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.
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**DIDA Research Week. Overview of DIDA research environment from 2013 up to 2018**

Saverio Mecca

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**Laboratories**

A&G - Architecture & Project cluster

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

Architectural Heritage Restoration and Conservation | LARC

Architectural Survey Laboratory | LRA architecturalsurveylab

Cultural Heritage Management Laboratory | CHM_Lab

Heritage City Laboratory | Heritage City_Lab

Materials and Structures Testing Laboratory | LPMS

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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
Critical Planning & Design
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
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The Urban Design Laboratory activity is focused on research, education and knowledge transfer on topics applicable to UD that, ranging from architecture to urban design, which are investigated and developed at different levels, dimensions and declinations. It was created in response to the need to face contemporary city problems in an organic-systemic-unitary manner, which takes into account transformations tied to technological innovation processes, environment issues, and social and cultural evolutions that are reshaping future cities and territories. The purpose of the Lab is to elaborate tools and methodologies to formulate design behavioural models able to trigger urban renovation processes and to give a new identity to the cities. Since Urban Design is characterized by a multi-level and interdisciplinary approach, the Urban Design Laboratory has been composed, since its inception in 2016, by professors and academics from DIDA – University of Florence Architectural Department, belonging to different disciplines, such as Architectural Design, Urban Design, Landscape Design, History and Technology. In order to promote and develop its activities, beyond its collaboration with DIDALabs, UD has concluded a partnership with CISDU – International Centre for Studies in Urban Design, sharing activities, actions and the same working space inside the DIDA premises. CISDU is a non-profit association, recognized with Statut Consultatif in 2001 by the European Council and established in Florence in 1986 upon initiative of academics from the Faculties of Architecture of the Universities of Florence, Darmstadt, Stuttgart and Nottingham. With the purpose of deepening, disseminating and promoting Urban Design Culture, Urban Design Laboratory offers a wide range of services to support education, teaching, research, internships, sharing and promotion.
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.