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# PASSAGES

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ARCHITECTURE FOR FLOWING AND CONNECTING SPACES

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International Conference  
September 24–26<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Politecnico di Milano

**Book of Abstracts**

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# PASSAGES

ARCHITECTURE FOR FLOWING AND CONNECTING SPACES

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Raffaella Cavallaro  
Nicolò Chierichetti

International Conference  
September 24–26<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
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Conference Proceedings  
**Book of Abstracts**

**PASSAGES.**  
**Architecture for Flowing  
and Connecting Spaces**  
Conference Proceedings: Book of Abstracts

International Conference  
24-25-26 September 2025  
Politecnico di Milano

**Editors | Curators**  
Raffaella Cavallaro  
Nicolò Chierichetti

ISBN 978-94-6518-101-1

September 2025

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Additional materials are available on the conference website  
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For more information: [passages-dastu@polimi.it](mailto:passages-dastu@polimi.it)

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# Welcome to *Passages* International Conference at Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies.

*Passages* aims to investigate notions of space for mobility in contemporary architectural discourses. How architectural design can contribute to reimagining spaces to overcome functionalist engineering limitations, also considering the ecological, climate and social impacts of mobility spaces as something more than mere built objects?

This conference aims to unveil the potential of architectural design and research tools to enrich unconventional discussions about mobility in urban and periurban contexts, its spatial configurations and experiential qualities. Although mobility is intended as a framework, the discourse will focus on the spaces above, below, in-between, and to the sides of the ordinary boundaries of architectures of flow, as well as on the spaces of new forms of movement.

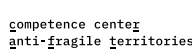
Raffaella Cavallaro  
Nicolò Chierichetti

Politecnico di Milano  
September 2025

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<b>I</b>	<b>Introduction</b> <i>Why Talking about Mobility through Architecture?</i> <i>Contemporary challenges, past legacies, and future visions</i> Raffaella Cavallaro, Nicolò Chierichetti	<b>8</b>
<hr/>		
<b>II</b>	<b>Conference Program</b>	<b>18</b>
<hr/>		
<b>III</b>	<b>Keynote Lectures</b>	<b>24</b>
<hr/>		
<b>IV</b>	<b>Panel Sessions</b>	<b>32</b>
	<b>Intersection</b>	<b>35</b>
	Over, Under, Architecture	37
	Spaces of Transition	59
	<b>Collateral</b>	<b>79</b>
	Landscapes of Re-Invention	81
	Mobility and the Cityscape	105
	<b>Evolution</b>	<b>127</b>
	Unfolding new Mobility	129
	Between Utopia and History	151
<hr/>		
<b>V</b>	<b>Biographies</b>	<b>172</b>

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# Conference Program



**Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

13.00 - 14.00

**Welcome coffee and Registration**

Conference Room, Building 13 'Trifoglio' - Ground floor

14.00 - 14.30

**Greetings and Introduction**

Conference Room, Building 13 'Trifoglio' - Ground floor

Introduction by Raffaella Cavallaro and Nicolò Chierichetti - *Curators*  
Massimo Bricocoli - *Head of DASTU Department*  
Sara Protasoni - *Head of AUID PhD Program*  
Giuseppe Quaranta - *Coordinator of Spoke1- WP1*  
*MOST National Center for Sustainable Mobility*  
Valeria Fedeli - *Scientific Director CRAFT*

14.30 - 15.30

**Keynote Lecture**

Conference Room, Building 13 'Trifoglio' - Ground floor

**Holy Highway**  
by **Gilles Delalex** (Studio Muoto, FR)

15.30 - **Short break**

15.50 - 18.20

**Conference Sessions**

**Intersection: Over, Under, Architecture**  
Aula De Donato, Building 3 'Gino Cassinis' - Ground floor

**Collateral: Mobility and the CityScape**  
Conference Room, Building 13 'Trifoglio' - Ground floor

18.20 - 18.30

**Closing Remarks**

Conference Room, Building 13 'Trifoglio' - Ground floor

## Thursday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025

08.30

### Welcome Coffee

Conference Room, Building 13 'Trifoglio' - Ground floor

09.15 - 10.15

### Keynote Lecture

Conference Room, Building 13 'Trifoglio' - Ground floor

**Time and the City. How mobility shape society**  
by **Mads Birgens** (Studio COBE, DK)

10.15 - 10.30

### Short break

10.30 - 13.00

### Conference Sessions

#### Collateral: Landscape of Re-Invention

Space CRAFT, Building 11B - Ground floor

#### Evolution: Unfolding new Mobility

Conference Room, Building 13 'Trifoglio' - Ground floor

13.00 - 14.00

### Lunch break

Conference Room, Building 13 'Trifoglio' - Ground floor

14.00 - 15.00

### Keynote Lecture

Conference Room, Building 13 'Trifoglio' - Ground floor

**Birnam Wood Systemic Approach for Metropolitan Green**  
by **Adriaan Geuze** (West8, NL)

15.00 - 15.30 - Short Coffee break

15.30 - 17.45

### Conference Sessions

#### Evolution: Between Utopia and History

Space CRAFT, Building 11B - Ground floor

#### Intersection: Spaces of Transition

Conference Room, Building 13 'Trifoglio' - Ground floor

## Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

9.15-10.15

### Welcome Coffee

Conference Room, Building 13 'Trifoglio' - Ground floor

10.15 - 11.45

### Roundtable "Comparing Forms and Spaces of Contemporary Mobility"

Conference Room, Building 13 'Trifoglio' - Ground floor

Moderated by

Alessandro Rocca – Politecnico di Milano (DASU)

with

Alfonso Femia – Atelier(s) Alfonso Femia

Sara Favargiotti – Università di Trento (DICAM)

Beatrice Moretti – Università degli Studi di Genova (DAD)

11.45 - 12.00 - Short Break

12.00 - 12.45

### Session Chairs Closing

Conference Room, Building 13 'Trifoglio' - Ground floor

12.45 - 13.00

### Conference Closing Remarks

Conference Room, Building 13 'Trifoglio' - Ground floor

14:30

### Guided visit to 'TRIENNALE DI MILANO' Archives

Triennale di Milano, Green Metro line M2 "Cadorna"

# Panel Sessions

# IV

Sessions Index

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**I.1 Intersection: Over, Under, Architecture**

Session Chair: Fabio Lepratto

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**I.2 Intersection: Spaces of Transition**

Session Chair: Francesca Zanotto

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**C.1 Collateral: Landscapes of Re-Invention**

Session Chair: Andrea Oldani

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**C.2 Collateral: Mobility and the Cityscape**

Session Chair: Chiara Nifosi

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**E.1 Intersection: Unfolding new Mobility**

Session Chair: Giulia Setti

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**E.2 Between Utopia and History**

Session Chair: Leonardo Zuccaro Marchi

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# Collateral

The surrounding spaces generated by infrastructures, as well as those in direct interference, are often dismissed as residual and sacrificable within contemporary development agendas. However, these “nonplaces” require a critical rethinking oriented toward their valorisation and regeneration, for example in dealing with a renewed approach on climate change and biodiversity relevance. Such collateral places are interconnected with the built environment and the open space, and demand a sensitive and respectful reinterpretation that acknowledges the presence of existing infrastructure. On-hold spaces open discussion to new values and experimental design which can upgrade the infrastructural meaning, without intervening on physical infrastructures, but as an endorsement to mobility networks. «Mobility spaces are not neutral; they are cultural and social constructs that require design interventions to enhance their potential as public space» (Vöckler, K. & Eckart, 2023).

**borders, non-places, reclaimed spaces**

## Contents

BEATRICE BASILE <b>RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE [LIMINAL]SCAPE</b> Architectural Reinterpretation of the Edge as an Opportunity for Urban and Environmental Regeneration	108
MAGDALENA STOROZENKO POLAK <b>(IN)ACCESSIBLE PASSAGES: INCLUSIVE STRATEGIES FOR POST-RAILWAY MOBILITY SPACES IN SMALL TOWNS</b> Analysing spatial, social and informational exclusion caused by the decline of railway infrastructure in local contexts	110
DOMENICO CIARCIA; ANDREA STRONATI <b>ANCONA STATION TO BE</b> The relocation of the Adriatic railway as an opportunity for urban regeneration	112
DONGNI LI <b>MOBILITY AS SPATIAL AGENCY</b> Informal Practices in Chongqing's BaiXiangJu	114
GOZDE DAMLA TURHAN HASKARA; ARDA COLAKOGLU <b>FROM IDLE TO CONNECTED</b> Reimagining Industrial Heritage within Mobility in Izmir	116
GIULIA AVERSA <b>ON SPEED AND RESONANCE</b> Rethinking Public Space in the Age of Acceleration	118
LUÍSA GONÇALVES <b>TRANSPORT STATION, MARKET AND URBAN VITALITY</b> Popular commerce and public space in Brazil's stations	120
ALESSIA GUAIANI <b>SHARED STREETSCAPES: RETHINKING THE STREET THROUGH GROUND DESIGN</b> Balancing mobility, ecology, and social life within the limited surfaces of the contemporary street	122
DIEGO TERNA <b>STREETS / OASES</b> A new vision of the Streets as Public Spaces	124

# Collateral

# MOBILITY AND THE CITYSCAPE

SESSION CHAIR:

Chiara Nifosi

Assistant Professor, DASTU



## **RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE [LIMINAL] SCAPE**

Architectural Reinterpretation of the Edge as an Opportunity for Urban and Environmental Regeneration

### **Beatrice BASILE**

PhD Candidate | Politecnico di Milano. Department of Architecture and Urban Studies. AUID Programme.  
Guest Researcher | Delft University of Technology (TU Delft). Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment (BK). Department of Architecture. Theory Territories Transitions Section. Architectural Design Crossovers

Interface between the infrastructure and the territories it crosses, the railway edge is a physical border that assumes a role in their architectural and spatial definition. Its longitudinal dimension constantly unfolds into a transversal relationship, shaping the space of interaction between the railway and the landscapes it passes through. The point-to-point relationship of the line and the fabrics it intersects remains critical today: whether concerning existing lines and their modification, infrastructural insertion seems to be addressed only from an engineering perspective, through a mainly economic and functional approach. With its exclusionary character, the edge is thus reduced to a two-dimensional artefact of separation dictated by safety issues.

*What kind of relationship does the railway edge establish with the territories it encounters? How can an architectural approach contribute to the rewriting of the critical relationship between the railroad and the territory, becoming an opportunity for urban regeneration?*

The research is framed within the context of an Italian PNRR (Recovery and Resilience National Plan) PhD scholarship, co-funded by FNM Group - an integrated Group for sustainable mobility in Lombardy. Through the analysis of the local case study of the Ferrovienord rail network, this contribution explores the railway edge both as an artefact and a space available to the project, reconsidering it in its three-dimensional extension, including marginal areas and liminal spaces. By comparing selected European best practices, it investigates how the architectural project can attribute to the railway border an urban, connective and environmental role. This linear element seeks a transversal variable-depth that transforms it into an 'extended edge', the liminal place of mediation, a place to inhabit, an opportunity for regeneration that gives a new quality to the infrastructure border, rewriting its relationship with the consolidated crossed fabrics.

*Railway edge, marginal-spaces, Infrastructure borderscape, Urban environmental regeneration, Architectural approach*

Stoll, K., & Scott, L. (2010). *Infrastructure as architecture. Designing composite networks*. Jovis Verlag GmbH.

Valentini, A., & Ventura, P. (2008). *Il paesaggio e le infrastrutture*. La Rosa Editrice.

Vallerini, L. (2009). *Il paesaggio attraversato. Inserimento paesaggistico delle grandi infrastrutture lineari*. Firenze: Edifir-Edizioni Firenze.