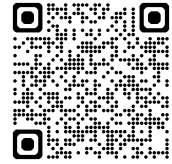


Arch. Deborah Navarra

Architect PhD., Urban and Social Design Strategist
WELL AP | LEED Green Associate
Postdoctoral Fellow | NTNU IAP Smart Sustainable Cities

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Professional Summary

Architect and urban design researcher with a **design-led approach** to both academic inquiry and studio teaching. Currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at NTNU, I lead and contribute to major Horizon Europe projects focused on climate-neutral cities, participatory governance, and system-level urban innovation. With nearly a decade of experience teaching architecture and urban design studios at Sapienza University of Rome, my work bridges **research-by-design** and the **human scale**, strongly emphasising public space, sustainability, and collaborative processes. Shaped by professional and academic experiences across Rome, Barcelona, New York, London, Palermo, Berkeley and now Trondheim, I bring a multicultural, transdisciplinary perspective to design as a policy, inclusion, and urban transformation catalyst.

- . Professional Summary
- . Academic Appointments
- . Education
- . Selected Publication
- . Pedagogical Training & Certifications
- . Academic Service & Institutional Roles
- . Evaluation & Advisory Experience
- . Technical Skills
- . Awards & Grants
- . Languages

Academic Appointments

Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim, Norway

Postdoctoral Fellow in IAP Smart Sustainable Cities | 2023–2026

- **Vice Project Coordinator and Project Manager** on the Horizon Europe Re-Value project, focused on design strategies for climate-neutral urban transitions.
- **Work Package (WP) 3 Lead:** Deploying Multi-Stakeholder Engagement Activities in co-waters (2025)
- **Task Lead:** 1.4 On-Site Learning Session in each Trailblazer and Twin for BauhausBites (2024-today)
- **Task Lead:** 1.2 Innovation Cycle 1_Story-Building for Re-Value. (2023)
- **Project Manager** for ENHANCE+ WP6 Transdisciplinary Lab for Social Transformation (In interim, July-Dec 2024)
- Researcher Contributor to NEB-Star (2023-2024) and CrAFt (2023-2025).
- **Studio Groups Supervisor:** Architecture and the City AAR4711/15 AAR4731/35 (2025)
- **Guest lecturer and master thesis co-supervisor and supervisor** within the Faculty of Architecture and Design. (2023)

University of California, Berkeley, USA

Visiting Researcher, Environmental Design | 2018–2019

Conducted research on spatial strategies, the Human Scale, and the role of public space in contemporary urbanism. Engaged with transdisciplinary perspectives on design, governance, and urban transformation.

Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

Teaching Fellow, Researcher, and Academic Tutor | 2015–2023

Taught and supported undergraduate and graduate studios; supervised theses; committee member in degree evaluations. Courses included:

- Architecture and Urban Design Studio IV: Porta Portese Education District (2021–2023)
- Architecture and Urban Design Studio III: Porta Portese Education District (2020–2021)

- Architecture and Urban Design Studio II: Borghetto Flaminio and Tor Pignattara (2016–2020)
- Guest Lecturer & Workshop Leader (2015–present)

Delivered lectures, seminars, and intensive workshops at NTNU, UCL DPU, and through UN-Habitat events. Focus areas include urban design as public policy, collaborative governance, design thinking, and systemic innovation.

SELECTED ACADEMIC WORKSHOPS & SUMMER/INTENSIVE SCHOOLS

TorPignaDesignLab – Sapienza University of Rome | 2015–2018

Co-creator and design facilitator of a community-based summer lab focused on spatial and social transformation in the Tor Pignattara district of Rome. Integrated research-by-design and participatory urbanism, engaging students, local actors, and institutions.

UCL DPU SummerLab: Emergent Migrant Topographies – Palermo, Italy | 2016

Co-organizer and facilitator of an international workshop in collaboration with the Bartlett Development Planning Unit. Led fieldwork and design sessions on migration, spatial justice, and inclusive urban strategies.

CALL for (AR)tist – Workshop of Public Imagination – Palermo, Italy | 2016

Organizer, mentor, and AR design tutor for a public space and augmented reality workshop hosted by PUSH. and BePart. Focused on creative urban storytelling and participatory placemaking in marginalized areas.

Sicilia – Cucina di Talenti – Sicily, Italy | 2015

Co-organizer and mentor of a design thinking workshop promoting local talent, sustainable practices, and social innovation in Palermo's urban communities. Hosted by PUSH. in collaboration with regional networks.

Intensive Thesis Seminars – Sapienza University of Rome | 2016–2018

Design tutor for graduate seminars including Ferrovie per la Cultura (Appia Antica) and Parco Archeologico di Gabi. Supported students in developing research-driven, site-responsive architectural and urban strategies.

Education

Ph.D. in Architecture, Theories, and Project – Sapienza University of Rome, Italy | 2020 | Awarded *cum laude*.

Dissertation: *La Human Scale nell'architettura della città del XXI secolo. I casi di New York e Copenhagen* [The Human Scale in 21st-Century City Design: Learning from New York and Copenhagen]

Visiting Researcher in Environmental Design – University of California, Berkeley, USA | 2018–2019

Hosted by the College of Environmental Design. Research focused on urban public space, system thinking, and participatory design.

MSc Building and Urban Design in Development – University College London, The Bartlett, UK | 2015

Focused on urban development, informal urbanism, and design research in the Global South.

Dissertation: *EXPLORING MAPPING AS SOCIAL ENRICHING PROJECT for [IN]FORMAL URBANISM: the case of Rome*.

M.Arch in Architecture and Urban Design – Sapienza University of Rome, Italy | 2013
Awarded *cum laude*.

Thesis: *Urbanity – Rome as a 2km City. Flaminio as Centrality prototype*.

(A spatial strategy for perception, proximity and sustainable mobility)

Erasmus Exchange – Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC), Barcelona, Spain | 2008–2009

Architecture and Urban Planning

B.Arch in Interior and Exhibition Design – Sapienza University of Rome, Italy | 2010

Selected Publications

Monograph

Navarra D., *Corpo, forma e res publica: la Human Scale nella polis del XXI secolo. I casi di New York e Copenhagen*, Quodlibet, Oct 2023 ISBN 978-88-229-2127-7

Book Chapters

Navarra D., Tomassini E., *Le sedi di Architettura e l'asse Flaminio*, Book chapter in #CURACITTÀ ROMA La Sapienza della cura urbana. curated by A.Capuano e A.Lanzetta, Quodlibet, 2020 (151-183)

Navarra D., *La rete infrastrutturale di Roma*, Book Chapter in La Stazione Della Metropolitana Propulsore di Urbanità Diffusa by: G.Bianchi, A. Criconia Architetti Roma Edizioni, 2018

Navarra D., *Spazio Pubblico. Tra Spazi della Collettività e Vuoti: Veltcheva, Guerrieri*, Book Chapter in Linee di Ricerca, curated by F. Ficcedenti, S. Martinelli, Sept 2017

Articles

Ambrosio S., Navarra D., PUSH., *Service Design, and Urban Policies, How new models and tools for designing are influencing the debate about the future of cities*, Article in Urbanistica3 iQuaderni, Apr 2016

Navarra D., *Service Design e Progettazione Architettonica e Urbana*, Article in Urbanistica Informazioni 264, Apr 2016

Editorial / Curated Work

Navarra D., PUSH., Right to the future, Il processo partecipato per l'implementazione della Nuova Agenda Urbana a Palermo, Curator in Urbanistica3 iQuaderni, Sept 2017

Research & Project-Based Contributions

Bauhaus Bites Vision towards Resilient, Inclusive, Healthy and Green Rural, Coastal and Urban Communities, July 2025, ISBN 978-82-694264-0-3 [Bauhaus Bites D1.1_Author + Layout designer]

The NEB Impact Model. Insights from 3 years of CrAFt Experiments, June 2025, ISBN 978-82-693584-8-3 [CrAFt D1.3_Author]

Re-Value D9.8: *Consortium Plan 3*, June 2025 (Author)

Re-Value D9.9: *Inclusiveness and Diversity Management Plan 3*, June 2025 (Author)

Bauhaus Bites D8.1: *Consortium Plan*, April 2025 (Contributor)

Climate-Positive Cities & Communities: A NEB POCKET GUIDE Second Edition, December 2024 ISBN 978-82-693584-1-4 [CrAFt D2.2 _ Contributor]

Re-Value D1.4: *Innovation Cycles experience-based report 2*, Nov 2024 (Author IC1)

Re-Value D7.2: *Monitoring & Evaluation Report 1*, Sept 2024 (Contributor)

Re-Value D1.2: *Innovation Cycles experience-based report 1*, Sept 2024 (Co-Author)

Re-Value D7.1: *Monitoring & Evaluation Model (initial version)*, June 2024 (Contributor)

Re-Value D9.2: *Inclusiveness and Diversity Management Plan 1* (Contributor)

NEB-STAR D4.1: *NEB-STAR Impact Model (initial version)* (Contributor)

The CrAFt cookbook First Edition, February 2024, ISBN 978-82-693584-0-7 [CrAFt D2.1_Contributor]

Re-Value D1.1: *Re-Value Impact Model (initial version)*, Nov 2023 (Contributor)

Online Articles

Navarra D., *Impression/Riflessioni: Sou Fujimoto*, Article in Polinice, 2013

Cataloguing

Navarra D., Ramondini G., *Scheda di Catalogazione di tipo OA della Fontanella di via della Cisterna a Roma*, Book chapter in “Roma tra le due guerre: personaggi, luoghi e fatti”, 2004

Pedagogical Training & Certifications

Higher Education Pedagogy

- Higher Education Teaching Certificate – Derek Bok Center, Harvard University | 2025
- Basic University Didactics (SEED Programme) – NTNU, Norway | Oct–Dec 2024
- Curriculum Agility Workshop – NTNU, Norway | Nov 2024
- Teaching Habilitation (24 CFU): Anthro-Psycho-Pedagogical and Methodologies Certificate – Italy | 2020

Design Thinking & Creative Pedagogy

- Design Kit: The Course for Human-Centered Design – IDEO.org & Acumen | 2016
- Masterclass: The City at Eye Level and Placemaking – Italy | 2017
- Strategic Management & Innovation – Copenhagen Business School (Coursera) | 2016
- Human-Centered Design – IDEO (2016)

Urban Development and Project Management

- C.1 R&I Project Management – First Steps – Research Council of Norway | 2024
 - WELL AP (2023) | LEED Green Associate (2022)
 - Sustainable Real Estate – Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (2022)
 - Cities and Sustainable Development – SDG Academy (2022)
 - National Urban Policy Course – UN-Habitat (2021)
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Academic Service & Institutional Roles

• Vice Project Coordinator, Horizon Europe Re-Value (2023–2026)

Provided strategic leadership in project governance, academic coordination, and consortium management.

• Master Thesis Supervisor and Co-Supervisor | NTNU & Sapienza University of Rome (2016–present)

Supported students through transdisciplinary research and design-based theses focused on public space, sustainability, and urban strategies.

• Final Exam Committee Member, Sapienza University of Rome (2015–2023)

Served as internal and external examiner for degree evaluations in Architecture and Urban Design.

• NEB Evaluator, EIT Community – NEB Booster Programme 2.0 (Spring 2023)

Evaluated proposals related to New European Bauhaus initiatives for innovation, design, and social impact.

• Proposal contributor & Concept Reviewer, multiple Horizon Europe bids (2023–2025)

Provided strategic input and review for successful and pending Horizon Europe proposals in urban transformation and public space.

• Workshop & Summer School Organizer | Sapienza, PUSH., UCL DPU (2015–2022)

Organised and facilitated design workshops and international summer labs on urban design, participatory processes, and systems thinking.

- **Conference & Exhibition Organizer, e.g.**

- **IV Biennale dello Spazio Pubblico, Rome** | Organizing Secretariat, 2017
- **Ferrovie per la Cultura, Sapienza University** | Curator, 2017
- **Urban Thinkers Campus, Palermo** | Facilitator & Technical Partner, 2016–17

My academic practice is deeply rooted in interdisciplinary exchange, fostering dialogue between design, policy, social sciences, and environmental strategies to address complex urban challenges.

Evaluation & Advisory Experience

- **Evaluator – EIT Community NEB Booster Programme 2.0 (Spring 2023)**

Evaluated NEB-aligned innovation proposals with a focus on sustainability, inclusion, and aesthetics.

- **Proposal Evaluation and Concept Review (2023–2025)**

Contributed to internal evaluation, peer review, and proposal shaping for Horizon Europe bids focused on urban innovation, placemaking, and citizen engagement.

- **Innovation Cycle Leadership – Horizon Europe Re-Value (2023–2026)**

Designed and evaluated co-creation activities within Innovation Cycle 1 (Story-Building), integrating stakeholder engagement and systemic urban transformation.

- **Monitoring & Evaluation Reports – Re-Value WP7 (2024–2025)**

Contributed to monitoring frameworks, co-benefits mapping, and qualitative impact assessments in EU-funded projects.

- **Project Selection and Programme Design – Bauhaus Bites, NEB-STAR, and CrAft (2023–2025)**

Advised on call priorities and assessed partner capacities for NEB-aligned pilot projects and co-creation labs.

Technical Skills

Adobe Suite: InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop

CAD: Archicad

Workspaces: Google Workspace, Microsoft Office, Notion, Miro, Webflow, iWork

Awards & Grants

- **100 Storie di Creatività – Lazio Creativo (Architecture and Design Section) | 2017**

Regional recognition for emerging creatives in architecture and design. [Link](#)

- **ADI Design Index – Design for Social Impact Award | ADI – Associazione per il Disegno Industriale | 2016** [Link](#)

Recognised for the Sant'Anna Jamming project.

- **Torno Subito Grant – Regione Lazio | 2016**

Funded the launch of urbanita, a studio for social innovation and sustainable urban design.

- **Pink@Work Jam – First Prize | Israel Embassy in Italy, Talent Garden, Bic Lazio | 2016**

Awarded for EkoKids, a sustainable design concept for second-hand kids' dresses.

- **Innovazione: Sostantivo Femminile – European Call for Women Entrepreneurs | Regione Lazio | 2015**

Funded the [Urban Crowd Raising](#) (UCR) initiative.

Memberships and Professional Associations

Ordine Architetti di Roma _ A 27483

GBC ITALIA | Green Building Council Italy, Chapter Lazio

UN-HABITAT, World Urban Campaign Partners (urban-ita)

UN Global Compact (urban-ita)

Volunteering

Roma! Puoi dirlo forte _ Think Tank _ 2016 - 2020

OHR Guide _ OPEN HOUSE ROMA _ 2013

Volunteer @ XIII FINA World Championships Rome09 Roma Athletes assistance _ 2009

Scout Agesci _ Roma 41_ Rome _ 1997 - 2007

Languages

Italian (Native), English (Fluent), Spanish (Good), Norwegian Bokmål (Course A2)

APPENDIX 1_Continuous Education

Driven by curiosity and a strong commitment to continuous personal and professional development, I actively pursue advanced training opportunities across disciplines. My ongoing education reflects a deep hunger for learning and a desire to stay at the forefront of emerging practices in design, pedagogy, sustainability, and systems thinking. These diverse experiences have enriched my academic perspective and strengthened my capacity to lead, teach, and collaborate in complex urban and institutional contexts.

2025 – Higher Education Teaching Certificate, Harvard Derek Bok Center
2024 – Curriculum Agility @ NTNU by Suzanne Brink, 25 Nov 2024
2024 – C.1 R&I Project Management, Forskningsrådet, Nov 2024
2024 – Basic University Didactics, NTNU SEED, Oct–Dec 2024
2024 – Human-Centered Systems Thinking, IDEOU
2022 – Sustainable Real Estate, University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership
2022 – National Urban Policy, UN-Habitat Learn
2021 – Sustainable Cities, UN SDG Academy
2021 – Fundamentals of Project Planning and Management, University of Virginia
2020 – Graphic Design Specialization, CalArts (online)
2019 – International Organizations Management, University of Geneva (online)
2018 – Leadership Training Summit, UC Berkeley, Global Leadership Organisation
2017 – Governare il Caos, RENA Summer School, Matera, Italy
2017 – Masterclass City at Eye Level and Placemaking, STIPO and Dutch partners, Italy
2016 – Design Kit: Human-Centred Design, IDEO.org & Acumen
2016 – Strategic Management and Innovation, Copenhagen Business School (Coursera)
2015 – Maps and the Geospatial Revolution, Pennsylvania State University (Coursera)
2015 – City as a Service Intensive School, UN-Habitat & PUSH, Italy
2014 – dpuSummerLab, Beirut, The Bartlett, UCL
2014 – Well-Tempered House, Green Building Design, Cooper Union, NY
2014 – ARCOSS Workshop, Rome, Sapienza University & Regione Lazio
2013 – International Urban Design Workshop, Seoul, Sapienza University
2012 – Coming Soon! Urban Renewal Workshop, Parsons, New York
2012 – Italia–Korea International Design Workshop, Sapienza University