We are experiencing an environmental, social and political crisis. The magnitude of the issues requires not only technical answers but new models of thinking, lifestyles and values. As the pandemic crisis has taught us, the issues are closely linked and, for this reason, require systemic thinking capable of grasping the links between the different aspects. This involves overcoming the anthropocentric view, looking at nature in its entirety, addressing the implications of distant and nearby post-colonial scenarios, taking gender issues into account, and looking at the political risks associated with new populisms and war scenarios.

However, a perception of the links between the different topics is still not widespread. Hence, an interdisciplinary approach is essential, with a significant contribution from the natural sciences - where nature can teach virtuous behavior - and the social sciences - able to look at other cultures and their contributions.

To tackle a systemic design, with its ability to catalyze different disciplines, to make sense of technological innovation, to practice an analytical approach, to stimulate virtuous behavior, to anticipate the future, can play a pivotal role.

Contributing to the definition of the physical and digital, but also relational environment of contemporaneity, the Design for Sustainability Lab (LDS) of the Department of Architecture of the University of Florence operates on these themes.

The work conducted by the LDS research team does not limit itself to tackling a single theme, but seeks to reflect on the various dimensions of the global crisis, operating on the boundaries between the human, beyond the human to the transhuman realm.

During Milan Design Week 2024, the LDS Lab moves to the spaces of Base in Milan, showcasing completed projects (international and national, with prototypes, models, designs, ideas, scenarios), in progress ideas and the dreams waiting to be realized.

By physically recreating the desks of LDS researchers - designers, architects, botanists, anthropologists, social workers, as well as Masters Degree students, in a collective intelligence scenario, through a well-established network of relationships with companies, associations, administrations, territories, testifying to the desire to have tangible effects. The idea, specifically, is to create live design performances where researchers take turns in a calendar of thematic events, researching and designing on-site throughout the duration of the Design Week.
Design for Sustainability Lab (LDS)
Giovanni Lotti, Scientific Director
Marco Marangolo, Assistant Professor
Francesco Ciriano, Research Fellow
W. Marco Piovanotto, Assistant Professor
Research Fellows
Antonella Laic, Gabriella Pontillo
Post doc
Jing Boai, Marilotta Scazza
PhD candidates
Fabio Balduzzi, Eduardo Brondani, Francesco Carotenzi, Bianca Trisi
Eleonora P. Setti, Elisa Mattaccei, Paola T. Vighioldi, Giulia Pirozzi
Manet Santi, Rosella De Spiti, Zhehui Yi
Research Assistants
Tommaso Colla, Alessio Zani
Previous Researchers
Diletta Gori, Associate Professor
Pietro Meloni, Research Fellow
Eleonora Trivellini, Research Fellow (ENI H2020)
Gladys Rodriguez, PhD
Valentino Frosini, PhD
Lei PiC
Bachelor’s graduates in Product, Interior, Communication and Design; Master’s graduates in Advanced Sustainable Design.

Paria B. Moghaddam, Ami Licaj, Elisa Matteucci
Exhibit design of Global Crisis
Ciriano, Fabio Ghelardini, Gregorio Goti
Master’s graduates in Advanced Sustainable Design
Bachelor’s graduates in Product, Interior,
V alentina Frosini, PhD
Pietro Meloni, Research Fellow
Previous Researchers:
Zhiwei Mo
Manfredi Sottani, Denise de Spirito,
Paria B. Moghaddam, Giulia Pistoresi,
PhD Candidates:
Ami Licaj, Gabriele Pontillo
Research Fellows:

Design Across the Borders in times of Global Crisis
Concept
Giovanni Lotti
Exhibits

Amadeo Contento, Alessio Zani
Communication design
Antonella Laic, Elisa Mattaccei
Video production
Paola T. Vighioldi

In collaboration w/:
Education institutions: Université.Compasso Vetrato Calabrese, Politecnico di Milano, Politecnico di Torino, Università di Bologna, Università di Firenze (DORSO-ERES), Università Mediterranea
Public entities, no profit and associations:
A.S.P.I, Associazione Italiana di Scienze Forensi, Ambi.CIRN, ASP, Comune di Comunicazione, Comune di Cosenza, Comune di Cosenza, Comune di Marano, Comune di Passione, Consorzio Polo Tecnologico Magno, Ente Sviluppo delle Produzioni dell’Agricoltura, Ente Cultura Sostenibile, Università degli studi di Palermo, Università di Bologna, Università di Firenze (DORSO-ERES), Università Mediterranea

Twenty-four projects for an Across the Borders vision
01 — Smag
A product-service system designed to evaluate key parameters relevant to the life cycle of both humans and plants, introducing the importance of Things (IoT) into the cycle of stone enterprises. This system weaves a narrative of blacklisting, blinding the rich heritage of traditional materials with the cutting-edge advancements of technological innovations.

02 — Material beyond materials
Material thinking with a view to the circular economy: an annual workshop where students practice material design, manual 4R-s and sustainability practices.
A Research on 4R's and exploring developments in this natural approach.

03 — Prismatic
A research project aimed at the reuse and recycling of fishing nets, some 700,000 tonnes per year, in the world. A journey from the sea to shore, at a time that tells us about the Mediterranean, a small sea interconnected, plagued by tragedies and death, by climate change. Children’s games that remember at a time when the Mediterranean was a place of routes and myths.

04 — 3R4Camper
Circular economy systems for the motorhome sector through the application of the 3R4 logic. Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Solutions include, among others, lightening of the structure through the application of new materials, ensuring both lightness and the construction of a better end-of-life outcome.

05 — Inertial
A research based on the principles of biofabrication aimed at addressing the issue of processing waste in the industry. Starting with inertial, the endeavor seeks to establish a spin-off focused on realizing the research outcomes.

06 — Re-generative Lab
A joint University - Business - Administration workshop was established with the aim of promoting circularity practices based on the 4R model: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. Exposition, serving as a stimulus for virtuous behavior.

07 — For-lgno
A project for the valorisation of the wood chain and the territory of the Serre Calabresi through an integrated social communication system. The communication project is aimed at developing a brand that summative material and intangible values in a fluid, dynamic system aimed at regulating the sustainable, ethical, and potential values associated with the wood product. The service is aimed at the inclusion of the municipality of Serre San Bruno (51%) and the companies of the local supply chain in the free carbon credit market.

08 — Nel bosco dei Bigonai
A summer school on the forest wood supply chain, with a focus on recovering and enhancing the work of the last artisan: the woodcutter. "Traditional" containers for transporting products. An opportunity to reflect on the value of traditional knowledge and local communities as assets for sustainable development models.
(Coordinated by Studio Avis)

09 — ROCC - Monument
A monument communicating the often-neglected contribution of women to the Resistance against Nazi-fascism, born from the codesign session. A project for the expansion and activation of a Craft and Design School in Antananarivo. The works are the result of the reflections of these students and the research of the Design for Sustainability Lab, ROCC, let us forget.

10 — Digital Sustainability
Thematic seminar as part of the Communication III course aimed at discussing a communication campaign to raise awareness of circular sustainability, digital sustainability, social and economic.
The project, as an object of communication, is a real capability of stimulating complex themes to stimulate reflection and produce change in the community.

11 — Eco visualization Strategies
This research highlights an in Ecore Visualization, merging nature-inspired narratives with Data Visualization processes to tackle climate change challenges. Emphasis is placed on biomimetics and bio-inspired methods for sustainable design, with the aim of reducing the environmental impact of Data Visualization practices. The exploration of nature’s communication systems underscores new techniques for processing and visualizing information.

12 — The Shade / Lunderdogs
A world-building issue of gender, queerness and inclusive languages - the body that [they] are not - questioning the contribution of Transformative & Interactive Storytelling Design in transcultural immersive storytelling from the perspective of a thematic area: performance art, digital social sciences.

13 — Intercultural craft
A European research project, part of the social networks alliances, universities, and doctors' effort through design-driven strategies for the social and work inclusion of people with fewer opportunities, fostering the creation of local and European networks composed of social workers, local artisans, and refugees.

14 — Togetherness
Design for social innovation with eco-social enterprises. In collaboration with Terrà di Totti, social enterprises which work with minorities, animal shelters and refuges, creating job placement and social inclusion. The objects of Textile in Stringa are a result of these practices.

15 — diverse
Emma Italia Online is committed to transforming society’s values about humans, plants, food and nature according to Eastern and Western ecological philosophies. In the perspective of coexistence, the focus is on the respect of uniqueness, transformation, attraction to care, love, environmental and social justice, inclusiveness, cultural diversity and biodiversity.

16 — Manaoma
A capacity building research project focused on Melaghe cultural and natural biodiversity, aiming to support the local craft tradition and knowledge through the creation and activation of a Craft and Design School in Antananarivo.

17 — MAMA Nature
Co-design project that explores a new way of thinking about humans, plants, food and nature according to Eastern and Western ecological philosophies. In the perspective of coexistence, the focus is on the respect of uniqueness, transformation, attraction to care, love, environmental and social justice, inclusiveness, cultural diversity and biodiversity.

18 — Communicating Cooperation
A co-design workshop made in collaboration with Laguito Toscana aimed at communicating the values of cooperation, with a focus on the eco-social aspects of cooperative practices.

19 — Design and Climate Change
Co-design workshop made in two Sicilian terrains (Pantelleria and Marsala) with five Italian universities. The aim is to reflect and to design the contribution of the climate change challenges, with a special focus on the Mediterranean.

20 — Identities Fluids
Research experiences in Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria aiming at the valorisation of local craftsmanship as a driver to a sustainable development of communities and territories. The main idea is to activate educational programs and knowledge exchange good practices among the shores of the Mediterranean sea, which has always been a place of encounter with the Other.

21 — Designing Eco-Social Futures
Devised to study design-students belonging to the bachelor’s and master's degree course of the Unifi Design Campus. The projects are the result of the reflections developed by the authors of the eco-social challenge of the contemporary scenery (climate change, migratory flows, gender issues, etc.).

22 — Who is next?
This video pays tribute to Mahsa Amini, a young Kurdish woman from Iran, whose life was tragically ended by the Iranian regime for her defiance of dress code norms. This video pays tribute to Mahsa Amini, a young Kurdish woman from Iran, whose life was tragically ended by the Iranian regime for her defiance of dress code norms. This video pays tribute to Mahsa Amini, a young Kurdish woman from Iran, whose life was tragically ended by the Iranian regime for her defiance of dress code norms. This video pays tribute to Mahsa Amini, a young Kurdish woman from Iran, whose life was tragically ended by the Iranian regime for her defiance of dress code norms. This video pays tribute to Mahsa Amini, a young Kurdish woman from Iran, whose life was tragically ended by the Iranian regime for her defiance of dress code norms. This video pays tribute to Mahsa Amini, a young Kurdish woman from Iran, whose life was tragically ended by the Iranian regime for her defiance of dress code norms.

National Recovery and Resilience Plan PEIH — MICS
Circular and Sustainable Made in Italy
MICS is an Extended Partnership between University, Research Centers and Enterprises funded by the European Union - Next Generation EU. National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP). MIP’s implementation project, “Made in Italy Circular and Sustainable - MICS” - CIP (BIP): Z.n.2011.9011101 (Lead partner Politecnico di Milano).

23 — Bioplastic
Biodegradable solutions for the interior macro-sector: furniture, motorhomes and boats - design for social innovation with eco-social enterprises. In collaboration with Terra di Tutti, social enterprises which work with minorities, animal shelters and refuges, creating job placement and social inclusion. The objects of Textile in Stringa are a result of these practices.

24 — Emotional
A research on the perception of the values of Made in Italy with a special focus on the contribution to sustainability, as a basis for the conformation of innovative extended reality experiences able to strengthen the added value of productions.