



PhD in ARCHITECTURAL URBAN INTERIOR DESIGN - 40th cycle

Number of scholarship offered	5
Department	DIPARTIMENTO DI ARCHITETTURA E STUDI URBANI

Description of the PhD Programme
<p>The Architectural Urban Interior Design (AUID) Ph.D. program firstly refers to the declaration reported in the EAAE Research Charter (2022): "Architectural research is an original investigation undertaken to generate knowledge, insights, and understanding based on competencies, methods, and tools proper to the discipline of architecture. It has its own knowledge base, mode, scope, tactics, and strategies." research by design is defined as "any kind of inquiry in which (...) the architectural design process forms the pathway through which new insights, knowledge, practices, or products come into being. It generates critical inquiry through design work." The Program promotes research on architectural design, with studies and projects at different scales, contexts, and finalities. Research activities are based on the critical analysis and development of design processes and techniques in dynamic relationships with the urgent questions related to the domestic, urban, and rural environment. Research is supported by acquiring and elaborating insights and skills linked to contemporary architecture's theoretical and critical debate in relationship with the most advanced international research centers. The Program foresees a constant elaboration and discussion of theoretical and operational tools. This dialectic process aims to foster a critical and creative reflection on architectural design, exploring and testing experimental approaches and delivering autonomous and innovative scientific products to be disseminated through seminars, publications, and conferences.</p> <p>An essential and constant characteristic of the program is its strong relationship with the practice of architectural design. In particular, the Program aims to investigate the potentiality of research by design or design-driven research (DDR). Research by design is a broader concept that includes "practice-based research" and "practice-led research," meaning that we focus on two kinds of research methodologies: "research through practice" and "research about practice." The program is embedded in the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DASTU), which hosts about 200 professors and researchers. Moreover, AUID is strongly connected with AUIC, the Polimi School of Architecture, Urban Design, and Building Construction, which offers positions for assistant professorships, tutoring, and teaching to Bachelor and Master students of architecture.</p> <p>The Program is run by a Head, who coordinates all activities. Then, different actors cooperate in the program development. Deputy Heads have specific areas of interest in foreign relations, interior relations, and departmental research assignments. The Faculty Board has the scientific</p>



responsibility of all researchers, with a Board of Experts composed of professors and lecturers with bold academic research experience. An international Advisory Board connects AUID with an extensive global network.



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OPEN SUBJECT Research Field: ARCHITECTURAL URBAN INTERIOR DESIGN

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

Motivation and objectives of the research in this field

The Ph.D. program of "Architectural Urban Interior Design" (A.U.I.D.) promotes research on architectural design, with studies and projects at different scales, contexts, and finalities.

In AUID, research is based on the theories and practices that nourish contemporary architecture's cultural and technical debate at an international scale.

Research activities highlight the critical analysis and development of design processes and techniques. Constant attention is given to the study of formal and spatial imagination, architectural typologies, the design of urban and interior spaces, technological innovation, and the dynamic relationships with the urgent questions related to the environment.

The program focuses on specific themes to be explored theoretically and through design every year. Within the 40th Cycle, starting in the 2024-25 academic year, the preferential research lines follow these topics, which will be pursued by choosing various viewpoints and fields:

- Critical approaches to architecture and architectural design theories: reframing premises and goals, with case studies from the past and present times.
- Architecture and mass media: how architectural design interacts with political and social issues.
- Architecture as a contemporary narrative: studying as research, criticism, and education produces ideas, ideologies, fetishism, and critical thought.



	<p>•Research by design: exploring potentialities and applications on specific topics of the design-driven research methodology, testing the implications and the outcomes of research on/through/by design.</p>
<p>Methods and techniques that will be developed and used to carry out the research</p>	<p>The candidate will develop a research methodology starting from the lectures and assignments of the AUID courses and the Polimi Ph.D. School courses. For the general frame of the research activity, AUID refers to the "Charter on Architectural Research" (2012, 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 of the selected topic, the target, and the attended results. The program considers design to be a 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.</p>
<p>Educational objectives</p>	<p>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</p>



	<p>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.</p>
Job opportunities	<p>The Program aims to train highly qualified researchers and professionals who will work in academic institutions, research centers, and public administration, as well as in the private sector, in the fields of architectural, urban, and interior design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - University researchers and lecturers in the scientific fields of the Ph.D. Program. - Researchers with an excellent scientific profile in complex architectural developments and interventions for recovery and transformation. - Independent professionals qualified to manage highly complex design processes. - Designers with tasks of high responsibility in institutions and professional structures and leading manufacturers engaged in traditional residential and special utilities, cultural institutions (museums, libraries, universities, schools, cultural centers), public and private services, commercial networks, accommodation, and leisure.
Composition of the research group	<p>18 Full Professors 27 Associated Professors 6 Assistant Professors 110 PhD Students</p>
Name of the research directors	Alessandro Rocca

Contacts
<p>AUID Head</p> <p>prof. dr. Alessandro Rocca Alessandro.Rocca@polimi.it</p> <p>Departmental Ph.D. Office</p> <p>Marina Bonaventura marina.bonaventura@polimi.it</p>



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Further information is available at: <http://www.auid.polimi.it>

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
- Aarhus School of Architecture
- TU Delft, School of Architecture
- TU Berlin, Institute for 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**"- research budget) **total amount: 5.300,25 euro:**

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 take part in these activities, within the limits allowed by the



regulations.

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.



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**THEMATIC Research Field: BLURRED / INDETERMINATE. CLUES FROM THE
CONTEMPORARY**

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

**Motivation and objectives of the research
in this field**

The Architectural Urban Interior Design (A.U.I.D.) program promotes research on architectural design, with studies and projects aiming at different scales, contexts, and finalities. In AUID, research is based on the theories and practices that nourish the cultural and technical debate on contemporary architecture at an international scale. Research activities highlight the critical analysis and development of design processes and techniques. Constant attention is given to the study of formal and spatial imagination, architectural typologies, the design of urban and interior spaces, technological innovation, and the dynamic relationships with the urgent questions related to the environment.

RESEARCH TOPIC. In 1914, Le Corbusier presented the Maison Dom-ino project, a simple structural framework of three floors connected by a staircase and six slender reinforced concrete pillars. The bare structural matrix, appropriately completed with perimeter walls and partitions, allows for a «total independence and reproducibility of the elements.» (Tafuri, 1992) In this split between the envelope and the content, between formal invariant and configurative possibilities, the architect achieves one of the significant architectural revolutions of the 20th century, which would later embody the plan libre and much of the subsequent international architectural production.



	<p>In 2014, precisely a century later, as curator of the Architecture Biennale "Fundamentals - Elements of Architecture," Rem Koolhaas exhibited the maximum distortion of this split with the installation "Ceiling." Flexibility has reached the same consistency - in terms of space and importance - as its original architectural matrix: "Now, it has become an entire factory of equipment that enables us to exist, a space so deep that it begins to compete with the architecture. It is a domain over which architects have lost all control, a zone surrendered to other professions". (Koolhaas, 2014)</p> <p>The impasse denounced by the curator rises to some contemporary reflections and design experimentation on the topics of adaptability and flexibility as a compositional strategy and theoretical category, and not only as a technical response to the habitability of buildings. Specifically, the research topic investigates these categories as contemporary design strategies, not necessarily linked to the reuse or recovery of built heritage, but as an opportunity to rethink the modernist split between structure and space, investigating its blurred boundaries as a potential area of innovation, as a new project of the indeterminate. From this perspective, the research aims to trace contemporary design strategies, understood as precise poetic choices and spatial images, which can describe the paradigm shift underway in depth compared to the modernist tradition.</p>
<p>Methods and techniques that will be developed and used to carry out the research</p>	<p>The Candidate will develop a research methodology starting from the lectures and assignments of the AUID courses and the Polimi Ph.D. courses. 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. The three-year doctoral research project is part of the programmatic objectives of CRAFT-Competence Center for Anti-Fragile Territories, investigating theoretical and</p>



	<p>design issues on the adaptive capacity of the current and future building heritage in a proactive perspective of ecological and social transition.</p> <p>The research operates through spatial categories of the indeterminate as a new semantic field of experimentation between technique and tectonics in architecture. This implies the need to use project-oriented research methodologies and approaches, considering them necessary to build reflective theories and practices in architecture, urban design, and interior design. The candidate will conduct the three-year research activity at the Polytechnic of Milan and abroad (with a partner department to be identified), establishing a dialogue between the institutions through the development of the individual thesis and a cultural exchange program organizing seminars jointly or by building funded research opportunities.</p> <p>Studying the different formats, methods, and expressions of research in architectural design, the Candidate will profile a personal methodology considering the specificity of the selected topic, the target, and the attended results.</p>
<p>Educational objectives</p>	<p>The education 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 EAAC.</p> <p>The main educational goal of the faculty is to drive the candidate to develop research using a well-organized method by making a comprehensive survey of the chosen question, which leads to an original track and output.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The candidate will be supported in delivering autonomous and innovative scientific products disseminated through seminars, publications, and conferences.</p>



Job opportunities	<p>The Program aims to train highly qualified researchers and professionals who will work in academic institutions, research centers, and public administration, as well as in the private sector, in the fields of architectural, urban, and interior design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - University researchers and lecturers in the scientific fields of the Ph.D. Program. - Researchers with an excellent scientific profile in complex architectural developments and interventions for recovery and transformation. - Independent professionals qualified to manage highly complex design processes. - Designers with tasks of high responsibility in institutions and professional structures and leading manufacturers engaged in traditional residential and special utilities, cultural institutions (museums, libraries, universities, schools, cultural centers), public and private services, commercial networks, accommodation, and leisure.
Composition of the research group	<p>15 Full Professors 22 Associated Professors 6 Assistant Professors 69 PhD Students</p>
Name of the research directors	Fabrizia Berlingieri

Contacts

Ph.D. Head

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

Educational activities (purchase of study books and material, funding for conference participation, summer schools, workshops, etc.): research budget: 5.300,25 euros per Ph.D. student.

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