

GIORGINO

SITE

The outlying district of Giorgino, together with those of Pirri and Poetto, belongs to the Municipality of Cagliari and lies along the old route of State Road SS 195, right on the outskirts of the Region's capital city, on the coastal strip bordering the Cagliari lagoon.

The village is situated near the Macchiareddu industrial pole, next to a navigable channel of the Cagliari container terminal, in a strategic position with respect to the trade and leisure boating routes between Europe, Africa and the Middle East. The area, consisting of a sand bank obtained from excavation of the canal is situated in a zone of special environmental importance, looking towards Cagliari's urban landscape and geographical context: to the north-west it is bounded by the city dominated by the hills and the historic Castello quarter, to the north lie the container terminal and the coastal wetlands framed by the mountains of Capoterra, while to the south-east it is bordered by the sea and the Golfo degli Angeli (*Gulf of Angels*).

About a hundred meters from the Giorgino village, just behind the CASIC sewage treatment plant, on the hill of Cuccuru Ibbas lies one of the most important prehistoric sites of the Cagliari area.

BACKGROUND

The settlement came into being during World War II as a fishermen's village, consisting of a few simple housing units owned by the Council Housing Agency (IACP) some of which have since been purchased by the original inhabitants. While today only about 100 persons - belonging to 35 families - live there, in the past its population at times exceeded 200, leading to the opening of a kindergarten and primary school and the creation of some sports clubs.

Until the 1930s, Giorgino's beach was known as the *beach of the 'Cagliaritani'*, but subsequently pollution of the Santa Gilla wetlands made it almost impossible to frequent it, and furthermore led to a serious crisis in activities linked to fishing; these were factors in depopulation and indeed culminated in closure of the schools.

In particular in the 1960s, the years of the *Piano di rinascita* (regional economic development plan), the arrival of industry – firstly the SARAS Refinery with construction of piers for the off-loading of crude from the tankers, and subsequently the Container Terminal – altered the island's environmental conditions. The container terminal divided the beach and the road into two parts, which were both enclosed by the new road leading to the Sulcis area.

NOTABLE FEATURES

The Church of Sant'Efisio

Just outside the village, in the direction of Pula, stands the 17th century Church of Sant'Efisio, whose layout together with the adjacent buildings forming the sacristy, the shelter for the coach and some rural houses attached to the main house, all arranged round an inner courtyard. This historic complex, which has been renovated, is privately owned and since 1657 it has been opened to the public when the procession of Sant'Efisio, patron saint of the city, passes by. In particular, on 1 May the church hosts the ceremony of divesting the Saint of his fine clothing and precious jewels and their replacement with simpler garments for

his journey to Nora. At the same time, the 18th century coach is exchanged with a sturdier one known as the 'country coach', held throughout the year in an annex to the Chapel. On 4 May, the reverse ceremony takes place when the Saint returns to Cagliari and his Church of Sant'Efisio.

Giorgino Beach

The beach of La Playa and Giorgino together with the wetlands behind it – in part used as port areas, in part forming the salt-making and evaporation sections of the Macchiareddu salt pans – represent a vast, complex system. The numerous human interventions, such as construction of the Rumianca industrial pier and of the Container terminal piers, together with the road network crisscrossing the area, have undoubtedly contributed to alter coastal dynamics.

The port infrastructures, wharfs and buildings have modified the drift currents in the littoral zone, creating new areas of erosion and accumulation, whose most noticeable examples are withdrawal of the shoreline, the alteration of the dune system to the rear of the beach and chemical pollution phenomena.

Transformations in progress

For several years now, the entire seafront from Giorgino to Poetto has been involved in a transformation and rehabilitation process targeting the city of Cagliari as a whole. The last in order of time is the "**Piano d'assetto dell'avamposto di levante**" (*Plan for the reconfiguration of the eastern outer harbour*). Drawn up in 2006, it hinges on conviction that respect and promotion of the environmental qualities of these places will provide added value to high-profile activities such as boatyards constructing medium to large pleasure boats. Thus, this plan sets out a system linking production activities with extensive leisure areas and commercial and cultural exhibition facilities, as well as facilities for comprehensive services. This plan is intended both guarantee the vitality of the area day-long and season-through and enable the Giorgino fishermen's village to be closely connected with the overall system (for additional details, see the attached project report).

CONTEXT

Cagliari is situated in southern Sardinia, bordered to the south by the Golfo degli Angeli, to the east by the Sette Fratelli mountains, to the west by the mountains of Capoterra and to the north by the Campidano plain. As to morphology, the territory stretches over an area of the Campidano alluvial plain, sheltered by Mount Sant'Elia, and lies in the middle of a system of wetlands and salt pans – Santa Gilla (3,000 ha in area) and Molentargius (17.6 km²), recognized as protected wetlands ("Wetlands of International Importance" pursuant to the Ramsar Convention and a nature reserve pursuant to Regional Law 31/89) – which flank the city to the west and the east.

The whole area is served by SS 131, the "Carlo Felice" highway which links Cagliari to the rest of the island and SS 195 linking it to the eastern coast of Sardinia.

This hamlet is just a few minutes drive from the railroad station linking the city to Sassari, Porto Torres and Olbia, and the airport of Elmas.

THEME

Proximity to industrial plants and the container terminal, the presence of an environmental area of significant importance, the historic church of S.Efisio: all these elements mark the Giorgino context, a fishermen's

settlement which at the present time, due to the 'cutting' of its link to the shore to make way for the container terminal, has been isolated from – and almost forgotten by – Cagliari with the exception of two times a year – the fishermen's feast day and the S. Efisio procession.

An area surrounded by the sea and the wetlands and marsh system, marked by the directrix of the canal and container port, which on the one hand possesses specific environmental characteristics and on the other great potential in a framework for future economic and logistical development plans and programs.

Possible themes to be addressed include the rehabilitation of the village, paying special attention to public spaces and the possibility of setting up temporary structures for the traditional 'fish feast' – organized by the fishermen themselves every year in the second week in September – and enhancement of its strong link with the sea, by creating structures for future use of the beach (taking account of frequent flooding due to the strong south-east sirocco wind), with the wetlands of Santa Gilla and the city, onto which open panoramic views of notable points in the urban landscape. Another theme worth looking into, in view of plans for the repositioning of road 195 and the creation of nautical services (as foreseen in the above mentioned Reconfiguration Plan) addresses a new access route, the provision of tourist accommodations and improvement of residential facilities in support of the activities of the container terminal and product processing industries which over time will settle in the area, considering the possible relocation of heavier industrial activities from the adjoining area.

Proposals should refer to the goals, guidelines and criteria of the RLP. The present suggestions provided are in no way binding to competitors who are free to supplement and integrate them with other considerations deriving from the study of the village and its relations with the surrounding context.

