

Training Plan

Intensive Winter School Course in: URBAN AND TERRITORIAL THICKNESS. Designing at the boundary between landscape and the built environment

Academic yaer	2025/26
Department	Planning, Design, Technology of Architecture
Date of the Departmental Resolution approving the course activation	10/07/2025
Course Director	Andrea Iacomoni
Minimum number of admitted candidates	8
Maximum number of admitted candidates	17
Admission Requirements	Candidates holding a First-Level Degree or a Degree from the previous system (prior to Italian Ministerial Decree 509/99) are eligible. Candidates without a university degree may also be admitted to the intensive course, provided that, in light of the Winter School's multidisciplinary nature, they are enrolled in a degree course in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Agricultural Sciences, Environmental and Forestry Biology, Engineering, or Environmental and Territorial Engineering, from the 4th year onwards. Candidates with a foreign qualification who hold an academic or school qualification comparable to the Italian academic or school qualification required for access to the Intensive Winter School course in Urban and Territorial Thickness may also apply for enrolment.
Educational Objectives	Every historical event leaves traces, both intentional and unintentional, that determine the formation of places with their own identity, and which, also thanks to the choices and actions of the community repeated over time, contribute to giving them the value of "Heritage" and maintaining their

	<p>memory. This reflection can represent an interesting key to interpreting the relationship between heritage, planning, and design, but also between the identity of places, their protection, and their transformation, which becomes a will of expression implemented through a continuous dialogue between the soul of the designer and the user. This approach offers a starting point for considering the value of inherited buildings, cities, and landscapes: a Heritage that has long been representative of the distinctive features of the history and identity of the territory, establishing a relationship between the tradition and specific culture of places, which we find in the urban and landscape texts we analyse and design. These assessments gain further depth when considering how Cultural Heritage is increasingly at the centre of the Agenda of EU member states, through policies that combine actions for the protection and enhancement of tangible assets with those for education, the environment, climate change, regional and digital policies, also through funding programmes. Therefore, we are aware that cultural heritage today represents a strategic lever for the regeneration of parts of the city marginalised from a structural and socio-economic point of view, as well as a resource for stimulating development, innovation, and the activation of new economies aimed at culture, tourism, and environmental sustainability, in order to contribute to improving the quality of life of citizens. In this perspective, the design approach aimed at enhancing this heritage becomes important, making the project an integral part of a more complex scenario of conservation and use. Therefore, the Intensive Course represents an opportunity to deepen the ongoing reflection on the theme of the protection and transformation of places recognised as UNESCO Heritage sites, both in their management and enhancement components, and in the inevitable project components, at various scales: from the restoration of monuments, to archaeological enhancement, to the quality of the landscape and the interactions with urban planning. In this context, students from different backgrounds and nationalities, selected through a call for applications, will start from a knowledge of the UNESCO site of the historic centre of Siena and, at the same time, will develop a project of urban layout for an adjacent area, recognising heritage as the strategic lever for regeneration, where the project itself must play a decisive role in giving a new meaning to the context, a horizon of meaning within which to place questions and answers posed by those who benefit from it. The objective of the course is to provide students with the tools for a</p>
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	<p>design experimentation, functionally "internalising" these places, without investing them with structural or significant modifications, but with a general project of recomposition and requalification, ensuring a vital urban effect thanks to new relationships that guarantee permanent use and constant attractiveness: a system of public areas that constitute a thematic unit, functional to the adjacent historic fabric and to the territory, aimed at enhancing the entire territorial heritage within a single integrated territorial project. As for the programme, during the first week, students will attend university lectures, with the addition of specialist seminars. During the second week, students will work on the assigned areas, preparing a project that integrates the relationship between urban fabric and landscape, reflecting their research results and creative thinking on the proposed theme, fortified by their direct experience and the moments of discussion during the seminars and round tables attended during the two weeks of the Winter School. In conclusion, the students' work will be presented at a conference organised on the last day and will be published in a monographic volume or a specialist journal.</p>
Expected Learning Outcomes	<p>The course aims to offer a multidisciplinary training path to provide students with tools and practices for the enhancement and functional and environmental requalification of existing urban fabrics. At the end of the course, students will acquire the skills necessary to work with a multi-scalar perspective, experimenting with a process-based and systemic methodology of detailed planning and architectural design, aimed at designing a portion of urban fabric at the boundary of the historic centre, with the aim of enhancing the relationships between cultural heritage, specialised buildings, and the natural landscape. The main expected outcomes include: the ability to work in multidisciplinary groups; intercultural competence in the knowledge and design of heritage; the understanding of a unified approach to the project, which includes the conservation and transformation of the existing, both built and natural environment; to raise awareness and stimulate work through the identity of places that does not preclude proposals for the contemporary city, in interaction with the past.</p>
Start date of lectures	16/02/2026

Academic Calendar	<p>The Winter School will take place from 16.02.2026 to 27.02.2026, with activities from Monday to Saturday, summarised below:</p> <p>16.02.2026: Greetings, introductory seminar and on-site inspection</p> <p>17.02.2026: Lectures</p> <p>18.02.2026: Lectures and supplementary seminar</p> <p>19.02.2026: Lectures and supplementary seminar</p> <p>20.02.2026: Lectures and workshop</p> <p>21.02.2026: Workshop</p> <p>22.02.2026: Visit to the historic centre of Siena</p> <p>23.02.2026: Workshop</p> <p>24.02.2026: Workshop and exercise</p> <p>25.02.2026: Workshop</p> <p>26.02.2026: Workshop</p> <p>27.02.2026: Workshop and final presentation at a conference.</p>
Internship	Not provided
Teaching Delivery Method	conventional
ECTS credits awarded	8
Sapienza lecturers responsible for the courses and their short curricula	<p>Francesco Crupi. Researcher RtdB, Department of Planning, Design, and Technology of Architecture.</p> <p>Andrea Iacomoni, Associate Professor, Department of Planning, Design, and Technology of Architecture.</p> <p>Paola N. Imbesi, Researcher RtdA, Department of Planning, Design, and Technology of Architecture. Bruno Monardo, Associate Professor, Department of Planning, Design, and Technology of Architecture.</p>
Partnering Institutions	Municipality of Siena, University of Siena
Venue	The teaching activities of the Intensive Winter School Course will be held in person in Siena at the Municipality of Siena (and the "Monasterino della Conoscenza" facility with which it has an agreement).

Expected Enrolment Fee	Euro 280,00
Partial or total exemptions from payment of the departmental portion of the fee	Not provided
Secretariat Contacts	winterschool.siena@uniroma1.it

Plan of Educational Activities

(Courses, Study and Research Seminars, Final Project)

Educational Activity Name	Teaching manager	Scientific disciplinary sector	ECTS	Hours	Type	Language
Activity I: Urban and Territorial Thickness Module 1: Designing in the relational spaces between architecture and landscape Module 2: Presentation seminar and on-site inspection of the intervention areas. Ing. Paolo Giuliani (Municipality of Siena), Dr. Paola N. Imbesi (Sapienza of Rome), Arch. Pietro Romano (Municipality of Siena)	Prof. Andrea Iacomoni		1	6	Frontal lecture	English / Italian
Activity II: Introduction Module 1: From Ground Design to Heritage Requalification Module 2: Introduction to the Themes of Cultural Heritage Protection and Enhancement	Prof. Andrea Iacomoni Dott.ssa Paola N. Imbesi		1	6	Frontal lecture	English / Italian
Activity III: Knowledge and Description of Places Module 1: Interpretation and Diagnostics of a Territory Module 2: Specialist Seminar. Systems of Knowledge, Description, and Cartographic Representation	Prof. Andrea Iacomoni		1	8	Frontal lecture	English / Italian

Prof. Anna Guarducci (University of Siena), Prof. Fabio Gabbrielli (University of Siena), Dr. Paola N. Imbesi (Sapienza of Rome), Dr. Marco Giamello (University of Siena), Dr. Enrico Tavarnelli (University of Siena)						
Activity IV: Designing Natural Heritage Module 1: Specialist Seminar on the Sustainability of Landscape and Environmental Regeneration Prof. Claudia Angiolini (University of Siena), Dr. Marco Cillis (Polytechnic of Milan), Dr. Fabio Pinzi (Agronomist), Lawyer Sonia Carmignani	Prof. Andrea Iacomoni		1	6	Frontal lecture	English / Italian
Activity V: The Transformations of the Territory, from Plan to Project. Module 1: Urban Planning and Landscape Design Module 2: Sustainable Accessibility. From Reading to Mobility Design	Dott. Francesco Crupi Prof. Bruno Monardo		1	6	Frontal lecture	English / Italian
Activity VI: Workshop. Design for Territorial and Environmental Development	Prof. Andrea Iacomoni		1	12	Laboratory or guided exercise	English / Italian
Activity VII: Workshop. Design for Territorial and Environmental Development	Prof. Andrea Iacomoni Dott.ssa Paola N. Imbesi		1	12	Laboratory or guided exercise	English / Italian
Activity VIII: Workshop. Architectural Design and Landscape Component	Prof. Andrea Iacomoni		1	12	Laboratory or guided exercise	English / Italian

Final Project					<i>Design drawings</i>
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	Students will be asked to develop a project on an area assigned by the Winter School lecturers.				
Other Activities	<p>Introductory Seminar, Intermediate Specialist Seminar, Final Conference, Voluntary work on the historic walls, Visit to museums and places of memory and sites of architectural and historical relevance in Siena:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Historic Centre - Historic Walls - Fortezza di Santa Barbara - Museums of the Contrade - Santa Maria della Scala 				
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The minimum number of ECTS that can be assigned to an activity is 1 (pursuant to Article 23 of the University's Teaching Regulations, it is specified that 1 ECTS corresponds to 6-10 hours of frontal lectures, or 9-12 hours of laboratory or guided exercise, or 20-25 hours of professional training in small groups or assisted study).