



scuola archivio leonardi

COURSE TREES

Call spring 2020

Scuola

Scuola Archivio Leonardi is an independent school established to disseminate the working methods developed by the architect Cesare Leonardi (Modena, 1935), a multifaceted and little known figure in the contemporary architectural and artistic scene. Over the course of almost fifty years of activity Leonardi has been involved in architecture, urban design, photography, interior design, sculpture, and painting, working across design and artistic practice.

His transverse approach has been characterised by the ability to adapt an idea across different disciplines, which constitutes the cornerstone of the School's philosophy.

The objective is to train designers outside the logic of 'specialisation', enabling them instead to manage the specific demands of projects through critical capacity, investigative work and technical know-how. In this approach, design vision and practical handcraft skills are perceived as inseparable, the *modus operandi* through which understand and transform reality.

Archivio

The School is promoted by Archivio Architetto Cesare Leonardi, a collective of architects and academics, which include previous collaborators of Cesare Leonardi; for more than ten years this association has been dedicated to the protection, cataloguing, and divulgation of the architect's work.

The School was born out of the desire that the Archive should not simply be an important collection of documents available for occasional consultation, but instead it should offer a cultural and design stimulus in the areas that Leonardi was involved in.

Leonardi

Emblematic of Leonardi's work is his twenty-year long study of trees "Alberi", developed together with Franca Stagi, which takes a concrete shape in the creation of parks and promotes a concept of the city based on the balance between people and nature. Similarly, in the field of design, the success obtained in the 1960s-1970s with the chairs *Dondolo* and *Nastro* was followed by the production of modular furniture created for personal use in his workshop, the "Solidi" (Solids), a reaction to a trend that is still influencing the market, trades, and the idea of design itself.

Didattica

The school teaches an annual programme divided into two seasonal Courses: one in the autumn dedicated to *Solids* and one in the spring dedicated to *Trees*, which on different and complementary scales, represent a practical application field for participants and a possible interpretation of contemporary dynamics.

During the courses participants will be guided in a knowledge and experimental path of the working method developed by Leonardi, with the aim of providing tools that can feed a consistent personal research.

The teaching programme is supported by regular study visits to places that are relevant to the subject covered, and promotes a direct knowledge of the Archive's materials. Participants can also take part in public initiatives organized by the school including complementary courses, workshops, conferences, and master classes.

Corso Alberi

In 1982 Cesare Leonardi and Franca Stagi published the volume, "L'Architettura degli Alberi (The Architecture of Trees)", a reference manual for generations of students and landscape architects. This was the result of twenty years of research, travel, cataloguing, and lastly the meticulous redesign of trees on a scale of 1:100. The research included a study of the shadows of the tree crowns projected onto the ground, and the seasonal colours of each individual species, leading later to a series of park projects, some implemented while others remained on paper.

In the early 1980s this dedication to trees combined with design experience led him to conceive of a modular matrix for planting, called "Struttura Reticolare Acentrata" or SRA (Uncentered Reticular Structure), applied in the planning of Bosco Albergati (1988-1996). The purpose of a SRA is to establish conditions of equilibrium for

cohabitation between men and trees, without one imposing on the other.

Participants will have the opportunity of fully understand the research of *“The Architecture of Trees”*, discover places and projects in which it was applied, consult archive’s materials, engage with lecturers and key figures and develop their own projectuality.

Week 1 “Cesare Leonardi and trees”: March 23 – March 27

Week 2 “Bosco Albergati city of trees”: April 21 – April 24

Week 3 “Design a city of trees”: May 26 – May 29

Detailed programme is published on the School website.

www.scuola.archivioleonardi.it

A chi è rivolto

The course Trees targets young students, designers, and researchers who want to develop an individual project through a multidisciplinary approach in the fields of architecture, design, artisan manufacture, landscape and the urban transformation.

Docenti

The lecturers are architects, artists, craftsmen and researchers selected by Archivio Leonardi and Amigdala for their methodological relevance to Cesare Leonardi's work.

The courses are co-ordinated by the architects Andrea Cavani and Giulio Orsini, founders and curators of Archivio Leonardi.

Sede

The course takes place in Modena, mainly at OvestLab, a former crafts workshop managed by Archivio Leonardi and Amigdala, where students will have access to a shared work space where they can learn, design, and experiment.

OvestLab is 100 meters far from Cesare Leonardi’s home-studio, where the Archive is located, in the Villaggio Artigiano Modena Ovest.

Come iscriversi

Selection is open to young people, preferably between 18 and 35 years old.

To apply for selection, **fill in the form within March 8, 2020**, (available for download on the School website www.scuola.archivioleonardi.it) attaching curriculum vitae and covering letter.

All candidates will be informed of the selection results by e-mail within March 13.

Costi

A 250 euros contribution is asked to all participants as reimbursement of expenses.

Information on scholarships and other opportunities offered by the School are published on the School website www.scuola.archivioleonardi.it

Info

Further information on the School or the course Trees can be find on the website www.scuola.archivioleonardi.it

For any inquiries send an email to: info@archivioleonardi.it