

**Worksheet S6.4.2**

Let us see what the contribution of Francesco Laparelli and Ġlormu Cassar was in the construction of the new city.

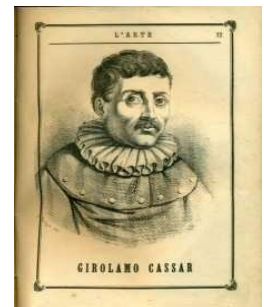
**THE PLANNING OF THE CITY AND LAPARELLI**

*(notes by Mario Debono and George Calleja)*

When the Pope sent Francesco Laparelli to Malta after the Great Siege, Laparelli found a number of previous studies that helped him to design his plan in a few days. It was decided that the new city was to roughly occupy half of the Xiberras peninsula and that its roads were to be straight and intersecting each other in the form of a grid. The straight but broad streets had the advantage of giving a sense of order and precision. Laparelli also proposed that primarily Fort Saint Elmo should be re-built at the tip of the peninsula, in order to defend the city in case of an attack from the sea whilst the city was being built. Apart from this, he planned a road that went all round the bastions so that, if necessary, the defenders can go from one side of the bastions to the other quickly, whilst still defending. Due to a lack of workers, Laparelli brought 500 Italian workers which he paid with his own money to help in the construction as well as to train the Maltese workers.

**THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE CITY AND ĠLORMU CASSAR**

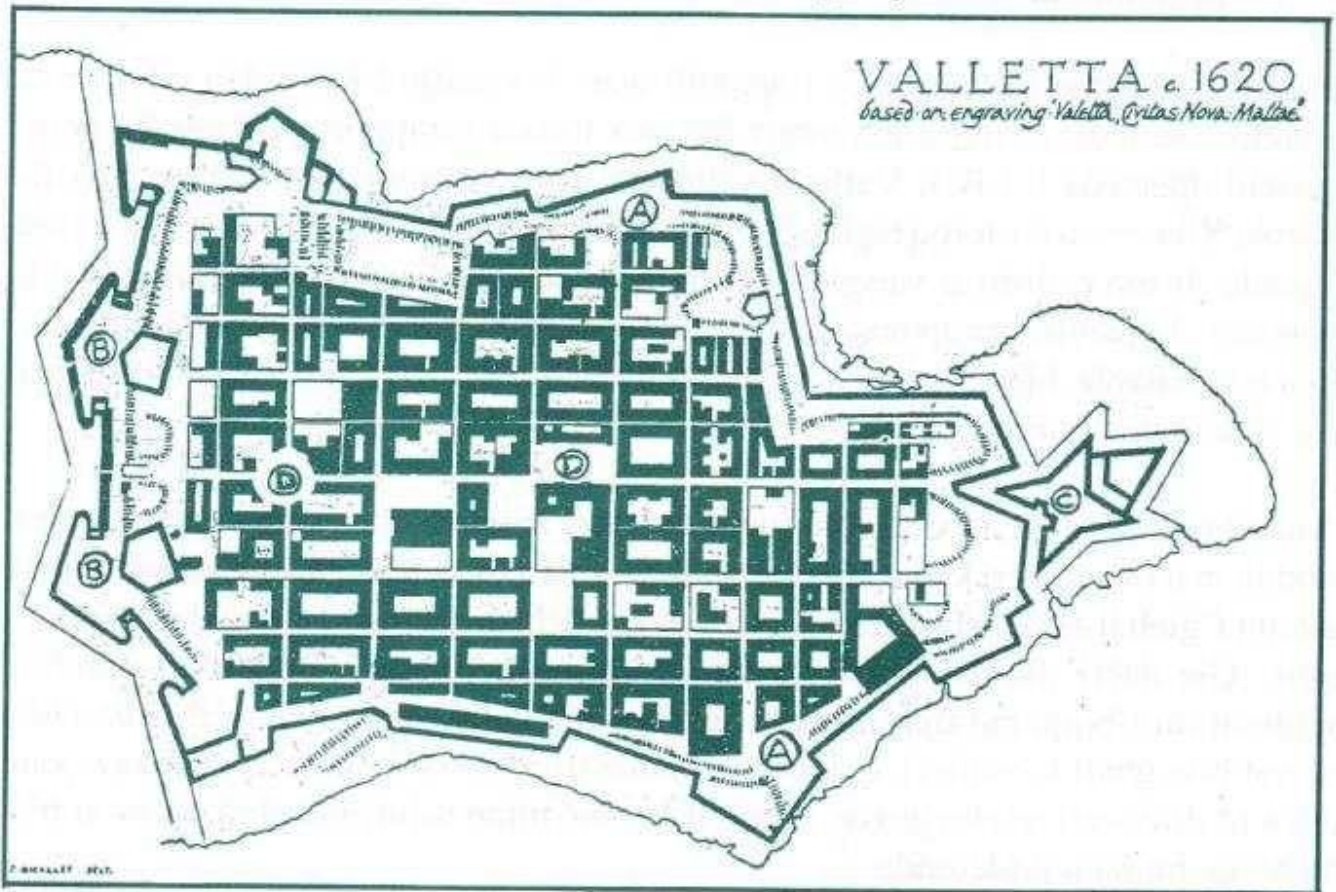
If Francesco Laparelli was the expert architect of the Pope, the Maltese architect Ġlormu Cassar was the main architect of the Order. After Laparelli completed the plan of the city, he went back to Italy and left the construction of the city in the hands of Ġlormu Cassar. In addition, Ġlormu Cassar also designed the most important buildings of the new city, including: the Conventual Church, the Magisterial Palace, the seven auberges, the mills and furnaces of the Order and most probably even the Sacra Infermeria. The Conventual Church and the Magisterial Palace were built along the main road, in the highest part of the city.

**A: Continue the following sentences.**

1. Pope Pius V sent to Malta his expert architect: \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The main architect of the Order was \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The new city was to occupy \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Laparelli brought with his own money \_\_\_\_\_ to help in the construction of the city.
5. Ġlormu Cassar designed the plans of the most \_\_\_\_\_.

**B: Answer with the help of the map.**



1. Why was it decided to have straight roads?

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2. The letters A shows the road that goes round the bastions of the city. Why did Laparelli plan this road?

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3. The most powerful bastions were built where there is the letter B. What is the reason for this?

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4. The letter C shows Fort Saint Elmo. Why did Laparelli want this Fort to be built right away?

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5. The letter D shows the places where the Conventual Church and the Magisterial Palace were built. Why were these two important buildings built there?

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