

DESIGN FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT MSc

FIVE YEARS EXPERIENCE

edited by Massimo Perriccioli

Design for the Built Environment MSc. Five Years Experience

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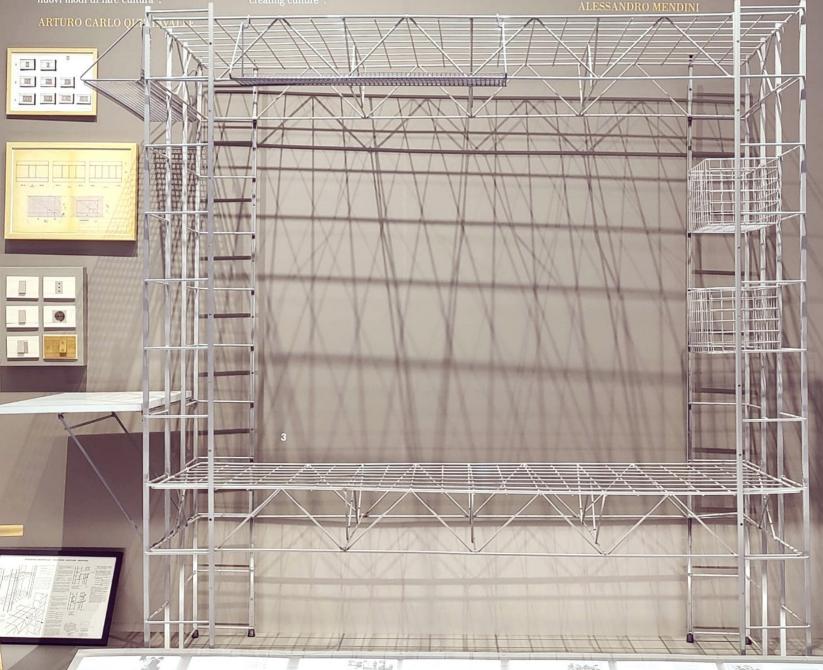
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"Penso in primo luogo a Bruno Munari, il geniale decano dei designer italiani, colui al quale dobbiamo una intelligente mediazione fra invenzione crociana dell'arte e avanguardie, tutte le avanguardie ma sopra tutto quelle legate alla cultura dell'astrazione degli anni Trenta e quindi dell'Informale. La novita di Bruno Munari sta proprio qui, nella sua attività di teorico e insieme di operatore, di narratore per gioco e sul gioco e di consapevole promotore di nuovi modi di fare cultura".

"I am thinking primarily of Bruno Munari, the outstanding doyen of Italian designers and the one to whom we owe a debt for his intelligent mediation between a Crocean invention of art and the avant-garde; all avant-gardes but above all those linked to the culture of 1930s abstraction and therefore the Informal Bruno Munari's innovation is right here, in his activity as a theorist and as a producer, a storyteller of and about games and as a conscious promoter of new ways of creating culture".

"Bruno Munari ovvero l'apolide fantasista del design, il triplo concentrato di materia cerebrale creativa, il posacenere-capolavoro. Ma è difficile dire che cosa è Munari. Meglio aggirare l'ostacolo e dire cosa egli 'non è'. Munari, allora non è un designer, non un pittore, non un grafico, non un cartellonista, non un vetrinista, non uno stilista, non un saggista, non un insegnante, non uno scultore, non un fotografo, non un regista, non un poeta, non un bambino, non un adulto, non un vecchio, non un giovane".



Casa Miranda: a temporary shelter for the inhabitants of living pods

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What then is this thing called Design if it is neither style nor applied art? [...] It is planning done without preconceived notions of style, attempting only to give each thing its logical structure and proper material, and in consequence its logical form.

Bruno Munari (1966)

The Industrial Design Studio proposed a design exercise of a temporary accommodation system for out-of-town students in "Casa Miranda", a 1930 building currently under renovation and originally intended for student accommodation.

The housing system to be placed inside the "shelter", also during the construction phase, is made up of small "living pods", temporary modules and devices, with low technological complexity, mainly made of prefabricated materials and dry assembled. The accommodation modules have dimensions that refer to the space used by each student (maximum 6 square meters) and must be flexible living spaces, guaranteeing different uses during the day, through system components with a high level of functionality and integration and user interaction.

The living spaces are also integrated by a system of mobile service units of different sizes, the "servicepods", which are made off-site with folded steel systems (CFS) and dry-assembled lightweight materials (fig. 1).

Through the suggestions of designers who, since the 1970s, have set out interesting reflections on the theme of the "living space" – from Joe Colombo to Bruno Munari, from Archigram to Toyo Ito, from Achille Castiglioni to ShigeruBan, to mention just a few-three possible design strategies have been identified for arranging the living space inside the shelter by using equipped living modules.

The "cabin" (figg. 2-3), a living module simplified to the essential, a limited but at the same time open space containing all the equipment and objects necessary for carrying out the primary activities; the "core" (fig. 4), a unit containing devices and equipment accessible through sliding or folding mechanisms; the "equipped wall" (fig. 5), a wall containing devices and equipment available through opening and closing mechanisms.

Considering the increasing complexity and multidisciplinary nature of the design process, where design is now seen as a 'complex systemic entity', it has been possible to define a three-stage interacting and recursive design process.

In a first heuristic phase of definition of the demand system and of conception and conceptualisation of the project idea, it was possible to recall Viktor Papanek's lesson on the idea of "integrated design", which considers all the factors and modulations

Previous page: "Abitacolo" by Bruno Munari for Robots, 1971, Milan, ADI Design Museum's permanent collection / Photo by Marina Block (2022).

necessary for the decision-making process and which attempts to constantly take out trends from the scenarios of the future that it builds (Papanek, 1985). In this sense, it was considered useful to define the user profile through six-question interviews with off-site students, displayed in a three-minute video.

Drawing on Kenneth Frampton's critical analysis of the relationship between "construction and architecture" and the dialectic of the terms "tectonics" and "stereotomy" (Frampton, 2005), the theoretical approach of Gottfried Semper was then adopted, whose four actions of "stacking", "weaving", "folding" and "connecting" (Semper, 2004) became four possible processes and ways of assembling which, also combined with each other, made it possible to design complex structures and guide the students in the second and third phase of their project.

The second phase consisted of the functional and dimensional organisation of the design data, defining the production and assembly process and the relationship with the space in the aspects of functional integration; finally, the third phase analysed more closely the technological-constructive aspects, from the choice of materials to the movement mechanisms (figg. 6-7).

The students' autonomy, critical sense and creativity enabled them to excellently meet the project demand, through the expression of a motivated philosophy of the goals and the mixture of visual language and technical-executive skills.

References

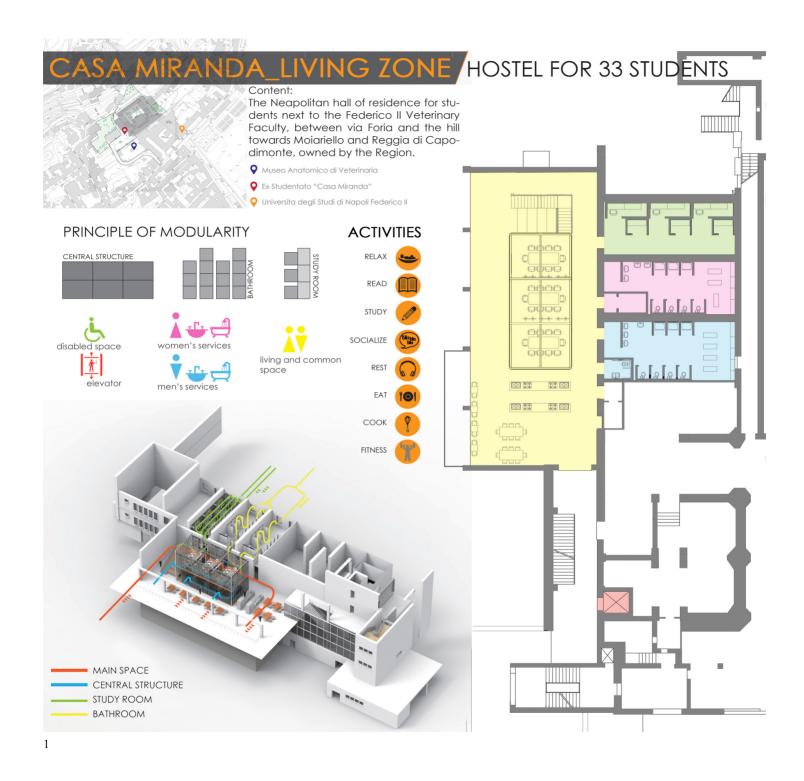
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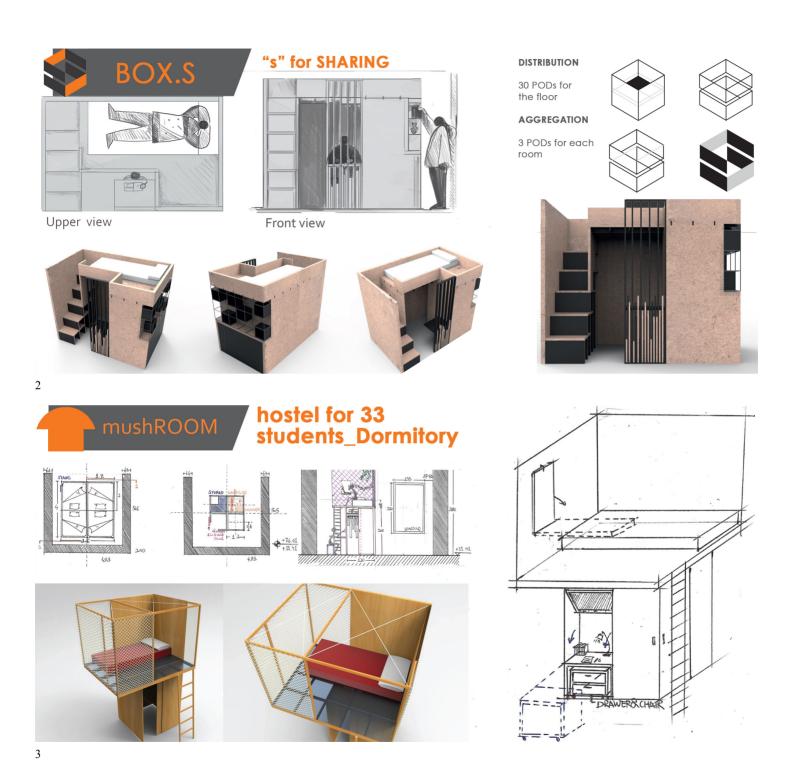
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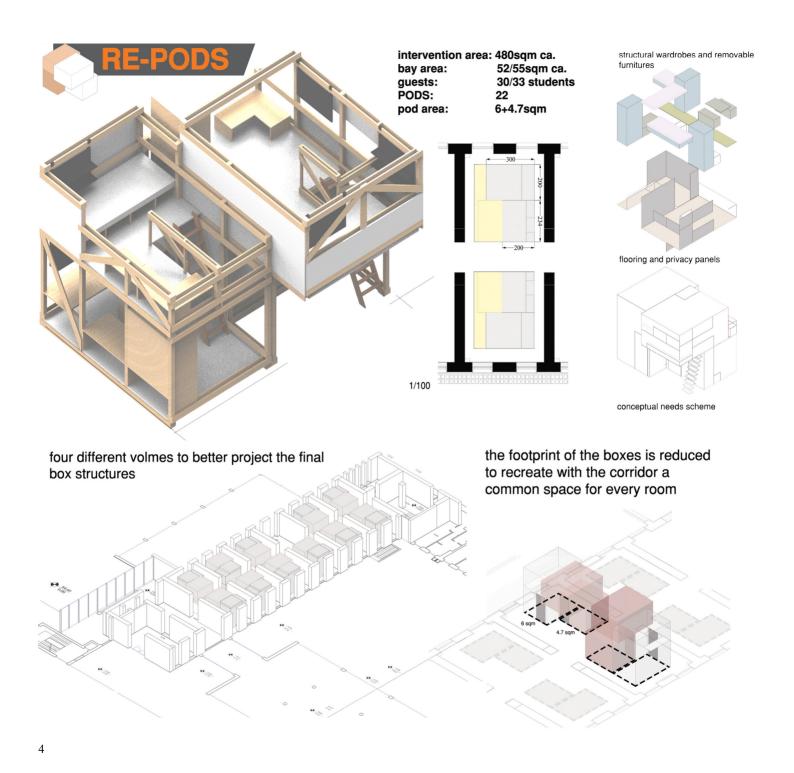
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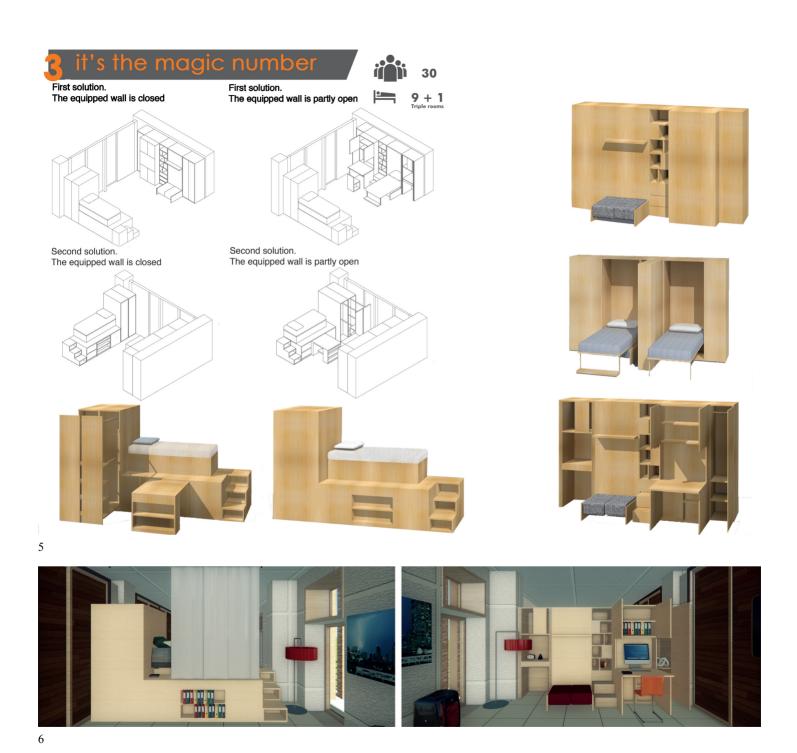
1. Example of 'servicepods' made off-site with cold-folded steel (CFS) systems and dry-assembled lightweight materials integrated into living spaces / Design by Carolina Spiezia, Xin Chen and Paola Tortora.



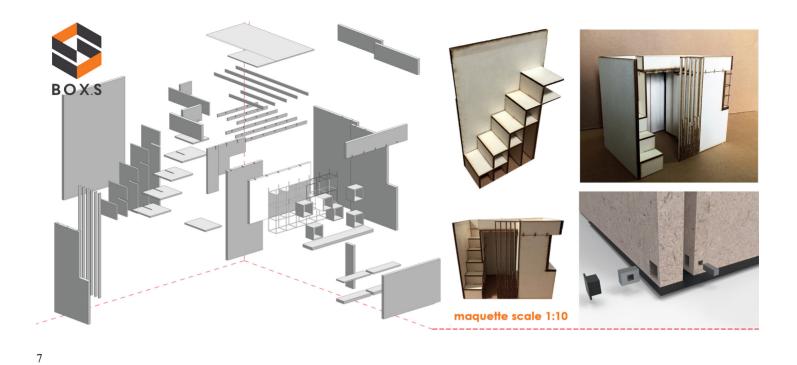
- 2. An example of living spaces falling into the 'cabin' category: "BOX.S" / Design by Domenico Aliberti, Alfonso Cirillo and Giacomo Cerutti;
- 3. An example of the 'cabin' category: "Mushroom" / Design by Carolina Spiezia, Xin Chen and Paola Tortora.

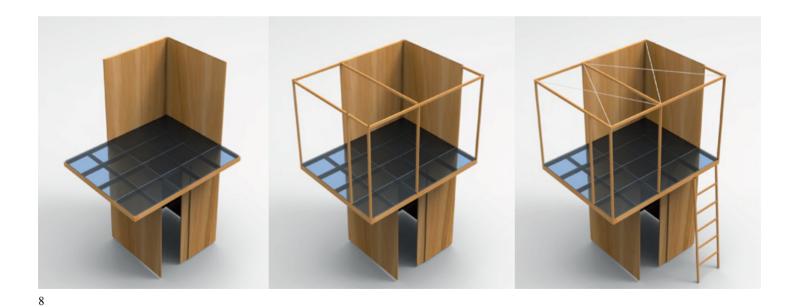


4. Example of living space falling into the 'core' category: "RE-PODS" / Design by Giorgia Farina, Li Hodang e Riccardo Parmiciano Borgström.



5. Example of living space falling into the 'equipped wall' category: "3 it's the magic number" / Design by Stephanie Bart-Mensah, Simona De Felice e Valentina Perrone; 6. Rendered views of the 'equipped wall'.





7. Defining the production and assembly process and relations with the space in terms of functional integration, provided through isometric exploded views and maquettes / Design by Domenico Aliberti, Alfonso Cirillo and Giacomo Cerutti; 8. Rendered three-dimensional views / Design by Carolina Spiezia, Xin Chen and Paola Tortora.