



Milan



Philadelphia

Responsive Urban Environments

the case studies of Milan and Philadelphia



Drexel University
College of Engineering
Department of Civil, Architectural & Environmental Engineering
Dr. Eugenia Victoria Ellis, AIA

Politecnico di Milano
School of Architecture Urban Planning and Construction Engineering
Prof. Giuliana Iannaccone, Prof. Gabriele Masera



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The Responsive Urban Environment (RUE) looks at the city through the lens of ecosystem management. RUE considers the city as a complex network of interrelated systems that rely on each other to maintain system balance. A dialogue of hardscape to landscape, city infrastructure is comprised of buildings, roads and bridges with respect to green public space, waterways and food access – home to humans, plants and animals, the glue of its ecosystem crossed by issues related to public health, the watershed and biodiversity. Ecosystems themselves are complex adaptive systems that require flexibility and the capacity to respond to environmental feedback to cope with change and uncertainty. **The well-tempered RUE is a low-energy sustainable city.**

Developing strategies for the RUE is critical to ensure a low-carbon future for our planet. The proportion of the world's population living in cities has steadily increased over the past century from 14 percent in the year 1900 to 50/50 in 2007. While more people are living in cities than in the countryside today, an estimated 70 percent of people are expected to be urbanites by the year 2050 – which is why RUE research is imperative today.

Similar in size, Philadelphia and Milan both have approximately 1.5 million inhabitants and are excellent case studies for the RUE. In this Session hosted by La Biennale di Venezia, international multi-disciplinary student teams from Politecnico di Milano and Drexel University will show the results of their researches on RUE and discuss about the crucial aspect to consider for ecosystem management in our cities today to ensure a low-carbon future for our world tomorrow, using Milan and Philadelphia as case studies.

The RUE workshop is one of the initiatives promoted by the School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering of Politecnico di Milano and the College of Engineering of Drexel University in Philadelphia and it builds on previous joint activities in the broad area of sustainable built environments.