

Valletta desperately needs a multi-storey car park

by Scott Grech

Chris Briffa, the architect and designer who renovated a public convenience in Strait Street, Valletta, is adamant that all the big master plans and great projects to restore Valletta to what it once was will be futile unless Malta's capital city solves its long-standing car park problem.

In an interview with The Malta Independent, to be published in tomorrow's edition, Mr Briffa says that in order for Valletta to enjoy a thorough regeneration, and become a Mecca of vibrancy, culture and entertainment, as it was in the past, the city needs to address its car parking problems with immediacy.

"We need to be realistic. We are living in the 21st century, and every capital city in the developed world caters for adequate parking. As a Valletta resident I crave for a car-free hometown, but one cannot expect residents or visitors to park their cars in Floriana or down by the sea: it is just not feasible."

"Valletta needs the facility of underground multi-storey car parks. The volume of bastions on the periphery of the city, which once protected Valletta from foreign invasion, can once again play a part in protecting Valletta from an untimely and painful death.

"Various bastions can be excavated to enable this facility since on the inside, they are merely filled with rubble, and it would not be too difficult to construct car parks inside them which will make Valletta more accessible day and night, and fundamentally, restore Valletta to a hive of activity as it once was," Mr Briffa says.
