



## ARCHITECTURE LAB

2018-2019  
ARC 402 / 404 / 405B

# SPRING SEMESTER SYLLABUS

professors: **Gianni Pettena (GP)**, [pettena@giannipettena.it](mailto:pettena@giannipettena.it)  
**Marco Brizzi (MB)**, [marco.brizzi@image-web.org](mailto:marco.brizzi@image-web.org)  
**Paola Giaconia (PG)**, [paola.giaconia@image-web.org](mailto:paola.giaconia@image-web.org)  
**Achille Michelizzi (AM)**, [achille@michelizziarchitettura.com](mailto:achille@michelizziarchitettura.com)

### SCHEDULE

Monday: 4.00pm-9.00pm  
Wednesday: 9am-1pm; 4.00pm-9.00pm

### OFFICE HOURS

Marco Brizzi: Wednesday 9am-9:40am or by appointment  
Paola Giaconia: Wednesday 4pm-4:40pm or by appointment  
Achille Michelizzi: Monday 4pm-4:40pm or by appointment

### COURSE FEES

There are no specific course fees for the ARCHITECTURE LAB for the fall semester.  
Expenses can vary greatly, from student to student, depending on how much each is investing on printing boards and making models.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The ARCHITECTURE LAB fosters an interdisciplinary approach to research in architecture and aims at promoting critical thinking on the disciplines and activities that shape our environment.

A combination of informative lectures by the instructors, field trips and personal research and readings will support the development of studio projects that will exhibit a creative approach, conceptual precision and aesthetic sophistication.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

Comprehending people, place, and context while at the same time recognizing the disparate needs of client, community, and society.

Comprehending the importance of research pursuits to inform the design process.

Responding to site characteristics in the development of a project design.

Demonstrating and articulating design skills through an iterative and considered design process, to resolve ideas from concept formation through to design development.

Synthesizing a body of practical and theoretical knowledge into the design process.

Comprehending architecture and its relationship with place, program, form and representation to a high level.  
Making technically clear drawings and preparing models.  
Communicating complex design ideas graphically in a range of media and through verbal media.  
Comprehending key architectural works, cultural movements and ideas, their theoretical and cultural context and relevance to architecture today.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Spring Semester for the ARCHITECTURE LAB at CSU Florence takes advantage of the students' design experiences in the Fall Semester, when they dealt with the urban structure of the city of Florence, its stratifications, its history, its urban complexity. The students will be led to further ripen their point of view and their abilities, and will therefore be asked to develop a much larger design assignment which involves an urban area located close to Florence international airport: a quite contradictory and complex context to work in.

Theme for the spring studio project is: a rehabilitation of the former Incinerator in San Donnino. The students will be asked to develop their project in small groups (3 students per group). They will conclude their assignment at the end of April / early May.

Lectures by the professors and by invited guests, as well as readings on various themes related to the project topics, will be addressed to generate a common cultural ground and reinforce the multidisciplinary approach of this course. Also, a lecture series organized by Kent State University and one organized by Syracuse University in Florence will greatly enrich the students' knowledge on the debate in contemporary architecture.

## ASSIGNMENTS

In the Spring Semester students will work on the former Incinerator in San Donnino.

## WORKSHOP

In the Spring Semester we are planning to hold 1 workshop for CSU-FI students to experience collaborations with European and Italian students.

The workshop (mandatory) will be run with the Faculty of Architecture in Ascoli Piceno. It is scheduled from Monday May 13 to Friday May 17. Titled "Coast2Coast", this workshop, originally conceived by Cristiano Toraldo di Francia, is now in its 17th edition.

## SPRING SEMESTER EVENTS

Below is an anticipation of events that will take place in the Spring semester:

— **CSU Florence Architecture Day (spring semester) - TBC.** After the first edition of the CSU Florence Architecture Day, which took place in May 2011 as a review of the development of the CSU Florence architecture program in the last 35 years, the program will continue in its mission of highlighting its successes by inviting an alumn who will lecture on his/her work as well as discuss with the students the state of the profession and of research in architecture.

In May 2011, Tim Power, CalPoly San Luis Obispo alumn, now principal at his firm in Milan, started the program; in 2012 we invited Johanna Grawunder, CalPoly San Luis Obispo alumn (1983) and former partner at Sottsass Associati in Milan, now principal at her firm with offices in Milan and San Francisco; in 2013 we invited Mike Ryan (Milan / San Diego, [www.mmryan.net](http://www.mmryan.net)); in 2014 our guest was Thom Faulders, principal at his own multidisciplinary practice in Oakland, CA ([faulders-studio.com](http://faulders-studio.com)); Dan Parks, project leader at L22 in Milan ([www.l22.it](http://www.l22.it)), was our guest in 2014; Tim Power returned in 2015. In Spring 2017 we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the CSU Florence program. On that occasion, we invited Russel Thomsen, 1979-1980 alumnus of the Florence program and currently principal of RNTThomsen ARCHITECTURE in downtown Los Angeles as well as history and theory professor at SCI-Arc.

— **Image: HOT SEASON'S PIX (spring semester) - TBC.** Image, the company run by Marco Brizzi and Paola Giaconia ([www.image-web.org](http://www.image-web.org)), is exceptionally opening up its architecture video ARCHIVE, unparalleled repository of its kind, to liven up a special evening devoted to some hot topics in contemporary architecture.

— **Lecture series.** Italian and European architects will be invited to talk to the students, who will have the opportunity of hearing from them in person, seeing their most recent projects -completed and under construction- which relate to their own studio projects, and asking them questions in the informal Q&A session that takes place at the end of each event. The lectures, which will be fine-tuned with the programs developed in studio, will span the whole spectrum of architecture-related activities, from industrial design to art and urban installations, from videos to architectural projects, ranging in scale from residential to institutional to urban design.

Given the relations established by California State University - Florence Program with other institutions in the city of Florence (for example, the Municipality of Florence, the University of Florence, Kent State University, Syracuse University, etc.), our program will be enriched by a series of architecture-related events which will be communicated to the students in the course of the year. The architecture faculty will introduce the events as details on them become available and will frame them -whenever possible- in the didactic course described in this syllabus.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Readings from the texts mentioned below, as well as from current magazines/newspapers, will be discussed during classes:

- Benevolo, Leonardo. The Origins of Modern Town Planning. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1967.
- Bruno, Giuliana. Atlas of Emotion: Journeys in Art, Architecture, and Film. New York: Verso, 2002.
- Colomina, Beatriz. Privacy and Publicity: Modern Architecture as Mass Media. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1996.
- Colquhoun, Alan. Modern Architecture. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Frampton, Kenneth. Modern Architecture: A Critical History. London, UK: Thames and Hudson, 1992.
- Gehl, Jan. Life Between Building: Using Public Space. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1987.
- Hays, Michael. Architecture Theory Since 1968. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2000.
- Jacobs, Jane. The Death and Life of Great American Cities. New York: Random House, 1961.
- Lang, Peter and William Menking. Superstudio: Life without Objects. Milan: Skira, 2003.
- Lynch, Kevin. The Image of the City. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1960.
- Mumford, Lewis. The Culture of Cities. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1938.
- Pettena, Gianni. Radicals: architettura e design. Venezia: La Biennale di Venezia, 1996.
- Vidler, Anthony. Architecture Between Spectacle and Use. Williamstown, MA: Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, 2008.

## ARCHITECTURE LAB LECTURES

Gianni Pettena  
Marco Brizzi  
Paola Giaconia  
Achille Michelizzi

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

Class meets on Mondays, 4.00-9.00pm, and on Wednesdays, 9am-1 pm and 4.00-9.00pm. Attendance for the entire duration of each and every studio meeting and studio jury is mandatory.

Attendance to all CSU architecture courses is mandatory. Two unexcused absences are allowed during the semester but more than two unexcused absences will lower your grade as follows (excused absences will be accepted for serious medical reasons or emergencies): **3 unexcused absences**, lowers one letter grade; **4 unexcused absences**, lowers two letter grades; **5 unexcused absences**, lowers 3 letter grades. **More than five unexcused absences could result in failure of the course.**

In order not to disrupt the class, punctuality is required. Students are expected to be in class at the beginning of the class hour; any delay exceeding 30 minutes will be considered an absence.

Dates of mid-term and final crits **can not** be changed for individual travel plans or personal needs. Students should take note of the dates and hours of the midterm and final crits and plan their trips after the last crit. It is important to inform friends and relatives about these crit dates so that no tickets are purchased for you that will interfere with these crit dates. Missing the midterm or the final crit could mean failure of the course.

During the academic year photocopies and other material may be distributed in class by the instructors. Students who were not in class are responsible for getting the material from their classmates and making their own photocopies.

**GRADING POLICY**

Evaluation is based on daily work in studio, presentations, and quality and completeness of assignments.

Students are expected to work consistently during the week, bringing sufficient new and/or revised work to each studio class.

Grades are given by the instructors. The final course grade will be determined as indicated below:

- Studio project evaluation: 70%
- Coast2Coast workshop in Ascoli: 10%
- Submitted portfolio (due Wednesday May 22, 2019): 20%

**GRADING SCALE**

00-94	A
93-90	A-
89-88	B+
87-83	B
82-80	B-
79-77	C+
76-73	C
72-69	C-
68-67	D+
66-63	D
62-60	D-
59 and below	F

**CLASS CODE OF CONDUCT**

Activities unrelated to the course (including private conversations, emailing, text messaging, reading, web surfing, etc.) are not permitted during class time. Please turn off or put all electronic devices on silent mode prior to the beginning of the class.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED**

Any form of plagiarism or cheating may result in a failing final grade in the course and might be reported to IP and your campus. You are better off spending your time studying for the class. If you have questions about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please refer to the student handbook and catalog of your campus and also ask me and/ or the Resident Director for more information.

**COPYRIGHT AND PRIVACY LAWS**

No portion of the texts, films, videos, and other material used in this course can be reproduced in any format including scanning, electronic downloading or sharing of files.

In addition, no portion of class lectures, discussions, and activities can be reproduced and used in any format, including electronic, without the written consent of the instructor and/or guest speakers.

**CHANGES- IMPORTANT**

Information contained in this syllabus, including the class calendar, other than that mandated by the University, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

**CALENDAR**

Feb 25	Monday	<b>Introduction to former Incinerator in San Donnino project (aula magna)</b> Students to set up groups and to start site analysis	
Feb 26	Tuesday	<i>lecture at Kent State University (via Cavour 26) @ 7 pm (strongly recommended)</i> <i>Casper Mork-Ulnes (Mork-Ulnes Architects), Norway / USA</i> <a href="http://www.morkulnes.com">www.morkulnes.com</a>	
Feb 27	Wednesday am Wednesday pm	desk crits desk crits	MB PG
Mar 4	Monday	desk crits	AM
Mar 6	Wednesday am Wednesday pm	desk crits desk crits	MB PG
Mar 11	Monday	desk crits	AM
Mar 13	Wednesday am Wednesday pm	desk crits desk crits	MB PG
Mar 18	Monday	desk crits	AM
Mar 19	Tuesday	<i>lecture at Syracuse University (piazzale Donatello 25) @ 5:30 pm (strongly recommended)</i> <i>Adriana Cuellar and Marcel Sanchez (CRO Studio), USA</i> <a href="http://www.crostudio.net">www.crostudio.net</a>	
<b>Mar 20</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>MID-TERM CRITS</b>	<b>GP+MB+PG+AM</b>
Mar 25	Monday	desk crits	AM
Mar 27	Wednesday am Wednesday pm	desk crits desk crits	MB PG
Apr 1	Monday	desk crits	AM
Apr 2	Tuesday	<i>lecture at Syracuse University (piazzale Donatello 25) @ 5:30 pm (strongly recommended)</i> <i>Andrea Simitch (Chair, Department of Architecture at Cornell University)</i>	
Apr 3	Wednesday am Wednesday pm	desk crits desk crits	MB PG
Apr 8	Monday	desk crits	AM
Apr 9	Tuesday	<i>lecture at Kent State University (via Cavour 26) @ 7 pm (strongly recommended)</i> <i>Bernard Khoury (DW5 / Bernard Khoury), Lebanon</i> <a href="http://www.bernardkhoury.com">www.bernardkhoury.com</a>	
Apr 10	Wednesday am Wednesday pm	desk crits desk crits	MB PG
Apr 11	Thursday	<i>lecture at Syracuse University (Villa Rossa, Piazza Savonarola 15) @ 5:30 pm (strongly recommended)</i> <i>Erin Besler (Besler &amp; Sons), USA</i> <a href="http://www.beslerandsons.com">www.beslerandsons.com</a>	
Apr 15	Monday	desk crits	AM
Apr 16	Tuesday	<i>lecture at Kent State University (via Cavour 26) @ 7 pm (strongly recommended)</i> <i>Lyndon Neri and Rossana Hu (Neri&amp;Hu), China / United Kingdom</i> <a href="http://www.neriandhu.com">www.neriandhu.com</a>	
<b>Apr 17</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>FINAL REVIEWS (TBC)</b>	<b>GP+MB+PG+AM</b>
***** SPRING BREAK (April 19 - April 28) *****			
<b>Apr 29</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Special guest lecture: Richard Ingersoll, Carlo Scoccianti (TBC)</b>	
May 1	Wednesday	no class (National Holiday)	
<b>May 6</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Special guest lecture: Pippo Ciorra, Marco Navarra (TBC)</b>	

May 8                      Wednesday                      Special guest lecture: Jon Lott (TBC)

**May 13 - 17                      Coast2Coast workshop in Ascoli (mandatory)**

May 22                      Wednesday                      Portfolio\* of Florence studio projects (including Sky is the Limit preliminary assignment) is due

**\* INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PORTFOLIO**

Each student will upload a PDF file and a .zip file which will contain a folder for each of the assignments carried out in the course of the year in Florence:

1. SKY IS THE LIMIT: please include a hi-res PDF or JPG file of the submitted boards;
2. PIAZZA BRUNELLESCHI: please include a hi-res PDF or JPG file of each of the boards + a folder containing high resolution images (plans, sections, elevations, renderings, photomontages, photos of the final model, etc.)
4. FORMER INCINERATOR IN SAN DONNINO: please include a hi-res PDF or JPG file of each of the boards + a folder containing high resolution images (plans, sections, elevations, renderings, photomontages, photos of the final model, etc.). In particular, each student will add the project "postcard" image he/she made for the final presentation.
5. COAST-2-COAST WORKSHOP: please include a hi-res PDF or JPG file of each of the boards.