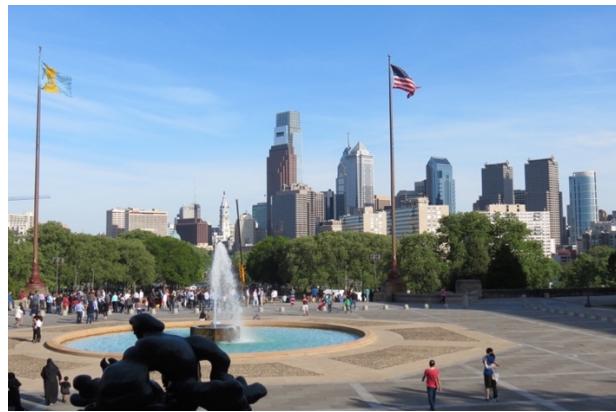




Milan



Philadelphia

Intensive Course Abroad Workshop

Responsive Urban Environments

the case studies of Milan and Philadelphia

ITALY • Milan/Lecco/Como/Bellagio • September 2-14, 2019



Drexel University
College of Engineering
Department of Civil, Architectural & Environmental Engineering
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School of Architecture Urban Planning and Construction Engineering
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The Responsive Urban Environment (RUE) looks at the city through the lens of ecosystem management. RUE considers the city as a complex network of interrelated systems that rely on each other to maintain system balance. A dialogue of hardscape to landscape, city infrastructure is comprised of buildings, roads and bridges with respect to green public space, waterways and food access – home to humans, plants and animals, the glue of its ecosystem crossed by issues related to public health, the watershed and biodiversity. Ecosystems themselves are complex adaptive systems that require flexibility and the capacity to respond to environmental feedback to cope with change and uncertainty.

For designers, that means to move beyond the mutual interconnections between the characteristics external to a building and the principles of sustainable building design while promoting urban regeneration. **The well-tempered RUE is a low-energy sustainable city.** Developing strategies for the RUE is critical to ensure a low-carbon future for our planet. The proportion of the world's population living in cities has steadily increased over the past century. While more people are living in cities than in the countryside today, an estimated 70 percent of people are expected to be urbanites by the year 2050 – which is why RUE research is imperative today.

Similar in size, **Philadelphia** and **Milan** both have approximately 1.5 million inhabitants and are excellent case studies for the RUE. In this Intensive Course Abroad, using Milan and Philadelphia as case studies, student teams will research a topic they consider to be a crucial aspect to consider for ecosystem management in our cities today to ensure a low-carbon future for our world tomorrow.

The RUE workshop is one of the initiatives promoted by the School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering of Politecnico di Milano and the College of Engineering of Drexel University in Philadelphia and it builds on previous joint activities in the broad area of sustainable built environments.

Check out last year's ICA program on Facebook: [Responsive Urban Environments](#)



Scenes from the 2017 Responsive Facades ICA: Drexel students on Lecco Mountaintop – ICA students: Drexel + PoliMi – classroom – dormitory and campus

Course format

The course offers an intensive learning experience by combining lectures, field study and research project. The workshop activities will be hosted in the Lecco Campus of Politecnico di Milano and will focus on the research of RUE concepts and their translation into design strategies. Students from Politecnico di Milano and Drexel University in Philadelphia will be organized in mixed multidisciplinary groups. The research activities will be conducted under the close direction of professors and supported by multidisciplinary research methods. Some short lectures during the workshop will introduce students to the urban context of Milan and Philadelphia and to some of the concepts related to Responsive Urban Environments. As part of the workshop, the students will develop a communication strategy for their research on the RUE concepts that will be published on a final RUE book.

The workshop activities allow to recognize a maximum of 4 credits, equivalent to internship activities. The accreditation of the workshop as internship will follow the rules of the AUIC School (<http://www.auic.polimi.it/en/educational-offer/workshops/>). The workshop is a full-time activity, requiring attendance in person at the Lecco campus facilities of Politecnico di Milano. 80 hours of work will be tutored activities between 2nd and 14th September, while 20 hours of additional individual work will be required to finalise the research projects and produce a final research paper. The program includes some visits in Milan, Como and Bergamo that are not mandatory for Politecnico di Milano students.

The language of the workshop is English.

Location:

Politecnico di Milano, Lecco Campus
Via Previati 1/C, 23900 Lecco

Costs:

There are no tuition fees to be paid to register for the Workshop. However, participants will not receive subsidies for travel and subsistence expenses in Lecco. Selected students who would join the planned visits have to consider specific program fees. The communication of acceptance that will be sent to them will include detailed information about the visits and the relevant fees.

How to apply:

Application is open to students enrolled in the Master Programs of the School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering. There are **12** available positions for POLIMI students.

Required application documents: a CV clearly explaining the candidate's skills and experience and a motivation letter explaining also the candidate's understanding of the "responsive urban environment" concept.

To apply, students should submit the required documents in a ZIP folder exclusively thru the service <https://filesender.polimi.it> to didattica-lecco@polimi.it

Application deadline:

July 5, 2019

Selection of candidates

The applicants will be evaluated by a committee composed by three professors of Politecnico di Milano.

The committee will award a maximum of 100 points per candidate, divided as follows:

- 40 points for the academic performance
- 40 points for the CV and the relevance of skills to the goals of the workshop
- 20 points for the motivation letter.

In selecting candidates, the committee will promote multidisciplinarity and diversity.

Applicants will receive a communication of acceptance/rejection by July 8, 2019.

Accepted candidates will be contacted to confirm their decision to attend the workshop and the visits. In case some of the selected candidates will not confirm their attendance, the committee reserves the possibility of calling the next eligible candidates in the ranking.

More details will be available before the beginning of the workshop.

Additional information: Politecnico di Milano, Polo di Lecco - E-mail: didattica-lecco@polimi.it