PhD in PROGETTAZIONE ARCHITETTONICA, URBANA E DEGLI INTERNI / ARCHITECTURAL, URBAN AND INTERIOR DESIGN - 35th cycle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of scholarship offered</th>
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<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>DIPARTIMENTO DI ARCHITETTURA E STUDI URBANI</td>
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**Description of the PhD Programme**

The Program promotes research on architectural design, considered in its different scales and levels of complexity. Research activities are based on the analysis, interpretation and innovation of design processes and techniques, and are supported by the acquisition and elaboration of theoretical and critical insights, and skills, related with the complex horizon of contemporary and future architecture. The Program aims at being a specific venue for the promotion of studies and research on the aforementioned theoretical, methodological and operational field, through the elaboration of theoretical concepts and design experiments. The Program wants to offer the candidates a constant sharing of knowledge, of information and practices with the research activities ongoing in the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DASU), and especially within the research program of Territorial Fragilities, with regular occasions of exchange with the board of professors, with other researchers, with other research institutions and scholars.

The Program pursues lines of research acting in theoretical and operational practices, essentially organized along these two options:

- Research on architectural design paradigms (design, theory, critique) where in-depth analysis of the contents of our specific discipline is dialectically juxtaposed with the necessary connections with parallel outlooks and skills, the integration of which appears necessary for development of the core problems;
- Driven design research, in which design is considered the driver of the research activity, and it is to be pursued as the development of a problematic assumption. The architectural project is intended as the result of a knowledge process aimed at identifying a critical path strongly related to theoretical statements, and to be critically verified through their practical application.

Within the 35th PhD Program, the lines of research are:

- Architecture of crisis, emergency and prevention; problems and proposals for public and...
private buildings and spaces, in relation with processes of obsolescence and decay, and in consequence of catastrophic effects of technical, social and natural source.

- Forests and rivers: how to activate processes of regeneration and reuse of urban and rural architecture and landscapes; the recovery of abandoned landscapes, the relationships between infrastructure, landscape, architecture; architectural and landscape design tools and methods for a sustainable and transformative approach to fragile environment.
- New perspectives on territorial fragilities: multi-scalar, multi-cultural, multi-technical approaches and strategies; innovative and experimental models; dynamics of space-society relationships.
- Heritage, territory, landscape; design cultural practices as a driver of territorial transformation.
- Public spaces: lost and found. A design driven research. Rethinking public spaces, monuments and memorial artifacts in degraded peripheries.
- Decline and redemption of productive contemporary landscapes. Strategies and scales of intervention for the architectural and urban project in fragile landscapes.
- Territorial fragilities in buffer zones of Italian Unesco sites.

The PhD Program welcomes both foreign and Italian students. English and Italian are the official languages; the specific research subject will be assigned to each candidate after an agreement with the PhD Board of Professors, within the first year of the PhD activity.
PhD in PROGETTAZIONE ARCHITETTONICA, URBANA E DEGLI INTERNI / ARCHITECTURAL, URBAN AND INTERIOR DESIGN - 35th cycle

Research Field: ARCHITECTURAL, URBAN AND INTERIOR DESIGN - PAUI -

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<td>The Program promotes research focused on architectural studies, projects and approaches involved in processes of fragility, decay, recycle, radical transformation, considering these fields: architectural, urban, rural, interiors. Research activities are based on the analysis, interpretation and development of design processes and techniques, and are aimed at the acquisition and elaboration of theoretical and critical insights and skills, dialectically related with the complex horizon of contemporary architecture. The aim of the PhD Program is the definition of theoretical and operational tools to foster the harmonious growth of a critical approach to architectural design, facing specific phenomena, trends and questions, as well as to acknowledge the strategic values of design in exploiting connections between formal structures, symbolic and economic impact, utilitarian contents and functional requirements.</td>
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<td>The Program acts in the frame of a constant upgrade of theoretical, methodological and technical tools, in the direction of their constant actualization, in order to properly identify the emerging questions and opportunities in architectural design. Therefore, the Program, following the above mentioned topics, analyses the following topics:</td>
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<td>• Theories and critiques: basic principles of architecture; evolution of contents, methodologies and concepts in contemporary ages and realities;</td>
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<td>• Architectural spaces: structure, composition and quality of urban and building spaces, their organization and connections;</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Definition of prototypes for new functions, design methodologies for new morphological and typological outcomes, regeneration and transformation of buildings, public spaces, landscapes, infrastructures.</td>
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| Educational objectives |
| In this field, educational objectives are the deep scientific understanding of a well selected and defined topic, and |

• Forests and rivers: how to activate processes of regeneration and reuse of urban and rural architecture and landscapes; the recovery of abandoned landscapes, the relationships between infrastructure, landscape, architecture; architectural and landscape design tools and methods for a sustainable and transformative approach to fragile environment.  
• New perspectives on territorial fragilities: multi-scalar, multi-cultural, multi-technical approaches and strategies; innovative and experimental models; dynamics of space-society relationships.  
• Heritage, territory, landscape; design cultural practices as a driver of territorial transformation.
the elaboration of a specific documentation containing a complete overview of the scientific question, a deep analysis of the selected case studies, a clear proposal for an original approach to the question, with the possibility of using, in various ways and balance, theoretical and practical design tools.

Job opportunities

The Program is aimed to train highly qualified researchers and professionals, who will work in academic institutions, research centers, public administration, as well as in the private sector, in the different fields of architectural design.

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- Researchers with an excellent scientific profile in the field of complex architectural developments and interventions of recovering and transformation.
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Composition of the research group

9 Full Professors
13 Associated Professors
0 Assistant Professors
22 PhD Students

Name of the research directors
Alessandro Rocca

Contacts

Contact of the Coordinator:
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Research Field: DECLINE OR RANSOM OF PRODUCTIVE CONTEMPORANEOUS LANDSCAPES. STRATEGIES AND SCALES OF INTERVENTION FOR THE ARCHITECTURAL AND URBAN PROJECT IN FRAGILE LANDSCAPES

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Context of the research activity

The proposed research program is part of the Departmental Excellence Project, named Territorial Fragilities, which engages the department of Architecture and Urban Studies (Dastu), and Paui PhD program, in the five year period 2018-2022.

The scientific line assumed outlines the productive landscapes as an object of investigation on the modifications underway in the territories of contemporaneity and proposes the intervention strategies of the architectural and urban project as tools through which to measure, at different scales, causes and effects of the training / deformation processes / transformation to which the same landscapes are cyclically submitted.

The research intends therefore to explore new paradigms, categories and design methodologies within the scientific-disciplinary sectors related to the Architectural and Urban Composition and Landscape Architecture, applying itself to specific territorial contexts, both Italian and international, where the relevant presence of environments productive denounces recognizable conditions of fragility. This category includes not only marginal and rural urban areas, but also marginal and peri-urban spaces. Precisely in these contexts, we often recognize "obsolescent" production conditions,
characterized by the reconfiguration of previous physical, social, economic and cultural characters, in relation to the implementation of new cycles and settlement models.

Methods and techniques that will be developed and used to carry out the research

Set apart the ambitions of responding to ongoing changes through already inadequate formal answers or definitive models, the attention of the design culture moves towards "weaker" and provisional answers, addressing the systems and places of production as an opportunity to experiment with new methods of intervention able to involve complementary disciplinary areas: from geography to territorial and planning disciplines, from economy to urban sociologies, from landscape aesthetics to natural sciences, putting back in the field paradigms and models of the past, in the light of their updating, not only scientific: the concepts of anthropogeographic landscape and "form of the territory"; the generative role of the "enclosures" and the "degenerative" role of the "enclaves"; the complex equilibriums and tensions between built and open spaces, public and private; the assimilation of the territory to topographical "palimpsest"; the identification of a "third landscape"; the correct measurement of "infrastructure" processes, levels of "land consumption" and environmental risk factors.

Starting from these considerations, the main objectives of the research are therefore oriented to the recognition of productive landscapes as privileged fields of action to update methods, tools and disciplinary techniques through which the architectural and urban project can return to be a privileged operator of the urban and territorial transformations, helping us to clarify the renewed relationship between fragility and resilience of the settlement elements.

Starting from this background, the research will be articulated on three parallel and interacting levels: theoretical, methodological and applicative. The case studies will be chosen and evaluated on the basis of the selection of specific urban and territorial areas, identified as paradigmatic spaces of the new tensions expressed between intrinsically fragile conditions and expressly resilient potentials. During the development of the project, the research will play a decisive role in the strategic
| Dimension of the proposed solutions, which as they are crucial for understanding the dynamic cycles of decline / development of contemporary production landscapes. In this perspective, as already previously said above, the theme proposes to dedicate a specific focus on the relationships between fragility and resilience, temporality and prevention, risk and project, according to different spatial-temporal gradients (short, medium and long term). |

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<td>In this sense the research activity will be developed by the candidate through three phases, parallel and interfering: - a preliminary / interpretative step that will define the theoretical / conceptual background within which concepts, paradigms, comparative ‘models’ will be investigated; - a strategic / orientation step, aimed at developing comparisons with significant case studies extrapolated from the project culture; - an application-design step, oriented to experiment specific architectural solutions and to field innovative experimental solutions. The main objective of the research is the elaboration of meaningful project proposals, adaptable by analogy to different concrete cases, learned through the development of interfering multidisciplinary approaches. In this perspective, it is outlined a close integration of the proposed research line with those identified as Re-Scale and Re-Arch within the project of Excellence Territorial Fragilities.</td>
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| Name of the research directors   | A. Rocca, G. Bertelli, A. Gritti, P. Mei

**Contacts**

**Coordinator:**

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**Tutor:**

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**Contact in the PhD Office at DASTU:**

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mrs. Marilena Mastalli  
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Research Field: PUBLIC SPACES: LOST AND FOUND. A DESIGN DRIVEN RESEARCH. RETHINKING PUBLIC SPACES, MONUMENTS AND MEMORIAL ARTIFACTS IN DEGRADED PERIPHERIES.

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<td>The role of public space - a key actor in defining social life, at the practical and the symbolic levels - is one of the critical, fragile issues of the contemporary city. Saved and lost memories, and their presence in public space, are receiving a lot of attention from many scholars, generating a large multi-disciplinary field of studies that engage anthropology, sociology, semiology, urbanism, architecture, and others. We can say that this composite cultural and research environment is the sign that the theme is crucial, a point where positive and negative energies converge, creating connection, and/or disconnection, between people of various ages, culture, beliefs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorial spaces, in European and Italian cities, and especially in the developments of XIX and XX centuries, are the focal points of public spaces and are essential factors of social cohesion, but they are now put under pressure because of the quick cultural turn which is...</td>
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modifying deeply habits, shared memories, behaviors, communication. Shared memories become conflictual, the different ways in which we look at the past, at historical events, is never the same for all, and political authorities don't have anymore the power to impose one unquestioned version. Peripheral degraded suburbs, often made of cheap buildings made more than fifty years ago, need urgent intervention of recovering and of redesign of their public spaces. The original sign of social shared memories are still present but neglected, no more understandable, too far from the culture of the new inhabitants. Now, those same signs survive their original function resting as useless leftovers, enigmatic and silent witnesses of a neglected archeology.

Methodology is based on design driven research, the approach which considers architectural design as the main system of interaction with the built environment. The activity will start with the framing of the topic, through specific literature and through mapping of case studies: history, reasons, sources, authors, actual conditions of the selected artifacts and places. Then, once all data are acquired, research proceeds through design, with the elaboration of sketches, study models, and then technical drawings and detailed models. Design activity has to work to save disappearing memories, also questioning the reasons of their weakness and eventually reformulating their contents in a more appropriate verbal, visual and spatial expression.

Educational objectives

Design activities will follow the purpose of understanding and managing causes and effects of fragilities, looking for sustainable actions and results that, for their appropriateness, will be capable of taking new life into places, re-enacting a process of care, of meaningfulness, of sharing culture and sensitiveness. Design has to be made with the intention of putting in evidence theoretical assumption, and of creating a catalogue of prototypical models for the different situations. The outcome should be a specific research on the topic
divided in three main phases: the first one, is a scientifically organized overview of the question, at the general level, oriented to select case studies, understanding design strategies, evaluating processes and effects; the second phase, an analysis of a selected case study (periphery of an Italian city), with historical and architectural research, investigation of the present condition; the third phase, the elaboration of synthetic, paradigmatic architectural proposals to recover public spaces, by clearing methodological assumptions and strategical goals.

The conclusion of the research should delineate a set of guidelines to recover neglected public spaces in urban problematic environments, in condition of material and social fragility.

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Alessandro Rocca, Jacopo Leveratto

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Research Field: TERRITORIAL FRAGILITY IN BUFFER ZONES OF ITALIAN UNESCO SITES

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<td>The Buffer Zone is essentially a device for protecting and preserving the environmental, naturalistic and artistic characteristics of a context of absolute value. Its institution and boundary is therefore an administrative act aimed at raising the level of protection beyond the local regulations that characterize the contextual relationship in an urbanistic key. On the one hand, the effects of the Buffer Zone are to be considered functional to the objectives of conservation of an asset, on the other hand they do not necessarily guarantee its enhancement and development. Indeed, outside the structured urban areas, or in fragile territories, the establishment of the Buffer Zone can generate processes of inexorable entropy. The results of the research must therefore constitute a block of proposals useful for a re-parameterization and redesign of the concept of &quot;buffer zone&quot;, in a dynamic and methodologically innovative perspective, where, at its establishment and perimeter corresponds a development and growth strategy, which avoid the entropic process and the condition of an enclave subtended by it. In this framework, the idea is to consider the Unesco Buffer Zone as an opportunity for planning, valorization and territorial re-signification; and therefore as a way of interlocution between public and private that has the aim of regenerating an ecosystem that includes cultural and landscape assets, as well as facilities for services, activities for cultural and economic growth and the</td>
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<td>Paradoxically, it is the institution of the Buffer Zone that engages the &quot;fragility&quot; process. More protection (+ constraints) = less investment (+ depopulation and abandonment). The case study of Villa Adriana is the key to understanding this process. The entropy of system within the Buffer Zones is due to the ineffectiveness of the Management Plans produced by the Unesco Offices of the Ministry, which are tabular schemes lacking real &quot;plan indications&quot;. In essence, therefore, it is a matter of defining the contours and contents of a different management tool that in fact must be considered as an architectural and landscape project at different scales, linked to an investment plan and a short-medium-long term schedule, specifically built for the Buffer Zone. A sort of detailed plan capable of operating with a deferred method with respect to administrative and buffer constraints and subject to a special approval procedure. The methodology is based on the critical census of Italian Unesco sites (currently 54 on the list and 40 candidates), identification of some case studies, characterized by particular territorial fragility, which allow to evaluate the possibilities and limits of a strategic project activity that can be inscribed in the administrative equipment of land management (special plans for Unesco Buffer Zones).</td>
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<td>The expected results will together constitute a block of proposals useful for the development of an innovative and multi-scale design model, alternative to the Unesco Management Plans which have shown inadequacy as not being comparable to any instrument for managing territorial modifications.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Additional support - Financial aid per PhD student per year (gross amount)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing - Foreign Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing - Out-of-town residents (more than 80Km out of Milano)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Additional information: educational activity, teaching assistantship, computer availability, desk availability, any other information

List of Universities, Companies, Agencies and/or National or International Institutions that are cooperating in the research:

• Technischen Universität Berlin, Institute for Architecture
• Tu Delft, School of Architecture
• KU Leuven, Faculty of Architecture, Campus Sint-Lucas, Ghent
• Aarhus School of Architecture
• University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture

**Educational activities** (purchase of study books and material, funding for participation in courses, summer schools, workshops and conferences): financial aid per PhD student per year (“DOTE”):

1st year: max 0 euros
2nd year: max 1,534,33 euros
3rd year: max 1,534,33 euros

**Teaching assistantship** (availability of funding in recognition of supporting teaching activities by the PhD student)
There are various forms of financial aid supporting the teaching practice. The PhD candidate is encouraged to take part in these activities, within the limits allowed by the regulations.
**Computer availability:** In the PhD candidates room are available workstations for shared use, connected with the printer. All the PhD students can use their own laptop with the wireless connection. Workstations and other equipment are available in the various laboratories linked with the doctoral programme.