

Largo Barrache appears to be a vacuum in the city of Naples, located within densely populated grid of alleyways the "Quartieri Spagnoli" or Spanish Quarters, built in the 16th century according to the wishes of Don Pedro de Toledo to create a dormitory district for the Spanish troops.

The Spanish Quarters is a right-angled labyrinth, hemmed in between two main streets, via Toledo (which constituted the former wall of the ancient city) on its east side, and Corso Vittorio Emanuele on its west side. Due to their mediocre construction, the excavated Spanish Quarters reveal their deterioration and morphological complexity, which cannot be fully appreciated in its historical contexts as they are juxtaposed against the chic and refined business district.

One of the main efforts of Largo Baracche Project is to relaunch the urban and the socio-economic development of this part of the city by restoring the preexisting architectural features and morphology of its facades in order to cultural activity.

The rediscovery and the redevelopment of Largo Baracche, as well as its remaining bunker, by the city council of Naples in 2001 was considered to be (although it was later abandoned) one of the cornerstones of the European Community program of urban renewal known as URBAN, which was founded to "promote long lasting improvements of living conditions in cities, especially of the poorest and most socially degraded districts".

Largo Barrache aims to transform an unused space in the heart of the ancient city - until recently little more than a buried cellar or cave while evoking the cultural richness of the Neapolitan catacombs - into a truly modern "place of art" that nurtures itself with the hidden sources of life that can be reclaimed by a new generation from the city's past and present.

This is an action of resistance to the commercialization system of the arts, developed and conceived in the local territory, but crossing over its borders, creating parallel and interrelated paths and leading to cooperation, sharing and exchange.

Cultural development occurs when different realities encounter one another, operating in different contexts but originated by the same essential requirements: artistic experimentation, innovation, diffusion of a single code of meanings and motivations; the creation of a bridge that joins in a dialectical way with different centers of cultural expressions, but strongly connected by the necessity of elaborating upon a single but participating consciousness; a democratic and universal meaning of recording the different experiences of life, through arts, in the modern world.