

# UAH!

## Lecture Series and International Seminar

18 February > 20 May

@ AUIC School  
Politecnico di Milano  
online on WEBEX

WEBEX LINK

<https://politecnicomilano.webex.com/meet/gennaro.postiglione>

info: [www.uah.polimi.it](http://www.uah.polimi.it)

# UAH!

## Unconventional Affordable Housing!

UAH! Lecture series  
and international  
seminar

*Lecture series and international seminar*

*curated by Gennaro Postiglione, Francesca Serrazanetti, Constanze Wolfgring*

- 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 25** Silvia Cafora - POLITO - Torino  
h. 12.00
- 04<sup>th</sup> Mar 25** Matteo Frangi / 51N4E - Belgium  
h. 09.30
- 04<sup>th</sup> Mar 25** Mikel van Gelderen - TU Delft  
h. 14.30
- 11<sup>th</sup> Mar 25** Samuel Lundberg / HHL - Sweden  
h. 09.30
- 18<sup>th</sup> Mar 25** Gisela Lameira + Rui Ramos - FAUP - Porto  
h. 17.00
- 25<sup>th</sup> Mar 25** Fernanda Canales - Mexico  
h. 17.00
- 01<sup>st</sup> Apr 25** UAH! International Seminar  
h. 09.30-18.00
- 08<sup>th</sup> Apr 25** Jo van den Berghe - KU Leuven - St Lucas Ghent  
h. 09.30
- 22<sup>th</sup> Apr 25** Ola Broms Wessel + Klas Ruin / Spridd - Sweden  
h. 14.30
- 29<sup>th</sup> Apr 25** Michela Barone Lumaga + Lovisa Lindström /  
h. 14.30 ALTA Architecture - Sweden
- 06<sup>th</sup> May 25** Mikael Bergquist Architect - Sweden  
h. 14.30
- 13<sup>th</sup> May 25** AgwA - Belgium  
h. 14.30
- 20<sup>th</sup> May 25** Cristina Gamboa / Lacol - Spain (tbc)  
h. 14.30

This lecture series responds to the growing need to better understand the major transformations behind recent radical social changes and their impact on architecture and contemporary living.

The contributions reflect the commitment of contemporary architecture to design approaches that are responsive to today's challenges, navigating between unconventionality, affordability, sustainability, adaptive reuse, craft and beauty.

This initiative takes place under the umbrella of the Research Project of National Interest (PRIN), funded by the Italian Ministry for Universities and Research, "From Unconventional Households to Unconventional Affordable Housing", and aims to provide a learning opportunity for the more than 300 students involved in the project, in various countries of Europe, through design studios activities. Guided by Politecnico di Milano in collaboration with Università degli Studi di Trieste, Politecnico di Bari and Università degli Studi di Bari, the project seeks to identify and analyse existing housing solutions that are both affordable and unconventional, investigating practices, projects and policies. It thus aims at gaining an understanding of the wide range of housing phenomena at the intersection of unconventionality and affordability in Europe, by evaluating their qualities, innovative features, shortcomings and criticalities. One key outcome of the research will be the development of design proposals at the intersection of architecture and policy (in each of the research units' geographical contexts, i.e., Milano, Trieste, and Bari), in order to explore the feasibility of innovative solutions within a given context.

18 February 2025

**h. 12**  
**in presence @POLIMI**  
**room B.3.2**  
**online on WEBEX**



18 February 2025

**Silvia Cafora**  
POLITECNICO DI TORINO, ITALIA

Silvia Cafora is an architect and Post Doc researcher at the Department of Architecture and Design of the Polytechnic of Turin. She carries out research activities mainly in the field of community-led housing models and territorial fragilities with a focus on community practices and regenerative access to the building-housing heritage. She has worked on informal spaces and the right to the city, at the Politecnico di Milano and the Escuela de Arquitectura y diseño in Valparaíso, Chile. She is scientific consultant at Fondazione Feltrinelli in Milan on issues related to Housing.

Author of *Abitare Pioniere. Innovazione democratica e nuovi paradigmi economici in risposta alla finanziarizzazione* (2020), *Abitare alternativo, modelli in azione. Housing collaborativo, accessibile e inclusivo in Europa* (2023) and *Cooperare e Abitare. Il diritto alla casa nelle metropoli per le nuove generazioni* (2024) for Feltrinelli.

References:

<https://full.polito.it/people/silvia-cafora/>

4 Mrch 2025

h. 9.30  
in presence @POLIMI  
room B.3.2  
online on WEBEX

# Matteo Frangi / 51N4E

BRUXELLES, BELGIUM

51N4E is rooted in Europe, where comfort slows down change. In the face of a democratic and ecological deficit, transformation happens here in a space that is already occupied by multiple and often parallel realities. In this context, we use design to help overcome opposition and create integrated value and new experiences.

51N4E is a self-steering collective that wants to empower people to be both autonomous and connected. It does so by organizing the supportive processes needed for a collaborative design culture. This collaboration platform combines the internal studios with a growing network of external partners. As such, it mirrors today's complex reality and produces an ecosystem of knowledge.

References:  
<https://51n4e.com/>



4 March 2025

h. 14.30

online on WEBEX

# Mikel van Gelderen

TU DELFT, BELGIUM

Mikel van Gelderen is visual artist, scenographic designer, architect and at times somewhere in between. With Jurjen Zeinstra, he founded the Amsterdam-based Zeinstra van Gelderen architects, which designed both very large buildings, such as the residential and office building on IJdock in Amsterdam, and very small buildings, such as the Bus House in Ede. The cooperation between Mikel van Gelderen and Jurjen Zeinstra started in 1990, when both were working as editors for the architectural magazine OASE. He teaches at TU Delft and various schools including Politecnico di Milano and the Design Academy Eindhoven.

References:  
<https://www.zeinstravangelder.nl/index.html>



11 March 2025

**h. 9.30**  
**in presence @POLIMI**  
**room B.3.2**  
**online on WEBEX**

11 March 2025

# Samuel Lundberg / HHL STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

HERMANSSON HILLER LUNDBERG is focused on the development and production of architecture with a lasting worth and value to society, always in continuous engagement with the history of architecture. The work of the studio has been acknowledged with various national and international awards.

HHL work with different forms and expressions in the pursuit of a rich and complex architecture, and combine an interest in the fundamental values in architecture with a dedication to context, programme and building processes.

The practice's ongoing projects include housing, city planning, care homes, pre-schools, hotels and offices. Regardless of the type or scale of a project the HHL investigate and develop architectural forms, building components, materialities and atmospheres. The practice was founded in Stockholm in 2006 by Andreas Hermansson, Andreas Hiller and Samuel Lundberg.



References:  
<https://www.hhl.se>

18 March 2025

**h. 17.00**  
**online on WEBEX**



18 March 2025

# Gisela Lameira + Rui Ramos

FAUP PORTO, PORTUGAL

Gisela Lameira and Rui J. G. Ramos are the coordinators of the “Housing Think Tank: Knowledge Integration on multi-family residential buildings” [HoTT]: the project seeks to address the problems of contemporary housing structures as the key subject, bringing together, in a cooperative database repository, scattered scientific information on built experiences in several countries, from the early 20th century to the present.

Gisela Lameira is an architect and researcher of the Center for Studies in Architecture and Urbanism (FAUP, CEAU). Her PhD in Architecture (FAUP, 2017) focused on multi-family housing models in Portugal. In this research, she conducted an extensive survey of housing buildings, categorising their inner characteristics and connecting their resilience to change with current challenges. She is currently a contracted researcher at FAUP.

Rui J. G. Ramos is an architect and Full Professor at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Porto (FAUP). He developed an architectural practice in his own office between 1983 and 2003. Now, he is a researcher at the Centre for Studies in Architecture and Urbanism, and he was the Principal Investigator of the interdisciplinary project “Mapping Public Housing: A Critical Review of the State Subsidized Residential Architecture in Portugal 1910-1974”. His main study areas are the spatial devices of the house, the relation between culture and forms of dwelling, mass housing programmes, and, currently, developing a renewed understanding of an “inclusive architecture” from ageing to sustainability.

## References:

<https://ceau.arq.up.pt/en/about/research-groups/atlas-da-casa/hott>



25 March 2025

**h. 17.00**  
**online on WEBEX**

25 March 2025

# Fernanda Canales

## CIUDAD DE MEXICO, MEXICO

Fernanda Canales is an architect based in Mexico City committed to design, urban planning and research. She holds a PhD in Architecture from the Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Madrid, an MA from the Universidad Politécnica de Cataluña in Barcelona and a BA from Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City.

Fernanda is author of the books *Shared Structures, Private Space* (Actar 2020), *Architecture in Mexico 1900-2010* (Arquine, 2013), *Mi casa, tu ciudad* (Puente Editores 2021) and *Vivienda Colectiva en México* (Gustavo Gili, 2017).

She has been awarded with the Research Graham Foundation Grant 2022, the Fundación Arte Contemporáneo Jumex grant, the Career Award and the Best Young Architect Award in Mexico (2014, Colegio de Arquitectos de México), and the fellowship of the National System of Creators in Mexico (Fondo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes, 2012). She has received The Masterprize Award, WAN Awards, The Chicago Athenaeum Museum of Architecture Award, the IIDA Design Award, and the Best of Design Awards by the Architects Newspaper. Fernanda was shortlisted for the Dorfsman Award by the Royal Academy of Arts in London (2019), the Swiss Architectural Award (2018), and the Iakov Chernikov International Architecture Award (2015).

# 1 April

# UAH!

# International Seminar

**Politecnico di Milano, Aula Rogers**

**h. 9.30-18.00**

promoted by  
Marta Aversa, Gian Luca Brunetti, Gennaro Postiglione, Roberto Rizzi

curated by  
Francesca Serrazanetti, Constanze Wolfgring



**UNCONVENTIONAL  
AFFORDABLE HOUSING**  
explores the new possibilities  
of contemporary living at the  
intersection of affordability and  
unconventionality, starting from  
a reflection on existing housing  
projects, practices and policies.

**Guests:**

Monique Bosco-von Allmen - Cooperative  
d'Abitazione Svizzera  
Eleonora Fassina - Vandkunsten, Copenhagen,  
Denmark  
Olaf Gipser - Innsbruck University, Austria  
Gérald Ledent - UC Louvain, Belgium  
Pascal Müller - Müller Sigrist Architekten, Zürich,  
Switzerland

**Invited to discuss:**

Marta Aversa, Paola Briata, Massimo Bricocoli,  
Maria Chiara Cela, Antonio Carvalho,  
Jacopo Gresleri, Camillo Magni, Luca Talluri

**Chairs:**

Francesca Serrazanetti, Constanze Wolfgring

updated program:

**[www.uah.polimi.it](http://www.uah.polimi.it)**



1 April 2025

# Monique Bosco-von Allmen

LUGANO, SWITZERLAND

Monique Bosco-Von Allmen is an architect and the president of the Italian-speaking Switzerland section of Cooperative d'alloggio Svizzera (Cassi).

She began with an internship at Mario Botta's studio in 1988-89, and then graduated in architecture from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich in 1992, after attending a semester at CEPT University (Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology) in Ahmedabad, India. She worked at Nater & Huber Architekten in Zurich and at Antonio Citterio & Partners in Milan, and she opened her own design studio in 1998.

References:  
<https://www.cassi.ch>



1 April 2025

# Eleonora Fassina / Vandkunsten

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

Tegnestuen Vandkunsten was established in 1970 by the architects Svend Algren, Jens Thomas Arnfred, Michael Sten Johnsen and Steffen Kragh.

*At Vandkunsten, we focus on people. Homes, buildings and cities form the setting for human life and activity. At the risk of sounding extravagant, we reserve the right to think and believe that good architecture has the capacity to make society more liveable.*

*That does not imply that architecture should make a spectacle of itself. Our architecture rarely draws attention to itself but seeks to engage in a dialogue with the people and communities that use it.*

*For nearly five decades, we have challenged the routine practices of the construction trade and consistently sought to create architecture that embraces social and sustainable goals.*

References:  
<https://vandkunsten.com>



1 April 2025

# Olaf Gipser

INNSBRUCK UNIVERSITY, AUSTRIA

Olaf Gipser is an architect based in Amsterdam. He is a professor at the Faculty of Architecture at Innsbruck University and has been teaching at the TU Delft, The Berlage Institute in Rotterdam, the Royal Academy in London, the Academy of Architecture in Amsterdam and the Bergen Architecture School.

Olaf holds degrees from the Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ), from the University of Stuttgart, and as Fulbright student from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA).

References:

[https://www.uibk.ac.at/de/newsroom/dossiers/neue\\_gesichter/2022/olaf-gipser/](https://www.uibk.ac.at/de/newsroom/dossiers/neue_gesichter/2022/olaf-gipser/)  
<https://olafgipser.com>



1 April 2025

# Gérald Ledent

UC LOUVAIN, BELGIUM

Gérald Ledent is an architectural engineer who graduated from UCLouvain, Belgium, and OSU, USA. He is an associate professor at UCLouvain in Brussels, where he teaches theory as well as in various studios. He holds a PhD in architecture; his thesis, entitled *Potentiels Relationnels*, explores the relationships between spaces and uses in domestic space. He plays a co-coordination role in the *Uses&Spaces* research team, in which his research interests focus on the relationship in architecture between uses and spaces, housing typo-morphologies and research by design. He has extensive experience in the fields of public buildings and collective housing developments in Belgium and abroad. He is also the co-founder of KIS studio (Keep It Simple studio), which aims to avoid unnecessary complexity in order to focus on the essentials.

Recently, Ledent published *Sustainable Dwelling* (PUL, 2019), *Institutions & the City: The Role of Architecture* (Park Books, 2022) and *Brussels Housing. Atlas of Residential Building Types* (Birkhäuser, 2023).

References:

<https://www.kis-studio.be>



1 April 2025

# Pascal Müller / Müller Sigrist Architekten

ZÜRICH, SWITZERLAND

Müller Sigrist was founded in 2001 by Pascal Müller and Peter Sigrist in Zurich. Both had previously met while studying architecture at ETH Zurich.

In 2009, the office took first place in the open competition for the “Kalkbreite residential and commercial development”.

The architectural office employs around 25 people. Since 2023, the management team has consisted of Pascal Müller, Patrick Fischer and Philip Thoma.

*Atmospheric, functional, self-contained and succinct in terms of urban planning. These and a playful lightness are the qualities we aspire to with our concepts.*

*We consider it our honourable duty to understand the thinking behind a commission. This means that our clients’ needs are always at the centre of our work. By planning our projects sustainably and with an eye on conserving resources, we are able to create distinguished buildings and settlements.*

*We apply the same standard of quality to developing urban planning studies and designs as to tailor-made furniture and lighting.*

References:  
<https://www.muellersigrist.ch>



1 April 2025

# Michael Obrist

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Michael Obrist is professor for housing and design at TU Vienna and partner of feld72 architekten zt gmbh.

He studied architecture at the Technical University of Vienna and the School of Architecture of Portsmouth. He added a few semester of studies in philosophy at the University of Vienna and the Academy of Fine Arts (Seminar Peter Sloterdijk).

Since 2018 he is professor for housing and design at the Technical University of Vienna and director of the department of housing and architectural design / Institute for architecture and design.

Together with Lorenzo Romito and Sabine Pollak, he is the curator of the Austrian Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale 2025. The building, designed by Josef Hoffmann and inaugurated in 1934, will become an interactive space with the opening of the “Agency for Better Living”, an exhibition dedicated to exploring the new political dimension of the fundamental right to housing.

References:  
<https://labiennale2025.at/en/>  
<https://feld72.at>



8 April 2025

**h. 9.30**  
**in presence @POLIMI**  
**room B.3.2**

**online on WEBEX**

8 April 2025

# Jo van den Berghe

KU LEUVEN - ST LUCAS GHENT, BELGIUM

Jo Van Den Berghe (Architect, Ph.D) teaches experimental architectural design at KU Leuven Faculty of Architecture, Campus St-Lucas Brussels/Ghent, Belgium, in the experimental studio (Studio Anatomy). He works as a researcher and part-time professor at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University, Melbourne, Australia and Barcelona, Spain, in the field of Techné and Poiesis in making architecture (the poetics of making). He is a visiting professor at Politecnico di Milano, Queen's University Belfast and EPFL Lausanne. He is a reflective practitioner-architect with a critical architectural practice in Belgium since 1986.

## References:

<https://www.jovandenberghes.be>

22 April 2025

h. 14.30

online on WEBEX



22 April 2025

# Ola Broms Wessel + Klas Ruin / Spridd STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

Spridd is an architecture office based in Stockholm since 2005. It has established itself as one of Sweden's most innovative architectural offices in urban development and architecture through success in competitions, research, debates and completed projects. The projects range in a wide field from interior design to urban development as well as from conceptual thinking to construction drawings. Spridd currently consists of ten architects with a network of established partners.

The aim of Spridd is to explore the role and abilities of architecture to respond to current challenges in society. The founders Ola Broms Wessel and Klas Ruin share an interest in architecture as social art, a profession that combines technology, art and politics. The office strives to be a creative platform, a laboratory open to like-minded architects and neighboring professions to explore the vision. After 13 years the office has developed well-defined methods to pursue projects from concept to completion.

Society is under constant change. Positions at home, at work, and in the city demand have to be reinterpreted. Established ideas about center and periphery need to be reformulated. Spridd was founded to participate in this process of change.

## References:

<https://www.spriddarchitecture.com/>

29 April 2025

h. 14.30

online on WEBEX



29 April 2025

# Michela Barone Lumaga + + Lovisa Lindström / ALTA Architecture STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

ALTA was founded by Michela Barone Lumaga and Lovisa Lindström in 2022. The practice is engaged in architectural, urban and interior design projects.

Design exploration and a context based approach are the roots of the studio philosophy. Alta's projects value the idea that daily life is precious and buildings should support social interactions, be open and adaptable for change.

Lovisa and Michela have contributed to a dozen building projects in Stockholm, London, Milan and Amsterdam and are currently lecturers at KTH, combining their work at ALTA with academic teaching. The studio believes in a collaborative practice with a good quality of professional life and engaged clients.

References:  
<https://altaarchitecture.se/>



6 May 2025

h. 14.30

online on WEBEX

6 May 2025

# Mikael Bergquist Architect

STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

Mikael Bergquist is an architect and writer living and working in Stockholm. Educated at KTH and the Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen, he started his own office 1996.

He is also a lecturer in the master's program at Stockholm's KTH Royal Institute of Technology. Editor and curator of various books and exhibitions, the latest published book is *Josef Frank: Villa Carlsten*, Park Books, 2019. He participated in the *Alternative Histories* exhibition in London, 2019

13 May 2025

h. 14.30

online on WEBEX

13 May 2025

**AgWA**  
BRUXELLES, BELGIUM

AgwA is a Brussels architectural office founded between 2003 and 2006 by Harold Fallon and Benoît Vandenbulcke and later expanded with Benoit Burquel. AGWA offers functional, candid and straightforward architecture of high architectural and conceptual quality.

Their projects anticipate the evolution of buildings over time and of different users. They are committed to responding in the best possible way to contextual, human, programmatic and economic questions. Although AgwA often proposes out-of-the-box solutions, their projects are simple, effective and sustainable on both an ecological and economic level.

AgwA is also active in education and research, mainly at KU Leuven and the Sint Lucas Brussels School of Art and Science. In 2018, the partners founded Architecture in Practice, an interuniversity research group for practicing architects. Since 2019 they publish the book series “In Practice”.

References:

<https://www.agwa.be/>

20 May 2025

20 May 2025

TBC

online on WEBEX

# Cristina Gamboa / Lacol BARCELONA, SPAIN

Lacol is an architects' cooperative established in 2009 in the Sants neighborhood of Barcelona. Lacol works to generate community infrastructures for the sustainability of life, as a key tool for the eco-social transition, through architecture, cooperativism and participation.

Lacol's approach has helped to inspire new housing cooperatives in Barcelona both on the client side and among architects. Several neighbourhood projects in the district of Sants in central Barcelona, where Lacol is based, led to its first cooperative housing project, La Borda, which won international awards; the team now includes 13 architects: Eliseu Arrufat, Ari Artigas, Carles Baiges, Lali Daví, Cristina Gamboa, Ernest Garriga, Mirko Gegundez, Laura Lluch, Lluc Hernández, Pol Massoni and Jordi Miró; and collaborating partners Arnau Andrés and Anna Clemente.

**UAH!**

Unconventional  
Affordable  
Housing!

References:

<https://www.lacol.coop>

**UNCONVENTIONAL  
AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING** explores the  
new possibilities of  
contemporary living  
at the intersection  
of affordability and  
unconventionality,  
starting from a  
reflection on existing  
housing projects,  
practices and policies.

**UAH.POLIMI.IT**

uah.prin2022@gmail.com  
francesca.serrazanetti@polimi.it  
constanze.wolfgring@polimi.it