

# urban design/ landscape architecture/ sustainable design at the Università Iuav di Venezia

19 theses of the Graduate Programme in Architecture



School of Architecture of Aristotle  
University of Thessaloniki  
Goethe Institute in Thessaloniki  
Goethe Institutes in South East Europe  
Five Museums in Thessaloniki Movement  
**1<sup>st</sup> Architecture Biennale of  
Thessaloniki "Architecture and the  
City in South East Europe"**  
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January 18th > February 26th, 2012  
Symposium  
January 18th > January 26th, 2012  
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of Architecture, Dimitris Fragos,  
Evangelia Athanassiou, Anastasios Tellios,  
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Website  
www.skgarch2012.eu

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numero a cura di  
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**Architecture  
in New Urban Landscape**  
Renato Bocchi  
Università Iuav di Venezia

The constant deep change in the contemporary society and environment needs to experiment a relational concept of architecture open to a large range of interaction with different disciplinary interests, in the fields of art, geographic and environmental sciences, social and economic sciences, different cultures of design activity (art architectural urban landscape design and planning).

It implies too a large elasticity in meeting and using different and intertwined scales. The Università Iuav di Venezia has an interesting potential in this sense, cause its mission to be an integrated platform for the design studies in the art, industrial, architectural and urban design (for this reason its present goal in its new Statute is to be an integrated University of Design). Besides, in the context of the present social and economic crisis, the revaluation of architecture as theoretical expression and as knowledge process, i.e. as a field of humanities, seems to me a fundamental tool of criticism in respect of a world dominated by a culture of profit.

This consideration implies a difficult redefinition of the research contents of our discipline in the framework of the historical hybridity among polytechnic artistic and humanistic issues.

In this sense it is very important to conceive an architecture of relations and not simply an architecture of objects, i.e. to study the role of architecture in a wider geographical, historical, social context and in a wider multidisciplinary context, to use architecture as a tool of knowledge and design intervention on the spatial, physical and social transformation of the environment.

For this reason the new concepts of Landscape (according the European Landscape Convention's wide definition)

and of Sustainability (applied not only to the building techniques but also to the urban and environmental design issues) have integrated in our recent experience the more traditional interest for the relationship of architecture with the urban transformation processes.

And to the classical objectivity of architectural construction we have preferred to approach the dynamic, mobile, changeable nature of the transformation processes of the city and the environment and to adapt the architectural design tools themselves to this change scenarios.

The three master courses entitled "Urban Design", "Landscape Architecture", "Sustainable Design" documented in the present exhibition (the other two master courses are entitled "Building Technology" and "Conservation" and are mainly devoted to an approach of building and restoration design) has produced in the last eight years at the Università Iuav di Venezia a wide range of research experiences leading to innovative answers to the complexity of architectural and urban issues in the contemporary society, renewing the old tradition of our school in the relationship between architecture and city founded particularly in the Sixties of the 20th century with the seminal studies by Giuseppe Samonà, Aldo Rossi, Carlo Aymonino, Giancarlo De Carlo, Vittorio Gregotti and other important Italian scholars.

The main results of these experiences on an international framework are collected in the series of conferences entitled *Dessiner sur l'herbe*, published by Il Poligrafo, Padua, and by Quodlibet, Macerata, in the book *Strategie per il progetto sostenibile*, published by Marsilio, Venezia, in the several theoretical contributions collected by the Iuav School of Doctorate, and in the peculiar international summer workshops organized every year by the Faculty of Architecture of the Università Iuav di Venezia, published by Marsilio, Venezia.

**On the Role of the Schools  
of Architecture**  
Mauro Marzo  
Università Iuav di Venezia

Think about the role of the schools of architecture "in issues of urbanity and urbanism and, more particularly, on matters related to recent transformation of public and social space" is the idea underpinning the International Event "Architecture and the City in South East Europe", promoted by the School of Architecture of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

Start a discussion on this theme with the contribution of dozens and dozens of schools of Architecture, compare aims, strategies and educational tools offered to adapt teaching methods to physical, social and economic changes in place in our countries appears ever appropriate in the historical moment marked by crisis and major changes.

In that event, beside other schools invited, the Faculty of Architecture of the Università Iuav di Venezia decided to contribute by presenting some theses of the Graduate Programme in Architecture (tracks: "Urban Design", "Landscape Architecture" and "Sustainable Design"). The projects presented at the exhibition allow to construct a small and partial retrospective vision of the work made with the senior year students, starting a critical reading of the results achieved through that interweaving of didactics, project research and theoretical production that always characterizes our Faculty, to emphasize the adequacy of present themes of some of the research projects underway at the Università Iuav di Venezia.

The nineteen theses published in the following pages contain echoes of the researches conducted at Iuav, the specificity of approach related to studies made in various research units of our university.

Certainly different in methodological

approach, these theses are similar in terms of attention focused on the uniqueness of the places and on assuming the project as the primary tool to study cities and landscapes.

The themes of the projects demonstrate how the Università Iuav di Venezia measures itself, also by means of its theses, with the necessities expressed by the relevant transformations of the cities and the demands of contemporary living.

Among the theses carried out in this direction, I could mention those conducted on the sprawling city and the urbanised countryside, on the reorganization of the existent infrastructure systems, on the abandon industrial plants, on the relationship among architecture, water and topography, on process of re-naturalization of fluvial parks, on sustainable tourism, on the sustainability based on the use of local and cheap materials, on producing energy and self-sustaining energy system, on policy of urban densification, on sustainable residential settlements and cohousing.

These theses do not show the certainties of executive drawings, but rather, with their dialogue-stimulating intention, the relations they have been able to create with the specificity of the places and the life lived in them. I believe that these projects express clear lines of research aimed at identifying the questions and interdisciplinary appropriate approaches for the deep change in the contemporary society.

The topics of the following theses, as well as the different approaches of individual authors, seem to suggest, as a whole, as the project's architecture, with its various scales, can be understood both as a tool to learn about the world of today and a means to improve tomorrow's, the expression of a judgement on how the countries and cities are today and on how they could be.

In relation to these evaluations, training of architects of the future generations can only appear decisive.