Nell'idea di confine come luogo di incontro lo spazio può essere concepito in termini inclusivi e pluridentitari, trasformandosi in un interessante catalizzatore di nuove forme di immaginazione del territorio. Tali contesti comprendono l'idea di un'architettura debole e diffusa, in cui il concetto di debolezza indica un atto creativo fondato sulla modificazione e sulla conoscenza di processi naturali e reversibili.

"Confini" racconta le architetture, le città e i territori legati al confine inteso come separazione, dove si intrecciano aspetti complessi e contraddittori determinati da condizioni fisiche, paesaggistiche, normative, funzionali e socio-culturali.

La collana affronta l'aspetto teorico e applicativo di forme di progettazione sperimentali, che tengono conto dei processi di trasformazione continua del territorio, e immagina un'architettura-filtro flessibile, fatta di sistemi aperti che si adattano alle logiche della collaborazione e della condivisione di beni materiali e immateriali.

# Re-inhabiting Cold War Sites

edited by CARLOTTA COCCOLI, OLIVIA LONGO, DAVIDE SIGURTÀ







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## **Preface**

It's my pleasure to write a short preface to this book, and report some considerations arising from my position as the Head of the Department of Civil, Environmental, Architectural Engineering and Mathematics. The title of the international Winter School (Re-inhabiting Cold War Sites), held at Dosso dei Galli, Castiglione delle Stiviere, Cavriana, in February 2021, is very challenging.

As a general remark I would like to point out that the possibility to attend international winter (or summer) schools is always a great opportunity for both the students and the teachers. Sharing knowledge and experiences, meeting people with different cultures and background helps the personal and professional growth. In particular, I found the idea behind this Winter School very interesting for a number of reasons.

First, I want to emphasise the high interdisciplinary level of the school. This is in line with the goals of our Department, which includes several teaching activities and research groups, covering quite different topics: from the Architecture to the Structural engineering, from the Hydraulics and Hydrology to the Technol-

ogies for the Environmental Protection and Urban planning.

Second, this event combined schools and cultures which are geographically so far one each other. This also fits the mission of our Department, to be more and more open to international cooperation on both sides of research activity and projects and teaching activity. We try to be more attractive for international students and for this we have issued a master course in English language (Civil and Environmental Engineering). Moreover we encourage visiting professors from other Countries to spend research-teaching periods at our university, thus promoting the cooperation with our researchers.

As a third interesting point, I want to underline the idea to promote a competition among the students attending the school. Our word is highly competitive and the issues we are facing are highly challenging as well. Our world, our society is experiencing a transition. We have understood that our social-economic system has to be improved and modified to answer the growing needs of people and the planet.

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In conclusion I want to congratulate with and thank professors Olivia Longo and Carlotta Coccoli, who worked for the organization of this successful Winter School which contributed to the growth of our Department and our students.

Giorgio Bertanza Brescia, February 2022

## Introduction

by Carlotta Coccoli, Olivia Longo

This International Winter School (IWS) was an advanced and refresher course and, consequently, it aimed at providing the opportunity to gain professional experience, including scientific knowledge and empirical research on the themes of the course that was the Re-inhabiting Cold War sites.

In particular the aims were:

- to provide methodological and empirical tools related to architectural and urban design, to conserve and reuse recently abandoned buildings of cultural value, witnesses and bearers of an unstable and unconsolidated historical memory;
- to manage the planning strategies regarding the building heritage both at the architectural and urban scales, enriching the figure of the technical designer with historical and socio-economic humanistic skills, with reference to the relationship between intervention on the building and effects on the local economy;
- to encourage the exchange be-

- tween participants both in cultural terms and in terms of personal experience and knowledge;
- to activate an interdisciplinary contamination both from a theoretical and methodological point of view also among teachers coming from different backgrounds and research institutions

The enhancement of these NATO Bases was a virtuous opportunity to understand the complexity that characterizes the contemporary urban landscape, both from a territorial and architectural point of view.

The proposed questions were: what are the possible readings of the contexts? What are the possible re-qualification proposals? What are the methods of intervention both on pre-existing buildings and through new architectural hypotheses?

During the Winter School, lectures were presented by Italian and foreign professors coming from Curtin University Australia, IE School of Architecture and Design, Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena, Politecnico di Milano, Universidad Politécnico de Cartagena, Politecnico de C

sità IUAV di Venezia, Universidad UVA of Valladolid, The University of Jordan.

This IWS refers to the research carried out at DICATAM over a period of about seven years on the theme of giving new life to ex-military areas. The initiative was the natural continuation of seminars and workshops realised in collaboration with professors and researchers from other Italian and foreign universities (Curtin University Australia, Politecnico di Milano, Università della Svizzera Italiana, Università IUAV di Venezia, Syracuse University in Florence, Università degli Studi di Trento, Escuela de Arquitectura de Málaga, Università degli Studi di Cagliari, University of Greenwich, Università deali Studi di Palermo).

The common denominator between academic figures and different experiences originates in the idea of a "weak and widespread" architecture (Branzi), where the "weak" concept indicates a creative act based on the knowledge and modification of natural and reversible processes, so that new design forms can be tested in order to take into account the continuous transformations of the territory, imagining an architecture that is not absolute but made up of open systems that are able to adapt to the evolving needs of the local community. These landscape and architectural interventions work like flexible filters, that work on the empty / full relationship.

In particular this course aimed at creating inclusive synergies between the existing spaces of the military bases and the highly anthropized naturalistic external areas. Different disciplines were therefore involved, from territorial analy-

sis to architectural design, conservation and reuse of architectural and landscape spaces. The question of accessibility to cultural heritage was at the forefront, as is the issue of managing future user flows. The IWS wanted to offer a didactic and research opportunity where experts from different disciplines could discuss these issues through seminars, lectures and laboratory activities.

#### 1. General design theme

Starting from the verification of existing military cartography and on the materials delivered to the students, the general topics addressed were:

- the question of architectural and urban design;
- the re-use of the military space;
- the issue of the accesses to the bases;
- the design of micro-architectures to support the planning programmes;
- the design of visit itineraries with multi-sensory educational supports.

All information on project areas and functional programmes were illustrated in an instruction book for students.

The course developed in 56 hours in total. The didactic activities were in form of online lectures, seminars and workshop.

At the end of the IWS, February 12<sup>th</sup> the work done by students was presented online through the description of the design process that led to the development of the architectural and urban

design, both relative to the reuse of existing spaces and to the drafting of new architectures to be combined with the pre-existing bases, in order to accommodate the accessibility functions.

The projects were described through posters with a predetermined format provided by the IWS organizers.

International Winter School online Re-inhabiting Cold War Sites 4th-12th February 2021

Curtin University Australia (CUA), Ger-

man Jordanian University (GJU), IE Univer-

sity Segovia and Madrid (IE U), Politecnico

Universities

di Milano (PoliMi), The University of Jordan (UJ), Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena (UPCT), Universidad UVA de Valladolid (UVA), Università della Svizzera italiana (USI), Università IUAV di Venezia (IUAV), Università Politecnica delle Marche (Uni-PoliMarche), University of Bologna (UniBo), University of Brescia

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Workshop coordinator D. Sigurtà (UniBS).

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