

unfuse

**CONQUER**

Design an LGBT Resource Center  
<https://competitions.uni.xyz>



Img 1: A snapshot from a Pride Walk/ March/ Parade, celebrating the social and self acceptance, achievements, legal rights of LGBTQ+ persons.

## Premise

The last two decades have seen enormous strides in terms **social perceptions and policies** concerned with the rights of the LGBTQ+ community in several countries around the world, some positive, some negative.

However **major challenges** remain on a global level. Approximately 80 countries still criminalize LGBT relationships one way or the other, and several others deny even the most basic rights and dignity.

This includes the right to **assembly, expression and information**, and **discrimination in employment, health and education**.





Img.3: Image representative of the stigmatization and the criminalization that the LGBTQ+ community is subject to.

## Issue

Why are people being subject to stigmatization, discrimination, violence and even criminalization because of their sexual orientation and gender identity?

**Do our attitudes mirror our experiences? Are they formed by cues that we pick up from our immediate environment?**

Could this be the reason for the largely seen negative perceptions about the LGBT+ community? Is this due to a lack of visibility or rather due to the visibility of warped representation?

**How do we go about creating an informed society?**

How do we make sure our youth have access to information and resources and access to a non-judgmental community space which takes into account their life, health, and well-being?

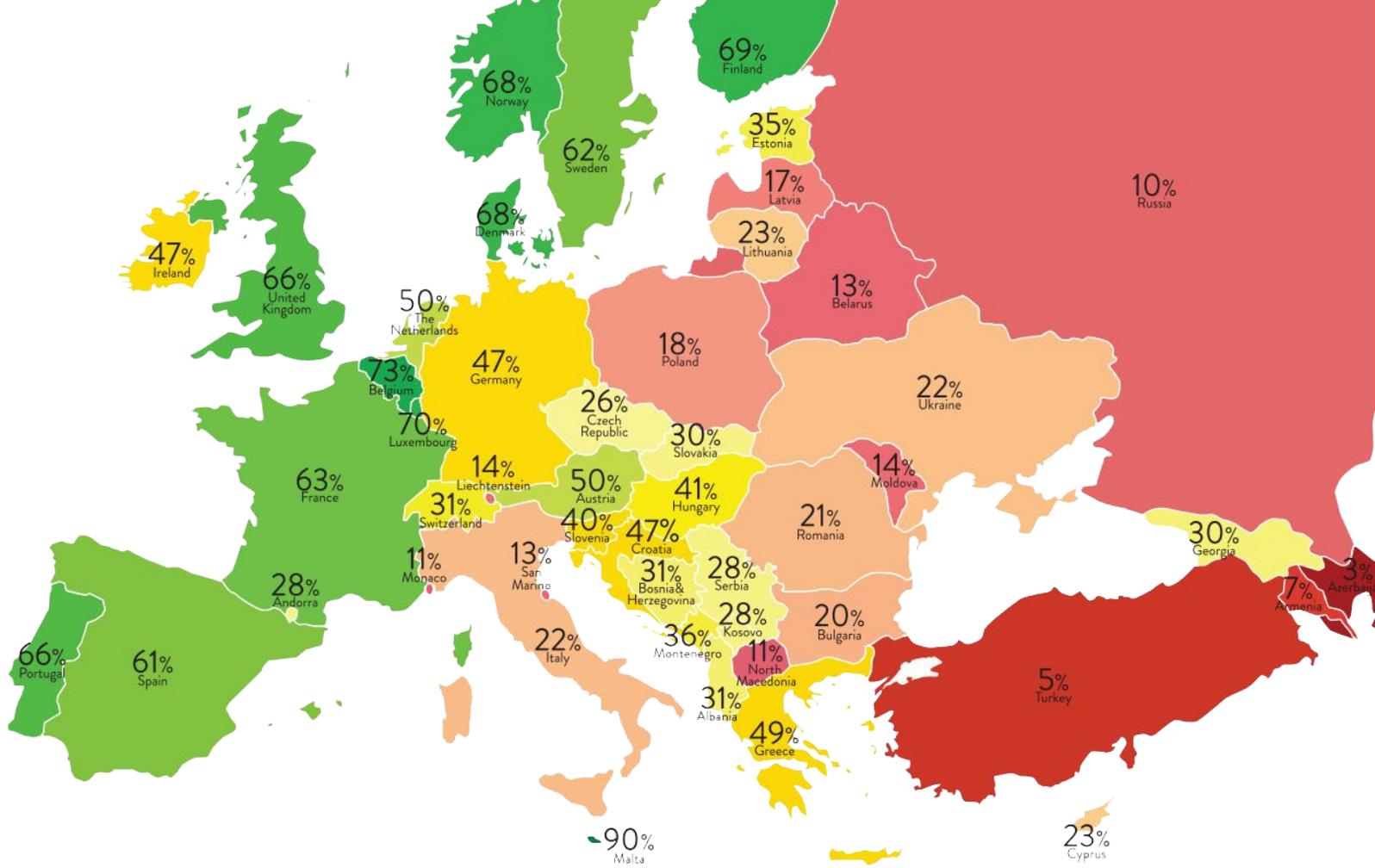


img 4: Image representative of the complete support that the LGBTQ+ Community has from its home city. In this particular case Utrecht, Netherlands.

## Context

Despite Europe's reputation for being known as a champion of LGBT rights, the perception of the LGBT community and their rights **vary diversely across the continent**.

In an annual study ([the Rainbow Index](#)) by the [ILGA - Europe](#), 49 nation states of Europe were ranked against each other assessed based on their perception and attitude as well as laws and policies governing the LGBTQ+ community.

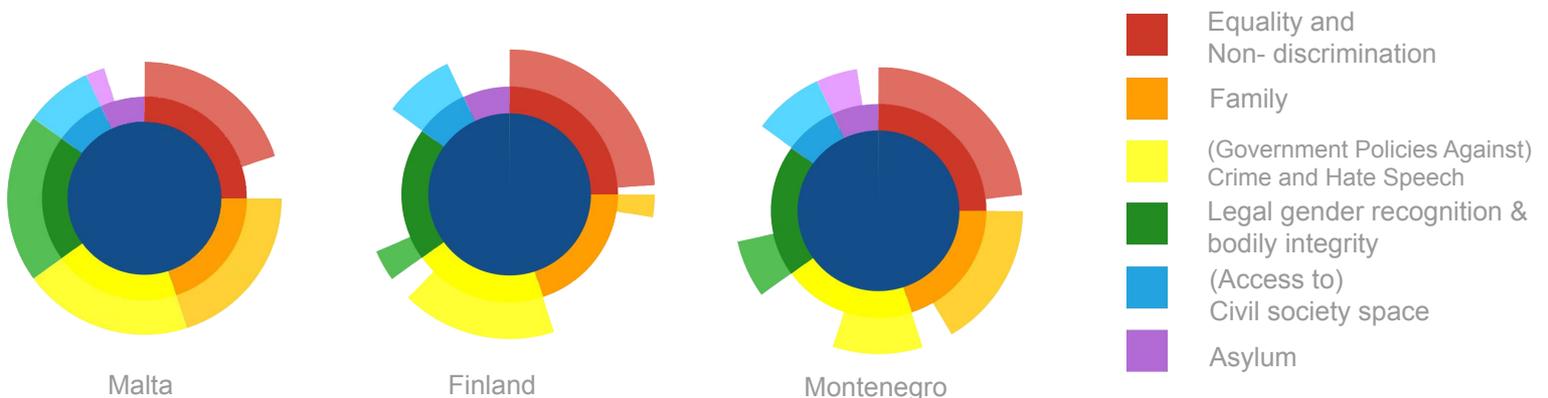


img 5: Image reflecting the legal and policy human rights situation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, intersex people in Europe.

Placed at **No.01**, **Malta** scored an average **90% across the categories of Equality and Non-discrimination(80%), Family(100%), (Government Policies Against) Crime and Hate Speech(100%), Legal gender recognition & bodily integrity( 100%), (Access to) Civil society space (100%) and Asylum (33%).**

By comparative study we can see, even though Malta has most of its policies in place, it still lacks significantly in the equality & non-discrimination sector, contradicted by both Finland and Montenegro.

Below Malta on the Rainbow Index, Finland and Montenegro, both record a lower reading with respect to policy but have a significantly better score when it comes to equality and non-discrimination.





[Img 6: The Center, Long Beach, California. Source](#)

**While legal rights are an important measure of how any country treats its LGBT citizens, it is only one measure of broader social acceptance and of realities faced by the community.**



Img.7: Image representative of how visual art and the built form can be used to communicate with the community.

## Brief

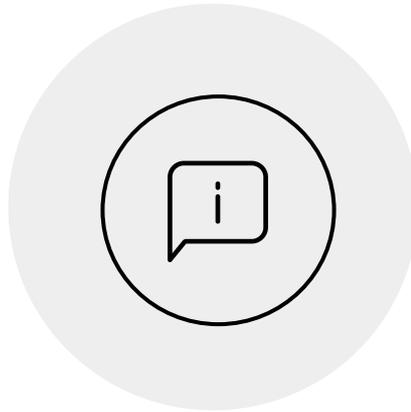
Understanding that many LGBT+ persons run the risk of discrimination and violence on a daily basis, due to misinformed and prejudiced community, peers and family, can design be a solution that this issue seeks?

**Design challenge:** Use the built form as a narrative to design a community space which informs and sensitizes the public, and becomes an affirmative safe space where LGBT+ youth have access to resources, information and support.



### **Impact and Inform**

The builtform form should be a reflection of the programmes intent and function.



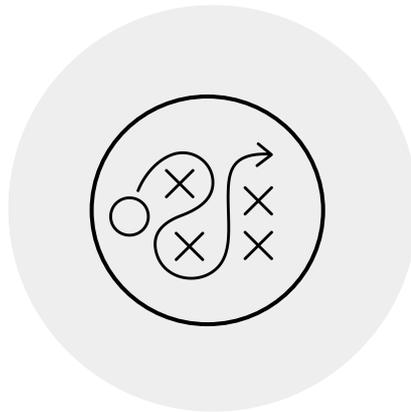
### **Crossroads**

Experiment and explore a variety of styles, material and medium.



### **Community**

Create an affirmative community space to share and learn from experiences, and find resources, support and encouragement.



### **Context**

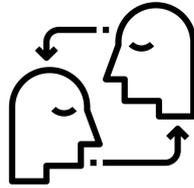
Design should be reflective of the local contexts, thereby creating a sense of belonging and community.

## **Objectives**

The following objectives can be a point of beginning to conceive this design. Participants can assume their own contexts and users before initiating their design process.

### Sensitize

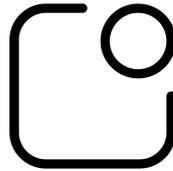
Pavilions, lecture halls,  
workshops



30%

### Access and Inform

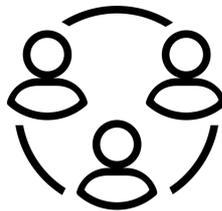
Legal and medical services,  
Crisis intervention services,  
Counselling/ therapy services,  
Education and  
Employment services



30%

### Community

Flexible Indoor and outdoor  
community spaces,  
Performance spaces



30%

### Services

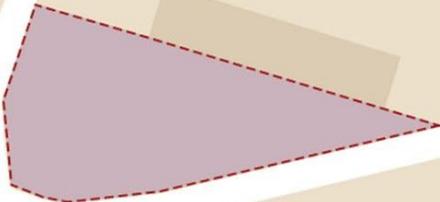
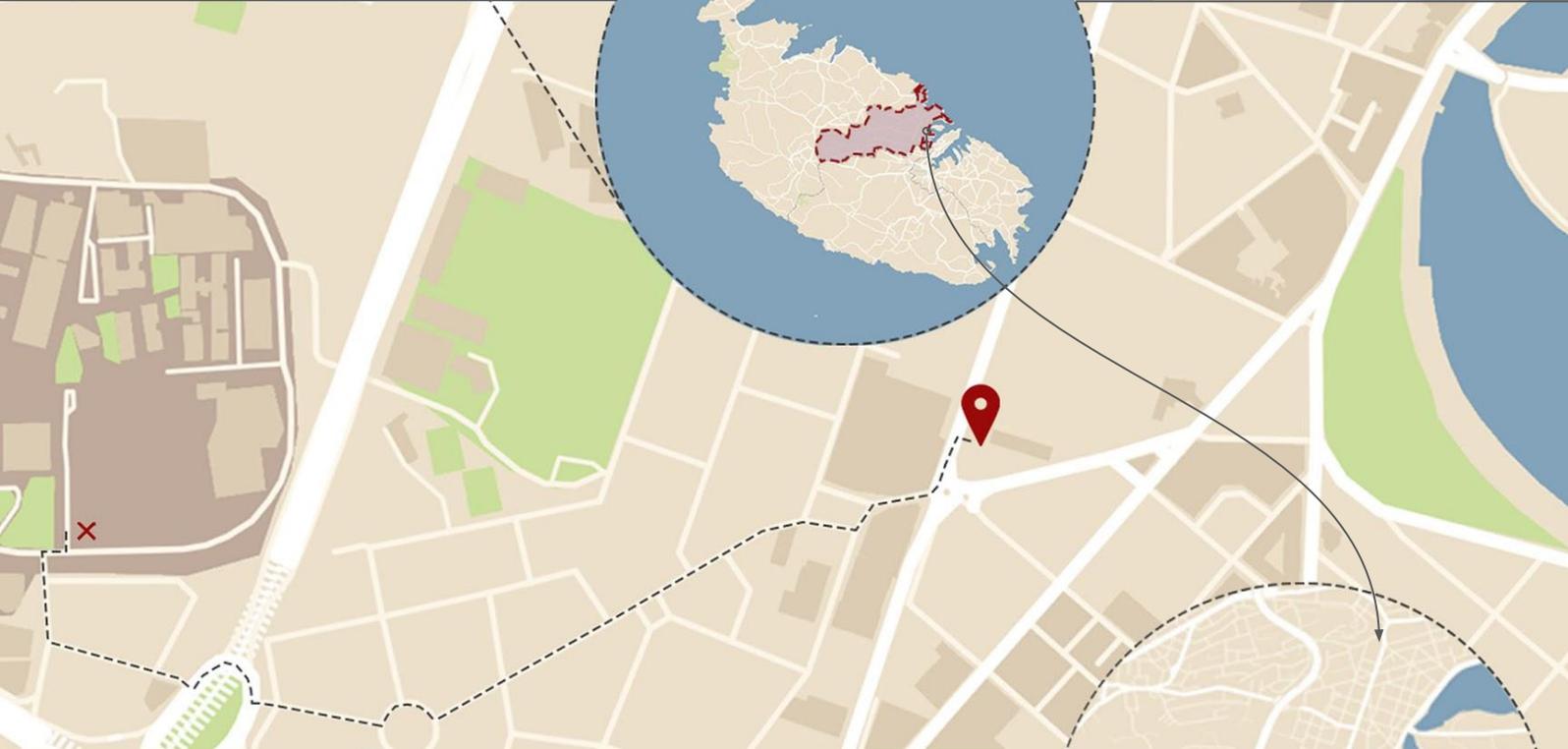
Kitchen, Dining, Maintenance,  
Administration



10%

## Programmatic Outline

A programmatic outline intended to host about **75 people at immediate expense** with a floating population of about 120/150 people is recommended for this challenge. Participants are recommended to craft a schematic programme based on these given segments or they can propose something new altogether.



**Gżira**

Gżira, Northern Harbour District  
Malta





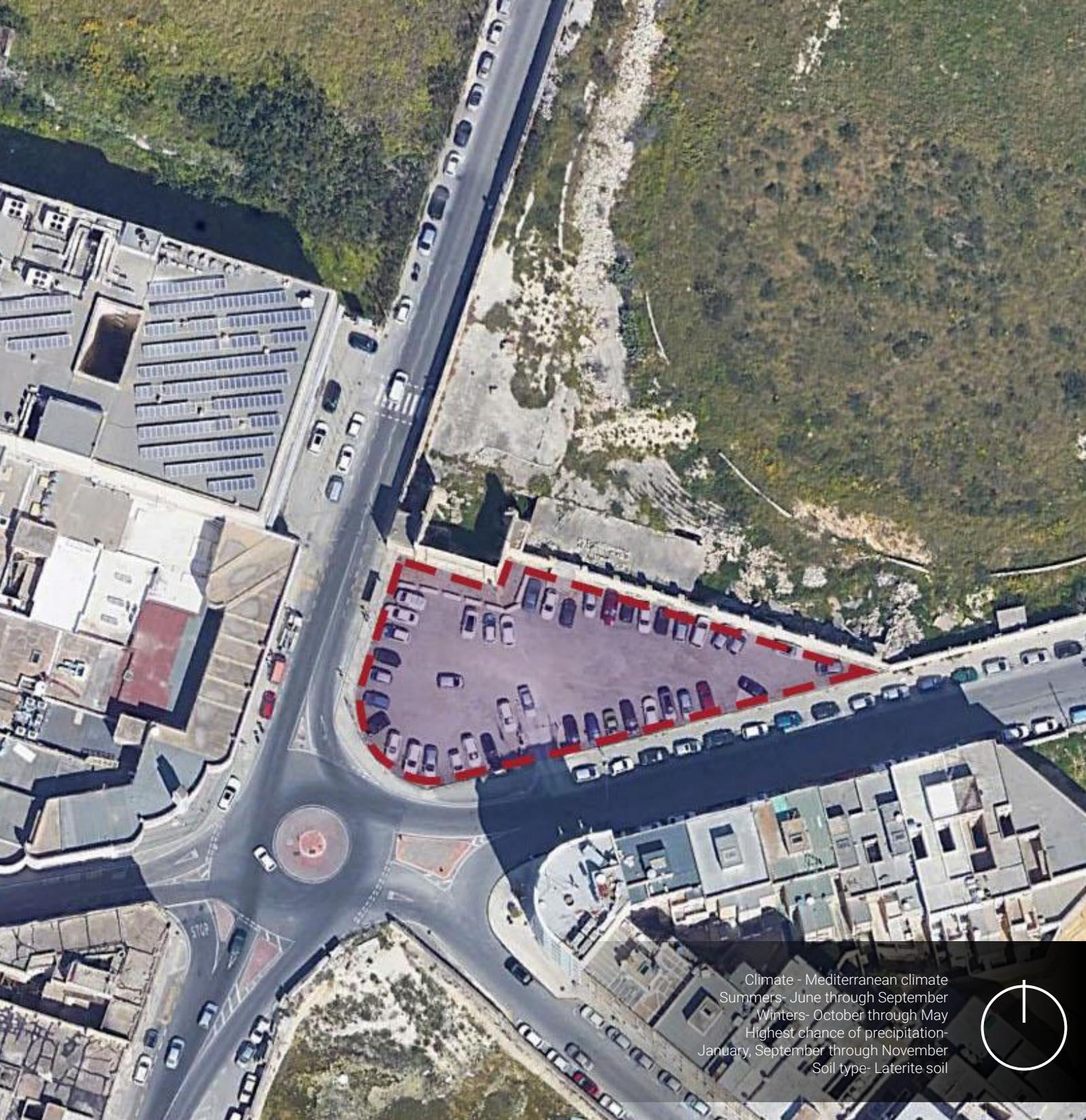
Imd 8: Image representative of Malta's North Eastern Coast. Source: MSC Cruises Belgium

## Location

A Southern European island country in the Mediterranean, **Malta** is one of the smallest countries in Europe. Recorded as a naval base, Malta is teeming with history and takes you back to the Neolithic era (4th millennium BC) and has had a succession of foreign administrative powers including the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Crusaders, the French and the British.

Located in the North Eastern coast, **Gżira** is a small town sandwiched between **Msida** and Sliema, in the Central Region of Malta, with views of the walled city of Valletta (Country Capital). Developed as a working class neighborhood, it is well connected to the rest of the island, including all the major towns.

**Msida on the other hand is** a university town today, seeing its origins as a fishing village, reclaimed from the sea after World War II, growing to keep up its thriving student community (of the University of Malta and G.F. Abela - Junior College).



Climate - Mediterranean climate  
Summers- June through September  
Winters- October through May  
Highest chance of precipitation-  
January, September through November  
Soil type- Laterite soil

img 8: Image representative of site boundaries.

## Site Plan

At a distance of 800 m from the University of Malta, the site conveniently sits at a junction, it's visible front, accessibility (to the nearby university town and the well frequented seafront) and the demographics of its neighbourhood, its most important asset. Adjacent to it the old Empire Stadium, Gżira (which is no longer in use, having been replaced by the Ta' Qali National Stadium).

FAR 0.1 | 995.271 sq m | [35°54'05.8"N 14°29'30.5"E](#)

# Guidelines

You have to deliver an architectural outcome on the following site, based on the given outlines.

- Recommended number of sheets/presentation images/boards:

**5 (Five)** of size [ **2362px x 3544px** ] or [ **400mm x 600mm in 150 dpi** ] in portrait digital format (**JPEG only**).

**Minimum 3 (Three) & No maximum sheet limit.** Each image should be less than **15MB**. (Do not submit PNG format)

**Minimum requisite submission** are sheets/boards + Cover image containing:

- Site plan (Compulsory)
- Key conceptual sections x 1 (Minimum)
- 3D views x 4
- Cover image / Thumbnail of size 2000px x 1000px or larger in aspect ratio 2:1.
- Answering 6 FAQ's.#

#The FAQ's have to be answered as instructed in the FAQ document in the 'additional resources folder'.

# Deadlines

Discover the competition schedule and deadlines on the competitions page or on this link - [Schedule](#).

# Resources

This competition contains additional resources that will help you complete the design process quickly. This folder is made available on your profile [dashboard](#) as soon as you register.

**This additional resources folder of this competition contains:** Submission Format files in PSD | AI | InDD, FAQ Questions, High Res maps, and CAD file of the site plan.

# Rules

+ The competitions is open for **students and professionals** from all the disciplines of design.

+ The team limit for this competition is **4 members maximum per team**.

+ You can register more than one team but they have to be registered separately.

+ Ensure that the final sheets submitted **do not include your name or any other mark of identification**. Your submission is linked to your user account which stands as your identification.

+ This is a design **ideas challenge only**. There is no built commission/realization associated with the problem.

+ In case of publication in yearbook we will reach out separately for selected entries.

# Pro-Tips

+ Use exploded views to discuss multi levelled conceptual models better.

+ Mention sheet number on corner of every sheet.

+ Plagiarism of any idea / form / design / image will be disqualified with a notice.

+ All the sheets or images will be viewed on a digital device. **e.g.** Laptop screen or projector. Uploaded sheets or images will not be physically printed for evaluation. The submission hence should be prepared for digital viewing only.

+ Submit JPEG images only. (PNG will not function)



## Awards

Grants of up to a total of **20,000\$** can be won on this challenge. Learn more about the full conditions on the competition page [here](#).

The entries will be judged by an international jury of the competition on the following criteria:



### **Presentation**

The fundamental to a good entry is a good presentation.



### **Concept/Idea**

Quality of thought and intent in pre-design phase.



### **Spaces/Programme**

How the spaces are calculated and ordered.



### **Design Outcome**

The final architectural outcome of the solution.

## **Judging Criteria**

The judging panel can also add other criteria based on their internal discussions - which will be in line with the problem statement. Participants are advised to fulfil above given criteria first in their design.

About

# unfuse™

**Unfuse** serves as a unit for **Uni** in the field of Architecture. It intends to break the fusion of traditional design barriers and methodologies by making it a platform for experimentation and conceptual exchange of ideas in architecture, urbanism, society, culture and ecology. It is a research initiative dedicated to providing opportunities for designers from all domains to explore ideas that go beyond the boundaries of architectural discipline and enrich our built environment; thereby opening up possibilities for promotion of architectural thought at a global level.

Queries: [support@uni.xyz](mailto:support@uni.xyz)

Discover other competitions: <http://competitions.uni.xyz>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/unidesigntogether/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/uni.xyz/>

Discover FAQ's about this competition on our help forum here: <http://help.uni.xyz/>

# Challenging Prejudice through Design

