Visiting Professors

Mauro Baracco
Luis Basabe Montalvo
Liza Fior
Tom Holbrook
Olav Kristoffersen
Ippolito Pestellini Laparelli
Oliver Thill

The Miaw Scientific Board
Marco Bovati, Antonella Bruzzese, Filippo Orsini, Ingrid Paoletti, Gennaro Postiglione, Alessandro Rocca (coordinator), Pier Paolo Tamburelli
Miaw manager: Maria Feller

School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering
About

The MIAW-Milan International Architecture Workshop is the international intensive programme at the School of Architettura Urbanistica Ingegneria delle Costruzioni, it provides an international design forum for schools, teachers and students, but it is also an informal platform to discuss issues and share ambitions that education implies. Its aim is to stimulate cross-over thinking between researches and practitioners in the design field, involving different scales and encouraging an interdisciplinary approach towards design problems. Each class has an International Guest Professor of high profile whose activity and interests are related to the different Study Courses and disciplinary areas characterising our school.
Since 2014, every Miaw edition focused on a specific area, theme or question related with the architectural and urban transformation of Milan, so that the outcoming projects were a relevant contribution for a vision of the future city.

In this edition 2017, Miaw studios will concentrate around a strategic urban area, the Farini rail yard (about 618,000 sqm) which, in the next future, will be abandoned by the railways state company and converted to urban usages.

In these months, there is an ongoing large discussion about Farini and other minor six rail yards in Milan, a total area of 1,250,000 sqm, and the railways company is now running a private consultation asking five architects to investigate possible future urban scenarios for these seven sites.

Considering size, complexity and the long lasting of the full urban transformation of Farini, we address the Miaw studios to think of pioneering projects which can start, but not complete, the site’s recovering. We think of projects which can explore and reveal new possibilities and scenarios, without, because this is the state of the art, any general layout.

To share a common scale and impact, we propose that all projects simulate to have the same budget which is set on 3 millions of euros, an amount which is roughly the one per cent or the presumed cost of the complete urbanization. A fundamental question, that we propose to all studios, is a thinking about time: considering that the whole recovering of the site will take, probably, not less than 15 or 20 years, we ask you how it would be possible to open the site to a public use and how to start, push and address a process of recovering.

In this condition, it can be a consistent part of your project the scheduling and programming the life time and limit of your intervention, considering the opportunity of acting inside the quite long waiting time in which this huge site will remain in abandon, inaccessible, and unproductive.
Schedule

Opening Seminar
Thursday 23 February
17.00 - 19.00 Welcome and Presentations - Aula Rogers
Michele Silvers Award Ceremony
PechaKucha presentations final selected entries
Keynote lecture
Robert Jan Van Pelt The Evidence Room
Miaw 2017 Introduction
Brief on WS organization

Friday 24 February
9.15 - 13.15 MIAW 2017 Theme Introduction - Aula III B
Lectures by
Antonella Bruzzese The Urban Frame
Gaia Piccarolo Meteo Milano
Nina Bassoli The Great Void. Scalo Farini
Maite García Sanchis Milano Verde

14.15 - via Valtellina 7
Survey of Ex Scalo Farini with Paola Tessitore

Saturday 25 February
9.15 - 19.15 Workshop
Monday 27 February
9.15 - 13.00 Workshop
13.30 - 14.10 Speed Talk 2x20’ - Aula Rogers
with Mauro Baracco / Luis Basabe Montalvo
14.30 - 19.15 Workshop

Tuesday 28 February
9.15 - 13.00 Workshop
13.30 - 14.10 Speed Talk 2x20’ - Aula III B
with Liza Fior / Tom Holbrook
14.30 - 19.15 Workshop

Wednesday 1 March
9.15 - 13.00 Workshop
13.30 - 14.30 Speed Talk 3x20’ - Aula Rogers
with Olav Kristoffersen / Ippolito Pestellini Laparelli
Oliver Thill
14.30 - 19.15 Workshop

Thursday 2 March
9.15 - 19.15 Workshop

Friday 3 March
9.15 - 19.15 Workshop and Exhibition Setup

Closing Seminar & Finissage

Saturday 4 March
11.30 Finissage and Talks
Workshops
Mauro Baracco

Participants:
Atar Abdeljalil
Chbeib Hussam
Fava Riccardo
Giorgetta Federica
Huang Jiahong
Li Weijia
Li Songming
Luci Francesca
Marri Margherita
Maazzotti Alberto
Molaei Arash
Mologni Andrea

Ngo Minh Thang
Paderi Chiara
Palmieri Alessio
Pasella Andrea
Pignatiello Gaetano
Redaelli Luca
Rizzi Davide
Sciannameo Enrico Vito
Xu Yimin
Zeng Wenjun
Zhu Yuchen

Tutor
Michela Bassanelli
Francesco Lenzini

Mauro Baracco is a practising architect and a director of Baracco + Wright Architects (B+W), Melbourne, Australia. He graduated from Turin Polytechnic and has a PhD in architecture from RMIT University where he is an Associate Professor of Architecture and Urban Design in the School of Architecture and Design. He was formerly the Deputy Dean of Landscape Architecture (2013-2015) and is currently the Deputy Dean of International – both at RMIT University. Mauro is a member of RMIT’s School of Architecture and Design executive committee and d__Lab/Centre for Design Practice Research through which he leads consulting projects in partnership with industry and government bodies, some of which undertaken in collaboration with international architecture schools and cultural institutions, including the School of Architecture, Urban Planning and Construction Engineering of Milan Polytechnic where in 2016 he was invited to lead a Master design studio focused on the urban regeneration of the town of Imperia, Liguria, Italy. His research is focused on urban resilience through cross-programming and integration of open and built space, spanning from large/territorial to small/acupuncture scales. Mauro’s projects and writing have been widely published in books and journals (Domus, Abitare, Casabella, A+U, Transition, Architecture Australia among others), exhibited and awarded, and presented at conferences and symposia, both nationally and internationally.
Ex-scalo Farini: urban/architectural/landscape strategies for a resilient Milano

“There are things that I do not like in this world, I could be ironic, but I am very careful not to be” [Guido Guidi]

ARCHITECTURAL THINKING AND CLIMATE CHANGE/URBAN RESILIENCE

This design workshop encourages a role for architects as operative strategic figures aiming to integrate complex systems, competing needs and seemingly polarized aims, therefore leading to innovative and provocative combinations of program, siting, and built form where outcomes can be far reaching, addressing issues beyond the traditional domain of the building and/or individual object. How and where people live, work, produce their food, share community activities, participate into the world from their specific places and how these solutions interact with the natural environment must be re-thought to combine sustainable social and environmental solutions. These issues land at the feet of traditional concerns of architecture: land use and urbanization, big and small systems and relationships. What role can architecture play?

THE WORKSHOP

This workshop aims to produce an alternative approach to current planning that fills open space, or generally designs in isolation so that these open areas are for the most part leftover and disconnected from natural systems and the amenity of the landscape. In opposition to conventional development approaches that set up a clear distinction between built space and vegetated space, favouring the built space in any figure ground, the approach encouraged through the workshop supports the current urgency to restore our natural systems in order to preserve water supply, wetlands and biodiversity conservation as essential remedies of carbon sequestration.
Participants:
Marziyeh Abbasishekar
Eric Agyei
Venugopal Anakkara Vadakkath
Gloriana Barboza
Carla Pamela Beingolea Sanchez
Christian Buurstee
Gerardo Colantuoni
Fabio Di Iorio
Marini Saripuspa Dini
Bilal El Ghoul
Erika Andrea Gallego Vega
Kaidan Hou
Romina Khalili
Ishan Khan
Zuqi Liang
Lucas Lorenzo Mattana
Debakshi Mitra
Niyayesh Nahavandy
Marco Norcaro
Dina Mahmoud S. I. Aly Omar
Anastasia Padenkova
Hazal Pehlivan
Andrea Premoli
Shirin Safari Foroushani
Antonela Estefania Sborlini
Francesco Scamena
Yahya Yasser Mohamed Shaker
Xin Tang
Sally Fernanda Torres Mallma
Xin Wang
Sichen Zhang
Mattia Zorzoli

Tutor
Talita Medina Amaral

Founding partner of ARENAS BASABE PALACIOS arquitectos, an international firm based in Madrid, in which innovative, democratic and ecological concepts are developed for extreme forms of contemporary urbanity all around the world. Their work has achieved several international distinctions, such as the HOLCIM AWARD BRONZE 2014 or the EUROPA Competition, in which they have been awarded six times since 2005. It has also been presented, published and exhibited in Germany, Austria, UK, France, Switzerland, Cyprus, Korea, India, Russia, Italy and Spain.

Associated Professor at the ETSAM-UPM in Madrid, and has been guest lecturer amongst other institutions at the University of Cambridge, CEPT University of Ahmedabad, and Uni Stuttgart. In 2014 he has held the Visiting Professorship “Contemporary City” at Politecnico di Milano.
THE GAME

Ex-Scalo Farini: “Who makes the city?”

The serious game of urbanity

This MIAW 2017 workshop’s objectives will be precisely focused on the instrumental and narrative questions of urban space production: How can we represent a complex urban transformation as a negotiation? How can we bring diverse actors’ visions/projects into an integrated architectural language? How can we generate tools not only to describe, but also to manage the transformation processes, rather than their material results?

In order to address all these questions, the workshop will deal with the creation of a game, which is understood as a tool for the simulation, visualization, and management of urban negotiations. The game will thematize the negotiation itself, and should be able to describe very different realities –values, topologies, actors, actions, contexts, etc.– with different tools within a single operational framework. It will be able to include a big amount of complexity, and to describe the city’s transformation process without predesigning its result.

Scalo Farini

The Scalo Farini area in Milan will be the case study for these—and many other—questions. It is a highly interesting strategic enclave that shows itself as a huge game board for extremely different actors and transformation scales, going from productive facilities to real estate potentials, and from big infrastructures to marginal squatters.

This workshop is NOT about designing how the Scalo Farini should look like. On the contrary, the task will be to develop a tool to describe and play the area’s negotiated transformation, as an open-end process of different and even diverging interests and visions.

The workshop’s outcome should be a ludic but accurate representation of an urban development. It will thematize the negotiation itself, and will be able to describe very different realities –values, topologies, actors, actions, contexts, etc.– with different tools within a single operational framework. It will be able to describe its transformation process without defining its result, and focusing on the question “who makes the city?”
Liza Fior

Participants:
Ibag Ofir Elazar
Beretta Maddalena
Bet Giulia Benedetta
Borgia Elisa
Casaroli Luca
Chang Jiabao
Cheng Changchun
Corradini Martina Gaia
Delimustafic Amila
Feder Riccardo
Feng Fan
Gambero Paola Elena
Ghorbani Niloufar
Gutman Rani Brana
Isuf Miyrem Hyusein
Lin Anli
Loch Goncalves Anna Leticia
Masserini Davide
Poletti Martina
Su Yating
Sudravskaya Elizaveta
Xu Xiao

Tutor
Adriana Granato

Liza Fior is founding Partner of muf architecture/art. Projects range from masterplans to temporary interventions via landscapes and buildings – a continual dialogue between details and strategy, always with unsolicited research always in the public realm.
muf are the only UK winners of the European Prize for Public Space (for Barking Town Square), and were the authors of the British Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2010, where they continue to collaborate with We are Here Venice. muf work mainly in East London but not exclusively, advocating the value of the existing in order to articulate the identity of the new.
muf architecture/art was established in 1995 and has never had less than 80% female members, including founding partners Katherine Clarke and Liza Fior.
Liza has taught at the AA, Yale, RCA and currently at CSM London.
www.muf.co.uk www.morethanonefragile.co.uk
What Happens When the Wall Comes Down?

From The Inside Looking Out and the Outside Looking

Sites like the Farini Yards are familiar, as are the “who could argue with that?” urban design straplines such as “vibrant town centres and green links” which are the precursor to the CGIs - indistinguishable from one project to another right across the world - of the masterplan vision. The Farini Yards and what surrounds them are particular to themselves. The ease of the masterplanner’s felt pen with its confident arrows and scrawl can miss what is there in plain sight.

Methodology: A Brief Obedience In the Principi e Indicatori, describing the ideals of connectivity, culture, green infrastructure, and resources, Milan (and these workshops) is urged to go further than clichés - multiple ambitions must be reconciled within density of development. There is always the danger of displacement of concerns and a deferral of issues to these places which are not yet part of the city where, instead of addressing the tricky and political nature of the here and now, for example keeping production in the city or social stratification and isolation, an idealised versions of the city is projected to the place as yet undeveloped.

Through close looking at what is particular to the site, we can suggest how so-called temporary proposals can inscribe future uses both within the Farini Yards but also within “Milan itself”. Imagine the perimeter is an axis of reflection – for every condition we consider on the site we will look at the site itself through a series of companion spaces outside it.

Value/Time

We will be asking what one can get for the €3 000 000, gifted to us by this workshop brief. We will be describing different currencies of value, rates of exchange, rates of growth, modes of investment, quick wins and steady returns, momentary extravagance and incremental change.
Tom Holbrook came to architecture tangentially, co-founding 5th Studio in 1997 as a spatial design agency, working across the fields of architecture, urban design, infrastructure and landscape.

Tom completed a PhD at RMIT in 2014. His thesis - Expanding Disciplinarity in Architectural Practice: Designing From the Room to the City - was published by Routledge in 2016, and proposes a generalist approach to architectural practice.

In combination with practice, Tom is Professor of Architecture and Industry Fellow at RMIT University, based in Melbourne & Barcelona, and he directs the Urban Studies programme at the London School of Architecture. Tom taught for ten years at the University of Cambridge Department of Architecture and has been an external examiner at London Metropolitan University and the MARCH school, Moscow.

Tom also contributes to teaching at the London School of Economics Cities Programme and at Central St Martins; he regularly contributes critical writing and opinion to a variety of media. Tom is a member of the Design Panel for High Speed Two, - the UK’s high speed rail project - and for the London Olympic Legacy Development Corporation.
Cities and their hinterlands are critical engines of national economies - more agile and able to control their environment than the nation state. Milan - Italy’s economic driver - is clearly one of Europe’s prime cities with a vast and interdependent productive hinterland. At the crossroads of Europe, the city has key strategic connections to global trade.

The idea of the nation state - seemingly in decline since the second half of the last century - has recently found new vigour. With the reappearance of Nationalism, progressive urban areas have found themselves on the defensive as the hinterland votes for protectionist trade rules and insularity. In contrast to this introspection, China has been exploring a reinstatement of the ancient Sino-European Silk Road. Last month a freight train completed the 12,000km journey from east China’s Yiwu City to London.

The economics of late capitalism has seen cities boom - and resultant rises in land value and demand for growth has brought into contention enclaves of industrial land that has previously been too marginal. Most European cities have seen a catastrophic decline in urban productive space as markets drive the production of development monocultures.

Rather than removing one monocultural use (railway sidings) from the city only to replace it with another, we will explore a strategy of superimposition, creating an industrious city as part of a rich urban situation and exploring new relationships between the city and its productive hinterland.

We will be considering this theme at a number of scales, from the strategic (map) to the hybrid structure (physical model).
Participants:
Bitik Doga
Borushko Mikhail
Capponi Martina
Capra Valentina
Casula Stefano
Chen Yuanxiang
Dalmasso Sofia
Firouzan Ala
Gloria Alessandro
Kaminska Alisa
Pavlovic Mina

Geir Brendeland

Tutor
Andrea Pezzoli

Olav Kristoffersen studied architecture at NTNU in Trondheim. He is currently professor at NTNU in Trondheim and visiting professor at KADK in Copenhagen.
Olav Kristoffersen and Geir Brendeland founded Brendeland & Kristoffersen architects in 2002, a small practice located in Trondheim, Norway. Their built projects include social housing, public buildings, architectural installations, and city plans.
Geir Brendeland studied architecture at the Oslo Architecture School. He is also professor at NTNU.
We suggest that a public park should immediately be constructed in Scalo Farini. The park is supposed to attract kids and families, and hence to install the Scalo Farini as a specific place in the conscience of the Milanesi before other development starts in the area. In Delirious New York, Rem Koolhaas outlines how Central Park was defined in 1853 to safeguard the area from construction. It is still there despite numerous efforts to build in the parks of New York. We should attempt to establish a distinct public space that is resilient, that is an urban artifact. The park in the Scalo Farini should be defined in a very particular way to enable it to last and enable it to influence subsequent urban development in a beneficial manner. Three important questions arise:

1. Where can this park be positioned within the Scalo Farini?
2. What can be the exact boundaries and shape of the new park?
3. How can we programme and design an attractive park that deals with the scale of the city?

Our goal at the end of the workshop might be to present a large model and drawing of the park. To achieve our goal, we divide the studio into smaller teams which focus on different scales, aspects and components of the new Park for playing at the Scalo Farini. All bits and pieces should be coordinated to create a coherent and rich project. Let's identify our individual strengths as architects and use them in one common, collective project.
Ippolito Pestellini Laparelli joined OMA in 2007 and is based in Rotterdam. A partner since 2014, Ippolito’s work at OMA/AMO has a focus on preservation, scenography, and curation. Projects led by Ippolito include the renovation of Kaufhaus des Westens (KaDeWe) in Berlin (ongoing); Panda, an exhibit for the 2016 Oslo Triennale; the design of Repossi’s flagship store on Place Vendôme in Paris (2016); Monditalia, a multi-disciplinary exhibition focused on Italy, at the 2014 Venice Architecture Biennale; scenography for the Greek theater of Syracuse in Sicily (2012); and the co-curation of Cronocaos, OMA’s exhibition on preservation at the 2010 Venice Architectural Biennale. Through collaborations with different brands including Repossi, Galleries Lafayette, Knoll, and Prada his activity extends to research, product design, temporary installations, and publications. Since 2010, Ippolito is responsible for a range of AMO projects with Prada, including the stage design for the brand’s fashion shows and special events, and the art direction of videos. He contributes to exhibition design for Fondazione Prada, with projects such as When Attitudes Become Form: 1969/2013 and Serial Classics (2015). Ippolito holds a Master of Architecture from the Politecnico di Milano.
Panda, the ubiquitous controversial creative agency has been commissioned to strategize, plan, design, develop and brand a large temporary event at Scalo Farini in Milan. Sponsored by the techno Italian giant Limitless the event is meant to celebrate urban and digital subcultures over a week of intense and unprecedented experiences.

Limitless – a leader in the sharing economy with headquarters in a former subway station in the outskirt of Milan - supports a new form of urban economy. It refused to launch a long term development plan for the area believing that the fluctuations of the current and future economy cannot be grasped by the fixed nature of architecture. The plans of Limitless will consist of an incremental system of short term, partially ephemeral interventions. They will not go on hold or be cancelled simply because there won’t be time to go on hold or be cancelled.

Through their plans for Scalo Farini, Limitless and Panda will replace the notions of development, program, and city, with the ideas of colonization, event and geography.

Panda will assemble a team of top class creatives and urban dreamers to start drafting a script for the area. The team will be composed by an international group of city planners, urban anthropologist, designers, communications gurus, economists, scientists, scenographers, theater and film makers.

Panda will reorganize the eclectic bunch into four main domains of actions: youth culture research, strategic master-plan, ephemeral design and communication strategy.

The ambitious group is asked to come up with a plausible plan in just less than 10 days. Rumors suggest that the team will meet for its first brainstorm in the bunker room of the Politecnico of Milan on February 23rd 2017.
Oliver Thill

Participants:
Anishchenko Maria
Ballabio Pietro
Bruno Eugenio
Capelli Andrea
Caruso Leonardo Francesco
Cattaneo Elena
Dall’Ara Anna
Dydek Erik
Eila Ludovico
Giudici Gioele
Holman Jacob
Li Shuxin
Luzzi Alessio
Maghenzani Paola Elena
Moro Emanuele
Oberti Diego
Panzera Marco
Puzovic Iris
Quarti Arianna
Rinoldi Giacomo
Rodriguez Cardinale Samantha Gabriela
Safaryan Ani
Togramajian Archag
Tordera Anna
Varaschini Felix Yuri

Tutor
Guido Tesio

Oliver Thill (Karl-Marx-Stadt - East Germany, 1971) studied at the TU Dresden in Germany. He is a founding partner of the Rotterdam based firm Atelier Kempe Thill, which he directs together with André Kempe since 2000. The office has currently about 25 employees and is working on a variety of public building projects in the Netherlands, France, Germany, Belgium, Austria, Switzerland and Morocco. The office has received several international awards among the Bauwelt Prize (2003), Detail Award (2005+2009), Rotterdam - Maaskant Prize (2005), AM-NAi Award, NL (2010), the Dutch Architect of the year award, NL (2011) and the Ugo Rivolta Award (2013). In 2012 the German publisher HatjeCantz published the first monograph about the work of the office. In 2017 HatjeCantz published the book “Atelier Kempe Thill - Villa Urbaine”.

Oliver Thill has been engaged as studio master at the Delft University of Technology, the Academie van Bouwkunst in both Arnhem and Rotterdam and the Berlage Institute Rotterdam and Delft. He has been an invited professor at the EPF Lausanne and the PBSA Düsseldorf. Currently he teaches together with André Kempe as a professor at the TU Berlin. Oliver Thill has given more than 100 public lectures worldwide. He was a board member of the Jaap Bakema Foundation Rotterdam and writes on a regular basis for the European architecture magazine “San Rocco”. Currently he is member of the advisory board of the Academie van Bouwkunst Rotterdam.
THE BIG ENSEMBLE
toward 10,000 new apartments for Scalo Farini

After a decade of huge transformations on the immediate outskirts of Milan’s city centre the reflection in city planning for the upcoming years will inevitably focus on “how to deal” with the large voids of the railroad yards. In a city characterized by the extreme compactness of the urban fabric and by its strict radial logistics, these huge voids represent exceptions of unusual dimension and geometry, suggesting the possibility for radically alternative forms of urbanity as well as posing the challenge for their successful and fruitful integration. As of today, the main characteristic of Scalo Farini is given by its inaccessibility. With the exception of the two only points where a crossing of the area is made possible - the Ponte di Via Farini and the Ponte della Ghisolfa - the great void of the railway yard remains invisible at all its edges.

The workshop aims at the development of a realistic masterplan for the site to be implemented during the next 15-20 years. The size of area, its emptiness and its centrality suggest the possibility for an intense and relatively fast upturn. With this ultimate goal in mind, the workshop will be organized in two highly interrelated phases. By preliminarily fixing different density indices, as well as different ratios between public and private spaces, students will develop a multiplicity of site-specific, coherent and cohesive visions for the future of Scalo Farini accounting for the realization of up to 10,000 new apartments plus urban facilities by the years 2035-2040. The workshop will then focus on the implementation of the first 5-year phase of these plans, setting different premises for gradual development of the area. Our goal is to invent new forms of collective housing that could work as pioneering projects for the progressive organization of big ensembles serving the needs of the 21st century society.
Miaw (Milan International Architecture Workshop) is the International intensive programme at the School of Architettura Urbanistica Ingegneria delle Costruzioni of Politecnico di Milano. Miaw provides an international design forum for schools, teachers and students, and it is also an informal platform to discuss issues and share ambitions that education implies.