## History

The **Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (Dipartimento di Architettura e Studi Urbani – DAStU)** is a thematic and interdisciplinary research structure established in January 2013 at the Politecnico di Milano.

The Department deals with architectural and urban projects, spatial planning and territorial governance, urban policy, conservation and intervention on heritage and natural environment, historical and critical interpretation of architecture, city, and territory.
It carries out research and fieldwork on transformation, care and government of historical and contemporary settlements and landscapes, significantly contributing to education and training of architects and urban planners at Politecnico di Milano.

Directed by Prof. Massimo Bricocoli, DAStU, with its **169 Faculty Members**, is the second-largest Department at Politecnico di Milano. It is one of Italy's most important research structures for urban and regional planning, embedded in a well-established international network of centres of excellence. It is open to different forms of cooperation with institutional and social actors at the local, national, and international levels.

DAStU is based on a cultural collaboration, centered on developing and innovating the Politecnico di Milano tradition. DAStU aims at establishing a department structure where the various disciplines dealing with territorial projects could meet and create a forum for interdisciplinary dialogue. It explores new contact points, in the evolution of disciplinary areas, between environment, community, and architectural designers and between design, communication, policy, and management experts.

DAStU is one of the 180 Italian departments selected and financed by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (MIUR), within the initiative "Dipartimenti di Eccellenza" (L. 232/2016), an innovative grant for the departments which stand out for the quality of the research.

In this frame, DAStU will explore the process of fragilization of the relation between space and society, in the interplay of environmental, social, economic, political, and institutional related issues.

## Research

DAStU is currently one of Italy's largest departmental research centres, structured in four internal sections, which combine different scientific disciplinary sectors:

- **Architectural Design**
- **Urban Planning and Design**
- **History, Preservation, and Representation**
- **Humanities, Social Sciences, and Sustainable Architecture Design**

It is active in many fields of research and consultancy and, thanks to its multidisciplinary approach, it offers expertise, and it delivers projects to multiple subjects and organizations, such as European, national, regional and local authorities, social and economic groups, and research institutions.

Different sources of funding support the research activity: the Italian Ministry for Education (MIUR), the National Research Council and the European Commission, and other public administrations, non-profit organizations and private entities.
There are a lot of Research laboratories and **Departmental laboratories**: "Climate Change, Risk and Resilience", "Building Analysis and Diagnostic", "Mapping and Urban Data Lab", and "Techniques for the Conservation and Management of Architectural Heritage".

## Post-Graduate Education

DAStU provides a major contribution in the **School of Architecture and Society** teaching activities, in all its undergraduate and graduate programmes in Architecture, Environmental architecture, Planning, Building techniques, and in some undergraduate and graduate programmes in other Schools of Architecture and Engineering. At a time of continuous cultural, social and economic change, DAStU can tackle new challenges and societal demand. DAStU offers a wide range of post-graduate courses, including Doctoral Programs, Specializing Masters**,** Professional Training Courses, Short Courses, and the only Italian **Specialist School in "Architectural and Landscape Heritage"**, directed by prof. Alberto Grimoldi.

DAStU offers **Doctoral Programs** in:

- **Architecture, Urban and Interior Design**, coordinated by Prof. Mariacristina Giambruno;
- **Preservation of Architectural Heritage**, coordinated by Prof. Alessandro Rocca;
- **Urban Planning, Design and Policy**, coordinated by Prof. Luca Gaeta.

**Short Professional Courses** (taught in Italian)

The Department contributes to lifelong learning programs for professionals, organizing courses in the field of: Real Estate Finance, Technical Property Consulting, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Governance, Climate Change and Territorial Risks, Design Computer Drawing, Architectural and Landscape Heritage, Urban Planning, International Cooperation, Interior Design, Transport Policies, Public Procurement, Building Information Modeling (BIM).

## Publications

Since 1988 DAStU has been contributing to spurring debate on planning, urban design, geography, and social disciplines themes through the publication of the quarterly journal **Territorio**.
The Editor is the Head of the Department. The journal has an Editorial Board and an International Scientific Board; it normally hosts articles in Italian, but also in English and in French. It is indexed on Scopus and other databases.

## Events

Every year the Department promotes an intense programme of national and international Seminars approved by the Department Council.

## International Activities and European projects

DAStU is member of the Association of European School of Planning (**AESOP**), of the European Urban Research Association (**EURA**), of the Regional Science Association (**AISRE**), of the Istituto Nazionale di Urbanistica (**INU**) and it is the registered office of the Società Italiana degli Urbanisti (**SIU**). DAStU actively collaborates with **Planum**, the European Journal of Planning.

DAStU is involved, as coordinator or partner, in these **Horizon2020** projects:

- **easyRights** – Enabling immigrants to easily know and exercise their rights (2020-2022). DAStU is the coordinator of the project; Prof. Grazia Concilio is the project's European coordinator _ **https://www.easyrights.eu/**;
- **Sharing Cities** (2016-2021). Prof. Eugenio Morello is the project's local coordinator _ **www.sharingcities.eu/**;
- **CLEVER Cities** – Co-designing Locally tailored Ecological solutions for Value added, socially inclusivE Regeneration in Cities (2018-2023). Prof. Eugenio Morello is the project's local coordinator _ **http://clevercities.eu/**;
- **COHSMO** – Inequality, urbanization and Territorial Cohesion: Developing the European Social Model of economic growth and democratic capacity (2017-2021). Prof. Costanzo Ranci is the project's local coordinator _ **http://www.cohsmo.aau.dk/**;

- **DESIGNSCAPES** – Building Capacity for Design enabled Innovation in Urban Environments (2017-2021). Prof. Grazia Concilio is the project's local coordinator _ **https://www.designscapes.eu/welcome/**;
- **Me.So.C.** – Measuring the Social Dimension of Culture (2020-2023). Prof. Grazia Concilio is the project's local coordinator _ **https://mesoc-project.eu/**;
- **TACK** – Communities of Tacit Knowledge: Architecture and its Ways of Knowing (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action – ITN-ETN; 2019-2023). Prof. Gennaro Postiglione is the project's local coordinator _ **https://tacit-knowledge-architecture.com/**;
- **SoloClim** – Solutions for outdoor climate improvement (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action – ITN-EID; 2019-2023). Prof. Valentina Dessì is the project's local coordinator _ **https://soloclim.eu/**;
- **Contested Territory** – From Contested Territories to alternatives of development: Learning from Latin America (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action – RISE; 2020-2024). Prof. Antonella Contin is the project's local coordinator _ **https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/873082**;
- **CORAL** – Exploring the impacts of collaborative workspaces in rural and peripheral areas in the EU (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action – ITN-ETN; 2021-2024). Prof. Ilaria Mariotti is the project's local coordinator _ **https://coral-itn.eu/**;
- **SCRAPS** – writing the Sleep CRisis: 24/7 cAPitalism and neoliberal Subjectivity (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action – Individual Fellowship, European Fellowship; 2021-2024). Prof. Simona Chiodo is the project's coordinator;
- **MultiCAST** – Multiscale Thermal-related Urban Climate Analysis and Simulation Tool (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action – Individual Fellowship, Global Fellowship; 2022-2025). Prof. Eugenio Morello is the project's coordinator _ **http://www.labsimurb.polimi.it/multicast/**.


DAStU is partner of a project funded under the European programme **LIFE**:

- **Soil4Life** (2018-2022). Prof. Andrea Arcidiacono is the project's local coordinator _ **http://soil4life.eu/**.


DAStU participates in the **Erasmus+** Programme, and it is lead partner or partner of these projects:

- **DESINC LIVE** – Designing and Learning in the Context of Migration (KA2 – Strategic Partnership for Higher Education; 2019-2022). DAStU is the coordinator of the project; Prof. Francesca Cognetti is the project's European coordinator _ **https://www.desinc.org/**;
- **CA2RE+** – Collective Evaluation of Design Driven Doctoral Training (KA2 – Strategic Partnership for Higher Education; 2019-2022). Prof. Gennaro Postiglione is the project's local coordinator _ **https://ca2re.eu/**;
- **ECASS** – European Cities Against School Segregation (KA2 – Strategic Partnership for School Education; 2019-2022). Prof. Costanzo Ranci is the project's local coordinator _ **http://www.lps.polimi.it/?p=3889&lang=en**;
- **ACPUS** – The Activation of the Public Spaces of the City Centres through Ethical and Sustainable Design Based on the Local Communities Participation / Response / Proaction (KA2 – Strategic Partnership for Higher Education; 2020-2023). Prof. Luca Fabris is the project's local coordinator;
- **UFOREST** – European Alliance on Interdisciplinary Learning and Business Innovation for Urban Forests (KA2 – Knowledge Alliances; 2021-2023). Dr. Maria Chiara Pastore is the project's local coordinator _ **https://www.uforest.eu/**.


DAStU is partner of a project funded by the European Commission, DG HOME, – **Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)**:

- **W-IN** – **Women4Integration** (2021-2023). Prof. Francesca Cognetti is the project's local coordinator.


DAStU is partner of a project funded under the **Interreg Alpine Space** programme:

- **TrAILs** – Alpine Industrial Landscape Transformation (2018-2021). Prof. Piergiorgio Vitillo is the project's local coordinator _ **https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/trails/en/home**.

DAStU is partner of a project funded by **UIA (Urban Innovative Actions)**:

- **Air-Break** (2020-2023). Prof. Eugenio Morello is the project's local coordinator _ **https://airbreakferrara.net/**.

DAStU is **grant holder** of a project funded by the **COST** programme:

- **comeINperiphery** – The geography of New Working Spaces and the impact on the periphery (2019-2023). Prof. Ilaria Mariotti is the European project's coordinator and Action Chair _ **https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA18214/#tabs|Name:overview**.

Moreover, DAStU is involved, as coordinator or partner, in three **JPI projects (Joint Programming Initiatives)**:

- **HOMEE** – Heritage Opportunities/threats within Mega-Events in Europe: Changing environments, new challenges and possible solutions for preservation in mega-events embedded in heritage-rich European cities (JPI Cultural Heritage; 2018-2021). DAStU is the coordinator of the project; Prof. Davide Ponzini is the project's European coordinator _ **http://www.tau-lab.polimi.it/research/homee/**;
- *en*/**counter**/*points* (re)negotiating belongings through culture and contact in public space and place (JRP Public Spaces; 2019-2022). Dr. Jacopo Leveratto is the project's local coordinator _ **https://heranet.info/projects/public-spaces-culture-and-integration-in-europe/en-counter-points-renegotiating-belonging-through-culture-and-contact-in-public-space-and-place/**;
- **EX-TRA** – EXperimenting with city streets to TRAnsform urban mobility (ERA-NET Cofund Urban Accessibility and Connectivity; 2021-2024). Prof. Paola Pucci is the project's local coordinator.

Three **ESPON** competitive tenders have been awarded to DAStU:

- **MISTA** – Metropolitan Industrial Spatial Strategies & Economic Sprawl (2019-2021). DAStU is the lead contractor; Prof. Valeria Fedeli is the project's European coordinator _ **https://www.espon.eu/mista**;
- **IMAGINE** – Developing a metropolitan-regional imaginary in Milan-Bologna urban region (2020-2021). DAStU is the lead contractor; Prof. Valeria Fedeli is the project's European coordinator _ **https://www.espon.eu/imagine**;
- **DIGISER** – Digital Innovation in Governance and Public Service Provision (2020-2022). Prof. Grazia Concilio is the project's local coordinator _ **https://www.espon.eu/DIGISER**.

In the past years, DAStU has been **partner** or **coordinator** in several European projects:

- **PoliVisu** – Policy Development based on Advanced Geospatial Data Analytics and Visualisation (Horizon2020; 2017-2020). Prof. Grazia Concilio and Prof. Paola Pucci were the project's local coordinators _ **https://www.polivisu.eu/**;

- **LODE** – Loss Data Enhancement for DRR and CCA Management (2019-2021). Politecnico was the coordinator of the project. Prof. Scira Menoni is the project's European coordinator _ **https://www.lodeproject.polimi.it/**;

- **AR4CUP 2020** – Augmented Reality for Collaborative Urban Planning (Horizon2020 – EIT Digital; 2020). Dr. Barbara Piga was the project's local coordinator _ **http://www.labsimurb.polimi.it/research/ar4cup-2020-h2020/**;

- **urbanHIST** – History of European Urbanism in the 20th Century (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action – ITN-EJD; 2016-2020). Dr. Gaia Caramellino was the project's local coordinator _ **https://www.urbanhist.eu/**;

- **AR4CUP 2019** – Augmented Reality for Collaborative Urban Planning (Horizon2020 – EIT Digital; 2019). Dr. Barbara Piga was the project's local coordinator _ **http://www.labsimurb.polimi.it/research/ar4cup/**;

- **TRACES** – Transmitting Contentious Cultural Heritages with the Arts: From Intervention to Co-Production (Horizon2020; 2016-2019). Prof. Luca Basso Peressut was the project's local coordinator _ **http://www.traces.polimi.it/about/**;

- **Open4Citiziens** – Empowering Citizens to the Make Meaningful Use of Open Data (Horizon2020; 2016-2018). Prof. Grazia Concilio was the project's local coordinator _ **http://open4citizens.eu/**;

- **IDEA** – Improving Damage Assessments to Enhance Cost-Benefit Analyses (DG ECHO; 2015-2016). Prof. Scira Menoni was the project's local coordinator _ **http://www.ideaproject.polimi.it/**;

- **Know4DRR** – Disaster Risk Reduction Knowledge (7FP; 2013-2015). Prof. Scira Menoni was the project's local coordinator _ **http://www.know4drr.polimi.it/**;

- **MeLa** – Museums & Migration (7FP; 2011-2015). Prof. Luca Basso Peressut was the project's local coordinator _ **http://www.mela-project.polimi.it/**;

- **Recall** – Conflict Heritage (Culture Programme; 2012-2014). Prof. Gennaro Postiglione was the project's local coordinator _ **http://www.recallproject.eu/**;

- **SEHUD** – Architecture and Sustainable Urban Development based on eco-Humanistic Principles & Advanced Technologies without Losing Identity (Tempus IV; 2012-2014). Prof. Maria Grazia Folli was the project's European coordinator;

- **TELLme** – Training for Education, Learning and Leadership towards a new MEtropolitan discipline (Erasmus+, KA2 – Strategic Partnership for Higher Education; 2017-2020). DAStU was the coordinator of the project; Prof. Antonella Contin was the project's European coordinator _ **https://www.tellme.online/**;

- **DESINC** – Designing Inclusion (Erasmus+, KA2 Strategic Partnership for Higher Education – Development Innovation; 2016-2018). Prof. Francesca Cognetti was the project's local coordinator _ **https://www.desinc.org/**;

- **CARE** – Empowering climate resilience (Erasmus+, KA2 Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices - Capacity Building in Higher Education - CBHE; 2016-2018). Arch. Marcello Magoni was the project's local coordinator _ **https://www.erasmus-care.eu/_wp/**;

- **Thinking Smart** – Toolkit for engagement of HEI in regional growth (Erasmus+, KA3; 2016-2018). Prof. Valeria Fedeli was the project's local coordinator;

- **ERUP** – EU Regional and Urban Policy: fostering innovation in urban research and practice (Erasmus+, Jean Monnet; 2015-2018). Prof. Valeria Fedeli was the project's local coordinator;

- **OpenAgri** – New skills for new Jobs in Peri-Urban Agriculture (UIA – Urban Innovative Actions; 2017-2020). Prof. Antonio Longo was the project's local coordinator _ **https://open-agri.it/openagri/**;

- **SoHoLab** – The regeneration of large-scale Social Housing estates through LivingLabs, (JPI Urban Europe – 2017-2020). Prof. Francesca Cognetti was the project's local coordinator _ **https://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/project/soholab/**;

- **VIETNAM** – Professional Training Center for restauration and preservation of cultural heritage in the Quang Nam district, Vietnam (MAE-AICS; 2017-2020). Prof. Mariacristina Giambruno was the project's local coordinator;

- **URBAN LAB** – Urban Laboratory for territorial development of the municipality of Divjake, Albania. (MAE-AICS; 2017-2020). Prof. Marialessandra Secchi was the project's local coordinator.