

# CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

Designing the Open Museum: from Heritage to Living Courtyard

## WHAT

**Design Workshop**  
/ Politecnico di Torino  
/ Waseda University

**June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>**

## WHERE

*Turin, Italy*

**MAO** Museum of Oriental Art  
**POLITO** Castello del Valentino

LEARNING FROM

**SAMTO**  
**YANMA** 里山

Organization:

With the patronage of:



Politecnico di Torino



Polito JapanHub



DAD  
Dipartimento di Architettura e Design



DIST  
DIPARTIMENTO INTERATENEO DI SCIENZE PROGETTO E POLITICHE DEL TERRITORIO



Waseda University  
Graduate School of Creative Science and Engineering



museo d'arte orientale



FONDAZIONE TORINO MUSEI



GIAPPONE E ITALIA  
160 ANNI E OLTRE!



hit Arc  
Fondazione per l'architettura / Torino

# CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

## Designing the Open Museum: from Heritage to Living Courtyard

**June 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>**

**application deadline - May 25th h23.00**

**results' selection – May 28th**

**students' acceptance deadline – May 31**

### WHAT

## / international design workshop

The international workshop explores the concept of *Satoyama*, understood as the dynamic balance between human communities and their environment, as an operative framework for the design of contemporary public spaces. Rooted in traditional rural practices based on the circular use of natural resources, *Satoyama* today represents a key reference for contemporary approaches to ecological sustainability in living, managing, and transforming the built environment.

Working on the entrance space, the actual courtyard covered garden, and the relationship with the terrace of the MAO Museum, the participants will explore how a semi-enclosed urban space can become an open, living, interactive environment with the city, where ecological processes and human activities coexist. The project invites students to conceptualize and imagine spaces that are:

- ▶ **adaptive and flexible spaces**, able to host different uses over time;
- ▶ **micro-ecological systems**, responsive, integrating new additional structures, covering with vegetation and microclimate informed by both traditional knowledge and contemporary design practice.
- ▶ **relational, encouraging new forms of interaction between inside and outside museum**, fluxes between people and different space.

Rather than applying fixed models, the workshop encourages a situated and experimental approach, translating *Satoyama* principles into contemporary design practices and opening new possibilities for public space in the city.

## PROGRAM

The International Workshop will be held in English. The program consists of a total of **38 hours of activities and is considered an extracurricular initiative**. All participating students will receive a **certificate of participation** which may be submitted to their respective academic offices. **For all students, will be possible to receive 2 academic credits (ECTS/CFU) with a follow-up activity** collecting workshop outcomes in the form of a short essay (upon instructions given by the teaching staff). This activity will be subject to the internal evaluation procedure of the respective academic board.

### On-line webinars (3h)

The program provides **one online webinar** about 10 days before the workshop, where the students of the two universities will meet to attend lectures **by Japanese and Italian experts**, to obtain logistic information and instructions to develop the onsite activities.

### Public Lectures (3h)

As part of the Festival, **2 key-note conferences** will foster dialogue between Japanese experts and scholars from the Politecnico di Torino.

### On-site Design Workshop (4 days - 32h)

The program includes a **4-days intensive design workshop (June 23–26, 2026)** involving a selected group of 10 students (architecture and landscape architecture), 5 students from Politecnico di Torino and 5 from Waseda University.

The workshop will be co-supervised from both institutions and hosted at the MAO – Museum of Oriental Art in Turin.

During the workshop, participants will:

- ▶ Develop conceptual ideas for a design proposal for the reconfiguration of the museum entrance area (courtyard and covered garden) and future museum cafeteria;
- ▶ Explore the creation of an ecological and interactive public space;
- ▶ Engage in collaborative and cross-cultural design practices.

A final presentation and public display of the projects is foreseen at the end of the workshop.

## HOW TO APPLY

Students interested in participating are invited to apply **no later than May 25th, 2026 (h 23:00)** by completing the Google Form at the following link: <https://forms.gle/QzUU6RKJAKk8DPZWA>

Required documents in PDF format (max 10 MB per file):

- ▶ **CV** (max 2 pages) with personal information, phone and email and all the training, design activities and skills;
- ▶ **Exams' list** including the marks obtained (max 2 pages).
- ▶ **Portfolio** (max 16 pages total), including graphic and written materials related to academic work and any extra-curricular experiences.

**Open Call deadline:** 25th May 2026 h23:00

**On-line webinar:** about 10 day before the workshop (TBD)

**On-site workshop:** June 23th-26th 2026, Torino

Organization:

With the patronage of:



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### SELECTION CRITERIA

The International open call accepts Politecnico di Torino students enrolled in the following Msc programs:

- ▶ Architettura Costruzione Città
- ▶ Architecture Construction City
- ▶ Architettura per la Sostenibilità
- ▶ Architecture for Sustainability
- ▶ Architettura per il Patrimonio
- ▶ Architecture for Heritage
- ▶ Pianificazione Urbanistica e Territoriale
- ▶ Urban and Regional Planning
- ▶ Architettura del Paesaggio
- ▶ Landscape Architecture
- ▶ Scuola di Specializzazione in Beni Architettonici e del Paesaggio
- ▶ School of Specialisation in Architectural and Landscape Heritage

Selected candidates will be notified by e mail no later than May 28th, 2026. The list will comprise up to **5 selected students + eligible candidates (2 reserve list)**.

### Commission

The commission will be composed of three members of the POLITO teaching staff. The selection criteria include: academic career, professional experience or internships, workshops, awards and publications. The selected students shall confirm participation no later than May 31st, 2026, according to the instructions contained in the email [mao.designworkshop@gmail.com](mailto:mao.designworkshop@gmail.com)

### Teaching staff

#### **Politecnico di Torino - DAD and DIST Departments:**

- Prof. Claudia Cassatella [DIST- Polito]
  - Prof. Andrea Bocco [DIST- Polito]
  - Prof. Michele Bonino [DAD - Polito]
- Teaching assistants:
- Arch. PhD Ilaria Tonti [DAD - Polito]
  - Arch. Giorgia Greco [DAD - Polito]
  - Dr. Shushanik Ovakimian [DIST- Polito]

#### **Waseda University - Graduate School of Creative Science and Engineering :**

- Prof. Takashi Ariga
- Mei Komatsu

### CREDITS

#### **Coordination and Organization**

- Politecnico di Torino - DAD and DIST Departments [Turin]:
- Prof. Claudia Cassatella [coordinator – DIST Polito]
  - Michele Bonino [DAD Director]
  - Andrea Bocco [DIST Director]
  - Arch. PhD Ilaria Tonti [DAD - Polito]
  - Arch. Giorgia Greco [DAD - Polito]

#### **With the organizational support of**

- PoliTO Japan Hub [Turin]  
MAO - Museum of Oriental Art [Turin]

#### **In partnership with**

- Waseda University - Graduate School of Creative Science and Engineering [Tokyo/Japan]  
MAO - Museum of Oriental Art [Turin]

#### **Under the patronage of**

- Consolato Generale del Giappone a Milano [Milan]  
Fondazione per l'Architettura [Turin]

Organization:

With the patronage of:

