

## Summer School 2022 proposal

by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Paola Ardizzola

*Ancient and Contemporary. Design, reuse, and sustainability in the old centres of Abruzzo, Italy*

14th July, Thursday to 24th July, Sunday 2022



*This is how one pictures the angel of history. His face is turned toward the past.  
Walter Benjamin, *Theses on the Philosophy of History* (1940), IX.  
[But his body is turned toward the future!]*

### Program Outline and Goals

We are living challenging and shifting times in which new patterns of lifestyle are experienced. How to effectively organize our daily life according to new model interrelations and social parameters is a question that must find an answer in a new way of approaching architecture. The past Covid-19 isolation induces us to rethink the spaces for the individuals and the community, from dwelling to working to social activities, as a seminal turning point that cannot be neglected anymore.

In the majority of the countries, there is a huge architectural heritage of small old towns coming from a past glorious time, before emigration or other factors compromised the societal balance of these places. According to new needs and strategies, nowadays they can be rethought and reinterpreted as a sustainable solution for the contemporary needs of the society, which could consider living in a more secluded and secured place but with all the infrastructures and comfort that the current lifestyle requires.

The main aim of the Summer School is to learn how to decipher the signs of the past according to key terms for designing new architectural structures having the power of keeping the dialogue within a historical urban fabric, working not by fragmentation but rather through integration and re-functionalization of an ancient area. To this target, the new functional and social aspects that contemporaneity requires must be thoroughly analysed.

The program focuses on gaining knowledge of historic architecture's formal genesis, in its more structured components, in order to understand, interpret and act within the contemporary urban milieu on a small scale. The key

concept is the continuity that the organic growth of an old town implies: learning from the existing condition means preventing the fragmentation of urban development subjected to individualism and private interests.

his Summer School aims to provide students with several means of investigation (including the sensory one), the ability to recognize a historic building through a multifaceted reading, in order to re-define an architectural identity and to recognise the potentialities of a place for new life and functions.

The workshop will focus mainly on three specific aspects:

**1. Reading the territory:**

- A. Places' history of architecture and the relation between urban/rural settlements and socio-economical milieu;
- B. Relationship between urban morphology and building typology;
- C. The role of the ancient infrastructures: reading codes and possible actualisation.

**2. Methodology:**

- A. Freehand drawing and drafting of architecture *en plein air* as a very important means to understand deeply the form of each architectural object;
- B. Photographic survey: documentation and registration of the past and comprehension of the relation between space and time perception;
- C. Landscape, colour-scape, soundscape, smell-scape, and haptic-scape analysis and recording;

**3. Design and opening to the local community:**

- A. Concept of the generating idea for the contemporary societal fulfilments;
- B. Project idea and design proposal for re-using the urban (and/or rural) area of the small town;
- C. Presentation of the design ideas (posters, models, photos, and other mixed media) to the local community during the exhibition of the works done by the students;
- D. Formal donation of the design ideas to the Major of the small town (borgo).

Timetable

N° day	Location	Activities	Date	Note
1	Ocre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Welcome and accommodation</li> <li>● Technical briefing about the Summer School</li> <li>● Strolling around. First approach with the place</li> </ul>	14.07.2022 h. 15.30 – 19.30	First session ↓
2	Ocre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Familiarization with the place (<i>in situ</i>)</li> <li>● Sketch and free hand drawing session (<i>in situ</i>)</li> <li>● Lecture I</li> </ul>	15.07.2022 h. 10-13 h. 14.30-19.30	
3	Ocre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Architectural map data capture</li> <li>● Round table about set of problems</li> <li>● Site analysis</li> <li>● Lecture II</li> </ul>	16.07.2022 h. 10-13 h. 15-19	Second session ↓
4	Ocre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Photograph survey and photo documentation (<i>in situ</i>)</li> <li>● First project ideas</li> <li>● Lecture III</li> </ul>	17.07.2022 h. 10-13 h. 14.30-19.30	
5	Ocre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Detailed sketch and free hand drawing session (<i>in situ</i>)</li> <li>● Development of Project ideas</li> <li>● Lecture IV</li> </ul>	18.07.2022 h. 10-13 h. 14.30-19.30	Third session ↓
6	Ocre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Round table about set of problems</li> <li>● Working design session</li> <li>● Presentation by students of works in progress</li> <li>● Lecture V</li> </ul>	19.07.2022 h. 10-13 h. 15-19	
7	Ocre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Development of Project ideas</li> <li>● Discussion on architectural achievements</li> <li>● Lecture VI</li> </ul>	20.07.2022 h. 10-13 h. 14.30-19.30	Fourth session ↓

8	Ocre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Finalising the project ideas</li> <li>● Setting the materials for the exhibition</li> </ul>	21.07.2022 h. 10-13 h. 14.30-19.30	
9	Ocre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Setting up of the exhibition</li> <li>● Vernissage</li> </ul>	22.07.2022 h. 10-17 h. 18-21	Fifth session ↓
10	Ocre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Final round table</li> <li>● Farewell</li> </ul>	23.07.2022 h. 10-13	

### Workshop convenor

- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Paola Ardizzola

### Team

- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Paola Ardizzola (Gdansk University of Technology)  
- Arch. Gabriele d'Oltremare, (draftman, landscape and interior designer, L'Aquila)

### Guest lecturers

- Prof. Dr. Ing. Romolo Continenza (past Professor University of L'Aquila)  
- Assist. Prof. Dr. Justyna Borucka (Gdansk University of Technology)  
- Assist. Prof. Dr. Irene Corulli (University of Eindhoven, Holland)  
- Dr. Ing. Francesca Geminiani (University of L'Aquila)  
- Ph.D. candidate Ing. Luca Vespasiano (University of L'Aquila)  
- Dr. Marina Rozzio (freelance lawyer, Turin)

### Target group

Students of the past course "Conservation and Protection of Architectural Heritage"

### Timing

From July 14th to July 24<sup>th</sup> 2022

### Number of participants

Up to 20 students

### Locations

Ocre\*, Abruzzo Region, Italy. The town of Ocre is composed of 5 small "borghi": Cavalletto, San Felice, San Martino, San Panfilo d'Ocre, and Valle. (One of the most interesting features is the old water infrastructure system for irrigation, and the territorial subdivision in urban orchards set accordingly).

### Application deadline

Sunday, 12th June 2022, h. 23.59 CET

### Tools

- Pencils, color pencils, felt-tip pens
- Notebook A4, sketchbook A3
- Measuring tape (10m), plummet
- Camera, laptop

### Important notes

1. Participants should be prepared to "walk & explore" during the workshop; make sure you bring the following with you: hat/cup, trekking shoes, backpack, and a bottle of water.
2. If you are using any type of medication, please make sure you have them with you.

3. In the small villages, it is important to approach local citizens with a respectful behavior: at the very beginning, they could be suspicious about what you are doing and because you are foreigners, but usually – once they have understood why you are there – they become very friendly (and will probably offer you at least a good Italian coffee!).

\*Its approximate 1,000 inhabitants reside in several small villages scattered across the mid-to-low L'Aquila basin, about 15 km (9.3 mi) southeast of Abruzzo's regional capital. The town hall offices are located in San Panfilo d'Ocre. It belongs to the Amiternina mountain community and part of the territory lies in the SirenteVelino Regional Park. In the Middle Ages, the fortified village of San Panfilo controlled the lower L'Aquila valley, and the monasteries of the Holy Spirit and Sant'Angelo attracted many pilgrims. At that time, the barons of Ocre also controlled the neighboring municipalities. [<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ocre>]



Monastery of Sant'Angelo Monastery of Santo Spirito