are dying off.

[Domenica gare di federazione. CONI. Giocano a carte. Rimangono. Una cinquantina.]

7. What are some of the strengths and weaknesses of the neighbourhood?

The strength is Malatesta which he described as the vibrant center of the neighbourhood. The negative part of the neighborhood is Pigneto where drugs are sold, and there is a lot of organized criminality. He suggested that organized criminality is probably also extorting protection money from shopkeepers.

Pregi sono Malatesta. Zona tranquilla. Grossa malavita droghe.

8. What are opportunities for improvement or threats to its current status?

He said the prospects for continued future growth are good. He was especially optimistic about the plans to expand the Pigneto metro stop. The problem is criminality in the area around Pigneto.

[Le prospettive sono buone. Le cose migliorano. Serve più controllo per la malavita. Giro loschi per negozianti.]

Appendix C: Interviews

Interview with Giulia Barra, Local Activist in Pigneto-
Prenestino

Interview by Maddie Collins

Transcription by Helena Park and Joseph Reigle

Conducted April 9, 2020 via Zoom video call

GENERAL QUESTIONS

Where do you live and how long have you lived there?

Really close to palazzo malatesta. Moved there one and a half years ago. Pingnet/Prenestino neighborhood six years ago. Before that I lived in Quadrado, near prenestino. Working in Prenestino working on the lake project with Marco. I Stay with friends, near San Lorenzo, a lot of clubs, young people, and active nightlife. It's Near my parents' neighborhood. There was a tram line that was important because I was searching for a place near a metro station, to visit parents and go to university. Good links to other neighborhoods.

Why did you move here?

Working on the area with the analysis of the neighborhood. We started on the topic of the lake. I started staying more in the neighborhood with the project. Near my parents neighborhood. Tram line was important. Looking for a place near the metro station.

What are the boundaries of the neighborhood?

Via Prenestina, on the left we have via aquila, the

east part is not so clear. Via acqua bullicante. Now that I live in via malatesta, I think the ending point is farther than this. Can't really tell about the ending point of the neighborhood.

What are the strengths and weaknesses of the neighborhood?

A Lot of social connections and organizations. Meet people on the streets that I know. There is an energy that can move when something happens. Places I love-- SNia. Good for social activity it creates. Used to go places when I was younger, the area started to change. It was renovated, changed the way of street life. Pedestrian street, no car, you could drink a beer outside. Definitely more beautiful. Now the street is made for people not of the neighborhood, people calling you to come into clubs makes me uncomfortable. A Lot of new clubs in the area are perceived as an invasion.

GUIDED QUESTIONS

What was the project you worked/working on with Marco?

We were in contact with the social association commitiato? Works related to Urban evolution. They called us to ask how we think the malatesta area can be changed. There is a metro station and it took too long to renovate the square. Ppl thought the square was worse than the one they had all their life (high trees are needed for the shade but there is no shade. It is terrible to use and stay in the summertime. So inhabitants started to fight for the square, move bus 81, bus was easier for the elders to use to reach the city center, marco, some colleagues and I started to think about this issue.

Appendix C: Interviews

We organized a meeting on the square commitato, Organized maps and asked how the square was before. They loved how it was before, they wanted shade or a fountain. We started to imagine we suggestions from the people and our own suggestions how the square could change. Even the minimum, not big projects. What little changes could we make to improve the square going with the desires of the neighborhood inhabitants? We started with the meeting, and then with a committee? We started to talk with the local government. They had connections because the government knew that the committee was the voice for a lot of people.

(What is the local government like?) The conversation kept going in this direction

The Assessor of the Committee has a connection with the local govt because they have talked with a lot of people before. Accessor of public ///??? Percorso???

[audio static]. Conflict between the times that people need and the times the government could meet. It was unthinkable for the gov to start with only a part of the project which Marco and Giulia suggested. We didn't want to make a design project e.g. "oh you can design the bus stop or the seats." we wanted to make the square how it should be so people could live. Create guidelines how the square should work, what were the problems of the square. Marco mapped all the shops around the spaur, making clear that it was necessary to have more shops in the underground part of the metro square. They didn;t find someone who wanted to open a shop there. We suggested that these spaces for shops could be used for social activities/use e.g. a library space. Another problem we addressed was the problem of lack of shade. Problem: you can't feel the square, a friend told her it's like a market when the market is

closed. You don't know where to go, confusing paths, no sense of place with the architecture or enclosure. We divided the square into sub-spaces e.g. place for children, place for trees. To give it some reconfiguration of even 3-D of space with trees; modifies the horizontal and vertical boundaries of the space. Sub-areas can be characterized by different objects to create shade. We needed to create deadlines: we need shadow here; we need crossing here; we need a children area here where it is safe away from cars. It didn't depend on the money that the government could invest. The local government should respect the needs of the neighborhood. Before we gave the local government the deadlines we showed drawing to comitess//???. We discussed it with them. We sent it to the local government, Marco presented it. They said they were very interested and respected the ideas. After this started the other process of how to realize it. It should be the problems/obligation of the local government. They told us time they would make changes but they didn't act. First, we didn't want to come with a fixed amount of money; gov should come up with the money they need to meet the guidelines. They said the project should be conceived by a local designer paid by the local government. The women who developed the project told us she didn't have time to bring into full development. The accessor said that it wasn't possible and she started to tell us.... She told us to make a public call to design the square, this call should be started in Feb. Now we are here.

Appendix C: Interviews

Marco: movies on the entrance of the station; we realized it two times

Who are the actors you work with to accomplish your goals?

There are groups that work in the square. But there was another group working in other parts of the square. We tried to work with them but they used different methods. They were asking an architect to design a certain part of the city. They worked in another way. Communitato had great energy. We talked to alot of people who didn't really talk with us; they didn't usually stay in such demonstrations or protest. They thought someone else wanted to change it. It was joy for them to find how easy change could e.g. showing a movie. Very enthusiastic people in neighborhood

How effective is local government?

The local gov in rome , it depends on the relation of central and local gov. For example you can have central gov from one party and local from another. So i'm not sure if they can't communicate well. At this time, the party was the same. We have 15 local gov. Many local gov even central gov makes decisions and prefer to work with local gov but it is hard to work with the local gov. The relationship is not that direct.

Is there sufficient green space and parks in Prenestino?

No. There is the area of the lake and the park higher up. Open the last five/four years. Our neighborhood is one of the most dense. Perhaps second most dense. We have a law that requires we have 9? sq/m per person of green space. We have Villa Borghini but not so near, it is a good park but you feel that you need more.

Appendix C: Interviews

Interview with Cristiana from Progetto Diritti

Transcribed and translated by Marco Gissara

Received April 20, 2020

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. How long have you lived in this neighborhood?

Since 2012. I'm working here since 2007.

2. What is the name of the neighborhood? What are the boundaries?

Pigneto, from via Acqua Bullicante to via L'Aquila.

3. What are the chief pathways, monuments, nodes?

This is a "work-in-progress" neighborhood. Thus, chief pathways are changing, temporary (e.g. via del Pigneto and works for metro line C and, nowadays, works for the new station). Monuments: Torrione mausoleum, the "memory path" of places related to people engaged in (antifascist) Resistenza, the "lake area" wondering to become Natural Monument. Nodes: pedestrian island, piazza Nuccitelli Persiani (hosting the Liberation Day neighborhood event), a few parks, SNIA (social centre and park of energies).

[È un quartiere-cantiere, quindi i percorsi li hanno cambiati sono in divenire, provvisori, es. via del Pigneto, con il cantiere metro C e ora i nuovi lavori della stazione. Monumenti: il mausoleo del torrione, il

"percorso della memoria" sui luoghi dei personaggi della resistenza antifascista, il lago che aspira ad essere monumento naturale. Nodi: l'isola pedonale, piazza nuccitelli persiani (festa del 25 aprile), i pochi parchi, la snia (centro sociale e parco delle energie)]

4. Are there separate districts within what we think of as Prenestino?

An area that is distinguished is Villini area, a richer "island" inside the neighborhood. Another one is the "pedestrian island" (is becoming wider) as place for night life. The area of via della Marranella is something like an "extension" of Tor Pignattara.

[Un'area che si distingue è la zona dei Villini, un'isola più ricca nel quartiere (altri abitanti). L'isola pedonale (che si è allargata) come luogo di locali, vita notturna. Via della marranella è una specie di "strascico" (positivo!) di Tor Pignattara.]

Appendix C: Interviews

5. How has the neighbourhood changed over the years?
What forces were involved?

During the years, it has changed from a more popular neighborhood, with Italian and stranger population, with a temporary increase (a "boom") in students, which have taken roots in Pigneto also with their families becoming new inhabitants, often working as professionals. The re-evaluation of the area has been an excuse to expel stranger population, there have been a lot of evictions in order to create bed & breakfast, renovate poor houses, create commercial facilities (increase in nightclubs), artisans have closed. There are not so much hotels, but a lot of b&bs. I live here since not so much time, my partner is living here since 30 years... we have notice that the parents of our kids' friends have experienced the neighborhood as students.

[Negli anni è passato da quartiere più popolare, abitato da italiani e stranieri, sono aumentati per un periodo gli studenti (il boom), che poi si sono radicati scegliendo il Pigneto anche con le loro famiglie (nuovi abitanti, liberi professionisti). La rivalutazione della zona è stata la scusa per allontanare ed espellere gli immigrati, ci sono numerosi sfratti sia per fare b&b, ristrutturare "baracchette", creare locali commerciali (aumento locali notturni), chiusura degli artigiani... pochi hotel, tanti bnb. Io lo vivo da poco ma il mio compagno sta qui da 30 anni e, per esempio tra gli amici dei figli, ti accorgi che hanno conosciuto il quartiere da studenti (ex fuorisede!)]

6. What activities or associations help express community character?

There are associations accompanying the community in these changes, that is forced to face, trying to protect the weaker and more targeted part of the population. There are also other ones, that I don't know so much, reclaiming the right to live in the neighborhood only for "natives", or focusing on decay, also accusing foreign population of this decay (e.g. for drug dealing, a clear consequence of the proliferation of nightclubs). There is the neighborhood committee, creating public debate and trying to protect social spaces not devoted to commerce (e.g. green areas, culture facilities). There is DALIA, an associations that, inside the consultorio [*], defends women from any type of discrimination. There is the SNIA social center. There are "parents' associations", very active in primary schools (we are in Toti school, there are other ones), other "parents' associations", e.g. "L'erba voglio", managing Tana dei Cuccioli (only equipped park). There is the Forum of Park of Energies, that host many groups protecting the territory and managing that area. Then, the Sparwasser ARCI club, Progetto Diritti (our group)...

Appendix C: Interviews

* Consultorio = family counselling, health facility

[Ci sono realtà e associazioni che accompagnano la comunità in questi cambiamenti che è costretta ad affrontare, cercando di difendere le fasce più deboli e prese di mira. Poi ci sono altre che conosco poco e rivendicano il diritto ad abitare nel quartiere solo come nativi, o che si concentrano sul degrado, anche accusano gli stranieri del degrado (ad esempio per lo spaccio, quando è conseguenza del proliferare dei locali). C'è il comitato di quartiere, che crea dibattito e cerca di tutelare gli spazi di socialità che non sono commerciali (verde, cultura). C'è l'associazione DALIA che, all'interno del consultorio, difende le donne da ogni tipo di discriminazione. C'è il centro sociale ex snia. Ci sono le associazioni di genitori molto attive nelle scuole primarie (da noi nella scuola toti, ma anche in altre), altre associazioni di genitori come "l'erba voglio" che gestisce la tana dei cuccioli (l'unico parco attrezzato). C'è il forum del parco delle energie, in cui ci stanno tante realtà che difendono il territorio e gestiscono quello spazio. Poi il circolo Sparwasser dell'arci, Progetto diritti (la nostra associazione)...]

7. What are some of the strengths and weaknesses of the neighborhood?

Strengths: solidarity. It is a lively neighborhood, active, moving, with a high percentage of kids, a sense of community... at the end, people are the strength, with their mix and multiculturalism. Weakness: not so much green areas, too much commercial spaces (instead of other social places), not so much public spaces as meeting places without the aim of commerce or dining facilities, real estate speculation (maybe less than in other neighborhoods).

[Forza: solidarietà che resiste, è un quartiere vivo, attivo, in movimento, alta percentuale di bambini, senso di comunità... alla fine, le persone sono il punto di forza, mix e multiculturalità. Debolezza: poco verde, troppi locali commerciali vs. socialità alternativa, pochi spazi pubblici come punto di ritrovo senza il fine del commercio e della ristorazione, speculazione edilizia (forse più debole che in altri quartieri, ma c'è... es. kram, hotel, b&bs)]

8. What opportunities for improvement or threats to its current status?

Opportunities: listen to the needs of people living in the neighborhood (foreigners, Italians... everyone!), because when you let the people express, you arrive to things as the struggle for the lake starting from the need of green areas... live the features of the neighborhood as an opportunity and not as a problem. Threats: listening the needs of the market there is the risk to expel / do not guarantee the survival in the neighborhood of a large part of the population.

[Opportunità: ascoltare le esigenze di chi vive il quartiere (tutti! stranieri, italiani) perché quando lasci esprimere la popolazione arrivi a cose come la battaglia per il lago a partire dall'esigenza di uno spazio verde... vivere le caratteristiche del quartiere come un'opportunità e non come un problema. Minacce: ascoltando le esigenze del mercato si rischia di espellere / non garantire la sopravvivenza nel quartiere di una larga fetta di popolazione]

*

Appendix C: Interviews

GUIDED QUESTIONS

9. Can you tell us about your work, and about Progetto Diritti?

Progetto Diritti is an association since more than 30 years ago, hosting in the neighborhood a point for legal assistance to immigrants since 2007. I am a legal worker, doing intermediation with public administration (I'm not a lawyer), and a coordinator. There are different kind of legal practices with the public administration, mainly: issue/renewal of residence permit, Italian citizenship, reunification of families. We work a lot also with asylum seekers and refugees. We provide an assistance and advice service, giving tools to take care of themselves without us (consciousness of rights), but in the last years is more difficult so we provide intermediation with public administration. We work with lawyers focusing on different fields: penal law, international law, immigration, housing, work). It is a place for assistance, a service provided to foreigners as well as Italians (weaker population, e.g. on rights on work or housing rights), mainly trying to support people in their regularization path.

[Progetto Diritti è un'associazione che opera da più di 30 anni, nel quartiere ha aperto uno sportello legale per immigrati nel 2007. Io faccio l'attività di operatrice legale (faccio da tramite con le amministrazioni, non avvocato che va in tribunale) e coordinatrice. Pratiche legali con l'amministrazione: rilascio/rinnovo permesso di soggiorno, cittadinanza italiana, ricongiungersi con la famiglia. Ci occupiamo molto anche di richiedenti asilo e rifugiati. Forniamo un servizio di assistenza e consulenza, diamo gli strumenti per cavarsela da soli (consapevolezza diritti), ma negli ultimi anni è più complicato per cui

forniamo intermediazione con le amministrazioni (questura, sportello unico prefettura, commissioni territoriali ministero interno). Ci sono avvocati (diritto penale, internazionale, immigrazione, abitare, lavoro).

È uno sportello di assistenza, un servizio offerto a stranieri e anche a italiani (fasce più deboli, es. riguardo diritto al lavoro e diritto alla casa) che cerca principalmente di sostenere le persone nel loro percorso di regolarizzazione sul territorio.]

10. What are the ethnic demographics of the neighborhood? Are migrant populations growing?

A lot of people come to our local office, also from other neighborhoods. The foreigners in our neighborhood are diminishing (maybe in Tor Pignattara they are raising): because the neighborhood is not so affordable, there are not so much houses for rent (lot of touristic rental), there are evictions, people go to other places in Europe. You can notice it inside the schools.

[La frequentazione allo sportello è alta, vengono da altri quartieri. La popolazione migrante che abita il quartiere sta diminuendo (magari a Tor Pignattara è in aumento): perché il quartiere non è più accessibile, ci sono poche case in affitto (molti affitti turistici), perché ci sono gli sfratti, perché alcuni vanno altrove in Europa. Si vede anche nelle scuole.]

Appendix C: Interviews

11. What spaces in the neighborhood are used by natives and immigrants? E.g. parks, or schools

Without distinction: everything that is public and open is used by everyone.

[Indistintamente, tutto ciò che è pubblico e aperto è usato da tutta la popolazione.]

12. Is it difficult for them to find jobs and housing? What types of housing and what kinds of jobs are typical to find?

Finding home has become very difficult: price of rent is high, owners have fear to rent home to immigrants because they can face economic difficulties. Is easier for them to find place in occupied buildings (e.g. via Tempesta). They find domestic work (e.g. caregiver), restaurants (e.g. kitchen assistant), retail trade, e.g. little shops and groceries managed by Bangladeshi population, laundries, tailor shops...

[Trovare casa è diventato molto difficile, sia perché gli affitti sono alti, sia perché i proprietari temono di affittare a immigrati perché potrebbero avere difficoltà economiche. È più facile che trovino alloggi in edifici occupati (es. via Tempesta). Trovano lavoro domestico (es. badanti), ristorazione (es. aiutocuoco, lavapiatti), commercio al dettaglio, es. negozietti, alimentari gestiti da cittadini del bangladesh, lavanderie, sartorie]

13. Is their active social discrimination?

Not inside the local community of inhabitants, apart

the problems regarding rentals. There are discrimination made by the public institutions, with difficulties to access some public services.

[Dal basso no, tra gli abitanti. A parte le problematiche sugli affitti. Dall'alto, difficoltà di accesso ad alcuni servizi.]

14. What are the bureaucratic problems you face with the city?

Certainly, with difficulties to access some public services (e.g. obtaining the health card), as well as linguistic difficulties. Often, we need to accompany people, also because recently (after the right wing policies and laws) the climate has changed and public official feel to be authorized to discriminate, denying right and interpreting laws in restrictive ways. Some organizations have also created a business, also without having specific skills and knowledge... the result is that half of our work is to solve mistakes made by unprepared people.

[Sicuramente l'accesso ai servizi (es. fare la tessera sanitaria alla ASL), anche difficoltà linguistiche. Spesso serve accompagnare le persone, anche perché da un po' di tempo (dal decreto sicurezza di Salvini) è cambiato il clima e gli operatori comunali si sentono autorizzati a discriminare, negando diritti, persino interpretando le leggi in senso restrittivo. Su questo c'è un business anche in mancanza di competenze, perciò il 50% del nostro lavoro è risolvere errori fatti da persone non preparate.]

Appendix C: Interviews

15. What are the relationships (conflictual and/or cooperative) between different national communities?

In my opinion, there are not conflictual relationships between different national communities. The communities living in the neighborhood are very cooperative with each other, also because they have similar objectives. Then, some communities are "more closed" (e.g. Chinese).

[Secondo me, non ci sono rapporti conflittuali tra comunità. Le comunità che vivono il quartiere sono molto cooperative tra loro, anche perché ci sono obiettivi simili. Poi ci sono comunità più chiuse, come quella cinese.]

16. What are the immigrant groups in the neighborhood? And how are they spatially arranged?

Mainly, Bangladeshi and Chinese in Marranella area. Senegalese previously living in the pedestrian area (some of them still resist) now have moved near piazza Nuccitelli Persiani. The Ethiopian community members doesn't live so much in the area, but they have their seat at Pigneto. Then... there is anything and everything: e.g. a lot of South American. In via Zurla, there is an asylum seekers center, so it is very mixed. There are Afghani, but not so many people,

[Principalmente, bengalesi e cinesi alla Marranella. Senegalesi che prima stavano all'isola pedonale (qualcuno resiste), ora più verso piazza Nuccitelli Persiani. Comunità etiopica che abita poco ma ha sede qui al Pigneto. E poi... c'è di tutto e di più: tanti sudamericani, per esempio. A via Zurla c'è un centro per richiedenti asilo, quindi è più misto. C'è qualche afgano, ma non tanti...]

17. How do stateless citizens relate to these groups and the broader neighborhood?

I can't exactly understand the questions. I can't feel discrimination between people (citizens and non-citizens), also thanks to the schools... there is integration, probably also because it isn't a new phenomenon. Most of the immigrants living in the neighborhood haven't the Italian citizenship. New generations are growing, sons of immigrants that at 18 years old can take the Italian citizenship. Stateless citizens are rare, the procedure is very complex, similar to the residence permit. You need to demonstrate that embassies don't recognize yourself. Just a few successes in obtaining this recognition, mainly Roma people. It is a tricky ... is a card you use when you are not recognized for some reasons (e.g. Roma born in Italy in clandestinity from immigrants of former Yugoslavia Republic).

[Non capisco esattamente la domanda. Tra le persone (cittadini e non cittadini) non percepisco la discriminazione, grazie anche ad esempio alla scuola... c'è integrazione, forse grazie anche al fatto che non è un fenomeno nuovo. La maggior parte degli immigrati che vivono il quartiere non hanno cittadinanza italiana. Stanno crescendo le nuove generazioni, figli di immigrati che a 18 anni possono prendere la cittadinanza italiana. Sono rari gli apolidi, c'è una procedura talmente complessa che è paragonabile al permesso di soggiorno. Devi dimostrare che le ambasciate non ti riconoscono. Sono pochi che riescono ad ottenerle, principalmente rom. È un discorso complicato... è una carta che usi quando per vari motivi non sei riconosciuto (es. rom nato in Italia da immigrati della ex Jugoslavia in clandestinità).]

Appendix C: Interviews

Interview with Enzo, Activist in Energy Park and the Pigneto-Prenestino Neighborhood Committee

Transcribed and translated by Marco Gissara

Received April 22, 2020

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. How long have you lived in this neighborhood?

Since 1966, when I was born

2a. What is the name of the neighborhood?

The name is PIGNETO-PRENESTINO

2b. What are the boundaries?

There are different boundaries: administrative, historical, social...

From the administrative point of view the PIGNETO-PRENESTINO border are the Rome center and the countryside out of Rome.

3. What are the chief pathways, monuments, nodes?

The chief pathways are the consolar roads (Casilina and Prenestina) and internal neighbour road, like Pigneto street.

The mainly monuments are: Porta Maggiore, the biggest node of roma water pipeline network, the Porta Maggiore Basilica, an underground Roman basilica and a lot of funeral monuments.

About nodes... there are a lot of nodes...

4. Are there separate districts within what we think of as Prenestino?

Yes, there are at least 4 districts: Pigneto, Prenestino, Villini, Maranella

5. How has the neighbourhood changed over the years? What forces were involved?

The neighborhood has lost its historical component and commercial activities. From a popular neighborhood, it has now become a tourist neighborhood with the investment of commercial groups...

6. What activities or associations help express community character?

Neighborhood committee, social center and other grass-roots associations and activities

Appendix C: Interviews

7. What are some of the strengths and weaknesses of the neighborhood?

The strength is the history and the network created during the years

The weakness is the gentrification, the change of inhabitants.

GUIDED QUESTIONS

1. Can you explain the work you do with Energy Park? What responsibilities do you have?

I have done different work for the energy park. The first one was to denounce to the media that local administration took away the outdoor children games without replacing them. As soon as possible I looked for the best way to obtain new outdoors games...but I have also repaired water pipelines, doors, windows, roofs, cleaned the garden, organized events, meetings, seminar, met politicians, administrators, written the leaflets, bulletins... every kind of work was done in network and sharing. I haven't particular responsibilities like everyone, but everyone is responsible

2. Do you work on other projects? If so what are they?

I don't like the word "work", I prefer the word "care" and I participate to the neighborhood committee, and to the social center activities..

3. How did your work with Energy Park start?

I started in 2007

4. Who do you work with? What are the general demographics of the group (age, education, etc)?

I work with a lot of men and women, with different age, education, origin groups.

5. What is your vision for the park?

I image the park like a place where everyone can find the answer to the his/her needs, meet people with different culture and experience and work together to improve themselves

6. What are your goals for the park? And what is the timeline for these goals?

I have different goals: a new basketball court, a bridge to link the Park to the Lake, collect the olive tree inside the park and to do oil... We have planned these goals for next June, but I don't know their date of stop..

6a. How do you think the park benefits the community?

We live in a neighborhood with the highest population density of Rome (more than 9.000 people for square km) and with the lowest distribution of green... The park gives to the people an open-air place where they play sports, stay in nature and see cultural events..

Appendix C: Interviews

7. How is the park integrated with the rest of the neighborhood?

The park is a part of the neighborhood. A lot of people feel the park like a back garden

7a. What groups generally use the park?

All kinds of groups: young, old, ...

8. What are the biggest barriers to progress for the park?

The [missing] link between park and lake

9. Do you work with the local government?

No. The local government is our counterpart.

Appendix C: Interviews

Interview with Sabrina, an Activist in Energy Park and
the Pigneto-Prenestino Neighborhood Committee

Transcribed and translated by Marco Gissara

Received April 22, 2020

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. How long have you lived in this neighborhood?

Since 1993, when I moved here from Padua. Then, I would never have thought of finding myself after 15 years so tied up and involved in a "story" that has my same geographical origins.

2. What is the name of the neighborhood? What are the boundaries?

The neighborhood is called Prenestino Labicano, better known as Pigneto Prenestino, a triangle of territory between via Prenestina, via Casilina and via Acqua Bullicante.

3. What are the chief pathways, monuments, nodes?

The best known monuments are the Aurelian walls and Porta Maggiore with the homonymous Basilica, the Torrione, the dovecote of Largo Preneste, the basilica of Sant'Elena, the remains of the Snia Viscosa factory with the park renamed Parco delle Energie and the natural area including the lake formed in 1992 following an illegal excavation.

4. Are there separate districts within what we think of as Prenestino?

Within this district we can identify Pigneto as a district of popular and worker origins.

5. How has the neighborhood changed over the years? What forces have been involved?

The neighborhood has accentuated the variety of the social fabric both due to the origin of the inhabitants partly also from other European countries, but also from Asia and Africa, and for the activities carried out, workers, employees, but also artists, third sector operators, university students, teachers, professionals.

6. What activities or associations help to express community character?

Above all social activities such as Italian language schools for foreigners, centers to combat gender-based violence, legal helpdesks for immigrants and people with financial difficulties, self-managed activities to support children and parents, as well as collective experiences aimed at care of green spaces, popular sport and conscious food consumption.

Appendix C: Interviews

7. What are some of the strengths and weaknesses?

Strengths are the numerous and varied experiences of meeting and social commitment and which characterize some of the historical realities of this territory such as the Neighborhood Committee, the Occupied Social Center of the Ex Snia and today the Forum of the Energy Park, which are in continuous expansion. Weaknesses are the inability to build an administrative and political representation worthy of this name together with a not always effective communication and collaboration between the various social realities.

GUIDED QUESTIONS

1. Can you explain the work you do with Energy Park? What responsibilities do you have?

The one with the Energy park is a diversified commitment ranging from the planning of activities, such as meetings, debates, conferences, book presentations or shows to be held in the Park spaces, to the organization of events in the area, such as parades or popular festivals to more practical activities such as the maintenance of the park's green area and that of the buildings in the park.

2. Do you work on other projects? If so, what are they?

I taught at the Italian-only school of the Consultorio and I am part of the Neighborhood Committee

3. How did your work with Energy Park start?

It all started with my need to use the green and public spaces for me and my family, starting with my children

4. Who do you work with? What are the general demographics of the group (age, education, etc.)?

I find myself sharing time and commitment with people of different ages, from 30 to 70 years old mostly with a high education profile as researchers, university teachers, professionals and artists of various kinds.

5. What is your vision of the park?

A place rich in history and above all of potential, the basis for numerous and also unexpected political, social and cultural experiments at the same time.

6. What are your goals for the park? And what is the timelines for these goals?

To see the community that lives and makes it live grow and take roots.

6a. How do you think the park benefits the community?

Being able to constitute for it an opportunity for expression and identification in achieving common goals.

Appendix C: Interviews

7. How is the park integrated with the rest of the neighborhood?

In the sense of representing an important piece of the history of the neighborhood and being crossed by people of all kinds today expressions of the many and different social components of the neighborhood

7a. What groups generally use the park?

I would say all the groups from families with small children who live the games and the opportunities for meeting and entertaining them, to teenagers who live at the playground at every hour, to students interested in the activities of study and research that take place between Historical archive of the factory and the Oval Room of the Casa del Parco, for adults who attend various appointments, initiatives related to the Buying Group [self-organized group of consumers connected with alternative food supply chain] as well as for the maintenance of spaces or social gardens, for the elderly who benefit from the greenery and tranquility of the place up to dogs which have a large green area at their disposal.

8. What are the biggest barriers to progress for the park?

The poor if and limited vision of policy makers and local administrators

9. Do you work with the local government?

Often, in terms of presenting requests and instances but also trying to build general solutions starting

from particular experiences.

9a. If so, what are the challenges that you face?

Those supporting the courage of the choices made and the coherence of their actions by isolating any attempt by politicians and administrators to provide answers and means as if they were exchanging currency to obtain electoral support.

Appendix C: Interviews

Interview with Marco from CSOA ex SNIA

Transcribed and translated by Marco Gissara

Received April 23, 2020

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. How long have you lived in this neighborhood?

Since 15 years, I have always lived in the eastern Rome (46 years) and it's since 30 years ago that I use to come in this neighborhood

2. What is the name of the neighborhood? What are the boundaries?

The neighborhood is called Prenestino Labicano. Inside this area there are smaller ones. It expands from Porta Maggiore to via Tor de' Schiavi. If you want to narrow it, you can talk about Pigneto, ending in piazza dei Condottieri (borders: via Prenestina, via Casilina, via da Giussano/via Pausania/ via Zenodossio), then there are the buildings of post-IIWW period.

[Il quartiere si chiama Prenestino-Labicano, al suo interno poi ci sono dei toponimi più piccoli. Va da fuori Porta Maggiore fino a via Tor de' Schiavi. Volendo restringere si può parlare di Pigneto, che finisce a piazza dei Condottieri (margini consolari via da Giussano / via Pausania / via Zenodossio) perché poi iniziano i palazzi del Dopoguerra.]

3. What are the chief pathways, monuments, nodes?

Pathways: "consolari" roads (via Prenestina and via Casilina), going east from Porta Maggiore. Railways (Roma-Napoli and Roma-Sulmona), reaching also nearest destination as Castelli Romani. Then, there are some pathways crossing the "vector road", connecting radially some neighborhoods (e.g. the neighborhoods of via Tiburtina, via Tuscolana and via Appia are connected by the old "Military road": via di Portonaccio, via dell'Acqua Bullicante, via di Tor Pignattara, via dell'Arco di Travertino; the same role for via dei Fiorentini-via di Tor de' Schiavi-via di Centocelle). Every district has its more significant pathways, e.g. via del Pigneto (formerly the longest "via" of Rome, longer than via del Mandrione, defaced and cut by the urban planning choices of the last 15 years), via della Marranella or via Roberto Malatesta.

Monuments: Porta Maggiore (gateway to the historical city), the aqueducts and the "baker's tomb". Pantanella (first industry outside Porta Maggiore and, then, "monument to the gentrification"). The ATAC (local public transport company) warehouse and the Scalo Prenestino (tram warehouse). Serono (another factory, pharmaceutical, symbol of the industrialization outside Porta Maggiore and, then, of the "commercial-based redevelopment" with the realization of a 4-star hotel in a popular neighborhood). Torrione (most important mausoleum in Rome after Cecilia Metella, crippled by the presence of a building materials storage and sale facility and a gas station). The "Pedestrian Island" (symbol of the struggle of inhabitants to have a "piazza", as well as symbol of gentrification and lack of planning, with the transformation of the beating heart of the neighborhood trade in an area only "movida-based"). The Aquila Cinema (reclaimed from organized crime).

Appendix C: Interviews

The San Leone Magno Church (established by Vatican and Azione Cattolica to stop the socialist and anarchist cultural egemony in the neighborhood, inaugurated by the pope with a symbolic name of a former pope that stopped Attila). The little bridge on the railway (portrayed by Neorealistic cinema, as well as via Montecuccoli, in Roma Città Aperta). The epigraphs in memory of Resistenza. SNIA Viscosa (that was the bigger textile factory of central and southern Italy and, for long time, the bigger factory in Rome, a monument to the struggle for green spaces, an almost 30 years-old experience of self-management and, nowadays, Natural Monument). Villa Gordiani (ruins and park realized in the post-war period). Monuments of the "voids" left by the former "borgate" and "borghetti" (Prenestino e Gordiani, representing the unresolved problem of housing in Rome, connected to the issue of land consumption to build new houses never satisfying the needs).

Nodes: The main ones are Porta Maggiore, Largo Preneste (one of the most polluted spots in Rome), Piazza della Marranella (intersection between via Casilina and via di Tor Pignattara, mobility hub and "cultural crossroad" between all the continents). A future node will be Pigneto station, that is a bet on how to not be overcome by the consequent commercial acceleration.

[Percorsi: strade consolari (via Prenestina e via Casilina) che si diramano da Porta Maggiore a cuneo verso est. Le vie ferrate (Roma-Napoli e Roma-Sulmona) che raggiungono anche le destinazioni più vicine (ad es. Castelli Romani). Poi ci sono una serie di strade che tagliano le due "strade vettori" e uniscono i vari quartieri a raggio (es. Tiburtina-Tuscolana-Appia è collegata con la vecchia "strada Militare": Portonaccio, Bullicante, Tor Pignattara, Arco di

Travertino, stesso discorso per via Fiorentini-via Tor de Schiavi-Centocelle). All'interno di ogni quadrante ci sono le strade più significative, tra cui via del Pigneto (la "via" più lunga di Roma, più lunga di via del Mandrione, deturpata/tagliata dalle scelte urbanistiche degli ultimi 15 anni), via della Marranella e via Roberto Malatesta.

Monumenti: Porta Maggiore (accesso alla città storica), acquedotti e "tomba del fornaro". Pantanella (prima industria fuori Porta Maggiore e "monumento alla gentrificazione"). Deposito ATAC e scalo Prenestino (deposito tram). Serono (fabbrica farmaceutica, simbolo dell'industrializzazione fuori Porta Maggiore e della "riqualificazione a fini commerciali" con un albergo a 4 stelle in un quartiere popolare). Torrione (mausoleo più importante di Roma dopo Cecilia Metella, storpiato dalla presenza di uno smorzio e di un benzinaio, simbolo di un giardino incompiuto). L'isola pedonale (simbolo della battaglia degli abitanti per avere una piazza nonché simbolo della gentrificazione e mancanza di pianificazione con la trasformazione del cuore pulsante del commercio di vicinato in una zona orientata alla sola somministrazione). Il Cinema Aquila (strappato alla criminalità organizzata). Chiesa di San Leone Magno (voluta nel dopoguerra dal Vaticano e dall'Azione Cattolica per fermare l'egemonia culturale socialista-anarchica nel quartiere, inaugurata dal papa con nome simbolico del papa che fermò Attila). Ponticello sulla ferrovia (ritratto dal Neorealismo, così come via Montecuccoli, in Roma Città Aperta). Epigrafi che ricordano luoghi della Resistenza. SNIA Viscosa (più grande fabbrica tessile del centro-sud e per molto tempo la più grande fabbrica di Roma, monumento alla lotta di emancipazione per il fabbisogno di verde, esperienza quasi trentennale di autogestione e oggi Monumento Naturale).

Appendix C: Interviews

Villa Gordiani (ruderi, parco costruito nel dopoguerra). Monumenti dei "vuoti" lasciati dalle ex borgate e borghetti (Prenestino e Gordiani, che rappresentano la cronica e mai risolta problematica abitativa a Roma, associata al consumo di suolo per costruire nuove case che non soddisfano mai le necessità). Nodi: Quelli fondamentali sono Porta Maggiore (attraversamento della città), Largo Preneste (idem, uno dei posti più inquinati di Roma), Piazza della Marranella (incrocio Casilina-Tor Pignattara, snodo di mobilità e "crocevia culturale" tra tutti i continenti). Nodo del futuro è la stazione Pigneto, una scommessa sul come non soccombere all'accelerazione commerciale che ne seguirà.]

4. Are there separate districts within what we think of as Prenestino?

See above, it depends by the frame. Prenestino Labicano comprehends Tor Pignattara, Gordiani, Certosa, etc.; Pigneto comprehends the "Villini", the "Palazzi dei Tramvieri" and other ones.

[Vedi sopra, si può inquadrare in modi diversi. Il Prenestino-Labicano tiene dentro Tor Pignattara, Gordiani, Certosa, eccetera. Andando a scomporre ancora il Pigneto abbiamo i Villini, i Palazzi dei Tramvieri e altri.]

5. How has the neighbourhood changed over the years? What forces were involved?

I will talk about Pigneto. 30 years ago has started a "third phase" for the neighborhood ("first phase": construction 1900-1945 with population expelled from

the city center and immigrant workers; "second phase": second wave of popular immigration from Southern Italy in the post-IIWW period), with the arrival of people coming from the rest of the world, as well as students and artists. This change already caused evictions to raise prices of rentals (beds for immigrant, rooms for students). In the last 15 years the "fourth phase" has been the iper-commodification with a big increase in prices and the speculative sale of precarious houses due to the creation of Pigneto brand in the Pedestrian Island, connected to the new places for creative class. The nightclubs (wine bars, restaurants, etc.) started to substitute the artisans and the proximity trade (dry goods store, grocery, etc.). Here we have the "Pigneto da bere".

All these changes have not been smooth, the pre-existing social fabric has clashed with new arrivals with strong friction. The legal commerce (medium-high cost) brings along an illegal commerce (low-cost), there is a commercial war between nightclubs and 24/7 minimarkets. We have hard social clashes, heroin comes back and, unlike the Eighties, this is for people coming from abroad to buy it ("piazza di spaccio", drug dealing place). The "spaceship" of the 4-star hotel lands in the Pedestrian Island, between the pression to transform it in a boulevard and people reclaiming a free for social relations and the preservation of the local food market. Today, we are in a moment unknown. The "forth phase" comes to a standstill, compared to the next step of a "touristification" that would accelerate with the opening of the new station. Today, in time of pandemics, the tourist sector and the entertainment sector are in trouble.

Appendix C: Interviews

[Parlando del Pigneto: trent'anni fa è iniziata una "terza fase" del quartiere ("prima fase": costruzione 1900-1945 con popolazione cacciata fuori dal centro e lavoratori immigrati, "seconda fase": dopoguerra seconda ondata di immigrazione popolare dal Sud Italia), con l'ingresso di persone dal resto del mondo, studenti e creativi/artisti. Già allora questo ingresso comportava sfratti per aumentare gli affitti (posti letto per immigrati, stanze per studenti). Negli ultimi quindici anni la "quarta fase" è l'iper-commercializzazione con un'impennata dei prezzi e la vendita speculativa di case precarie perché nasce il brand Pigneto sull'isola pedonale, legato ai creativi che aprono spazi. I locali (vinerie, ristoranti, ecc.) vanno a sostituire gli artigiani e il commercio di prossimità (merceria, pizzicarolo, ecc.). Diventa la "Pigneto da bere".

Tutto questo non avviene in maniera indolore, il tessuto sociale presente si scontra con i nuovi arrivati e ci sono delle frizioni forti. Il commercio lecito (costo medio-alto) porta con sé un commercio illecito (low-cost) e c'è una guerra commerciale tra locali e negozi h24. Si arriva a degli scontri sociali forti, ritorna l'eroina (piazza di spaccio) che, a differenza degli anni '80, è legata a chi viene da fuori a comprare. L'astronave dell'albergo a quattro stelle atterra all'Isola Pedonale, tra la pressione di chi ne vuole fare un boulevard e chi spinge per la socialità gratuita e il mantenimento del mercato rionale.

Oggi siamo in un momento incognito. La "fase quattro" arriva a una stasi, rispetto al successivo passaggio di "turistizzazione" che avrebbe accelerato con l'apertura della nuova stazione. Oggi, con la pandemia, il settore turistico e quello del consumo sono sotto scacco.]

6. What activities or associations help express community character?

There is a very active social context. I can talk about my commitment in the Pigneto-Prenestino Neighborhood Committee, in the Ex Snia Social Center and in projects they have generated, last of which the Park of Energies Forum. They express community character because they are composed by people living in the neighborhood and in these years have had an influence in the transformation of the neighborhood, determining some steps with the resistance and obtaining, in the context of the transformations, something as the "piazza" of the Pedestrian Island, the public service of L'Aquila cinema, a park, a presidium of sport and culture (ex Snia), the diffusion of a critical thinking enabling to escape war between the poor, etc.

[C'è un tessuto associativo abbastanza fitto. Posso parlare dell'impegno che ho portato avanti nel Comitato di Quartiere e nel Centro sociale Ex Snia e nei progetti che hanno generato, ultimo dei quali il Forum del Parco delle Energie. Esprimono il carattere della comunità perché sono composti da persone che vivono il quartiere e hanno in questi anni influito una trasformazione del quartiere, determinando alcuni passaggi con la resistenza e strappando, all'interno delle trasformazioni, ottenendo ad esempio la piazza dell'isola pedonale, il cinema pubblico L'Aquila, un parco, un presidio che fa sport e cultura, la diffusione di un pensiero critico che permette di sfuggire alla "guerra tra poveri", ecc. ecc.]

Appendix C: Interviews

7. What are some of the strengths and weaknesses of the neighborhood?

Strengths: ability of inhabitants to self-organize, recognizing themselves in a history (working class struggles, antifascism and later emancipation struggles).

Weakness: mediocre local ruling class, with a local party apparatus stuck in electoral logic leading not to identify together with the inhabitants the contradictions, in order to invest in a planning for the real needs of people and opening the doors to speculation of all kinds.

[Forza: capacità di autorganizzazione degli abitanti, che si riconosce in una storia (lotte operaie, antifasciste e nelle successive lotte di emancipazione). Debolezza: classe dirigente locale mediocre, apparato partitico di zona incastrato in logiche elettoraliste che hanno portato a non individuare insieme agli abitanti le contraddizioni per investire in una pianificazione che andasse verso i bisogni reali e aprendo le porte alle speculazioni di ogni tipo.]

GUIDED QUESTIONS

1. Can you explain the work you do with Ex Snia? What responsibilities do you have?

The work is to build, through participation and social relations, an active subjectivity able to take hold of its own existence. For instance, I can talk about the realized and ongoing projects regarding sport (e.g. Polisportiva Lokomotiv), art and culture (e.g. theatre,

the annual event Logos Festa della Parola), history (e.g. Archivio Viscosa), mobility (e.g. Ciclofficina), childhood (e.g. Ludofficina kindergarten and summer camps), food (e.g. vegetable garden, buying group, Eat!Up festival), popular celebrations (e.g. Carnival, Spring Festival), etc.. My responsibility is to commit myself directly inside a collective that is recognized in a horizontal assembly that decides objectives, structures and priorities.

[Il lavoro è costruire attraverso partecipazione e relazioni sociali una soggettività attiva che sappia prendere in mano la propria esistenza. Ad esempio, posso parlare dei progetti realizzati riguardo lo sport con la polisportiva Lokomotiv, l'arte e la cultura con il teatro, l'evento annuale Logos Festa della Parola, la storia con l'Archivio Viscosa, la mobilità con la Ciclofficina, l'infanzia con la Ludofficina e i centri estivi, le feste popolari del Carnevale e Primavera, il cibo con gli orti, il gruppo d'acquisto e il festival Eat!Up, ecc.). La mia responsabilità è quella di impegnarmi in prima persona dentro un collettivo che si riconosce in un'assemblea orizzontale che decide obiettivi, strumenti e priorità.]

2. How did your work with Ex Snia start?

I started to work with Ex Snia as university student, proletarian and activist in a local and national network ("Sprigionare") reclaiming freedom for political prisoners of the Seventies.

Appendix C: Interviews

[In quanto studente universitario, proletario e militante nella rete cittadina e nazionale "Sprigionare" per la libertà dei detenuti politici degli anni '70.]

3. Who do you work with? What are the general demographics of the group (age, education, etc)?

A heterogeneous composition by personal political path, geographical provenience and age.

4. What are the biggest barriers to progress for Ex Snia?

Apart from ourselves (with out many limits), the biggest barrier is the range of fire of capitalism in assaulting our lives.

[A parte noi stessi (i nostri non pochi limiti), sono la portata di fuoco del capitalismo nell'aggreire le nostre esistenze.]

Appendix C: Interviews

Interview with Alessandra of Torpignattara

Interview and Translated Notes by Greg Smith

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Her family comes from Trastevere, but she has lived in Torpignattara for about ten years. I asked her general questions about this part of Rome.

The broader location of Torpignattara is Roma Est, a vibrant working-class part of Rome which stretches from Via Casilina down to Via Tuscolana. Beyond Via Casilina is Roma Nord, with a much different urban and social character. To the south of Via Tuscolana is Roma Sud, essentially a high-income area. Roma Est is contained within the territory of two municipi. She likes this area, it has a rich social life. The contrast is with middle-class areas of Rome which are tranquil, but that tranquility is disturbing (angosciante).

Pigneto is generally understood to be the small triangle, but it really goes far beyond. She is familiar with Borgata Marranella, but no real trace remains today. Via di Acqua Bulicante was once a dynamic part of the city, and an important facility was Cinema Impero, now in the process of being reclaimed after years of abandon. Her father, who lived in Trastevere, used to come out this way in the 1960s to enjoy the vibrant atmosphere.

Pigneto is changing. She mentioned the Ex Pasta Factory Pantanella. It was occupied by immigrants until about 2000 when it was redeveloped. Today it houses mostly expensive flats of a small size, about 45m² each. The small size encourages younger couples, who are unlikely to become permanent residents. This development choice

means that the base of local residents is shrinking and characterized by high turnover. That is the reason why some older residents of Pigneto feel threatened, and talk about the problem of drugs and the like.

Colli Albani is part of Roma Sud, a well to do neighborhood (borghese). Its strongest attraction is the Via Appia Antica and the park. She says that once this was a mixed neighborhood, including public housing owned by the city of Rome in Via Carlo Cipolla. These units have since been privatized. She describes these as red colored houses of large dimensions. The borgate were also famous. But now the area is uniformly middle class.

The velodrome is famous in local memory. There is a restaurant which still uses the name, Osteria al Vecchio Velodromo in Via Genzano 139.

She appreciates the Caffarella park, but rarely goes, because she has to take a bus to get there. The park she uses is Villa de Santis. She knows about the GRAB, but says that Rome is not really made for bicycles. She supports bicycle transport, but says the city must develop this form of transport much more.

