

BUILDING BEAUTY

ECOLOGIC DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

First Level Master in Architecture

UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
SUOR ORSOLA
BENINCASA

Naples, Italy | October 2017 – May 2018

Overview

The University Suor Orsola Benincasa in Naples (UniSOB), offers a Master program in Architecture entitled **“Building Beauty: Ecologic Design and Construction Process”**. It proposes an integrated approach to: 1) direct hands-on construction; 2) low-carbon/low-tech building craftsmanship; 3) community empowerment. The proposed model process builds on Christopher Alexander’s principles, looking at international cooperation, right-to-build, emergency and place ecology in a profoundly sustainable perspective. It is an intensive residential program, **taught in English** and designed to offer a holistic experience of generating beauty that makes a difference based on the reality of feelings and an **evidence-based approach** to the building process.

Learning Experience

The program is **practice-based**, offering an immersive **experience of hands-on construction** that links together self development, ecological thinking and building skills: students learn low-tech construction and decoration techniques over an intensive, fully human, feeling-based building process. Learning is organized in three axes: 1. **Construction and Cultivation**: full-scale replication of ancient building components/ornaments and a new project in University’s courtyard. In cooperation with UniSOB’s Mediterranean diet and botanic labs, cultivation of plants/food in the monastery gardens. 2. **Seminars**: leading international scholars from a wide range of scientific fields explore with students the potential of a truly interdisciplinary approach to design and construction where complexity and uncertainty are the positive condition of beauty generation; speakers tackle important challenges in the current international agenda of sustainable architecture and resilient communities. 3. **Self, Community and Space**: practical movement/art/dance/therapy workshops aimed at recognizing and trust our feelings in relation to space. Feelings are referred to space, the body-mind, and the way they interact in hands-on physical work of making.

The program also includes: a) intensive **Summer School** construction experience in Cisternino (Puglia), learning to build the traditional **“trulli”**; b) **“Theory of Beauty Conference”**: students present and discuss their experience with world leading scholars and professionals.

Entitlement to apply

The program is international, open to individuals holding a Bachelor degree or equivalent experience in Architecture or any other subject.

Qualification

Upon successful completion of the program, students will be awarded the **“Building Beauty: Ecologic Design and Construction Process”** First Level Specializing Master Diploma (60 ECTS credits, equivalent to 120 USA/UK credits). The title is accredited by the Italian Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (MIUR).

Tuition Fees

EU students: **€10,000** (full fee, including pre-enrolment and tuition).

Non-EU students: **€16,300** (full fee, including pre-enrollment and tuition).

Registration

Registrations will be accepted starting in mid April 2017, following announcement on the website.

Contacts

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Students’ experience and location

The University sits in the heart of the city of Naples, homed in the extraordinary 17th century Benincasa monastery. The **historical complex** is located on the top of a hill behind the popular “Spanish Quarters” in the heart of the old city of Naples. The complex, which has grown in time into a walled **“cittadella”** (small town) enclosing courtyards, terraces, annexes, gardens, vineyards and cultivated land, offers a unique overview on the city of Naples and its renown gulf, crowned by the magnificent silhouette of the Vesuvio volcano. In such stunning venue, blessed by a magic Mediterranean climate, located at one-hour travel distance from major jewels of art and nature such as Rome, Capri, Sorrento, Amalfi, Pompei, Ercolano, to name just a few, staff and students share a one-year, intensive, memorable experience of studies, team work and life.

Accommodation

All students are offered accommodation in state-of-the-art **University Residence**, located only a few minutes walk from the monastery. The residence is close to via Toledo and the vibrant historic heart of the city of Naples, and well connected to the main public transport hubs, including subway, Central Rail Station and International Airport. A special rate of €250-300/month is reserved to all students for a shared double room with en-suite bathroom. The rate includes heating, daily room cleaning, weekly room bedding change, access to fully equipped communal kitchen and 24/7 overall surveillance.

Meals

Two diner/bars are available on campus, one of which is panoramic; central location guarantees handy reach to a wealth of external opportunities.





UNIVERSITY "SUOR ORSOLA BENINCASA"

UniSOB is an important academic center in Southern Italy. Currently, the University is home of three Faculties: Education Sciences, Literature and Law, for about 9,000 students and staff. The overall area is around 33.000 m² sitting in the heart of the city of Naples. The complex is made of two large monasteries and two churches.

