

CA2RE+ Project

Open call for PhD dissertation proposals

Department of Architecture

Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, Delft University of Technology

Introduction

Under the auspices of the Graduate School of the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, Delft University of Technology, the research program of the department of Architecture invites interested academics and/or professional candidates to submit a PhD proposal aligned with the main purpose of the project CA2RE+. The CA2RE+ project is part of the Department of Architecture's research program and as such connects to various research and education activities within and beyond the department. The Department of Architecture offers a challenging research environment that includes facilities within the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment and the A+BE Graduate School.

The CA2RE+ Project

CA2RE+ is an Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership project aiming to develop a collective learning environment through Evaluation of Design Driven Doctoral Training (DDDr). DDDr is taken as a multidisciplinary example of an experiential learning-through-evaluation model, appropriate for identification and promoting relevance of research singularity, its transparency and recognition, to award excellence in doctoral training for creative and culturally rooted solutions of contemporary design driven developments.

The CA2RE+ explicates the transformative and innovative power of highly individual strategies in artistic research, the diversity of research traditions and the integrative nature of architectural design research, able to face the contemporary knowledge fragmentation from humanities, social sciences and technology. It explicates the interdisciplinary relevance of convergent thinking, mastering wicked problems, open-ended processes, resilience and risk, as well as orientation to future, all present in DDDr. In the arts, architecture and design, understanding of reality aims to future creations, however convincing, remains based on a personal and creative aspect, where the relevance of singularity of particular cases plays the key role in research strategies and evaluation. The evaluation of this type of relevance requires explication of tacit knowledge and research impact evidence, including non-written production. These needs have been identified by the CA2RE community through its half-yearly Conferences on Artistic and Architectural Research as a follow-up of the ADAPT-r project (Architecture, Design and Art Practice Training-research / EU ITN).

The CA2RE+ advances the doctoral training from being a support to an experimental collective evaluation training environment for DDDr. It critically transfers the traditional design studio learning model from the master to the doctoral level: learners at different stages of their process learn collectively with evaluators in an iterative way. The project objectives are achieved iteratively, by means of a conference series following the main project steps from observation and sharing, comparison and reflection to reformulation and recommendation. PhD candidates and their supervisors take actively part to the CA2RE+ series of conferences, that started in October 2019 and will continue up to 2022. After this period the partners intend to continue the activities through the half-yearly CA2RE Conferences on Artistic and Architectural Research.

CA2RE+ Project Partners:

Univerza v Ljubljani, Slovenia

Technische Universiteit Delft, Netherlands

Arkitektskolen Aarhus, Denmark

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium

Politecnico di Milano, Italy

COFAC, Cooperativa de Formação e Animação Cultural, CRL, Portugal

Technische Universität Berlin, Germany

Hafencity Universität Hamburg, Germany

Norges Teknisk-Naturvitenskapelige Universitet NTNU, Norway

EAAE - AEEA (European Association for Architectural Education vzw - Association Européenne pour l'Enseignement de l'Architecture), Belgium

ELIA – European League of Institutes of the Arts Vereniging, Netherlands

Call for PhD projects

This call for PhD projects is open for academics and/or professional candidates to submit a design driven PhD proposal aligned with the main objectives of the project CA2RE+.

PhD position

The PhD candidate will conduct academic research and related activities. The candidate will be integrated into the research program of the Department of Architecture, working closely with members of the departments as well as with international partners. The CA2RE+ project will provide a platform for the development of research skills and experience.

For a successful application the candidate must be able to:

- i. situate his/her proposal within the CA2RE+ project, elaborating on the ambition of the intended research driven by design and/or design practice.
- ii. clearly set up hypothesis, theoretical framework, methods and approach of the research that the dissertation will address.
- iii. demonstrate the proposed dissertation's value and contribution to the existing body of knowledge and discourse.

The PhD trajectory will commence with a one-year probationary period, at the end of which the candidate will submit to the peer-review process. The review panel of both external and internal jurors will evaluate the research work for its quality and scientific rigor. In case the research work will prove to be satisfactory, the hospitality will be extended for an additional period of three years expecting completion of this PhD thesis during four years in total. The promoter will be dr. Roberto Cavallo (associate professor) and a staff member from the Department of Architecture will be the co-promoter/daily supervisor. An additional promoter (full or associate professors) from the Department of Architecture can be added too.

Please note that TU Delft does not provide financial support and that the candidate has to demonstrate the availability of funding to financially support her/himself during the PhD research. However, funding to cover the travel and living expenses when attending to the CA2RE+ conferences within the CA2RE+ project, will be provided by the TU Delft, Department of Architecture. For one selected PhD candidate within the CA2RE+ project, the TU Delft Department of Architecture will cover the mandatory tuition fee.

Furthermore, TU Delft's Doctorate Regulations and the Graduate School rules, can be found on:

<https://www.tudelft.nl/bk/onderzoek/graduate-school-a-be/>

Additional Graduate School requirements are described online:

<https://www.tudelft.nl/en/education/programmes/phd/fees-and-funding/>

Submission Requirements

Motivation letter, one A4. The applicant should elaborate on personal motivations, interests, and aspirations in pursuing a PhD degree and describe his/her qualifications. The applicant should explicitly argue how the proposal is closely aligned with the CA2RE+ project. Specify the area(s) of focus and indicate how the applicant's research proposal pertains to those areas.

Full C.V.

The C.V. should contain comprehensive chronological information of your academic and professional experience, as well as a record of publication. The C.V. should also include the names and contact information of three referents or recommenders. Also mention in which capacity these are familiar with your qualifications and capabilities (e.g. teacher, employer, colleague, et cetera). Please do not enclose any letters of reference or recommendation in the proposal package. If needed, we will contact your referents/recommenders directly.

Research Outline

The outline should include the following:

1. **Provisional Title**: A general introduction to the project, framing it conceptually, thematically, indicating research methods and strategies and the timetable for a year research period.
2. **Abstract**: Short summary (300-500 words), including keywords.
3. **Question(s)/Hypothesis, Aims and Goals**: Clearly formulate the question(s) or hypothesis that drive the research and carefully articulate the aims and ambitions of the proposed study.

4. **Preliminary outline:** Describe the overall structure of the PhD research and explain in which ways it will address your question(s)/hypothesis.
 5. **Disciplinary Approach:** Introduce your research methodology and position it in its larger (or cross/ or inter/ or trans-disciplinary) framework.
 6. **Research significance:** Explain why this research is relevant and original. (Comment may be included as to who you believe is your 'audience'.) Position the proposed research within the framework as spelled out by the CA2RE+ project.
 7. **Preliminary Annotated Bibliography:** Distinguish primary and secondary literature and provide short summaries of each source regarding topic, disciplinary/methodological/theoretical framework used and the relevance to the research.
 8. **Addendum:** This can include anything the candidate finds relevant advancing a clear picture of him/herself as a potential PhD candidate – for example a published text.
- Document Length: This first draft research should be limited to +/- 2500 words (excluding bibliography & addendum).

Submission specifications

All the above-mentioned information must be consolidated in one single PDF file of no more than 30 pages and 20 MB. Please name the PDF file as: Lastname_title_date.pdf (e.g. Paul Smith_CA2RE+_date.pdf).

Submission: The deadline for submission is 1 September 2020, 12PM (CET).

Questions and proposal submission:

Dr. Roberto Cavallo (R.Cavallo@tudelft.nl)
Alper Semih Alkan (A.S.Alkan@tudelft.nl)

Selection Process

The TU Delft CA2RE+ project coordinator Roberto Cavallo and Alper Alkan, will first screen the proposals for qualification. After the initial screening, a short list of the selected candidates will be invited for a presentation. Based on the results, the TU Delft CA2RE+ project group and a representative of the departmental research commission will decide whether they will accept the selected PhD candidate(s) or not. In certain cases, the faculty may ask a candidate to answer additional questions and revise the proposal for a follow-up meeting before a decision is made.

Schedule

Invitation: 1 July 2020

Submission: 1 September 2020

Interview and Presentation: 24 September 2020

Notification of Acceptance: 15 October 2020

Start research work: as soon as possible upon acceptance, preferably in November 2020

One-Year Peer-Review: November 2021

Completion: end of 2024

WEB:

<https://ca2re.eu/ca2replus/>

For further information about the Graduate School A+BE:

<http://phd.bk.tudelft.nl/>