



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 in heritage and natural environment, and historical and critical interpretation of architecture, city, and territory.

It makes research and fieldwork on the transformation, care and government of historical and contemporary settlements and landscapes. It also contributes to the education and training of architects and urban planners at Politecnico di Milano.

Directed by Prof. Massimo Bricocoli, DASTU, with its **198 Faculty Members**, is the second-largest Department at Politecnico di Milano. It is one of Italy's most important urban and regional planning research structures, embedded in a well-established international network of centres of excellence. It is open to cooperation with institutional and social actors at the local, national, and international levels.

DASTU is based on a cultural collaboration centred on developing and innovating the Politecnico di Milano tradition. DASTU aims to establish 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 between environment, community, and architectural designers and between design, communication, policy, and management experts.

From 2018 to 2022 and from 2023 to 2027, DASTU has been selected and financed by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (MUR) within the initiative "Dipartimenti di Eccellenza" (L. 232/2016). This grant is given to departments that stand out for the quality of their research.

In this frame, from 2018 to 2022, DASTU explored the fragilization of the relationship between space and society in the interplay of environmental, social, economic, political, and institutional 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. Thanks to its multidisciplinary approach, it offers expertise and delivers projects to multiple subjects and organizations, such as European, national, regional and local authorities, social and economic groups, and research institutions.

Different funding sources support the research activity: the Italian Ministry of University and Research (MUR), the National Research Council and the European Commission, and other public administrations, non-profit organizations and private entities.

There are a lot of research 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

DASStU significantly contributes to the **School of Architecture and Society** teaching activities, in all its undergraduate and graduate programmes in Architecture, Environmental Architecture, Planning, and Building techniques, and in some undergraduate and graduate programmes in other Schools of Architecture and Engineering. DASStU 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.

DASStU offers **Doctoral Programs** in:

- **Architecture, Urban and Interior Design**, coordinated by Prof. Alessandro Rocca;
- **Preservation of Architectural Heritage**, coordinated by Prof. Mariacristina Giambruno;
- **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, DASStU has contributed to spurring debate on planning, urban design, geography, and social disciplines through the quarterly journal **Territorio**.

The Editor is the Head of the Department. The journal has an Editorial Board and an International Scientific Board; it usually hosts articles in Italian, English, and 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

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





European projects

DAStU is involved in many **Horizon 2020** and **Horizon Europe** projects, with the role of European coordinator or project partner:

- **PALIMPSEST** – CREATIVE DRIVERS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING HERITAGE LANDSCAPES (2023-2026). DAStU-Politecnico di Milano is the coordinator of the project; Prof. Grazia Concilio is the European project's coordinator _ <https://www.palimpsest-project.eu/>;
- **ORBIS** – Augmenting participation, co-creation, trust and transparency in Deliberative Democracy at all scales (2023-2026). Politecnico di Milano is the coordinator of the project; Prof. Grazia Concilio is DAStU's project coordinator _ <https://orbis-project.eu/>;
- **CLIMABOROUGH** – Building Green and Climate Neutral City-Hubs (2023-2026). Prof. Grazia Concilio is the project's local coordinator _ <https://climaborough.eu/>;
- **SATO** – Self Assessment Towards Optimization of building energy (2020-2024). Prof. Lorenzo Pagliano is the project's local coordinator _ <https://www.sato-project.eu/>;
- **FULLFILL** – Fundamental Decarbonization Through Sufficiency by Lifestyle Changes (2021-2024). Prof. Lorenzo Pagliano is the project's local coordinator _ <https://fulfill-sufficiency.eu/>;
- **Nati00ns** – National engagement activities to support the launch of the Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe' 100 Living Labs and Lighthouses (2022-2024). Prof. Eugenio Morello is the project's local coordinator _ <https://nati00ns.eu/node/22>;
- **MOBI-TWIN** – Twin transition and changing patterns of spatial mobility: a regional approach (2023-2026). Prof. Emmanuel Matsaganis is the project's local coordinator _ <https://mobi-twin-project.eu/>;
- **RE-SKIN** – Renewable and Environmental-Sustainable Kit for building Integration (2023-2026). Prof. Giancarlo Paganin is the project's local coordinator _ <https://reskinproject.eu/>;
- **COLLECTIEF** – Collective Intelligence for Energy Flexibility (2022-2025). Dr. Silvia Erba is the project's local coordinator _ <https://collectief-project.eu/>;
- **ReHousIn** – Contextualized pathways to reduce housing inequalities in the green and digital transition (2024-2027). Prof. Massimo Bricocoli is the project's local coordinator;
- **REMAKING** – REMote-working Multiple impacts in the Age of disruptions: socioeconomic transformations, territorial rethinkING, and policy actions (2024-2027). Prof. Ilaria Mariotti is the project's local coordinator;
- **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/>;
- **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://www.contested-territories.net/>;
- **MultiCAST** – Multiscale Thermal-related Urban Climate Analysis and Simulation Tool (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action – Individual Fellowship, Global Fellowship; 2022-2025). Dr. Nicola Colaninno is the experienced researcher, and Prof. Eugenio Morello is the researcher's supervisor and project coordinator _ <http://www.labsimurb.polimi.it/multicast/>;
- **REDI** – RMIT European Doctoral Innovators (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action – COFUND; 2022-2027). Prof. Mariacristina Giamb Bruno is the project's local coordinator _ <https://www.rediprogram.eu/>;
- **SLAC** – Seeing Like a City (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action – Postdoctoral Fellowship, Global Fellowship; Grant Agreement under negotiation). Dr. Paola Piscitelli is the experienced researcher, and Prof. Sandro Balducci is the researcher's supervisor and project coordinator.





DASTU participates, as a partner, in these projects funded under the **Erasmus+ programme**:

- **SUSPA** – Sustainable urban space pavilion (KA2 – Strategic Partnership for Higher Education; 2022-2024). Prof. Laura Montedoro is the project's local coordinator;
- **SMART** – Innovation Centres for the development of innovative and entrepreneurial thinking to facilitate the development of sustainable smart solutions in the Western Balkans (KA2 – Capacity Building in Higher Education; 2022-2025). Prof. Antonella Contin is the project's local coordinator;
- **Pro-GREEN-LABs** – Promoting Integrated Green Competences for Sustainable Development in Architectural Education through Experiential Lab-based, Active Learning (2024-2027). Prof. Eugenio Morello is the project's local coordinator.

DASTU is a partner of three projects funded under the European **Creative Europe programme**:

- **Open Atelier** – building new innovative formats for active audience participation and interaction with cultural heritage within European House Museums (2022-2025). Prof. Gennaro Postiglione is the project's local coordinator _ <https://www.openatelier.eu/>;
- **UNLOCK THE CITY!** – Theatre as a tool for post pandemic sustainable transformation of the European urban landscape (2023-2026). Prof. Antonio Longo is the project's local coordinator _ <https://www.unlockthecity.eu/en/>;
- **Landscape Together** (2023-2027). Prof. Carles Muro is the project's local coordinator _ <https://landscapetogether.eu/>.

And of a project funded under **SOCPL (Social Prerogative and Specific Competencies Lines)**:

- **BACK IN TOWN** – The role of industrial relations and social dialogue in supporting young people's employment and social inclusion at an urban level (2023-2025). Prof. Gabriele Pasqui is the project's local coordinator.

Moreover, DASTU is **grant holder** of a **COST ACTION**:

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

DASTU is involved in two **JPI projects (Joint Programming Initiatives)**:

- **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 _ <https://www.ex-tra-project.eu/>;
- **COMMON_ACCESS** - COMMONing ACCESSibility in urban outskirts and beyond (JPI DUT – Driving Urban Transition; 2024-2026). Prof. Paola Pucci is the project's local coordinator.





In the past years, DASTU has been **European coordinator or partner** of many European projects:

- **easyRights** – Enabling immigrants to easily know and exercise their rights (Horizon 2020; 2020-2022). Il DASTU-Politecnico di Milano was the European coordinator of the project; Prof. Grazia Concilio was the project's European coordinator _ <https://www.easyrights.eu/>;
- **ABC21** – Africa-European bioclimatics buildings for XXI century (2020-2023). Politecnico was the coordinator of the project; Prof. Lorenzo Pagliano is the European project's coordinator _ <https://www.abc21.eu/>;
- **MESOC** – Measuring the Social Dimension of Culture (2020-2023). Prof. Grazia Concilio was the project's local coordinator _ <https://mesoc-project.eu/>;
- **CLEVER Cities** – Co-designing Locally tailored Ecological solutions for Value added, socially inclusive Regeneration in Cities (2018-2023). Prof. Eugenio Morello was the project's local coordinator _ <http://clevercities.eu/>;
- **Sharing Cities** (Horizon2020; 2016-2021). Prof. Eugenio Morello was the project's local coordinator _ www.sharingcities.eu/;
- **DESIGNSCAPES** – Building Capacity for Design enabled Innovation in Urban Environments (Horizon2020; 2017-2021). Prof. Grazia Concilio was the project's local coordinator _ <https://www.designscapes.eu/welcome/>;
- **COHSMO** – Inequality, urbanization and Territorial Cohesion: Developing the European Social Model of economic growth and democratic capacity (Horizon2020; 2017-2021). Prof. Costanzo Ranci was the project's local coordinator _ <http://www.cohsmo.aau.dk/>;
- **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/>;
- **HACKS** – Heating And Cooling Know-how and Solutions (2019-2023). Prof. Lorenzo Pagliano is the project's local coordinator;
- **LODE** – Loss Data Enhancement for DRR and CCA Management (DG ECHO; 2019-2021). Politecnico was the coordinator of the project. Prof. Scira Menoni was the 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/>;
- **Kids First** (EIT Urban Mobility, 2022). Prof. Paola Savoldi and Prof. Cristina Renzoni were the project's local coordinators _ <https://www.eiturbanmobility.eu/projects/kids-first-k1/>;
- **RAISE-UB** – RAILways stations multi-SERVICE hUB (EIT Urban Mobility, 2022). Prof. Paola Pucci was the project's local coordinator;
- **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;
- **Open4Citizens** – 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/>;





- **SCRAPS** – writing the Sleep CRisis: 24/7 cAPitalism and neoliberal Subjectivity (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action – Individual Fellowship; 2021-2024). Dr. Diletta De Cristofaro was the experienced researcher, and Prof. Simona Chiodo was the researcher's supervisor and project coordinator _ <https://www.writingsleep.com/>;
- **TACK** – Communities of Tacit Knowledge: Architecture and its Ways of Knowing (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action – ITN-ETN; 2019-2023). Prof. Gennaro Postiglione was 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 was the project's local coordinator _ <https://soloclim.eu/>;
- **IDEA** – Improving Damage Assessments to Enhance Cost-Benefit Analyses (DG ECHO; 2015-2016). Prof. Scira Menoni was the project's local coordinator;
- **Know4DRR** – Disaster Risk Reduction Knowledge (7FP; 2013-2015). Prof. Scira Menoni was the project's local coordinator;
- **MeLa** – Museums & Migration (7FP; 2011-2015). Prof. Luca Basso Peressut was the project's local coordinator _ <http://www.mela-project.polimi.it/>;
- **Soil4Life** (LIFE; 2018-2022). Prof. Andrea Arcidiacono was the project's local coordinator _ <http://soil4life.eu/>;
- **DESINC LIVE** – Designing and Learning in the Context of Migration (KA2 – Strategic Partnership for Higher Education; 2019-2022). DASTU-Politecnico di Milano was the European coordinator of the project; Prof. Francesca Cognetti was the project's European coordinator _ <https://www.desinc.org/>;
- **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 European coordinator _ <https://www.tellme.online/>;
- **UFOREST** – European Alliance on Interdisciplinary Learning and Business Innovation for Urban Forests (KA2 – Knowledge Alliances; 2021-2023). Dr. Maria Chiara Pastore was the project's local coordinator _ <https://www.uforest.eu/>;
- **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 was the project's local coordinator;
- **EDULands** – EDULands for transitions: Exploring collaborative education to connect the school and the landscape (KA2 – Cooperation Partnership for in School Education; 2022-2025). Prof. Camilla Casonato is the project's local coordinator _ <https://edulands.eu/>;
- **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/;
- **CA2RE+** – Collective Evaluation of Design Driven Doctoral Training (KA2 – Strategic Partnership for Higher Education; 2019-2022). Prof. Gennaro Postiglione was 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.ecass.eu/>;
- **Thinking Smart** – Toolkit for engagement of HEI in regional growth (Erasmus+, KA3; 2016-2018). Prof. Valeria Fedeli was the project's local coordinator _ <https://thinkingsmart.utad.pt/> ;
- **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;





- **CPiP** – Community Participation in Planning (Erasmus+, KA2 Strategic Partnership for Higher Education – Development Innovation; 2015-2017) _ Prof. Grazia Concilio was the project's local coordinator <https://twitter.com/cpip2015>;
- **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 European coordinator;
- **Recall** – Conflict Heritage (Culture Programme; 2012-2014). Prof. Gennaro Postiglione was the project's local coordinator _ <http://www.recallproject.eu/>;
- **W-IN – Women4Integration** (AMIF – Asylum Migration and Integration Fund; 2021-2023). Prof. Francesca Cognetti was the project's local coordinator;
- **trAlls** – Alpine Industrial Landscape Transformation (Interreg Alpine Space; 2018-2021). Prof. Piergiorgio Vitillo was the project's local coordinator _ <https://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/trails/en/home>;
- **AIR-BREAK** (2020-2023). Prof. Eugenio Morello was the project's local coordinator _ <https://airbreakferrara.net/>;
- **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 Living Labs, (JPI Urban Europe – 2017-2020). Prof. Francesca Cognetti was the project's local coordinator _ <https://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/project/soholab/>;
- **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 was the European coordinator of the project; Prof. Davide Ponzini was the 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 was 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/>.

