



Towards an ecological transition of architecture and urban space. Design strategies for user well-being."

26 May 2021 9.30-11.30; 15.30-17.30

held by **Giovanni Santi, Ph.D.**

Seminar Abstract:

One of the main goals of contemporary society is to improve the physical and psychological health and well-being of the population, especially in living space, both urban and architectural. An effective approach to address this complex issue must necessarily be transdisciplinary, and incorporated into the broader perspective of sustainability science towards an ecological-frugal transition. It is clear how sustainability is configured as a new paradigm of reference for architecture, which goes beyond the characteristics of the built, relating directly to the lifestyles of the user. The concept of design therefore becomes an element directly related to the real, effective and efficient measurement of sustainability itself, hence the new key to design for sustainability. The long-term effects of the needs of today's society, dictated by the contemporary growth-oriented global economy, must therefore be taken into account so that they do not compromise the needs of future generations. If we can already identify the cornerstones of sustainability, both in its generic definition and in its more specific one, in the narratives of design and architecture in general, such as Environment, Economics and Society or Environment, Economics, Education and Equity, it is necessary to introduce a new pillar on which to base sustainability: health. A concept of health understood in the broadest sense, that is, in terms of well-being for optimal functioning. Designers must therefore take charge of an architectural and urban approach that responds to the principle of primary prevention, not only reducing risks but also enhancing the value of assets. The role of design, both architectural and urban, becomes therefore fundamental and requires a new awareness and preparation to meet the needs of the population. It is therefore significant to define design strategies in a sustainable key and oriented towards an ecological transition of architecture and urban space, with a balance between tradition and modernity, to create health and well-being for the user.

Therefore, the seminar aims to identify the intervention criteria for a healthy and ecological design, with particular attention to psychological, architectural and construction aspects, verifying these criteria through some case studies focused on an innovative design, for proper use, accessibility and management of spaces. For the student, it will be possible to reach a first critical evaluation of the issue by highlighting the potential and criticality of the design process for the well-being of users.

Giovanni Santi

Architect, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor in Architecture Technique (Building Design) at the Department of Energy Engineering, Systems, Territory and Constructions (D.E.S.T.e.C.) of the University of Pisa. He earned the M.D. in Architecture, cum laude, in 1999 at the University of Firenze; in 2008 he obtained his PhD in "Science and techniques of the civil constructions" at Faculty of Engineering of University of Pisa. He won grants for researches on the vulnerability and the seismic monitoring, in 2009 for the school buildings in Tuscany and in 2010 for the hospitals in Tuscany, at the Department of Civil Engineering of Pisa. His scientific research activity has been focused on the issues related to the correlation between technology and architecture (use of methodologies for the control of the building process, the knowledge of construction techniques and materials, the reuse of ancient buildings). He took part in many international and national research projects, such as: the Interlink Project 2004-06 "Pilot scheme for knowledge, conservation and improvement of Elbasan kala fortress, Albania"; the PRIN 2007 and the PRIN 2009 with the study of spaces and hypogeum constructions; and the research "A moving city: architecture, urban space and mobility in Pisa" as part of the "Pisa città che cammina" project, within the national project "Walking City". Since 2018 he has been carrying out research activities at the Ecole Nationale of Architecture Marrakech and he is scientific director of the Architecture Technique courses. He is also a co-inventor of international patents and trademarks.