



Department of Civil, Architectural, Environmental, Land Planning Engineering and Mathematics

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL 2023

Designing Soil and Subsoil Spaces in Architecture

Analysis and Enhancement of Disused Military Sites of the Cold War

1 – PRESENTATION AND OBJECTIVES

Objectives

This International Summer School (ISS) is an advanced and refresher course and, consequently, it aims at providing the opportunity to gain professional experience, including scientific knowledge and empirical research on the themes of the course. In particular the aims are:

- to provide methodological and empirical tools related to architectural and landscape design, to survey and reuse recently abandoned buildings of cultural value, witnesses and bearers of an unstable and unconsolidated historical memory;
- to manage the planning strategies regarding the building heritage both at the architectural and urban scales, enriching the figure of the technical designer with historical and socio-economic humanistic skills, with reference to the relationship between intervention on the building and effects on the local economy;
- to encourage the exchange between participants both in cultural terms and in terms of personal experience and knowledge;
- to activate an interdisciplinary contamination both from a theoretical and methodological point of view also among teachers coming from different backgrounds and research institutions.

The reuse of disused military sites of the Cold War is a virtuous opportunity to understand the complexity that characterizes the contemporary urban landscape, both from a territorial and architectural point of view. What are the possible readings of the contexts? What are the possible re-qualification proposals? What are the methods of intervention both on pre-existing buildings and through new architectural hypotheses?

The ISS refers to the research carried out at DICATAM over a period of about ten years on the theme of giving new life to ex military areas. The initiative is the natural continuation of seminars and workshops realised in collaboration with Professors from other Italian and foreign universities (The University of Jordan; Curtin University, Australia; Università della Svizzera italiana; Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena, Spain; IE University, Spain; Università degli Studi di Trento; Politecnico di Milano, Università IUAV di Venezia, Syracuse University in Florence).

The common denominator between academic figures and different experiences originates in the idea of a "weak and widespread" architecture (Branzi), where the "weak" concept indicates a creative act based on the knowledge and modification of natural and reversible processes, so that new design forms can be tested in order to take into account the continuous transformations of the territory, imagining an architecture that is not absolute but made up of open systems that are able to adapt to the evolving needs of the local community. These landscape and architectural interventions work like flexible filters, that work on the empty / full relationship.

In particular this course aims at creating inclusive synergies between the spaces of the military sites and the anthropized naturalistic external areas. Different disciplines are therefore involved, from the architectural survey to architectural and urban design, conservation and reuse of architectural spaces and landscape. The ISS wants to offer a didactic and research opportunity where experts from different disciplines can discuss these issues through seminars, lectures and laboratory activities.

The in-depth work on a real case study requires an interdisciplinary practice typical of the design and research activities of an engineering and architecture firm.

Programme



Department of Civil, Architectural, Environmental, Land Planning Engineering and Mathematics

Starting from the verification of existing military cartography, the topics addressed will be:

- the question of landscape design.
- the issue of the accesses to the site.
- the re-use of the military spaces.
- the design of micro-architectures to support the planning programme.
- the design of visit itineraries with multi-sensory educational supports.

The military site will have as new destinations of use:

- Cold War museum;
- drone school;
- holiday homes;
- spaces for exhibitions.

2 - EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

Structured as a hypothetical ideas' competition, workshop arranged with our mentors will provide the opportunity for students to discuss and produce their visions and imagine new scenarios. The ISS will develop in two steps:

1. Virtual presentation of the ISS and design ideas competition.
2. Workshop in presence.

At the end of the ISS, the work done by students and graduates will be evaluated.

The final examination will consist in the description of the design process that led to the development of the architectural and landscape design, both relative to the reuse of existing spaces and to the drafting of new architectures to be combined with the pre-existing buildings, in order to accommodate the accessibility functions. The projects will be described through posters with a predetermined format provided by the teachers. Projects must also be described through a report of maximum five A4 pages, possibly accompanied by photos and/or drawings about state of art and of the project.

The examination materials are delivered and organized for the inauguration of an exhibition.

At the end of the course, the participants will receive an attendance certificate signed by the Coordinators.

The certificate for the advanced/refresher course will be achieved after the attendance of at least 70% of the classes.