

# YMCA Malta Residential Programme

Y Communal Home - Valletta  
Program Kisbet Serġan



The word 'shelter' puts so much emphasis on the roof and physical structure of our residences



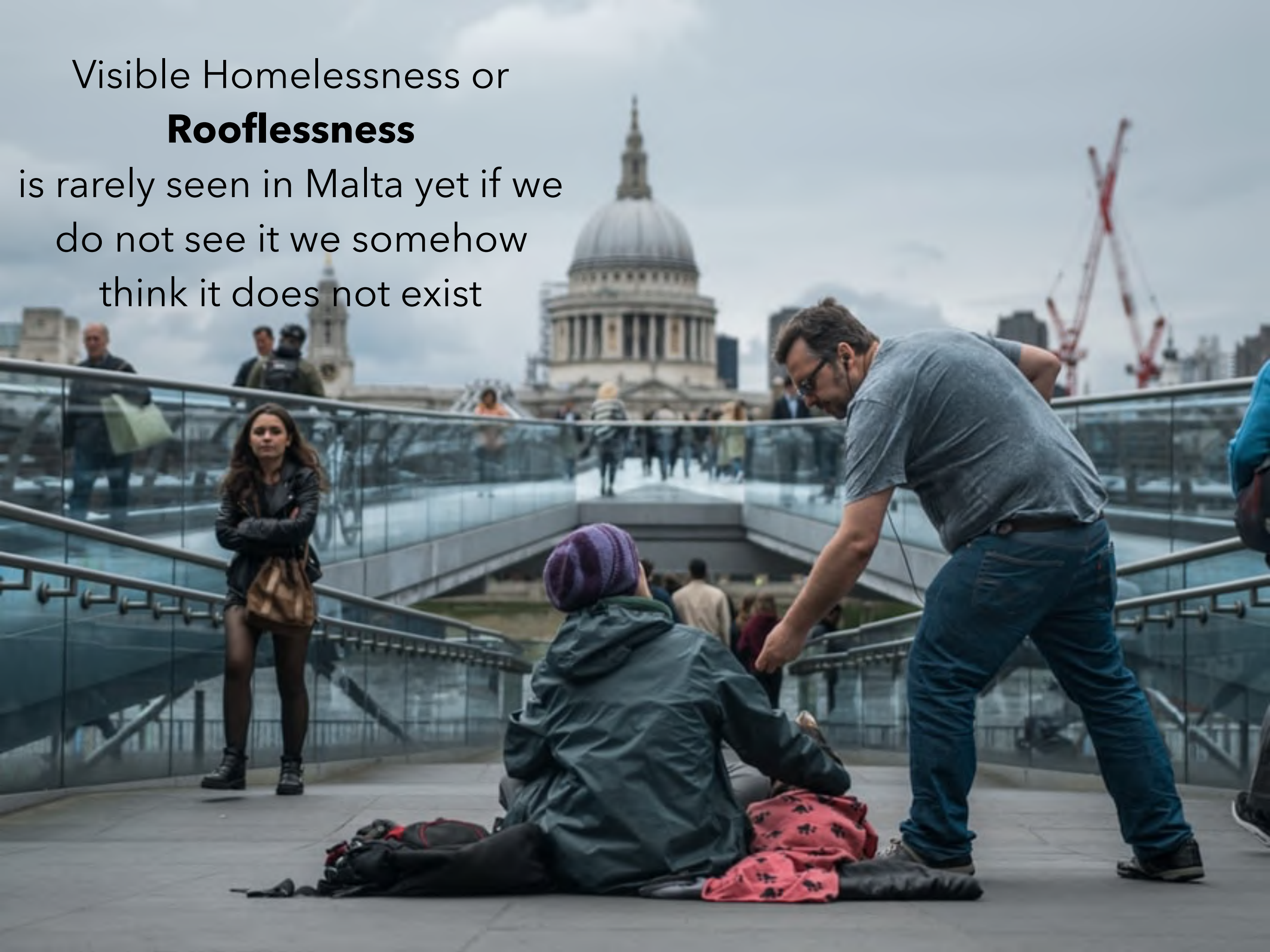
But our residential programme  
is so much more

Our client's realities



Visible Homelessness or  
**Rooflessness**

is rarely seen in Malta yet if we  
do not see it we somehow  
think it does not exist





A dark grey sofa is shown with a vibrant, multi-colored striped blanket draped over it. To the left, there are two pillows: one with a blue and white zigzag pattern and another solid dark red one. The background features light-colored vertical blinds covering a window.

However in Malta the majority of  
homelessness is  
**Hidden Homelessness**

# Homelessness does not discriminate

It does not see:

Age

Gender

Race

Culture

Religion

Ethnicity

Education

It effects people from all walks of life.



In the first three  
quarters we  
received 520  
referrals



The most common age group was  
25-39 with an even amount of  
Maltese and foreign individuals  
being referred



66 children were  
referred with their family



And most  
referrals were  
males







We accepted 112 people



We had residents of  
16 different  
nationalities



We helped 59  
people move  
on to  
independent  
living



And we  
supported 16  
families



Therefore our homes must all reflect these diversities.

This means considering that people of various ages, genders, cultures etc will be sharing the home and the space must reflect a balance between:

A resident's personal private space

&

Communal spaces for community activities and shared living



# Concept of YCH Valletta



In the last year we also had 20 referrals of people who were homeless over the age of 60 or people with mobility difficulties who found difficulties in finding placements because:

- their age means there are limited placements and solutions for moving on to independent living
- due to mobility difficulties they cannot access current shelters as shelters are not completely accessible





And because we believe that every person who becomes homeless deserves the same opportunities ...

...Y Communal Home - Valletta will support homeless:

- Individuals (male and female)
  - Families (with children)

Preference will be given to:

- Individuals who are 60+
- Individuals with a disability
- Individuals with pets

All of whom are able to live unassisted while they are experiencing homelessness.

This home will offer support for up to  
16 individuals  
who will be able to reside within the home for up to  
24 months.

During this time the residents will live  
semi-independently,  
whilst working with our team of professionals  
receiving holistic support  
which will prepare them for  
independent living  
once again.



As the number of people referred for homelessness  
far outweighs our capacity we need to

**MAXIMISE**

on the available space, creating as many rooms as  
possible.

However everything we do centres around a set of  
values and this must also be reflected in the physical  
space of our homes ...

A close-up portrait of a young woman with dark, curly hair pulled back. She has light brown eyes and numerous freckles across her nose and cheeks. Her expression is contemplative, with her hand resting near her chin. The background is a soft, out-of-focus grey.

We ensure to never forget  
to see individuals



Which means tailoring a person's care plan  
and space to their needs and wants





And we emphasise the  
importance of the  
community which offers  
a support system during  
and after homelessness

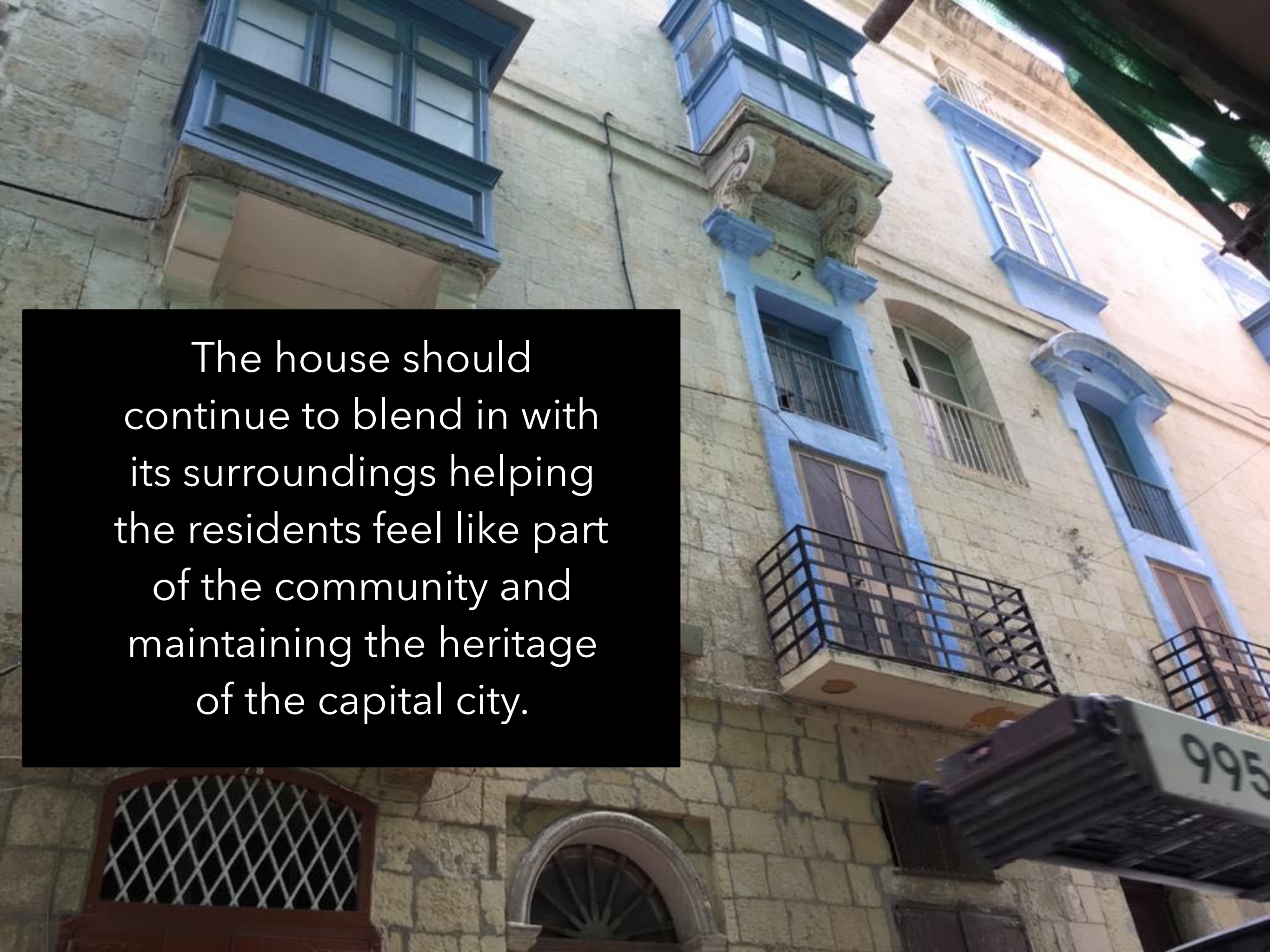




Homelessness is not a part of a person's identity, but it is a moment in their life, which is often caused by a change in circumstances.

Just another chapter in their story.

This therefore means that homelessness should not result in institutionalisation, which should be reflected in the building itself.



The house should continue to blend in with its surroundings helping the residents feel like part of the community and maintaining the heritage of the capital city.



It should also maintain  
features of the house which  
enhance uniqueness



Spaces needed at  
YCH Valletta



**Outdoor space which is  
serene and therapeutic**





# Outdoor Space

This could possibly be created in the form of a roof garden which will offer residents within the home a balance of indoor and outdoor space. This will be especially important in this home because:

- Residents will have the option of bringing pets.
- For 60+ residents there may be limitations on employment meaning that the residents may spend more time at home.
- A communal space for outdoor community activities would be needed.



Bedrooms where  
residents can  
enjoy privacy and  
can put their mark



# Bedrooms

Bedrooms will not be shared in this home (unless by family members).

This space is therefore a residents 'haven' where they have privacy and can personalise their space.

Due to the diversity of our client group, bedrooms should be flexible meaning that they can cater for different needs. eg. What today is a bedroom for an individual male, may tomorrow be a bedroom for a small family (where possible - depending on the dimensions of rooms).

Ideally bedrooms would each have their own bathroom offering additional privacy and autonomy.

Where possible, bedrooms with a balcony allow for some personalised outdoor space, which will be especially important for residents with pets.



Communal  
spaces  
where  
residents  
can live as a  
community  
and be  
empowered



# Communal Spaces

Spaces like the kitchen/dining room, living room and laundry room will be shared and should be spacious enough to encourage the sharing of the space by residents.

Spaces need to have flexible uses such as a living room which is used to watch tv at one point, to conduct a group session for another time and to carry out a children's storytelling session at another time.

There should also be a communal bathroom which can be used by guests.

Should there be the possibility of having a multi-purpose room this would be available for group activities, as a multi-faith room, for studying or for children within the household - depending on the current cohort's needs.





# Storage

Like most homes, YCH Valletta needs spaces where food, detergents and linen can be stored.

There should be a balance of storage space available in the bedrooms for residents' personal use as well as in communal spaces for items that are shared by the household.





Office space

# Office Space

The office space should offer privacy and seclusion due to the sensitivity of the client's sessions.

As this is a semi-independent home, the office should be situated in a place which does not invade the residents' 'home space' and where the team can offer a service without affecting the residents' routine.

The office should be large enough to carry out small group meetings where possible.



Needs of the residents

Due to the diversity of our client base the house needs to be:

- child friendly
- wheelchair accessible  
(with a lift accessing all areas of the house)
- pet friendly
- light with full use of the internal courtyard.

Also as the house is situated on a hill, accessing and leaving the house should be made manageable for people with a disability, elderly people and for parents with a pushchair.



At the heart of the residential  
programme is a dignified  
preparation for independent  
living, so when the time is right...





**Our  
residents  
can  
continue  
their lives  
in the  
community**





**But with a new found  
support system**





YMCA MALTA

[www.ymcamalta.org](http://www.ymcamalta.org)