

# HIGHER EDUCATION AND INNOVATION

Design of an Innovative Teaching Module for an Intensive Programme on Aeolian Architecture







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Design of an Innovative Teaching Module for an Intensive Programme on Aeolian Architecture

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# INTRODUCTION

The present book shows the first results of the project VVITA.

VVITA is the acronym of "Modernizing Learning and Teaching for Architecture through Smart and Long-lasting Partnerships leading to sustainable and inclusive development strategies to Vitalize heritage Villages through Innovative Technologies". It is inserted in the Erasmus+ program, measure K2 Strategic Partnership for Higher Education. It involves professors and students of the Ion Mincu University of Architecture and Urbanism of Bucharest (UAUIM), which is the leader, the University of Catania (UNICT), and the Norwegian University of Science and Technology of Trondheim (NTNU).

The core of the project consists of three Intensive Periods (IP), each of them hosted in one of the country partners of the project. IP is a tool adopted in the Erasmus+ Program to encourage transnational teaching and learning of special subjects, through short courses in which involved are students and professors of universities of foreign countries, grouped in a Strategic Partnership.

The IPs of VVITA are addressed to develop innovative methodologies in the teaching of refurbishing and revitalizing local, vernacular architecture. Such courses are called Innovative Teaching Modules (ITM). For Norway, an ITM was in last June 2018 and it was located in Lofoten, an archipelago off the Scandinavian Atlantic coast, 70 ° N. For Italy, an ITM was in last September 2018 and it was in the Aeolian Islands, 32 miles off the Sicilian northern coast. An ITM

in Romania was programmed for May 2019, in the Danube Delta, off the coast of the Black Sea. These places are very interesting; their peculiarity is the strong relation between architecture and coastal landscape. Unfortunately, they show wide marginal areas that are unexploited. Therefore, the project is addressed to the revitalization process of them, through architecture. The ITM is composed by different modes: lectures, practice, and workshop. Each mode is connected with the others to form a system. In order to achieve this synergy, it is very important to have a careful design of the teaching module. In the contemporary view of this subject, binomial teaching-learning is considered indivisible, as well as the partnership between teachers and learners. The learning outcomes are strictly related to this relation, which is also the target of the teaching design.

The design of an ITM is the target of VVITA that is assigned to UNICT. In particular, this book deals with the generic design of an ITM and its contextualization in the module of the Aeolian Islands, called the Aeolian Teaching Module (ATM).

This book is composed of three parts.

The first one begins with a theoretical introduction on the didactic design, addressed to show how it is possible to strength the partnership between teachers and learners. After, it describes the characteristics of the VVITA project, the generic ITM, and a SWOT analysis of the ITM design.

Part II contains the design of the ATM; it speaks about the features of the location and describes the activities carried out there. Part III is divided in two sub-parts. The first one consists of the contributions of the staff involved in the ATM. In particular, it is formed by a corpus of propaedeutic lectures (on the particularity of the place, on the calculation of the comfort conditions, on the evaluation of the local building, and on the use of the GIS technology). The second half is formed by the final reports of the student groups, a contribution from each one of them. After a GIS analysis of the assigned area, they show the revitalization of the building chosen as the case study.



Simona Calvagna

# **AEOLIAN INTENSIVE PERIOD**

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

As already mentioned, the Italian teaching module of the VVITA project is called the ATM; it is focused on topics that can be useful to deeply understand the wisdom of the vernacular architecture of the Aeolian Islands and to define principles and strategies to reactivate it in order to revitalize the local built heritage.

At the basis of this, there is the knowledge of the characteristics of traditional Mediterranean architecture, from a typological, historical-cultural, and technical-constructive point of view. Particular attention is paid to the anchoring of the building artefacts to the context and to the consequent formal, functional, and constructive relationships between Aeolian architecture and the environment. Belonging to the forms and cultures of Mediterranean life is considered the starting point for the identification of features, parameters, and typologies to be taken into consideration in the interventions of refurbishment of the existing built heritage and in the construction of new facilities.

The architectural characterization goes beyond the knowledge of the historical-cultural, landscape, and technical constructive issues, going as far as a thermophysical and mechanical modelling of the built heritage. For this purpose, the ATM is structured to transfer notions and knowledge related to the basics of thermodynamics and heat transmission, as well as to the thermophysical properties of traditional building materials in the Mediterranean environment and more generally, to the energy behav-

ior of historical buildings. Knowledge of the climate data of the Aeolian Islands is also foreseen, in order to build a dynamic characterization of the thermophysical behavior of the analyzed buildings.

Likewise, in order to be able to carry out a mechanical modelling of the buildings which are the object of analysis, the knowledge provided by the ATM concerns the structural behavior of the historical buildings in the seismic area, with particular attention to seismic actions and to the relationships between the geometry and seismic response of the structures.

With the aim of creating an innovative tool (geodatabase) for the management of the built heritage quality, able to integrate the acquired multidisciplinary data with their geographical location, the ATM also provides basics of topography and informatics, in particular with regard to data automatic structuring, data storage and management systems, and georeferencing systems.

The skills developed during the ATM activities concern above all the use of Rapid Evaluation Methods (REM) [24] in order to achieve a rapid evaluation of the architectural, thermophysical, and mechanical quality of the analyzed buildings. With the help of thematic checklists, drawn based on models such as the ITACA Protocol [25] or the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) method [26], it was possible to establish the features and parameters to be analyzed, in order to compare the different case studies and set, for



each of them, quality levels with respect to a fixed grid.

The fieldwork relies on Geographic Information System (GIS) technology [27], implementing the information collected in the field within a georeferenced data system. Therefore, the skills that the students can develop are the following:

- use and management of thematic maps at different scales:
- construction, in a guided way, of a georeferenced data system (geodatabase);
- data-entry and data-editing in a novel geodatabase (association of geometry, topography and data);
- measurements of internal thermo-hygrometric comfort and ventilation, calculation of transmittance and attenuation:
- leading a refurbishment design process - with the possibility of introducing new small facilities - in which architectural, energy balance and anti-seismic issues are integrated.

The main characteristic of vernacular architecture is to be contextual. This takes place in the construction and arises out of what is permanent rather than from a given event [28]. Starting from this statement, the students can have an immersive experience, applying the acquired knowledge



and skills on the Aeolian environment. More specifically, they can develop the competences of:

- work in a multidisciplinary and multicultural team;
- manage a novel software tool, based on GIS technology;
- make a multidisciplinary assessment of the quality of Aeolian vernacular architecture;
- make a synthesis of the three themes analyzed (architecture, energy balance and seismic restraint) in an integrated design process;

- experiment with a site-specific design process.

The educational approach of the ATM is based on multidisciplinarity. Many topics are involved both in the data-entry/editing activities of the novel geodatabase and in the design simulation activities.

History, History of Architecture, and History of Construction are important to understand the Aeolian vernacular architecture in the wider perspective of the Mediterranean historical buildings.

Landscape Analysis and Design are useful to see the relationships between architecture, people, and places.

Building Technology and Building Science

provide the tools to understand and improve the material quality of the buildings, paying attention to construction processes. Technical Physics is involved in the activities related to the energy balance assessment. Topography is concerned with the activities of managing the thematic maps and of realizing the novel geodatabase. In addition to this knowledge, participants have to show interest in new places and new challenges. In fact, the relationship with the location is the best strength of the ITM and therefore, it is very important to take advantage of the full immersion in it. On the other hand, the participants are called to work in very particular conditions, sometimes difficult to access and manage.

Main learning outcomes of the AMT					
knowledge	skills	competences			
	use of REM	ability to synthesize			
characters of traditional Mediterranean architecture	use of thematic maps	working in a multicultural team			
	construction of a geodatabase	managing a novel software tool			
thermo-physical and mechanical	data-entry and data-editing	assessment of the quality of Aeolian vernacular architecture			
modelling of the built heritage	measurements of thermo-physic parameters	integrated design process			
data automatic structuring					
data storage and management systems	refurbishment design process	site-specific design			
georeferencing systems					

Checklist of the features of the Aeolian Houses









picture 1

picture 2

picture 3

picture 4

STUDY AREA 1 [VAL DI CHIESA] GENERAL 01

title	description
id*	01
id contrada	X Val di Chiesa □ Canale Nord □ Canale Sud □ Liscla □ Partella □ Peccafni Nord
short description	
age	□ before (900 □ 1900-1940 □ 1940-1980 □ 1980-2020
context	City center Cauburb Cisolated
house unit	□ independet □ fat
property	□ private □ public
number of inhabitants	pes p>s
use	□ confinous □ occasionally □ abandoned

* If id motches mo	ke than one building uni	t, mark building id with a.b.c

notes & sketches

STUDY AREA 1 [VAL DI CHIESA] GEOMETRY 01

title	value
number of floor	S
internal height	[m]
footprint surface	Evril
total net surface	[m]
length N	[m]
length NE	(Pm)
length NW	[m]
length S	[m]
length SE	[m]
length SW	jmj
length E	jmj
length W	(m)
gross-volume	[m]

notes 0 skataba
notes & sketches

STUDY	AREA	1
IVAL DI	CHIES	A1

# DOCET INPUT 01

title	value/description
wall description	
roof description	
ground floor description	
other descriptions	
wall thickness	[m]
roof thickness	[m]
ground floor thickness	[m]
other thicknesses	
glass windows	☐ single ☐ double ☐ double-glosed
glass windows U	[W/[m²K]]
frame windows	□ aluminium: □ pvc □ wood
frame windows U	[W/(m²K)]
cooling system description	
heating system description	
heating terminal units description	
control system description	
not conditioned ambient ground floor	
not conditioned ambient ceiling	
not conditioned ambient attic	
not conditioned ambient room	

# STUDY AREA 1 [VAL DI CHIESA]

# BUILDING 01

title	value		desc	ripti	on (s	core)
cellar aggregation			C) cluster	D	fow I	(1 isolated
relation with the slope	38		C) dile	gned	D franc	iveral
facade color	1	D white +3.0	C) other to	odifiona	color	C) not traditional colo -2.0
door Jambs and lintel	9		traditional o	oolor	Dinot h	raditional color
volume addiction	[m <sup>n</sup> ]	(3 less than 10% +1.0	Ci less fi	ngn 40 %	De -ti	more than 40 %
puleri	,		D k	use	Christ is	nuse
bagghio	91			Cl yes	II no	
rainwater collection systems	,	13 clst	lem undergr	binud	0 h ss	e C) not in use
green essences	9		D froditi	onal	Dinot h	raditional
perimeter walls	9		in stone	() plas	tered	Clin concrete
enclosure	1		C green	(2) in	wood	C) other
not congruent pavements				D yes	Cino	
not congruent roofs	1			Dyes -2.0	0.0	
not congruent windows shape	19			D yes	0.0	
not congruent windows frame				D yes	O.D.	
not congruent shutters	1			Dives -2.0	0.0	
not congruent horizontal shading systems	19			Di yes	0.0	
not congruent pluvials	1			□ yes -2.0	3 no	
BUILDING SCORE	7				/30	

## STUDY AREA 1 [VAL DI CHIESA]

# STRUCTURE 0 1 STUDY AREA 1 [VAL DI CHIESA]

title	value	description (score)
construction features		□ mixed □ reinforced concrete □ masonry wall +1.0 +1.0
foundation	7.	□ horizonfal □ slope +2.0 +1.0
type of soil	1	13 rock 13 soft
layout organization	T	C celulor type C irregular type
plan regularity	0.00	0 yes 0 no 11.0 13.0
height regularity	1	□ yes □ no +1.0 +3.0
height of the first floor	[m]	0.> height of the 2nd floor 0 < height of the 2nd floor
height of the second floor	Init	D < height of the 1st floor D > height of the 1st floor -1.0
wall thickness at the first floor	[m]	☐ > wall thickness of 2nd floor ☐ < wall thickness of 2nd floor 0.0
wall thickness at the second floor	(m)	(i) < wall thickness at 1st floor (ii) > wall thickness at 1st floor (ii)
number of openings for each cell	-	052 0×2 00 -10
presence of large arches	-040	0 yes 0 ne +1.0 +20
presence of damages or cracks	0	Q yes   Q no +1.0 +0.0
presence of walls on slope	7	G yes
staircase	o#∂	© Inside D outside
dimension of the largest cell	(m <sup>2</sup> )	□ ≤ 25 m² □ > 25,1 m²

# [VAL DI CHIESA]

# ENERGY 01

title	value	desci	ription (se	core)	
shutter	,		D.yes	Q.	
overhanging haltantal distance from the windows	[m]		3>0.1 CI \$0.	t	
overhanging width	(m)		3>0.1 D≤0.	t	
external shading halton talkdance from the windows	[m]		3>0.1 DKG	i i	
external shading height	(m)		1×0.1 (1≤0.	1	
cooling system			D.yes		
heating system	(1		Dyes One		
heating terminal units	1		Dyes   Dho   0.0 -1.0		
control system	L1		Dyek		
renewable energy sources	7	O photovolfaic panels	C) solar thema	# Diboth	D.no
recycling of the water	7		D yes		
S/V (surface/volume)	{(m')	D s 0.5	D0545/Y 50.9	D > 0.9	
U walls	[W/(m/K)]	D ≤ 1.0 +2.0	□1.0 < U≤2.5 +1.0	D > 2.5	
U windows	[w\(max\)]	D \$3.0	□30 <u≤40 -0.3</u≤40 	D>4.0	
U roof	[W/(m=K)]	2510	01.0 <u\$25< td=""><td>D&gt;25</td><td></td></u\$25<>	D>25	
orientation		□ <b>E-W</b>	DN4 DN6	SW (+1.5)	
natural illumination	[FDL]		D 2.0 < FOL = 4.0	0>40	
natural ventilation		☐ cross 43.0	C) single	Cine 0.0	
ENERGY SCORE	1		/30		

## **METHODOLOGY**

The ATM is composed of different moments with different teaching/learning activities, all connected among them.

- THEORY: The lectures form a corpus to support the development of the workshop. They are focused on the knowledge of the historical-cultural, landscape, and construction issues of Aeolian vernacular architecture. The courses are also oriented to provide the necessary technical tools and to facilitate the inclusion of all students in the new context of study. The lectures are mostly scheduled in the first two days, in Catania and Lipari.
- PRACTICE: The second activity is practice and is addressed to contextualize the knowledge of the Mediterranean and Aeolian area provided in the previous step, through concrete cases in which to quantitatively verify paradigms and parameters introduced. It consists of both solving concrete problems and of practical activities, such as guided tours, meeting with local experts, and film watching.

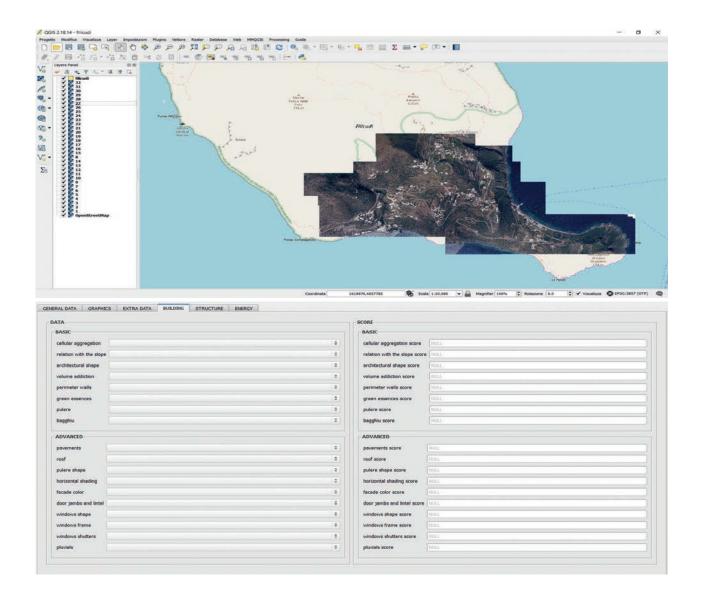
Practice is also connected with technological issues. For instance, as with the GIS tool, the students are asked to realize the platform in which they have to upload and manage the data about buildings. It is developed by the students within a guided activity, using an innovative open source GIS software tool.

- WORKSHOP: The third activity takes place

in the field and consists of the workshop. In it, the students are called to carry out two tasks: field surveys and design simulations. The two tasks are directly connected: the analysis on the building heritage, carried out with the help of the REM, is implemented in the GIS software tool. Subsequently, a design exercise based on the elaborated assessment is carried out, with the aim of resolving the weakness and enhancing the potentials of the case studies.

Students are divided into heterogeneous work groups and to each of them is assigned a larger study area for analysis (task 1), which is smaller for the design simulation (task 2).

- TASK 1. IMMERSIVE DATA-ENTRY/EDITING ACTIVITY IN GIS ENVIRONMENT: The settlement in Filicudi consists of small scattered groups of buildings, mostly residential, located in the south-eastern side of the island. They are connected to each other by a dense network of mule tracks and a recently constructed driveway. The study areas assigned to each group are analyzed from different points of view (architectural, thermo-physical, mechanical) following these phases:
- a) On-site surveys (visual analysis, empirical deductive evaluation, thermophysical measurements);
- b) Systematization of information, through the use of known databases;
- c) Data-entry/editing in the GIS environment;



Didactic activities in ATM					
Theory	Practices	Workshop			
Mediterranean living forms and cultures [V. Sapienza] [G. Giusso]					
	Visit to the Botanical Garden of Catania [G. Giusso]				
	Visit of the Lachea Island				
Thermophysical properties of traditional building materials in the Mediterranean environment [A. Gagliano]		Task 1 Immersive data-entry/editing activity in GIS environment [staff]			
REM [R. Caponetto]					
Structural behavior of historical buildings in seismic area [I. Caliò]					
Basics of topography and GIS [M. Mangiameli]					
	Data automatic structuring, data storage and management systems and georeferencing systems [M. Manggiameli]				
History of Aeolian Islands					
[R. Vilardo] [M. Martinelli]	Visit to the Lipari Museum	Task 2 Design simulation of local			
	Visit to Filobraccio and Capo Graziano [V. Sapienza]	architecture revitalization [staff]			
Ancient terraces of Filicudi Island					
[A. Bonazza] [A. Sardella]	Visit to the Pumice-stone Quarries [E. Carnevale]				
	Visit to Zucco Grande				

d) Summary evaluation and attribution of a quality label to each analyzed building. The use of checklists, prepared by the teaching staff, makes the data collection easy.

Through a REM methodology, the system provides three indexes for each one of the topics covered:

- 1) Typological/landscape/constructive aspects;
- 2) Energy behavior;
- 3) Mechanical behavior.

The sum of them forms a global index that measures the quality of the surveyed buildings.

The implemented virtual platform can be queried to give aggregated data. The sum of the results of all study areas allows the obtaining of information on a significant portion of the whole island.

- TASK 2. DESIGN SIMULATION OF LOCAL AR-CHITECTURE REVITALISATION: The working groups have to deepen their reflections on an assigned building located within the study area, in order to reach a more precise assessment of the architectural quality that takes into account the different relevant issues. The architectural parameters to be evaluated concern the coherence of the construction elements with the traditional building models and landscape characteristics, with particular attention to:
- Relations between architecture and context;
- Materials used in the construction process;
- Water and waste systems;
- Natural ventilation;
- Daylighting.

Inputs of the Task 2				
Aroo of study	Destination of the revitalized buildings			
Area of study	winter summer			
Valdichiesa	typical products shop			
Canale Nord	municipal office	infopoint		
Canale Sud	bike rental	electric bike station		
Liscio	wellness center	medical center		
Portella	university center	observation point		
Pecorini nord	art center	art gallery		

List of th	e Aeolian Teaching Module pa	rticipants	
UNICT HOST PARTNER	NTNU	UAUIM	
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Vincenzo Sapienza	Luca Finocchiaro	Marius Voica	
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Noemi D'Amico	Irhana Sehovic	Ana Maria Petrescu	
Giulia Fiore	Jingjing Zhou	Diana Neagu	
Sharon Gibilras	Alla Aniskova	Corina Şerban	
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Angelo Monteleone		Andrei-Mihai Bosnyak	
Anna Scandura		Adina Popa	
Claudio Torre		Diana-Nicole Şerban	
		Oana-Maria Anghel	
		Ioana-Mihaela Iordache	
		Diana Bădicu	
		Theodora Bratu	

From the point of view of energy balance, the evaluation of the building's thermophysical performance is deepened by introducing the collected data within an easy-to-use software [29], able to return a qualification of the studied buildings for a subsequent comparison between the differ-

ent case studies. From a mechanical point of view, a visual analysis of the cracks, accompanied by a guided assessment of the structural features of the buildings, makes it possible to establish a quality label related to the response to the seismic action of each building.





The design simulation for the revitalization of the built heritage starts from this point. The design choices therefore derive from parametric assessments attentive to the sustainability and coherence of the interventions, to the peculiar characteristics of landscape and traditional architecture, and to the use of renewable energies. This applies both to refurbishment and to possible completion volumes.

The designs are addressed to ruined buildings which, unfortunately, are quite frequent in Filicudi. This fact leaves the students quite free and stimulates their creativity and invention.

The teaching staff provides the new destinations for each building. The projects have to foresee an elevated grade of flexibility, according with the difference in use in different seasons. In winter, the functions must be developed in the masonry cells. In summer, according with the increasing number of inhabitants, some additions, i.e., kinetic or removable structures, can be considered.

In the GIS platform it is also possible to simulate some refurbishment actions, in order to understand their impact on the building.

TIMING: The typical workday is organized according to the following timetable.

A.M.: Field surveys and excursions.

P.M.: Data processing and design and planning.

18.00: 5 minutes per group presentation of the work done during the day, in a few slides. This follows with a debate with the staff members to address the activities of the following days.

The evaluation of the outputs is carried out by the staff in three periods.

One or two days after the start of the workshop, an intermediate presentation is made, to check the outputs of task 1 and the concept of task 2.

The last day is reserved for the oral presentation of the work.

The students are also invited to present a final report and a poster within three months after the end of the ATM. The final report is included in the final book of VVITA. The posters are used to realize an exhibition of the works in the common spaces of the University of Catania.



# **ACRONYMS**

ATM Aeolian Teaching Module
CAD Computer Aided Design
DDS Decision Support System
DEM Digital Elevation Model

DICAR Department Civil Engineering and Architecture

EQF European Qualifications Framework

EPI Energy Performance Index
FOSS Free and Open Source Software
GIS Geographic Information System

GPL General Public License
GPS Global Positioning System

IP Intensive Period

ITM Innovative Teaching Module

NTNU Norwegian University of Science and Technology of Trondheim

QGIS Quantum GIS Software REM Rapid Evaluation Method

SWOT ANALYSIS Strengthen, Weakness, Opportunity, Treats Analysis

UAUIM Ion Mincu University of Architecture and Urbanism of Bucharest

UNICT University of Catania

VVITA Modernizing Learning and Teaching for Architecture through Smart

and Long-lasting Partnerships leading to sustainable and inclusive development strategies to Vitalize heritage Villages through Innova

tive Technologies

WMS Web Map Service

# **BIOGRAPHIES**

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Vincenzo Sapienza was born in Catania (Italy, Sicily) fifty years ago. He started working in the University of Catania in 1997, as a researcher of Building Techniques and now, he is an Associate Professor and Vice Head of his department. He is also Scientific Director of the Enabling Techniques for Architecture Laboratory (ETA Lab). Every year, he has covered a Chair related to his disciplinary competences.

His scientific activity is essentially divided into three thematic areas: innovative building technologies; building sustainability; history of construction.

He has carried out a number of didactic and research periods in foreign universities and in particular, in NTNU of Trondheim University, in Norway (November 2016) and in UAUIM of Bucharest (March, 2017), and UTM of Madrid (February, 2018). He is on the editorial board of the journal MODULO (by Be-Ma Editor, Milan). He was the curator of a special issue, 38/2016, of ilProgettoSostenibile Magazine. Since 2015, he has been Associated Editor of the journal TeMA – Studies on Architectural Engineering.

### MARIUS VOICA

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Marius Voica received his Bachelor degree from "Ion Mincu Institute of Architecture" in Bucharest in 1996 – Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism. He finished his Master's degree in 1999, specializing in "Marketing in Architecture", and graduated from a post-university course in "Project Management".

In 2007, he received his PhD in Architecture with his thesis "Ecological Architecture: Tradition and Contemporary Technology. Sustainable Development and Ecological Management." He has been working in higher education in Architecture since 1998.

He was also manager of the "URBANPROIECT" branch within The National Institute of Research Development in Construction, Urbanism, and Sustainable Territorial Development URBAN – INCERC.

Currently, he works in architectural and construction management, and coordinates the "E.U. Research Funds Office" and the International Studio in "Architectural Synthesis" Department at the UAUIM.

He has attended scholarships, workshops, and teaching programs at universities in Karlsruhe, Regensburg, Montpellier, Stuttgart, Istanbul, and Vienna.

His activity in architecture, urbanism, and interior design has summed up to over 90 projects.

#### **LUCA FINOCCHIARO**

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After earning Master's degree in Building Engineering at the University of Catania (Italy), Luca Finocchiaro moved to Scotland where he earned a Master of Architecture at the Glasgow School of Art. He worked in Barcelona twice, first as a visiting researcher at the ETSAB in UPC (developing his PhD thesis in bioclimatic design of hospitals) and secondly, practicing architecture. Luca is today Associate Professor in "Climate and built forms" and head of the MSc program in Sustainable Architecture at NTNU. His main interest and research focus is the analysis and understanding of climate and its implementation into the architectural design of buildings able to passively address their environmental performance towards comfort. Climate and morphological parametric analyses have been, in different research projects, addressed in design guidelines for both the design of new buildings and the energy retrofitting of existing ones. In 2009, Luca was initiator of the NTNU proposal for the Solar Decathlon 2012 and later, architect of the LivingLAB and Test Cell projects at the Zero Emission Buildings research center at NTNU.

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