

ARCHITECTURE. HISTORY AND PROJECT

DM 629/PA - Public governance and architectural urban project in South East Europe

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| Funded By | MINISTERO DELL'UNIVERSITA' E DELLA RICERCA [P.iva/CF:97429780584] Politecnico di TORINO [P.iva/CF:00518460019] |
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| Context of the research activity | <p>The lines of work and research of the doctoral fellowship will concern the development of advanced skills in the field of urban policy management applied to architecture, with a view to a strategy of cooperation and knowledge transfer between the university and the public administration in the city of Skopje (Northern Macedonia). The doctoral research is part of a strand that investigates the relationship between urban design practices, decision-making systems and the articulation of bureaucratic-administrative procedures.</p> <p>Progetto finanziato dal PNRR a valere sul DM 629/2024 - "Pubblica Amministrazione" - CUP E14D24002260006</p> |
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| | <p>The doctoral position within the SCUDO programme 'Architecture, History and Design' programme (DASP) aims to consolidate the ongoing relations with the Faculty of Architecture in Skopje (UKIM) and the Municipality of Kisela Voda. The recent establishment of a trilateral agreement with the Universities of Belgrade and Skopje by DAD and DASP has sanctioned a further line of relations, including the affiliation of some DAD members to the doctoral Collegium of the Faculty of Architecture in Skopje, teaching and research activities over the past ten years, and exchanges of researchers and students. Last year, a table was opened between the director of DAD and the Mayor of Kisela Voda to advise on the municipality's strategic plan, in cooperation with UKIM. On the same topic, a Horizon call is being prepared by our Macedonian partners, in which DAD lecturers and researchers will also participate. The lines of work and research of the doctoral fellowship will concern the development of advanced skills in the field of urban policy management in relation to the new settlement and infrastructure system of the Municipality, with a view to a strategy of collaboration and knowledge transfer between universities and public administration. The doctoral research is part of a strand developed by DASP in recent years in an international network, which investigates the relationship between urban</p> |
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Objectives

design practices, decision-making systems and the articulation of bureaucratic-administrative procedures.

The nature of the activities to be carried out by the candidate will require active mobility between Turin and Skopje, allowing for the development of both field research and interaction with Macedonian interlocutors. Currently, the Faculty of Architecture in Skopje is developing studies for the development of the strategic plan of Kisela Voda and will involve the DAD team in the near future to articulate further stages of this consultancy. The doctoral research will take place in parallel with these developments and with relative autonomy. The aim is both to study the practices of interaction between the Macedonian public administration and ongoing urban transformation initiatives, and to develop innovative tools and methods for public urban design. In the experience of the proposing research group and within the framework of this PhD programme, several research projects have been developed in recent years that focus on urban transformation practices and attempt to map and interpret the many ways in which the design activity of architects is intertwined with (influenced by, but also actively intervening in) the public management of transformations of built space. These include the works of: Caterina Quaglio, *The public burden. / The "area-based" regeneration of public housing neighbourhoods: stories of places, practices, exchanges. Paris, Edinburgh, Turin (...1982-2008...)*; Valerio Della Scala, *Pristina, beyond urban aporia. The agency of design practice in a post-war state-building context*; Elena Todella, *Projecting decisions. The architectural design practice in the folds of decision-making processes.*

In the context of this collaboration with UKIM and the city of Skopje, the fieldwork may extend or vary beyond the specific case of Kisela Voda, also depending on further partnership opportunities that the two universities are opening - also in the context of the Trilateral Agreement with the University of Belgrade. The city of Skopje is also extremely interesting from a historical point of view, since the entire urban system was radically rebuilt after the 1963 earthquake that leveled the city. In the following years, thanks to an intervention by the United Nations, Skopje became an international urban laboratory, where the experimentation of an (unfinished) plan drawn up by Kenzo Tange was complemented by numerous building projects by architects from all over Europe and Yugoslavia. More recently, Skopje has undergone further major urban transformations, mostly in a monumentalist sense, which have partly undermined this modern legacy and sparked a series of controversies. Today, the city faces the challenge of its further transformation, having to reconcile contemporary demands for sustainability and equity with the recognition of this complex architectural heritage. The work of interpreting and reconstructing the urban history of the city intersects with planning actions and constitutes a challenge of great scientific interest for urban studies.

Skills and competencies for the development of the activity

The requirements for conducting doctoral research include:

- Advanced possession of tools and methods for urban design, understood both as the construction of development scenarios and as the ability to analyse processes (administrative bureaucratic functioning of procedures, urban planning rules, relations between private investors, developers and public administration, etc.).
- Good knowledge of the literature concerning the transformation of the contemporary city, from an architectural-urban point of view;
- Good knowledge of controversy analysis and social studies approaches (ethnography of controversies, Actor-Network Theory, Science and Technology Studies) applied to architecture and cities.
- Adequate background in urban studies and urban history.

