



“Sapienza” University of Rome, Italy
Southeast University, Nanjing, China
Tianjing University, Tianjing, China

The Walls Project

Innovative contribution of urban history to the development of the modern city

A urban design in Rome
for the requalification of the area adjacent to the Aurelian Walls
from the Cestius Pyramid to the Mattatoio

Instructors:

“Sapienza” University of Rome:
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Southeast University in Nanjing:
Tang Peng, Shen Yang
Tianjin University in Tianjing:
Chen Tian, Zhang Xinnan

Academic Advisor:

“Sapienza” University of Rome:
Luigi Gazzola

Tutors:

Tianjin University in Tianjing:
Jia Mengyuan (PhD Student)
Southeast University
Zhao Ye (PhD Student)

Students:

Southeast University:
14 students of 4th year in Architecture
Tianjing University
8 students of 4th year in Architecture
4 students of 4th year in Urban Design

LAPEX

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Summary & Theme:

This is an international program of Urban Design Course for fourth year Chinese students in Architecture and in Urban Design, which aims to give them an exercise to understand how the urban history and architecture of the past could guide for future intervention engaged to the site. These are related to the spatial relationship between the historic structures and new buildings, as well as to the conservation of the walls, meant to promote their active use within the context of the contemporary city.

The adjacent area of Aurelian Walls from Pyramid to ex-Mattatoio has been chosen, because of its great complexity. There are the Tiber River, the Monte Testaccio, the Aurelian city wall and many other distinguishable historic remains of different ages, which have their strong influence to the current situation of this area. As much as the presence of cultural heritages, there are also decayed and abundant zones. A requalification planning for this area, therefore, will be a challenging task and could be used as an occasion to specific design problem, to be developed in the design studio: how do large-scale historic objects such as complex wall systems provide a support for the redevelopment of the surrounding city? How do conservation issues affect these developments? How can the modern city surrounding the walls be modified in order to accommodate contemporary urbanity, while leveraging on the intrinsic qualities of the walls in order to become more attractive?



Studio Program

Stage 1: In Italy

- 1a. Workshop in Rome (21st September – 29th September)
- 1b. Academic investigation in Italy (30th September – 6th October)
 - in Florence (to 1st October)
 - in Venice (2nd to 4th October)
 - in Milan (4th to 6th October)

Stage 2: In China

- 3a. Work (Part I) (8th October – 19th October)
- 3b. Mid-term presentation (20th October) in Nanjing

Stage 3: In China

- 4a. Work (Part II) (21st October – 30th October)
- 4b. Work (Part III) (11th November – 14th November)
- 4c. Public final presentation (15 November) in Nanjing