

RESEARCH THEME

XXXIX cycle – a.y. 2023/2024

Title of the doctoral research	Cities in the Ecological Transition: designing innovative scenarios for new urban ecosystems.
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Proponent professor	Barbara Di Prete
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Abstract

The ecological transition represents both a challenge and an urgency for the contemporary world, confronted with a 'poly-crisis' caused by multiple factors, including environmental changes and the international geopolitical context. The UN Sustainable Development Goals, the more recent European Green Deal, and the UN Climate Change Conference (COP27, 2022) all aim to promote new economic and behavioral models, addressing an unprecedented complexity of energetic, environmental, productive, and social aspects, with the aim of achieving climate neutrality by 2050.

In this context, urban development is considered a strategic issue, as a smart management of the city's metabolic dimension could lower its ecological and environmental impact. Such a dimension pertains to the functioning of complex, multi-scalar, and multi-dimensional processes, which require a systemic approach: in promoting a virtuous ecological transition, in fact, it is essential to actively involve policy-makers and economic-productive players, but it is also necessary to re-orient personal choices, engaging the citizenry. In complementarity with other disciplines, design can play a crucial role in fostering the development of innovative urban ecosystem models.

The research will focus on such sustainable scenarios involving the relationship between built and natural systems, public and private, technological and behavioral dimensions.

The research's main expected outputs are the definition of interpretation and assessment models of possible actions in the urban sphere and the development of guidelines to orient their future design.

Keywords	Urban spaces; Design for Climate change; eco-design; Sustainable design solutions
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