



Workshop
Cosmopolitan Habitat

05-07.11.2020 | Palermo *online*

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organized by
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PALERMO,
DIPARTIMENTO DI ARCHITETTURA

in cooperation with
LEIBNIZ UNIVERSITÄT HANNOVER,
FAKULTÄT FÜR ARCHITEKTUR UND LANDSCHAFT

in the frame of
DAAD HOCHSCHULDIALOG SÜDEUROPA

ABOUT COSMOPOLITAN HABITAT

In the dramatic age of Covid-19, how can cities become a safer place to invent, explore, test, and live as open community? What are the strategies to face global challenges and at the same time to enhance urban inclusiveness and urban economies? How should cities act as open and interconnected places and, at the same time, guarantee the right to health?

Many cities use diffuse sensors and open data to assess problems and activate effective solutions: these cities should recycle and give new covid-proof life to urban spaces, infrastructures and landscapes, stimulate the widespread creativity to create new urban economic systems, recover urban manufacturing productivity, especially when it is linked to digital innovation, and empower the economic strength of local gateways, such as the ports. The covid-proof city should increase the green infrastructure network to provide appropriate solutions to climate change.

Above all, a covid-proof city should be an “augmented city” that improves its cosmopolitan dimension. In the field of urban planning we need a new path to plan our “augmented city” by refusing top-down conformative masterplan, and drafting incremental and adaptive strategies to generate new self-sufficient metabolism – in terms of funding, managing, implementation – instead of waiting for an opportunity, intercepting local, national and international resources within a design of the future and not with ravenous improvisation.

Today, as we are into the pandemic, we must learn from the crisis, use the innovative force of “emancipatory catastrophism” (quoting Ulrich Beck) to experience a restart with greater awareness and with rules and actions to accelerate the rethinking of our living the planet. We need a change of development model founded on a new alliance with nature, on the adoption of a proactive attitude that allows us to act today, by planning a future that is not dystopian, but that produces a different present, founded on a renewed alliance among all living species, on a new relationship between cities and territories, on rethinking the identity of places and their interconnections.

Faced with this scenario of radical metamorphosis of the development model, urban planning must contribute significantly to the implications for our lifestyles. An expert and systematic reflection is needed to learn from the crisis, to understand how to revolutionise our behaviours, once the pandemic has been defeated, and how to avoid – or mitigate – new similar cases (inevitable, if we do not change the development model).

We must explore a new cosmopolitanism, based on digital connections and local safety, on openness and local community, on hybrid spaces and new citizens.

The aim of the Cosmopolitan Habitat Workshop/Conference is to debate and reflect about the ongoing re-positioning of urban planning in the last years and how this can be a new paradigm for urbanism. Due to rapid transformation in cities and to increasing global challenges, urban planning is not only questioning its theoretical concepts and practical tools: the main change is seen in the pathways of innovation of the discipline that connects for this task in new ways to society and to other disciplines.

Cosmopolitan Habitat gives a complex answer to the issue posed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, able to produce a multiple answer starting by the Goal 10 that aims to reduce inequalities.

The Cosmopolitan Habitat Palermo Workshop intends to invite international PhD candidates, students, young scientists, academics and professionals of urban planning and design in order to debate about the spatial dimension of migration, the morphologies of the space modified by the different human cultures that increasingly identify European cities and to reflect about new spaces of living in the project area: the Historic Centre of Palermo.

MISSION

The **Cosmopolitan Habitat workshop** aims to discuss about how migratory flows, human culture, urban vibrancy and creativity reshape cities, neighbourhoods and spaces. The students, together with young scientists of urban planning and design, will find out the potentialities of “new cosmopolitan habitats” in Palermo and will design new future scenarios.

The workshop will focus on the Historic Centre and will observe the following three characteristics:

- **Cosmopolitan Atmosphere: : Trigger innovative spirit**
How can Cosmopolitan Atmospheres be re-defined, enhanced and formed with urban planning and design frameworks? In which way, they can create values as asset for cultural, economic and social innovation and liveable habitat in the pandemic?
- **Cosmopolitan Accelerators: Activate spaces and networks**
How can processes of activation be configured and framed, that lead towards attractive places, new use for abandoned space and new urban networks able to answer to the new question about safe habitat? What are possible innovations brought in urban planning and design processes?
- **Cosmopolitan Makers: Co-Create urban change**
How can the engagement of stakeholders and active citizenship for Cosmopolitan Habitat be evaluated and conceptualised towards new models of co-creation? What are necessary pathways to develop expertise in urban planning? How to reshape living spaces (built and open, private and public) to accommodate new needs and emergencies?

The projects in each area of the Historic Centre will emphasize the three characteristics of New Cosmopolitan Habitat through innovative and creative design solutions.

THE PALERMO COSMOPOLIS WORKSHOP AREAS

The workshop will explore the four districts (called “Mandamento”) of the Historical Center of Palermo: Palazzo Reale, Monte di Pietà, Castellammare and Tribunali. For each Mandamento a students’ group (composed by UNIPA students and LUH students) will work and will develop concepts and spatial visions of urban design interventions on urban focus areas.

1. Mandamento Tribunali

The district lies in the north-east of Palermo, close to the waterfront. It is the former Arab settlement of Balarm, the so-called Al-Khalesa. It is a mix of culture and architectures and, it hosts some of the most relevant monuments of the city like Piazza Pretoria, Palazzo Butera, Villa Garibaldi, Church of San Cataldo, Church of San Francesco d’Assisi, Church of Santa Teresa, Palazzo Chiaramonte Steri and Palazzo Abatellis.

Urban focus areas: Piazza Magione, Teatro Garibaldi, Palazzo Butera and Piazza Kalsa.

2. Mandamento Palazzo Reale

The district is a place of multiculturalism and social ferment. Place of encounter, changes and flows. It hosts new entrepreneurship, participatory processes, the Ballarò market and two UNESCO sites: Church of San Giovanni degli Eremiti, the Royal Palace.

Urban focus areas: Piazza Mediterraneo, Moltivolti, Complesso Santa Chiara, Ballarò market, Piazza Carmine, via Casa Professa.

3. Mandamento Monte di Pietà

The district is characterised by many circular Arabic alleys that uniquely define its urban fabric. Its picturesque “Capo” market makes it a colourful place, full of contradictions and potentialities. There are two big centralities, attractors of urban flows: The Courthouse and the Massimo Theatre. These urban stratifications are also visible in the Cathedral, where the tomb of Frederick II is located, symbol of an open and multicultural Palermo.

Urban focus areas: Piazza Beati Paoli, Piazza Sant’Anna al Capo, Courthouse, Palazzo Riso, Piazza del Gran Cancelliere, Piazza Sant’Onofrio, empty space (non-regular parking area).

4. Mandamento Castellammare

The name comes from the presence of the Castello a Mare, once a prison fortress, demolished in 1923. Its boundaries are via Maqueda, via Vittorio Emanuele, via Cavour and via Crispi. In its original shape the area was articulated in a dense network of small streets that departed from the Cala and the Castle to convey in the district of the Loggia, historic place of commerce. The urban structure of the Vucciria market, which is now almost abandoned, has remained intact. In the area there are important services (Prefecture, Central Posts) and important places of culture such as the Regional Archaeological Museum “Antonio Salinas”, the Foundation of Sicily, the Conservatory of Music Alessandro Scarlatti”, the Teatro Biondo and the archaeological area Castel San Pietro.

Urban focus areas: Piazza Fonderia, Vucciria market, archaeological area Castel San Pietro.



DELIVERABLES

The 4 students' groups will find out the cosmopolitan *atmospheres, accelerators* and *makers* of the Historic Centre of Palermo.

The main objective is to explore the local potentialities and express it through photos and infographics; conceptualise an innovative idea for the selected area; and visualise the new intervention through collages, photomontages and diagrams, using the Cityforming© protocol.

The students will develop the following outputs:

OUTPUT 1: Exploration

Spatial and social potentialities in the area and their urban connectivity

Maps at 1:2.000, diagrams, photography

OUTPUT 2: Concept

Spatial and programmatic concept of intervention

Maps at 1:2.000, 1:500/200, diagrams

OUTPUT 3: Project Vision

Cityforming© protocol: spatial pictures of intervention, process

Perspectives/photomontages, process diagram

FINAL PRESENTATION

The 4 students' groups will show their elaboration by:

- **Video** (2 min)

Project idea: why? what? how? with whom?

- **Presentation**

The students will show the three steps “outputs 1, 2, 3” and zooms for further explanation (7 min., 10 slides)

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

05.11.2020

- 09:00 - 10:45** **Welcome and introductions**
 Andrea Sciascia, *Director of the Department of Architecture, University of Palermo*
 Jörg Schröder, *Leibniz University Hannover*
 Maurizio Carta, *University of Palermo*
- 10:45 - 11:00** **Give yourself a coffee break**
- 11:00 - 12:00** **Workshop introduction and methodological inputs**
Chairperson: Daniele Ronsivalle, University of Palermo
 Barbara Lino, *University of Palermo*
 Annalisa Contato, *University of Palermo*
 Federica Scaffidi, *Leibniz Universität Hannover*
- 12:00 - 13:00** **PhD candidates' design inputs for Cosmopolitan Habitat (*Pecha Kucha*)**
Chairperson: Barbara Lino, University of Palermo
 Cosimo Camarda, *University of Palermo*
 Marina Mazzamuto, *University of Palermo*
 Dalila Sicomo, *University of Palermo*
 Riccarda Cappeller, *Leibniz Universität Hannover*
 Alissa Diesch, *Leibniz Universität Hannover*
 Vasiliki Mylona, *National Technical University of Athens*
 Caterina Rigo, *Polytechnic University of Marche*
 Maria Giada Di Baldassarre, *Polytechnic University of Marche*
- 13:00 - 14:00** **Lunch break**
- 14:00 - 17:30** **Projects development and reviews (*exploration phase*)**
 4 blended groups, UNIPA & LUH students will work together mixing approaches, methodologies and ideas.
- 17:30 - 18:00** **Exploration phase check**

06.11.2020

- 09:00 - 12:00** **Projects development and reviews (*concept phase*)**
- 12:00 - 13:00** **Concept phase check**
- 13:00 - 14:00** **Lunch break**
- 14:00 - 15:00** **Projects development and reviews (*project vision phase*)**
- 15:00 - 16:30** **Keynote inputs for Cosmopolitan Habitat**
 David Grahame Shane, *Columbia University, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, Urban Design Program*
 Carmelo Ignaccolo, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT, DUSP)*
 Luisa Bravo, *City Space Architecture, Italy*
 Mosé Ricci, *Università di Trento*
- 16:30 - 17:30** **Projects development and reviews (*project vision phase*)**
- 17:30 - 18:00** **Project vision phase check**

07.11.2020

- 09:00 - 12:00** **Projects development and reviews (*last tuning*)**
- 12:00 - 13:00** **Final check**
- 13:00 - 14:00** **Lunch break**
- 14:00 - 15:30** **Palermo Cosmopolis projects' presentation**
Chairperson: Annalisa Contato, University of Palermo
 UNIPA & LUH students' groups:
- 15:30 - 16:30** **Grand Jury**
 Maurizio Carta, Alessandra Badami, Daniele Ronsivalle, Barbara Lino, Annalisa Contato, Jörg Schröder, Riccarda Cappeller, Alissa Diesch, Federica Scaffidi, Maria Giada Baldassarre, Cosimo Camarda, Marina Mazzamuto, Vasiliki Mylona, Caterina Rigo, Dalila Sicomo, Maddalena Ferretti (*Polytechnic University of Marche*), Emanuele Sommariva (*University of Genoa*).
- 16:30 - 17:30** **Conclusion - Discussion for a research Agenda**
 Maurizio Carta (UNIPA) and Jörg Schröder (LUH)



Workshop organized by

Università degli Studi di Palermo, Dipartimento di Architettura

Prof. Arch. Maurizio Carta (coordinator)

Prof. Arch. Angela Badami

Prof. Arch. Daniele Ronsivalle

Prof. Arch. Barbara Lino

Prof. Arch. Annalisa Contato

PhDs Cosimo Camarda (tutor)

PhDs Marina Mazzamuto (tutor)

PhDs Dalila Sicomo (tutor)

in cooperation with

Leibniz Universität Hannover, Fakultät für Architektur und Landschaft

Prof. Jörg Schröder (coordinator)

Dr. Arch. Federica Scaffidi

M.Sc. M.A. Riccarda Cappeller

Dipl.-Ing. Arch. Alissa Diesch

B.Sc. Anna Pape (tutor)

COSMOPOLITAN HABITAT

Edited by: Maurizio Carta, Barbara Lino, Annalisa Contato

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<https://www.cosmopolitanhabitat.org>

Steering Committee

Coordination: Prof. Arch. Maurizio Carta (UNIPA), Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Jörg Schröder (LUH)

with: Prof. Arch. Angela Badami (UNIPA), Prof. Arch. Daniele Ronsivalle (UNIPA), Arch. Barbara Lino PhD

(UNIPA), Arch. Annalisa Contato PhD (UNIPA), Federica Scaffidi PhD (LUH), Riccarda Cappeller (LUH),

Alissa Diesch (LUH).

DAAD Hochschuldialog mit Südeuropa einjährig, 2020

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Università degli Studi di Palermo

Dipartimento di Architettura

Prof. Arch. Maurizio Carta

Viale delle Scienze, edificio 14, I-90100 Palermo

www.unipa.it/maurizio.carta

Leibniz Universität Hannover

Abteilung Regionales Bauen und Siedlungsplanung

Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Jörg Schröder

Herrenhäuserstr. 8, D-30419 Hannover

www.staedtebau.uni-hannover.de

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