

The Project of Time

Urban Ruin & Critical Continuity

22 October 2026 / 16.30

Aula Magna, Lingotto

Urban ruins, material testimonies of open pasts, reveal the transformations through which architecture endures within the city. The lecture reflects on the concept of the “urban ruin”, taking the restoration of the former Church of San Barbaziano in Bologna as a case study. The research begins with the hypothesis that a building’s identity does not coincide with its original configuration but is constituted through the continuity of its material existence. Stratifications, absences and changes of use thus become part of the material of the project.

Through the perspective of the phenomenology of perception, architecture is considered a reality experienced through the body, movement, light and materiality. The project engages with this condition through conservation, subtraction and insertion. These choices also carry social and political implications, reshaping relationships, hierarchies and possibilities of use. San Barbaziano thus opens up a reflection on design as a transformation among transformations, capable of making architecture inhabitable again while preserving the legibility of time and memory.

The conference will be held in English

Studio Poggioli

Studio Poggioli is an architecture and design practice founded in Bologna in 2015 by Federico Poggioli and Caterina Poggioli. Federico graduated from the Aalto University School of Arts, Design and Architecture in Helsinki, while Caterina graduated in Architecture from the University of Ferrara. In 2026, the studio was shortlisted for the European Union Prize for Contemporary Architecture – Mies van der Rohe Award.

The studio works across architecture, restoration, interior, product and exhibition design, creative direction and communication, embracing a holistic approach in which space, objects, materials and image come together as part of a coherent whole.

INFO / CONTACT:

referente.MAP@polito.it



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