

Studio Sergison
Diploma 2018

Bergamo



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Aerial view of Bergamo



Introduction

Our work in Bergamo will be an urban undertaking first and foremost, as all previous Diploma study projects the studio has worked on over the last ten years. In this instance, we will focus on a remarkable area of the northern Italian city of Bergamo that was developed in the nineteenth and early twentieth century.

Students are expected to develop strategies for strengthening and extending the existing urban fabric. These studies will then be taken as the basis for the insertion of a new public building. The exact programme for this building will be assigned to each student and the list of possible options can be found within this document.

While in the past we have tended to explore normative programmes, in this instance we will focus on a more public and more architecturally expressive building study. As in the past, the studio encourages critical support in an atmosphere of shared endeavour and a high level of ambition.

Piazza Padre Reginaldo Giuliani,
Bergamo

We have elected to work in an area that lies beyond the historical centre of the city. As is the case with many Italian cities, the *centro storico* is quite well-preserved and retains important cultural associations – the only need here is to repair the urban fabric. Instead, we will work in the area that absorbed the expansion of the city in the nineteenth and twentieth century, which hosts numerous institutional buildings and has a generous distribution of public realm in partly-colonnaded spaces, with all the connotations these have.

The cultural wealth of a city is in some measure correlated with the quality and character of its shared spaces and the manner in which buildings contribute to the framing of these spaces. Some interesting examples, a number of them from Italian cities, are listed in the pages that follow.

As a first task, you will be asked to make a careful survey of the existing urban condition, based on which you will then develop a strategy plan. The scale and ambition of each proposal needs to be argued individually.

An example that comes to mind is the area in the centre of Lisbon, where a clear urban structure was imposed on an area of the city that had been destroyed in an earthquake and fire. The success of the intervention is the manner in which new rectangular blocks were integrated into an ancient urban tissue. Another historical example is the forming of the *Strada Nuova* in Genova, where a new street framed by palazzos brought urban decorum to a dense and chaotic older neighbourhood.

You will need to consider and put forward an argument supporting the degree of urban adjustment and transformation you propose. Your main task will be to develop a detailed single building proposal that can be understood as fulfilling a public use within your strategy plan. Suggestions of the types of building programme we are looking for are illustrated in the pages that follow.

In the past the studio has given priority to urban tasks and housing programmes have formed a large part of our work, given that housing represents some 70% of the built area of any city. This semester we would like to turn our attention to the other 30%, which arguably allows greater scope for architectural experimentation. Projects are expected to be conceptually ambitious, and should be based on an understanding of the social context, the formal and spatial character of the site, urban appropriateness and construction logic. It is necessary to draw upon known models as helpful references, but we are seeking bold and compelling answers that are fitting and appropriate to the task at hand.

Plan of the area under investigation





1



4



5



2



3

- 1
Mura Venete
- 2
Porta S. Giacomo
- 3
Piazza Duomo
- 4
Via S. Giacomo
- 5
Piazza Mercato delle Scarpe
- 6
Piazza Padre Reginaldo Giuliani



6



1



2



3



4

- 1
Via del Galgario
- 2
Piazza Dante Alighieri
- 3
Largo Bortolo Belotti
- 4
Via G. Camozzi
- 5
Via Francesco Petrarca
- 6
Via Monte Grappa



5

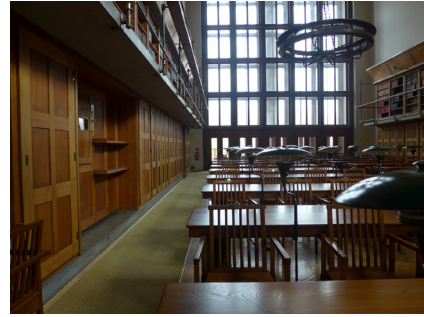


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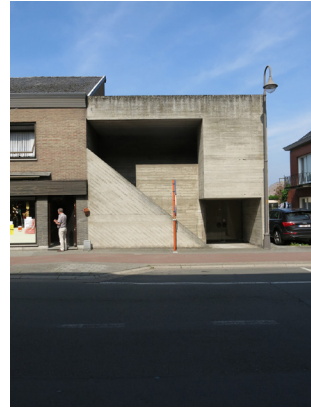
Building precedents



1



2



3



8



9



10



4



5



6



11



12

1, 2
National and University
Library Slovenia, Ljubljana
Joze Plecnik

3
Library, Eke
Julian Lampens

4
Basilica Palladiana, Vicenza
Andrea Palladio

5
Town hall, Deinze
Tony Fretton

6
Town hall, Zurich

7
Riksbanken, Stockholm
Peter Celsing

8
Bauhaus Hotel, Monte Verità
Emil Fahrenkamp

9
Kurhaus Bergün, Bergün
Jost-Franz Huwyler-Boller

10
Hotel Bellevue des Alpes,
Kleine Scheidegg

11
Malmo Opera, Malmo
Sigurd Lewerentz

12
Half Moon Theatre, London
Florian Beigel

13
Nation Social Insurance Building,
Stockholm
Sigurd Lewerentz

14
The Mutual Insurance Building,
Ljubljana
Joze Plecnik

14
ETH Hauptgebäude, Zurich
Gottfried Semper



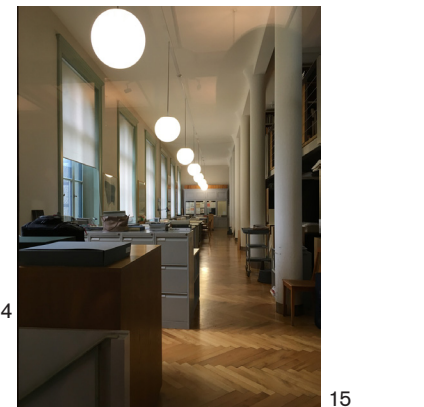
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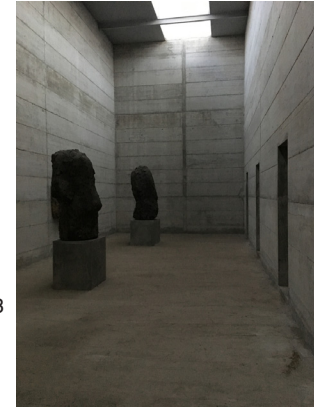
13



14



15



1
School "Im Birch", Zurich
Peter Märkli

2
School, Paspels
Valerio Olgiati

3
Elementary school, Stabio
Tita Carloni

4
Chapel of Resurrection,
Stockholm
Sigurd Lewerentz

5
Hagia Sophia, Istanbul

6
Woodland Chapel, Stockholm
Gunnar Asplund

7
Islev Church, Copenhagen
Inger and Johannes Exner

8
Konsthall Malmo, Malmo
Klas Anshelm

9, 10
La Congiunta, Giornico
Peter Märkli

11, 12
Design museum, Gent

13
BEST Products Catalog
Showroom, Langhorne
Venturi and Rauch

14
Migros shopping centre, Luzern
Diener & Diener Architekten





Strategy plan

The first component of the work to be undertaken this semester requires you to develop a strategy plan. This can be understood as a typological and massing study. The principal tool to assist you in this exercise will be a 1:500 model. This will be made collectively and should encompass a wider area than the site in which your work is situated.

To begin we ask you to explore how the area of study can be adjusted and re-organised as an urban setting. You should explore a number of options and develop a clear argument in support of the solution you decide to propose. This exercise should be understood as an iterative process that will begin to develop the idea for the project you will be working on throughout the semester.

Our study trip should be used as an opportunity to understand the scale and existing urban structure of the city.



1
Sketch
Jonathan Sergison

2
Strategy plan,
Glarus
B. Simon and J.C. Wolff

In this studio we hold the position that invention is a necessary ambition in architecture, but it rarely emerges by spontaneous intuition. Generally, architects develop truly unique proposals only after many years of study and reflection, and it is questionable whether true originality can actually be achieved, given the wealth of precedents in the history of world architecture.

To help you understand the task that you will be attending to this semester we would like you to undertake a survey. This will be at the scale of the city, focusing on the immediate neighbourhood your project would be adjusting and adding to. This will ensure a clearer understanding of what it is you are being asked to work with, giving you a better chance of making a building that is suited to its purpose.

You should begin to consider where the building programme you have been assigned can be introduced into the urban fabric.

You could look at how the plan of a building is organised, or you could consider a study that looks at elevations rather than at building volumes. You should be able to describe it clearly and analytically, employing diagrams where necessary. Alternatively you might concentrate on understanding the quality and arrangement of a facade drawing upon a measured survey of an existing series of elevations.

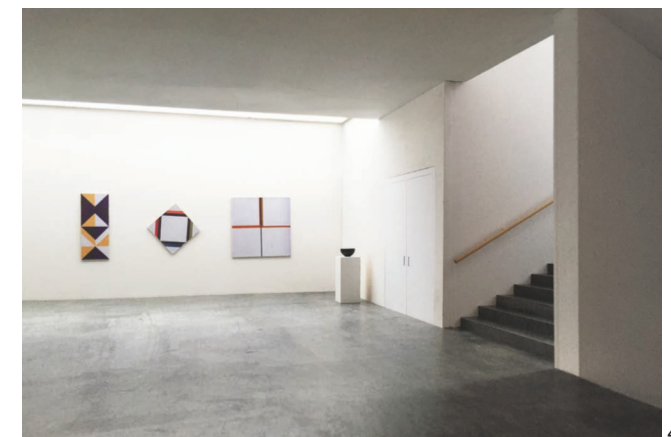
This will require you to look carefully at buildings, making sketches and taking photographs as a way of recording their current condition. We also ask you to make a precise photographic portrait that conveys the atmosphere of the building or buildings and the manner in which they are situated in the city. You might also make a photographic portrait of an internal space and record the relationship of the building's interior with the city outside.

You are free to choose the subject of your own survey, but do consider carefully the role it may play in assisting you later.



This exercise requires you to produce two images. No specific graphic technique is prescribed, although you should be able to explain why you consider the technique you choose appropriate.

These images should represent the atmosphere and the presence of your building. One of the images should depict the exterior of the building and its relationship with the existing urban tissue and the site of the project within the city and its immediate context. The other image should represent the interior and its qualities as a partly public, partly private space.

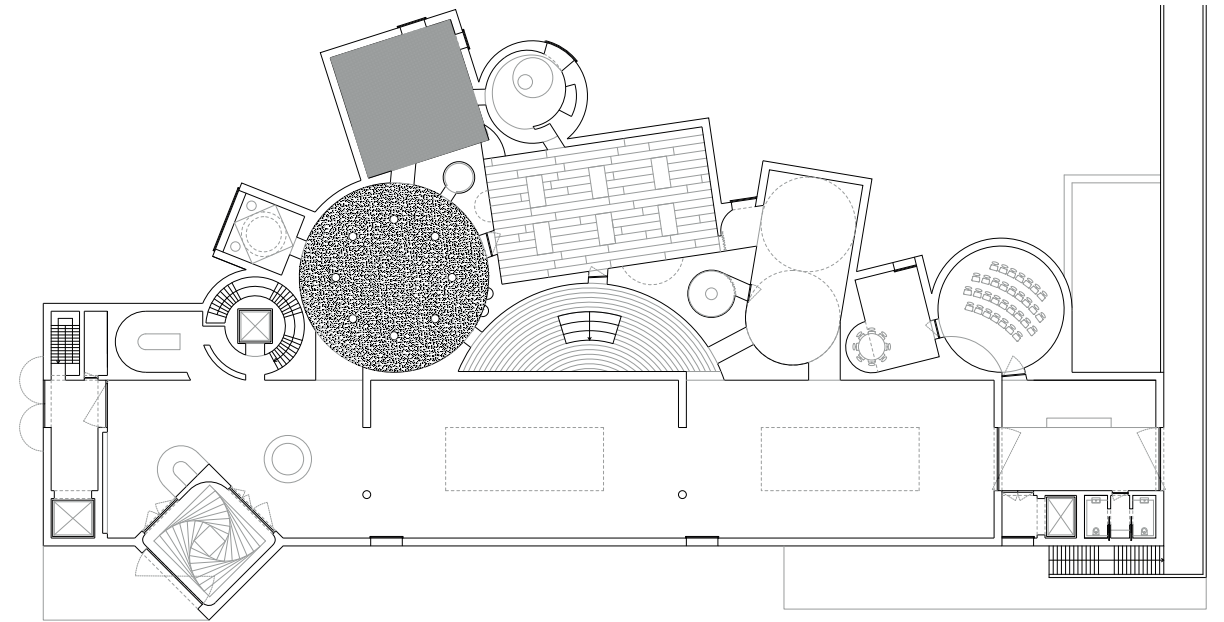


- 1
Interior perspective
Matilde Mellini
- 2
Interior perspective
Tuuli Kanerva
- 3
External perspective
Emilio Trevisol
- 4
Interior perspective
Orlando Hartmann

The result of the previous studies should now be reappraised and drawn upon to produce the next instalment of this semester's work. We would now like you to develop a more precise concept for a building or buildings and their relationships to the wider context.

The principal tool we ask you to employ is a 1:100 study or sketch model, which should include an appropriate amount of context. This is really the beginning of the key piece of work you will be producing this semester. We are interested in the qualities of the buildings you design and the way they are expressed through the organisation of the facades.

Your work should concentrate on the critical appraisal and further refinement of your earlier studies. While a model will be the principal piece of work, we expect your project to be developed with study plans, elevations, sections and sketches. At this stage in the semester your work will be subject to an intermediate review.

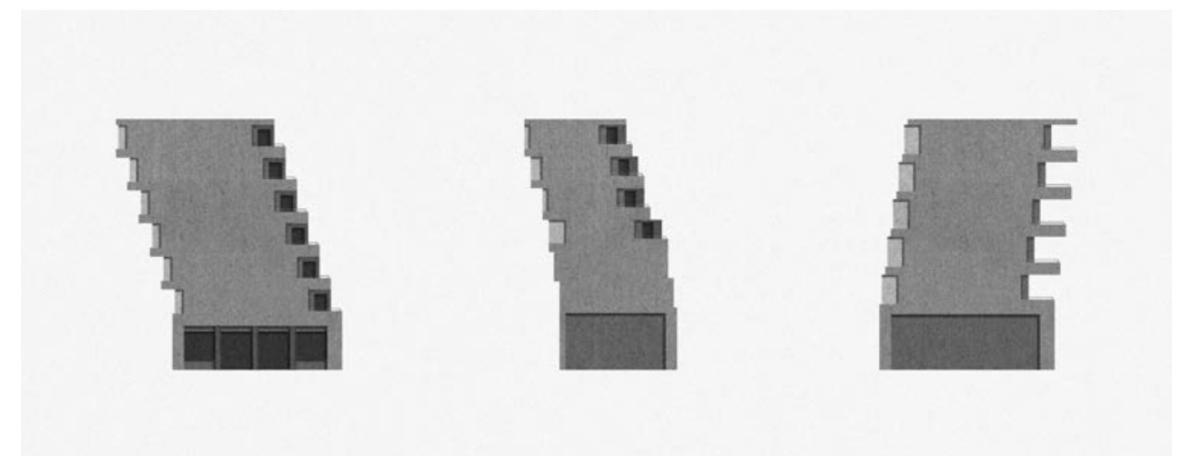
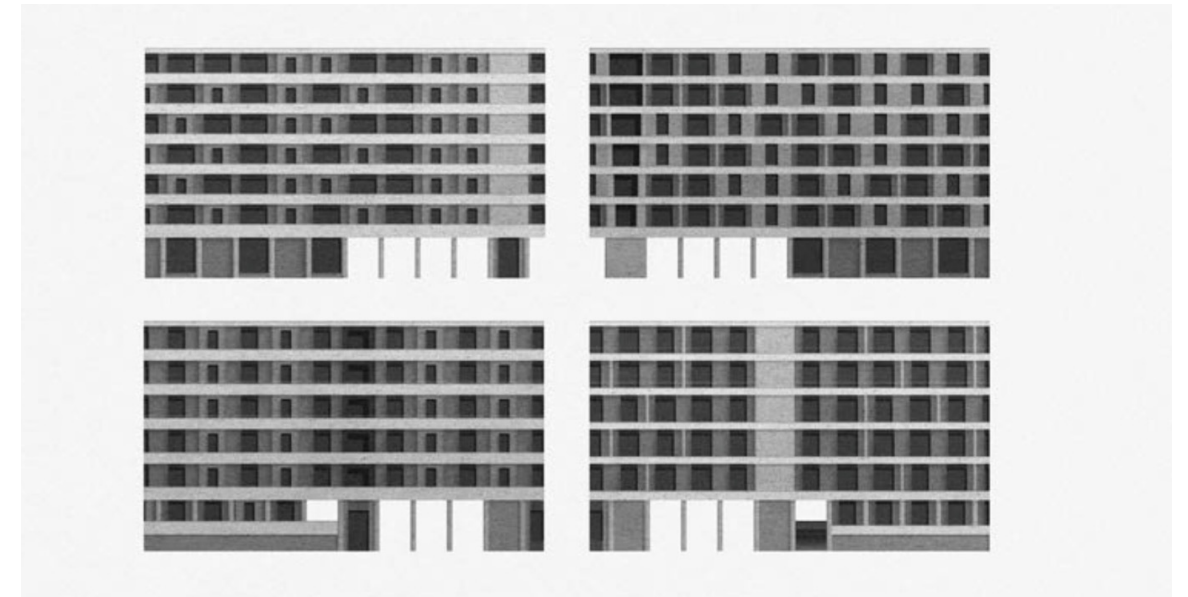


Museum plan
Dominic Murray-Vaughan

At this stage of the semester you should already have developed a rudimentary understanding of your project in plan and section, and we now ask you to develop and test your ideas for building facades within the framework of the strategy you have developed.

The facades of your buildings should be drawn at 1:100 (as unwrapped elevations) and translated into three-dimensional models.

This piece of work should be undertaken with a clear concept of the image of your buildings in mind. What materials is the building made from? What is your approach to the arrangement of window openings? How does the building meet the ground and how is the top of the building resolved? These are only a few of the questions you should be asking yourself about the facade of your building.



Elevations
Dominic Murray-Vaughan

With the emergence of a convincing set of ideas for your buildings you will need to produce a careful set of drawings of some of the facades you have developed. Additionally a number of sections should be produced, all at scale 1:100:

You should also give due consideration to the plans for the project. These should be developed at 1:200, 1:100 and at a larger scale where appropriate.

A landscape plan should be produced at a scale of 1:200 indicating an approach to the landscape surfaces, hard and soft elements and a general concept for the public realm.

The main piece of work should be the remaking of a final model at a suitably ambitious scale. You should choose the material for this model carefully – it should feel special!

A further two 'atmospheric' perspectives should be produced of the final version of your project.

Finally, you should produce a pdf or Powerpoint presentation describing your project. This should be understood as an important tool for presenting your project at the final review and should explain the development of your work and the strategy you propose.



Final models
Studio Sergison

Date	Event	Details	Assignments
10 February	Studio trip	Taro Sakurai (TS), Michael Stettler (MS) Studio trip to Bergamo	
22-23 February	First meeting	Presentation 1:500 model Precedent study	1:500 site model Precedent study
1-2 March	Review	Review of first urban studies	1:500 model studies Sketches
8-9 March	Tutorials	Urban studies	1:500 model studies 1:500 plans
15-16 March	Review	Review of urban studies	1:500 model studies 1:500 plans
22-23 March	Tutorials	Perspectives	1:500 model studies and plans Perspectives
29 March	Review	Preview of all work	1:500 site model 1:200 plans Study models Interior/exterior perspectives Pdf presentation
5-6 April	Easter holidays		
13 April	Intermediate reviews	Project reviews with Diploma commission and guest critics	1:500 site model 1:200 plans Study models Interior/exterior perspectives Pdf presentation
19-20 April	Tutorials	Plan studies Elevation studies	1:100 plans Study models
26-27 April	Review	Plan studies Elevation studies	1:100 plans Study models

Date	Event	Details	Assignments
3-4 May	Tutorials	Plan studies Elevation studies	1:100 plans Study models
11 May	Review	Review elevations	1:100 plans Study models
17-18 May	Tutorials	Elevations	1:100 plans Study models
24-25 May	Review	Review of projects	Start final models
31-1 June	Tutorials	Discussion of final model	Project revisions
7-8 June	Review	Review final model and pdf presentation	Final model Pdf presentation
11-16 June	Final reviews	Project reviews with Diploma commission and guest critics	1:500 site model Final model (scale to be agreed) 1:100 ground floor plan 1:100 typical plan 1:100 elevations and sections Interior/exterior perspectives Pdf presentation

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