



CALL TO

ARTS

#FLORENCECALLING

**CALL FOR IDEAS
TO DESIGN URBAN
FURNITURE TO
IMPROVE THE
SAFETY OF OUR
CITIES**



1. INTRODUCTION

Recent terrorist attacks in European cities like Barcelona, London, Nice and Berlin have hit peaceful citizens and tourists as they inhabit squares and community spaces in our cities.

The purpose of these attacks is to brutally discourage us from enjoying open and beautiful spaces such as our squares: material spaces of cultural and social exchange that are expression of our immaterial heritage and values; the very values that fundamentalist terrorism wants to erase.

Security and composure must be conveyed in response to the obscure sense of hate that terrorism wants to disseminate.

Safety of these spaces is in fact urgent and opportune.

Yet, we must not give terrorists the satisfaction to succeed in impoverishing the beauty, the social and cultural vitality of thousands and thousands European squares. We can not allow due security measures to transform thousands of European public spaces into gloomy areas full of anxiety and overloads of barriers and cement blocks.

For these reasons, the City of Florence - after having promptly taken security measures to secure its own public spaces - **intends to study and propose innovative solutions that will transform security devices into urban green decorative elements and high quality street furniture.**

To this purpose- and following the indications of CPOSP (Provincial Committee for Order and Public Safety)¹ -the City of Florence, in partnership with the Prefecture and the Florence State Police Headquarters, in agreement with the representatives of Firefighters and all Police Forces, the Provincial Superintendence, the Association of Architects, Architecture and Design Schools, the School of Agriculture and the Associations of Plant Nurseries, Agronomists and Forestry Corps - intends to promote a **call for ideas - addressed to business companies, schools, designers, creatives and professional firms - for the making of new generation - passive defence systems to protect sensitive targets, which can be able not to compromise but on the contrary to improve the aesthetics and urban quality of public spaces in the historical centre of Florence and of other cities.**

¹The Provincial Committee for the Order and Public Safety of Florence, after a deepened monitoring of the existing passive defence system in the municipal area, agreed on the need to adopt further passive defence measures. These measures, combined with the precautionary tools already in place, will have to ensure better protection of existing sensitive sites, with particular reference to the Historic Centre of Florence, and nevertheless providing maximum accessibility to citizens and tourists, in safety

From an initial analysis the opportunity to identify solutions to avoid “a lock over the city” effect emerged, by allowing the transit of rescue vehicles, while ensuring at the same time an increase of the security level. The solutions to be identified should therefore be systems to slow down vehicles’ speed, preventing from access to particularly crowded places.

It has therefore been taken in to consideration the installation of physical barriers to the circulation of the vehicles, such as “anti-breach flower vases”, which are considered more compatible than “new jersey” from an aesthetic point of view, but which must also be equally effective, enabling the circulation of vehicles and ensuring a considerable slowdown in speed.

By integrating with prevention tools already in place, these new passive defence systems will have to ensure better protection of the existing sensitive sites, with particular regard to the urban layout and the extraordinary quality of Florence's Historic Center² and in any case allowing maximum accessibility to citizens and tourists, in safety.

The consultation is primarily aimed to identify solutions to avoid a “lock down the city” effect, enabling rescue units to pass through, but at the same time ensuring an increase of the security level. The solutions to be identified should therefore be systems to slow down vehicles' speed, preventing from access to particularly crowded places.

The traffic bollards and tools of physical hindrance to circulation to make the city safer that Florence intends to make and offer as a suggestion to other cities, will briefly cover the following tasks:

- To ensure **maximum safety and protection** in relation to the risk of attacks, as well as evaluated and defined by CPOSP (see note 1 and items 2.1, 2.2, 2.3).
- To be able, together with security, to operate as **useful elements of urban furniture** (benches, bicycle racks, structures for leisure or rest areas, smart city devices ..) and as community spaces, parking and service areas for citizens and tourists.
- To give, where it's possible and appropriate, the **opportunity to plant trees, plants and vegetation** to foster quality and biodiversity to public spaces; it will be worth considering, for trees and blooms, the possibility of a seasonal replacement of the essences, which could find a final location, after decorating the historic centre and when the emergency phase will be ended, in city gardens.
- To be conceived **in relation to specific types of urban spaces**, so not to obstruct the view of the historic monuments and even to make certain areas of Florence more welcoming and dynamic, by identifying such new “urban rooms” in proximity of monuments (see sections 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3).
- To be thought of **as removable and modular elements** (assembled if possible) so to ensure maximum flexibility in relation to different types of public space to be secured. (see point 2.4).
- to ensure a **sustainable maintenance** as far as costs and frequency are concerned, that will have to be implemented in a continuous and effective way (see points 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7).

² The Historic Center of Florence has been included since 1982 in the UNESCO World Heritage List. The concept of Urban History Landscape has become operational with the Recommendation on the Urban Landscape approved by the UNESCO General Conference in 2011:

“The urban historic landscape is the urban area understood as a result of a historical stratification of values and cultural and natural features that go beyond the notion of” historical centre “or” together “to include the wider urban context and its geographic position. This wider context includes, in particular, topography, geomorphology, hydrology and natural features of the site, its built environment, both historic and contemporary, its infrastructure above and below ground, its open spaces and gardens, land use patterns and spatial organization, perceptions and visual relationships, as well as all other elements of the urban structure, including social and cultural practices and values, economic processes and intangible dimensions of heritage as well as linked to diversity and identity. This definition provides the basis for a comprehensive and integrated approach to identification, observation and management of the historic urban landscape in the framework of a general sustainable development. The approach to the urban historic landscape aims to preserve the quality of the human environment by improving the productive and sustainable use of urban spaces, recognizing their dynamic nature and promoting social and functional diversity. It integrates the goals of preserving urban heritage and those of social and economic development. It is embedded in a balanced and sustainable relationship between urban and natural, between the needs of present and future generations and the legacy of the past. The approach to the urban historical landscape considers diversity and cultural creativity as key resources for human, social and economic development and provides the tools to manage physical and social transformations and ensure that contemporary interventions are integrated harmoniously with heritage in a historical environment and take care of regional contexts. The approach to the urban historical landscape learns from the traditions and perceptions of local communities in the respect of the values of national and international communities. “

2. FUNCTIONAL FEATURES OF NEW PASSIVE DEFENCE ELEMENTS AND URBAN FURNITURE

New passive defence elements and urban furniture will have the main function of slowing down improperly used vehicles aiming to carry out attacks in densely crowded pedestrian areas.

The same elements will have to be arranged on roadways where reduced circulation (pedestrian areas or restricted traffic areas - ZTL) is planned, with stone or asphalt pavements, in proximity of access routes to sensitive points, identified by police forces responsible for security.

The new passive defence elements and urban furniture will be suitably placed to reduce the free section of the same roadway, creating compulsory ways where the trajectories of the vehicles in transit must necessarily be discontinued by driving according to "S" shaped itineraries.

Such placements, however, will have to guarantee the transit at walking speed of rescue vehicles such as ambulances or fire-fighters' trucks.

The performance characteristics to be met are:

2.1 resistance: to resist, while suffering permanent damage, to the impact of a vehicle **class A:** a mass of about 3000 kg at a speed of 100 km / h³ (1)

class B: a mass of about 3000 kg at a speed of 45 km / h

To this end, the choice of materials and shape must be such as to develop a ground friction force capable of dissipating and eliminating (providing effective contrast), through a relative movement not exceeding 20 meters, the kinetic energy of the vehicle in movement that deliberately hits the element;

2.2 stability: to have a shape suitable to prevent overturning as a result of accidental impact of vehicles in transit;

2.3 visibility: be fully visible in daytime and night time hours and with reflective light devices (reflectors);

2.4 movability: to be equipped with hooks (suitable to handle both the resistance class and display, in relation to the shape of the object) for lifting by cranes mounted on trucks, in order to allow rapid shifts without damages that may be needed for the evolution in time of security measures and to comply temporary needs such as events/exhibitions, construction sites, exceptional transports, etc.;

2.5 weathering: to offer suitable resistance to weather conditions to which they will be exposed and to be built as not to modify the normal flow of rainwater on the existing road surfaces;

2.6 no damage to roadway: the supporting surface should be sized as not to cause damage and / or permanent deformations to the roadway;

2.7 transitability of emergency vehicles: the installed street furniture elements will allow the transit of all types of emergency vehicles (ambulances and fire brigade vehicles)

³ it is recalled that the kinetic energy of the vehicle above described is similar to that of a much heavier vehicle than 15,000 kg (150 q.l) which moves at a speed of 45 km / h. Such a vehicle could be a three-axle truck type used for freight, waste collect or road construction sites.

3. TYPE AND LOCATION OF NEW PASSIVE DEFENCE ELEMENTS

The places where these elements should be installed and their dimensions are the starting point, indisputable, of any planning.

Three main types of decor elements derived from the analysis of the sensitive places in the historic centre of Florence⁴:

3.1 Urban Furniture that intercept artistic or scenic views of inestimable value

First case is passive defence systems to be located in via Martelli, via de 'Pecori or via Strozzi; places where, through the introduction of furnishing systems or dissuasive elements of contemporary touch, will increase their vocation of real "urban rooms". The effect can be achieved, for example, by introducing pots with low and bending shrubs and herbs. Furnishings and flowering materials will have not to compete with the landscape or urban areas in which they are installed, on the contrary, they will have to be able to enhance their identity and meaning. All set-ups will be subject to a daily cleaning and maintenance program.

3.2 Urban furniture placed near prominent locations but not interfering visually with main urban landscape

This is the case of passive defence systems for San Lorenzo or Piazza Duomo area, in Via del Proconsolo direction; in these locations dissuasive elements will be next to the monumental area, without intercepting its main front.

In these contexts, it will be possible to intervene with potted trees and systems that will not be limited only to the delimitation of the area but may offer a new identity. Daily maintenance program will be planned in this case as well.

3.3 Urban furniture placed in central locations, but not visually linked to monuments

This is the case - for example - of Via Calzaiuoli, where the dissuasive system effects the entire path allowing you to identify small sitting islands equipped with seats and possibly with some flowerpots and suitable potted trees.

⁴ See attachment with list of sensitive situations in the historic centre of Florence (planimetry of sites identified by the COSP and maximum positioning methods)

4. PUBLIC CALL FOR IDEAS

Ideas and proposals for new elements of street furniture and passive defence must be submitted through **a maximum number of five projects- with a short concept note**, possibly supplied by an estimation of costs, in English language as well (not compulsory), for each kind of proposal.

We suggest to include into the projects, in addition to **details about structures, materials, any possible essence and computer device**, also renderings/visualizations of the **optimal placement** (in relation to sensitive areas of the Historic Center).

Further information may be requested by e-mail:

chiamataallearti@comune.fi.it

Ideas and proposals for new elements of passive defence and street furniture must be sent to the following email address **of the City of Florence:**

chiamataallearti@comune.fi.it

The Consultation is open to individuals and groups of companies, creatives, professionals, designers, schools and **will last for 21 days from the date of publication** on the website of the City of Florence.

Production of projects and proposals will not give place to any payment of production fees or reimbursement of expenses, and are totally on charge of the proposing subjects;

Participation is not an obstacle for those who are proposing to take part in any future projects both of planning, design, development, implementation and management promoted by the City of Florence for the matters concerning the Consultation.

The results will be published on the website of the City of Florence then an appropriate public presentation will be considered.

A specific commission, chaired by Mayor Dario Nardella and Arch. Stefano Boeri, with the participation of representatives of the Institutions who worked together for the writing of this call for ideas, will focus on **evaluating the most effective and innovative proposals and to promote their effective use in Florence and other Italian and European cities** which have expressed interest in combining quality and security.

Firenze.
6 september 2017