



# PhD in ARCHITECTURAL URBAN INTERIOR DESIGN - 41st cycle

Number of scholarship offered	3
Department	DIPARTIMENTO DI ARCHITETTURA E STUDI URBANI

## Description of the PhD Programme

The AUID (Architectural Urban Interior Design) PhD program promotes research in architectural, urban, interior and landscape design, exploring the role that design plays and could play within wider cultural processes. Candidates are given a high degree of flexibility in their studies, but the areas of work are broadly organised around the following themes: the study of theories and techniques of formal and spatial conception; the relationships between physical architectural forms and the collective imagination, exploring the role of representation and drawing in design processes; architectural typologies and their contemporary transformation in the design of urban and interior spaces; the role of technological innovation and critical relationships with the pressing issues related to the environmental crisis: the rational use of primary sources, the protection of biodiversity, the enhancement of relationships between places and living beings (human and non-human), in which architectural design contributes to the generation of new narratives. 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." . 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." 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. essential and constant characteristic of the program is its strong relationship with the practice of architectural design. 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.

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 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 41th Cycle, starting in the 2025-26 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.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•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.</li> </ul>
Methods and techniques that will be developed and used to carry out the research	<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.</p> <p>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 &amp; Innovation of the European Commission (2011) and the Regulations of the Polimi Doctoral School.</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>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>
Educational objectives	<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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The candidate is helped to acquire the skills to organize a consistent analysis of case studies, formulate a clear</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.
<b>Job opportunities</b>	<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"> <li>- University researchers and lecturers in the scientific fields of the Ph.D. Program.</li> <li>- Researchers with an excellent scientific profile in complex architectural developments and interventions for recovery and transformation.</li> <li>- Independent professionals qualified to manage highly complex design processes.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Composition of the research group</b>	14 Full Professors 14 Associated Professors 0 Assistant Professors 111 PhD Students
<b>Name of the research directors</b>	Sara Protasoni

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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	--

#### Scholarship Increase for a period abroad

Amount monthly	650.0 €
By number of months	6

#### Stage and period abroad

Institution or company where the candidate will spend the period abroad (name and brief description)	
By number of months abroad	0

**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
- Paris Val de Seine
- Xian University
- SJTU University

**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.