



POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863

SCUOLA DI
ARCHITETTURA
URBANISTICA
INGEGNERIA DELLE
COSTRUZIONI

SUPPLEMENTARY FINAL EXAM REGULATIONS FOR THE LAUREA (EQUIVALENT TO BACHELOR OF SCIENCE) IN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

With reference to Article II 3.1 and documents related to the School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering's Supplementary Final Exam Regulations for Laurea (equivalent to Bachelor of Science) and Laurea Magistrale (equivalent to Master of Science) it is hereby specified that:

_the programme in Architectural design concludes with a Degree exam consisting in a *Final Exam*

attributed 4 ECTS in curricular terms;

_the *Final Exam* consists of a public discussion of students' *Final Work* during the graduation session;

_passing the *Final Exam* results in students being granted a Laurea (equivalent to Bachelor of Science) qualification (doctor in Architectural design);

the following is hereby specified:

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Art 1. Type and characteristics of the Final work

The *Final work* revolves around an in-depth study of an architectural theme relating to the subject areas of the three-year programme showing preparation and capacity for in-depth study, critical awareness of the nexus between the subject areas considered and skill in the use of the language and forms of architecture.

The *Final work* can be one of two types: *Thematic portfolio* or *Critical essay*

Thematic portfolio

The *Thematic portfolio* is created individually and independently by candidates and does not require a Supervisor.

The work revolves around in-depth study of an architectural theme relating to the subject areas of the three-year programme and developed from the starting point of a small number of design and study experiences considered relevant and important to the subject matter chosen and adequately documented.

The work consists of a booklet taking both written and graphic forms in horizontal A3 format structured as follows.

Cover:



_ the cover should contain the work's title (and potentially a sub-title) which should illustrate the subject of the thesis, synthetically and effectively, in addition to context information (university, school, study programme, academic year, graduation session, candidate's name, surname and identification number), and one image (or a composition of images) appropriate and significant.

Organisation and contents:

_ abstract: in approximately 1000 characters, the abstract must explain the motives behind the choice of subject and the subject area covered;

_ index: to be structured as a summary consisting of a very brief reasoned synthesis of the contents of each chapter or section of the work, highlighting its logical and thematic links with other chapters or sections;

_ work content: the theme chosen must be developed in 10 plates, that is, illustrated pages taking both written and graphic form, integrating in-depth critical study texts of the images and image compositions related to the work selected in each page (about 1,500 characters each plate) together with appropriate captions and any other original graphic content serving to better link up educational experience with the object of in-depth study; references and cross-references to examples and projects relevant to the theme of the thesis will similarly take the form of analytical readings and graphic interpretations; texts and images must be freely composed by candidates; given the nature of this type of thesis the iconographical part will in any case be the dominant element; the sequence of the plates will be appropriately indexed;

_ a brief conclusion: text content (maximum 10,000 characters) consisting of a critical analysis of the in-depth work with special reference to the state of the art in relation to the theme chosen and the new skills acquired in the drawing up of the work and explaining its main architectural, design and bibliographical references;

_ cited bibliography, consulted bibliography, sitography, and image sources, are essential references in the assessment of the thesis.

Critical Essay

The *Critical essay* is elaborated with the support of a Supervisor and it can be drawn up individually or at most by two candidates.

The work consists of an in-depth essay of around 60,000 characters, illustrated by relevant images, on an architectural theme proposed by the candidate on prior agreement with his or her Supervisor relating to the subject areas of the three-year programme and structured as follows.

Format:

_ the work format should not exceed A4 size and can be either horizontal or vertical.

Cover contents:



_the cover should contain the work's title (and potentially a sub-title) which should illustrate the subject of the work, synthetically and effectively, in addition to context information (university, school, study programme, academic year, graduation session, candidate's name and surname with his or her student identification number, name of the Supervisor), and one image (or a composition of images) appropriate and significant.

Organisation and content of the work:

_abstract: in approximately 1000 characters, it must explain the motives behind the choice of subject and the subject areas covered;

_work content: the work must take the form of a written text with suitable iconographical support together with captions and potentially further original graphic material; references and cross-references to examples and projects relevant to the theme of the thesis will similarly take the form of analytical readings and graphic interpretations; texts and images must be freely composed by candidates; given the nature of the thesis the textual part will in any case be the dominant element; the volume must be structured into sections, chapters and paragraphs appropriately indexed.

_cited bibliography, consulted bibliography, sitography, and image sources, are essential references in the assessment of the work.

Art. 2. Language of the Final work

Final work can be written in either Italian or English in accordance with the official language of the candidate's study plan. When the *Final work* is written in Italian both title and abstract are to be also translated in English. On request to Laurea Programme Coordinator (for *Thematic Portfolio*) or to Supervisor (for *Critical essay*) the *Final work* can be translated into a further European Union language or, in the event of joint Degree or joint qualifications, in the languages set out in the appropriate agreements, but the Final work will in any case be discussed in Italian or English.

Art. 3. Registration for the Final exam

Candidates must register within the prescribed deadlines on the university web portal. The admission to the *Final exam* is allowed only for students that obtained the ECTS required by educational regulations. The admission has to be confirmed by the Laurea Programme Coordinator (in case of *Thematic portfolio*) or by the Supervisor (in case of *Critical Essay*).



Art. 4. Presentation and discussion of the Final work in the Final exam

The *Final work* will be publically presented by the candidate and discussed during the *Final exam* in the language it was written in (Italian or English). Presentation and discussion take place at the Examination Board table.

Final work must always be printed by candidates themselves on paper supports for presentation to the Examination Board in 2 copies. Any further written and graphical, modeling, audio-visual or multi-media content relating to the subject of the work should also be presented at the table on supports provided by candidates themselves. Presentation and discussion of each work shall take no longer than twenty minutes.

Art. 5. Final Exam assessment

Points granted by the Examination Board to the *Final exam* varies from -1 to +8 whatever the type of *Final work* presented (*Thematic portfolio* or *Critical essay*) and is based on the assessment of the Final work, its oral presentation and the candidate's answers to the questions put to him or her by the Examination Board.

Art. 6. Graduation mark composition

Whatever the type of *Final work* submitted (*Thematic portfolio* or *Critical essay*), the graduation mark is expressed as a mark out of 110 made up of the sum of the average marks obtained by candidates in the course of their studies calculated according to university criteria and the points attributed by the Examination Board to the *Final exam*.

Art 7. Magna cum laude allocation

Magna cum laude allocation must be unanimous by the whole Examination Board, and it can take place if the sum of the average marks and the points awarded by the Examination Board is higher or equal to 111/110 before rounding up or down.

Art. 8. Composition of the Examination Board (Operational Board)

The Examination Board (Operational Boards pursuant to University Regulations of Final exams) is made up of 5 full members of whom one acts as President and one as Secretary in addition to 2 substitute members who can be summoned in the event that one of the full members cannot attend.