

Building Power

Architecture between Capital, Value, and Desire



Symposium

*University of Genoa, Department of Architecture and Design, Aula Benvenuto
June 5, 2026*

Program

MORNING
8.45 - 9.15

Reception and registration of participants

9.15 - 9.30

Official greetings
Adriano Magliocco
Head of the Department of Architecture and Design
Massimiliano Giberti
Coordinator of the PhD Programme in Architecture and Design

9.30 - 9.45

Introduction to the symposium
Curators

Francesca Paoli
PhD Candidate, Architect
Fabio Santonicola
PhD Candidate, Architect
Chiara Tassano
PhD Candidate, Architect

9.45 - 10.25

Keynote lecture
Daide Fabio Colaci

10.25 - 11.05

Keynote lecture
Daide Rapp

11.05 - 11.30

Coffee break

11.30 - 13.00

Parallel sessions



Daide Fabio Colaci is an architect and independent curator. He investigates phenomena of change related to design culture, with specific expertise in exhibition design and the creation of ephemeral spaces: from the home to the party. He teaches Interior Architecture and Exhibition Design at Politecnico di Milano and is the Scientific Leader of the Master of Art in Interior Design at IED Milano. Among his recent publications are "Sussidiario di Interni: Per una cultura del progetto militante" for Thymos and "The White House. Domestic propaganda" for Drop City.



Daide Rapp (Verbania, 1980) is a video artist and filmmaker. An architect by training, he works across Art, Architecture, Design and Cinema producing mixed-media installations, documentaries, movie montages and video-essays. In 2014 he participated in the 14th International Architecture Exhibition - Biennale di Venezia with "Elements", a 32-minute montage film depicting the basic elements of architecture through a sequence of more than 500 movie clips. In 2021 he participated in competition at the 78th Mostra Internazionale di Arte Cinematografica - Biennale di Venezia with the VR experience "Montegelato". His documentaries and video essays have been screened in national and international museums, institutions and festivals. He is founder of the Milan-based creative agency -orama.



Lina Malfona, associate professor of architecture and director of polit(t)ico research lab at the University of Pisa, studied in Rome, earned a Ph.D. in Architecture, and has been awarded competitive scholarships. She has taught at many Schools of Architecture, including Cornell University AAP. Her publications focus on the history, theory and criticism of architecture, and the relationship between architectural form and urban/exurban space. "La fine della Silicon Valley: Architettura digitale" (Treccani, 2026) is her latest book.



Nicola Russi is an architect with a PhD and an associate professor at the Politecnico di Milano. In 2008, he founded the architectural firm Laboratorio Permanente in Milan with Angelica Sylos Labini. The firm has participated in numerous international design competitions; it won the competition for the master plan of the Farini and San Cristoforo railway yards in Milan, participated in the 16th and 14th Venice International Architecture Biennale, and received an Honorable Mention for the Gold Medal for Italian Architecture in 2012. Since 2018, he has served as the director of the ANCSA Gubbio Prize. His teaching and research work has been published in numerous books and journals, and he is the author of "Background" (Quodlibet, 2019).



University of Genoa
Polytechnic School
PhD Course in Architecture and Design

Curated by /
F. Paoli, F. Santonicola, C. Tassano

Scientific Advisors /
A. Canevari, M. Giberti, V. Pizzigoni,
A. Valenti

Coordinator / M. Giberti

Faculty Council, XLI Cycle /
A. Bertagna, E. Bistagnino, P. Burlando,
C. Candito, N.V. Canessa, M. Casamonti,
N. Casiddu, G. Franco, G. Galli, A. Ghersi,
A. Giachetta, M. Giberti, G. Leandri,
C. Lepratti, G. Lombardini, A. Magliocco,
R. Morbiducci, C. Olivastri, G. Pellegrini,
S. Pericu, K. Perini, M. Pivetta, V. Pizzigoni,
C. Porfirione, P. Rosasco, V. Scelsi,
D. Servente, A. Valenti, R. Vecchiattini

Council (Other Staff, Businesses, Public Administration, Cultural Institutions, and Research Infrastructure) /
Dott. F. Bonaccorso, Dott. A. Canevari, Dott. G. Moretta, Prof. A. Markoupoulou, Dott. G. Spanu e Dott. E. Capasso

Faculty Council, Previous Academic Years /
C. Andriani, R.A. Bobbio, L. Chimenz,
M.L. Falcidieno, F. Mazzino, A.N. Eslami,
E. Nourrigat

- Panel I, Aula Benvenuto

**Representing Power
Architecture, Image,
and Symbolic
Construction**

Laura Arrighi
Curating Domesticity: Italian Embassies between Representation and Living
Eric Crevels
We Need to Talk About Kitsch: Ideology and Historicism in the Construction of Skopje 2014
Lorenzo Renzullo
From Representation to Authority: Architectural Mock-ups in the Construction of Power
Lynda Zein
Real-Estate Aesthetics and its Accelerated Mechanisms Behind
Anna Hausel
The Hungarian Parliament: Architecture, National Identity, and the Politics of Contradiction
Aleksandr Lemeshinskii
Diplomats as Interpreters of the Built Environment. West Germany's Architectural Exhibitions Abroad

- Panel II, Aula 5L

**Social Order of Power
Identity, Desire, and the
Construction
of Everyday Power**

Pablo Castillo Luna, Ernesto Ibanez
Visibility and invisibility: the

Canary Islands and the power of the image as a colonising tool
Michela Bassanelli
From Alcoves to Activism: Conversation as Feminine Counter Power in Domestic Interiors

João Henrique Azougado, Paula André, Paulo Tormenta Pinto
Luxury as a driver in contemporary architecture commodification: The case of Branded Residences
Natalia Escobar Castrillion, Damiano Aiello
Geographies of Survival: Building Evidence of Systemic Exclusion with Immigrant and Refugee Women of Color in Ottawa
Marta Magnaguagno
A Project of Exclusion? Economic Power, Spatial (In)Justice and the Crisis of Urban Design
Raffaella Cavallaro
Elite Boarding Schools. Architecture, Power, and Privilege

13.00 - 13.15 Q&A

13.15 - 14.30 Lunch Break

AFTERNOON

14.30 - 15.10
Keynote lecture
Lina Malfona

15.10 - 15.50
Keynote lecture
Nicola Russi

15.50 - 16.10
Break

16.10 - 17.55
Parallel sessions

- Panel III, Aula Benvenuto

**Economies of Power
Production of
Value, Territories of Capital,
and Spatial Transformation**

Giona Carlotto
From Monument to Infrastructure Space: Architecture, Capital and Power
Pietro Alfano
Trading Spaces. From The New York Earth Room To the End of the Fondaco dei Tedeschi
Markus Franz Jeshaunig
Building Backwards: Reuse, Material Agency, and the Reconfiguration of Power in Architecture
Kevin Santus
Extractive Power: Architecture and Environmental Alteration in the Seriana Valley
Andrea Pastorello
Within Contradictions. Capital and Hyperpolitics Architectures
Chanhyo Jung
Constructed Value in Concrete Apartments in the Republic of Korea in the 1960s-1980s
Nicole Lomuscio
The Economy of Exclusion: Designing for the Universal User at the Expense of Intersectional Others

- Panel IV, Aula 5L

**Operating Power
Governance, Infrastructures,
and Invisible Systems**

Eleonora Fanini, Donato Teodosio Mazzolla
Forms and destiny of power: Bank architecture between representation and obsolescence: two cases in Potenza
Andrea Giuseppe Spinelli
The Blank Face. Concrete Opacity and the Production of Invisibility
Michele Marini Paterlini
SCHAU, ICH BIN BLIND, SCHAU. Blind architectures: data centers, the invisible architecture of power
Daide Montanari
Engineering the Earth. The Architecture of Embankments as a Technology of Power
Taryn Cullen Humphrey
Legal Mechanisms as Spatial Power: Tracing the Legal Infrastructure of the Danish Agricultural Landscape
Daide Baggio
Utopian Thinking between Power and Desire. The Italian Elsewhereness
Cristina Prado Acebo
From classroom to learning scenarios: spatial configurations of power in university education

17.55 - 18.10 Q&A

18.10 - 18.30
Aula Benvenuto
Final discussion