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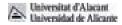
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The Department of Architecture and Urban Studies of the Politecnico di Milano organises at the School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering (AUIC), EURAU Milan 2024 "IN-PRESENCE / THE BODY AND THE SPACE - The role of corporeity in the era of virtualization", the eleventh edition of the international conference, which takes place from 19 to 22 June 2024



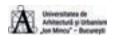




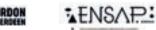
















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/ EURAU Milan 2024

11th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

EUROPEAN RESEARCH ON ARCHITECTURE
AND URBANISM INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

IN-PRESENCE / THE BODY AND THE SPACE

The role of corporeity in the era of virtualization

For those who deal with the city and the territory, space refers to the body

[C. Bianchetti]

The EURAU Milan 2024 Conference aims to unpack the significance of corporeality in contemporary times and its relevance for the upcoming years. Specifically, the focus is on the relation between body and space and how this relates to architecture, the city and the environment, interpreted as physical facts and processes. Within the background of a technological turn, the focus is now on what has changed or will further change in this relationship and what, on the opposite, remains unalterable, inherently bound to the material and impervious to the virtual.

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Spaces, Bodies, Design A Multidisciplinary Perspective

MARCO BOVATI, ANNA MORO, DANIELE VILLA

In an era in which many aspects of our society, lives, and disciplines are shifting - sometimes too lightly, others forcibly - from the physical to the immaterial, from the corporeal to the virtual, EURAU Milan 2024 Conference reflects on the current and future role of corporeality, examining what has changed and is changing, what is effectively irreducible from the material to the virtual intangible dimension and what, in terms of values and experiences, is gained or lost in this shift.

EURAU Milan 2024 solicits researchers and professionals in the spheres of spatial studies, from architecture to urban and environmental design, planning and policies, artistic disciplines and experimentations, etcetera, to reflect on the conditions/practices/tools that require the presence of a body or several bodies in a space, whether small or large, indoor or outdoor, in order to be lived, experienced and realised authentically, and if so, how this is different and why this is crucial compared to technologically mediated, non-corporal, non-material, even non-human, experiences.

Considering diverse points of view and arguments, the perspective of corporeality appears intimately linked to architecture and urbanism in multiple ways and through the many approaches over time.

This vital link can be seen, for instance, if we consider the many perspectives from which space can be conceived: from the uses and the interpretations of space through 'practices', through a culturally-mediated perception of space, to the role of space itself as a source of sensory and environmental stimuli, to the production of space through design, or even to the social usability of space as a container of practices and events.

Following this perspective, the spaces of architecture, the city and the environment can be inhabited thanks to, by and through the body and its physical extension. The body is the transit of the relationship between design and space, practices and society. Placing bodies at the core of our disciplinary discourses means interfering with their material, organic and affective narrative, embracing their uncertainties and stumbles and dealing with the consequences. Bodies are traces of a creative multiplicity, interlaced with the possibility of an open and continuous dialogue with the world.

This multifaceted relationship occurs in two principal ways: one as 'acting bodies', bodies that touch, bodies that act, bodies as actors of practices and

actions, and as a tool for transformative reflection on space; and one as acted bodies', bodies as filters, bodies affected by the physical-spatial and environmental conditions of space. This dialectic between the body as an active medium and the body as passive exposure derives from Gilles Deleuze's reading of Spinoza and carries with it the idea that 'the body is the world, is made of the world, is at one with the world.

Starting from the intention of investigating the space-body relationship, its modifications and resistances, the basic questions EURAÚ Milan 24 intends to

/ Is this condition still actual? How much has it changed, and will it change in the coming years?

/ What cannot change as it is effectively irreducible from the material to the virtual?

/ How has the body-space relationship changed with the advent of new technologies?

/ What still can a body do, and what can only be done by a body?

/ What is the added value of a body-centred approach to our disciplines?

The issue can be approached by questioning boldly a series of recent or wellknown assumptions, which refer to different disciplinary fields but share a core theme: the co-presence and relationship of bodies in space. Furthermore, in the current global conditions – full of innovation but with multiple crises that must be overcome through collaboration and research aiming towards a different future – researchers and professionals are driven to question even the fundamental traits of our disciplines profoundly. What the recent crisis, starting from Covid-19, has reiterated is indeed the centrality of the individual bodies and of bodies interacting in space.

Among the many emerging issues recently developed at the international level for instance, the European Agenda or the international SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), which points to sustainability, justice, equality, freedom, hospitality, health, a new and fairer economy, care for the most fragile people and territories, memory, beauty and socio-spatial transition – EURAU Milan 24 aims to underline and integrate the aspect of 'togetherness' that can be defined as being together, sharing practices and values through bodies and

multiple, even non-physical bonds that occur within space.

The format of the conference is the result of a shared reflection that started with a research seminar on the current state of scientific events, held in March 2023 at Politecnico di Milano. As our network is based on a deep-sharing approach to research and design, we have identified a flexible format that includes both online and in-presence moments. The integration of modes has allowed us to promote a long-term format going from the summer of 2023 to the summer of 2024, called The Road to EURAU, which has engaged participants in bringing their contribution to the table and shaping the conference themes and contents.

We have proposed five preparatory thematic meetings organised by EURAU network partners to discuss this topic in advance. Each meeting introduced a different thematic approach to the conference topic. The outcomes of the meetings helped refine the thematic sessions of EURAU Milan 24 and the preparation of the open call. The aim was to activate an ongoing and wideranging discussion, fed by other forms of communication (a forum, an Instagram profile, a website), leading up to June 2024 as the final moment in which - IN-PRESENCE - we have met to draw conclusions.



The EURAU Milan 24 Conference addressed issues that delve into the tapestry of the relationship between body and space, framed and articulated within five thematic areas:

/CONCEIVED, /INTER-ACTIVE, /AFFECTED, /VULNERABLE and /AUGMENTED

These five themes, as adjectives of the body as well as of the space, are intended as facets of a unique narration that is brought into focus through the exploration of each area. Cross-reading these themes provides a comprehensive lens through which to investigate the dynamic interplay and the multiple layers underlying the body-space relationship.

Specifically, /CONCEIVED anchors the exploration in the realm of reflective and theoretical-experiential elaboration and its foundations. Going beyond the notion of body-space relations grounded in proportions, measurements and geometry, there is an opening towards new forms of action, inter-action and reflection.

In the second session, contributions are asked to delve into the adjective /INTER-ACTIVE, which refers to the dynamics of active interaction in the body-space relationship, highlighting how movement, gestures, and sensory engagement contribute to craft a tapestry weaving together the materiality of space and the embodied experience.

The third theme, /AFFECTED, refers to the possible relationships and actions of the environment on the body, where the environment is understood as the artificial urban territory but also the natural and the natural and climatic domains. This thematic area underscores the profound impact of external factors on bodily experience.

/VULNERABLE bodily experience as well as climatic and natural consequences on space, points at the potential role of a design approach that investigates the relationship between fragile bodies and space. The session is dedicated to the manifold layers of vulnerabilities of bodies in space, and their role as a critical contribution to refocusing our disciplines.

The last thematic area, **/AUGMENTED** disciplines towards the design and reflection of inclusivity, is dedicated to modified and enhanced bodies and the interaction between the physical body and virtual space or artificial intelligence. It explores the evolving landscape of technologically mediated interactions, as well as contemporary art interventions.

/ CONCEIVED

On the relationship between body and space mediated by reflection and theoretical-experient ial elaboration

/ INTER-ACTIVE

On the dynamics of active interactions in the relationship between body and space, and bodies in space, highlighting the role of bodily experience

/ AFFECTED

On the possible relationships between the environment and the body and the potential effects of the environment on the body

/ VULNERABLE

On the potential role of a design approach that investigates the relationship between vulnerable bodies and space

/ AUGMENTED

On modified and enhanced bodies, on the interaction between the physical body and virtual space or artificial intelligence

The thematic areas are intersected transversally by five operational perspectives: **Theory, Research, Design, Education and Retrospective**.

These propose five possible approaches that can also be combined within the same contribution.

The five approaches are based on the idea that the theme of the body-space relationship can be investigated according to different and interrelated modalities and perspectives, allowing for the various theoretical and practical experiences that characterise the activity of architects and urban planners, whether they operate as historians, theorists, designers, educators or professionals. The thematic areas and transversal perspectives form a matrix where contributions can be freely placed.



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"Bodies, encounters, scenes. City assemblages and design strategies"

/RENATO BOCCHI, professor of Theories and Design of Architecture at IUAV University of Venice till 2019 and Director of Architectural Design Dpt. from 2006 to 2009. He coordinated the research program Re-cycle Italy, involving 11 Italian Universities (2013-16). He held lectures in Spain, Portugal, Argentina, Scotland, Ireland, Greece, and Slovenia. From 2015 to 2020 he promoted cultural initiatives among Iuav University, Ca' Pesaro Museum of Modern Art, and Querini-Stampalia Foundation. From 2019 onwards he is collaborating with the Doctorate Schools at Iuav Venice and Sapienza University of Rome. The dominant topics of his research and publications are the relationship between arts, architecture, city, and landscape. His most recent book: "Spazio arte architettura. Un percorso teorico", Carocci, Rome, 2022.

"Art And Architecture. Between Space And Body"

/CRISTINA BIANCHETTI, architect, PhD in Urban Planning, is full professor of Urban Planning at the Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning, in Politecnico di Torino, where she has also served as Deputy Dean. Her work focuses on themes related to living spaces and the critique of contemporary urban planning projects. Her presence in the cultural sphere is evidenced by her participation in and coordination of numerous research projects and by her many writings. Her latest books, "Corpi tra spazio e progetto" [Mimesis 2020 – English edition Jovis, 2021] and "Le Mura di Troia: lo spazio ricompone i corpi" [Donzelli 2023], explore urban planning projects and their practices from a perspective centered on the body, revealing unexpected scenarios that emerge when the viewpoint shifts away from the actor, decision-maker, technician, or a legal or statistical entity, to that of a body that cannot be reduced to its abstractions.

"Insights for a theory of embodiment in urbanism"

/FRANCO FENOGLIO, a nuclear engineer at the Polytechnic University of Turin, he joined Thales Alenia Space (then Aeritalia) in February 1990, dealing with thermal and environmental control of spacecraft. In the late 1990s, he became Chief Engineer of the Nodes in ISS, leading "Nodo 3" until the integration and launch campaign in 2010. Subsequently, he started the Orion European Vehicle Service Module and managed exploration studies and advances. Today, he is Director of Human and Robotics Planetary Exploration, including Thales Alenia Space programs running for Artemis (lunar orbit and surface) and robotics to Mars. As part of his career, he has interacted with major Space Agencies (NASA, ESA, ASI) and major international companies.

"Beyond Earth. Thinking and designing solutions for humans in the (deep) Space"



3 / AFFECTED

/ On the possible relationships and actions of the environment on the body. Built and natural environments can be considered spatial agents acting on bodies in their various features. This corporeal view seeks innovative ways to engage people with environmental challenges, tracing the relationship between the environment and bodies in guiding a spatial transformation and cultivating a shared understanding of this perspective on 'affected' bodies.

Rather than relying on ideological stances, we draw inspiration from the experiential and corporeal aspects of the human body, how they are affected by architectural and urban spatial configurations, as well as by thermal comfort and – in general – the impact of the natural/artificial environment on it. This theme encourages disciplines to interact with frontier knowledge, investigating the relationship between the body/space and other entities and organisms.

Light, energy, temperature, fluids, and microorganisms generate/inform/ form the experience of body/space, mutually modifying each other. Moreover, considering the physical and social body as a perceiving element, comprehending and interacting with the environment, and creating opportunities for environmental transformation also means investigating the role of corporeity concerning commons in their action on territories and urban spaces.

To delve into the theme of affected bodies and expand the gaze towards the condition of the climate crisis means to question the current resilient practices and post-disaster modification from a body-centred perspective. Accordingly, it means observing emergencies but also temporally broadening the view towards the future to understand and interpret risk phenomena, environmental but not only, which affect daily life, the possibilities for transformation, and the relationship between body and space. By assuming this perspective, the session could touch on the contemporary definition of this relation and the historical transformation of the issue, looking at moments of shifting conditions or significant understanding of the topic.

The session welcomes contributions which include but are not limited to:

/ The built and natural environment/body relationship;

/ The body/environment relationship in defining relationships with climate and comfort issues;

/ The body/space relation as an organism, where light, energy, temperature, fluids, and microorganisms generate/inform/shape the experience of the body-space, modifying each other;

/ The city as a place of bodies: the relationship between body, city, and commons;

/ The body affected by climate change: resilient transformation practices, and post-disaster transformations;

/ The relationship between body/climate/environmental risk.

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Citizens as main characters in urban adaptation.

People's experience and contribution in the development of Decision Support Systems

Key Words

Urban resilience, Citizens as observatories, Urban data, Participation, Sustainable development

Climate Change (CC) is increasingly manifesting tangible effects on the environment in which we live, particularly within urban settings. Heat peaks, extreme weather events, periods of drought, followed by intense precipitation and flooding, are increasingly and significantly impacting the lives of citizens. In the face of this transformation, society is called upon to take action, with research playing a prominent role. The international scientific community has been actively engaged for decades in studying mitigation and adaptation strategies to support and guide decision-making processes and urban planning. However, citizen involvement remains relatively limited [Cruz et al. 2023], leading to a disconnection between the knowledge produced and the theoretical possibilities of action on one hand, and real-world practices on the other. This inclusion and impact effectiveness gap has also been acknowledged by the European scientific community, which is moving forward a stronger integration of citizens science and participatory processes within the application for urban resilience and adaptation paths. Indeed, while in recent decades, CC research has primarily focused on the role of Earth Observation (EO) data, the debate on the integration between EO data and so-called citizensbased data has gained prominence in recent years. The big data provided by satellites offer a wealth of information about the entire Earth's surface, allowing for the extension and democratization of knowledge processes. However, EO data alone are not sufficient, nor with the integration and validation provided by in-situ and ground-based data. Hence, the establishment of a robust participatory planning foundation is imperative for effective and sustainable decision-making in urban planning. This foundation should consider both evolving behaviors and urban metabolism and it requires new methods for actively engaging citizens in the understanding of the problems and in the definitions of common paths for adaptation. This new direction has been clearly expressed by the strategic guidelines of the GEO community, which moved from the priorities of data and services accessibility to the for the post 2025

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strategy aimed at providing "Earth Intelligence for all" [GEO 2023]. The notion of Earth Intelligence comprises precisely integrates Earth and social science to derive knowledge and insights that inform strategic decisions, build capacities and empower society to address environmental, societal, and economic challenges.

In this continuously evolving framework, the H2020 HARMONIA project provides a relevant example of data integration and priority inclusion of citizens. HARMONIA aims to deliver an Integrated Resilience Assessment Platform (IRAP) and thematic Decision Support Systems (DSSs), supporting adaptation and mitigation measures of the Paris Agreement. The project takes into account the local ecosystems of European urban areas of four pilot cases (Milan – Italy, Ixelles – Belgium, Sofia – Bulgaria; Piraeus – Greece), following an integrated and sustainable approach by incorporating the active communities' participation. Among different patterns of citizens engagement ranging from the unilateral search for feedbacks through questionnaires to the use of citizens as "sensors" providing them with mobile devices, HARMONIA opted for the active engagement of citizens as "observatories" [Barsukova et al. 2021]. In this approach, citizens are on one side the receiver of informative contents that are generally limited to the community of experts and practitioners and on the other side are called to express their opinions and needs, participating in the knowledge process and providing relevant inputs for orienting the final product. The experience gained over the past two and a half years of the project has allowed us to propose various opportunities for direct engagement with the citizens of the four HARMONIA pilot cities. In all cases, the experiential dimension has proven crucial for establishing a shared platform for discussion and mutual understanding. This is true at the level of theoretical discussion, where the communication of scientific data is made accessible and comprehensible by connecting such data with their practical significance and tangible impact. It is also evident in the phase of gathering input from citizens, who communicate priorities and perceived needs based on their physical experience of the urban environment. Lastly, this is observed in the delicate phase of participatory construction of a shared vision, which necessarily requires the immersive experience of on-site inspections or visits to key locations in the city to become aware of local issues and stimulate a transformative vision. In conclusion, in support of the trajectory towards greater active citizen inclusion in decisionmaking processes for urban adaptation, and drawing on the experimentation conducted in the HARMONIA project, corporeity and the experiential dimension prove to be the foundational level from which to build participatory processes, shared discussions, and a collective understanding of complex issues, posing a significant challenge for researchers and experts in CC adaptation and urban planning studies.

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