

“Lo Spirito di Stella” Association

The numbers

15 years ago

Andrea Stella became paraplegic following of an armed assault

12 years ago

he built the first catamaran in the world without architectural barriers

700 free sail days

for disabled people have been organized to this day

5.000 people

took part in “Spirito Libero” to this day



The beginning

In year 2000 Andrea Stella celebrated his degree in Florida. Some criminals shot him to steal his rented car. Andrea survived, but he lost the use of the legs. He built “Lo Spirito di Stella”, the first wheelchair accessible catamaran in the world.

***“If it was possible to make accessible a boat,
why is not possible to make accessible a city?”***

In 2003 Andrea Stella created Lo Spirito di Stella, the first wheelchair accessible catamaran in the world, and Lo Spirito di Stella non-profit association to promote a new design and mental culture directed towards everyone benefit.

For 7 years the catamaran was the protagonist of Spirito Libero, a sailing experience for people with disabilities: every year 9 stages in the main Italian seaports - 70 free sail days - 700 participants. An unique opportunity for disabled people to live a day in complete autonomy and for everybody to understand that the most difficult barriers to remove are in the mind.

lo Spirito di Stella

On board of the catamaran, Andrea Stella has taken two ocean crossings: "Back to the USA" and "I diritti solcano l'oceano", for more than 50.000 miles.

During "I diritti solcano l'oceano", on the sails of the catamaran were printed the "United Nations Convention on rights of persons with disabilities" and the "Manifesto for the Promotion of Accessible Tourism". The aim of the project was to defend the rights of the disabled worldwide.



lo Spirito di Stella

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The other projects

Spirito Libero: 9 stages in the main Italian seaports - 70 free sail days every year - 700 participants every year. A day in complete autonomy for disabled people on board the first disabled friendly catamaran in the world. An unique opportunity to challenge our limits and to understand that the most difficult barriers to remove are in our mind.

University Courses: The association organizes courses in college of architecture and design with the aim to train the designers of the future to conceive spaces and objects considering the needs of everybody: disabled people, elderly people, mothers with strollers.

Competition of ideas: This competition invites architects, engineers, designers and students to redesign spaces referring to the catamaran's design approach.

"La casa per tutti"- (The house for all): With this project the catamaran's design approach will be transferred into the city. The result will be three wheelchair accessible houses for a free and temporary use of the disabled people.

Sailing Campus: A sailing school for disabled people on board of Access boats.

