

#EmergingUrbanQuestions

What Happened to Empty Buildings and Homeless Youths?

Edificio 11b, Via Ampère 20,
Politecnico di Milano
Metro Piola, Milan,
Italy.



The Symposium
is free to attend.

It is part of PNRR - Missione 4 "Istruzione e Ricerca" - Componente 2 "Dalla Ricerca all'Impresa" Investimento 1.2 "Finanziamento di Progetti Presentati da Giovani Ricercatori" funded by European Union – NextGeneration EU - CUP D43C24002400001 - id progetto: SOE2024_0000055.

The works presented within this symposium explore youth homelessness and empty buildings through different practices of knowledge creation. Moving across disciplines and timeframes might offer a way to disrupt the narrative of fixity, thereby yielding new insight into policymaking and social, urban and architectural processes.

Introduction

Carolina Pacchi - Politecnico di Milano,
Department of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Contributors

Anita De Franco - Politecnico di Milano,
Department of Architecture and Urban Studies
and University of Pavia, Department of Civil
Engineering and Architecture.

Josiane Schmidt - ETH, station+ and
HouseEurope!

Davide Landi - Politecnico di Milano,
Department of Architecture and Urban Studies.

Gianluca Gatta - Università degli Studi di
Milano Statale, Department of International,
Legal and Historical-Political Studies.



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Programme:

16.30 Welcome and Introduction.

Carolina Pacchi - Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies.

16.40 Urban Voids and Social Equity: Overlaps and Gaps in Distributive Problems.

The contribution examines how questions of equity (e.g. housing access) relate to distributive issues in cities (e.g. unused housing stock). It unpacks the various notions of “urban voids” in the literature and public debate, clarifying when problems and solutions may coincide and when they remain disconnected.

Anita De Franco - Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies and University of Pavia, Department of Civil Engineering and Architecture.

17.00 HouseEurope!, Towards a Right to Housing.

HouseEurope! is a non-profit policy lab that advocates for the socio-ecological transformation of Europe's existing building stock. Currently, HouseEurope! is campaigning its European Citizens' Initiative (ECI) „Power to Renovation“ that advocates for new laws to make the renovation and transformation of existing buildings the new norm and stop speculative demolition and replacement. To bring its legal proposal to the European Parliament, HouseEurope! is collecting 1 million signatures across Europe until February 2026. The contribution will explore the convergence of the housing and climate crisis in the built environment, the impact of cultural narratives on architectural policy, and the economic potential of the renovation of Europe.

Josiane Schmidt ETH, station+ and HouseEurope!

17.20 Fragments of Taxonomies for Forgotten Voices and Empty Buildings Transformations.

The contribution will introduce an approach to the analysis and classification of empty buildings transformations and homeless youths that has episodically been lost by the mainstream urban and architectural profession and pedagogy. This allows the approach to reveal taxonomies, yet fragmented, and their glossary with its own latent trans-critical position anticipating our disciplines' capacity to join the rest of the humanities in bringing marginalised, suppressed or minoritarian voices to the fore.

Davide Landi - Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies.

17.40 Migration, Places, and Sociability: Social Research Experiences on Migrant Self-Narration.

The contribution explores the relationship between migrant populations and housing practices through a qualitative social research lens, emphasizing self-narratives of urban experience and the interplay between domestic, work, and sociability spaces.

Gianluca Gatta - Università degli Studi di Milano Statale, Department of International, Legal and Historical-Political Studies.

18.00 Discussion.

18.30 Refreshments.