

RESEARCH THEME

XLI Cycle – a.y. 2025/2026

Title of the doctoral research Fighting for the Future Commons.
How the Climatic Regime Will Transform Design Discipline

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Abstract

The PhD project investigates how the emerging Climatic regime reshapes the design field through a renewed focus on commons-oriented approaches. Under the escalating pressure of climate change, traditional design practices anchored in private property, linear consumption, and individualistic frameworks are increasingly untenable. This research explores how design can pivot to embrace collective strategies, shared resources, and sustainable management of common goods—what this research terms the 'Future Commons.'

Using a multi-method approach that combines speculative design, participatory action research, and case study analysis, this study aims to identify how climate-driven transformations necessitate shifts in the discipline's conceptual, methodological, and operational dimensions. Central research questions include: How can design practices meaningfully integrate commoning principles to address climate-related challenges? What role can designers play in facilitating sustainable commons? How does a commons-oriented perspective alter design's aesthetic, ethical, and practical dimensions?

The research project contributes by articulating actionable frameworks for integrating commons-based approaches within contemporary design practices, promoting resilience, sustainability, and collective stewardship in the face of climatic uncertainty.

Keywords Climate Change, Critical Design, Transition Design