

Università Degli Studi Di Firenze - Dipartimento Di Architettura - A.A. 2016/2017
(Jointly With University of Westminster, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, London)

**B020765 (CDS B117) APPROFONDIMENTO:
SEMINARIO TEMATICO DI ARCHITETTURA 6 CFU**

29-05-2017 | 08-06-2017

**COLLABORATIVE AND INTERDISCIPLINARY INTERNATIONAL DESIGN
CHARRETTE ON SUSTAINABLE URBANISM IN FLORENCE, ITALY**

LANGUAGE
ENGLISH

INSTRUCTORS AT UNIFI

Camilla Perrone (DIDA/UNIFI) [Referente]

David Fanfani (DIDA/UNIFI – Head of the Master Degree in Urban and Regional Planning and Design)

Iacopo Zetti (DIDA/UNIFI)

Giancarlo Paba (DIDA/UNIFI)

[con la collaborazione dei colleghi della Sezione di Urbanistica]

INSTRUCTORS FROM UoW [UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER]

Michael Neuman (Dept. of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, UoW)

Simon Joss (Department of Politics and International Relations, SSH, UoW) [to be confirmed]

Sadie Morgan (Dept. of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, UoW) [to be confirmed]

Peter Sharratt (Dept. of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, UoW) [to be confirmed]

TUTORS

Maddalena Rossi (DIDA/UNIFI) (Senior Research fellow – Lab of Critical Planning&Design)

Antonella Granatiero (DIDA/UNIFI) (PhD – Lab of Critical Planning&Design)

Chiara Belingardi (DIDA / UoW) (Lab of Critical Planning&Design)

Federico Magenes (SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE - Master Degree Student about to graduate)

Federica Torrani (SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE - Master Degree Student about to graduate)

Policy makers and technicians from Metro-City Government, Municipalities of the metropolitan area of Florence

FRAMING

This *Charrette* — an intense and short term participative, collaborative, and interdisciplinary design project — will analyse and develop prototype urban development solutions for a specific site in Florence. It will address interconnected issues of ecology, development, economy, agriculture, transport and infrastructure by developing integrative analyses and solutions that improve health and well-being of humans, other species, ecological habitats and the overall metropolitan area. The *Charrette* occurs in Florence from June 5 - 16, 2017 coordinated by local partner the School of Architecture, University of Florence, as an accredited part of its curriculum.

The *Charrette* will use an integrated approach that analyses local conditions and practices of sustainable urbanism in the urbanised core of the Tuscan Region. We will interrogate current practices of sustainable

urbanism in Florence by examining the extent to which they reframe existing planning and design principles regarding the urban/peri-urban interface.

Our new view is towards ‘co-evolutionary’ re-localisation of information, matter and energy flows while fostering innovative ‘proximity’ economies as well as bottom-up social practices. The project will occur in the outskirts of northwest Florence, dealing with impacts stemming from the joint effects of climate change and urban growth. Key issues include multifunctional urban regeneration, multipurpose ecocorridors, sustainable periurban agriculture, local food production and consumption patterns, innovative grassroots housing practices, biodiversity, ecosystem services, mobility and water management.

The charrette will be developed in three phases, each of which conduct field surveys, analyse problems and prepare proposals at different scales, as well as engage local stakeholders. The first phase will review the entire metropolitan area. The second phase will focus on the identification of the sub-area in the northwest where to develop the sustainable urban design with the most positive impact on the greater Florence metropolitan area. The third phase consists of the planning and design of the local project area (1 — 2 square km).

The distinctive and innovative feature is that it is holistic, comprehensive, and integrative in ways that typical urban sustainability research and practice are not. Typically, a focus on energy, or transport, or water, or food security, or housing — or even two or a few of these in combination — at a single scale is not comprehensive and holistic. This project seeks to include all strategic factors, as well as stakeholders, in an interactive, integrative, grassroots process that is multi-scalar and multi-disciplinary. This approach enables data and interests to be brought together and evaluated using consensual multi-variate criteria befitting the complexity and interdisciplinarity of large urban projects.

It has the potential to serve as a model or template for future urban research and initiatives, including London and the UK.

The multi-disciplinary team (architects, landscape architects, urban designers, urban planners, political scientists, engineers, sociologists) spanning two universities will test innovative and exploratory research and learning hypotheses that seek to integrate complex urban conditions that are typically not addressed comprehensively nor holistically. This would fill a conjoint research-practice gap that constitutes the creation of new knowledge in the built environment disciplines.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Widening the international academic environment at the of Florence while supporting, addressing and building student ability, competence and confidence at working in an international class, sharing and implementing skills and knowledge.

Enhancing research quality by exploring and creating innovations in the research and practice of interdisciplinary sustainable urbanism in a rich international context (Florence, Italy).

Exposure to exchange with leading international researchers in this field.

Enhancing research/learning impact by preparing at least one peer reviewed article in the top-ranked journal in its field — the Journal of Urban Design.

Enhancing research environment by increasing and improving research staff and student experience, knowledge and excellence; and expanding international research networks and dissemination.

ORGANISATIONAL DETAILS

The seminar will take place from 29th May to 9th June 2017.

What you will be doing during this workshop is developing the elements necessary for successful development of your urban design plans. There will be six to seven teams for the workshop, each with three members. Each of you will have an individual research and design assignment which will contribute to the concept design that each team will produce.

In addition to producing an overall site plan and detailed designs as indicated below, each team will research a different urban design typology. An urban design typology combines both built form and the processes that create the form and that take place in it. The processes / flows that create form are important because with them, you begin to understand and design for true sustainability. A typology is a ‘building block’ / component / piece of a larger-scale urban design. It is important because by understanding the characteristics of a typology, a designer can better put together an overall design.

Each team will select one typology from a list that includes Housing and Buildings, Community Buildings and Facilities, Complete Streets and Sustainable Transport, Green Infrastructure (Parks, Open Spaces and Waterways), Sustainable Energy Systems, Integrated Infrastructure Networks, and Zero Footprint Buildings. You should read through the following eight descriptions and think about which ones interest you the most.

We will begin on Monday, May 29th with a tour of the site and a presentation and discussion of the objectives of the workshop with an invited group of design professionals, government officials, and community representatives.

At the end of the first day, we will organize the teams for the workshop, with expertise distributed as evenly as possible among the teams. On Tuesday morning May 30th, we will have a presentation by Michael Neuman and Camilla Perrone about the typologies in the workshop, and a discussion / question and answer session.

Thursday June 1 and Tuesday June 6 we will schedule individual conferences in the afternoon with each team, so that each team will have two individual discussions with the studio instructors. Wednesday June 7 is for developing the presentations, Thursday will be the rehearsal of each team's presentation for the studio instructors and tutors.

For the final public presentation on the last day, each group has approximately 45minutes total: 30 minutes to present its work, and 15 minutes open discussion by the entire team. An invited jury will attend the presentation and provide feedback.

SCHEDULE AND GRADING

The seminar will be offered as a *CHARRETTE* which is an intense and short term participative, collaborative, and interdisciplinary design project. This format implies a strong engagement and an attitude to the cooperative work. Students will be asked to discuss and develop projects and ideas together with themselves, instructors, policy makers and technicians. The result of the charrette will be a project very well suited to the planning work and, the strategic addresses and the urban policy issue of the Metropolitan area of Florence. Students are asked to design, to sketch ideas and scenarios, to prepare draft in order to illustrate their idea and projects, to write a final report.

The seminar offers **6 credits** organised as illustrated in the preliminary schedule below (to be updated)

WEEK 1				
Monday May 29	Tuesday May 30	Wednesday May 31	Thursday June 1	Friday June 2
9.00-9.30	9.00-13.30	9.00-13.30	9.00-13.30	9.00-18.00
Welcome / Intro about the initiative	CHARRETTE 1 [WITH PROFESSIONAL/ TECHNICIANS /POLITICIANS] EXPERTS]	All groups (together) begins to analyse the entire site and its contexts, and draw a sketch plan for the entire site (plus its context).	Each team begins to analyse its own selected study area and its contexts, and draw a sketch plan for the site (plus its context)	Extra – field trips + workshops or any other interactive activities on the field or at “home” organised together with tutors and the Italian students
10.00-10.30 A overview on Florence	BICYCLING lecture about the project site/ Workshop in the field	Each group will focus on a thematic layer of preference (infrastructures, environment, buildings...)	-----	
10.30-12.30			Each team chooses the topic for its STUDY-AREA PROJECT: mobility and infrastructures.... agriculture....	
Site Key-Notes				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A map of projects for Florence - The study- area 	[students and instructors meet technicians and experts on the field]	[Students will be given digital resources and any another kind of materials they need]*		
12.30-13.00		List of maps to be		[students self-

Introduction about the work of the day after KEY WORD: INTERSCALARITY		produced: ----- ----- *[student are expected to have their own laptop]		organise their own integrative and finalised exploration of the site]
lunch break 13.00-15.00	lunch break 13.00-15.00	lunch break 13.00-15.00	lunch break 13.00-15.00	-----
15.00-18.00 City Centre field trip (walking lecture about the city)	15.00-18.00 CHARRETTE 2 [WITH INSTRUCTORS AND ACADEMIC EXPERT] Overall discussion followed by team organisation and team meeting 1. Students, interactively critically reflect on the walking lecture, using photos, videos... any other kind of reports from the filed trip... 2. Students together with the Instructors identify the thematic layers of the project for the entire site. 3. Students make groups and choose the "STUDY-AREA	15.00-18.00 Each team begins to work on more detailed designs [5 minutes sketch plan PIN UP + 10 minutes feedback]	15.00-18.00 Individual conferences with each team & the instructors	-----

WEEK 2				
Monday June 5	Tuesday June 6	Wednesday June 7	Thursday June 8	Friday June 9
9.00-9.30 Each team continues to work on infrastructure designs, the overall site design and detailed designs	9.00-13.30 Each team assemblages and organises the final proposal	9.00-13.30 Each team re-assemblage and organise the final proposal basing on the feedback received.	9.00-13.30 Rehearsal for final public presentation	-----
lunch break 13.00-15.00	lunch break 13.00-15.00	lunch break 13.00-15.00	lunch break 13.00-15.00	-----
15.00-18.00 Individual	15.00-18.00 Each team present its	15.00-18.00 CHARRETTE 3	15.00-18.00 Public presentation	-----

conferences/workshop with each team and the instructors	project to the entire assembly for 20-30 minutes, and receive feedback	[with academic (?) experts] The class work together to assemblage all of the projects and present a view for the entire site.	[+ Politicians Technicians]	
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Enrolling

Student (max. 9) can register through the ordinary procedure.

A **pre-registration** is required. Please send an email to camilla.perrone@unifi.it by **mid-May**.

In the event that there should be more than 9 applications, students will be required to attend an interview.

References

[5 readings will be suggested after the registration]