

## AA Visiting School - Turin – 24-29 March 2025

### MATTER – shaping spaces through materiality

Directed by Michela Falcone and Stefano Pujatti



*Reconversion of Fornace Carena bricks factory – ELASTICO with Cesario Carena – Cambiano 2005*

### CONTEXT

The AA Visiting School workshop in Turin offers a dynamic and immersive learning experience for architecture students and young professionals seeking to expand their knowledge and skills in working with materials. The workshop is uniquely held at the ELASTICOFarm headquarters, an architectural practice renowned for its innovative approach and dedication to research through making. By taking place within this inspiring environment, participants have the exceptional opportunity to work closely with the ELASTICOFarm team and gain deep insights into their design processes. Through hands-on exploration, site visits, and collaborative studio sessions, participants will create innovative and sustainable solutions, maximizing the potential of various material techniques.

The AA Visiting School “MATTER: shaping spaces through materiality” will take a holistic approach to imagine and designing space, considering both its aesthetic and structural aspects. Participants will delve into the dual role of experimenting with different materials as bricks and casted concrete, and the spatial opportunities embedded in each technology, to explore how they shape the identity of a building while also providing essential support and protection.

The journey will start from a research trip in Turin and its surrounding, where together we will visit some of the most iconic architectural pieces and start triggering a conversation on how materials can give character and help in defining the relationship between architecture and its context. We will then develop a prototype responding to a specific scenario, that will challenge both design and performance of the existing building.

The design iteration will be conducted first digitally to then start fabricating test and prototypes of parts of the architectural proposal: we will use bricks and soft casting with concrete to produce different design outputs, learning how different ways of using this material can help achieving different results.

Participants will gain an understanding of the diverse materials and technologies employed in construction, with a focus on brick as a versatile and sustainable building material. Participants will learn how to design responding to specific thermal conditions, optimizing the use of light in shaping spaces while maintaining aesthetic integrity. The workshop will emphasize the importance of design process, testing and trying options and variations, exploring how materials can enhance spatial experiences and foster connections with the surrounding environment.

### **METHODOLOGY**

The workshop will employ a combination of lectures, digital tutorials and hands-on model making in the beautiful setting of ELASTICOFarm headquarter.

Participants will be encouraged to experiment with different design strategies, prototype solutions, and engage in critical discussions to deepen their understanding of design principles.

By the end of the workshop, participants will have developed an understanding of architectural process as both a creative endeavour and a technical discipline. They will have gained practical skills in designing a proposal that is responsive to environmental conditions and visually compelling.

Additionally, participants will have the opportunity to present their design proposals and engage in constructive feedback sessions to further refine their ideas.





### **LOCATION**

The visiting school will take place at the ELASTICOFarm Headquarter. The office is on the road to Chieri, about twenty minutes by car from Turin: a side road from the main road cuts through the countryside and after a few hundred meters the road ends on a hill where the farmhouse that houses the studio is, surrounded by fields and orchards.

### **SKILLS DEVELOPED**

- Critical discussion about the potential of working with different materials in architecture
- Analysis of most relevant, geometrically driven, architectures in Turin
- Lectures and topic specific seminars
- Computational and 3d modelling skills
- Fabrication of mock-ups in bricks, with details at scale 1:1

### **EVENTS**

Visit to *Jesus the Redeemer Church* by Leonardo Mosso

Visit to *The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Consolation* and *Palazzo Carignano* by Guarino Guarini

Visit to *Atelier Fleuriste* in Chieri by ELASTICOFarm

Visit to *Fornace Carena* brick factory

### **With guest lectures by:**

Arturo Tedeschi, architect and computational designer, <https://www.arturotedeschi.com/>

Davide Tommaso Ferrando, architecture critic, researcher and curator, <https://www.dtferrando.eu/>

### **FEES**

The AA Visiting School requires a fee of £700 per participant, which includes a £60 Visiting Membership fee, payable by all participants.

Fees do not include flights or accommodation. Accommodation options in Chieri will be advised and coordinated. Students need to bring their own laptop.



## **TUTORS BIO**

*Michela Falcone* is an architect and an educator that has worked as an architect in internationally renowned practices that includes Shigeru Ban, UN Studio and Zaha Hadid Architects. Michela is First Year tutor at the Architectural Association and Course Leader for Interior and Spatial Design programme at Buckinghamshire University. She is a mentor for the programme Woman in Architecture 2024 and she curates the web platform Experimental Architecture. Her work has been featured in international press and she has been juror of architectural competitions. She recently published a book on ELASTICOFarm, an experimental architectural practice based in Italy and Canada. She is currently working on the design of a farmhouse in Tuscany, exploring the visual role of architectural marks in the landscape.

*Stefano Pujatti* is an architect founder of the award-winning office ELASTICOFarm. He graduated in Architecture at the University Institute of Architecture in Venice and the Master in Architecture at Sci-Arch in Los Angeles, California. After collaborating with Coop-Himelb(l)au in Los Angeles and Gino Valle Architetti in Paris, he was co-founder of the Elastic Studio in 1995. From 2004 to 2013 he was a university lecturer at the Faculty I of Architecture at the Polytechnic of Turin and from 2014 to 2016 at the UOT (University of Toronto – Canada), course of “Architectural Design”. Today Stefano Pujatti is head of the ELASTICOSPA studio, based in Chieri (TO), and from 2016 he can count on ELASTICOSPA + Inc, based in Toronto, for the development of projects in North America. The work of the studio has been presented in many books and magazines both nationally and internationally and has been invited to major international events such as different editions of the Venice Biennale, the Brasilia Architecture Biennale and the London Architecture Festival.