

# **MIAAW**

## **2020**

# **M4 | La nuova Dorsale**

**Politecnico Di Milano**

**School Of Architecture Urban Planning  
Construction Engineering**

## **MIAW**

The MIAW-Milan International Architecture Workshop is the international intensive programme at the Politecnico di Milano - School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering, that provides an international design forum for schools, teachers and students, but it is also an informal platform to discuss issues and share ambitions that education implies. Its aim is to stimulate cross-over thinking between researches and practitioners in the design field, involving different scales and encouraging an interdisciplinary approach towards design problems. Each class has an international guest professor of high profile whose activity and interests are related to the different study courses and disciplinary areas characterising our School.

Miaw 2020 / M4 | La nuova Dorsale

ISBN 978-88-6242-478-3

### **Editors**

Matteo Poli  
Micaela Ortega

### **Template design**

Raffaello Buccheri  
and Francesco Trovato (LetteraVenticidue)  
Layout: Giuseppe Esposito

© LetteraVenticidue Edizioni

All rights reserved

**MIAW 2020**

### **Directors**

Gennaro Postiglione  
Alessandro Rocca

### **Coordinator**

Matteo Poli  
Micaela Ortega

### **Research group of M4 frame Document**

Gabriele Pasqui | Paolo Beria | Paolo Galuzzi |  
Francesco Infussi | Antonio Longo | Laura Montedoro |  
Laura Pogliani | Paola Pucci | Piergiorgio Vitillo |  
Lucia Bocchimuzzi | Marika Fior

### **Guest Professors**

Cary Ash  
Thierry Lagrange  
Gunilla Svensson  
Gabriela Seifert  
Roberto Cremascoli  
Ruin Klas | Ola Broms

### **Tutors**

Francesca Porro  
Qi Wang  
Marta Averna  
Monica Moschini  
Manuel Garramone  
Marco Jacomella  
Sabina Jallow

### **AUID PHD candidates**

Alberto Geuna  
Chiara Pradel  
Valerio Maria Sorgini  
Greta Maria Taronna

# AUID PHD PROGRAM

## Architectural urban interior design

The AUID PhD Program in Architectural Urban Interior Design promotes research, studies and projects focused on the analysis, interpretation and development of design processes and techniques, directly related with the horizon of contemporary architecture.

AUID PhD candidates Alberto Geuna, Valerio Maria Sorgini, Greta Maria Taronna and Chiara Pradel will collaborate with MIAW with a critical essay on themes relevant to their research, spanning from didactical methodology, history, landscape and design.

The PhD Program explores architectural culture in all aspects, in between theoretical and operational practice, essentially through two main methodological frames:

- Research on architectural, urban and interior design paradigms (design, theory, critique) where in-depth analysis of the contents of disciplinary, and not disciplinary contributions, takes to the elaboration of original theoretical and critical assumptions.
- Applied design research, in which design is considered as the driver of the research process, the field where to test and to change theoretical and technical premises and thesis.

# AUID PHD PROGRAM

## Architectural urban interior design

Form and format | The architectural workshop as a framing device

Alberto Geuna

Infrastructural ground | From the green to the mise-en-abîme of the infrastructure inside the city

Chiara Pradel

Layers and strata of the city | "Working with Layers" as a Methodology in Intensive Design Experiences

Valerio Maria Sorgini

The architectural graft in the stratified city | Micro / Macro approaches and outcomes

Greta Maria Taronna

## G The Mirror

The idea of the project was guided by a strong interest in understanding the essence of the Parco Agricolo Sud di Milano and how it could have been given value without any invasive intervention to such and uncontaminated area.

Visiting the site area several times, gave the chance to observe the place from different points of view, therefore guiding from a process of "observation" towards a process of "perception" of the context.

As a result, the idea of providing a special perspective with the already existing perspectives and points of view in the area, so as to point out for the observer the historical meaning and identity of the place by means of a topographical art installation, redirecting the visitor's eye and provoking strong sensations.



To do so, the choice was that of using three mirrored prisms to be placed in a specific spot, at the intersection of some of the main important axis within the area (via Bardolino, via San Marchetto) each one of which is leading towards the three Cascinas : Cascina San Marco; Cascina San Marchetto; Cascina di Mezzo.

Each prism would be oriented towards the Centroid of the intersection spot. This way, the mirrors provides to the viewer standing in the centre the possibility to experience the sight of all three the Cascina, as each one of the prisms would redirect the eye view towards two of the Cascina.

Furthermore, the sensation of an endless, uncontaminated place would be enhanced by means of continuing the horizon line.



## Infrastructural ground

From the green to the mise-en-abîme of the infrastructure inside the city

by Chiara Pradel

In the Miaw workshops the term green already emerges from the title of the theme assigned for the studios: the new M4 infrastructural intervention, which is named the green-blue dorsal and connects the east and the west part of Milan, is seen as a main territorial backbone that should be linked to the relevant existing landscapes.

## Infrastructure and landscape

The contraposition between rural infrastructural systems (canals, embankments, local passages over borders-line of land lots...) that have become constituent part of the overall landscape pattern (Jackson 1997) and the superimposed, hierarchical trans-national or regional transport networks that create isolation, fragment or contrast (Rowe 1991), since the second half of the twentieth century seems to be overtaken by an idea of infrastructure conceived as an ever more inclusive item, continuously interacting with the plurality of the city. Architectures, soft mobility systems, emerging ecological, economic and social issues are entering the infrastructural design process, together with the design of infrastructural landscapes, understood both as changeable sceneries perceived at different speeds and as outdoor spaces affected, crossed and deeply transformed by highways, railroads, underground lines.

Looking, on the other hand, at the expanding field of landscape architecture (Meyer 1997), the urgent necessity to foster the contemporary meaning of the green design, which is less and less linked to purely aesthetic or semiotic purposes (Allen 1999) and more addressed to the need to intervene toward wide constructed

ecologies, challenging land redevelopment and remediation processes, complex urban and territorial urgencies that involve multi-disciplinary interchange of knowledge (engineering, ecology, urban planning, architecture fields) has led to progressively direct the landscape architects imaginative attention toward the question of infrastructure, even going so far as to conceive "landscape as infrastructure" (Bélanger 2009).

The theme of the MIAW 2020 thus enters in an extensive, topical research context, investigating on the contemporary relationship between infrastructure and landscape, questioning the specificity of the city of Milano through the perspective of intensive workshops lead by international architects.

### **Reading the infrastructural presence**

After an overview of the work-in-progress and the final exposition of the results produced by the students during two weeks, it is possible to observe that the workshops has not been merely addressed to a kind of decontextualized design of parks, gardens, outdoor furniture, greenery proposals. Every studio by contrast has deeply entered into a dense compendium of cognitive operations, site investigation actions, architectural methodologies and design approaches, that involves for example the search for ecological dynamics and wild atmospheres inside the city (WS D / Gabriela Seifert), the attempt to build a matrix of design interventions that connects the present and the past dimensions (WS C / Gunilla Svensson), the definition of a real and an ideal space where it is possible to project personal ways of seeing, creative observations and individual perceptions (WS F / Klas Ruin – Ola Broms).

In particular the analysis of three workshops could be used to illustrate the quite opposite directions taken in the reading of the infrastructural presence: the approaches that starts from the outdoor spaces

touched by the new M4 line to understand the feelings of the involved inhabitants, the others that starts from the inner, unuttered dimension of the designers who face the rediscovered landscapes connected with the M4 line and should translate those individual thoughts through design tools, the last that use the green spaces of the infrastructure to design others minor infrastructures, as pedestrian bridges.

The first workshop (WS A / Cany Ash) begins from an analysis of the physical places near the metro stations (Parco Solari, Piazza Vetra) and of their daily activities and events and aims to increase the capacity to support the sense of place of the visitors and to diversify public uses. Thus, starting from the recognition of the concrete, visible aspects of the two parks, the proposed method encourages the students to comprehend and interpret the social behaviors that, on daily basis, give life to the sites. The results is the definition of two videos, also accessible through a website, and the exposition of trains of thought, personal considerations and hypothetical desires of the citizens, interpreted by the students. This approach, based on the observation of the real space, leads to a kind of progressive dematerialization of the infrastructure: the M4 line is decomposed into the multiplicity of opinions, ambitions and desires of those who lives or simply visit them. The architecture resulting from this experience is based more on a discursive system and less on an auctorial design, while the green appears to be that public, flexible space suitable to host collective and immaterial inputs and outputs that come to the light following the triggering event of the infrastructural intervention.

The second considered workshop (WS B / Thierry Lagrange) is based on a different, quite antithetical process, because aims to bring the mental and intangible aspects that come into the minds of the students from the reading of the green spaces, into tangible design proposals. The steps of this process moves more from the interiority to exteriority, first thanks to a careful personal observation,

then by mapping the specific intellectual considerations through images and drawings techniques and finally translating them into extremely different design proposals, that affect the real spaces in artistic way. The infrastructure therefore becomes an opportunity to express the hidden potential of neglected sites, stirring a strong individual design interpretation, while the green spaces provide the right context where to powerfully express personal, innovative approaches to the M4 line landscapes, without imposing preconceived formal ends.

The third example (WS E / Roberto Cremascoli), which focuses on Dateo and subsequently expands through five neighboring stations, considers the connective problems emerging from the sites and refers to the new infrastructural context as a fluid organism. The final proposals intersect superficial, overground and underground landscapes and create an interesting system of passages, pedestrian crossing and articulated links in relation with the open spaces connected with the M4 line.

### **The mise-en-abîme of the infrastructure inside landscape**

Even if the used methods seem to take different directions, it is possible to symbolically look at the results through the lens of the mise-en-abîme of the infrastructure inside the green spaces of the city.

On a first level, this interpretation becomes quite evident looking at the proposals arising in different workshops, like the intersections designed in the WS D and in the WS E: a network of minor infrastructures that literally suggests, somehow reproducing its connective function, its complexity, its multi-layered dimension, the presence of the bigger one. There are, however, further reading levels. In some cases, as in the WS A and WS B, the MIAW workshops became an opportunity to transform the landscapes into multi-layered real and imaginative grounds, spaces of resonance and simultaneous projections of coexisting stories (of "the human infrastructures", as

defined by Cary Ash) inside a bigger story – the M4 infrastructure – within the complexity of the city. The proposed landscape design approaches seek for innovative solutions interacting with the city and with the meaning of the infrastructural presence, no longer referring to a green traditionally conceived as a result of late recovery processes of voids or to a two-dimensional tracing of residual areas inside a draft plan. The design perspectives often shift from the attempt to forcefully re-naturalize small portions of land or to prospect fragments of pastoral innocence as a guilty compensation for the realization of the new metro line. On the contrary green spaces appear as sites that should collect oeuvres both physically and innerly embedded inside another wider oeuvre, becoming the core in which to fathom the complexity of meanings of the infrastructural framework and to root its connective tissues in a composite way, leading to a more topological approach of the infrastructure itself.

Finally, the mise-en-abîme in the ancient visual system of heraldry also means to place something smaller in the center of a similar bigger framework. This relationship of a center-within-a center indicates the experience of seeing into two mirrors infinitely reflecting one entity into the other, as if, from the landscapes, one could deeply look at the uncanny meaning of the infrastructure, and viceversa.

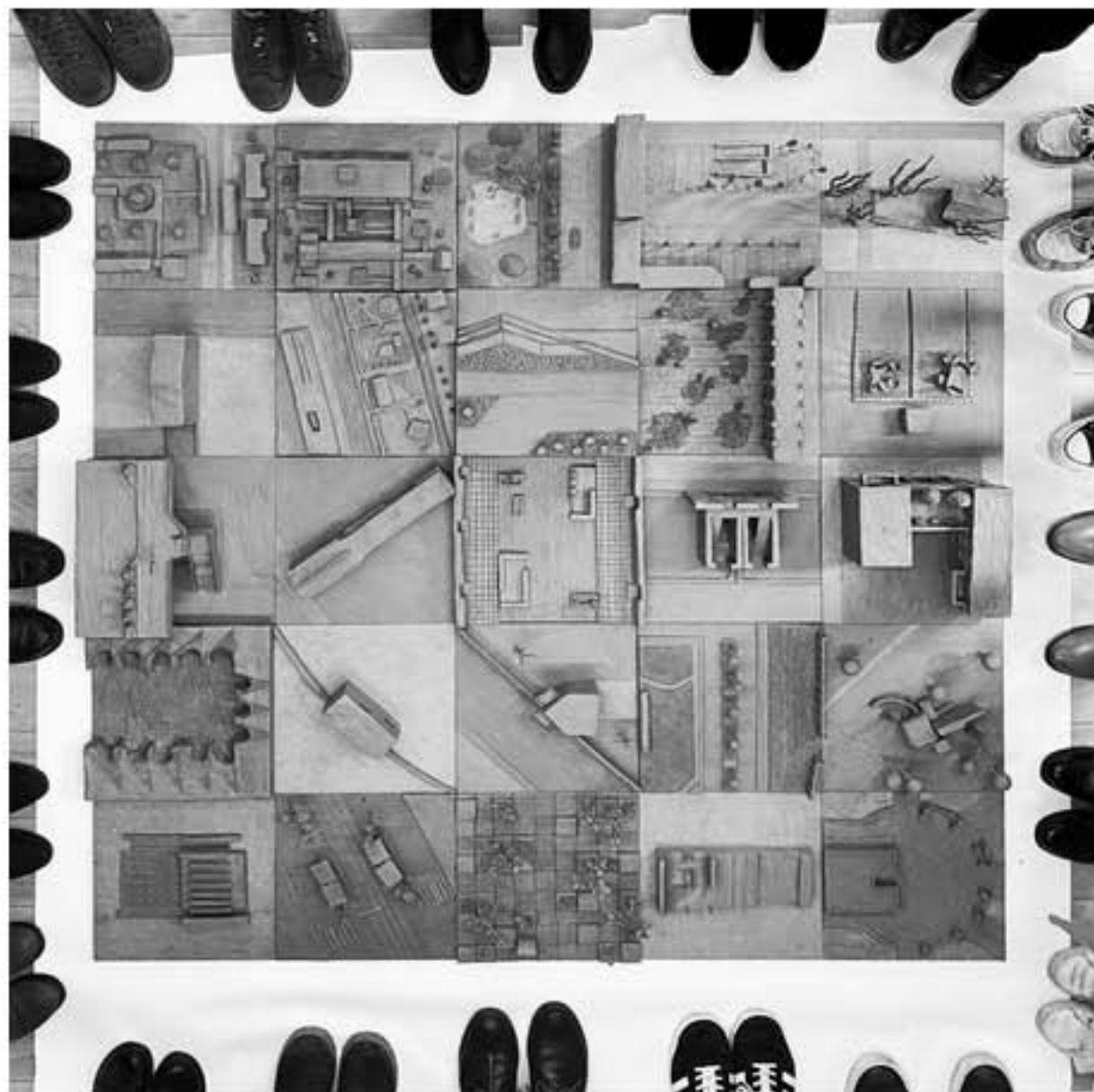
*Allen, Stan. "Infrastructural Urbanism." In Points and Lines: Diagrams and Projects for the City, 48- 57. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999.*

*Bélanger, Pierre. Landscape as Infrastructure. A Base Primer London: Routledge. 2016.*

*Jackson, John Brinckerhoff. "Roads belong in the Landscape." In Landscape in Sight. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1997.*

*Meyer, Elizabeth. "The Expanded Field of Landscape Architecture." In Theory in Landscape Architecture: A Reader, edited by Simon Swaffield, 167-170. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1997.*

*Rowe, Peter. "Highways." In Making a Middle Landscape. Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1991.*



Above  
Final Outcome

# WHO'S WHO?



**Gennaro Postiglione**

Gennaro Postiglione (Napoli, 1961) is Associate Professor in Architecture of Interiors at the Politecnico di Milano where he teaches in the Design studio and in the PhD in Interiors courses; he is also Deputy Dean for International Relations and Head of MSc in ARchitecture at the School of Architettura e Società - Politecnico di Milano. Researches focus on domestic interiors, on museography and on preserving and diffusing collective memory (connecting the museographic issues with the domestic ambit). Moreover, his research-by-design activity is addressed towards adaptive reuse and valorisation of minor/neglected heritage – among which also the one coming from conflicts - by recurring to sustainable re-active-action strategies stressing the relationship between collective memory and cultural identity, and putting the resources of architecture in the public interest.



**Alessandro Rocca**

Alessandro Rocca is an Architect MSc – PhD. He is a full professor of Architectural and Urban Design and head of the PhD program of Architectural Urban Interior Design, at the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies of Politecnico di Milano. At the Polimi School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering, he teaches courses of Architectural Design. He was visiting professor at the University of Clemson (SC, USA) for 7 semesters, the School of Architecture of Ferrara, Brera Academy of Fine Arts (Milan), Polytechnic School of Design (Milan), and he lectured in foreign and Italian universities. He is author and curator of several books on architecture and landscape. Recently, he co-designed the Cereals Cluster at Milan and led the design team for the Milano-Bovisio campus masterplan (2016); in the last years, he worked in some projects of architectural, urban and landscape design, such as the Linear Park in Nembro and the Martesana Regional Park in Milan.



**Matteo Poli**

Matteo Poli is an architect, working since 2005 as a researcher and professor in Landscape Architecture, Department of Architecture & Urban Studies and the School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering at the Politecnico di Milano. He graduated at the Politecnico di Milano in 1997, after studying at ETSAB Barcelona and TUD Delft. He worked with West 8 – Adriaan Geuze in 1997 and with the Office for Metropolitan Architecture – Rem Koolhaas between 1998 and 2008. Between 1999 and 2005 he has been a partner of 99IC AMD and between 2005 and 2007 of CicilMA. He has been editor for DOMUS (2004-2007) and for Abitare (2008 – present). He has been lecturing in several European, Asian and American universities, publishing books and articles on landscape, architecture and urban design. From 2008 he is scientific consultant of the Milan based office AOUMM, with whom he participated to several national and international projects and competitions.



**Qi Wang**

Qi Wang, has been working as an architect in China for 4 years, participating in many government-sponsored high-speed rail station projects and the additional facilities. From November of 2017, she became a PhD candidate of Polimi with the initial research topic on "Form study", dedicated to pursuing the spiritual value of architecture in the highly materialistic modern era besides the restricted function needs. With a starting point of an Architect of Czechoslovakia –Pavel Janák with particular interest, she is trying to outline a certain grammar from series of figure in their evolution process of his architectural language, in which 'Form' was embraced as a response to the technical and historical separation.



**Francesca Porro**

Francesca Porro was born in Italy 1994. She is an Architect based in Milan. In 2019 she graduated cum laude in Architecture at Politecnico di Milano. In 2017 she studied at the TU Delft (NL). She is currently working as a Landscape Architect and Urban Designer at Openfabric in Milan and as Teaching Assistant in Advanced Landscape Design Studio in Politecnico di Milano.



**Manuel Garramone**

Manuel Garramone was born and raised in Potenza, Manuel graduated in "Architecture and Building Engineering" at Università degli Studi della Basilicata, with full marks and honours. The passion for modeling and new technologies got him to attend a master about the use of BIM and GIS in architecture and engineering. Then, in 2018 Manuel moved to Milan and started working as BIM consultant, and the following year he started his PhD studies at Politecnico di Milano (ABC department). His research topic is about the BIM/GIS integration for infrastructure asset management.



**Marta Averna**

Marta Averna is an Architect, PhD in Interior Architecture and Exhibition Design, she is adjunct professor at department DASTU of Politecnico di Milan. Here, she teaches in Architecture of Interiors Design Studio of the international section of the Master Degree. Her didactic and research activities focus on the meaning and the methods of interiors explored both reading contemporary and historical projects and designing the domestic dwelling in marginality contexts and the reuse of monumental and diffused heritage.





**Marco Jacomella**

Marco Jacomella is an Italian architect and Urban Designer. He holds a Master in Advanced Studies in Housing from the Swiss Federal Polytechnic University ETH. He is a licensed architect in Italy obtained at University of Ferrara. After several international experiences in practicing and teaching, Marco founded with Carla Ferrer ITER, supporting companies and institutions in transforming the built environment and improving people's everyday life. Through scenario design, data analysis and close dialog with stake-holders, ITER provides innovative and feasible solutions to urban design and housing developments. Currently, ITER plans an unprecedented cooperative project in Milan for a 100 apartments and shared services following the principles of Common Housing as part of the SeMilano Masterplan.



**Monica Moschini**

Monica Moschini was born in Italy 1993. In 2019 graduated with laude in Architecture at Politecnico di Milano. In 2018 she studied in Universidad de Navarra in Spain. During her academic career she finds greater interest in set design with the fascination for illustration. After a recent experience as a tutor in an Advanced Landscape Design Studio in Politecnico di Milano, she is currently working at GRACE in Milan.



**Micaela Ortega**

Micaela Ortega is an argentinian Architect based in Milan. She graduated with a bachelor degree at University of Belgrano in Buenos Aires (2018). In 2016, she studied at the Polytechnic University of Valencia in Spain. She has worked as a teaching assistant in Landscape and Infrastructure Design studio, and Advanced Landscape Design studio at the School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering at the Politecnico di Milano. She is currently collaborating with AOUMM as a Landscape Architect in architecture competitions and landscape projects in Italy and Asia.



**Chiara Pradel**

Chiara Pradel, Architect and PhD candidate in Architectural, Urban and Interior Design at Politecnico di Milano, graduated at IUAV di Venezia and received a postgraduate research Master in Architecture of the Territory at Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio. Her professional experience revolves around landscape architecture, in particular she has worked as landscape designer with Paolo L. Bürgi, Switzerland. Her current research investigates ground movements in landscapes, focusing on big infrastructures and complex construction sites.



**Alberto Geuna**

Alberto Geuna is an architect and Ph.D. candidate Architectural, Urban, and Interior Design at Politecnico di Milano. He holds MAs in architecture from Politecnico di Torino and the Berlage, TU Delft. He worked in various practices throughout Europe, including Sauerbruch Hutton, Lacaton & Vassal Architects, and Carlo Ratti Associati. He is co-founder of the Turin based architectural studio B. Think Tank. His current research focuses on the relation between therapeutic environments and dwelling forms and practices.



**Greta Maria Taronna**

Greta Maria Taronna is an architect and PhD candidate at Politecnico di Milano. She graduated, both cum laude, with a bachelor degree in "Architectural Sciences" in "La Sapienza" University of Rome (2012). She moved to Politecnico di Milano where she achieved her master degree in Architecture (2015) with a thesis selected to represent Politecnico di Milano in the Archiprix International 2017. She worked in several architectural offices like Cino Zucchi Architetti in Milan, Gonçalo Byrne atelier in Lisbon, DFA in Milan and she is registered in the Order of Architects PPC of the province of Milan. She is currently involved in tutoring activities in the bachelor and master design studios of the AU/C school in Politecnico di Milano. From 2018, she is a PhD candidate at Politecnico di Milano working in the DASTU Department in the field of Architecture Urban and Interior Design (AUDI) with a grant from the Excellence Department "Fragilità Territoriale". Her research is titled "Architecture on the Modern. Methods and design action for the school heritage within seismic Italy".



**Valerio Maria Sorgini**

Valerio achieved his master degree in Architecture at Politecnico di Milano in 2015, and his bachelor degree in Architectural Sciences at La Sapienza University of Rome, both cum laude. His master degree thesis was selected for several prizes and represented Politecnico di Milano in Archiprix International 2017 competition. In Milan he collaborated at first with Cino Zucchi architectural office and then with Goring & Straja studio for several years. He also won a scholarship for an internship in Gonçalo Byrne's office in Lisbon. Since 2017, he is registered in the Order of Architects PPC of the province of Milan. Currently, he is a PhD Candidate in the Architectural Urban and Interior Design program at Politecnico di Milano with a research project titled "For a New Urban Stereotomy", about the study of the bases and the grounds of marginal residential housing districts, with the purpose of achieving design solutions. Since his graduation, Valerio has always been involved in teaching collaborations in various design studios at Politecnico di Milano.