



Piacenza 2014



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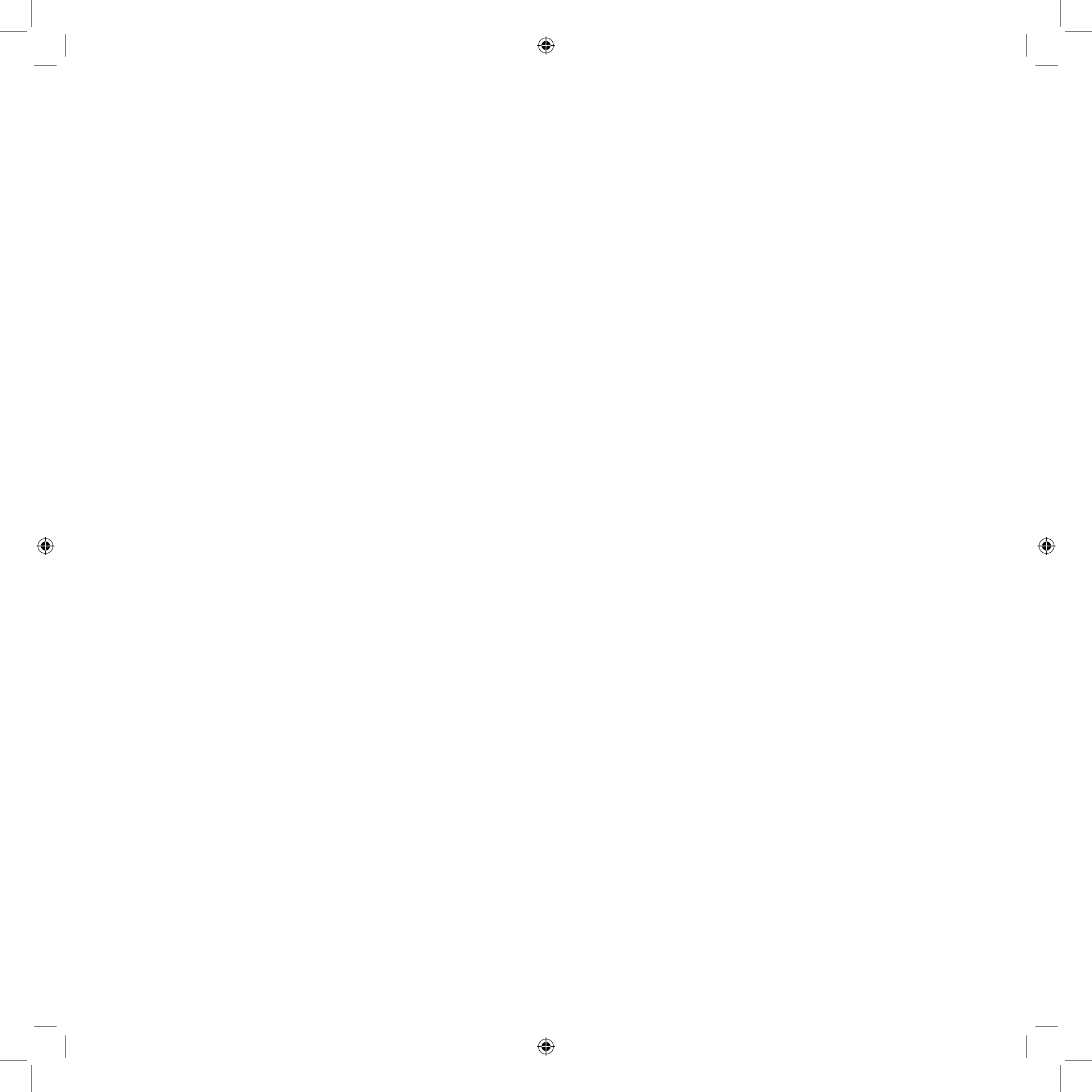
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Piacenza 2014
OC - Open City
INTERNATIONAL
SUMMER SCHOOL
from landscape to exterior design

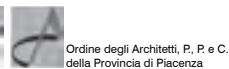
ARCHITECTURE
FOR A CREATIVE CITY

Guya Bertelli, Carlos García Vázquez
Paola Bracchi, Pasquale Mei





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Architecture for a creative city. Piacenza towards Expo

Guya Bertelli - Politecnico di Milano, Dipartimento di Architettura e Studi Urbani (DAStU)
Paola Bracchi - Politecnico di Milano, Dipartimento di Architettura e Studi Urbani (DAStU)
Pasquale Mei - Politecnico di Milano, Dipartimento di Architettura e Studi Urbani (DAStU)

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e-mail: servizio.clienti@maggioli.it

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OC - Open City
INTERNATIONAL
SUMMER SCHOOL

Piacenza 2014

*from ecological landscape
to architectural design*

ARCHITECTURE
FOR A CREATIVE CITY
Piacenza towards Expo

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Politecnico Piacenza Campus and its International Summer School

Guya Bertelli

Since 2007, the Piacenza Campus of the Politecnico di Milano hosts the Architecture Master course (Sustainable Architecture of Multi - Scale Project). The academic curriculum of the two final years aims to train designers with a specific sensitivity to environmental architecture issues and it is devoted to sustainable design projects.

The creation of the International Summer School OC-Open City

(2010) oriented to the design of "open spaces" in different scales of intervention, from landscape transformation to public areas and specific architectural components, was an important initiative in post-graduate studies with an international scope. The school is open to senior undergraduate, graduate (Bachelor and Master) and doctoral students from Italian and foreign Architecture, Engineering, Design and

Planning Schools. The workshop is aimed to maintaining an open dialogue among different design specialties needed to face the problems arising from architectural, urban and environmental transformations, becoming a discussion topic and a brainstorming workshop where issues related to general development perspectives of contemporary habitats can be discussed. The wide consensus this initiative is receiving, both



inside and outside the academic scene, is attributable to the scientific reputation either in Italy and abroad of Politecnico di Milano, to the interesting format and to the fascinating culture present in the host city. Piacenza is, in fact, the ideal venue for an initiative focused on architectural, urban and environmental problems, thanks to the extent of its scenic, artistic and monumental, to and for the wide range of case-studies available, such as for its solid traditions in the building sector. Located in the fascinating premises recovered from the former city slaughterhouse, the International Summer School OC – Open City hosts each year tens of students, tutors

and teachers from all over the world, to discuss the issues of architectural, urban and environmental design. The School high scientific importance is confirmed by its intense schedule of lectures and public conferences with speakers of international renown in the field of architectural design.

Piacenza as a topical case study

The choice of Piacenza as seat of the International Summer School stems, from the analysis of its territory, an extraordinary case-study in terms of issues and topics related to architectural design and construction of public spaces in contemporary cities.

Using as essential references the architectural and urban planning projects being developed and drafted during the workshop (from the Structural plan guidelines for the Piacenza Territory Hinge) the International Summer School will discuss some of the significant urban themes according to the important problems of city transformation. The common denominator is the 'architectural design of open spaces', which can be seen today as a 'multidisciplinary practice', affecting several interconnected and closely related architectural scales: from landscape architecture to planning, from the architectural design of public spaces to architecture connections



INTRODUCTION

An International Summer School



architecture, from the design of architectural components to the study of contemporary aesthetic scenarios.

The particular attention to environmental and open space issues is part of a theoretical-operational debate, focusing on the promotion of architectural urban and territorial contexts in terms of sustainability and environmental impact resources. The aim is reach high levels of consonance, complementarity and integration among architectural and urban requirements and distinguish feature of the locations. This is achieved through a trans-scalar procedure, simultaneously drawing attention both on the whole and its individual components, enhancing their environmental value.

This value also results from "considerations on the concept of landscape as the product of a specific human attitude towards nature. The physical elements defining the environmental character necessarily interact with the history of the built-up area, where we can see how man has manipulated spaces, shapes and light in some specific

contexts, drawing the purpose of architectural design from the relation between environmental areas and material forces”.

This consideration is all the more actual if it refers to areas likely to experience radical changes over the next decades and whose development process potential is as huge as its criticalities in terms of densely populated destructuring areas. Obviously in this sense the Piacenza territory is an interesting research laboratory to study, assess and apply operational models related to sustainable development, both in terms of the residential sector (consisting of heterogeneous residential systems) and of the designing of the public places, related with open spaces and deeply differentiated environmental materials that has increasing degrees of anthropization.

Therefore the International Summer School aims to become, in the medium term, a privileged partner of stakeholders, administrators and technicians as well as of the common population.

In fact, the workshop's weeks become, with the active



INTRODUCTION

An International Summer School

cooperation of the largest possible number of operating institutes and associations on the territory, an extraordinary occasion for the whole city to debate and discuss about its future. A debate not merely internal, but enriched as well by the creativity and competence of young students and the experience of lecturers, critics and professionals involved at different levels.

International Summer School organization

The International Summer School program includes:

1 - WORKSHOP

A daily workshop is applied to specific issues typical of urban and environmental architectural design on different scales, aimed at the quality and sustainability of habitat transformation processes. This workshop will be conducted in workshops, under

continued supervision of tutors. The program includes three interconnected sections:

- a- Landscape
- b- Urban Space
- c- Architectural Design

The three sections will deal with the different design intervention scales and respectively focused on the preparation of:

- a- Territorial planning master plans (including one or several specific interventions: strategic



frameworks, complex nodes, infrastructural spaces), in a large and medium scale outlook;

b- Specific intervention projects (corresponding to individual cases: important public spaces, relational spaces, urban communication and representation areas), appropriately defined in their required spatial characteristics;

c- Design of characteristic architectural components, analyzed in depth their constituent elements (basic, complementary and ancillary) at a detail and construction specificity level, capable of implementing the qualities and values of the space.

For each of these three sections, each coordinated by a director, a "parallel internship" shall be opened, having congruent goals aimed to a closely coherence with the general issues proposed according to an integrated, interactive and inter-scalar architectural-urban-environmental concept.

2 - NIGHT CONFERENCES

A series of conferences and round tables held by designers and scholars of international

renown, with the presentation of projects and discussions on current design issues in parallel with the basic communications held by in-house lecturers;

3 - DIALOGUE WITH STUDENTS
A series of dialogues by the presence of Masters of Architecture worldwide with the students.

4- "PARALLEL EVENING" ART – ARCHITECTURE – DESIGN:
A series of conferences with the goal to open links between architecture and other disciplines.

5 - MORNING LECTURES
Every week are programmed a series of architectural meeting aimed to the deepening of the specific theme of the Workshop.

6- CRITICAL REVISIONS
The Summer School has foreseen three critical revisions, with the participation of an International Commission. The work conducted in the design laboratory shall undergo progress reviews with the attendance of national and international key figures in architectural culture and a final results review conducted by an International Committee.





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