The Valletta Design Cluster is a legacy project of the 2018 European Capital of Culture. When finished, the building will serve as a catalyst for innovation, meeting rooms and conference facilities for seminars, workshops and adult learning, a food space, studios for long-term tenants, a new public garden covering the full roof space of the building. The Valletta Design Cluster will also have its own practitioners in residence spaces, with two apartments that can double up as international project labs for visiting creative practitioners, makers and researchers. Following a three-year process of community engagement in the development of the concept and in-depth analysis of the needs of the sector, as well as interaction with various communities that constitute the living link between the vibrancy of Valletta’s past and future, the major works on the conversion of the Old Abattoir site into the main base of the Valletta Design Cluster took off in 2017. The project’s strategic objective is to contribute to the urban regeneration efforts being carried out by government in the main residential, commercial and industrial area of Valletta, and specifically to improve social, cultural and economic well-being through investment in improved cultural infrastructure that generates new common spaces for the community to interact, as well as sustained economic activity and employment.

The site of the Old Abattoir (Il-Biċċerija l-Antika) in Valletta has been identified for regeneration and conversion into the Valletta Design Cluster. The Old Abattoir is one of Valletta’s earliest buildings, but has undergone many changes since its first use as an abattoir in the 17th century. The building was used as residences and the site of the marketplace and tannery. Despite evidence on site to this day, although earmarked for housing improvement in the latter part of the 20th century, the identified interventions never took place and the building has stood in an advanced state of disrepair for the past decade.

The Valletta Design Cluster is a community space for cultural and creative practice, situated in the renovated Old Abattoir (Il-Biċċerija l-Antika) in Valletta, and focusing on design, entrepreneurship and social impact. It supports and promotes user-centred design as a catalyst for innovation, and as a multi-disciplinary approach that can create positive impacts for communities and individuals.

The Valletta Design Cluster is a legacy project of the 2018 European Capital of Culture. When finished, the space will include dedicated resources and areas for co-working, a fully-equipped makerspace, meeting rooms and conference facilities for seminars, workshops and adult learning, a food space, studios for long-term tenants, and a new public garden covering the full roof space of the building. The Valletta Design Cluster will also have its own practitioners in residence spaces, with two apartments that can double up as international project labs for visiting creative practitioners, makers and researchers. Following a three-year process of community engagement in the development of the concept and in-depth analysis of the needs of the sector, as well as interaction with various communities that constitute the living link between the vibrancy of Valletta’s past and future, the major works on the conversion of the Old Abattoir site into the main base of the Valletta Design Cluster took off in 2017. The project’s strategic objective is to contribute to the urban regeneration efforts being carried out by government in the main residential, commercial and industrial area of Valletta, and specifically to improve social, cultural and economic well-being through investment in improved cultural infrastructure that generates new common spaces for the community to interact, as well as sustained economic activity and employment.

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