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TEACHING ARCHITECTURE

TWO SCHOOLS IN DIALOGUE

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MANUEL BLANCO LAGE

ALBERTO CAMPO BAEZA

JESÚS DONAIRE GARCÍA DE MORA

EMILIO TUÑÓN ÁLVAREZ

IGNACIO VICENS Y HUALDE



«The process is mutual;
for men learn while they teach».

Seneca

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This book originates from the proceedings of the international seminar *Insegnare l'architettura. Due scuole a confronto* [Teaching Architecture. Two Schools in Dialogue], held at the Politecnico di Milano on November 23, 2018, and aimed at highlighting similarities and dissimilarities in terms of tools, educational methods and cultural approaches to architectural design in two of the main European Schools of Architecture. The seminar was attended by representatives of design culture and managers of educational programmes in the realm of architecture, from the *Scuola di Architettura Urbanistica Ingegneria delle Costruzioni* (AUI) [School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering] of the Politecnico di Milano and the *Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Madrid* (ETSAM) [Higher Technical School of Architecture of Madrid] of the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid. Without their active contribution, this book would not have been possible. The book intends to provide a first discussion on the significant work of review and update of the teaching-learning relationship in the architectural realm.

Emilio Faroldi (1961), architect and PhD, is Full Professor at the Politecnico di Milano, where his research activity addresses architectural design-related issues with a special focus on the relationships among concept, design and construction of the architectural phenomenon.

He organised meetings, training courses and international design seminars.

For over a decade, he chaired and coordinated the Degree Programmes in *Architectural Sciences* and *Architectural Design* at the *School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering* of the Politecnico di Milano, where he teaches. He authored several publications and is currently Editor in Chief of the "TECHNE Journal of Technology for Architecture and Environment" and Director of the 1st and 2nd level Master's Degree in *Sport Architecture* (MSA), formerly *Design Construction Management of the Sport Infrastructures*. He teaches at the *International Academy of Architecture*, and since January 2017, has been Vice-Rector of the Politecnico di Milano.

Maria Pilar Vettori (1968), architect and PhD, is Associate Professor at the Politecnico di Milano. She teaches at the *School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering* of the Politecnico di Milano in the area of Technological Design of Architecture. She contributed to research and consulting projects concerning processes, methods and tools for programming, construction and management of architecture, with a particular focus on innovation in design and production processes for the structures and infrastructures for healthcare, wellness and sports, research and production. She has participated in and organised conferences, seminars and workshops, and has worked consistently on studies and publications.

Since 1990, **Emilio Faroldi** and **Maria Pilar Vettori**, along with **Pietro Chierici**, have been partners in their architecture firm. They participated in design competitions and built works in Italy and abroad, and were awarded several prizes and mentions. Their works have been featured in the main specialised magazines.

«...No nourishment is more invigorating
than that coming from young people»

(Ernesto Nathan Rogers, 4 April 1963)

We dedicate this work to all those
who love Architecture,
still and always teach and learn it
with the curiosity of the a student
on the first day of school.

Emilio Faroldi
Maria Pilar Vettori

Is it possible to teach how to design?

What is the paradigm that encloses the theoretical and applicational-experiential spheres of the architectural discipline?

Architecture is a heteronomous discipline that finds its reasons in the hybridisation and contamination of different forms of knowledge. The training of the architect, as an intellectual and a technical professional, requires a deep and radical meditation on the foundations of educational programmes, the relevance of teaching models and learning tools. The Schools of Architecture represent the realm in which the student, in Louis I. Kahn's words, is called to meditate on whatever is exchanged and on its utility. As a place for the learning, experimentation and testing of the most advanced techniques and tools of a discipline, the institutions must necessarily open their cultural and educational project to a critical dialogue, with the prospect of expanding their horizons and international exchanges. The School, as the ultimate seat for the production and transformation of knowledge, aims at training skilled graduates in the conception, design, construction and management of architecture, who are capable of handling the complexity of design understood as a synthesis of skills. The polytechnic approach is the key for shaping recognisable and specific professional competences, at the same time complementary and synergic, within an evolving professional and production scene that requires skills and tools aimed at networking, flexibility and dealing with change in the contemporary world. The dialogue between two brilliant institutions in the European context, sharing a polytechnic approach, the *School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering* of the Politecnico di Milano (AUIC) and the *Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura* of the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (ETSAM) provides an opportunity for meditation aimed at triggering an active and productive discussion about the methods and tools of teaching architecture.

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