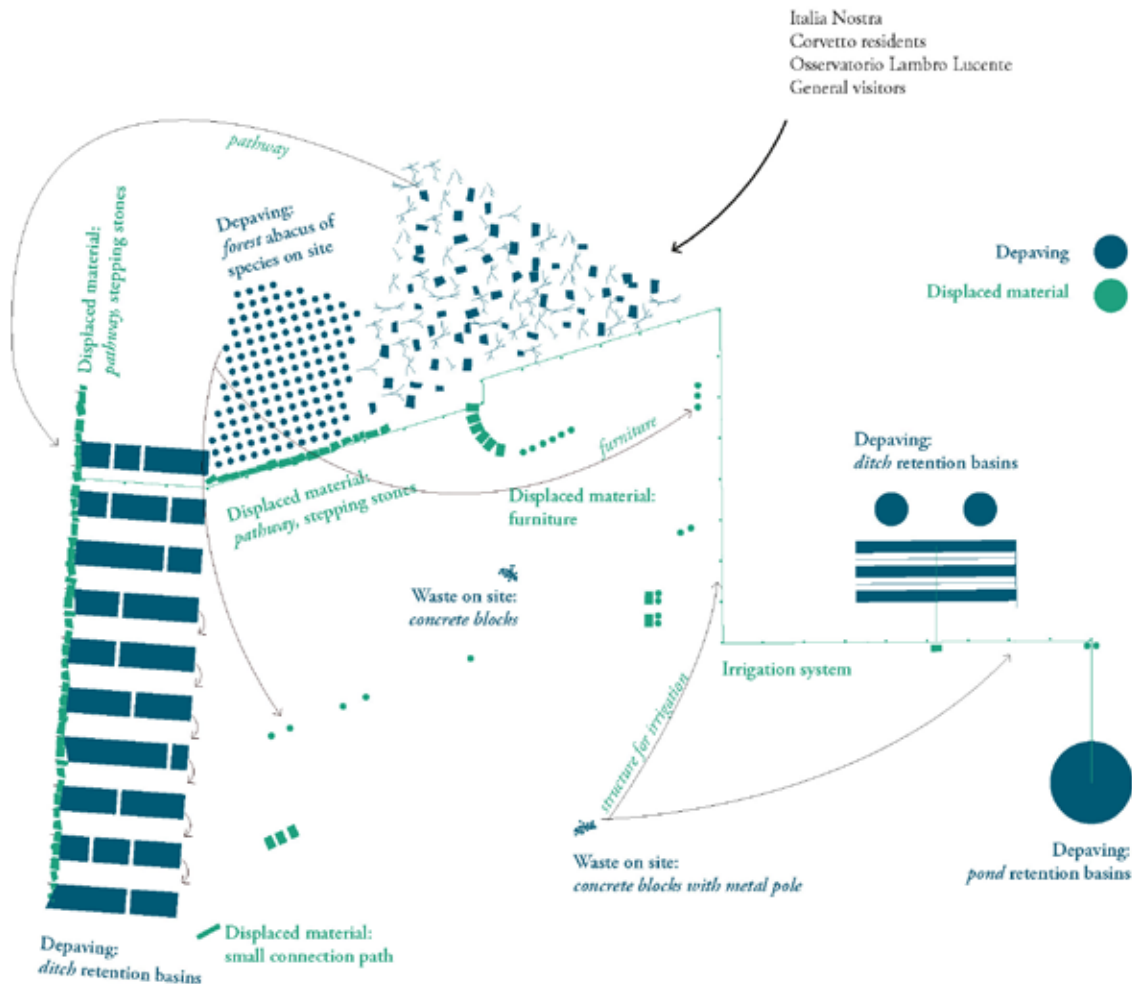


Designing in a finite world: urbanism, architecture and resource-consciousness



Source: *Open Ground: Depaving Urban Surfaces*, 2025. Image by: Thomas Cabai, Alexandra Neagu, Xuanjia Ye, Elies Horemans, Politecnico di Milano.

Research seminar on teaching practices

Friday, October 24
14:00-17:00



Location: Usquare site, officers' Mess room
Kroonlaan 227 Av. de la Couronne, 1050 Brussels
Possibility to attend also online

To confirm your presence (in person/online) write to:
giulia.caterina.verga@ulb.be

Organised by the iiTSE
(Interfaculty Institute for Socio-Ecological Transformations)
in collaboration with the AIA and SUFI
(ULB/EPB/BATir research laboratories)

Designing in a finite world: urbanism, architecture and resource-consciousness in teaching practices

Facing planetary boundaries, growing resource constraints, and increasingly complex socio-economic challenges, architectural and urban design education must evolve towards more ecology-grounded paradigms that critically address both the environmental and social dimensions of material resource use.

This seminar, hosted by iiTSE in Brussels, brings together educators and researchers who explore resource-conscious design approaches in their pedagogy and research. The aim is to promote debate on how concepts such as **urban metabolism, circularity, exnovation and ecological transition** are integrated and articulated in architecture and urban planning curricula. Through a hybrid format combining presentations and roundtable discussions, invited speakers from institutions including the Politecnico di Milano, ENSA Paris Est, and the ULB's interdisciplinary research platform iiTSE (SUFI, AIA, LOUISE research labs) will share insights on how their design studios engage with material cycles, territorial dynamics, and the socio-material realities of design efforts.

The seminar will highlight teaching methods that foreground resource awareness (from territorial to urban design, architecture and materials agencies) and will question how design education can contribute to broader transformation of design paradigms.

Program Overview

- 13:30–14:00 – Coffee & Informal Networking
- 14:00–15:30 – Presentations by invited speakers
- 15:30–16:30 – Round-table discussions on key themes
- 16:30–17:30 – Wrap-up & Drinks

Invited Speakers

- Andrea Bortolotti – Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, Politecnico di Milano
- Geoffrey Grulois – LOUISE, La Cambre Horta, ULB
- Jean Souviron – ENSA Paris Est
- Lionel Devlieger – Ghent University

Organised by

- Giulia Caterina Verga – Organiser & Moderator, SUFI, École Polytechnique, ULB (iiTSE member)
- Andrea Bortolotti – Organiser, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, Politecnico di Milano
- Samia Ben Rajab – Organiser, École Polytechnique, ULB (iiTSE member)
- Geoffrey Grulois – Organiser, La Cambre Horta, ULB (iiTSE member)
- Ahmed Zaib Kahn – Organiser, École Polytechnique, ULB (iiTSE member)
- Camilo Paez – Organiser, École Polytechnique, ULB (iiTSE member)