

RESEARCH THEME

XXXVIII cycle – a.y. 2022/2023

Title of the doctoral research

Spatial and Service Design for disused public interiors
Hybrid Spaces: models of urban experimentation and social inclusion

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Abstract

According to the Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance, Italian public real estate is made up of a very large number of buildings, but approximately 10% of them are disused, feeding a gradual "de-functionalization" of public interiors in recent years.

The phenomenon is increasing as a result of service digitization and the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The proposed field of research aims to outline a model that can be replicated and scaled in various contexts, involving public interiors, which affected by these two factors, have undergone and will undergo major changes, including new service and spatial planning and significant people's behavioral shifts.

One of the possible re-functionalization of Public Administration's disused spaces is that of multifunctional and hybrid places, closely linked to the cultural and creative sector, with social purposes. These forms of socio-cultural innovation as models of urban experimentation have begun to be mapped by the municipality of Milan, through a register named "Rete Spazi Ibridi". The importance of disused spaces regeneration as an "inclusion and cohesion" innovation is also solidly affirmed in Italy's National Recovery and Resilience Plan.

The methodology expected includes action-research activities and creative community participation processes, aimed, together with the case studies' analysis, at abstracting and hypothesizing a new multidisciplinary framework in terms of social, economic and environmental impact.

Keywords

Space+Service Design, Social Innovation, Hybrid Spaces