



## THE EUR TOWERS

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### INTERNATIONAL DESIGN WORKSHOP

FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE, SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME  
ROME, JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup>-JULY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2015

For the ninth consecutive year, the International design workshop at the Faculty of Architecture, Sapienza University of Rome will take place between Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, and Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Students will collaborate in mixed groups under the supervision of instructors from Rome and Myongji University.

This year's workshop project will focus on the famous – or infamous – “Finance Towers” in EUR. These structures, once a prominent feature of EUR's urban landscape, have suffered through a series of unfortunate events that eventually led to their current state of ruin. Although several attempts at launching a regeneration effort have been made, their future configuration is still largely uncertain.

### DESIGN THEME

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The towers formerly belonging to the Ministry of Finance, designed by architect Cesare Ligini and built during the 1960's, are a symbol of Italy's urban crisis. Elaborating on a miesian paradigm, the Roman architect proposed an original interpretation of the curtain-wall office tower, which was to complement the urban structure of the fascist buildings realized under Mussolini. Although their alterity in regards to EUR's classicizing character was heavily criticized, the towers eventually became

an important landmark, especially for those who would drive into the city from the south. When the towers were stripped of their cladding, revealing their reinforced concrete skeleton, the prevailing sensation was that a relevant part of the city was lost.

Over the past decade, several strategies implemented to regenerate the towers failed to reach their goal, showing the substantial incapacity of many contemporary urban transformation processes. Students will be therefore required not only to rethink the architectural configuration of the towers, but also to imagine a process which could, over time, bring the towers to acquire a new identity within the urban context of EUR.

## WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION

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Students will work in groups of three or four, mixed between the participating schools. The workshop will take place in a reserved space 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 an own laptop computer and other drawing tools; facilitation will be provided for printing.

## WORKSHOP PROGRAM

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DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY
Th 25.6	10:00	Workshop opening Presentation of site and program, Design groups are formed
	14:00	Site visit
Fr 26.6	10:00-18:00	Student groups begin working under the supervision of tutors
Tu 30.6	10:00-18:00	Design work
We 01.7	10:00-18:00	Design work
Th 02.7	10:00-18:00	Design work
Fr 03.7	10:00-14:00	Design work
	15:00-18:00	Final presentation of designs

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