ARCH 4/584 (Arch Design) Fall 2022
ROME, THE OTHER SIDE
A STUDIO ON URBAN DESIGN FUNDAMENTALS
CRN 15718 / 15720 - Monday Wednesday Friday 1:00-4:50pm in 405W Lawrence Hall
Instructor: Antonio Pietro Latini, alatini7@uoregon.edu

“Rome is the city of echoes, the city of illusions, and the city of yearning.”
— Giotto di Bondone

When thinking of Rome, most of us wonder of the remains of the Caput Mundi, of Renaissance palaces, of iconic domes, of Baroque piazzas, of narrow and picturesque streets in the historic center. It’s an illusion. Many neighborhoods where Romans live, are all but this: none of the beauties of the historic fabric are echoed there.

Chaotic anarchy and dreadful uniformity compete over these ideal battlefields. So, while we dream of the old side of the city, the actual challenge for future design professionals is the regeneration of the more recent side into a more desirable living place. We can learn from the former to design the latter.

This is a studio for experienced undergraduate and graduate students in architecture, mainly dealing with urban design and focusing on the disciplinary fundamentals: how buildings relate among themselves, how they generate public and private places, how to combine efficiency and beauty, using quantitative and qualitative interpretive keys.

The format of the course includes the customary activities of a studio: desk-crits, discussion sessions, frequent students’ presentations based on sketches, manual and computer-aided drawings, and models. We will work on warm-up exercises—both ideal and real, based in Italy and China—and a sequence of analytical interpretations. Finally, we will design, at locale and building-group scales, a residential neighborhood, complete of supporting non-residential uses and services, in a river bend of the Tevere.

This studio on urban design fundamentals might be of special interest for those who attended or are planning to attend the Rome and Vicenza programs, in Italy.

Architecture Department
1206 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1206
TEL 541-346-3656 | FAX 541-346-3626 archenvironment.uoregon.edu/architecture

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