

URBAN PLANNING STUDIO – 095990

Second semester, first year

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Presentation of the course

Marco Facchinetti together with Valeria Fedeli will hold urban planning studio. It aims at introducing to students urban planning as a complex system of techniques, practices and knowledge to study and plan the city, as a result of one of the most intense human activities. Urban planning studio will focus on the different traditions of making cities and creating urban environments. The “**making of the city**” is the core of the studies, analysis and practices that the urban planning studio will propose to students, at least on two different aspects.

The making of the city shows *some different traditions from western to eastern world*, from northern to southern environments and it shows models of cities developed under different conditions, to solve different problems or to express different way of approaching life in different countries. Above all, different urban traditions show different urban trends: urban planning studio will study these trends, from sprawl to compactness, from urban lands consumption to sustainability, from slums to enclaves. Studying these trends, the course will give a broad perspective on the current themes and ideas that generally speaking urban planning faces nowadays. The course will present these issues using some best known cities around the world, and introducing some theories developed by famous academics, helping students to create their first library of thoughts, ideas, names and theories.

The making of the city shows also *how the city is done, and how it works*. Many cities around the world are ranked as perfect working urban environments, with extensive networks of public transportations, green networks, social housing, sustainable environmental policies and protection. Some others are not working in the same way, but all the cities are more or less done using some recurring elements. Urban planning studio will understand how these parts work, how they are designed and built, which is the tradition they come from. From the nineteenth century boulevards to the revitalization of waterfronts, from the ancient structure of squares to fluid contemporary multi tasking urban public spaces, the course will understand how urban structures work and how they should be treated in urban planning.

A second section of the course, after having studied the city and how it works, will understand *who lives in the city and how interacts with it*. Citizens, people, users, visitors are only some of the many populations that every day interact in the urban environment; or these names are only few to describe how people can use cities and their parts during the day and the night. Urban structures and urban environment can vary to accommodate different typologies of groups, or they can vary in the perception and in the use of different people. The course will study how urban planning takes into consideration this aspect and how it plays in the pallet of issues it has to face everyday. On the same section, the course will study tools, policies, ways and techniques to actively “do” urban planning: plans, masterplans, strategic visions, environmental protection actions are just some of the possibilities urban planning has to express itself and its regulations. The course will show how different rules and how different levels of rules can impact on the structure, the shape, the way the city is done.

At the end of the road, Urban Planning Studio held by Marco Facchinetti and Valeria Fedeli would like to show to students the *tradition of urban planning school in Milano and at Politecnico*. The way urban planning will be presented aim at showing how the school of planning is rooted in the best European tradition of planning, from the engineers’ experiences during the XIX century to the most recent debate about mega regions and their development, always keeping an eye on the rationalism teachings and innovative way of understanding the city and on the masters of Italian rationalism and fathers of Italian and European urban planning.

Structure of the course

The course is organized into sections.

Reading the city is the name of the first section. This section will present the fundamental ideas, keywords and tools associated with urban planning, in particular exploring the interface between the *spatial* and the *social* dimensions. It will first investigate on the idea that cities have different dimensions and can play differently with dimensions (*first module- spatial dimension*). It will study the idea that cities have different shapes, or there are cities without shape, or cities that have lost their original shape due to emerging factors. Dimension and shape are usually consequences of processes of growth, or crisis: everything depends on how fast or on how planned the processes of growth and transformations of cities have been. Growth, transformation, crisis, urban renewal are all aspect that this section of the course will study. Secondly, it will focus on the city as a social product and will introduce a specific attention to the people who live and use the city (*Second module- spatial dimension*). There are many different ways of using a city, there are many different times in which a city can be used. Many cities have a larger number of inhabitants and a smaller number of users, and many cities, above all the largest and most important cities of a country, have a larger number of users and a smaller number of inhabitants. According to the different ways a city can be used, it changes its characters and its changes the way functions and uses are planned within the city.

Understanding the city is the title of the second section, organized into two modules. This section will present the fundamental ideas, keywords and tools associated with two different understanding and conceptualization of the urban, the *city as a process* and the *city as a system*. It will first focus on the fact that the city is the result of decisions and making of people, with different interests and objectives, and with

different powers and resources (*first module: the city as a process*). It will explore the city as an outcome of the complex interplay between actors and resources, generating material and immaterial, intended or not intended outcomes. Secondly, it will explore the city as a complex machine, a system in which different components interact in order to make it a livable and efficient place to live (*second module: the city as a system*). It will provide useful learning tools to read and understand how cities are planned and built, how different structures and parts of the city are combined together to compose urban environments and how these different parts work. Networks, connections, green networks and green parts, parks and waterways, infrastructures and special districts are all parts of the same structure called city but are different parts, with different rules and different users.

Planning the city is a section of the course aimed at understanding different traditions and different cultures in urban planning. Plans and policies are two different ways of approaching urban planning, referring to different traditions and aiming at getting different results. Planning, management and government are different approaches to planning and different results or plans may come from different planners. There are important names and important traditions that should be studied and remembered to understand why some cities are done in a specific way and why others are different.

Studying the city is a section of the course dedicated to introduce and discuss the thought and reflections of some of the founding father of urban planning. It will aim at introducing students to different planners' work influences on contemporary urban planning; their understanding and reading of the city as a social/spatial fact, their ideas about the role of planning and expertise involved, their solutions and approaches to urban planning problems.

Each section is organized into:

Lecture, are traditional moments in room, with lectures and presentations, aimed at introducing the main concepts and ideas of the course

Mobile workshops are intended as walking tours around some areas of the city of Milan, trying to see and to touch aspects and phenomena learned during lectures. The course will also organize a students' trip to one of European capital cities, to learn different approach to urban planning and to see different results.

In room workshops are considered as practical exercises to develop technical expertise in urban planning and learn how urban planners should approach urban questions and problems. All the exercises done during in room workshops will be collected and they will generate a student's book, to be presented at final examination.

Students' presentations are moments of sharing personal ideas and achievements in learning urban planning techniques and notions. In a conversational atmosphere, students and teachers together discuss notions and ideas learned during classes and developed by students during workshops.

The final examinations will be held preliminarily on the last two days scheduled for the course, on June 23rd and June 26th and then grades will be formally provided on line on the

official dates of exams. On June 23rd and June 26th students will present their works, collected on A3 format albums, discussing with the teachers their results. The examinations aim also at understanding how deeply students have learnt key concepts and idea of urban planning presented during the course.

Books and references will be given during the course. Lectures and presentations will be uploaded on www.marcofacchinetti.com or on different website, whose address will be shared during the course

For any information or any question, please refer to teachers' email addresses or phone numbers.

Schedule of the course

March	Tuesday	10	0. Course's syllabus		
March	Friday	13	1. READING THE CITY	Lecture	Facchinetti
			<i>The spatial dimension: dimensions, shape, growth, renewal</i>		
March	Tuesday	17	1. READING THE CITY	Mobile workshop	Facchinetti
			<i>The spatial dimension: dimensions, shape, growth, renewal</i>		
March	Friday	20	1. READING THE CITY	In Room workshop	Facchinetti
			<i>The spatial dimension: dimensions, shape, growth, renewal</i>		
March	Tuesday	24	1. READING THE CITY	Students' presentation	Fedeli
			<i>The spatial dimension: dimensions, shape, growth, renewal</i>		
March	Friday	27	2. READING THE CITY	Lecture	Fedeli
			<i>The social dimension. People, places, practices</i>		
March	Tuesday	31	2. READING THE CITY	Mobile workshop	Fedeli
			<i>The social dimension. People, places, practices</i>		
April	Friday	10	3. STUDYING THE CITY	Lecture	Facchinetti
			<i>Readings and masters' teachings</i>		
April	Tuesday	14	3 STUDYING THE CITY	Lecture	Facchinetti
			<i>Readings and masters' teachings</i>		
April	Friday	17	2. READING THE CITY	In room workshop	Fedeli
			<i>The social dimension. People, places, practices</i>		
April	Tuesday	21	2. READING THE CITY	Students' presentation	Fedeli
			<i>The social dimension. People, places, practices</i>		
April	Friday	24	1 + 2 +3	In room workshop	Bartoletti
April	Tuesday	28	3. UNDERSTANDING t. CITY	Lecture	Fedeli
			<i>The city as a process</i>		
May	Tuesday	5	3. UNDERSTANDING t. CITY	Mobile workshop	Fedeli
			<i>The city as a process</i>		
May	Friday	8	3. UNDERSTANDING t. CITY	In room workshop	Fedeli
			<i>The city as a process</i>		
May	Tuesday	12	3. UNDERSTANDING t. CITY	Students' presentation	Fedeli
			<i>The city as a process</i>		
May	Friday	15	1 + 2 +3	In room workshop	Bartoletti
May	Tuesday	19	3. UNDERSTANDING t. CITY	Lecture	Facchinetti
			<i>The city as a system: green, infrastructures, facilities</i>		
May	Friday	22	3. UNDERSTANDING t. CITY	Mobile workshop	Facchinetti
			<i>The city as a system: green, infrastructures, facilities</i>		
May	Tuesday	26	3. UNDERSTANDING t. CITY	In room workshop	Facchinetti
			<i>The city as a system: green, infrastructures, facilities</i>		
May	Friday	29	3. UNDERSTANDING t. CITY	In room workshop	Bartoletti
			<i>The city as a system: green, infrastructures, facilities</i>		

June	Friday	5	3. UNDERSTANDING t. CITY <i>The city as a system: green, infrastructures, facilities</i>	Students' presentation	Bartoletti
June	Tuesday	9	4. PLANNING THE CITY <i>Plans, regulations, policies and tools</i>	Mobile workshop	Bartoletti
June	Friday	12	4. PLANNING THE CITY <i>Plans, regulations, policies and tools</i>	In room workshop	Facchinetti
June	Tuesday	16	4. PLANNING THE CITY <i>Plans, regulations, policies and tools</i>	In room workshop	Facchinetti
June	Friday	19	4. PLANNING THE CITY <i>Plans, regulations, policies and tools</i>	Students' presentations	Facchinetti
June	Tuesday	23	Final examinations		
June	Friday	26	Final examinations		