

# Syllabus

course description

The course belongs to the class “caratterizzante” (obbligatoria) in the MA in Eco-Social Design (LM-12). This course is a compulsory subject in the area “Projects”

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| Course title                      | <b>Transforming the City by <i>Care 2</i></b><br>Area: Project 1 in Eco-Social Design   |
| Course code                       | <b>96100</b>  |
| Scientific sector                 | <b>ICAR/13 - Disegno industriale</b>  |
| Degree                            | <b>Master in Eco-Social Design (LM-12)</b>  |
| Semester                          | <b>I</b>  |
| Year                              | <b>1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup></b>  |
| Credits                           | <b>12</b>   |
| Modular                           | <b>No</b>   |
| Lecturer Group A                  | <b>Karl Emilio Pircher</b><br>office F4.02, e-mail <a href="mailto:karl.pircher@unibz.it">karl.pircher@unibz.it</a> ,<br>tel. +39 0471 015329 Webpage<br><a href="https://next.unibz.it/en/faculties/design-art/academic-staff/person/37175-karl-pircher">https://next.unibz.it/en/faculties/design-art/academic-staff/person/37175-karl-pircher</a>  |
| Lecturer Group B                  | <b>Kris Krois</b><br>office F4.06.a, e-mail <a href="mailto:kris.krois@unibz.it">kris.krois@unibz.it</a> ,<br>tel. +39 0471 015224, <a href="http://designdisaster.unibz.it">designdisaster.unibz.it</a><br><a href="https://next.unibz.it/en/faculties/design-art/academic-staff/person/893-Kris-krois">https://next.unibz.it/en/faculties/design-art/academic-staff/person/893-Kris-krois</a> |
| Scientific sector of the lecturer | <b>Prof. Pircher: ICAR/13</b><br><b>Prof. Krois: ICAR/13</b>  |
| Teaching language                 | <b>English</b>  |
| Total lecturing hours             | <b>90 + 90</b>  |

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| Total hours of self-study and/or other individual educational activities | <b>about 210</b>   |
| Attendance   | <b>highly recommended</b>  |
| Prerequisites  | <b>Experience in self-motivated and -organized project work</b>  |
| Course page  | <b><a href="https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/design-art/master-eco-social-design">https://www.unibz.it/it/faculties/design-art/master-eco-social-design</a></b> |

## Course description

*Project description group A (Prof. Pircher) & Project description group B (Prof. Krois):*

### Transforming the City by Care 2

Students of the MA Eco-Social Design collaborate with *OfficineVispa*, a cooperative doing social work in Bolzano. They will be introduced to other local stakeholders, citizens, persons from public administration and local politics to develop projects that foster social-ecological transformations in Don Bosco. Particular attention is given to the diverse social practices of *care*, and to social infrastructures, which are enabling dwellers and stakeholders to care for each other, for the built environment and the relation to other living beings. We put younger generations at the center, and try to involve them to care about their future in the present situation. We build upon projects done by students of precedent generations, for enabling longer-term social transformation instead of restarting from zero again. The project is supported by the 'Office for Family, Women, Youth and Social Promotion' of the Municipality of Bozen-Bolzano.

Generally, the *project 1* serves multiple purposes:

- support the landing of new students in Bozen–Bolzano / South Tyrol / Italy, and get them into collaborating with local actors
- getting into eco-social design thinking and doing
- understanding the structures and practices of the study course and taking actively part in its permanent development
- experimenting in diverse ways and developing individual eco-social design practices, which interconnect among students, with teachers/researchers, external partners and the rest of the world ;)

The project *Transforming the City by Care* focuses on developing infrastructures, spaces, services, rituals, social practices, economic and political structures and other things or activities which are fostering relations of *care* in the neighborhood of Don Bosco. An introductory phase serves to get familiar with the situation and each other, and to generate a shared basis of competencies and knowledge. Students will form groups of approximately three. Each group chooses its focus freely and develops their project autonomously, in a dialog with the external partner, stakeholders and teachers/researchers. This involves research in the field and of the state-of-the-art supported by the course in *Design Research*, conceptual framing and critical reflection also involving learnings and teachers from the courses of the area *Observe, Analyse & Apply*, hands-on experimentation and prototyping supported by tools and teachers of area *Make & Intervene*.

*Major milestones:*

**Salotto Don Bosco**, 22 Oct 2021, 16:00 to 19:00 (exact date/time might change)  
with students of all generations, teachers/researchers, OfficineVispa, actors and dwellers of Don Bosco, stakeholders from public administration and politics.

Students of precedent years present the projects they did (related to Don Bosco / Urban Development). In form of a Pro Action Cafe the following questions will be tackled:

1. How to build upon the presented projects? Which are elements of a desirable future?
2. Who is needed (actors map)? What is required (resources, spaces, budget, etc)?
3. What is a viable next step?

The design, organisation, communication and facilitation of the event in part of the project, and a (design) task for all.

**Midterm (Integrated Session)**, 2 Nov 2021, 09:00 – 18:00 (exact date/time might change)

**Final semester exam presentation**, 24 Jan 2022, 09:00 – 18:00 (exact time might change)

At the end of the semester each projects' outcomes and key elements of the process will be presented in diverse forms:

- as a portfolio page on the website (based on a shared template)
- an exhibition within the end-of-semester exhibition of the faculty and/or in Don Bosco
- a booklet (based on a shared template), which serves as a catalogue for the exhibition (to be handed over to partners and stakeholders)

The annual theme CARE serves as a background. It brings along transversal ideas and criteria, which can be used to discuss and develop projects. Practically the project development will be accompaigend in diverse formats, such as

***Plenum, Collaborative Work Session and Inputs***, usually 14:00, in University, room C4.01

***Review & Support Sessions***, for each student team; usually in 30 min time-slots on Tuesdays, in University, Ateliers F4.01 and F 4.06

***La Rotonda Sessions***, Co-Working at OfficineVispa's community center "La Rotonda" in Don Bosco

Wednesdays, approx. 9:00–15:00 (in the afternoon with Design Research; eventually to be extended to 16:00) To be confirmed

***Reading & Designing Circles***, [see last years Circles](#)

***Community Learning Sessions***, [see last years Sessions](#)

***Walks***

***Lectures***

***Eventually an excursion to the Venice Architecture Biennale***

***Self-organised student activities***

## **Educational objectives**

*the educational objectives need to refer to the Dublin Descriptors: please confirm or delete/adapt*

Group A (Prof. Pircher) and Group B (Prof. Krois)

Students will be able to:

- develop projects in eco-social design from problem finding to prototyping
- collaborate with partners, experts and other designers to develop, prototype and test an integrated project;
- analyse the context of projects, conceptually frame them and explore potentials
- create and develop projects in an integrated way, with an interplay of diverse elements like social interactions, spaces, products, services, cross-media communication, etc.
- think, communicate and act across diverse areas and disciplines. Apply and integrate instruments and knowledge from Design Research and from the chosen courses in the areas *Observe, Analyse & Apply* and *Make & Intervene*. Find for synergies across all areas
- make complex issues tangible by design, visualization and storytelling
- collaborate with partners and experts and other designers to develop and implement an integrated project
- prototype, and partially implement and test projects
- learn quickly and adapt to given situations and their contexts
- propose and develop projects which will contribute to local development while considering the global context, starting from a “glocal” vision, which “focuses on the global and planetary dimension and the local one at the same time” (from the Dizionario Treccani);
- integrate socio-economic aspects and sustainability requirements in project design
- adopt and invent project methods that comply with the requirements and with the needs of the project and its stakeholders
- work with interdisciplinary, international and multidisciplinary teams
- organize and manage creative processes
- organize, manage and motivate a team
- develop an individual way of thinking, leading to critical judgements and self-assessments. Apply critical thinking as it is taught in the area *Observe, Analyse & Apply*
- balance inspiration and systematic planning
- balance more intuitive ways of working with more analytical ones
- design by taking into account the needs and desires of a given territory, of a situation/set of circumstances, of a specific group of people, thanks to the ability of observing, listening, interacting and mediating amongst various stakeholders involved in the project. Apply methods learned in the area *Observe, Analyse & Apply*

*The gained abilities vary from student to student, depending on their background and on their own focus.*

## List of topics covered

*Shared part:*

**Project description group A (Prof. Pircher) & Project description group B (Prof. Krois):**

Eco-Social Design for/with CARE in neighborhood relations, public space, public life and public debate

*Specific part (Object–Space–Services)*

Project description group A (Prof. Pircher):

Design of objects, (temporary) spaces, exhibitions and events

*Specific part (Communication–Interaction–Services)*

Project description group B (Prof. Krois):

Design strategies, visual communication, media tactics and facilitation for eco-social transformations, commons and commoning

*Not all topics will be treated with the same depth for all students. Students can focus on specific topics and depending on the teachers will provide specific input in groups and individually. Students are encouraged to ask for this proactively.*

## Teaching format

**Project group A (Prof. Pircher) & Project group B (Prof. Krois):**

Project-work with a balanced mix of field trips, lectures, exercises and experiments, workshops, presentations and reviews (individually and in groups), interventions by external experts

## Learning outcomes

Group A (Prof. Pircher) & Group B (Prof. Krois)

**Knowledge and understanding**

- understand the potential and restrictions of given settings, the connected issues and actors / stakeholders, considering available capacities, recourses, instruments and technologies
- understand the requirements and potentials of a project, including all the above mentioned

**Applying knowledge and understanding**

- be able to conceptually frame projects, integrating competences and knowledges from Design Research and from courses of the area *Oberserve, Analyse & apply*
- be able to co-create original ideas for effective projects, aiming at desirable and viable Eco-Social transitions
- be able to develop effective projects in given situations (see above) with the above mentioned aims
- setup and organize a project according to its requirements, across all phases: initial research, finding, project development, exploration and experimentation, prototyping, testing and publishing / exhibiting.
- be able to design and build mockups, functional models and/or other artifacts, which make the project tangible and testable, integrating methods and skills from courses of the area *Make & Intervene*
- Integrate approaches, knowledges, methods, competences, skills and technologies from multiple fields and (design) disciplines

**Making judgments**

- be able to critically assess potentials and restrictions of given situations and settings (see above), and estimate strength, challenges, risks and prospects
- be able to review projects critically, to understand what is working, what could be improved (and how)
- apply instruments and knowledges from other courses, regard to making judgments, in particular critical thinking as learned in courses of the area *Oberserve, Analyse & Apply*

**Communication skills**

- think, communicate and act across diverse areas and disciplines
- be able to present and discuss their own project successfully (in diverse settings, using appropriate media and modes)

- be able to communicate and collaborate in teams, with partners, stakeholders and potential users or audiences

#### **Learning skills**

- learn quickly and adapt to given situations and their contexts
- understand own capacities and limitations, and understand, where, when and how to involve other experts / partners, for certain competences, roles and tasks

Group A (Prof. Pircher)

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

understand practices, methods and strategies of design of objects, (temporary) spaces, exhibitions and events.

Group B (Prof. Krois)

#### **Knowledge and understanding**

understand practices, methods and strategies in design for eco-social transformations, commons and commoning, in particular regarding the use of visual communication, interactions design, media tactics and facilitation.

*The focus within this spectrum depends on the interest of each student and on the needs of their project, as if the main part of the teaching happens in individual consultancies of project teams and single students.*

#### **Assessment**

Throughout the semester the work-in-progress are critically and constructively discussed.

At the end present, critically reflect and discuss their works. They will design and set up an exhibition with the works within the end-of -semester exhibition of the faculty and/or in Don Bosco.

All presentations include the demonstration of tangible outcome in the form of mock-ups, models, prototypes, videos, documentation of interventions or events, and/or other designed artefacts. For the presentation, students are asked to use media and speech in convincing and



attractive ways that motivate understanding and interest among the audience of the presentation. The presentation has to be done in a way that also works for external partners and stakeholders.

Additionally, a documentation has to be submitted (as portfolio web pages and booklets). It communicates the project including its development process. This essential documentation should be concise and attractive for interested audiences, like: fellow designers and practitioners, partners and stakeholders of the project, potential collaborators, participants, users and/or consumers of the project, etc.). The format of the documentation will be defined and communicated two weeks before the end of the semester at the latest. By the end of the academic year it will be integrated in the so-called [transfolder](#) containing outputs of all courses. This is thought to share production and to enable cross-fertilisations among the diverse courses.

Assessment language: English

Evaluation criteria and criteria for awarding marks

#### **Group A (Prof. Pircher) & Group B (Prof. Krois)**

- 1. Eco-Social agency**  
Impacts and potentials for positive eco-social change
- 2. Qualities the of designed artefacts**  
Aesthetic and technical qualities, and in how far these qualities foster the eco-social agency. How they build upon the state of the art in your chosen field and (design) disciplines. Boldness and vigour of experimentation and design exploration.
- 3. Conceptual framing, reflection and future perspectives**  
Understanding of the given situation, relevant actors and the potential for positive change. Critical analysis, synthesis, reflection and evaluation. Understanding of iterative development and future perspectives.
- 4. Relations, processes and organization**  
Understanding and managing relations and processes with the project team, collaborators, partners, stakeholders and other actors. Project management.
- 5. Storytelling**  
Effectiveness and potential in communicating the project to relevant publics. Quality and effectiveness of presentation techniques and narrative. How well the story attracts attention, convinces and touches audiences. Defense of your proposition and your response to critics.

All works have to tackle all 5 qualities. Particular weight is given to the interplay between *eco-social agency* (1), the *qualities of the designed artefacts* (2) and *Conceptual framing, reflection and future perspectives* (3).

## Readings

*Some will be read together in the Reading & Designing Circles.*

### **Group A (Prof. Pircher) & Group B (Prof. Krois)**

Brand, Ulrich and Markus Wissen (2018): *What Kind of a Great Transformation? The Imperial Mode of Living as a Major Obstacle to Sustainability Politics*. In: GAIA – Ecological Perspectives for Science and Society 27(3), 287-292.; ([PDF](#))

Escobar, Arturo (2018): *Designs for the Pluriverse: Radical Interdependence, Autonomy, and the Making of Worlds*, MIT Press ([PDF](#))

Fezer, Jesko & Studio Experimentelles Design (2016): *Öffentliche Gestaltungsberatung—Public Design Support 2011–2016*, Sternberg Press Ltd, London

Gehl, Jan & Birgitte Svarre (2013), *How to study public life*

Gibson-Graham, J.K. and Ethan Miller (2015): *Economy as Ecological Livelihood*, in Gibson, Katherine, Deborah Bird Rose and Ruth Fincher (Eds). *Manifesto for the Living in the Anthropocene*. Brooklyn, NY ([PDF](#) of the article; [whole book](#))

Gruendl, Harald, Ulrike Haele, Marco Kellhammer, Christina Nägele (IDRV): [Tools for the Design Revolution. A handbook for sustainable design strategies](#), Institute of Design Research Vienna  
German Version: [Werkzeuge für die Designrevolution. Ein Handbuch für zukunftsfähige Designstrategien](#)

Habermann, Friederike (2016): *ECOMMONY – re-care to mutuality*, Chapter 1: The Favour of the Day ([unofficial translation](#))

Original (in German language): *Ecommony. UmCARE zum Miteinander*, Ulrike Helmer Verlag ([PDF](#), CC BY-NC-SA)

I.L.A. Kollektiv (2019): *At the Expense of Others?*, oekom, Munich ([PDF](#))

Helfrich, Silke and David Bollier (2019): *Free, Fair, and Alive – The Insurgent Power of the Commons*, New Society Publishers

Krasny, Angelika, Elke Fitz / Architekturzentrum Wien (2019): [\*Critical Care. Architecture and Urbanism for a Broken Planet\*](#), MIT Press

Manzini, Ezio, and Rachel Coad (2015): [\*Design, When Everybody Designs: An Introduction to Design for Social Innovation\*](#). Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press

Puig de la Bellacasa, María (2017): *Matters of Care: Speculative Ethics in More Than Human Worlds*, University of Minnesota Press

Raworth, Kate: [So you want to downscale the Doughnut ? Here's how](#). PDF: [Creating City Portraits](#)

Welzer, Harald, and Sommer, Bernd (2015): [\*Transformation Design: A Social-Ecological Perspective\*](#) in Jonas, Wolfgang / Zerwas, Sarah / von Anshelm, Kristof (Ed.) *Transformation Design – Perspectives on a New Design Attitude*, BIRKHÄUSER,