

# PhD in ARCHITECTURAL URBAN INTERIOR DESIGN - 40th cycle

THEMATIC Research Field: URBAN REGENERATION PROJECTS: CULTURAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE. THE FARNESIAN WALLS SYSTEM OF PIACENZA AS A CATALYST FOR THE REACTIVATION PROCESSES OF NEW URBAN ECOSYSTEMS

# Monthly net income of PhDscholarship (max 36 months)

€ 1300.0

In case of a change of the welfare rates during the three-year period, the amount could be modified.

#### Context of the research activity

The Architectural Urban Interior Design PhD program promotes research on architectural design, with studies and projects aiming at different scales, contexts, and finalities.

The doctoral scholarship is related to training a PhD expert in urban regeneration projects connected with cultural and architectural heritage. This figure will be able to contribute to the planning and programming of innovative cultural projects with a high specialization in international networks. The research and objectives pursued aim at strengthening skills in the field of culture and the specific training of figures capable of operating towards social, cultural, and environmental sustainability combined with innovation in the processes of ecological transition of the cultural heritage present in the territories of Emilia Romagna through connection to international experiences and networks. The research activities aim at the critical analysis of design processes and procedures and the development of methodologies consistent with the themes of the Horizon Program and the regional smart specialization strategy, pursuing as their objective the identification of strategies for reactivating the cultural heritage represented by the artifacts historical architectural buildings such as the Farnesian walls of Piacenza. The research proposal aims to build a

methodological process that borrows from comparing similar cultural heritage regeneration experiences in

Motivation and objectives of the research in this field



international contexts and operational methods that can be replicated in the Piacenza area and Emilia Romagna. The expected objectives are to train a researcher capable of:

- Support the public administration in addressing the vital process of reactivating the cultural industry and historical architectural heritage towards sustainability, inclusion, and beauty.
- Enhancing, guiding, and planning the transmission of the historical-architectural and cultural heritage in the process of ecological transition integrated with the recovery of historical-architectural artifacts such as the Farnesian walls, according to targeted aspects towards digitalization of the transformation processes of existing cultural resources.

The research structure will be as follows:

- Critical approaches to the typological classifications of the Farnese walls, the areas, and the related cultural heritage.
- Identification of the role of architecture in the processes of cultural, historical, and architectural heritage regeneration.

Research by design: explore the potential and applications, on specific topics, of the design-led research methodology, testing the implications and outcomes of on/through/by design research.

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

The Candidate will develop a research methodology based on the lectures and assignments of the AUID courses and the Polimi PhD courses at the school. For the general frame of the research activity, AUID refers to the "Charter on Architectural Research" (updated in 2022) elaborated by the European Association of Architectural Education (EAAE), to the "Principles for Innovative Doctoral Training" by the Directorate-General for Research &Innovation of the European Commission (2011) and the Regulations of the Polimi Doctoral School. Studying the different formats, methods, and expressions of research in architectural design, the Candidate will profile a personal methodology considering the specificity

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of the selected topic, the target, and the attended results. The program considers design a relevant and necessary component of any research. With the AUID Faculty and the Supervisor(s), each Candidate will find a specific position in the field bordered by research, design, theory, and practice. The research project uses the support of the Municipal Administration of Piacenza, specifically with the Department of Youth Policies, University, and Research Department of Planning for sustainable and barrier-free urban development.

The collaboration methods are agreed upon with the Municipal Administration of Piacenza and the PhD student. The PhD student will carry out an internship at the Municipal Administration of Piacenza for a period of a minimum of 3 months/maximum of 6 months, assisted by the tutor identified by the Institution for:

- the study of the activities that take place there through observation, participation in the activities, identifying critical issues, and supporting the Administration operationally;
- Collection of research materials through the following:
- 1. Inspections, cartographic research, and photographic and archive campaigns were used to identify the test beds to the objectives set by the project.
- 2. Filing artifacts and networks designed to provide the specific background concerning the research topic iii. Elaboration and sharing of choices for developing test beds through selecting places exemplary artifacts for creating a suitable methodological project.

The research project will be structured according to the following approaches:

- theoretical, focused on constructing an isolated historical-critical reference of the Farnesiane urban walls.
   State-of-the-art morphological evolution with particular reference to Piacenza city's territorial and cultural context.
- Research by design focused on identifying mapping, cataloging, and categorizing criteria for the architectural and urban design of Piacenza walls to identify design strategies for their regeneration at the landscape and urban scale design.

**Educational objectives** 



The training of the candidates aims to give a strong capacity of orientation in the field of architecture, of choosing and elaborating a selected theme, of organizing appropriate methodologies of investigation and dissemination, of producing texts, drawings, and artifacts that match the requested character of scientific research: originality, relevance, and rigor, as defined in the "Charter on Architectural Research" by EAAE.

The faculty's primary educational goal is to drive the candidate to develop research using a well-organized method by conducting a comprehensive survey of the chosen question, which leads to an original track and output. The candidate is helped to acquire the skills to organize a consistent analysis of case studies, formulate a clear proposal for an original approach to a question, and elaborate innovative strategies and research methods. The candidate will be supported in delivering autonomous and innovative scientific products disseminated through seminars, publications, and conferences.

Job opportunities

The Program aims to train highly qualified researchers and professionals who will work in academic institutions, research centres, and public Administration, as well as in the private sector, in the fields of architectural, urban, and interior design:

- University researchers and lecturers in the scientific fields of Ph.D. Program.
- Researchers with an excellent scientific profile in complex architectural developments and interventions of recovery and transformation of cultural, architectural and urban regeneration processes.
- Independent professionals qualified in managing highly complex design processes and qualified experts on the research topic concerning PNRR Policies.
- Designers with tasks of high responsibility in public institutions and professional structures and leading manufacturers engaged in traditional residential and special utilities, cultural institutions (museums, libraries, universities, schools, cultural centres), public and private services, commercial networks, accommodation, and

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	leisure.
Composition of the research group	0 Full Professors 2 Associated Professors 1 Assistant Professors 1 PhD Students
Name of the research directors	Emilia Corradi

#### **Contacts**

# **Research Director**

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# **AUID Program Head**

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# Departmental Ph.D. Office

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Additional support - Financial aid per PhD student per year (gross amount)		
Housing - Foreign Students		
Housing - Out-of-town residents (more than 80Km out of Milano)		

Scholarship Increase for a period abroad	
Amount monthly	650.0 €
By number of months	6

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

Some of the universities that are cooperating in the research

- Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Campus Sint-Lucas, Ghent

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- Aarhus School of Architecture
- TU Delft, School of Architecture
- TU Berlin, Institute for Architecture
- University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture

# Personal budget

Every PhD student has a budget to fund research activities (funding for participation in courses, summer schools, workshops, conferences, and the purchase of study books and materials). The total amount is 5.300,25 euros:

1st year: max **1.766,75 euro** 2nd year: max **1.766,75 euro** 3rd year: max **1.766,75 euro** 

# 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 participate in these activities within the regulations' limits.

# Workspace:

In the AUID hall, on the 4th floor of Bldg. 12 in Leonardo Campus, are available workstations for shared use. All the Ph.D. students can use their laptops with a wireless connection.

Workstations and other equipment are available in the various departmental laboratories (Dastu) linked with the doctoral Program.