



RENILAB

INTERNATIONAL DESIGN WORKSHOP

FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE, SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME
ROME, VALLE GIULIA, JUNE 24TH-JULY 5TH, 2013

For the seventh consecutive year, the International design workshop at the Faculty of Architecture, Sapienza University of Rome will take place between Monday, June 24th, and Friday, July 5th. Students from international schools of architecture will collaborate in mixed groups under the supervision of instructors from Rome and the participating universities.

This year's workshop project will be centered on a nodal area in the northern part of Rome's center, the Flaminio neighborhood, and more specifically on the former military buildings in via Guido Reni. The proposed program will consist in transforming these structures in an open cultural plaza, serving not only the surrounding neighborhood, but the entire metropolitan territory.

DESIGN THEME

The Flaminio neighborhood is enclosed on two sides by the Tiber, on the eastern edge by the Villa Glory park, and on its southern side by the Parioli hill. It is a mostly flat terrain, originally planned during the early 19th century by Giuseppe Valadier, but in fact only developed since the 1930's as a mainly residential area. The presence of the 1960 Olympic Village, designed by Libera, Moretti and other masters of Italian modernism, other relevant buildings such as Nervi's Palazzetto dello Sport and the Stadio Flaminio, clearly defined the area as one of the most relevant in terms of modern architecture for the city. More recent additions, such as Piano's Auditorium, opened in 2003, and Hadid's Maxxi museum, recently inaugurated, have further emphasized the neighborhoods importance as a cultural hub for Rome.

Nevertheless many sites in this areas still await transformation, such as the military buildings on via Guido Reni, exactly facing the hulking Zaha Hadid building. These structures, originally built during the 1930's, and used as storage spaces for military purposes, have been abandoned since the late 1980's, and as of today no clear plan for their reuse is defined. Although they were meant to become the new seat for the Sapienza Faculty of Architecture, the lack of a conclusive agreement with the military administration, and the reduced funding caused by the economic crisis, have brought the project to a halt.

The barracks are three long, parallel pavilions, with an elegant roof structure, running along via Guido Reni and enclosed by a high protective wall. They provide abundant free space with clear light, as well as a large open-air area. Given the neighborhood's cultural character, the idea is that of transforming these buildings and their terrain into an "open" cultural plaza, "ReniLAB": if the Maxxi museum represents the typical "closed" cultural space, where only critically selected artwork is displayed in curated shows, an "open" plaza could provide greater, more interactive space for young resident artists, and prompt the greatest possible interaction with ordinary citizens, in a wider, democratic and collaborative understanding of art as a tool for social aggregation. To achieve this, the "enclosed" structure of the military buildings should be clearly subverted, signaling the transformation which has taken place. Students will be required to design flexible spaces for these activities to take place, providing imaginative solutions, which should be applicable even in a period of harsh economic recession.

WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION

Students will work in groups of three or four, as much as possible mixed between the various participating schools. The workshop will take place in a reserved space in the "Valle Giulia" building, which will be freely accessible. Students will be expected to work from 10:00 to 18:00, although during the final stages they might have to prolong working hours. Every student should have his own laptop computer and other drawing tools; facilitation will be provided for printing.

WORKSHOP PROGRAM

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY
Mo 24.6	10:00	Workshop opening, Aula Fiorentino, Valle Giulia Presentation of site and program, Design groups are formed
	14:00	Site visit (Main buildings may not be accessible, given that they are still today military area and that access is rarely granted)
Tu 25.6	10:00-18:00	Student groups begin working under the supervision of tutors
We 26.6	10:00-18:00	Design work
Th 27.6	10:00-18:00	Design work
Fr 28.6	10:00-14:00	Design work
	15:00-18:00	Intermediate review with external guests
Sa 29.6	10:00-18:00	Optional: tour of modern architecture in Rome
Su 30.6		Free day
Mo 1.7	10:00-18:00	Design work
Tu 2.7	10:00-18:00	Design work
We 3.7	10:00-18:00	Design work
Th 4.7	10:00-18:00	Design work
Fr 5.7	10:00-14:00	Design work
	15:00	Opening of exhibition: "Redesigning Seosomun Memorial Park, Seoul" Student work from the January 2013 design workshop in Seoul at Myongji University
	16:00-18:00	Final presentation