



## THE GATE TO ROME: PORTA MAGGIORE

INTERNATIONAL DESIGN WORKSHOP

FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE, SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME

ROME, JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup>-JULY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2016

For the tenth consecutive year, the International design workshop at the Faculty of Architecture, Sapienza University of Rome will take place between Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup>. Students will collaborate in mixed groups under the supervision of instructors from Rome and Myongji University.

This year's workshop project will be dedicated to the area of Porta Maggiore, one of the most relevant and imposing archaeological artifacts in Rome. Despite its extraordinary architectural configuration, and the fundamental historical role the gate plays in the unfolding of the city's walls, its current configuration harshly suffers from the presence of a multiplicity of heavy-duty transportation axes. Porta Maggiore is surrounded by roads, light-rail lines, and one of the principal railway track routes runs just by its side. All these infrastructural elements, which have added up over time, make the appreciation of the gate difficult and in any case diminish its appeal as a public space.

DESIGN THEME

Porta Maggiore, built at the middle of the 1st century AD, was already from Roman times located at the convergence of important infrastructures, such as two major roads (Via Praenestina and Via Labicana) and several aqueducts entering the city from the hills located to the east of Rome. This fundamental role, played out since ancient times, is the leading rationale behind its monumental size and configuration, as well as for the complexity of its structure. The design task will therefore consist in granting the architectural artifact the possibility of acquiring greater autonomy and increasing its degree of protection from the aggressive surrounding urbanization, while at the same time not forsaking its original role as an urban node, i.e. a place for exchanges, flows, and the simultaneous

co-existence of many different elements of the urban setting. Porta Maggiore must not become an isolated, monumentalized object: it has to re-enter the present life of an important sector of modern Rome and play out a role within the contemporary development of the city. The intervention program will therefore include the revision of traffic flows around the gate, the improvement and promotion of pedestrian use, as well as the introduction of new activities capable of enlivening the area of Porta Maggiore at the various times of the day. In line with contemporary architectural thinking, zero-volume interventions will have to be privileged, with the implementation of strategies for the reduction of visual congestion.

## WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION

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Students will work in groups of three or four, mixed between the participating schools. The workshop will take place in a reserved space which will be freely accessible at the Faculty building in Fontanella Borghese. Students will be expected to work from 10:00 to 18:00, although during the final stages they might have to prolong working hours. Every student should have an own laptop computer and other drawing tools; facilitation will be provided for printing.

## WORKSHOP PROGRAM

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DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY
Th 23.6	10:00-13:00	Workshop opening
		Presentation of site and program, Design groups are formed
	14:00-18:00	Site visit
Fr 24.6	10:00-18:00	Student groups begin working under the supervision of tutors
Mo 27.6	10:00-18:00	Design work
Tu 28.6	10:00-18:00	Design work
We 29.6		Holiday
Th 30.6	10:00-18:00	Design work
Fr 1.7	10:00-14:00	Design work
	15:00-18:00	Final presentation

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