

ECOWEEK  
2021  
ROME

16 & 17 | 01 | 2021

## Towards Intersectional Justice

Unbuilding structures of oppression.  
Making space for inclusive,  
empowering and reparative practices.

PRESS RELEASE 07/12/2020

ECOWEEK  
... habits change ... climate change

### TOWARDS INTERSECTIONAL JUSTICE

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January 16 – 17, 2021

*What, and who, matters in architecture?  
Which voices speak through the built landscape and through its written histories?  
How, and from whom, is change generated?*

This is the fourth of a series of online events by ECOWEEK, an NGO with the mission to change people's habits and promote sustainability. The 48-hours virtual event will focus on the intersections between environmental and social struggles, to challenge, once again and with more strength, the way we think, talk and write about architecture. A large number of women architects, talking from multiple locations and from different research-grounds, will discuss about architecture and transitional justice, colonial heritage and decolonization, refugee camps and humanitarian settlements, public space and feminism, environmental and labor struggles. Going through a session of virtual lectures and panel discussions, and a session of virtual theoretical and 'hands-on' (from your desk) workshops, we aim to offer an eye-opening and empowering experience, in order to change the way we think about sustainability, resilience, and climate adaptation, through sustainable design and placemaking in today's world.

ECOWEEK is an NGO with the mission to raise environmental awareness and to promote the principles of social and environmental sustainability through design. Since 2005, ECOWEEK has developed programs in 17 countries and a network in 56 countries. ECOWEEK workshops engage young architects and designers, in innovative practices and sustainable design, green buildings, and placemaking, that re-imagine and re-shape public space.

This virtual ECOWEEK event is curated by Maria Luisa Palumbo, an architect, researcher and educator based in Rome, Italy, in collaboration with the University of Arkansas Rome Program, University La Sapienza, GBC Italia Chapter Lazio and Rebel Architette. Passionate and critical scholars and professionals will share their research and experience to foster a new approach to sustainability in architecture, one deeply rooted in the search for social justice.

ECOWEEK will host Suad Amiry, Esra Akcan, Sandi Hilal, Francesca Perani, Francesco Bedeschi, Alessio Battistella, Nasrin Mohiti Asli, Aslihan Gunhan, Consuelo Lollobrigida, Francesca Riccardo, Alessandra Battisti, Alessandro Melis and Anna Chiara Cimoli. Thanks to this multidisciplinary approach, their contribution will trigger a discussion on architecture and design as critical disciplines with the ability to tackle and unbuild the many structures of violence and oppression we live in: from patriarchy to colonial and exploitative regimes. Inspired by these leading professionals, we will make space for inclusive, empowering and reparative practices.

Participation is free of charge. Registration is required at : <https://ecoweeek.online>

Contact at [ecoweeek@ecoweeek.org](mailto:ecoweeek@ecoweeek.org)  
More details at <https://ecoweeek.online>



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THE SPEAKERS

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**Suad Amiry**

writer, conservation architect, RIWAQ: Centre of Architectural Conservation, Ramallah

Suad Amiry is a writer and a conservation architect. She is the founder of RIWAQ: Centre of Architectural Conservation, Ramallah, Palestine. Amiry and her Organization RIWAQ received several international architectural awards, amongst them the prestigious Aga Khan Award for Architecture in 2013.

She is the author of the well-known book *Sharon and My Mother-in-Law* (2005) which has been translated into 20 languages and was awarded the prestigious 2004 Viareggio Prize.

She is the author of numerous non-fiction books including: *Nothing to Lose But Your Life: an 18 hour Journey with Murad* (2009), *Menopausal Palestine. Women at the Edge* (2010), *Golda Slept Here* (2014), *Damascus* (2016), and *Peasant Architecture in Palestine: Space, Kinship and Gender* (2018). Amiry's latest book *An English Suit and a Jewish Cow* (2020) has been published in Italy. Amiry taught architecture in the Department of architecture at Columbia University, the Birzeit University and the University of Jordan.

**Esra Akcan**

architectural historian, Cornell University

Esra Akcan is Michael McCarthy Professor in the Department of Architecture and the Director of IES at the Einaudi Center for International Studies at Cornell University. Her research on modern and contemporary architecture and urbanism foregrounds the intertwined histories of Europe and West Asia, and offers new ways to understand architecture's role in global, social and environmental justice. Akcan received awards and fellowships from the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies at Harvard University, Graham Foundation (3 times grantee), American Academy in Berlin, UIC, Institute for Advanced Studies in Berlin, Clark Institute, Getty Research Institute, Canadian Center for Architecture (2 times scholar), CAA, Mellon Foundation, DAAD and KRESS/ARIT.

She is the author of *Landfill Istanbul; Architecture in Translation; Turkey: Modern Architectures in History* (with S. Bozdoğan); *Open Architecture: Migration, Citizenship and Urban Renewal of Berlin-Kreuzberg; Building in Exile*. Her upcoming books are *Abolish Human Bans* and *Right to Heal*.

**Sandi Hilal**

architect, artist, educator, DAAR, Decolonizing Architecture Art Research

Sandi Hilal is an architect, artist and educator. She has developed a research and project-based artistic practice that is both theoretically ambitious and practically engaged in the struggle for justice and equality.

She is currently the Co-Director of DAAR, Decolonizing Architecture Art Research, an architectural and art collective that she co-founded in 2007 with Alessandro Petti and Eyal Weizman, in Beit Sahour, Palestine.

She co-founded Campus in Camps in 2012, an experimental educational program hosted in Dheisheh Refugee Camp in Bethlehem with the aims to overcome conventional educational structures by creating a space for critical and grounded knowledge production connected to greater transformations and the democratization of society.

Her latest publication *Permanent Temporariness* (Art and Theory, Stockholm 2019), co-authored with Alessandro Petti, is a book, a catalog, and an archive that accounts for 15 years of research and experimentation. *Permanent Temporariness* was published in connection with DAAR's eponymous retrospective exhibition that was inaugurated at the New York University Abu Dhabi Art Gallery in 2018, and at the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven in 2019.

The background of the poster features a repeating pattern of square architectural details, possibly from a classical building facade, in a light beige color. A large, bright, circular light source is visible in the upper center, creating a lens flare effect.

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**Francesca Perani**

architect, designer, activist, RebelArchitette

Francesca Perani is an Architect and designer, her work ranges from interior architecture to interactive design, from illustration to activism. In 2007 she established FrancescaperaniEnterprise [www.francescaperani.com](http://www.francescaperani.com), an award winning studio based in Bergamo, Italy. Material and visual experimentation, trial and error, emotional and communicative charge finds its expression in spaces, objects and graphics. The practice is driven by the power of shared creativity as an effective instrument to bring about change. Co-founder and curator of activist project RebelArchitette [www.rebelarchitette.it](http://www.rebelarchitette.it) advocating for equality in Architecture through the open dissemination of 1000 female role models. She is the founder of cutoutmix [www.cutoutmix.com](http://www.cutoutmix.com): an internationally popular free open platform as an answer to the growing need for more equal and diverse cutouts populating design renders.

**Alessio Battistella**

ARCò Architecture and Cooperation

Chairperson of ARCò Architecture and Cooperation, with which he carries out design and applied research activities in the field of sustainable architecture in humanitarian emergency contexts.

Member of the Advisory Board and Professor of the Design for Development Master at Politecnico di Milano.

Member of the Scientific Committee of IN/ARCH (Istituto Nazionale di Architettura).

Member of the Scientific Committee and Track leader of S.O.S. - School of Sustainability

ARCò's works have been featured on many publications and architectural journals, and have received international awards such as the Young Talents Renzo Piano Foundation Award and the Holcim Award for Sustainable Construction.

**Nasrin Mohiti Asli**

Orizzontale

In 2013 she graduated with honors in Architecture at the Sapienza University of Rome with an experimental project for a new hosting center for refugees model in Rome. In 2008 she trained in Spain at the UPV of San Sebastian. In 2012 in Berlin she collaborated with the Mila Office architecture studio. Since January 2011 she's part of orizzontale, an architecture collective based in Rome, with which she works throughout Europe on experimental projects crossing the fields of architecture, urban planning, public art and self-construction. She received numerous awards including: "Young Talent of Italian Architecture 2018" from CNAPPC, YAP MAXXI 2014 promoted by MAXXI Rome and MoMA NYC, RomArchitettura (2015-2017) promoted by INARCH.

**Aslihan Gunhan**

Architect and educator

Aslihan Gunhan is an architect and Ph.D. candidate in the History of Architecture and Urban Development Program at Cornell. She also serves at the Graduate Advisory Committee of the Society of Architectural Historians. Her research investigates the histories and representations of modern architecture in the late Ottoman Empire in its broader geography, with questions of migration, displacement, dispossession, and violence, through comparative modernities and postcolonial theory. Her dissertation project, titled Displaced Modernities: The Ottoman Empire, Turkey and the Specters of Armenian Builders, is the recipient of a 2019 SSRC Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship. Gunhan is a Fulbright alumna (2015).



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**Alessandra Battisti**

architect, La Sapienza University

Architect, PhD in Environmental Design, Associate Professor in Architecture Technology and Environmental Design, at "Sapienza" Rome University, where she is also: Head of the Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture; Head of the Master's Degree in Architecture Urban Regeneration; ROFILE IN ENDirector of the 2nd level Master's degree course in Valorisation and Enhancement of Small Historical Centers; Member of the Faculty Board and Teaching Staff Member of the PhD in Environmental, Technological Design.

Since 1992 she has been carrying out research, teaching and experimentation activities on topics such as technological innovation for environmentally aware architecture, buildings' ecological and energetic efficiency, bioclimatic approach in design. From 1994 to 1996 she was researcher at TechnischeUniversitaetMuenchen in the "Lehrstuhl fuer Entwerfen und Baukonstruktion II", under the guidance of Prof. Thomas Herzog.

**Alessandro Melis**

architect, University of Portsmouth

Design Director and Founder of H21, a multi awarded international architecture practice, Alessandro Melis has received a Master and a Ph.D. in Architecture and Urban Design from the University of Florence. He is Professor of Architecture Innovation at the university of Portsmouth and the architecture research leader of the Architecture school. He is director of the Cluster for Sustainable Cities. As an academic his specialist teaching and research interests are in the fields of climate sensitive design, urban mutations, and community resilience. Previously he was head of technology and director of the Postgraduate engagement School of Architecture and Planning at the University of Auckland, Director of the TPI Urban Strategies Postgraduate Master at the University of Applied Arts Vienna, Honorary Fellow at the Edinburgh College of Arts and Visiting Professor at the Anhalt University Dessau. He has been appointed by the Italian Government as the curator of the Italian Pavilion Venice Biennale 2021.

**Anna Chiara Cimoli**

art historian, State University of Milan

Anna Chiara Cimoli is an art historian based in Milan. After graduating in Art History, she earned a diploma in Museology at the Ecole du Louvre in Paris and a Ph.D. in History of Architecture from the Polytechnic of Turin. She teaches a course in Social History of Art

at the State University in Milan, as well as a workshop in Museum mediation. Since 2001 she has been an associate of ABCittà, a collective of urbanists and cultural designers; in this context, she designs experimental projects aimed at audience development and a more layered representation of cultural diversity. She has published extensively in the field of the relationship between museums and society (<https://independent.academia.edu/AnnaChiaraCimoli>).

Anna is co-editor of the blog [museumsandmigration.wordpress.com](https://museumsandmigration.wordpress.com) and co-director of the online magazine [rootsroutes](https://rootsroutes.com).

The background of the poster features a close-up, high-angle shot of a floor made of square tiles, each with a recessed square pattern. A bright, circular light source is visible in the upper center, casting a soft glow. A dark, semi-transparent rectangular box is positioned in the lower right, containing white text.

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**Francesca Riccardo**  
architect

Francesca Riccardo is an Adjunct Professor at the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Arkansas Rome Program. She is Ph.D. in Sustainable Urban Project with a background in architectural composition. Since 2006 she deals with research and education in architecture, with a special focus on neighborhood regeneration and housing. In 2008, she defended her Ph.D. thesis entitled "Renovation strategies for social housing estates" at the Roma Tre University, Italy. She did most of her research at the Delft University of Technology, Holland, thanks to a one-year scholarship of the Rotary Foundation by the Rotary International. After a two years research contract at this university, she came back to Italy where she worked as a researcher and teacher at the Venice University Institute of Architecture, IUAV, the Sapienza University of Rome, and the University Studies Abroad Consortium of the Università degli Studi della Tuscia, Viterbo. She now works at the University of Arkansas Rome Program where she teaches Architecture studio, Studio Urban Focus, Interior Design studio, Architecture of the City, and Modern and Contemporary Rome.

## THE WORKSHOPS

**W1 The place of gender**  
with Maria Luisa Palumbo

Four texts, four authors, four women's voices about the space of the home, the space of the city, the space of the planet, and the space of design and of history writing. Reading and discussing a bell hook's text on homeplace as a space of resistance, a Kim Anne Savelson's text on gender and race, an Alice Friedman's text on the Schröder House, and a Donna Haraway's text on the Anthropocene, we will talk of violence and liberation struggles. We will think through issues of women's exclusion and inclusion. We will share thoughts about what and how we studied architecture, about the voices we heard and we keep with us in each line we trace. We will talk of collapse, about refugees and refuges, of making kinships, and making space in a more gentle and inclusive way.

All you need is reading the texts that you'll receive before the workshop and come to the (virtual) table prepared to discuss them. We will read, write, share and talk collectively (and in breakout rooms).

**W2 Public toilets for all**  
with Alessandra Battisti

Designing public toilets for all: between technological innovation and gender identity.

The workshop focuses on the need of environmentally and socially conscious design in everyday places. Architecture not only plays a crucial role in the acknowledgement and embodiment of concepts of equality, diversity and inclusion, but it must also act as a driver for change blurring the boundaries of gender identity by means of re-designing the built environment.

The design task is about an ecological, gender free public bathroom capable of ensuring access to safe, hygienic, inclusive, technological, innovative and smart sanitation services that provide privacy and dignity for all. The design framework involves demand and performance requirements related to comfort, accessibility, management and environment: key issues involve the achievement of good thermal comfort, natural ventilation, natural lightning and greening indoor strategies due to their influence on psychophysical health and well-being.

International institutions architecture universities and city municipalities are moving in this direction as it is also an issue with respect to the human right to water and sanitation (Goal 5, SDGs) and to universal access and gender equality (Goal 6, SDGs).

The banner features a background image of a classical architectural ceiling with a grid of square coffers. A bright, circular light source is visible in the upper center, casting a glow. The text 'ECOWEEK 2021 ROME' is positioned in the upper left corner.

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**W3 Designing the protest**  
with Francesca Perani

Designing the protest: signs of resistance ('cause all voices need to be heard)

Protest signs have long been used on the picket line and in marches around the world, playing an indispensable role in appropriating public spaces. Our current global crisis has been highlighting new community needs.

The fragility of both private and public spaces, the need for a sustainable integration and inclusion. Marches and protest performances (online-offline) are crucial growing opportunities for change in the next future. Starting from collective research on itineraries of protest signage, the workshop will focus on defining designing display of signs, posters, banners, installations, stencils, graffiti, personal accessories, flags, physical or digital performances. The workshop is a call to action in building alternative narratives for a global community united by a shared ideal of democracy, equality, respect.

WANT CHANGE? DESIGN YOUR PROTEST!

**W4 Women in Art and Architecture**

with Consuelo Lollobrigida and Francesca Riccardo

The workshop will explore the presence of women artists in Rome, from 16th to 18th century. Starting from a preliminary inventory as drafted out in my book 'Following Women artists. A Guide of Rome', participants will be asked to charting and mapping on Giovanni Battista Nolli's Pianta di Roma women artists' houses and workshops (or botteghe) and their works of art sheltered in Museums, Galleries, Churches and palazzi of Rome. Through images of paintings, sculptures, and buildings, we will stress out the position of each artist and contextualize her work in the given art historical period.

This revisited Nolli map, will constitute the workshop outcome. Well beyond the map, our process will provide a methodological model to be applied in any time and space to give voice to those who have been excluded and hidden by the history.





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THE CURATOR

**Maria Luisa Palumbo** \_ architect, researcher, educator  
[/paesaggisensibili.com](http://paesaggisensibili.com)

Architect and senior fellow of the McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology of Toronto University, since 2003 I am a member of the Italian National Institute of Architecture in Rome. My research focus on architectural theory as a practice of social engagement, to question and promote notions of justice, ecology, and democracy. I am the author of *New Wombs: Electronic bodies and architectural disorder* (Birkhauser, 2000) and *Paesaggi Sensibili. Architetture a sostegno della vita* (Duepunti, 2012); and the editor of *Architettura Produttiva* (Maggioli, 2012), *Laboratorio Roma* (Aracne 2016), and *Fare Città nella Città* (Aracne 2017). I am a regular contributor to *Artribune*, *Domus*, and *Eastwest*. In 2012, I curated *reMade in Italy*, final section of the Italian Pavilion at the 2012 Venice Biennale of Architecture, with Luca Zevi as the main curator of the exhibition *Italian Architecture*, from Adriano Olivetti to the Green Economy. I am currently a Phd student at the History of Architecture and Urban Development (HAUD) program at Cornell.

THE ORGANISERS

**Francesco Bedeschi** \_ architect, educator, expert of sustainable design

Based in Rome, Italy, Francesco Bedeschi is an architect, educator and an expert of sustainable design. He currently serves as the Director of the University of Arkansas Rome Center, the European Hub of the University of Arkansas and a professor of integrated architectural design and restoration. He is also the manager and coordinator of the program of study in Italy of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, State of New York. A member of the Executive Committee of the Green Building Council Italia, Francesco has played a pivotal role in the growth of the organization and in establishing relations with the American counterpart. In 2010 he founded the Lazio Chapter, where he was elected President. Bedeschi was also appointed the Coordinator of the Standard Committee for the development of the Historical Building Protocol at GBC Italia. Furthermore, Francesco works as sustainability consultant with SINERGI Integrated Building Sciences LLC, a private company with offices in the USA, Mexico and Italy. Under SINERGI, Francesco has led the growth of the Company's services in the European market - gaining project experience with both the USGBC's LEED Rating System for International Projects as well as the GBC Italia protocol.

**Consuelo Lollobrigida** \_ art historian, researcher, educator

Consuelo Lollobrigida is an art historian, post graduated fellow at Sapienza University, Rome, and Adjunct Professor of Art History at the University of Arkansas Rome program. She attended the Master in Patrimony and Heritage of the Church (Pontificia Università Gregoriana, Rome) and completed her Ph.D. in Art History at Sapienza University, Rome, with a thesis on women artists in Baroque Rome. She worked as researcher in Italian and international Museums such as Macro, The National Museum of Palazzo Venezia and Palazzo delle Esposizioni.

She taught Museums Studies and Pedagogy of the Cultural Heritage at Sapienza University, Rome, as lecturer from 2005 to 2012 at the College of Humanities. She is the author among other of: *Plautilla Bricci. Pictura et Architecturacelebris. L'architetrice del Barocco Romano* (Roma: Gangemi International, 2017); *Anna d'Austria e Plautilla Bricci. Indizi di matronage reale nella Roma del Seicento* (Universidad de Granada, 2016); *Following women artists. A Guide of Rome* (Foligno: Et Graphiae, 2013); *Maria Luigia Raggi. Il capriccio architettonico tra Arcadia e Grand Tour* (Roma: Edizioni Budai, 2012); *Introduzione alla Museologia. Strumenti e Metodi per operatori museali* (Firenze: Edizioni Le Lettere Università, 2010).

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THE ECOWEEK TEAM

**Elias Messinas (GR & IL)**  
**Founding Chairman & Coordinator**

Elias is an architect and environmental consultant, senior lecturer, and social entrepreneur. Graduate of Yale School of Architecture, Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, he holds a doctorate from the National Technical University of Athens. Elias attended the M.Sc. program on Environment and Development at NTUA, and has completed research on sustainable design in the Negev desert at Ben Gurion University. Elias teaches sustainable design at Patras University and Holon Institute of Technology, and has published his work through books, articles, catalogues, and exhibitions, and is the author and co-editor of ECOWEEK The Book#1: 50 Voices for Sustainability. ([www.ecoama.com](http://www.ecoama.com))

**Despoina Kouinoglou (UK)**  
**ECOWEEK Associate**  
**Head Organizer & Coordinator**

Despoina is a landscape architect with work experience in the UK where she has undertaken projects in various scales, including rural and urban schemes, with main focus on landscape planning and design. Despoina has also gained experience from a rural architecture program in capacity building and development in Mt. Elgon in Kenya, as part of the doctorate dissertation research of Michiel Smits (TU Delft, Avans University of Applied Sciences). Despoina has completed her masters degree in landscape architecture at the Postgraduate Program of Studies in Landscape Architecture at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece (2017). Despoina's dissertation researched the redesign and integration of refugee camps with local communities through design. Since 2015, Despoina has been an Associate at ECOWEEK.

**Sofia Passia (FR)**  
**Organiser, Content Developer & Graphic Designer**

Sofia was born and raised in Thessaloniki, Greece. She adores every corner of her city, from people to buildings, the reason why her Master Thesis concerns the Passages of Thessaloniki, presented at the South European Cities Conference. Sofia used to live with her family and three sisters in Bruxelles for 5 years, where she experienced the French speaking environment from an early age. Prior to her graduation from the Architecture program of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (2017), Sofia spent an Erasmus semester in Lyon, France, where she also completed several internships. Currently living in Paris, she has been working in architectural firms which focus on the development of medium scale projects. Sofia has been participating in volunteering actions and workshops and believes highly in interacting with other peers "together we stand, divided we fall". She has been a member of the ECOWEEK Administration Team since 2020 and enjoys every second of the journey.