A walk through the research paths of the Department of Architecture of Florence
In February 2018, the Department of Architecture of the University of Florence (DIDA) promoted an open and public analysis and evaluation of the research carried out by the Department during its first five years of existence in order to define its strategy, the relationship with third and second cycle education, the role of experimental research and the DIDA-LABS laboratory system, as well as of research units and inter-university research centers.

The objective of the DIDA Research Week, through the documentation, communication and evaluation of the activities carried out by the Department in national and international research projects or in individual or exploratory projects, is an analysis and an in-depth reflection on the research activities at all levels carried out during the first five years of the Department: a wide and transparent reflection which communicates what the research carried out by DIDA is in all its different forms, calling the most qualified colleagues in Florence, Italy and abroad to discuss and to evaluate it and to contribute to the identification of future goals, strategies and actions.

The transparency strategy in scientific communication developed by the Department plays a central role not only concerning the dissemination of knowledge but above all for the effective evaluation by the entire scientific community, certainly more effective than the current assessment procedures. The increasingly international dimension of research and education requires the maximum possible transparency and accessibility of research results.

The Department’s commitment to supporting scientific journals, the DIDAPress publishing, the Communication Laboratory and the first DIDA Research Week itself aims to meet this need.
DIDA RESEARCH WEEK 5 YEARS OF RESEARCH BY THE DEPARTMENT DIDA 2013-2017: AN ASSESSMENT FOR THE FUTURE PROGRAM.

19-23 February 2017
Santa Teresa, via della Mattonaia 8, 50121 Florence

Monday 19 February
Disciplinary research
Interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research

Tuesday, February 20
Competitive research, horizon 2020, industrial research, design research, research for the third mission
Research communication, magazines and scientific publishing

Wednesday 21 February
The Ph.D. Course in Architecture

Thursday 22 February
Research, training and profession. DIDALABS, Research Units and Research Centers
Applied research experiences
Round table: Research, training, profession: DIDA Open perspectives

Friday 23 February
Research, training and profession in the design area:
scenarios and strategies for the design and project area
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Inter-university centres ABITA, CIST, TESIS 57

ABITA
TESIS

Laboratories 97
A&P - Architecture & Project cluster 99
Architecture and Auto-construction | LAA
Prato Laboratory | Laboratorioprato
Technologies for the Mediterranean Area Laboratory | TAM Lab
Theatre | Architecture Laboratory | TEARC Lab
Urban Design Laboratory | UD

AHCV - Architectural Heritage Conservation and Valorisation cluster 113
Architectural Heritage Restoration and Conservation | LARC
Architectural Survey Laboratory | LRA architectural surveylab
Cultural Heritage Management Laboratory | CHM Lab
Heritage City Laboratory | Heritage City Lab
Materials and Structures Testing Laboratory | LPMS
### DSI - Design and Sustainable Innovation cluster

- Communication Laboratory | didacommunicationlab
- Design for Kids
- Italian Design for the train | DIT lab
- Ergonomics & Design Laboratory | LED
- Modelling Laboratory for Design | LMD lab
- Multimedia Architecture Interaction Laboratory | mailab
- Reverse Engineering Interaction design | Rei Lab
- Sustainable Design Laboratory | sustainabilitylab

### ICT - Information Communication Technologies cluster

- Informatic Laboratory of Architecture | informaticlab – LiA
- Cartography Laboratory | LCart
- Photography Laboratory | LfA
- Architectural Model Laboratory | LMA
- Architecture Video Laboratory | VI.D.A. lab

### TEL - Territories, Ecosystems and Landscapes cluster

- Laboratory of Sociological Research on Design, Architecture and Planning | LabSo
- Landscape Design Lab
- Laboratory of Ecological Design of Settlements | LaPEI
- Plans and Projects for the City and the Territory | PPCT
- Regional Design Lab

### PhD Programs

- Architectural and Environmental Survey and Representation
- Design
- History of Architecture and the City
- Landscape Architecture
- Technology of Architecture
- Urban and Regional Planning and Design

### Research Units

- Cities and Regions Across Local Boundaries | A.VAST Area Vasta
- COMMunities RESilience | CORE
- Documentation and Management of Small Historical Settlements | DM_SHS
- Exploring Landscape Architecture | ELA.eu.med.
- Florence Accessibility Lab | FAL
- Heritage and Euro-Mediterranean Design | Dar_Med
- International Group on Urban and Architecture Design | INTEGRO_UAD
- Landscape, Cultural Heritage. Project | PPCP
- Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Innovation | INN-LINK-S
- Projects on Environment, Cities and Territories in the South | PROJECTS
- Urban Bioregion Project | PROBIUR
- Sustainable Urban Projects & Research | SUP&R
- Technology for the Project | TxP_R
### Scientific Journals
- Firenze Architettura
- Contesti
- Territori
- Scienze del Territorio
- Opus Incertum
- Ri-Vista

### DIDA Research Programs
#### A&P - Architecture & Project
- Architecture & Project

#### AHCV - Architectural Heritage Conservation and Valorisation
- Architectural and Environmental Survey and Representation
- Conservation of Architecture and Cultural Heritage
- History of Architecture and the City
- Materials and Structures

#### DSI - Design and Sustainable Innovation
- Design
- Technologies of Architecture

#### TEL - Territories, Ecosystems and Landscapes
- Landscape Architecture
- Urban and Regional Planning and Design
Genealogies_01
Landscapes, settlements, architectures, things, times

Relationships of descent
One of the major ways humans have of organizing their world is through genealogy or relations of descent. In theogonies, or tales of the origin of gods, or in legendary lists of human offspring relations of descent and the association of characteristics, territories, and spheres of influence with descendants provide a means of mapping the cosmos and the human world. In traditions concerning animals and plants, relations of descent are most prominent in myths of human origin and in totemic materials.

Ten points (as an introduction)

01 architecture is presence, station of a built form.  
02 form, morphe kai tò eìdos, is the rational expression of a thought.  
03 form is rhythm, structure, of materials.  
04 one builds because one inhabits.  
05 architecture is the juncture of grace and necessity.  
06 architecture is a collective thing, in any case a res publica.  
07 architecture is a moral system, that is to say une promesse de bonheur.  
08 architecture actuates the place by rewriting its face and its destiny.  
09 architecture actuates memory by reorganizing its voice and its meaning.  
10 architecture actuates the three modes of time but its end - its aim and its termination - is ruin.

On San Vito stroll
The bridge over the Pianone river separates the medieval village of Cutigliano from the cemetery and from the last houses to the south. From here, after the ancient church of San Bartolomeo, a promenade begins which ends on a small-sized open space called the San Vito hillock. The road, in just under two kilometres, disposes of its urban garb and gradually approximates the rusticity of the mountain path: only a thin shadow between beech and white fir trees. An end closed by an abrupt ascent sanctions the end of the path; here there is a clearing crowned by dense vegetation and marked by the light of the sky, the remains of an oratory and a slender iron cross. The project detects and consolidates the inclinations, the latent inclinations in the place, trying to fix more precisely its most original features. An incision reveals a passage between two dark walls: the extreme offshoot of the journey completed and suspended line of the slope: the construction of a point from which the look of the traveller will slip between the Ximeniana, the torrent of the Lima, the azure profiles of the Apennines.
Sutures
Old stone to new building, old timber to new fires
T.S. Eliot, East Coker (Four Quatrants n. 2), 1940

Without resigning the discussion to a narrow path and the rigidity of terminological orthodoxy or to a universe of obligatory cross references (the organ, the plant, the city as a tree, etc.) Suture/s is understood explicitly here as the will to sew, to repair, to recuperate; it makes manifest a common condition shared by a large portion of European and urban environments (and not only them), that the act of transformation involves places already densely constructed, where it is easy to see a chain of [human] manipulation in excavated layers. The palimpsest of existing obstacles to a romantic ideology of creation, ex-nihilo, invites less ingenuous action and more wariness and consciousness. This immanent, unrepentant presence of the past, determines a strategy that is primarily observed and a study of facts, of the physical and social conditions that give structure to sites. Among the first: orientation, natural light, materials, weavings, temperature, colours, vegetation, the right to a view. Among the second: collective expectations and needs, the social environment, culture, architectonic typologies, technological knowledge and histories. The suture indicates a cure and a recovery (the recover from a sick state) but it is not consolation. In contemporary times, we have lost our way home and the perfection of our origins. This loss is connected to the restoration of Kultur which is definitively broken; not least of all, one can’t possibly find a street that is capable of taking us into a radiant future and palingenetic progress. A successful project constructs a concrete condition from which it has grown, not hiding or worse, erasing the inherent contradictions: similar to the destiny of bios, art sutures produce noble scars.
Finis studiorum

This graduation thesis confirms a very complex and diversified course of study; while on the other hand, it is always, if done with correctness and radicalism, a conflictual exercise, an exercise of Krisis. As such we note a tension and friction between the characters which is the student’s contribution, between the collection of knowledge that the transmission has the task of protecting and preserving in continuity - the inevitable premise of any cognitive process - and the entry of an unexpected/destabilizing sense/sensibility. It is a contrast, a friction, analogous to that created by the same project between the objective conditions found and its horizon of modification, but which unlike the latter is often reduced, masked by overestimated and immediate constraints of identity or academic affiliation. The drafts of this thesis show magisterium and at the same time they measure the possible metamorphoses: suspended between adhesion and flight, obedience and freedom, proximity and distance, they are the most mature and responsible expression of the spirit and of the practice of a design school and the first independent exercise of the future Baumeister.

Onde as águias pousam

“Em Montemor-o-Novo, o viajante começa por visitar o castelo, que da longe, visto de nascente, parece uma sólida e intacta construção. Mas, por trás das muralhas e das torres desde lado, não há mais do que ruínas.”
José Saramago, Viagem a Portugal, 1981

Among the soft undulations of the ground that marks the landscape of Alentejo, on a rise that fractures the monotonous horizon there are the first traces of the city of Montemor-o-novo. The castle, which has been progressively abandoned over the years, contains within its walls the eldest testimonies of the city. In this place full of memories are located the two buildings of the new Cultural Centre arranged along the path that runs from Porta Vila Santarem towards Porta del Anjo. The first part of the building is confused with the ones of nearby convent of Nossa Senhora da Saudação and guides the visitor towards the view of the south; the second presides over the portal of Igreja de Santa Maria and offers itself as an instrument for recomposing the soil and the existing scattered ruins.
DIDA, the Department of Architecture of the University of Florence, performed an open and public analysis and evaluation of the scientific research carried out during the first five years of activity since its establishment, in order to define its research strategies, their relationship with the 2nd and 3rd cycle education, the role of experimental research and the system of labs at DIDA (DIDALABS), as well as the role of research units and interuniversity research centers.

The aim of the DIDA Research Week Book 2018 is to communicate the results of such research, in all the aspects which were carried out at DIDA during its first five years of activity.