

Architectural Design Crossovers

MSc2 Design Studio – *Intersections*



Photo by Genoa Port Authority

Tutors

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Code	AR2DC010
Credits	15 EC
Location	Genoa
Excursion	Yes
Costs	± € 350,-

Architectural Design Crossovers MSc2 studio is an experimental lab. Questioning the temporal and physical limitations of the object-oriented approaches, the studio engages with the critical design practices. The studio work takes experimenting as a central axis in the architectural investigation via a trans-disciplinary approach. Therefore, we seek to engage in a process-based design inquiry that starts with, or leads to site-specific interventions across spatial and temporal scales in different geographical, territorial, and disciplinary contexts.

In Spring 2023, in collaboration with the University of Genoa School of Architecture, we will focus on the interstitial zones along the so-called “Green & Blue Lines” that delineate the urban-natural boundaries in Genoa. Although being the sixth largest city in Italy, the on-going depopulation since 1970’s and its paradoxical relationship with the port, in Genoa, these grey zones of instability have become a threshold/ frontier not only in the reproduction but

also shrinkage of the built environment. Being wedged on a very narrow slope between the mountains and the Ligurian Sea, the urban-rural transition in Genoa is compressed into a hybridised architecture of interstitial conditions amalgamated residential, infrastructural and natural programs.

In this framework, the studio will focus on these interstitial zones to investigate situated design approaches at the intersection of conflicting conditions of the natural territory and human geography. The students will inquire the (extra)-urban conditions of the city to explore architecture’s capacity to establish a new equilibrium in the age-long dichotomous growth into its hinterlands. The students will employ various modes of design inquiry as experimental and speculative instruments to formulate spatial constructs that probe the scopes of the architectural project and its disciplinary boundaries.