



SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE URBAN  
PLANNING CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING

**BSC of ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN**  
Interdisciplinary Paths in Housing Design  
1st year, English Tracks, MI-PC

## Types and Architectural Invention

Seminar curated by Marco Lucchini and Alessandro Rocca

**November the 5th 2021, 14h15 -17h15**

Webex Alessandro Rocca's virtual room

Aimed at the students of the first year of the Bachelor in Architectural Design, the seminar proposes a debate on typology, intended as an indispensable knowledge tool for the architectural project.

The lecturers, faculty of the BSC will take different theories, opinions, and examples, outlining some of the possible positions inside the large field of an essential topic.

### The type as a design tool

In the most general sense, the type is an intellectual construct aimed to classify whatever field of knowledge, while the typology is the discipline that studies types. Although the type is concerned with a philosophical perspective, we will address it in the frame of the architectural form so that we can speak of type-form. Architectural design works on the base of a blend between invention and transformation or, in other words, between old and new.

The type makes a designer able to understand the meaning of the long-lasting structures of a group of building, applying them to a new one.

The type has a dual nature: by one hand is an epistemological tool by the other is a physical structure that affects the architectural space. The point is understanding on which terms the type is a helpful design tool able to set a correct balance between the history of knowledge and creativity.

(Marco Lucchini)

### ArchiTypes

The compositional aspects in the project cannot ignore that architecture is ancient knowledge, where the examples that precede us constitute a reserve that we investigate and use. Typological studies differ from historiography and address the architectural fact, both as a project and an artifact. The constant goal is to penetrate intrinsic rules and variations, seeking to understand if and how a chosen sample can contribute to developing an architectural idea related to different design solutions.

Typological studies trace paths that, crossing places and times, follow autonomous trajectories by overlapping the buildings' formal, functional, and technical characters. The typological analysis is a creative system of architectural invention, based on the copy, on the variation, on the different repetition, on the tension between the rule and the exception.

(Alessandro Rocca)

14:15  
Curators' introduction

14:30  
Marco Lucchini The type as a design tool

15:00  
Alessandro Rocca Architypes

15:30  
Giulia Setti Deconstructing Typology

16:00  
Antonella Contin Construction of the modern city image through a poetic reaction object

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16:30  
Comments and Questions  
with the Students of the BSC of Architectural Design

### Deconstructing Typology

To belong to a specific typology means building links with a category that helps understand the origins, mutations, and exceptions. In architecture, the type becomes a formal structure which allows to build classifications and, at the same time, to identify and separate layers that create a design.

In the contemporary interpretation, design elements are identified and differentiated, formal and structural comparisons are determined, drifts and variations are emphasized, and new design scenarios are opened.

Studying the typology means deconstructing, finding variations, and identifying relationships and convergences between projects, imagining new connections between tradition, and innovation.

Therefore, type is an operative tool for contemporary design because it allows decomposing and reassembling parts and aggregating them differently in continuous and infinite variations.

(Giulia Setti)

### Construction of the modern city image through a poetic reaction object

The E. N. Rogers 's formula  $A = F(B, U)$  introduced two key concepts: Sperare contra spem (to hope versus hope) and utopia of reality. Sperare indicates the hope of continuity, it suggests that the balance with the past can provide a future. Contra spem implies the sense of an expectation linked to developing a specific context and its 'values'.

Utopia della Realtà indicates a shift towards the type of the future, which no longer refers to the canon or archetype as forms of the remote past. The archetypes recreate themselves whenever the same question returns. However, it is not possible to replicate them as they were.

E. N. Rogers faced the question of type not in its ideal moment, but it is theoretical / practical-constructive. In the tradition of the discipline of architecture concerning the architectural Type in its ideal moment.

(Antonella Contin)