

**Call for application for research scholarships
for post-graduate international candidates**

RESEARCH PROJECT N. 27

Title

Speculative archaic materials catalogue. Design for local cultural heritage revaluation and future materials.

Scientific responsible (name, surname, role)

Claudia De Giorgi, Associate Professor of Design (claudia.degiorgi@polito.it)

Short description of the research activity (max 250 words)

How the cultural heritage can be investigated, speculating towards innovative design materials and strategies past-based? Designing a research catalogue, archaic material library of the environmental material resources of a specific area, in order to increase and re-value the cultural heritage, looking at futures scenarios.

Strategically considering, the archaic material library should be identified investigating the ancient natural resources, artefacts and everyday practices of a specific area. Material and cultural heritage, core essence of typical territories, that are disappearing or have been forgotten by time. As for example, in Piemonte region, the silkworm culture or stone artifacts and structures with sandstone, clay and tuff, or the use of hemp, willows or weeds, or plaster, or talc. Key tools will be the interrogation of the territory from official networks, as libraries, archives or institutions, and informal sources, heart of the local communities. The research will include the census of selected areas with services and activities connected with them, rediscovering resources, techniques, languages and processes that in the past represented the real identity of the territory.

As short term goals, an archaic catalogue of materials and cultural heritage related products should be developed, identifying some possible design outcomes oriented to innovative and speculative further design developments. The renaissance of the ancient material traditions should promote the re-valuation of the local areas, designing artifacts and involving the local community under an innovative, past-based, paradigm.

In long term projections, highlighting the wide cultural value of the archaic material catalogue, the same research methodology can be designed, through guide lines, in order to be adaptable to many territories in different rural areas, driving a wide indigenous material library and enhancing the cultural heritage value.

Specific requirements (experiences, skills)

Preference criteria:

Analysis and interpretation of resources, Critical point of view, Strong aptitude to local studies, Forecasting materials, Sustainability approach, Material experimentations, Testing of ideas, Scenario/concept/design proposal, Innovation in design for cultural heritage.

The themes require deep interdisciplinary research activity. The candidate should own curiosity and critical point of view in the research and interpretation of the resources, merging different fields. He should own good skills about the culture of materials and design projects, material experimentation and development of futures scenarios and design proposal associated with re-valuation of local areas. Moreover the candidate should be able to organize his research with autonomy and as well to collaborate with the teamwork.

Website of the research group (if any)

Other members of the Cultural Heritage and Material Culture teamwork:

Marco Bozzola, design researcher, marco.bozzola@polito.it

Beatrice Lerma, design researcher, beatrice.lerma@polito.it

www.polito.it/matto.it

and as an example, the teamwork collaborates since 1997 to the Scopriminiere experience, dedicated to the enhancement of the regional talc material culture:

www.ecomuseominiere.it

Keywords (min 3, max 6)

Forecasting materials

Cultural heritage

Re-valuation

Innovation

Speculative design

Research Area (max 1)

Design