

RESEARCH THEME

XLI Cycle – a.y. 2025/2026

Title of the doctoral research	Designing for peaceful and convivial ecosystems
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Abstract

In a time marked by geopolitical turbulence and environmental turmoil, the notion of perpetual conflict has become ingrained in our societal fabric. It prompts us to question whether peace is merely an interval between successive conflicts and whether envisioning a sustained, worldwide peace is merely utopian. Additionally, the climate change is exacerbating existing conflict risks. What can design do for a more peaceful coexistence?

How can design scholars, teachers, and students reflect on the role of design in creating a culture of dialogue, negotiation, solidarity, collaboration and eventually peace?

Some initiatives across the world are tackling this complex issue, adopting a design lens always and necessarily combined with other critical lenses, from other disciplines and perspectives. Design, therefore, needs to enter a transdisciplinary sphere, where sustainability is imperative in all systems of knowledge and innovation.

Likewise, to tackle this issue, design needs to take a caring and convivial posture, and to experiment with different approaches: collaborative and participatory design, strategic and scenario-building design, product-service system design.

Challenges design must face are related to manage conflicts, alleviate the consequences of any conflictual circumstance, and rebuild conditions of peace and dialogue.

The expected research project will have to deal with this topic and research question, exploring different theoretical and applied fields of work.

Keywords	Strategic design, Convivial aesthetics, Design Scenario
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