



SHAPING GREENER AND LIVELIER URBAN SPACES: HOW COMMUNITY VOICES ARE TRANSFORMING THE VIGNE NEIGHBOURHOOD IN CESENA

Urban regeneration becomes **truly powerful** when it combines the ideas, needs, and creativity of **residents, local businesses, and community associations**.

In September, more than sixty local residents, representatives from associations, and community stakeholders gathered at **Circolo Arcobaleno** for a participatory workshop to exchange their experiences and aspirations for the Vigne area in Cesena. The meeting generated a rich variety of proposals and concerns aimed at revitalising local public spaces.

Organised by **Cesena Municipality**, coordinated by the **University of Bologna (TRACE Team)**, and facilitated by the local association **AIDORU**, the workshop sought to collect community input to inform the design of a temporary installation in the Vigne area – specifically in front of the north entrance of the station, near Circolo Arcobaleno.

This temporary transformation will test new uses for the space, paving the way for possible permanent improvements. The site holds strategic importance: it connects two project areas (Vigne and Stazione), acts as the north gateway to the station, and offers potential synergies with Circolo Arcobaleno's activities. It can also make the **Sopra Secante park** more vibrant, serving both commuters and residents.

KEY INSIGHTS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Spaces for All Generations

Participants expressed a strong desire for green, welcoming recreational spaces open to everyone – from open-air libraries and community gardens to play areas and venues for art, sport, and festivals. They envisioned “spaces of aggregation for all”, where children, young people, and older residents can come together for bottom-up activities and social connection.



Safety and Accessibility

Safety after dark and collective care of public spaces emerged as top priorities. Residents highlighted the need for better lighting, shade during summer, clean and well-maintained equipment, and inclusive play areas. They also called for stronger transport connections – including cycling and pedestrian access – and improved mobility for commuters and people with disabilities.

Community Governance

Participants emphasised the importance of being directly involved in how public spaces are managed. Suggestions included digital message boards, feedback totems, and collaborations with schools, associations, and businesses – all tools to nurture a living, transparent, and connected community

“A Place for All”

As one resident shared during the workshop:

“
We want a neighbourhood
where nobody asks, ‘Is it
dangerous to live here?’
Instead, it should be a place
for all – welcoming both
children and grandparents for
events, play, and sharing.
”

The ideas that emerged – from vintage street markets and park events to greening projects and night walks – place the community’s voice at the heart of renewal. Together, these proposals aim to make the area safer, better connected, and unmistakably *theirs*



FROM IDEAS TO ACTION

The insights gathered will guide the **design strategy** for the temporary installation, developed through a **co-design and self-construction workshop** involving students from the Faculty of Architecture, supported by expert mentors. The goal is to create a **small, lightweight structure** that can host new uses of public space – to be tested for about a year before considering permanent transformation.

The co-design workshop will take place in **December**, with completion planned for **late spring**. In parallel, students from one middle school, one primary school, and one high school in the area will contribute creative ideas through dedicated activities as part of the participatory process.

BUILDING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

As this process unfolds, the temporary installation will serve as a **testing ground** for new ways of using and sharing public space. By prototyping activities and arrangements, the project lays the groundwork for sustainable, inclusive, and community-driven regeneration.

This collaborative approach demonstrates how urban transformation can be **meaningful and rooted in local realities** – turning shared visions into tangible improvements that enrich both the social and environmental fabric of the Vigne neighbourhood.



WeGenerate

Cesena Local Circle

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