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PhD School - Politecnico di Milano

Manifesto of the PhD Program of:

Architectural Urban Interior Design - AUID

Cycle XXXVIII
2022-23

Ph.D. School - Politecnico di Milano

Ph.D. Program: Architectural Urban Interior Design - AUID

Course start: November 2022

Location of the PhD Program: Milano, Campus Leonardo, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies

PhD Program Website: www.auid.polimi.it

PhD School Website: <http://www.dottorato.polimi.it/en/>

The Architectural Urban Interior Design (AUID) Ph.D. program promotes research focused on architectural design, with studies and projects aiming 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 urban and rural environment, the green, blue, and grey infrastructure. Research is supported by the acquisition and elaboration of insights and skills precisely linked to the contemporary architecture's theoretical and critical horizon.

The Program foresees a constant elaboration and discussion of theoretical and operational tools. This dialectic process aims to foster the development of 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, conferences.

The Program is embedded into the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DASTU), which hosts more than 160 professors and researchers engaged in an open multidisciplinary scenario of architectural and urban studies, including every branch of design culture.

The Program offers an intense sharing of knowledge, information, and practices. AUID is a creative, open, multicultural environment where the researchers find frequent occasions of exchange with the board of professors, other research centers and doctoral institutions; the Program supports international exchanges, conferences, exhibitions, and research networks.

The Program provides opportunities for teaching and tutoring activities, which is considered an essential research complement, thanks to the close connection with the Polimi 'School of Architecture, Urban Design, and Building Construction'. The Program is also included in the Polimi Ph.D. School, which gives the candidates the possibility to attend many interdisciplinary courses, keeping in contact with the larger Polimi doctoral community.

The Program aims to train and prepare highly qualified researchers and professionals who will work in academic institutions, research centers, public administrations, and the private sector, in the field of architectural, urban, and interior design.

Eligible students hold a master's degree in architecture or close disciplines and can read, write, and speak English fluently. A background in Architecture is mostly appreciated, but are accepted a curriculum based in Design, Media, History, and other programs related with Art and Humanities.

The Program is run by a Head, who coordinates all activities. Then, different actors cooperate in the program development. Deputy Heads have specific assignments related to foreign relations, interior relations, departmental research. The Faculty Board has the scientific responsibility of all researchers, together with a Board of Experts composed of professors and lecturers with bold academic research experience.

An international Advisory Board connects AUID with an extensive international network.

Research topics

The Architectural Urban Interior Design (AUID) Ph.D. program promotes research focused on architectural design, with studies and projects aiming at different scales, contexts, and finalities.

Research activities point at the critical analysis and development of design processes and techniques in dynamic relationships with the urgent questions related to the urban and rural environment and the green, blue, and grey infrastructure. Research is based on the acquisition and elaboration of insights and skills

explicitly linked to contemporary architecture's theoretical and critical horizon. Every year, the Program focuses on specific topics to be explored theoretically and designerly in respect of its general directions. Within the 38th Cycle, starting in 2022-23 academic year, the preferential research lines follow these topics, which be pursued choosing various viewpoints and fields:

- Theory of architecture and architectural Design: reframing premises and goals, with case studies from the past and from the present times.
- Architecture and mass media: how architectural design interacts with political and social issues.
- Architecture as a contemporary narrative: research, criticism, education form an elaborate creative engine of producing ideas, ideologies, fetishism, and critical thought.
- Research by design: this relationship, carefully investigated in the past years, is a test site for specific Design-driven research applied to different contemporary challenges.

The Candidate will develop a research methodology starting from the lectures and assignments of the AUID courses and the courses of the Polimi Ph.D. School.

Studying the different formats, methods, expressions of research in architectural design, the Candidate will profile a personal methodology considering the specificity of the selected object, the target, the attended results.

The Program considers that design is a relevant and necessary component of any research. Together with the AUID Faculty and the Supervisor, each Candidate will find a specific position between design and research.

Professional opportunities and job market

Educational objectives focus on the deep understanding of a well-selected and defined topic; the main goal is to develop research containing a comprehensive survey of the chosen question, which leads to an original track and output.

The Candidate will acquire the skill 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 to deliver autonomous and innovative scientific products to be disseminated through seminars, publications, and conferences.

Enrollment: Admission requirements

Italian and International citizens are requested to have graduated according to the pre-existing laws D.M. 3.11.1999 n. 509, or to have a Master of Science degree following D.M. 3.11.1999 n. 509, or a Master of Science following D.M. 22.10.2004 n. 270, or similar academic title obtained abroad, equivalent for duration and content to the Italian title, with an overall period of university studies of at least five years.

A Master of Science degree in Architecture is highly recommended; candidates who graduated in disciplines as Landscape, Design, Art, Media, and Communications are allowed to enroll in the Program.

A certified knowledge of the English language is a requirement for admission. Please refer to the Ph.D. School website for details.

The admission to the Program will be established according to the evaluation of the candidates' curricula, motivation letters, and a proposal of a Ph.D. research, which candidates will send contextually with their application to the admission announcement. A shortlist of applicants may be requested to meet delegates members of the Faculty Board.

The Program welcomes both foreign and Italian students. English is the official language.

The number of positions is indicated in the Call for admission to the 38th Ph.D. cycle: <http://www.dottorato.polimi.it/en>.

Scholarships are available on general and specific themes, following the parameters illustrated in the call for admission. Candidates supported by scholarships of other national and international institutions may obtain a direct access to the AUID Ph. D. program, after the Board approval.

Requirements for the Ph.D. title achievement

The achievement of the Ph.D. title in "Architectural Urban Interior Design" requires a study and research activity of at least three years equivalent of full-time study, focused on the development of a Ph.D. thesis.

Ph.D. candidates must earn a minimum of 30-course credits (see paragraph 5.3 below) and regularly conduct studies and research.

At the beginning of the course, the Faculty Board can assign a tutor to supervise and assist the Ph.D. candidate. The tutor shall be a professor belonging to the Faculty Board or the Groups of Experts.

The Faculty Board may assign extra course credits to one or more candidates if they need to complete their preparation in specific topics relevant to their research projects.

Research development

The main aim of all Polimi Ph.D. Programs is the development, for the candidates, of a research-oriented mindset, with expertise and skills in a specific research topic.

Ph.D. candidates are requested to develop an original research contribution. The Ph.D. thesis must thus contribute to increasing the knowledge in the architectural design research field. Besides, it has to be coherent with the general research lines of the Ph.D. Program.

The research results are collected in the Ph.D. thesis, where the candidate's contribution is put in perspective to the research state of the art in the specific research field.

The research develops under the guidance of a supervisor, who supports the candidate in the setting-out and everyday activities related to the thesis development. The supervisor is not necessarily a member of the Faculty Board and may also belong to an institution that is not Politecnico di Milano. The supervisor can be supported by one or more co-supervisors.

Further activities are encouraged during the Ph.D. path to enhance the candidate's personal skills and research expertise. Candidates must acquire the capability to present and discuss their work in the research local and global communities. Consequently, both the participation in international conferences and the publication of the research results in peer-reviewed journals are supported.

The Program encourages the candidates' research interactions with other groups in their research field, in national and international areas. Research visits of at least three months are strongly fostered, as through them, the candidates may acquire different skills to develop their research work and thesis.

The minimum duration of the Program is three years.

Objectives and framework of the teaching activities

The Ph.D. Polimi Programs and the Ph.D. Polimi School activate teaching forms of different kind and credit value, including courses, seminars, project workshops, laboratories. Teaching activities cover the fundamental research issues (problems, theories, methods), representing the founding element of the Ph.D. Program. Lessons are held in English. Structured teaching activities allow earning ECTS credits.

The Ph.D. School offers courses aiming to train the Ph.D. candidates in soft and transferable skills. These courses' skills and abilities are expected to help candidates across different areas of their careers to respond to the rapidly evolving needs of the global economy and society at large.

The Ph.D. School courses activated for the 2022-2023 academic year will be visible at this link: <http://www.dottorato.polimi.it/en/during-your-phd/phd-level-courses/>. At least 10 of the 30 credits (ECTS) that each candidate is required to earn shall be obtained through soft and transferable skills courses organized by the Ph.D. School.

The educational structure can include:

- Lectures, training sessions, guided tours, and seminar cycles.
- Seminar activities and individual stages/internships particularly important for enhancing the students' curriculum.
- Individual research driven by a supervisor and discussed with the Faculty Board.

Each learning activity is subject to grading through oral examination and/or the submission of written

papers. Detailed programs are available on the Program's and Polimi websites. Programs and bibliographies of courses are available online and will be communicated at the beginning of each activity.

A) The AUID Ph.D. Program organizes compulsory and elective courses about research in architectural design. The list is available at <http://www.auid.polimi.it/>.

B) The Ph.D. School organizes general and Inter-doctoral courses. The list is available at <https://www.dottorato.polimi.it/en/phd-school/phd-level-courses>.

The table below summarizes the coursework activities.

Ph.D. AUID Program Courses	Every Ph.D. candidate must achieve 12 credits from AUID compulsory courses, possibly within the first 18 months
Ph.D. AUID Program Courses	Every Ph.D. candidate must achieve 4 credits from AUID elective courses, possibly within the first 18 months
Ph.D. School Courses	Every Ph.D. candidate must achieve 10 credits from Ph.D. School courses, possibly within the first 18 months
Extra Courses	Every P.h.D. candidate must achieve 4 credits from international activities, certified by the AUID Board: participation at international conferences, seminars, workshops, etc.

Compulsory AUID courses (each one of 2 credits)

Prof. Guya Bertelli - Urban Regeneration and Quality of Living: 10 Paradigms of the contemporaneity

Prof. Pierre Alain Croset – Research by Criticism

Prof. Filippo Orsini - Contests, Workshops, Exhibitions as Design Driven Research

Prof. Simona Pierini - Turning Research into a Book

Prof. Alessandro Rocca – Architecture in Transition

Prof. Luigi Spinelli - Writing the Architecture Project

Elective AUID courses (each one of 2 credits)

Prof. Luigi Cocchiarella -Digital Graphics Transition in Architectural Design Agenda

Prof. Barbara Coppetti - Innovative Educational Landscape: figures of the learning space and modes of training

Prof. Luca M.F. Fabris - Environmental Design as a Method

Prof. Stamatina Kousidi - Forms of Discourse in Architectural Design Research

Preparatory Courses

If the supervisor and the tutor think that it is useful, or necessary, that the candidate attends preparatory courses (chosen among the activated courses at the Politecnico di Milano), the AUID Board may assign some extra-credits to be acquired to complete the training path. The credits earned in this way will be considered additional to the mandatory credits to be achieved with the Ph.D. courses.

Ph.D. candidates must submit a study plan, which may be later revised and changed because of needs motivated by their Ph.D. career development. The study plans must be approved by the Program Head.

Specialistic Courses, Long-Training Seminars

The attendance of Specialist Courses, Workshops, Schools, Seminars cycles is strongly encouraged and (if these seminars, workshops are certified and evaluated) may permit to acquire extra credits according to the modalities established by the Faculty Board and previous approval of the study plan submitted by the candidate. These courses and workshops can be inserted in the study plan, even if they are not evaluated (and therefore not qualified as credits), as optional "additional teaching."

Yearly evaluations

Candidates present their work to the Faculty Board at least once a year. In particular, the candidates must pass an annual evaluation to be admitted to the following Ph.D. year.

After the end of the third year, the Board of Professors establishes the candidate's admission to the final defense. As a result of each successful annual evaluation, the candidates receive an assessment (A/B/C/D). Candidates who do not pass the exam will be qualified as "Repeating candidate" (Er) or "not able to carry on with the Ph.D. (Ei)."

After the final year, candidates who have achieved good results but need more time to draw up their thesis may obtain a prorogation of up to 12 months.

The activity of the Candidates follows these steps

First semester

During the first year, while attending AUID Program and Ph.D. School courses, the Candidate finds a supervisor and chooses the thesis topic and focuses on its theoretical and methodological implications; defines a preliminary table of contents and the primary bibliography. At the end of the first semester, Ph.D. Students present the "State of the Art" document to the Faculty Board.

1st Milestone • Presentation and discussion of the State of the Art for the chosen Research Topic

Second semester

At the end of the second semester, the Ph.D. Candidate presents to the Faculty Board the development of essential elements and documentation of the research thesis: annotated tables of contents, bibliographical documentation, graphic and iconographic material.

2nd Milestone • Presentation and discussion of the Research Project for the admission to the second year.

Third and fourth semesters

The second year is devoted to detail thematic, experimental, design issues, going deep into the research on the selected topic.

3rd Milestone • Presentation and discussion of the Research Project and of a Position Report.

4th Milestone • Presentation and discussion of the PhD Thesis Index and Summary for the admission to the third year.

Fifth and sixth semesters

The third year is devoted to the elaboration of the thesis, producing, and organizing texts and images, bibliographies.

5th Milestone • Presentation and discussion of the First Draft of the PhD Thesis.

6th Milestone • Presentation and discussion of the Final Draft of the PhD Thesis; proposal, with the approval of the Supervisor of two (or more) external independent examiners to be appointed for the evaluation of the thesis before the final exam.

The Faculty Board determines the admission to the final defense or the need of and extra time, up to 12 months.

After the admission to the final defense

- Evaluation of the PhD Thesis by the external independent examiners.
- Delivery to the AUID Board of the thesis final version, updated after the examiners' reviews.
- PhD Thesis defense.

Ph.D. thesis defense

The Ph.D. study and research work are carried out full time during the three years of the Ph.D. course. Stages of study periods in (Italian or International) companies or external institutions may complete the candidate's preparation. The resulting thesis needs to be coherent with the research issues indicated in the Call of the AUID Ph.D. Program.

The candidate must present an original thesis and discuss its contribution to the research field.

The Ph.D. research follows the lead of a supervisor, who supports the candidate in the setting out and everyday activities regarding the thesis development.

At the conclusion of the Ph.D. studies, the Faculty Board evaluates the candidates. Candidates who receive a positive evaluation submit their theses to two external reviewers for refereeing. If the reviewers' assessments are positive, the candidates defend their thesis in front of a committee composed of at least three members (at least two are external experts).

In the PhD thesis defense, the research will be evaluated by a Defense Committee composed of three members, at least two not belonging to the Department, and eventually from one or two experts. Different compositions are allowed if depending on specific agreements, such as Double Degree or jointly supervised candidates.

Laboratories, Ph.D. Secretary Services

The PhD has a workspace at the 4th floor of Building 12, campus Leonardo.

Administrative manager: Marina Bonaventura

Department of Urban Studies (DASTU)

via Bonardi 3 - I-20133 Milano

Contacts: Tel. +39-02-23995165, marina.bonaventura@polimi.it, phd-auid@polimi.it

International collaborative relations

Politecnico di Milano supports joint PhD paths with international institutions, as well as Joint and Double PhD Programs. Further information is available on the PhD School website

<http://www.dottorato.polimi.it/en/> and on the PhD Program website (<http://www.auid.polimi.it>).

The AUID PhD Program collaborates with many foreign universities and institutions:

- > TU 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
- > Universidade Lusófona do Porto
- > Hafencity Universität Hamburg
- > Norwegian University of Science and Technology Trondheim
- > Université Paris-Saclay

Attachment A1 –Head of the PhD AUID Program

Alessandro Rocca is an architect MSc – Ph.D., full professor of Architectural and Urban Design at the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (Dastu) of Politecnico di Milano (Polimi). He is heading, since 2019, the Ph.D. AUID Program of Architectural Urban Interior Design (<http://www.auid.polimi.it>), and he is member of the Board of the Polimi School of Doctoral Programs. He teaches at the Bachelor and at the Master of Architecture, at Polimi School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering (AUIC). He was visiting professor at the Universities of Clemson (SC, USA), the School of Architecture of Ferrara, Brera Academy of Fine Arts (Milan), and he lectured in foreign and Italian universities (Bucea Beijing, Polytech Saint Petersburg, Higher School of Economics Saint Petersburg, ENSA Paris-Belleville, ENSA Lyon, ENSP Versailles, TU Delft, University of Jordan, ENAU Tunis, and in Italian universities; he was panelist at several European PhD programs (KU Leuven, TU Berlin, University of Ljubljana, University of Lisbon, Aarhus School of Architecture, Hafencity University Hamburg).

He is author and curator of several books on architecture and landscape (as “Lo spazio smontabile” “Architecture low cost low tech”, “Natural Architecture”, “Nine Planetary Gardens”), he published essays and articles on Italian and international architectural reviews and magazines, such as “Lotus”, “Interni”, “Domus”, “Abitare”, “Parametro”, “Archis”, “Bauwelt”, “Territorio” “Fuoco amico”, “Viceversa”.

From 1990 to 2003, he was editor of the reviews “Lotus international” “Lotus Documents” and “Navigator”. He is a regular contributor of the magazine “Interni” (2008-14) and, since 2015, he is the founder and editor in chief of the architectural review “Fuoco amico” <https://issuu.com/mmxiipress>. He co-designed the Cereals Cluster at Milan (built, at Expo 2015) and led the design team for the Bovisa campus masterplan (2016).

He directed the Polimi Design Summer School 2018. He co-curated some international workshops, such as the yearly Miaw (Milan Architectural International Workshop, Polimi, since 2014 to 2019), “Landscape in Art and Science” (Polimi, 2016), “Plaine de France” (Ecole Nationale Supérieure du Paysage de Versailles – Polimi, 2015), “Mines Landscape Design” (Iglesias – Milan, Polimi, 2013), “The Garden of the Righteous” (Milan, Polimi, 2012), “Costruire Naturale” (Piedmont, Polimi, 2010), “Picnic al Tempio” (Sicily, 2007, 2008, 2009).

His publications, with downloadable files, are reported at <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5667-4579>.

Attachment A2 – PhD AUID Faculty Board

Prof. Alessandro Rocca, Polimi-DASU, PO ICAR 14 (head)
Prof. Marco Biraghi, Polimi-DASU, PO ICAR 18 (deputy head)
Prof. Emilia Corradi, Polimi-DASU, PA ICAR 14 (deputy head)
Prof. Laura Montedoro, Polimi-DASU, PO ICAR 21 (deputy head)
Prof. Gennaro Postiglione, Polimi-DASU, PO ICAR 16 (deputy head)
Prof. Guya Bertelli, Polimi-DASU, PO ICAR 14
Prof. Marco Borsotti, Polimi-DASU, PA ICAR 16
Prof. Marco Bovati, Polimi-DASU, PA ICAR 14
Prof. Pier Federico Caliari, Polito, PO ICAR 16
Prof. Simona Chiodo, Polimi-DASU, PO MFIL04
Prof. Luigi Cocchiarella, Polimi-DASU, PA ICAR 17
Prof. Pierre-Alain Croset, Polimi-DASU, PO ICAR 14
Prof. Valentina Dessì, Polimi-DASU, PA ICAR 12
Prof. Andrea Di Franco, Polimi-DASU, PA ICAR 14
Prof. Immacolata C. Forino, Polimi-DASU, PO ICAR 16
Prof. Roberto Gigliotti, Unibz, PA ICAR 16
Prof. Andrea Gritti, Polimi-DASU, PA ICAR 14
Prof. Carles Muro Soler, Polimi-DASU, PA ICAR 14
Prof. Marco Navarra, Università di Catania, PA ICAR 14
Prof. Filippo Orsini, Polimi-DASU, PA, ICAR 14
Prof. Orsina Simona Pierini, Polimi-DASU, PO ICAR 14
Prof. Alessandro Rogora, Polimi-DASU PO ICAR/12
Prof. Pierluigi Salvadeo, Polimi-DASU, PA ICAR 16
Prof. Luigi Spinelli, Polimi-DASU, PA ICAR 14
Prof. Ilaria Valente, Polimi-DASU, PO ICAR 14

Members of the Board of Experts accredited to participate in teaching and research activities

Prof. Fabrizia Berlingieri, Polimi-DASU, PA ICAR 14
Prof. Antonella Contin, Polimi-DASU, RU ICAR 14
Prof. Barbara Coppetti, Polimi-DASU, PA ICAR 14
Prof. Giovanni Corbellini, Polito, PO ICAR 14
Prof. Cassandra Cozza, Polimi-DASU, Rtd-A ICAR 14
Prof. Luca M.F. Fabris, Polimi-DASU, PA ICAR 12
Prof. Carlo Gandolfi, Università di Parma, PA ICAR 14
Prof. Stefano Guidarini, Polimi-Dastu, PA, ICAR 14
Prof. Stamatina Kousidi, Polimi-DASU, PA ICAR 14
Prof. Francesca Lanz, Polimi-DASU, ICAR 16
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Prof. Roberto Rizzi, Polimi-DASU, PA ICAR 16
Prof. Michele Sbacchi, Unipa, PA ICAR 14

Prof. Giulia Setti, Polimi-DASU, Rtd-A ICAR 14
Prof. Michele Ugolini, Polimi-DASU, PA ICAR 16

International Advisory Board

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Prof. Oya Atalay Frank, ZHAW, Wintherthur
Prof. Tom Avermaete, ETH Zurich
Prof. Matthias Graf von Ballestrem, HafenCity Universität Hamburg
Prof. Luca Basso Peressut, Politecnico di Milano
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Prof. Carlo Berizzi, Università di Pavia
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