

Studio Sergison
Diploma 2023

Milan, learning from the recent past



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Aerial view of Milan



Introduction

The work of this diploma studio has always focused on urban investigations, and this occasion is no exception. We will be working in two areas of Milan that are adjacent to railway infrastructure, and offer realistic sites for building to meet the pressure to grow and densify.

We believe that cities should find opportunities to densify within their existing territorial limits before considering expanding into their surroundings. In the context of the European city, we also believe that reasonable building types and density levels that are appropriate to the place in question should be encouraged.

It is exciting to work in Milan, a city that has a special status in Europe and a scale that makes it easy to read and understand. The notes that follow offer a comprehensive guide to the structure and ambition of the work of the studio.

Our work will consider the themes of legacy and transformation. We are interested in drawing upon the rich architectural culture of Milan - the legacy of its past, and the transformation of the two sites we have chosen.

After Rome, Milan is the second largest city in Italy, with a population of 1.4 million, and it is a real economic powerhouse, generating 10% of Italy's GDP, and nearly 20% of it together with the region of Lombardy. This is the equivalent to the GDP of Belgium - the last country we worked on for the previous diploma course.

We have chosen two sites that are currently being considered as potential areas for urban development. These are areas at opposite sides of the city centre that were formerly associated with railway infrastructure and are now surplus to requirements. We will invite half of the students to work on one site and the other half on the other.

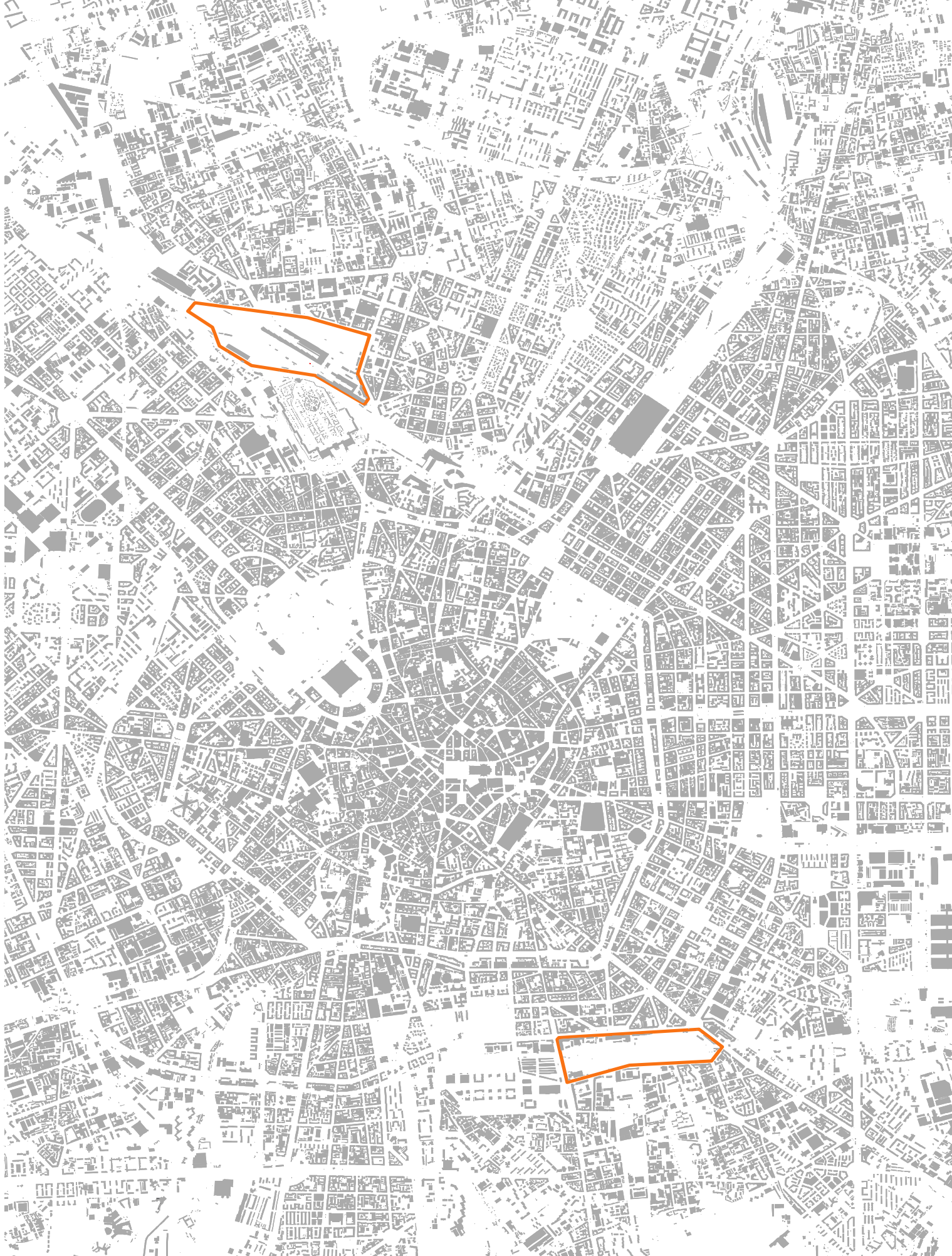
The main task will to be the creation of housing. The city currently suffers from a lack of decent housing and, as in many cities, key workers - the people who ensure that the city functions - have to travel long distances to find affordable places to live.

We are interested to developing a discussion on the question of what appropriate contemporary and sustainable housing is, how exploring typologies and morphologies might address the issue, how landscape, amenities, and other public programme should be considered, and the extent to which lessons from the past might inspire new solutions.

The catalogue of images that follows reminds us of the lessons can teach us in terms of architecture. The originality and inventiveness of the Milanese masters is arguably greater amongst Swiss and generally among European architects than among their Italian counterparts.

We will be working with, and learning from the work of Italian photographer, Marco Introini. His extensive catalogue bears witness to his interest in the city of Milan and , specifically, former railway areas.

Location plan of
the areas under investigation









1



3



2



4

- 1
Scalo Farini
- 2
Scalo San Cristoforo
- 3
Scalo Porta Romana
- 4
Scalo Lambrate



1



4



2

1,2,3,4,5
Scalo Farini



3



5

overleaf :
Scalo Porta Romana





1
Park Hill
Ivor Smith, Jack Lynn
Sheffield, UK



2
Via Quadronno
Angelo Mangiarotti,
Bruno Morassutti
Milan, Italy



3
Miremont-le-Crêt
Marc-Joseph Saugey
Geneva, Switzerland



4
Hyde Park Flats
Ivor Smith, Jack Lynn
Sheffield, UK



5
Las Salinas
Fernando Higuera
Lanzarote, Spain



6
Barbican Centre
Chamberlin, Powell and Bon
London, UK



7
Princesa Apartments
Fernando Higuera, Antonio Miró
Madrid, Spain



1



2



3

1
Letzibach Sub-Development C
Adrian Streich
Zürich, Switzerland

2
Hunziger-Areal
Mehr als wohnen
Zürich, Switzerland

3
Europaallee
Zürich, Switzerland

4
Case Bonaiti e Malugani
Giovanni Muzio
Milan, Italy

5
Arcadia Gardens
Giulio Minoletti
Milan, Italy

6
Gifu Kitagata Apartments
SANAA
Gifu, Japan



4



5



6

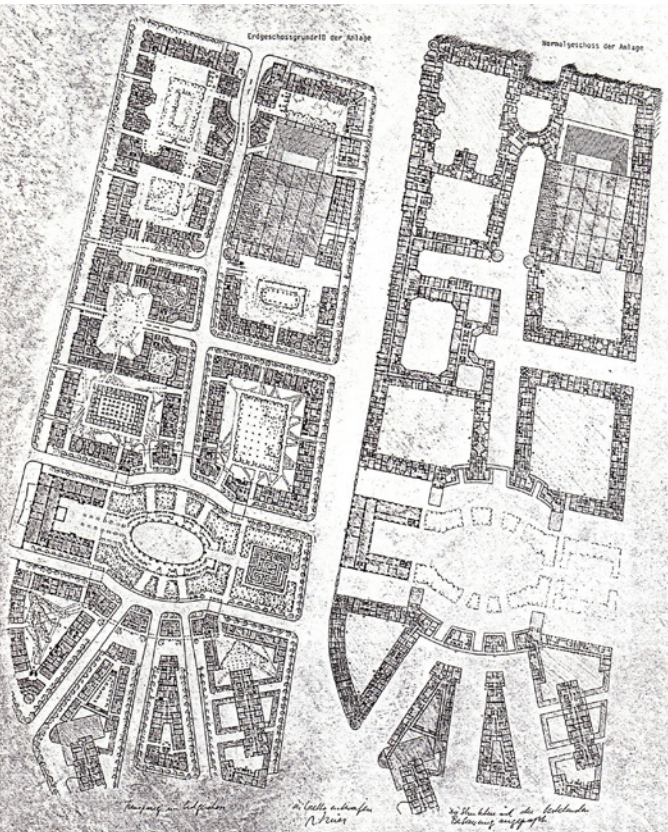
overleaf :
Aerial view of Milan



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 encompass a wider area than the site in which your work is situated.

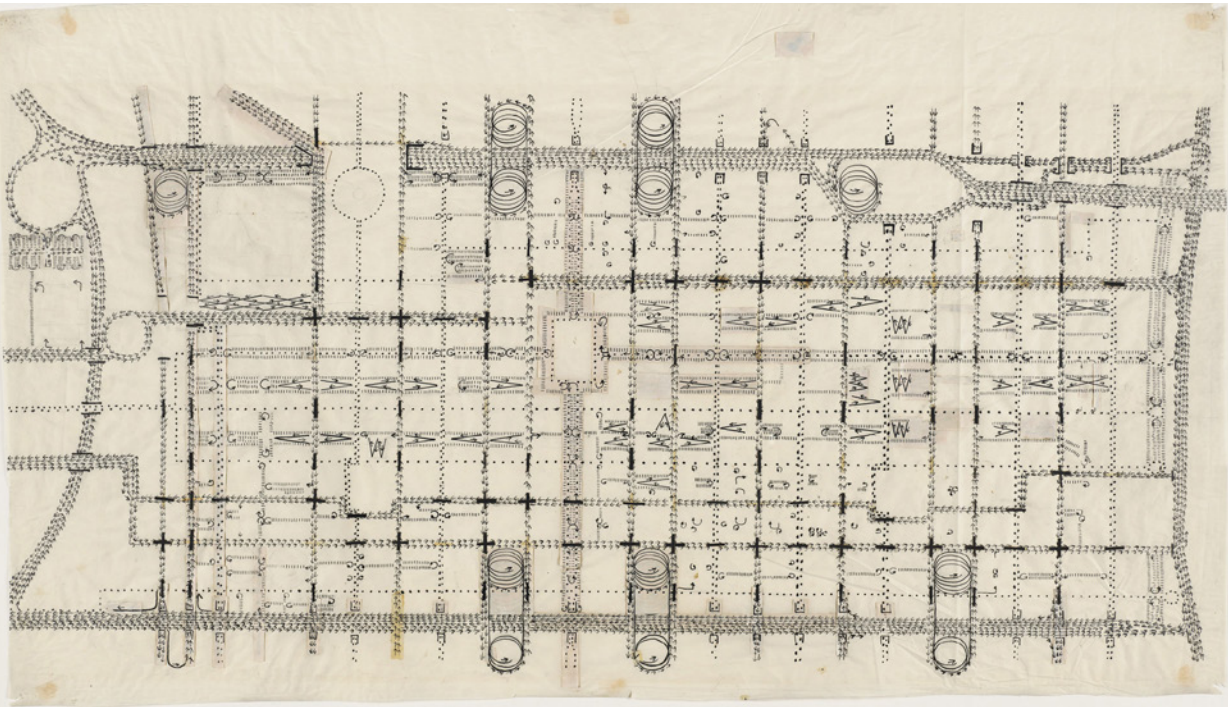
We ask you to begin by exploring numerous solutions that would allow the site you are studying to be developed to a reasonably high density with a suitable urban morphology . Each study or option you propose should be recorded photographically and then critically appraised and tested in terms of the density it yields. This, in turn, should be further developed, refined or discarded accordingly.

This work 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
Rob Krier
Traffic Study for Central Philadelphia
Philadelphia, USA

2
Louis I. Kahn
Urban development plan for South
Friedrichstadt,
Berlin, Germany



We hold the position that invention is a necessary ambition in architecture, but it rarely emerges by spontaneous intuition. An architect can only hope to develop a truly unique proposal after many years of study and reflection. Indeed, it is debatable whether true originality can ever be achieved.

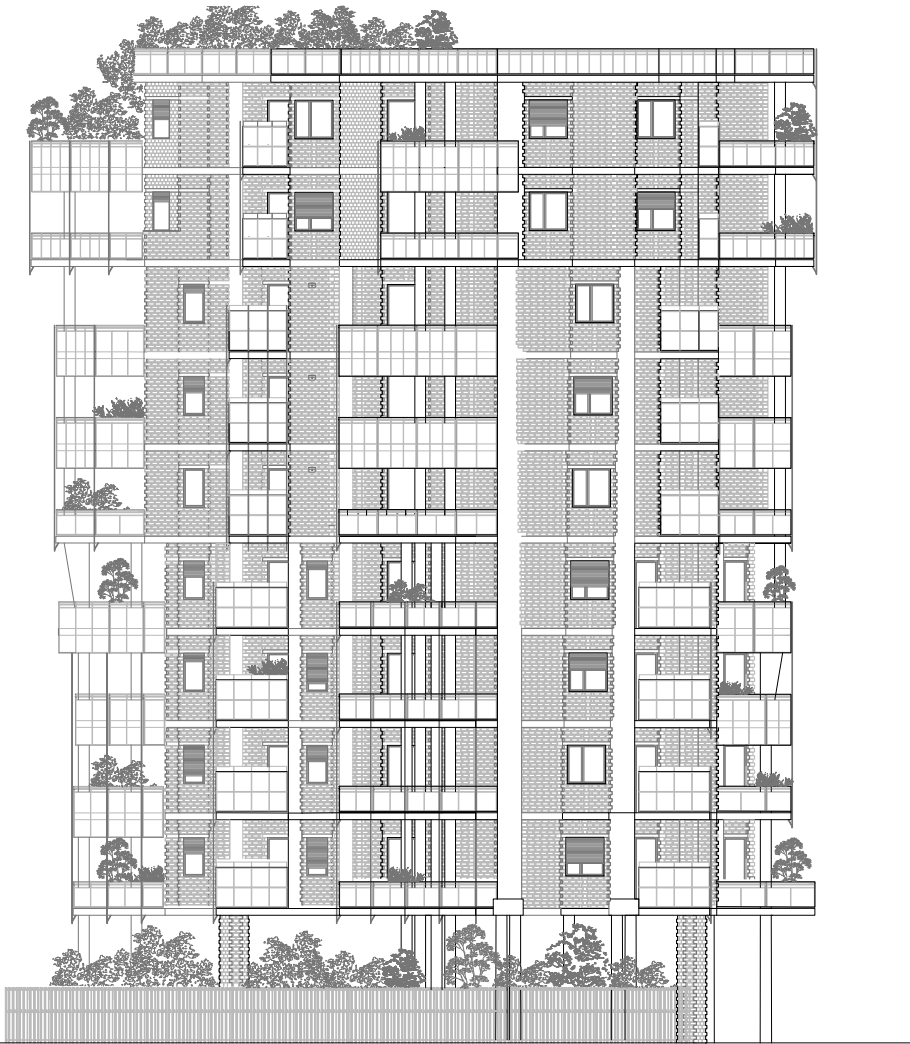
To help you understand the task that you will be attending to this semester we would like you to undertake a survey. This will be at the scale of the city, focusing on the immediate neighbourhood your project is adjusting and adding to. This will ensure a clearer understanding of what you are being asked to work with, and help you design a building that is suited to its purpose. The programme that we consider most appropriate for the sites chosen would be formed predominantly by housing, although other programmes could be considered, particularly where the project is required to negotiate its relationship with the public realm of the city.

Your work could consider the plan organisation of a 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. Milan offers a wealth of examples for you to choose.

Making a survey will require you to look carefully at buildings, making sketches and taking photographs as a way of recording their condition.

We would also ask you to make a precise photographic portrait that conveys the atmosphere of the building or buildings and how 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 in developing your project later.



Giulio Candido
Pitagora towers, Turin
Elio Luzi, Sergio Jaretti

The next exercise requires you to produce two images. No specific graphic technique is prescribed, although you should be able to explain why you consider your chosen technique appropriate.

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

1
Interior perspective
Giulio Rossi

2
Interior perspective
Barthélémy Reuse

overleaf:
Exterior perspective
Barthélémy Reuse



1

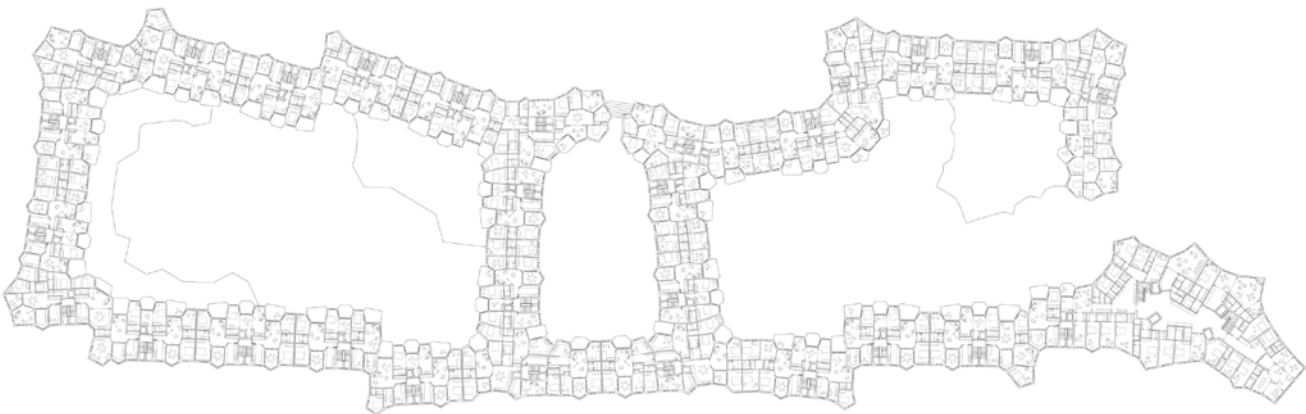


2



The results of these 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. We ask you to produce a 1:200 study or sketch model, which should include its context, as appropriate. This is really a key piece of work you will be building upon for the rest of the semester. We are interested in the qualities of the buildings you design and the way they are expressed in the organisation of the facades.

Your work should concentrate on the critical appraising of your earlier studies. While a model will be the principal piece of work produced, we expect your project to be developed with study plans, elevations, sections and sketches. It is also important that you measure the density of your proposal.



Apartments building plan
Giusy La Licata

At this stage of the semester you should have developed a rudimentary understanding of your project in plan and section, and we now ask you to develop and test your ideas for the building's 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 approached with a clear concept of the image of your buildings in mind. What materials is the building made from? What is your attitude to the arrangement of window openings? How does the building meet the ground, and how is the top of the building resolved? These are some of the questions you should be asking yourself about the facade of your building.



Elevations
Valentina Roncoroni

As a convincing idea for your building(s) emerges you will need to produce a set of drawings of some of the facades you have developed and a number of sections, all at scale 1:100:

You should also consider the plans, which should be developed at 1:200, 1:100 and at a larger scale where appropriate. You should also think about notions of apartment repetition and variation, and consider what other programmes might be introduced, especially on the ground floor.

A landscape plan at a scale of 1:200 should indicate your approach to landscaping, with hard and soft elements and general sense of 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!

You should also produce two further 'atmospheric' perspectives of the final version of your project.

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



Presentation model
Samuel Oliveira Lourenço

Date	Event	Details	Assignments
09 January	Studio meeting Site allocation	Taro Sakurai (TS), Liviu VasIU (LV)	
22 February	Site visit		
24 February	Tutorials	Urban studies	1:1000 / 1:200 model studies 1:500 plans
3 March	Tutorials	Review of urban studies	1:1000 / 1:200 model studies 1:500 plans
10 March	Tutorials	Perspectives	1:1000 / 1:200 model studies 1:500 plans
17 March	Tutorials	Preview of all work	1:500 / 1:200 model studies and plans Perspectives
24 March	Tutorials	Preview of all work	1:500 / 1:200 site model Study models Interior/exterior perspectives
31 March	Tutorials		1:100 plans Study models
3 April	Intermediate reviews	Project reviews with Diploma commission and guest critics Review of strategy plan	1:500 / 1:200 site model 1:200 plans Interior/exterior perspectives
14 April	Easter holidays		
21 April	Review	Preview of all work	1:100 plans Study models
28 April	Review	Plan studies Elevation studies	1:100 plans Study models

Date	Event	Details	Assignments
5 May	Tutorials	Plan studies Elevation studies	1:100 plans Study models
12 May	Review	Review elevations	1:100 plans Study models
19 May	Tutorials	Elevations	1:100 plans Study models
26 May	Review	Review of projects	Start final models
2 June	Tutorials	Discussion of final model	Project revisions
12 June	Final reviews	Project reviews with Diploma commission and guest critics	1:500 / 1:200 site models Final models (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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