PhD School - Politecnico di Milano
Manifesto of the PhD Program of

Architectural Urban Interior Design - AUID

Cycle XL
2024-25

Ph.D. School - Politecnico di Milano
Ph.D. Program: Architectural Urban Interior Design - AUID
Course start: September 2024
Location of the PhD Program: Milano, Campus Leonardo, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies

PhD Program Website: www.auid.polimi.it
PhD School Website: http://www.dottorato.polimi.it/en/

The Architectural Urban Interior Design (AUID) Ph.D. Program promotes research on architectural design, with studies and projects aiming at different scales, contexts, and finalities. Research activities are based on the critical analysis and development of design processes and techniques in dynamic relationships with the urgent questions related to the urban and rural environment, questions related to energy and comfort, cultural and social factors, processes of change in technology, social habits, and domestic lifestyle.

The Program takes as an essential reference the declaration reported in the EAAE Research Charter (2012): "Architectural research is an original investigation undertaken to generate knowledge, insights, and understanding based on competencies, methods, and tools proper to the discipline of architecture. It has its own knowledge base, mode, scope, tactics, and strategies." research by design is defined as "any kind of inquiry in which (…) the architectural design process forms the pathway through which new insights, knowledge, practices, or products come into being. It generates critical inquiry through design work."

A crucial point, for the Program, is the relationship with the design activity. In particular, the Program aims to investigate the potentiality of research by design and/or design-driven research (DDR).

Research by design is a broader concept that includes "practice-based research" and "practice-led research." This concept is our starting point, that can lead mostly to the application of two kinds of research methodologies: "research through practice" and "research about practice." The Design-driven Research approach has being deeply investigated together with the Ca2re Community for Artistic and Architectural Research (ca2re.eu/), which considers design the primary and leading environment for the doctoral research in architecture.

AUID wants to be a creative, open, multicultural environment where the researchers frequently exchange with the board of professors, other research centers, and doctoral institutions; for this reason, the Program supports international exchanges, conferences, exhibitions, and research networks.

The Program provides opportunities for teaching and tutoring activities, considered as essential research complements, thanks to the close connection with the Polimi School of Architecture, Urban Design, and Building Construction. The Program is part of the Polimi Ph.D. School, which provides the Candidates with a large lot of interdisciplinary courses, facilitating the Candidates' contacts with the large Polimi doctoral community.

The Program aims to train and prepare highly qualified researchers and professionals able to cooperate with academic institutions, research centers, public administrations, and the private sector in architectural, urban, and interior design.

Eligible students hold a master's degree in architecture or close disciplines and must be able to read, write, and speak English fluently.

The Program is run by a Head, who coordinates all activities. Then, different actors cooperate in the program development. Deputy Heads have specific areas of interest in foreign relations, interior relations, and departmental relations. The Faculty Board has the scientific responsibility of all researchers, with the cooperation of a Board of Experts composed of professors and lecturers with bold academic research experience.

An international Advisory Board connects AUID with an extensive global network.

Research Topics

Research activities point at the critical analysis and development of design processes and techniques in dynamic relationships with the urgent questions related to the urban and rural environment. Research is based on the acquisition and elaboration of insights and skills explicitly linked to contemporary architecture's theoretical and critical horizon. Every year, the Program focuses on specific topics to be explored theoretically and by design in respect of its general directions. Within the 39th Cycle, starting in 2023-24 academic year, the preferential research lines follow these topics, which be pursued choosing various viewpoints and fields:

•	Theories of architecture and architectural design: reframing premises and goals, with case studies from the past and from the present times.

•	Architecture as a contemporary narrative: investigate as research, criticism, and education form an elaborate creative engine which generate ideas, ideologies, fetishism, and critical thought.

•	Design driven research: this methodological is suggested for specific research applied to various contemporary challenges, overlapping the traditional methods with design proposals.

The Program considers that design is a relevant and necessary component of any research. Together with the AUID Faculty and the Supervisor, each Candidate will find a specific fertile relationship between design and research.

The Candidate will acquire the skill to organize a consistent analysis of case studies, formulate a clear proposal for an original approach to a question, and elaborate innovative strategies and research methods.

The Candidate will be supported to deliver autonomous and innovative scientific products to be disseminated through seminars, publications, and conferences.

Enrollment: Admission requirements

Italian and International citizens are requested to have graduated according to the pre-existing laws D.M. 3.11.1999 n. 509, or to have a Master of Science degree following D.M. 3.11.1999 n. 509, or a Master of Science following D.M. 22.10.2004 n. 270, or similar academic title obtained abroad, equivalent for duration and content to the Italian title, with an overall period of university studies of at least five years.

A Master of Science degree in Architecture is highly recommended; Candidates who graduated in disciplines as Landscape, Design, Art, Media, and Communications may be accepted in the Program.

A certified knowledge of the English language is a requirement for admission. Please refer to the Ph.D. School website for details.

The admission to the Program will be established according to the evaluation of the Candidates' curricula, motivation letters, and a proposal of a Ph.D. research, which Candidates will send contextually with their application to the admission announcement. A shortlisted number of applicants may be requested to meet delegates members of the Faculty Board.

The Program welcomes both foreign and Italian students. English is the official language.

The number and the profiles of the available positions are indicated in the Calls for admission to the 40th Ph.D. cycle: http://www.dottorato.polimi.it/en.

Scholarships are available on general and specific themes, following the parameters illustrated in the calls for admission. The Candidates supported by scholarships of other national or international institutions may obtain a direct access to the AUID Program, after the Board examination and approval.

Research Development

The main aim of all Polimi Ph.D. Programs is the development, for the Candidates, of a research-oriented

mindset, with expertise and skills in a specific research topic.

Ph.D. Candidates are requested to develop an original research contribution. The Ph.D. thesis must thus contribute to increasing the knowledge in the architectural design research field. Besides, it must be coherent with the general research lines and the disciplinary field of the Ph.D. Program.

The research results are collected in the Ph.D. thesis, where the Candidate's contribution is put in perspective to the research state of the art in the specific research field.

The research develops under the guidance of one or more supervisors, who support the Candidate in the setting-out and everyday activities related to the thesis development. The supervisor(s) is not necessarily a member of the Faculty Board and may also belong to an institution that is not Politecnico di Milano. The supervisor can be supported by one or more co-supervisors.

Further activities are encouraged during the Ph.D. path to enhance the Candidate's personal skills and research expertise. Candidates must acquire the capability to present and discuss their work in the research local and global communities. Consequently, both the participation in international conferences and the publication of the research results in peer-reviewed journals are supported.

The Program encourages the Candidates' research interactions with other groups in their research field, in national and international areas. Research visits of at least three months are strongly fostered, as through them, the Candidates may acquire different skills to develop their research work and thesis.

The minimum duration of the Program is three years.

Requirements for the Ph.D. title achievement

The achievement of the Ph.D. title in "Architectural Urban Interior Design" requires a study and research activity of at least three years equivalent of full-time study, mainly focused on the completion of a Ph.D. thesis. Ph.D. Candidates must earn a minimum of 30-course credits (see below) and regularly conduct studies and research.

At the beginning of the course, the Faculty Board can assign a tutor to supervise and assist the Ph.D. Candidate. The tutor is chosen among the professors enlisted in the Faculty Board or the Group of Experts (see at https://www.auid.polimi.it/).

The Faculty Board may assign extra course credits to the Candidates if they need to complete their preparation in specific topics relevant to their research projects.

To register for the final exam, the Candidates must demonstrate a knowledge of the Italian language equal to at least A1 level of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. Italian native speakers and all those who can demonstrate a knowledge of the Italian language of the required level will be exempt.

Study Plan

The Ph.D. Polimi Programs and the Ph.D. Polimi School activate teaching forms of different kind and credit value, including courses, seminars, and workshops. Teaching activities cover the fundamental research issues (challenges, theories, methods) representing the founding element of the Ph.D. Program. Lessons are held in English. Structured teaching activities allow earning ECTS credits.

The Ph.D. School offers courses aiming to train the Ph.D. Candidates in soft and transferable skills. These courses' skills and abilities are expected to help Candidates across different areas of their careers to respond to the rapidly evolving needs of the global economy and society at large.

At least 10 of the 30 credits (ECTS) that each Candidate is required to earn shall be obtained through soft and transferable skills courses organized by the Ph.D. School.

The educational structure can include, in relation to the various tracks:

- Lectures, training sessions, guided tours, and seminar cycles.

- Seminar activities and individual stages/internships particularly important for enhancing the students'

curriculum.

- Individual research driven by a supervisor and discussed with the Faculty Board.

Each learning activity is subject to grading through oral examination and/or the submission of written papers. Programs and bibliographies of the courses are available online and will be communicated at the beginning of each activity.

A) The AUID Ph.D. Program organizes compulsory courses focused on the fundamental questions and methods of research in architectural design.

B) The Ph.D. School organizes general and Inter-doctoral courses.

The table below summarizes the coursework activities.

Ph.D. AUID Program Courses	Ph.D. Candidates must achieve 15 credits from AUID compulsory courses, possibly within the first 18 months
Ph.D. School Courses	Ph.D. Candidates must achieve 10 credits from Ph.D. School courses, possibly within the first 18 months
Extra Courses	Ph.D. Candidates must achieve 5 credits from the participation at international activities, courses, conferences, seminars, workshops, with a scientific follow up recognized by the AUID Board.

Compulsory AUID Courses

The AUID courses (link) provide the Candidates the knowledge for starting and developing their personal research, treating basic questions such as research methodology, the relation between research and design, theory and criticism of architecture, research planning and organization, research networking and dissemination.

Extra Courses

The attendance of courses, conferences, seminars, workshops approved by the AUID Board permit to acquire the extra credits according to the modalities established by the Board. The Candidate will list the attended courses and workshops in the annual report, with the credits recognized by the Board.

Approaching the thesis defense, the Candidate will add to the thesis a report listing all the research activities made in the Doctoral track (conferences, publications, etc.), including the attended extra courses and the acquired credits.

Preparatory Courses

If the supervisor and the tutor think that it is useful, or necessary, that the Candidate attends preparatory courses (chosen among the activated courses at the Politecnico di Milano), the AUID Board may assign some extra-credits to be acquired to complete the training path. The credits earned in this way will be considered additional to the mandatory credits to be achieved with the Ph.D. courses.

Ph.D. Candidates must submit a study plan, which may be later revised and changed because of needs motivated by their Ph.D. career development. The Program Head will evaluate and approve the study plans.

Polimi Ph.D. School Courses

All courses recognize 5 ECTS

Professor	Course
ALIVERTI ANDREA	ETHICS IN RESEARCH

ARMONDI SIMONETTA	STRENGTHENING CRITICAL SPATIAL THINKING
ARNABOLDI MICHELA	ADVANCED INTERACTION SKILLS FOR ACADEMIC PROFESSIONALS
BISCARI PAOLO	INDUSTRIAL SKILLS
BISCARI PAOLO	ENGLISH FOR ACADEMIC COMMUNICATION
BISCARI PAOLO	SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATION IN ENGLISH
BISCARI PAOLO	RESEARCH SKILLS
BOBADILLA RODRIGUEZ HERNAN FELIPE	SCIENTIFIC MODELS: CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATIONS AND PHILOSOPHICAL ISSUES
BOERI ELISA	RECORDING WORK 4 BUILDING MEMORY: METHODS, PRACTICES, TOOLS, SKILLS TO MANAGE THE KNOWLEDGE
BROVELLI MARIA ANTONIA	THE COPERNICUS GREEN REVOLUTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
BRUNETTO DOMENICO SAVIO	INNOVATIVE TEACHING SKILLS
CANINA MARIA RITA	CREATIVE DESIGN THINKING
CARDILLI LORENZO	EUROPEAN CULTURE
COLOMBO GABRIELE	RESEARCH COMMUNICATION. ISSUE MAPPING: EXPLORING PUBLIC DEBATES SURROUNDING ACADEMIC TOPICS
CONCI CLAUDIO	COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES THAT SCORE IN WORLDWIDE ACADEMIA
DI BLAS NICOLETTA	PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION
FUGGETTA ALFONSO	PROJECT MANAGEMENT BASICS
HESSELBEIN CHRISTOPHER LORENZ	TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY
IAROSSI MARIA POMPEIANA	POWER OF IMAGES AND VISUAL COMMUNICATION FOR RESEARCH DISSEMINATION
LAVAGNA MONICA	SUSTAINABILITY METRICS, LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT
MANCINI MAURO	PROJECT MANAGEMENT (IN ACTION)
MASARATI PIERANGELO	ETHICAL ASPECTS OF RESEARCH ON DUAL USE TECHNOLOGIES
OPPIO ALESSANDRA	HOW TO SUPPORT COMPLEX DECISIONS: APPROACHES AND TOOLS
OSSI PAOLO MARIA	SULLA RESPONSABILITÀ DELLA TECNICA
PAGANONI ANNA MARIA	LA COMUNICAZIONE NELLA SCIENZA
PARMEGGIANI FABIO	SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, SOCIETY AND WIKIPEDIA
PIZZOCARO SILVIA LUISA	PRACTICING RESEARCH COLLABORATION
ROCCHI DANIELE	ETHICS OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
SANCASSANI SUSANNA	TEACHING METHODOLOGIES, STRATEGIES AND STYLES
SHENDRIKOVA DIANA	SCIENCE DIPLOMACY FOR RESEARCHERS. FILLING THE GAP BETWEEN SCIENCE AND POLICY WITHIN THE GLOBAL CHALLENGES
VOLONTE PAOLO GAETANO	INTRODUCTION TO ACADEMIC RESEARCH
VOLONTE PAOLO GAETANO	TECHNOLOGY AND INEQUALITY

Yearly Evaluations

The Candidates present their work to the Faculty Board at least once per year, receiving an annual evaluation that is necessary to be admitted to the following Ph.D. year.

After the end of the third year, the Faculty Board can admit the Candidate to the final defense. As a result of each successful annual evaluation, the Candidates receive an assessment (A/B/C/D). Candidates who do not pass the exam will be qualified as "Repeating Candidate" (Er) or "not able to carry on with the Ph.D. (Ei)."

After the final year, Candidates who have achieved good results but need more time to draw up their thesis may obtain a prorogation of up to 12 months.

Candidates' Track

This road map that can help the Candidates to take a correct pace in the development of the research. This track can have remarkable variations because of specific research conditions and the Board can introduce further intermediate milestones.

First intermediate meeting

During the first year, while attending AUID Program and Ph.D. School courses, the Candidate finds a supervisor and chooses the thesis topic and focuses on its theoretical and methodological implications; defines a preliminary table of contents and the primary bibliography. At the end of the first semester, Ph.D. Students present the "State of the Art" document to the Boards (Faculty and Experts).

Presentation and discussion of the State of the Art for the chosen Research Topic

1st Milestone

At the end of the second semester, the Ph.D. Candidate presents to the Boards (Faculty and Experts) the development of essential elements and documentation of the research thesis: annotated tables of contents, bibliographical documentation, graphic and iconographic material.

Presentation and discussion of the Research Project for the admission to the second year.

2nd Milestone

The second year is devoted to detail thematic, experimental, design issues, going deep into the research on the selected topic.

Presentation and discussion of the PhD Thesis Index and Summary for the admission to the third year.

3rd Milestone

The fifth and sixth semesters are devoted to the elaboration of the thesis, producing, and organizing texts and images, bibliographies.

Presentation and discussion of the Final Draft of the PhD Thesis;

Proposal, with the approval of the Supervisor, of two (or more) external independent examiners.

The Faculty Board determines the admission to the final defense phase or the need of an extra time, up to 12 months.

At the conclusion of the track, the Candidates who receive from the Faculty Board a positive evaluation submit their theses to two external reviewers for refereeing. If the reviewers' assessments are positive, the Candidates defend their thesis in front of a committee composed of at least three members (at least two are external experts).

For the admission to the final defense, the Candidate must delivery:

- A complete report of the scientific activity, including publications, ordinary and extra courses with the obtained credits.
- An evaluation of the PhD Thesis by two external independent examiners.
- the thesis final version, updated after the examiners' reviews.

Thesis Defense

The Ph.D. study and research work are carried out full time during the three years of the Ph.D. course. Stages of study periods in (Italian or International) companies or external institutions may complete the Candidate's preparation and, for certain tracks, can be compulsory. The resulting thesis needs to be coherent with the research issues indicated in the Manifesto of the AUID Ph.D. Program.

The Candidate must present an original thesis and discuss its contribution to the research field.

The Ph.D. research follows the lead of a supervisor, who supports the Candidate in the setting out and everyday activities regarding the thesis development. In the PhD thesis defense, the research will be evaluated by a Defense Committee composed of three members, at least two not belonging to the Department, and eventually from other experts. Different compositions are allowed if depending on specific agreements, such as Double Degree or jointly supervised Candidates.

Laboratories, Ph.D. Secretary Services

The PhD has a workspace at the 4th floor of Building 12, campus Leonardo.

Administrative manager: Marina Bonaventura

Department of Urban Studies (DASTU)

via Bonardi 3 - I-20133 Milano

Contacts: Tel. +39-02-23995165, marina.bonaventura@polimi.it, phd-auid@polimi.it

International Cooperation

Politecnico di Milano supports joint PhD paths with international institutions, as well as Joint and Double PhD Programs. Further information is available on the PhD School website:

http://www.dottorato.polimi.it/en/ and on the PhD Program website (http://www.auid.polimi.it).

The AUID PhD Program collaborates with many foreign universities and institutions in double doctoral programs and other shared activities. Especially relevant is the collaboration with:

Aarhus School of Architecture

École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Versailles

École Doctorale des Sciences de l'Homme et de la Société, Université Paris-Saclay

KU Leuven, Faculty of Architecture, Campus Sint-Lucas, Ghent

Norwegian University of Science and Technology Trondheim

TU Berlin, Institute for Architecture

TU Delft, School of Architecture

University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Architecture

The Head of the Program

Alessandro Rocca (b. 1959) is an architect MSc (Sapienza University of Rome), Ph.D. in Architectural Design Methods (University of Genoa), full professor of Architectural and Urban Design at the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (Dastu) of Politecnico di Milano (Polimi). He is heading, since 2019, the Ph.D. AUID Program of Architectural Urban Interior Design (www.auid.polimi.it). He teaches at the Bachelor and the Master of Architecture, at Polimi School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering (AUIC). He was visiting professor at the Universities of Clemson (SC, USA), the School of Architecture of Ferrara, Brera Academy of Fine Arts (Milan), and he lectured in foreign and Italian universities (Bucea Beijing, Polytech Saint Petersburg, Higher School of Economics Saint Petersburg, ENSA Paris-Belleville, ENSA Lyon, ENSP Versailles, TU Delft, University of Jordan, ENAU Tunis, and Italian universities. He is author and curator of several books on architecture and landscape design; his published books and papers are accessible at https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5667-4579.

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