

# RESEARCH THEME

XLI Cycle – a.y. 2025/2026

**Title of the doctoral research** Immaterial sustainability: designing sound experiences for the well-being of users in Interiors for Hospitality.

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**Abstract** This research aims to innovate hospitality spaces through the study of perception and sustainability. In the contemporary age it is essential to design "places that heal", that stimulate positive experiences by improving relationships between humans, the built and the natural environment (Inghilleri, 2021); in this context designers must consider not only tangible components, but also subjective and immaterial ones by adopting perceptual models that do not refer to sight alone, but are instead able to enhance other sensory components - especially the auditory one - as a main driver of our relationship with space (Mocchi, 2020). The careful design of acoustic and sound experiences is too often neglected in hospitality spaces (Di Loreto et al., 2023; Nering et al., 2022; Yeung et al., 2021), erupting at times in noise pollution detrimental for both user comfort and the surrounding environment; the issue lies therefore not only with spaces' liveability, but also relates to sustainability on a larger scale. Thus, the purpose of this research is to understand how auditory components can positively influence interiors for hospitality, with the aim of outlining new sustainable design paradigms and applicative models that can ensure the experiential well-being of the user. Dealing with this issue requires multidisciplinary approaches, starting from technological and artistic research to prefigure new scenarios not limited to mere considerations of soundproofing as an afterthought, but that instead understand sound as an integral component of the relationship between humans, natural and anthropic environments and welcoming spaces.

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**Keywords** Auditory perception, Hospitality interiors, Sustainable Well-Being