

Architectural Design Crossovers

MSc2 Design Studio – *Intersections*



M. Smagala, "Re-Activated Grounds"

Spring Semester 2024

Tutors
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Code	AR2DC010
Credits	15 ECTS
Location	Genoa
Excursion	Yes
Costs	± €350

Project type	Multidisciplinary
Approved Master 2	Yes
Architecture Design Project	

The MSc2 Architectural Design Crossovers studio serves as an experimental laboratory, challenging the conventional constraints of object-driven methods in architecture. The studio aims at crafting spatial constructs that not only challenge the boundaries of conventional architectural methods but also push the limits of the discipline itself. Thus, the studio embraces design exploration as the cornerstone of architectural experimentation through a multidisciplinary framework.

In Spring 2024, the studio will focus on the interstitial zones along the "Green & Blue Lines" in Genoa that delineate the urban-natural boundaries between the city, port and its hinterland. Despite being the sixth largest city in Italy, Genoa has witnessed a continuous depopulation trend since the 1970s, which had a substantial impact on the two frontiers. The city's complex relationship with the port and the mountainous topography has transformed these zones of instability into significant thresholds. They are indicators of both the spatial dynamics and the contraction caused by complex set of urban and natural forces.

Being wedged on a very narrow slope between the mountains and the Ligurian Sea, the urban-rural transition in Genoa epitomizes the convergence of conflicting conditions that has lead to a hybrid spatial condition, blending residential, infrastructural, and natural programs.

In this framework, the studio's primary emphasis will be on these interstitial areas, serving as a platform for investigating site-specific design strategies. With a focus on the systems of water and ground, the students will explore the chosen sites' (extra) urban dimensions to uncover architecture's inherent potential to form novel design approaches with respect to the Sustainable Development Goals. Our objective is to embark on a process-driven and site-specific design exploration that spans various spatial and temporal scales. Therefore, the students will utilize an array of methods, functioning as both experimental and speculative tools.