

POLITECNICO DI MILANO



***Designs, strategies and research for the contemporary city- II edition***

International PhD Summer School – Bergamo, July 6th-18th, 2009

***Architectural design of the cross-border fabrics***

The Urban and Architectural Design PhD Program in cooperation with the Bergamo Municipality is launching an international design Summer School program open to students of doctoral and third level courses in Italian and foreign Architectural Schools.

In this framework the aim is to open a debate on the research problems, and on architectural and urban design techniques as well as on theoretical and application tools, stressing their central role in advanced university education with respect to the changing conditions and design practices in current urban and built-up contexts.

The proposal of the city of Bergamo as seat of the International PhD Summer School continues a tradition of studies and designs on the city, previously conducted through the Architectural and Urban Design International Laboratories (L.I.P.A.U.), promoted by the Politecnico di Milano together with the Bergamo Municipality.

*Subject*

The relationship between urban transformation and landscaping and environmental contents enhancement is one of the problematic nodes around which the design strategic contents of the different intervention scales are to be defined.

Bearing this issue in mind, the International PhD Summer School plans to organize:

- A discussion between Doctoral Programs on the current research;
- A workshop and the relevant seminars on the application of the subject to the city of Bergamo

The cross-border urban fabrics architectural regeneration, conversion, reclaim and improvement, focusing in particular on interventions in twentieth-century urban residential areas, is drawing the attention of contemporary architectural design.

The design experiment to be conducted in Bergamo involves the relationship between residential fabrics and strengthened urban nodes of the external “crown” of the town, with the aim to define the threshold between the dense and the rarefied city.

*Organization*

The International PhD Summer School is open to 25 Doctoral students selected by the Doctoral programs and Architecture Schools interested in participating in the program, with a maximum of five Students per School.

The International PhD Summer School is open to foreign graduated or final-year undergraduated students mentioned by the interested Schools of Architecture.

The program includes the following activities:

- A design experiment, conducted by five design groups supervised by tutors, developed in the Bergamo urban context; design activity will be checked during an intermediate and a final review by commissions consisting of Doctoral Schools Teachers as well as Italian and foreign Guest Architects and Teachers and representatives of the Bergamo Municipal Administration.
- Conferences and meetings with multidisciplinary contributions on the selected topic;
- A thematic seminar presenting the researches in progress in the involved Doctoral Programs.

The International PhD Summer School proposes a program consistent with curricular activities indicated in the Doctoral and Third Level Courses and provides 6 ECTS credits. Attendance fee is proposed at € 250 for each participant, excluding food and board expenses. Workshop organization will take care of accommodation booking and stipulating an agreement with the university canteen in order to provide the meals. Attending students may be accommodated at the Ostello di Bergamo, at an approximate cost of € 20/day or in agreement with other student's hostels. In order to take advantage of this facility, Doctoral Programs and Schools are requested to inform of the names of the participants within **June 23<sup>th</sup>**.

Applications must be received no later than **June 26<sup>th</sup>**, Registration fees are to be paid no later than **July 3d** into Conto Corrente Bancario n. 1850X28 to BANCA POPOLARE DI SONDRIO Ag. 21, via Bonardi n. 4 - 20133 Milano, ABI:05696; CAB:01620; IBAN: IT63R0569601620000001850X28; SWIFT ADDRESS: POSOIT22), in the name of Dipartimento di Architettura e Pianificazione of Politecnico di Milano, specifying the title "Summer School Bergamo 2009".

Doctoral Programs and Architecture Schools interested in participating in the program shall appoint a Tutor for the development of design activities. The workshop organization shall bear the Tutor's accommodation costs.

The organization shall provide the attending Doctoral Programs and Architecture Schools with the basic materials related to the design topic for the preliminary preparation of the thematic and design contributions.

To register and for further information please contact:

Secretary office c/o Dipartimento di Architettura e Pianificazione of Politecnico di Milano, tel. +39.02.2399 5165/ 5512 fax +39.02.2399 5435 (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10.00 am – 12.00 am); e mail: drPAU.diap@polimi.it.

Milan, May 2009

### ***Design areas and issues***

GRUMELLINA Area /VILLAGGIO DEGLI SPOSI – PARCO DELLA TRUCCA – VIA MORONI

The urban context object of the design experiment is located in the southwestern part of the city, at the junction of the road between the Dalcio and Trucca farms and the Colognola suburb and the old road to Milan (via Moroni). The area northern border is defined by the railroad to Lecco-Como, separated from the dwelling area by large agricultural fields, the western border, beyond the farmhouses system, by the Beato Giovanni XXIII Hospital, the eastern one by the aforementioned road to Milan and, beyond it, by the Bergamo-Milan railroad, and the southern one by the city ring road.

The neighborhood was developed in the '50s by a charitable institution over an area marked by roads, some farms and rural dwellings. The project resulted in a weak and heterogeneous structure, consisting mainly of fragmented and low-density constructions following the existing parceling without a strategic plan to build an identifiable center. Later the neighborhood saw the development of public housing blocks (I.N.A. Casa) and of some buildings around central courtyards.

The courtyard structure of the medieval farmhouses remained marginal, at the western border of the settlement.

The guidelines of the latest planning (Territory Management Plan, adopted in March 2009) set the open areas north of the neighborhood as a City Park, following the Green Rooms strategy (newly landscaped city parks) interconnected by the Green Belt system:

#### **"Trucca Park**

Located over an area with a specific ecologic and environmental value, with a rich and delicate mesh of surface waterways surrounded by a complex shrub-type vegetation, [the park] is partly defined to the north by the railroad barrier and by uneven small building complexes, and partly redefined by recent urban planning projects under implementation, which have reinterpreted the border with the agricultural plain. The other border element to the south is via Guerrazzi and a punctiform discontinuous system of buildings deserving a reconfiguration also through the green areas planned by the belt project."

*(Source: Bergamo PGT Plan Document pages 270-271-272)*

The design issues involved are many and complex and affect the built-up areas, the open spaces and the urban connections. On the one hand, the neighborhood suffers, especially on its northern side, of the jagged and weak boundaries, which have to be completed, and the redefinition of the built-up fabrics and edges. As for the open area redefinition, the city park design and its relationship with the residential fabrics is the prominent issue.

Finally, the project should face the issues of the relationship between the neighborhood and its connection with via Moroni, which, because of the scale of its territorial relationship and the nature of its path, torn between its historical origins and its more recent use as market-road or industrial-road emerging in several of its sections, is a very complex urban element and raises complex and important design issues.