

## **Matilde Cassani**

### **website:**

www.matildecassani.com

### **Languages:**

Italian, mother tongue  
English, written and  
spoken.

## **PROFILE**

Matilde Cassani, studied architecture at Politecnico di Milano, Univesidade Tecnica de Lisboa, and Architecture and Urban culture ("Metropolis") al CCCB (Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona) and UPC (Universidade Politecnica de Catalunya) in Barcelona (postgraduate degree) . She holds a PhD in Spatial planning and Urban Development (SPUD) at Politecnico di Milano. She worked for GTZ - German Technical Cooperation in Sri Lanka, where she developed a research on the post-tsunami reconstruction process. She has been teaching at Naba, Domus Academy, Politecnico di Milano, Sanberg Instituut in Amsterdam, Syracuse University in Florence and she currently teaches at the AA, Architectural Association in London. She was a consultant for the World Bank in Malawi and she's a practicing architect at Matilde Cassani Studio.

Matilde Cassani moves on the border between architecture and installation design. Her practice deals with the spatial implications of cultural pluralism in the contemporary Western city.

Her research projects have been exhibited in various cultural institutions (Biennale di Venezia, Oslo Triennale, Chicago Biennale, Storefront for Art and Architecture, Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo), in galleries and published in various scientific magazines.

She was "artist in residence" at Akademie Schloss Solitude in Stuttgart and Headlands Center for the Arts in San Francisco. She took part in various international conferences.

The long-term research project "Sacred Spaces in Profane Buildings", has been exhibited, among others, in a solo show at Storefront for Art and Architecture di New York (2011). She designed the National Pavilion of The Kingdom of Bahrain at the XIII Venice Architecture Biennale in 2012 and she was part of the XIV Venice Architecture Biennale in 2014 with the piece "A celebration day", recently acquired by the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. She was recently involved in the Chicago Architecture triennale, Oslo Triennale and Manifesta12 and the upcoming Venice Biennale 2021: "How will we live together".

## **RESEARCH ACTIVITY**

Her research activity reflects the spatial implications of cultural pluralism in the contemporary Western city.

Fundamental themes of the research activity concerned:

- post-tsunami reconstruction in Sri Lanka. (Cultural difference as a generative model of building design and public space).
- Religious difference in the contemporary city and its spatial implications.
- Relationship between public space and superdiversity in the contemporary European city.
- New urban phenomena, not yet addressed by policies.

## TEACHING ACTIVITIES

<b>AA, Architectural Association</b>	2018-2020 Unit master, UNIT 11
<b>Politecnico di Milano</b>	2017-2019: Architecture of interiors design studio, Politecnico di Milano, Facoltà di Architettura, ICAR 14.  2016-2018: Museums Interiors and the Built environment, Politecnico di Milano, Facoltà di Architettura, ICAR 16. With prof. Gabriele Pasqui.  2013-2017: Architectural design studio I. Politecnico di Milano, Facoltà di Architettura, ICAR 14. With prof. Cino Zucchi.  2008-2010: Laboratorio di progettazione architettonica I. Politecnico di Milano, Facoltà di Architettura, Piacenza. With prof. Fabrizio Gallanti.
<b>Other Universities</b>	2018: Studio for immediate spaces (SIS), Sandberg Instituut, Amsterdam.  2016-2018: Visiting professor, spring semester. Syracuse University Florence Program. Italian Public space as representation of the collective form.  2015-2018: Envisioning workshop. Master in Interior and living design, Domus Academy, Milano.  2016: Design of spaces. Master in Interior and living design, Domus Academy, Milano.  2016-2017: Thesis supervisor. Master in Interior and living design, Domus Academy, Milano.  2010-2011: Design methodology. Master in interior design, Naba, Nuova accademia di Belle Arti, Milano.  2010-2011: Design methodology. Master in interior design, Naba, Nuova accademia di Belle Arti, Milano.  2010-2011: Teaching assistant. The Agriculture of the city, Technische Universitat Munchen. Con Prof. Jorg Schroder

## EDUCATION

2005: BA in Architecture at Politecnico di Milano

2013: PhD, SPUD Spatial Planning and Urban development. XXV cycle. Politecnico di Milano, Facoltà di Architettura. "Sacred spaces in Profane buildings", Supervisor: Massimo Bricocoli, Maria Chiara Giorda.

2011: Master of Arts in "Architecture and Urban Culture, METROPOLIS". Universitade Politecnica de Catalunya,

## AWARDS

2016: Wheelwright Prize, Harvard GSD, finalist.

2014: Yap MAXXI, Giovani architetti italiani, finalist

2013: Yap MAXXI, Giovani architetti italiani, finalist

2012: Headlands center for the Arts, San Francisco, California

2010-2013: PhD fellowship, Politecnico di Milano, Facoltà di Architettura.

2011-2012: Visiting researcher at Storefront for Art and Architecture, New York.

2009-2010: Akademie Schloss Solitude, residency programme, Stuttgart.

## INVITED LECTURES/ KEYNOTES SPEECHES

2020: invited lecture, *7 questions*, ETH, Zurich  
Carousel, Atelier Jan de Vylder.

- invited lecture, *Celebration days*,  
Lecture Series EAVT, École d'architecture  
de la ville & des territoires Paris-Est.  
Ido Avissar.

- invited lecture, *Celebration days*,  
Lisbon Architecture Triennale.  
Curated by: Eric Lapierre, Piovene Fabi, Sebastien  
Marot, Socks Studio.

2019: invited lecture, *Piazze*, Syracuse Florence.  
David shanks, Luca Ponsi.

- invited lecture, *Piazze*, ETH, Zurich.  
Atelier Christ and Gantembein.

- invited lecture, *Piazze*, ETH, Zurich.  
Emanuel Christ, Cristoff Gantembein

- invited lecture, *Authenti-city* (or the Unesco paradox),  
MADE LABS, Accademia di Belle Arti  
Rosario Gagliardi, Siracusa.  
Con Arabeschi di latte, Arquitectura-G, Matilde  
Cassani, Alberto Cavalli, Ilse Crawford, Francesco  
Faccin, Fala Atelier, Formafantasma, Maria Giuseppina  
Grasso Cannizzo, Joseph Grima, Sam Jacob,  
Franco La Cecla, Max Lamb, Sabine Marcelis,  
Moncada Rangel, Ippolito Pestellini Laparelli, Point  
Supreme architects, Guillermo Santomà, Bethan Laura  
Wood, Andrea Zanderigo.

**INVITED LECTURES/  
KEYNOTES SPEECHES**

- invited lecture, *Milano dreamland*, ARCHweek, La Triennale di Milano.

2018: *Discussing innovation Symposium*, Construmat Barcelona, organizzato da Andres Jaque, Office for political innovation.

(con Anna Puijaner, Andres Jaque, Andreas Angelidakis, Nerea Calvillo, Nacho Martin, Lee Moreau, Mireia Luzarraga, Liam Young, Yoshi Tsukamoto, Atelier Bow Wow, Anab Jain, Lydia Kallipoliti, Philippe Rahm, Teresa Galizard, After Belonging Agency, Maarten Gielen).

<http://www.construmat.com/en/congreso-innovacion>

- invited lecture, *La città come casa*, With Cristina Bianchetti, curato da Nina Bassoli e Davide Tommaso Ferrando, Fondazione per l'Architettura Torino e Ordine degli Architetti Torino.

- invited lecture al convegno, *Prato città fabbrica, L'architettura del distretto industriale*, con Massimo Bressan, Marco Brizzi, Matilde Cassani, Filip Geerts, Claudio Greppi, Christina Moon, Serpica Naro, Giorgio Piccinato, Silvia Pieraccini, Paola Viganò, Marina Otero-Verzier.

2017: invited lecture *OUTFITS*, La triennale di Milano, organizzato da Kyle Miller, Syracuse University in Florence.

- invited lecture, *The customary notion of public space*, lezione all' interno del dottorato SPUD, organizzato da Massimo Bricocoli.

2016: invited lecture, *Ten Takes on after belonging*: lectures di Matilde Cassani, Laura Kurgan, Ippolito Pestellini Laparelli, Luis Callejas, Studio Folder, Mark Wasiuta, Frida Escobedo, Vilhelm Christensen, Ila Beka, Louise Lemoine. AHO Oslo School of Architecture and Design, Oslo, organizzato da Léa-Catherine Szacka. <http://oslotriennale.no/en/events/foelesning-laura-kurgan>

- invited lecture, *Architecture as context*, AZA2016, Wits school of Architecture and Planning. Johannesburg, South Africa  
<http://architectureza.org/>

- invited lecture, *Architecture as context*. Escuela Politécnica Superior Universidad de Alicante.

- invited lecture, *Selected works*, Istituto Italian di Cultura, Parigi.

- invited lecture, *La metà nascosta*, Pinacoteca Civica, Follonica

- Hidden Islam, *Sacres Spaces in Profane Buildings*, ARGE KUNST, Bolzano.

**INVITED LECTURES/  
KEYNOTES SPEECHES**

2017: invited lecture, *Architecture as context*, Spring lectures with Sam Jacob, ECOL, Andrew Holder, Yasmin Vobis, Javier Galindo, organized by Kyle Miller, Syracuse architecture in Florence.

2016: invited lecture, *Once in a lifetime*, Wheelwright prize finalists, Harvard GSD, Boston.

- *Sacred spaces in profane buildings*, Ecole Speciale de Architecture, Parigi.

- invited lecture, *Extinct architecture*, Kunstlehaus Buchsenhausen, Innsbruck.

- invited lecture, Closing ceremony, The new york Archive, Storefront for Art and Architecture, New York.

- Invited lecture, Sacred spaces in profane buildings, AAR Applied Architectural research, Columbia University, New York.

**PUBLICATIONS:  
BOOK CONTRIBUTIONS**

- Cassani, M., (2018) Four unknown types of minbars and their historical significance. In: Friday Sermon, Edited by Noura Al Sayeh, Nora Akawi. 2018 Venice Biennale.

- Cassani, M., Easton V., Al Sayeh N. Charta (2018), The architecture of the city: a palimpsest, Park Books.

- Cassani M., Pastore M., Mpampatsikos V., (2016) Safer House Construction Guidelines, Ministry of Housing, GDDRR, World Bank Group, Malawi, ISBN: 979-12-200-2094-7

- Cassani, M., (2016) 'Sewing machines, dragoons and firecrackers', In Casanovas Blanco L., Galàn I., Minguez Carrasco C., Navarrete Llopis A., Otero M., After belonging, the objects, and the Ways we stay in transit, Lars Muller Publishers, Baden. ISBN: 978-3-03778-520-1.

- Cassani M. (2013) Sacred spaces in profane buildings. The spatial implications of religious pluralism. Tesi di Dottorato in Spatial Planning and Urban development, Politecnico di Milano, Facoltà di Architettura. Relatore: Massimo Bricocoli, co-relatore: Maria Chiara Giorda

- Cassani M. (2012) 'Sacred spaces in profane buildings'. In Becker J., Wildner K., Lanz S., Faith is the place. p. 52-65, b\_books, Berlino. ISBN/ISSN: 9783942214049

**PUBLICATIONS:  
ARTICLES**

- Cassani M. (2014) A view from Novellara, The Architectural review, October 2014. <https://www.architectural-review.com/rethink/viewpoints/view-from-novellara-italy/8670471.article>

**PUBLICATIONS:  
ARTICLES**

- Cassani M. (2013) Lugares Sagrados, Arqa Magazine n.108.Cassani M., Poli M. (2013) Floating public school. Abitare n. 532, pp. 24-35 ISSN 0001-3218
- Cassani M., (2013) Sacred spaces in profane buildings, Rivista Humanitas, Editrice Morcelliana, Brescia.ISSN 0018-7461
- Cassani M. (2012) Una città lunga 900 Km/ 900 Km Nile City. DOMUS n. 961; pp. 54-62, ISSN: 0012-5377
- Cassani M., (2011) Sacred spaces in profane buildings. DOMUS n. 946; pp. 100-109, ISSN: 0012-5377
- Cassani M.,(2010) Form follows religion. A research on the rebuilding processes post-tsunami in Sri Lanka. ABITARE, vol. 505; p. 78-82, ISSN: 0001-3218
- Cassani M., La Varra G., Ciarallo G., Dolo P., Dragoni N., Pastore M. (2007) 'Abitare in una casa negozio; Abitare in un loft; Abitare in un sottotetto'; In Cronache dell'Abitare, Multiplicity lab, pp. 184-202, Bruno Mondadori, Milano. ISBN/ISSN: 8842492221.
- Cassani M., (2009) Strucked by a freak wave, in Holy Urbanism, MONU magazine on Urbanism, n.10 Rotterdam.
- Cassani M., (2009) Strucked by a freak wave, in Holy Urbanism, MONU magazine on Urbanism, n.10 Rotterdam.
- Cassani M., (2007) 200.000 Muslim, Hindu, Catholic and Buddhist homes. The post-tsunami reconstruction in Sri Lanka. XXVI Aesop Conference, paper presentato a Aesop Conference, Luglio 2007, Napoli.

## EXHIBITIONS

2020: On the spiritual matter of art, Museo Maxxi, Rome. Curated by Bartolomeo Pietromarchi.

2019: Broken Nature, XXII Triennale, Milano, Curated by Paola Antonelli. (exhibition design)

2018: Unico e ripetibile, curated by Massimo De Carlo Gallery. (exhibition design)

2018: Una stanza tutta per se, Cantiere Galli, Roma, Sunset. Curated by Domitilla Dardi.

2018: Manifesta 12, Palermo, Tutto. Curated by Bregtje Van der Haak, Marjiam Varidinis, Andres Jaque, Ippolito Pestellini Laparelli.

2018: XVI Venice Architecture Biennale, Kingdom of Bahrain, Four unknown types of minbars and their historical significance. In: Friday Sermon, Curated by Noura Al Sayeh, Nora Akawi.

2018: It's just not cricket, ar / ge kunst, Bolzano and Künstlerhaus Büchsenhausen, Innsbruck, curated by Emanuele Guidi, Andrei Siclodi.

2017: Aarhus Festuge, Flags for future neighborhoods, curated by LIST.

2017: Chicago Architecture Biennale, Make new history, curata da Johnston Marklee, Chicago Cultural Center.

2016: After belonging, Oslo architecture Triennale. Curated by After Belonging agency (Carlos Minguez Carrasco, Ignacio Galán, Alejandra Navarrese Llopis, Lluís Alexandre Casanovas Blanco, and Marina Otero Verzier).

2015: The Man who sat on himself, curated by Szuzanna Staniz, Angelica Sule, Kate Strain at Fondazione Sandretto Re Rebaudengo.

2014: Monditalia, IV Biennale di Venezia, Arsenale, Venice, curated by Rem Kolhaas, Ippolito Pestellini Laparelli.

2014: Hidden cities, SomARTS Gallery, San Francisco, curated by Pireeeni Sundaralingam.

2013: Design, La Sindrome dell' Influenza, curated by Pierluigi Nicolin, La Triennale di Milano.

2012: XII Venice Architecture Biennale, National Participation, Kingdom of Bahrain, exhibition design with Francesco Librizzi and Stefano Tropea, curated by Noura AlSayeh.

2012: The Urban Cultures of Global Prayers, curated by Jocken Becker, Stephan Lanz, The Global Prayers Theme Days at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt.

## **MOSTRE**

2012: Staten Island Second Saturdays Art Walk, curated

2012: Kunshaus Langenthal, Hier Beginnt die Welt,  
August- November 2012, Langenthal.

2012: Staten Island Second Saturdays Art Walk, curated  
by Monica Venenzuela, New York, USA, February.

2011: "Even covering of the field", FFAR, Forum fur  
Arkitektur, Stockholm, Sweden, November.

2011: "Sacred spaces in profane buildings", Storefront  
for art and architecture, New York, September-  
November.

2011: Stazione futuro: qui si rifà l' Italia, Officine Grandi  
Riparazioni, Torino, curated by Luca Molinari.

2011: Akademie Schloss Solitude, Stuttgart, Germany.  
Curated by Jean Baptiste Joly.

2010: Bat Yam Biennale of Landscape urbanism  
"TIMING 2010", Bat Yam, Israel. Curated by Yael Moria  
and Sigal Barnir.

2010: Territorien des In/Humanen« im  
Württembergischen Kunstverein, Stuttgart. Curated by:  
Hans Christ and Iris Dressler.

2010: Another Country / Eine andere Welt« IFA, Berlin. -  
»Another Country / Eine andere Welt« IFA, Berlin.

2010: Another Country / Eine andere Welt« IFA, Berlin. -  
»Another Country / Eine andere Welt« IFA, Stuttgart.

## **MUSEUM COLLECTIONS**

Victoria and Albert Museum, Londra  
Maxxi, museo delle arti del XXI secolo, Roma  
Max museo, Chiasso  
Franz Hals Museum, Harleem

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Architect at  
[www.matildecassani.com](http://www.matildecassani.com)

Consultant World Bank in Malawi  
GFDRR, Global Found for disaster risk reduction.  
Safer schools e safer housing construction guidelines.