



S.P.A.C.E. 2018
Salomon Project Architectural Composition Experience

a collaboration between

Universita degli Studi di Firenze and Ariel University – International Seminar
and Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze

Introduction and Invitation to participate in
the 4th international bilateral thematic seminar

The Project – At the year of 2014 the Universities of Florence and Ariel had founded an academic collaboration aimed to leverage the benefits of both schools of architecture: Firenze as focused in existing historic culturally significant urban space, and Ariel – as all Israeli architects and establishments – that is occupied mainly in planning and designing new and modern urban surroundings. Up to now, the joint seminar has taken place – with great success – three times over the past three years.

S.P.A.C.E. 2018 Seminar is a splendid opportunity to learn and to get to know architects and students of two different cultures, traditions and temperaments, as well as a chance to experience new practices and methods of the art of architecture.

The Seminar will consist of guided tours at the two cities and their vicinity as well as intensive design studios tutored by well-experienced architects of both academies. The architectural assignments will take place on significant and inspiring sites within the two urban tissues – study and architectural practice being managed in collaborative design groups of Italian and Israeli students. The outcomes of the design seminars will be presented in various means of display: public presentation, book, exhibition, etc.

S.P.A.C.E. 2018 - Manifest

Architecture – is a singular combination of place, time, society and creator. Abstract ideas that we as humans carry and seldom invent are transferred to concrete forms and materials in specific locations. We give names to these places noting their nature: function, status, context, and history.

Place – sites of different nature consist of various context. The physic characteristics such as climate, topography, and light interact with human context – history and memory, the built environment which itself is conglomerated of a complex syntax of functional and symbolic components - culture.

Culture – the architect is an agent of culture in the physic environment. We are in charge of Civilization's "floor". Our work is done mainly in surroundings existing long before us, carrying layers of meaning and implications that we, as members of local society, understand and therefore carry on to the next generations through the architectural layers that we add to our cities.

Society – encodes us from birth and thus culture is being constantly formatted. It is impossible to step in the same river of perception and so seemingly immortal physic monuments change their status as well as meaning throughout ages: what used to be holy might turn out to be a trivial object or a commercial attraction and what was considered bizarre can be celebrated centuries later. Our notions of holiness, freedom, relations, and hierarchy evolve and change and so, our perception and reading of spaces created centuries ago is probably deeply different from those of the people that occupied them in the "golden ages".

Time – We live in an era that enables us to witness and experience rapid technological, social and cultural - and thus conscious - changes. The velocity of change in our era allows us a clear-eyed look at the evolution of values, concepts, and conventions and forces us to take sides – embrace or disagree to these changes – all or some. Our era faces us with different concepts of locality and place and enables us complex concepts of affiliation and belonging. Communication and transportation turn us to citizens of more than one place and push us to a constant examination of the relevance of our beliefs – if we have the courage.



The Seminar – is a unique opportunity to interact intensively with fellow architects and students of a very different cultural background while practicing our professional and creative skills - doing so on most meaningful sites. Located at two of the most celebrated cities on earth (historically and culturally) – the lots we will design upon will present us with fundamental architectural and humanistic questions and challenges.

Nevertheless, we look forward to a joyful and cheerful session of creation together. After all – we consider ourselves lucky to engage this fascinating discipline for a living.

S.P.A.C.E. 2018 – Theme

“ Holiness – Cult – Ritual – Community – City ” in Florence and Jerusalem

All humans are in search for a higher sphere of being: Religion, Art, Music, and Nature – all may fulfill this fundamental need. We might find it at solitaire or within our family, in large congregations, or intimate communities. What could be the meaning of belief, cult, and holiness in the 21st century? What kinds of places could be appropriate for aspiring spiritually in modern living cities? What relevance to our sense of sublimity can we find in the holy places of the past? Can we interpret old and celebrated monuments in a way that can free us of the burdens and pain driven on us by past concepts and history? Can we do so in places that are not ours? Is there such a thing as "our place"? – Should there be?

Both Jerusalem and Florence carry heavy loads of meaning and delightfully reminiscent of the past. The two cities are boosting with present life and seeking – each in its own way – for contemporary relevance.

In our joint seminars, we will try to engage these intellectual and emotional challenges.

As architects – we will do so using our pencils, colors and computers – aiming for exiting and surprising results.



S.P.A.C.E.

Seminars dates

Florence Seminar

May, 7 – 17

Jerusalem Seminar

June, 19 - 29

Costs – program fee

(not including: personal expenses, flights, accommodation, insurance, etc.)

Italian / Israeli student = € 240 / NIS 1,000

Teaching staff

Università degli Studi di Firenze

Prof. Arch. Cecilia Maria Roberta Luschi

Prof. Arch. Fabio Fabbrizzi

Prof. Arch. Andrea Ricci

Prof. Arch. Laura Aiello

ABAFI

Prof. Claudio Rocca

Ariel University

Prof. Arch. Michael Rona

Prof. Arch. David Cassuto

Prof. Arch. Yair Varon