



Dipartimento di Architettura e Territorio – dArTe

Corso di Studio in Architettura quinquennale – Classe LM-4

Degree course	Architecture
Course code	65NL7
Lecturer	Laura Thermes
Course name	Architectural Composition
Disciplinary area	B
Disciplinary field of science	Icar 14
University credits - ECTS	6 CFU
Teaching hours	60 hours
Course year	1th
Semester	Second semester

Synthetic description and specific course objectives

The course aims to introduce the issues and methods for designing and structuring of composition and construction of a building considered as the main intersection of process relating to settlement, typology, technology, and formal, spatial and figurative process. From the coincidence between space and structure, founded on the centrality of tectonic logic, we seek to promote in students a critical attitude towards an idea of composition as the convergence of a plurality of architectural materials in a meaningful system of three-dimensional shapes with a recognizable communicative power.

The theoretical work will be oriented to the formation of a planning capacity able to mediate between the thrusts to the uniformity of languages and the opposite trend to the individuality of contexts and procedures. This contrast brings in the discipline that clash between uniformity and identity that runs through the modern world, aimed at greater uniformity of the economic and productive processes and a corresponding research of belonging to the individual boundary.

Course entry requirements

The student has to be acquired in the first half year before the course, a basic understanding of the tools and forms of representation and technical –architectural methods for the realization of a building.

Course programme

The course includes lectures, seminars and revisions.

During the lessons we will study the procedures of the architectural composition to give a general profile of the disciplinary debate referred to publications and current events (exhibitions, conferences etc.).

In seminars and during the practical activities we will comment on the arguments presented in the lectures with a more direct exchange between teachers and students and we will develop the monographic theme that is the object of the exercise design.

The professor will assist the student in the development of the project during the revisions, that are a place of confluence, healing process, and balance of the various options in order to facilitate ongoing verification between

theoretical and architectural choices.

With reference to the debate on the current condition of the intellectual in Western culture, marked by the dichotomy between identity and uniformity, uniqueness and multiplicity, atopy and places etc., Lessons will be developed in the following topics:

Definitions of architecture

The profession of architecture and the scenarios for the architects of the age of globalization.

The change in the meaning of "existing".

The "composition" in architecture and other arts.

The elements of architecture and the spatial structure of a building

The functionality in architecture.

On technology: the use of materials, construction systems and their expressive possibilities.

Over form: architecture and design aesthetic categories.

On type: type of building, type settlement and urban morphology.

Inner space and outer space

The space of plans: the footprint on the ground

The space of sections: ground attack and attack with the sky

The space of the facades: the architectural parts and angle.

The space and light.

The topological organization of the space.

The project and architectural history

The project and architecture theories

Architecture and Representation

Place and project: the poetics of listening and internationalism

To the classical order to the deconstruction of modern design and the poetics of chaos.

The theme of the exercise, which proposes a research on the language and its possibility to be a tool for the construction of living in the global condition, it is the *Headquarters of the Mediterranean University of Reggio Calabria* in China. The building is located in Shanghai, the area adjacent to the Italian Pavilion built for the International Exhibition of 2010. It is an architecture that should play the role of a place of exchange between the research conducted at the University of Reggio Calabria, of which the building is the representation in the Chinese metropolis, and geopolitical issues, territorial, urban, architectural and environmental of the world. In this sense, the proposed theme, beyond its functional content, is to give life to an *operating symbol* of globalization. The intervention program and cartographic documentation of the area will be made available to students.

Expected results

Learning the basics:

- on the elements of language and architectural composition and their grammatical organization;
- for the transposition of typological, formal and spatial choices, in architectural expressions, congruent with the architectural characteristic and the expressive potential of buildings, within the awareness of the issues related to the complexity of the meaning of architecture in the contemporary age.

Course structure and teaching

Lectures (*hours/year in lecture theatre*): 10
 Practical class (*hours/year in lecture theatre*): 25
 Practical / Workshops (*hours/year in lecture theatre*):25

Student's independent work

The architect's training, in general, necessarily implies the construction of a critical consciousness and of an autonomy of judgment on the physical and social reality, that is barely due only to the learning of the content of the discipline of architecture. This training requires mode, content and timing different from student to student. The professor aims, in different manner, based on the individuality of each student, to provide suggestions for readings of essays, novels, poems, to travel, to visit exhibitions, for watching movies and plays, and all that can stimulate interest and curiosity at the end of a training course not homologated.

Testing and exams

For the development of the project are required the following documents:

sketches, plans, elevations, sections, perspective, axonometric insertion in the context (scale 1:2000) defining the spatial distribution and internal (scale 1:100 / 50) presented on sheets cm. 70 x 100, a report about four pages about the issues of the project, the references and the theoretical premise.

There are three phases of work and two intermediate tests: the first relating to planning of the project on the scale of 1:500, summed up in one or two tables; and the second about hypothesis regarding the distribution and the spatial organization (up at the scale 1:100). The works of the first and second phase will be the subject of a wide collective discussion with the professor, the collaborators to the course and all students, that will be evaluated for their participation. The third phase will involve of the in-depth analysis of the project and the editing of the paper for the exam, with a continuous comparison with the professor on the most appropriate ways of transmission of the project proposal in the belief that no design is neutral to the nature of the project.

In this tutorial, students would be asked to verify the design assumptions through models of the project, or parts of it.

All exercises are individual.

The first two phases of the exercise project must comply with the content and deadlines that will be stated in the timetable of the course. Comply with the deadlines in this first two phases is the condition for the student to be followed in the later stages and eligible for examination; the evaluation of this first phases will contribute to exam grade. The third phase will end with the examination, that must be done at maximum on February.

The examination consists of:

- A discussion on the issues of the lectures and seminars, with reference to the bibliography that will be suggested from time to time;
- An exhibition of materials intermediates, and final papers of the project.

The evaluation will be expressed on the basis of students' active participation in the course and evaluation received in intermediate examinations, on the critical maturity gained and the formal logic and coherence of the project with respect to its theoretical assumptions.

Suggested reading materials

- L.Thermes, *La città e l'architettura tra locale e globale* in M.Fagioli (a cura di), "Aion+" *Dove va l'architettura?*, Aion Edizioni, dicembre 2011, pp.122-125
- L.Thermes, *Scritti teorici. Tempi e spazi. La città e il suo progetto nell'età posturbana*, Diagonale Editore, Roma 2000
- F. Ciappina, G.Scarcella, A.Russo, *Laura Thermes. Progetti per il Sud*, Il Poligrafo Editore, Padova 2008.
- F.Purini, *Comporre l'architettura*, Laterza Editore, Bari 2000
- F.Purini, *La misura italiana dell'architettura*, Laterza Editore, Bari 2008