

# **Syllabus**

# Kursbeschreibung

Titel der Lehrveranstaltung	Studio 2
Code der Lehrveranstaltung	47201
Zusätzlicher Titel der	
Lehrveranstaltung	
Wissenschaftlich-	
disziplinärer Bereich	
Sprache	Englisch
Studiengang	Master in Kritische Kreative Praxis
Andere Studiengänge (gem. Lehrveranstaltung)	
Dozenten/Dozentinnen	Prof. Roberto Gigliotti,
	roberto.gigliotti@unibz.it
	https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/design-art/academic-
	staff/person/7630
	dr. Gaia Piccarolo,
	Gaia.Piccarolo@unibz.it
	https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/design-art/academic-
	staff/person/44617
Wissensch.	
Mitarbeiter/Mitarbeiterin	
Semester	Zweites Semester
Studienjahr/e	1st year
KP	12
Vorlesungsstunden	90
Laboratoriumsstunden	0
Stunden für individuelles	210
Studium	
Vorgesehene Sprechzeiten	78
Inhaltsangabe	The course will provide students with practical, theoretical and
	conceptual tools capable of generating a critical understanding of
	spatial dynamics in artistic and design practices, as well as of their

implications in political-relational terms. Through hands-on workshops, research and experimentation, students will be given the opportunity to apply the techniques and the theories presented in the two modules, in order to design environments or spatial interventions that reflect a critical understanding of space and of the way this is inhabited. Frequent interaction between students and teachers will allow for constant monitoring of learning processes, guaranteeing continuous support in the development of critical and practical skills.

### Themen der Lehrveranstaltung

#### Module 1

The module "Critical Environments" investigates space as an experiential and phenomenological condition, examining how domestic, public, and transitional environments shape human behaviour, perception, and meaning. Students critically engage with the material, social, and cultural forces that produce spatial phenomena. The course develops tools for understanding environments as dynamic systems experienced through the body, memory, ritual, and socio-spatial norms.

The topics taught in the module can be described as following:

- Experiencing Environments, space as a Phenomenon
- Domestic Space
- Public Space
- Threshold and In-between Spaces
- Behaviour and Behaviourology Norms and Rituals
- Mapping Spaces and Spatial Phenomena

#### Module 2

The module "Histories and Theories of Spatial Practices" will thematize the experience of the body in space (movement) as a form of action and participation, focusing on the performative potential of spatial devices as both vector and poetic expression of the relationship between subjects (bodies) and the world (environment), meant in both physical and cultural terms. Moving from the individual to the collective scale, from the microenvironment to the macroenvironment, from the temporary to the permanent dimension of space, the course aims to address the following areas of investigation of spatial practices in their historical and theoretical articulations:



	- The naked body and its prostheses (devices of the subjective
	interaction with the world);
	- Microenvironment and proxemics (devices of interpersonal
	relationships);
	- The expanded field as a field of action (the ground as a support
	of public life);
	- Dramaturgy of public space (the city as theatrum mundi).
Stichwörter	Spatial practices
	Body
	Environment
	Public space
	Politics of space
Empfohlene	No recommended prerequisites
Voraussetzungen	
Propädeutische	
Lehrveranstaltungen	
Unterrichtsform	Frontal lectures
	Seminars
	Studio work
	Workshops
	Visits by experts
	Critics
	Periodical mid-term presentations
Anwesenheitspflicht	Not compulsory but recommended
Spezifische Bildungsziele	Educational objectives:
und erwartete	
Lernergebnisse	Module 1 – Critical Environments
	Develop Critical Spatial Awareness
	Equip students with tools to analyze and interpret spatial dynamics
	and their socio-political implications in artistic and design practices.
	Bridge Theory and Practice
	Integrate critical theories with hands-on design experimentation to
	address complex spatial and environmental challenges.
	Investigate Political-Relational Dimensions
	Explore how design shapes and responds to social, cultural, and
	political forces, fostering ethical and responsible approaches.
	Cultivate Interdisciplinary and Contextual Thinking
	Encourage contextual analysis and interdisciplinary methods to

understand historical, ecological, and relational aspects of space. Stimulate Creative and Reflexive Design

Empower students to generate innovative spatial interventions while fostering self-reflection and clear communication.

Module 2 – Histories and Theories of Spatial Practices
Develop Critical Understanding of Spatial Politics
Analyse the power dynamics of space, including contested
territories, public/private boundaries, and the socio-political
implications of spatial design.

Explore Relational and Site-Specific Practices
Investigate how site-specific and relational design approaches
engage with communities, environments, and cultural contexts to
foster spatial justice and inclusion.

Engage with Environmental and Ethical Responsibilities
Examine sustainability strategies, material responsibility, and
ecological systems to address environmental ethics and promote
transformative design practices.

Investigate Alternative Spatial Narratives and Representations Study critical mapping, alternative cartographies, and speculative design as tools for reimagining spatial dynamics and challenging dominant spatial narratives.

Integrate Emerging Technologies and Experimental Approaches Explore the role of digital environments, immersive media, and critical technologies in shaping contemporary and future spatial experiences.

Learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding

Module 1-2

Students of the course will:

- know the history of spatial practices in art and design, and their main techniques and methodologies;
- possess specific knowledge on the interactions between space and culture and on the sociopolitical implications of spatial practices;
- understand the processes of transformation of space in the contemporary context, analyzing them considering the connections with other fields of knowledge, such as sociology, anthropology



and urban sciences.

Applying knowledge and understanding

Module 1-2

Students of the course will:

- design and implement spatial interventions, exhibitions, artistic installations and design projects that explore and reinterpret public and private spaces;
- use reading, analysis, mapping and visualization tools to analyze and communicate complex ideas relating to space;
- create spatial interventions that respond to the needs of communities, promoting inclusiveness and social participation.

Making judgments

Module 1-2

Students of the course will:

- apply the knowledge acquired in the professional context;
- design original projects that take into account the transformations induced by globalization and internationalization processes.

Module 2

Students of the course will:

- collect and interpret cultural and material data from the fields of art, design, technology and spatial and curatorial practices, demonstrating the ability to place events, works and production operations in the historical context and current trends;
- grasp the authority and evaluate the reliability of the various available sources;
- reflect and express an independent judgement, including on social, ethical and political-cultural issues;
- interpret specific facts and events, within subject of their field of study.

Communication skills

Module 1

Students of the course will:

- use visual and multimedia tools to create engaging and informative presentations.
- collaborate in teams and communicate effectively with colleagues and professionals from different disciplines



#### Module 2

Students of the course will:

- write scientific and technical articles and reports with clarity and effectiveness:
- present projects and ideas verbally in a professional and convincing manner.

#### Learning skills

The course is aimed at:

- strengthening the critical and operational autonomy of students;
- developing their ability to choose, compare and adapt to new knowledge and technologies.

## Spezifisches Bildungsziel und erwartete Lernergebnisse (zusätzliche Informationen)

The course aims at mobilizing students' critical skills, imageries, and expressive potential, providing them with an understanding of how artists and designers have responded to changes in conceptions of space over time as well as with a set of concepts, tools, and models that actively support the development of individual projects.

Students are expected to develop an awareness of spatial phenomena and a critical understanding of how design shape our individual and collective responses, in order to support the conceptualization and production of the final outcome of the Studio.

#### Art der Prüfung

Attending students

#### Module 1:

During the exam the students will discuss the final project, and the exercises carried out during the course. Detailed information about the project, the single exercises and the final presentation are handed out during the course and are documented in the TEAMS of the Studio.

The exam consists of the realisation of a spatial installation, the presentation and a brief discussion of the required documents. For this purpose, additionally to the installation, each student prepares a max. 15-minute screen presentation containing a brief report about the work carried out during the semester. A complete documentation of the required exercises (printed and in digital form) will be handed in during the exam.



#### Module 2:

During the exam the students will discuss the intersections between the final outcome and the contents addressed in the module during the semester, making evident how these influenced the development of the final project.

Non-attending students

For both modules the assessment is the same for attending and non-attending students.

N.B. – ALL STUDENTS TAKING THE EXAM AS NON-ATTENDING STUDENTS MUST AGREE UPON THE CONTENT WITH THE LECTURER.

#### Bewertungskriterien

#### Module 1:

The final assessment is based on the content of the final project and all the exercises according to the following criteria:

- Analysis and observation ability of the student;
- Completeness and coherence in the design concept;
- Clarity in the presentation of the process that leads to the design choices;
- Technical-formal quality of the exercises;

#### Module 2:

The final assessment is based on the discussion around the final project and all the exercises according to the following criteria in connection with the topics addressed during the semester:

- Capacity to place, contextualize and connect topics, in relation to the lectures and the bibliographical references;
- Critical skills and awareness about the issues raised throughout the course;
- Consistence in the presentation of the process that leads to the design choices in connection with the topics addressed during the semester.

Non-attending students

For both modules the evaluation criteria are the same for attending and non-attending students.



#### Pflichtliteratur

Atelier Bow Wow, *Echo of Space – Space of Echo*, LIXIL Publishing, 2009

Nishat Awan, Tatjana Schneider, Jeremy Till, *Spatial Agency. Other Ways of Doing Architecture*, Routledge, 2011

Gianni Celestini, Annalisa Metta, *Coreografie urbane. Progettare* architetture dei comportamenti. Rassegna di Architettura e Urbanistica n. 172, 2024

Melanie Dodd, *Modes of Action and Engagement with the City*, Routledge, 2020

Harriet Harriss, Rory Hyde, Roberta Marcaccio, *Architects After Architecture. Alternative Pathways for Practice*, Routledge, 2021

Rory Hide, *Future Practice. Conversations from the Edge of Architecture*, Routledge 2013

Rosalind Krauss, *Sculpture in the Expanded Field*, in "October", n. 8, 1979

Jane Rendell, Art and Architecture. A Place Between, Tauris, 2006

#### Weiterführende Literatur

Christopher Alexander, *A Pattern Language. Towns, Buildings, Constructions*, Oxford University Press, 1978

Atelier Bow-Wow, *Behaviorology*, Rizzoli, 2010

Cristina Bianchetti, *Corpi tra spazio e progetto*, Mimesis, 2020

Giovanna Borasi, Mirko Zardini, *Actions: What You Can Do With the City*, SUN, 2008

Giovanna Borasi, *The Other Architect*. Another Way of Building Architecture, Spector Books 2015

Judith Butler, *L'alleanza dei corpi*, Nottetempo, 2017, 2023 (english version: *Notes Toward a Performative Theory of Assembly*, Harvard University Press, 2015)

Luis A. Casanovas Blanco, Ignacio G. Galan, Carlos M. Carrasco, Alejandra Navarrete Lopis, Marina Otero Verzier, *After Belonging. The Objects, Spaces, and Territories pf the Ways We Stay in Transit*, Lars Müller, 2016

Diller + Scofidio, Flesh. Architectural Probes, Princeton

Architectural Press, 1994

Fosbury Architects, *Spaziale. Ognuno appartiene a tutti gli altri*, Librino, 2023

Lawrence Halprin, Cities, MIT Press, 1972

Pierluigi Nicolin, Antonio Monroy (edited by), *Microambiente*, Longanesi & C., 1970

Pierluigi Nicolin, *Architecture as Art. Mostrare l'architettura / Exhibiting Architecture*, edited by Nina Bassoli, Gaia Piccarolo, Editoriale Lotus, 2016

Pierluigi Nicolin, Lezioni di interior design, Postmedia books, 2021

Gaia Piccarolo, *Public Spaces as Theatres of Action: Lawrence Halprin's Phenomenological Perspective on Cities*, in *Theatres of Architectural Imagination*, ed. by L. Landrum and S. Ridgway, Routledge 2023

Gaia Piccarolo, *Tracce a terra / Traces on the Ground*, in "Lotus International", n. 158, 2015

Bernard Rudofsky, *The Unfashionable Human Body*, Doubleday, 1971

Richard Sennett, Flesh and Stone: The Body and the City in Western Civilization, W. W. Norton & Company, 1996

Rebecca Solnit, *Storia del camminare*, Ponte alle Grazie, 2002 (edizione inglese: *Wanderlust: A History of Walking*, Faber and Faber, 2014

Georges Teyssot, *A Topology of Everyday Constellations*, MIT Press, 2013



Weitere Informationen	
Ziele für nachhaltige Entwicklung (SDGs)	Nachhaltige Städte und Gemeinden, Hochwertige Bildung

## Kursmodul

Titel des Bestandteils der Lehrveranstaltung	Critical Environments
Code der Lehrveranstaltung	47201A
Wissenschaftlich- disziplinärer Bereich	ICAR/16
Sprache	Englisch
Dozenten/Dozentinnen	Prof. Roberto Gigliotti, roberto.gigliotti@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/design-art/academic- staff/person/7630
Wissensch. Mitarbeiter/Mitarbeiterin	
Semester	Zweites Semester
KP	6
Verantwortliche/r Dozent/in	
Vorlesungsstunden	60
Laboratoriumsstunden	0
Stunden für individuelles Studium	90
Vorgesehene Sprechzeiten	60
Inhaltsangabe	The module "Critical Environments" investigates space as an experiential and phenomenological condition, examining how domestic, public, and transitional environments shape human behaviour, perception, and meaning. Students critically engage

with the material, social, and cultural forces that produce spatial phenomena. The course develops tools for understanding environments as dynamic systems experienced through the body, memory, ritual, and socio-spatial norms. It will be structured as a design studio, aimed at providing students with practical tools capable of generating a critical understanding of spatial dynamics in artistic and design practices, as well as of their implications in political-relational terms.

Through hands-on workshops, research and experimentation, students will be encouraged to develop new forms of design expression that respond to contemporary challenges, such as urbanisation, migratory processes and the digitalisation of spaces.

### Themen der Lehrveranstaltung

The module "Critical Environments" will be structured as a design studio, aimed at providing students with practical tools capable of generating a critical understanding of spatial dynamics in artistic and design practices, as well as of their implications in political-relational terms.

In the frame of the class students will be asked to:

- Develop Critical Spatial Awareness;
- Develop awareness of tools to analyze and interpret spatial dynamics and their socio-political implications in artistic and design practices;
- Bridge Theory and Practice;
- Integrate critical theories with hands-on design experimentation to address complex spatial and environmental challenges;
- Investigate Political-Relational Dimensions;
- Explore how design shapes and responds to social, cultural, and political forces, fostering ethical and responsible approaches;
- Cultivate Interdisciplinary and Contextual Thinking;
- Encourage contextual analysis and interdisciplinary methods to understand historical, ecological, and relational aspects of space;
- Stimulate Creative and Reflexive Design;
- Be empowered to generate innovative spatial interventions while fostering self-reflection and clear communication.

The topics taught in the module can be described as following:

- Experiencing Environments, space as a Phenomenon
- Domestic Space
- Public Space



	- Threshold and In-between Spaces
	- Behaviour and Behaviourology – Norms and Rituals
	- Mapping Spaces and Spatial Phenomena
	Frequent interaction between students and teachers will allow for a constant monitoring of learning processes, guaranteeing continuous support in the development of critical and practical skills.
Unterrichtsform	Frontal lectures
	Seminars
	Studio work
	Workshops
	Visits by experts
	Critics
	Periodical mid-term presentations
Pflichtliteratur	Atelier Bow Wow, <i>Echo of Space – Space of Echo</i> , LIXIL Publishing, 2009
	Nishat Awan, Tatjana Schneider, Jeremy Till, Spatial Agency.  Other Ways of Doing Architecture, Routledge, 2011
	Gianni Celestini, Annalisa Metta, <i>Coreografie urbane. Progettare</i> architetture dei comportamenti. Rassegna di Architettura e Urbanistica n. 172, 2024
	Melanie Dodd, <i>Modes of Action and Engagement with the City</i> , Routledge, 2020
	Harriet Harriss, Rory Hyde, Roberta Marcaccio, <i>Architects After Architecture. Alternative Pathways for Practice</i> , Routledge, 2021
	Rory Hide, Future Practice. Conversations from the Edge of Architecture, Routledge 2013
	Rosalind Krauss, <i>Sculpture in the Expanded Field</i> , in "October", n. 8, 1979
	Jane Rendell, Art and Architecture. A Place Between, Tauris, 2006
Weiterführende Literatur	
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# Kursmodul

Titel des Bestandteils der	Histories and Theories of Spatial Practices
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Lehrveranstaltung	
Code der Lehrveranstaltung	47201B
Wissenschaftlich- disziplinärer Bereich	ICAR/18
Sprache	Englisch
Dozenten/Dozentinnen	dr. Gaia Piccarolo, Gaia.Piccarolo@unibz.it https://www.unibz.it/en/faculties/design-art/academic-staff/person/44617
Wissensch. Mitarbeiter/Mitarbeiterin	
Semester	Zweites Semester
КР	6
Verantwortliche/r Dozent/in	
Vorlesungsstunden	30
Laboratoriumsstunden	0
Stunden für individuelles Studium	120
Vorgesehene Sprechzeiten	18
Inhaltsangabe	In the module "History and Theory of Spatial Practices" students will explore theories and methodologies that analyse the meaning of spatial practices in visual arts, architecture, exhibit design and urban design, examining how environments influence spatial and environmental policies, artistic practices and how these can transform and reinterpret spaces themselves. Through historical and theoretical analysis, students will examine how artists and designers have responded to changes in conceptions of space over time. The course will be based on in-depth analysis of general theories, specific case studies and bibliographies, according to criteria of scientific and disciplinary authority, to provide students with a solid base of knowledge in the field of spatial design.
Themen der Lehrveranstaltung	Through historical and theoretical analysis based on lectures, open discussions, and seminars from invited experts, the course will thematize the experience of the body in space (movement) as a form of action and participation, shifting from the abstract notion of space to the embodied notion of environment as shaped by

individual, interpersonal and collective relations, and focusing on the performative potential of spatial devices as both vector and poetic expression of the relationship between subjects (bodies) and the world (environment), meant in both physical and cultural terms.

Spatial practices will be analyzed in terms of their social performances, their capacity to foster meaningful perceptual relationship and to encourage community engagement, encompassing diverse approaches that are both political and activist, performative and curatorial, architectural and urban. This lens will offer the possibility to investigate disciplinary erosions and exchanges between spatial practices of different kinds – architecture, art, exhibition design, landscape design, performance, urban practices, etc. – with reference to a multidisciplinary theoretical frame drawing from philosophy, anthropology, sociology, psychogeography, urban studies, etc. Moving from the individual to the collective scale, from the microenvironment to the macroenvironment, from the temporary to the permanent dimension of space, the course aims to address the following areas of investigation of spatial practices in their historical and theoretical articulations:

- the naked body and its prostheses (devices of the subjective interaction with the world);
- microenvironment and proxemics (devices of interpersonal relationships);
- the expanded field as a field of action (the ground as a support of public life);
- dramaturgy of public space (the city as theatrum mundi);
  Across these areas of investigation, fundamental spatial figures such as threshold, border, shelter, canopy, ground, façade, window, path, monument, etc. will be investigated, drawing on examples belonging to different temporal and geographical contexts, as well as on conceptual and theoretical tools capable of contextualising the cases examined within their cultural and political backgrounds.

#### Unterrichtsform

Lectures, open discussions, seminars from invited experts.

#### **Pflichtliteratur**

Jane Rendell, *Art and Architecture: a Place Between*, I.B. Tauris, 2006



	Rosalind Krauss, <i>Sculpture in the Expanded Field</i> , in "October", n. 8, 1979  Melanie Dodd (edited by), <i>Spatial Practices: Modes of Action and Engagement with the City</i> , Routledge, 2019
Weiterführende Literatur	Atelier Bow-Wow, <i>Behaviorology</i> , Rizzoli, 2010
	Bernard Rudofsky, <i>The Unfashionable Human Body</i> , Doubleday, 1971
	Christopher Alexander, <i>A Pattern Language. Towns, Buildings, Constructions</i> , Oxford University Press, 1978
	Cristina Bianchetti, <i>Corpi tra spazio e progetto</i> , Mimesis, 2020
	Diller + Scofidio, <i>Flesh. Architectural Probes</i> , Princeton Architectural Press, 1994
	Gaia Piccarolo, <i>Public Spaces as Theatres of Action: Lawrence Halprin's Phenomenological Perspective on Cities</i> , in <i>Theatres of Architectural Imagination</i> , ed. by L. Landrum and S. Ridgway, Routledge 2023
	Gaia Piccarolo, <i>Tracce a terra / Traces on the Ground</i> , in "Lotus International", n. 158, 2015
	Georges Teyssot, <i>A Topology of Everyday Constellations</i> , MIT Press, 2013
	Judith Butler, <i>L'alleanza dei corpi</i> , Nottetempo, 2017, 2023 (english version: <i>Notes Toward a Performative Theory of Assembly</i> , Harvard University Press, 2015)
	Lawrence Halprin, <i>Cities</i> , MIT Press, 1972
	Pierluigi Nicolin, Antonio Monroy (edited by), <i>Microambiente</i> , Longanesi & C., 1970
	Pierluigi Nicolin, <i>Architecture as Art. Mostrare l'architettura / Exhibiting Architecture</i> , edited by Nina Bassoli, Gaia Piccarolo, Editoriale Lotus, 2016
	Pierluigi Nicolin, <i>Lezioni di interior design</i> , Postmedia books, 2021
	Rebecca Solnit, <i>Storia del camminare</i> , Ponte alle Grazie, 2002 (edizione inglese: <i>Wanderlust: A History of Walking</i> , Faber and Faber, 2014



Richard Sennett, Flesh and Stone: The Body and the City in Western Civilization, W. W. Norton & Company, 1996