International Summer School
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Landscape 4.0. Sharing spaces for the future city.

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INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL
Piacenza 2018
from ecological landscape
to architectural design

LANDSCAPE 4.0
Sharing spaces for the future city
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LANDSCAPE 4.0. Sharing spaces for the future city

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INDEX

**Editors’ note** 07

*Greeting by Piacenza vice-mayor, Elena Baio* 09

_Elena Baio, Piacenza vice-mayor*

**PREFACE**

*Landscape 4.0. Visions towards the future* 16

_Guya Bertelli, Sara Protasoni, Carmen Andriani, Carlos García Vázquez*

**BACKGROUND | TOPICS AND CONTEXT**

*Future 4.0: “The landscape of tomorrow”* 27

_Guya Bertelli, Carmen Andriani, Carlos García Vázquez*

**RESEARCH PILLS**

*A new dimension for regenerated landscapes* 39

_Michele Roda*

**MAPS Project**

_Pasquale Mei*

*The ‘technological contamination’ as a new paradigm of the landscape 4.0* 63

_Martina Sogni*

**PIACENZA DIARY**

*Description of Actions + Lecturers Biographies + International Juries* 75

_Guya Bertelli, Michele Roda, Martina Sogni*

**OC PROJECTS**

*Topics, approach and areas* 107

_OC Coordination*

**3 ATELIERS**

**ATELIER 1**

*I project | Methodologies, strategies and results* 134

_Giovanni Carli, Luciana Macaluso, Roy Nash*

**ATELIER 2**

*code-XcITY | Methodologies, strategies and results* 160

_Chara Locardi, Mario Morrica, Francesca Schepis*

**ATELIER 3**

*Unfinished-scape | Methodologies, strategies and results* 186

_Kiana Jalali, Laura Pujia, Martina Sogni*

**Piacenza Prize 2018**

_Press Review*

_Bibliography* 216
An international summer school
The creation of the International Summer School OC OPEN CITY is an important initiative promoted by the Master course in “Sustainable Architecture and Landscape Design”, with a strong international vocation, oriented to the design the “open spaces” in different scales of intervention, from the landscape transformation to regeneration of public areas until the study of specific architectural components. The school is open to students attending the 3rd year of Bachelor Degree Courses and to students attending a Master in Architecture, Design, Engineering and Planning, as well as to PhD research students in disciplines of architecture and urban planning, which will work together in team with a big number of tutors. The workshop aims at maintaining an open dialogue among the different design specialities needed to face the problems arising from architectural, urban
and environmental actual transformations, becoming a discussion forum and a brainstorming workshop, where issues on the general development perspectives of contemporary habitats can be discussed.

The wide consensus this initiative has received during the last 8 editions, both inside and outside the academic scene, is the result not only of the scientific reputation of Politecnico di Milano but also of the innovative format and the fascinating history of the host city.

Piacenza is the ideal venue for an initiative focused on complex design problems, both for the quality of its landscape, artistic and monumental environment and for the wide range of case-studies, as well as for its solid traditions in the building sector. Located in the fascinating buildings and pavilions of the campus Arata, an ancient recovered former slaughterhouse, the International Summer School OC OPEN CITY hosts each year tens of students, tutors and professors coming from different parts of the world, gathering to discuss issues of architectural, urban and environmental design.

The School high scientific value is confirmed by its intense schedule of lectures and public conferences with speakers of international renown in the field of architectural and urban design.

**The program 2018**

The Summer School is composed by a lot of parallel initiatives, coordinated by the directors and coordinators, 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:

1 – A daily workshop oriented to develop innovative projects and proposals, in relationship
to the spatial, cultural and social requests of the host city;

2 - A series of conferences and panel discussions held by designers and scholars of international renown, with illustrations of projects and discussions on current architectural design issues, supporting basic lectures given by internal professors;

3 - Some scientific and educational contributions orientated towards the understanding of the city and the major transformations in urban context and in the territory;

4 - Three critical reviews (two mid-term and one final) with the participation of an International Jury.

The 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 has been conducted in workgroups, under continued supervision of tutors. The program includes three interconnected sections referred to three different scale of intervention:

a- Landscape
b- Urban Space
c- Architectural Design
The city and the context

The choice of Piacenza as seat of the International Summer School rises, among other things, 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, the International Summer School is discussing some of the most significant urban themes according to the important problems of the transformation of the city. The lowest common denominator is the architectural design of open spaces, which can be seen 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 of connections; from the design of architectural components to the study of contemporary aesthetic scenarios.

The 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 sustainable resources and environmental impacts, in order to reach high levels
of consonance, congruence and integration among the architectural requirements and the distinctive traits 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 areas, where we can see how man has manipulated spaces, shapes and environment in some specific contexts, drawing this proposal of architectural design, starting from the relation between areas and material forces. This consideration is even more actual referring it to areas experiencing radical changes over the next decades and where the potential of the development is huge as huge are the criticalities in
terms of densely populated areas de-structuring. In this sense Piacenza territory is an interesting research laboratory to study and to apply operational models related to sustainable development, both in terms of the housing sector (consisting of heterogeneous residential systems) and the design of the public and natural places, such as the territory along the Po river. Therefore the International Summer School aims at becoming, 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 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 by the creativity and competence of young students and the experience of lecturers, critics and professional figures involved at different levels of competencies.

The Theme
The OC 2018 edition focuses the attention on the multiple and complementary forms of integration between landscape and society. Sharing is proposed as a key word for the transformative processes of contemporary landscapes and territories. Only a careful research for identities of places, where local communities can recognize and rediscover themselves, allows us to reach a quality that integrates spatiality with the sense of sociality. Along this background, the direction of the workshop identifies some paradigmatic places in the enlarged territory of the city of Piacenza, taken as an exemplary case-studies of contemporary conditions.

Deeply, the landscapes that are proposed to students as a basis for discussion and comparison - complex and interdisciplinary - and as object of the design experimentation, correspond with some abandoned military areas of the city that build an interacting and multi-scale sequence along the axis of Via Emilia Pavese. They are intended as huge potential in terms of regeneration, reuse and recovery of urban quality.