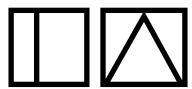


# Fort St Elmo regeneration







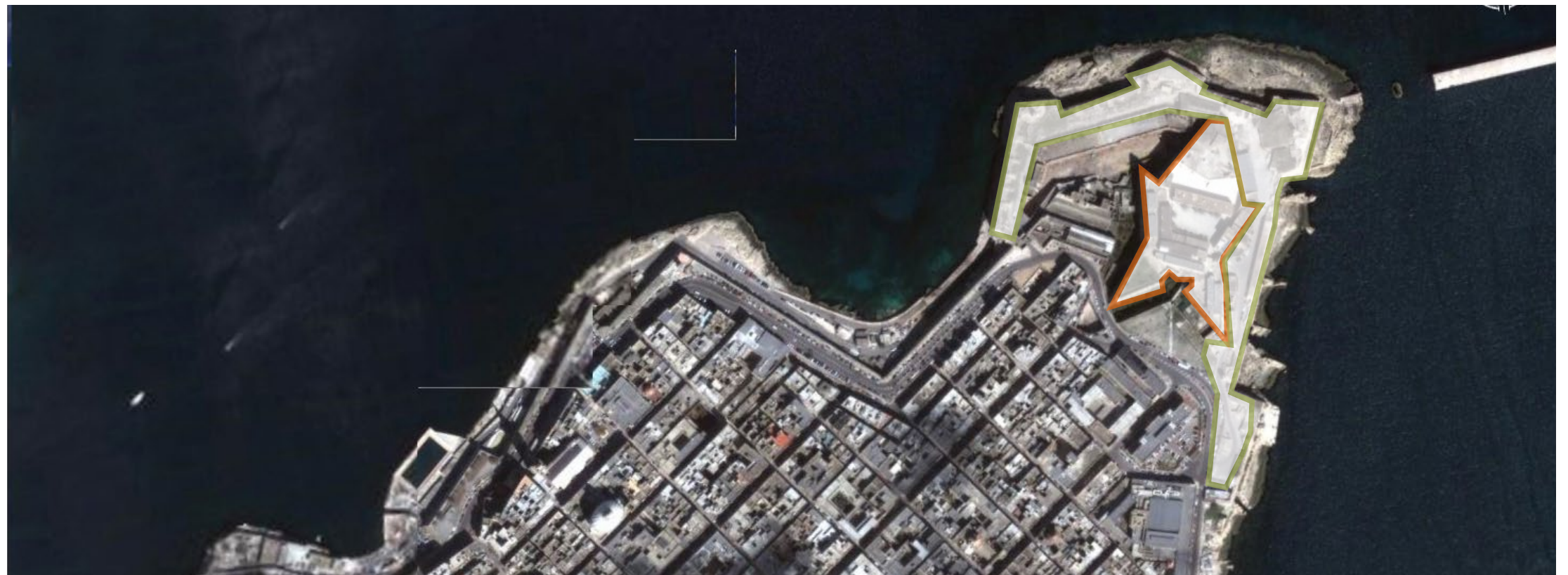


# Project description

Works started in the summer of 2009 when, with a large group of staff and architectural students, D+A embarked on an extensive study of the state of the Fort and the Caraffa Bastions. Fort St Elmo had been used as the Police Academy for many years whilst parts of the Caraffa Bastions was used as a store for material by Valletta Rehabilitation Project. This meant mounds of hardstone slabs, deteriorated statues, paving blocks and other building material haphazardly strewn all over the area. Part of the original timber drawbridge of the original Valletta Gate (which is presently in the Fortification Museum at Biaggio Steps) was found under a steel corrugated shed.

The project was divided into two phases, the first being the original Fort St Elmo and the second being the surrounding Caraffa Bastions starting from the Malta Conference Centre up till the War Museum. The whole complex still includes a phase, commonly called Lower St Elmo which was not restored. This section includes another Piazza D'Armi, the Pinto Barracks, the two large wells and the Officers' Quarters, together with the ditch.

GHRC acted as the Client and a Project Manager was engaged. DeMicoli and Associates acted as the lead architect whilst an Engineering company was engaged to design the mechanical and electrical systems. Two restoration tenders were issued, one for the Fort and one for the Caraffa. Another tender was issued for the infrastructure and landscaping works.



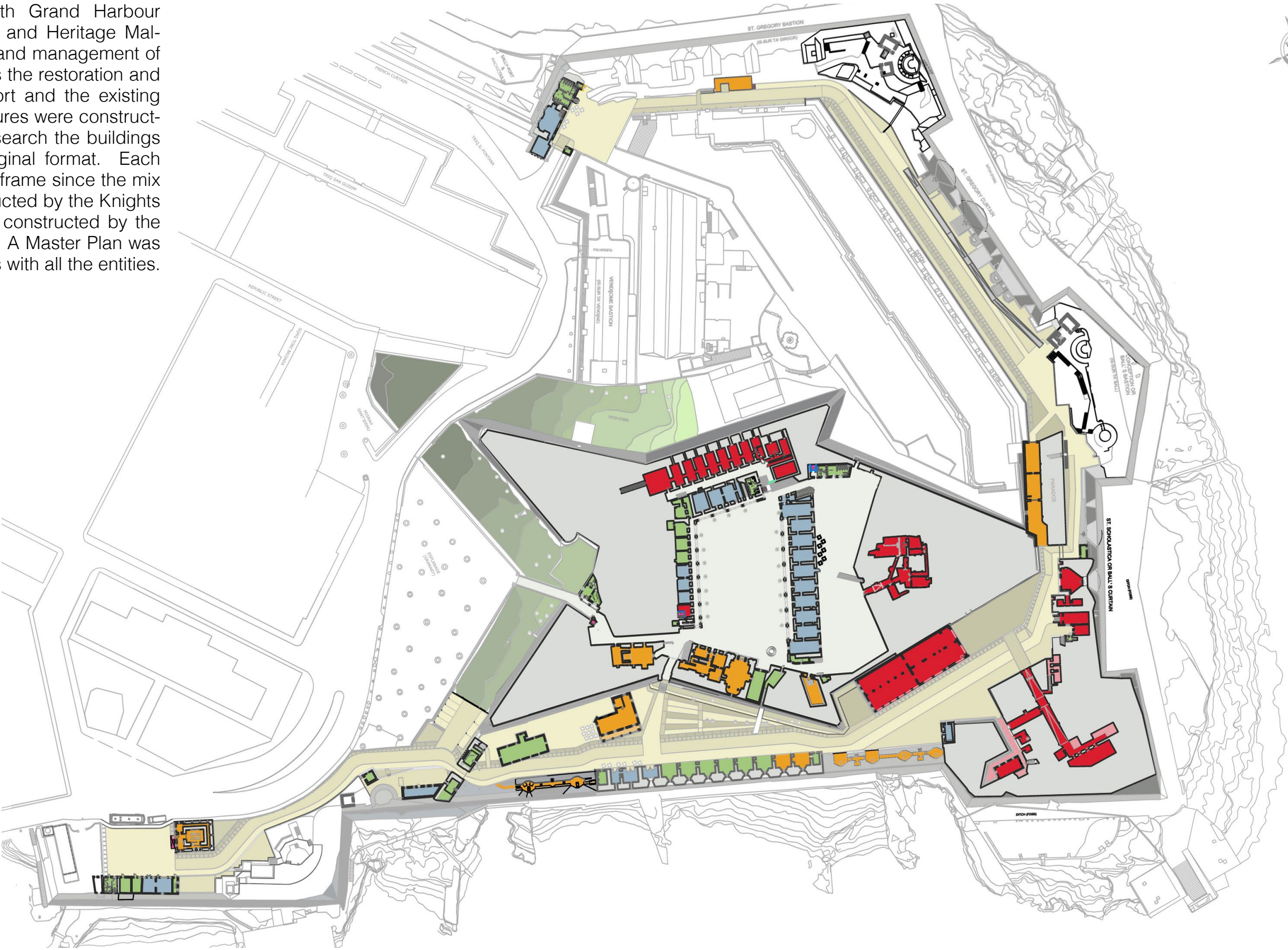






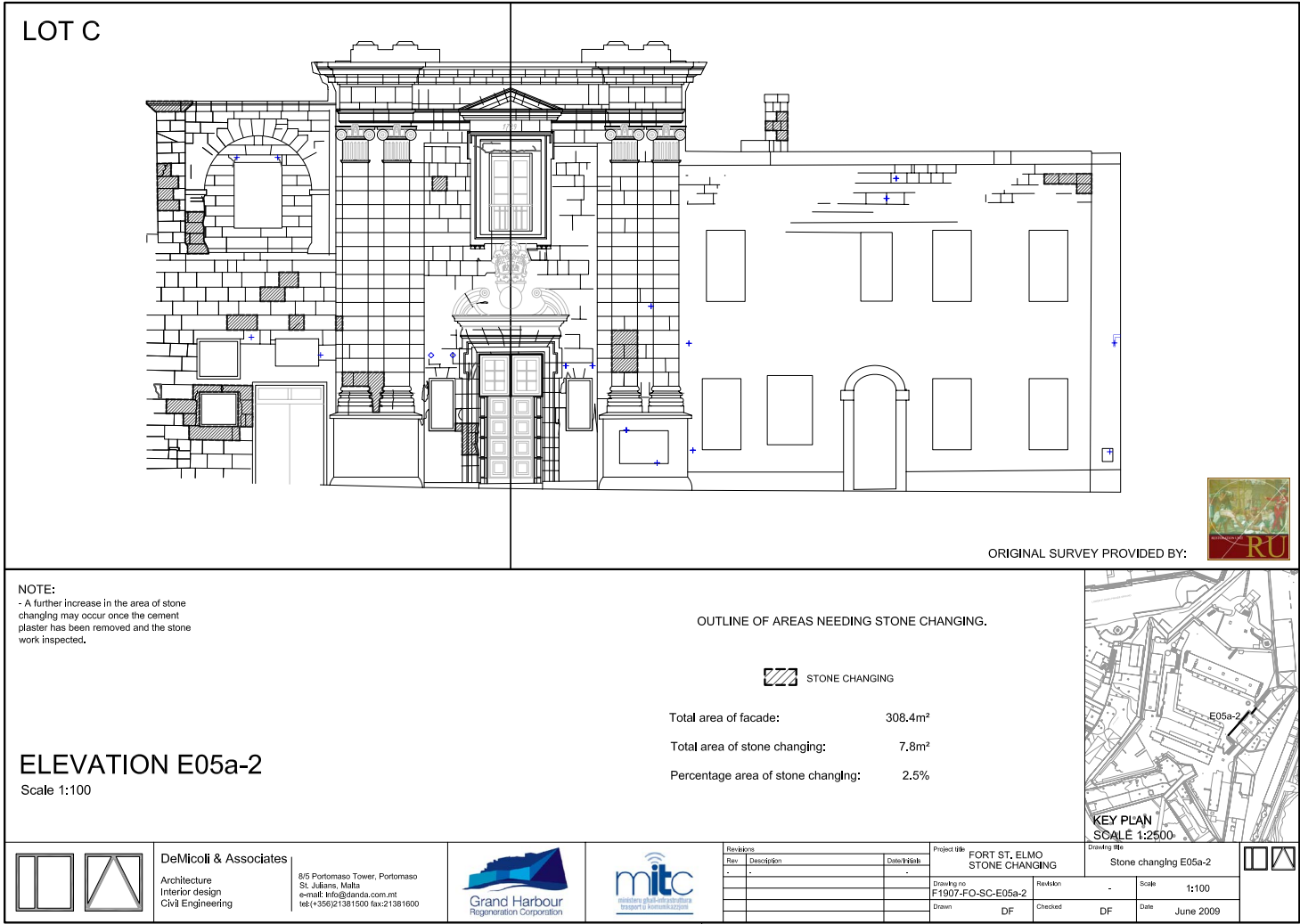
# Master Plan

Discussions occurred with Grand Harbour Regeneration Corporation and Heritage Malta about the organization and management of the Site. The concept was the restoration and adaptive re use of the Fort and the existing structures. No new structures were constructed and after extensive research the buildings were restored to their original format. Each block had a different time frame since the mix between what was constructed by the Knights of St John and what was constructed by the British had to be exposed. A Master Plan was prepared after discussions with all the entities.





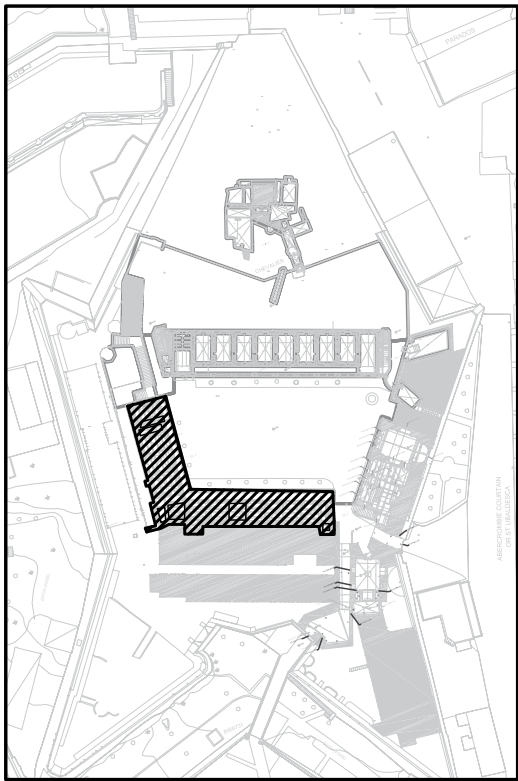
# Mapping & Stone changing



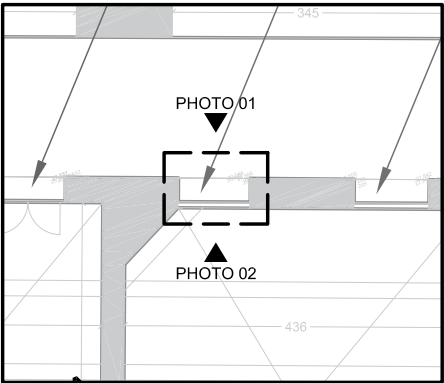


# Aperture schedule

Another extensive survey was made regarding the timber apertures. Each and every door and window was catalogued, measured and photographed from inside and outside. In the large majority of cases the existing and mostly original timber apertures were retained and restored. The same situation arose with steel elements in the apertures – steel grills, steel doors, hinges and locks etc. The concept was that original steel features were retained and restored as much as possible.



KEY PLAN



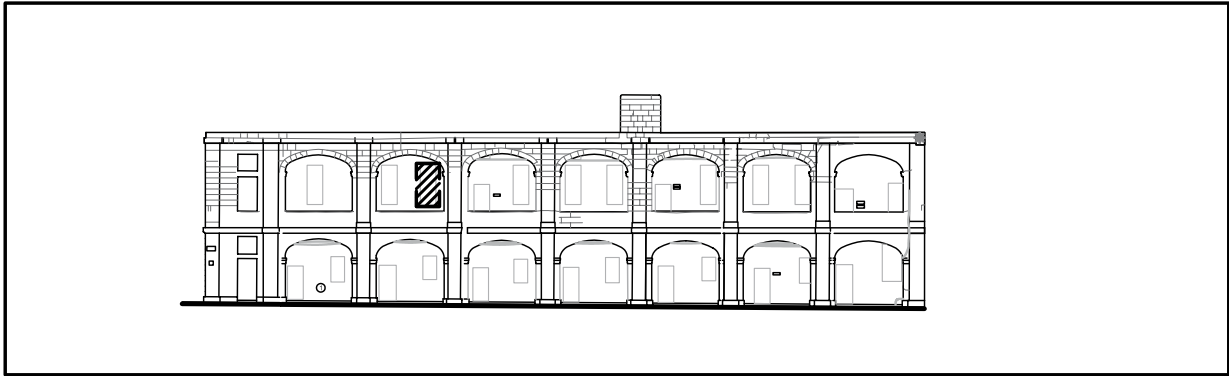
WINDOW DETAIL



PHOTO 01



PHOTO 02



ELEVATION

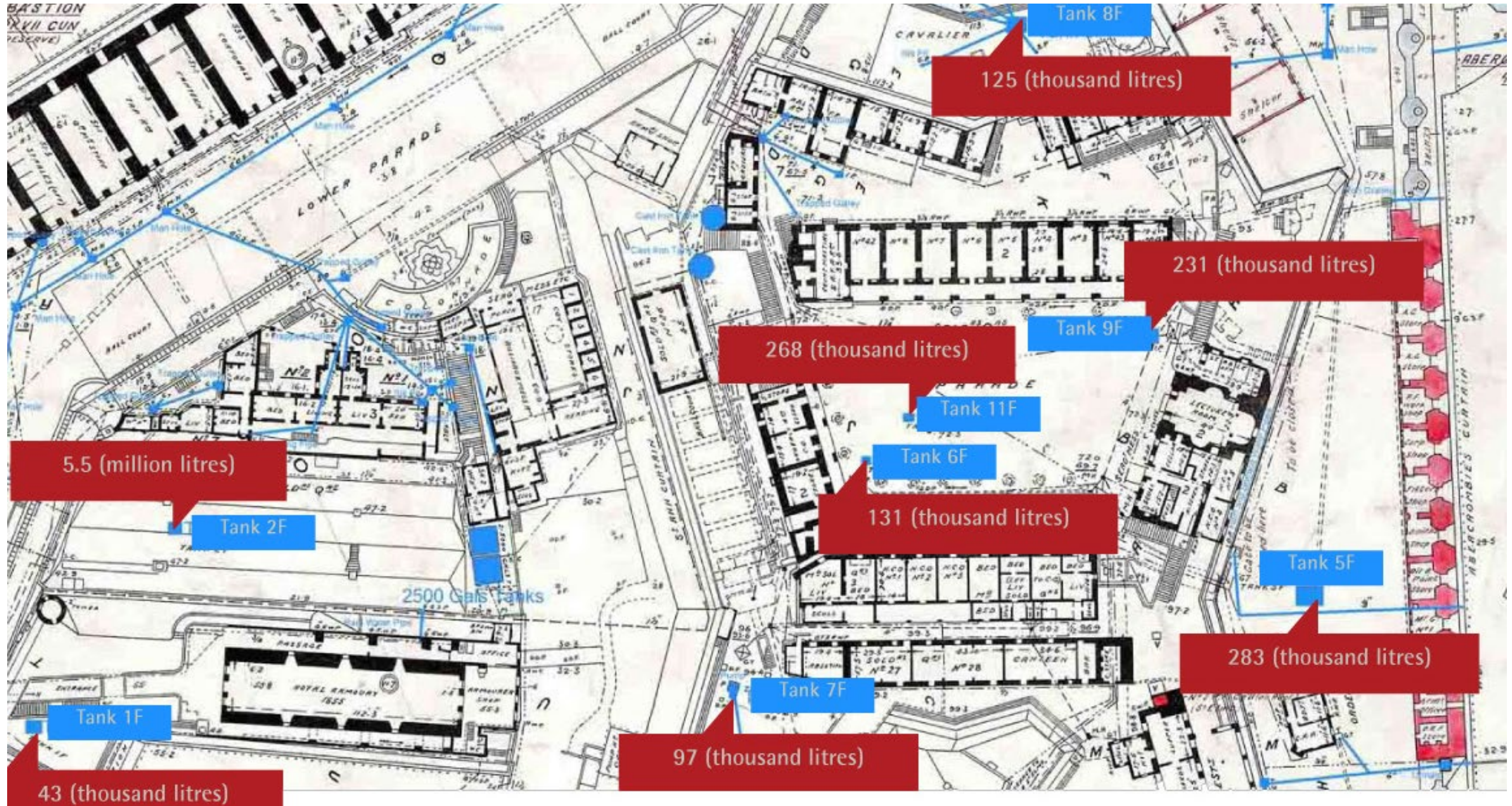
REFERENCE	WIDTH	HEIGHT	MATERIAL	TYPE
FO-DF03-D-W01	920	1980	TIMBER + GLASS	DOUBLE-LEAF PANELLED

365 apertures in the Fort, mostly with 3 layers, some dating to the 18th century, the time of Mondion.





# Historical research



A historical analysis was carried out which involved not only a study of the historical on-going but also a study of how the individual blocks of the Fort changed in time. We even visited Kew Library in the UK where British services plans (like this one depicting the location

and size of water reservoirs) were located and photographed. These plans gave us an insight knowledge of the rainwater and black water system; most of which was re used where this was found to be still functioning.





Discovery of a large number of graffiti on the walls.





# Discovery of an underground chamber

We discovered an underground chamber in the Piazza D'Armi which could possibly have acted as a Sally Port.





Before and after

















# Today



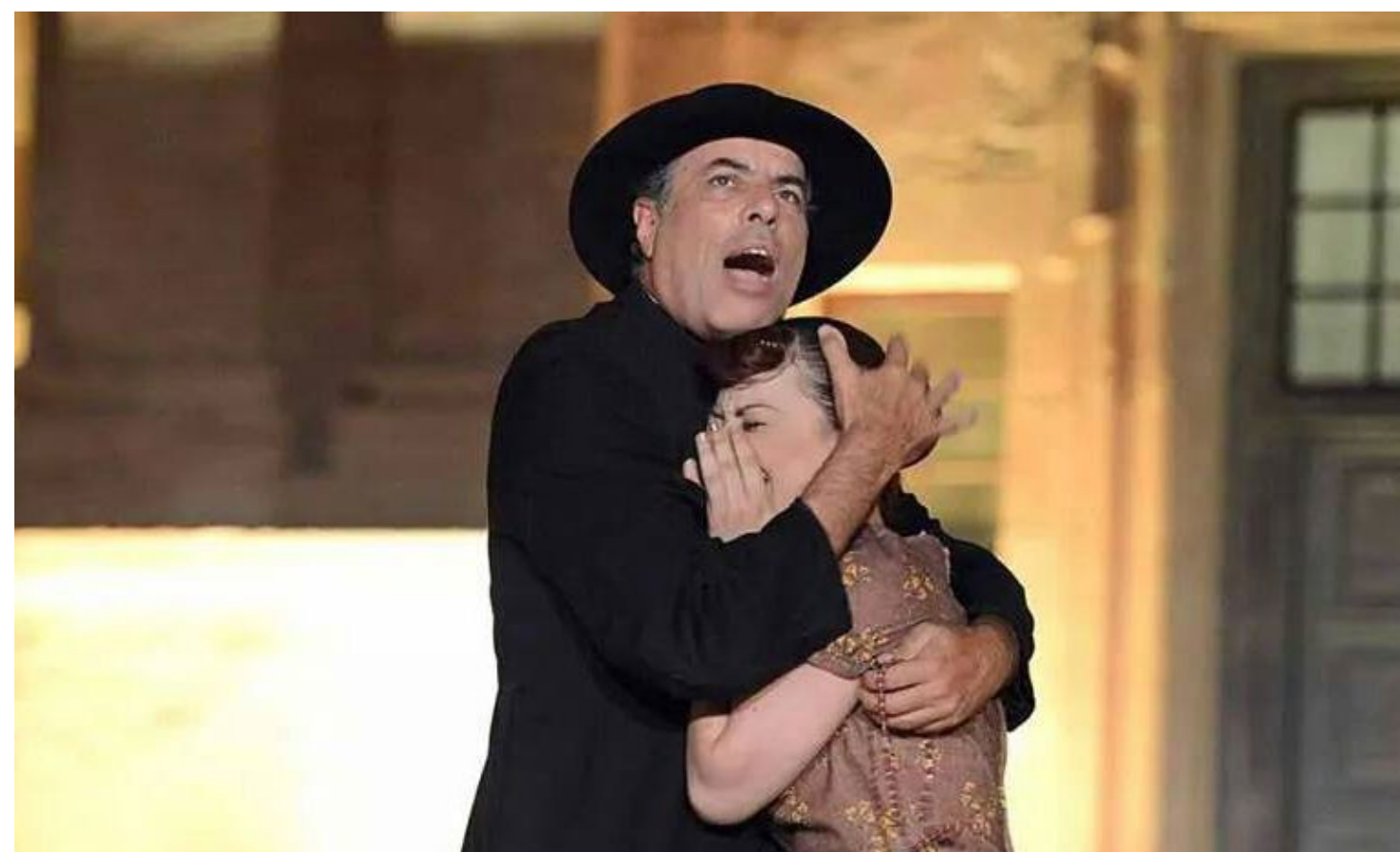
The Fort St Elmo is aimed to be accessible to the general public besides the visitor of the Military Museum. The Caraffa Enciente is to become a public walkway extension to the walk around the Valletta bastions. The Piazza

D'Armi is also to be accessible to the general public with a restaurant and some small shops or "suq". Use of the Piazza for concerts, public activities, military parades and similar activities have already started to be held.



DeMicoli & Associates







Thank you