



**POLITECNICO**  
MILANO 1863



**ALTA SCUOLA**  
**POLITECNICA**

POLITECNICO DI MILANO | POLITECNICO DI TORINO

**Politecnico di Milano – Politecnico di Torino**

**Alta Scuola Politecnica**

**Innovation as engine for urban regeneration. Networking and neighborhoods reshaping around the regions**

**MIND project**

**Students' trip to Stockholm – October, 7<sup>th</sup> 2016**

***Who we are***

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In 2004, the [Politecnico di Milano](#) and [Politecnico di Torino](#) founded the **Alta Scuola Politecnica** (ASP), restricted to 150 young and exceptionally talented students, selected solely on the basis of merit, among the applicants to the Laurea Magistrale programmes (equivalent to a Master of Science) in Engineering, Architecture and Design at the two universities. The resulting Community is made up of very motivated and exceptionally qualified students (about 60% achieved their Bachelor of Science – B.Sc. – degree cum laude) with a passion for innovation, coming from about 20 different countries; more than 1/3 of them are women. These students follow a curriculum additional to their degree programmes, completely in English, based on ad-hoc courses and the development of multidisciplinary projects. The mission of ASP is to provide society with high-profile graduates combining in-depth (vertical) disciplinary knowledge from their Laurea Magistrale programmes with interdisciplinary (horizontal) skills that are needed to work in a truly multidisciplinary environment.

**Marco Facchinetti**, PhD, is an architect and assistant professor of urban planning at Polytechnic of Milano (DASTU), visiting professor at State University of New York at Albany (NY) and responsible for international researches' networks coordinating the participation of York University at Toronto (CA), Rice University at Houston (TX), State University of New York at Albany (NY) and Politecnico di Milano (Italy).



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During his research and studies he has been involved in national and international researches programs, always focusing on the physical transformations of urban spaces and architectures, following the growth and the changes of contemporary cities. Above all, he studies the way physical spaces express the way people live and the way urban uses connect and interact. His focus is in the understanding of the processes of making the city and its parts, studying the relations between plans and actions, ideas and decisions, dreams and reality. He is responsible of workshops of urban planning at Politecnico di Milano and he is actively involved in many important processes of planning for urban regeneration and urban development, in Italy and in the US, providing a new way to see urban transformations as opportunities to redevelop parts of cities. He believes that the best investment, for a better human living, is in forms, urban and human, connecting the way people dress, act, play to the way spaces can dress their lives. He is member of: American Planning Association, Congress of New Urbanism, American Institute of Architects (International member), Istituto Nazionale di Urbanistica INU – Italia, Società Italiana Urbanisti SIU - Italia

Marco Facchinetti just published his last book, **“From City to Region. Transformations and the urbanization of the metropolis” (2016)**. The book answers to new regional, urban questions proposing a manifesto for better planning urban regeneration processes for those transformations able to reconnect differently urban characters to regional cities. The manifesto proudly starts from Italian culture and practice in place making and urban transformations planning, rediscovering some rules and ideas able to propose a different approach to space design. Reading some of the most well-known principles and ideas, the manifesto proposes a way of understanding and planning regeneration processes finding a new way of considering “urbanity” as a value for all the transformations around a region.

## ***What we do***

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Students enrolled in this academic year at the Alta Scuola Politecnica are currently working at a special project called **MIND (From industrial local areas towards innovation districts: implementing, attracting and developing a new territorial structure for new economy and production in Milan region)**. The project, presented and proposed by Marco Facchinetti, will make students work on the particular structure of existing local industrial areas in the eastern section of Milan region, proposing a way to change their rigid territorial structure (articulated in old, separate clusters) into a more flexible



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combination of clusters in form of hot spots able to attract the contemporary industrial and manufacturing economy, aiming at creating **innovation districts**. Students should propose an **innovative territorial model**, understanding how innovation districts are able to change the territorial and economic organization, to catch the productive attitude of the region and to transform the rigidity of the existing districts, proposing a model able to create new supply chain, new smarter information, less impact on the environment reducing travels, new uses and new relations with the existing urban areas, and new visibility fostering the excellence of the economy and the excellence of the territories.

Students will propose a **new territorial and management model** for a regional territory able to consider it as a hot spot, **combining a smart territorial management model** (including distribution of activities, connection with infrastructures, proximity to services, efficient management of waste, goods, sources, connection among local institutions and between different levels' authorities) **with a strong, contemporary model of sharing information** (about the attractiveness of the organized territory), **finding financial sources** (with a new role for co-op banks), **opening to international markets** through shared logistic platform and **feeding employees clusters** involving professional education schools. The result should be a **strategic integrated plan** able to attract the participation of many institutional and non institutional actors, to cross borders and competences and above all able to re invent a production system basing it on vocation, innovation, urbanity and where proximity and connections are everything. Results will be tested on the territory of the Adda valley in the eastern section of Milan Region, re arranging the agenda of a site and re thinking to the idea of technological and industrial cluster in a more contemporary, and even less physical way. Students should find the chance to convince local managers and public authorities to finance their project, seeing the opportunity to put back again manufacturing at the center of the attention of their territories in a more permeating way. Students should foster their ability in reading a territorial geography, understanding how manufacturing work according to the uses and the vocation a territory should show, learning how institutional territorial management work and above all understanding the degree of connection between industries, local communities, regional and national transport networks, environment and international markets, proposing through their models themselves as contemporary managers of regional territorial re organization processes.



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## *Why we visit Stockholm*

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During the second phase of the project, students are requested to learn from different experiences, already open to innovation and precisely they should focus on places where innovation has already started re shaping the city and the region. For these reasons, we selected Stockholm as a dynamic regional environment, and we all would like to learn:

- how regional and urban management are working together to promote a different future for the city
- how innovation as a paradigm is re shaping some areas within the city/region, how it is able to bring urbanity back to region and how it is mixing up uses, behaviors, interests and creativity
- how innovation districts can really become a new urban feature, able to change urban planning agenda; how they work in Stockholm, which urban planning devices are supporting them and how strategic is the regional planning frame surrounding them

On their side, students will present their first analysis on the Milan case study, and together with Marco Facchinetti will illustrate the first frame to introduce the November, 16<sup>th</sup> 2016 International Conference about innovation in urban region, organized in Milano. Stockholm together with Barcelona and Chicago will be presented in Milano, discussing at the same time together with local, city and metro organization the future of redevelopment.

### *For contacts:*

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