



**XXXIII
International
Architecture
Workshop
Monte Carasso**

**4 – 17 July
2026**

Lectures

4 Patrick Bonzanigo

6 Nicola Navone

7 Alberto Caruso

8 Pierre Bonnet

9 Jürg Conzett

10 Dominique Salathé

13 Ludovica Molo

16 Final lecture

Elisa Valero Ramos

17 Final project critique

Raffaele Cavadini

Ludovica Molo

Elisa Valero Ramos

17 Presentation of the book
Livio Vacchini.

*La construction paradoxale
de la forme*





Luigi Snozzi d'après © Stefania Beretta, 2010

The International Architecture Workshop Monte Carasso, since its establishment in 1994, is an integral part of the planning process initiated by Luigi Snozzi in 1979 for the municipality of Monte Carasso, now a district of Bellinzona.

During its first nineteen years, the course participants investigated topics of interest for the development of Monte Carasso. Since 2013 the Workshop has been dealing with a broader territory, tackling a highly topical issue: the aggregation of the municipalities of the Bellinzona region, which took place in 2017. The objective is to raise public and political awareness in order to promote a territorial reorganisation which is attentive to the entirety of the region and at the same time respects individual specificities, so that aggregation does not become a mere political-administrative act. It is to be hoped that the process of aggregation of the new Bellinzona will invest sufficient economic, political and social resources in this region, in favour of a shared and aggregated territorial planning. A planning policy capable of restoring the spatial issues specific to architecture to the centre of the debate.

After proposing a masterplan in 2013 and stating the principles on which it is based, from year to year the Workshop investigates specific strategic areas of the agglomeration, verifying and if necessary modifying the initial hypotheses: positing the mountains, real 'vertical parks', as the transversal limits of the city; recognising the riverside park as a central spine that structures, in its autonomy, the entire agglomeration; setting clear limits to the longitudinal development of the city to counteract the unlimited occupation of the valley; balancing voids and solids in the process of urban densification; introducing urban spaces oriented perpendicularly to the valley, to allow the city to also experience its transversal dimension and no longer only its longitudinal one.

From 2014 to 2025, various themes were addressed with different public and private contents: the definition of the northern and southern gateways to the city, the redevelopment of some neighbourhoods, the reorganisation of the city centre from Viale Stefano Franscini to Viale Giuseppe Motta, the redesigning of spaces along the railway axis, the planning of one of the current interventions for the renaturation of the Ticino river, and the connection of the neighbourhoods on the right bank with the river park, and, in the latest edition, the regeneration of the SBB Workshops area.

The 2026 edition of the Seminar confirms the desire to continue the reflection on the urban development of the new Bellinzona. As highlighted in the previous edition, the debate is currently focused on the redevelopment of the former SBB workshops site. However, further north lies another site that is almost as significant in terms of size: the San Paolo freight yard. Although the function of this area is not set to change in the near future, its size and proximity to the craft industry zone in the *Al Ramone* area, at the foot of its embankment, make it a prime area for urban development should – as often happens in many Swiss towns – this activity be decentralised and relocated to less desirable areas.

The seminar will take the form of a design workshop and will be led by the lecturers with the contribution of external architects and experts.

This year, for the final public lecture, the Seminar is honoured to welcome the Spanish architect Elisa Valero Ramos. The lecture will take place outdoors in the evening of Thursday the 16th of July 2026 in the enchanting setting of the former Augustinian convent.

The Workshop will be concluded by a special event: the presentation of Paolo Amaldi's book, *Livio Vacchini. La construction paradoxale de la forme*, published by Caryatide-Mendrisio Academy Press (2026). The book is the result of a research project promoted by the Archivio del Moderno. It will provide an opportunity to discuss with the author the legacy of the work of Vacchini, who was closely linked to Luigi Snozzi through a deep bond of friendship and mutual respect.

At the end of the Workshop, the teaching faculty with the help of guest critics Raffaele Cavadini, Ludovica Molo and Elisa Valero Ramos, will discuss the projects developed by the participants in a final public critique.

We would like to thank for the cooperation:

USI-ARC Mendrisio
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Guest lecturer
Elisa Valero Ramos

Guests
Pierre Bonnet
Patrick Bonzanigo
Alberto Caruso
Raffaele Cavadini
Jürg Conzett
Ludovica Molo
Nicola Navone
Dominique Salathé

Conditions for registration, accommodation, and refreshments

- Workshop open to students attending an architecture school or to graduates. Registration to be sent by the 26th of June 2026 to: carasc@bellinzona.ch
Registration fee: CHF 300.-
- Accommodation: CHF 160.- for 14 nights in Civil Defence accommodation (4.7-18.7)
Accommodation: CHF 170.- for 15 nights in Civil Defence accommodation (3.7-18.7)
info and registration to: carasc@bellinzona.ch
- Other accommodation available
info: seminariomontecarasso@gmail.com
- Equipped kitchen available on site

Further information:

www.carasc.ch/seminario-internazionale-di-progettazione-monte-carasso

Public events programme

- **Saturday the 4th of July, 2.00 p.m.**
Legal structures as a generating element of urban design
Patrick Bonzanigo
- **Saturday the 4th of July, 3.30 p.m.**
Guided tour of a selection of Luigi Snozzi's works in Monte Carasso (only for students of the Seminar)
Nicola Navone
- **Monday the 6th of July, 6.30 p.m.**
From San Paolo to San Giovanni. Railways and urban space in Bellinzona
Nicola Navone
- **Tuesday the 7th of July, 6.30 p.m.**
Designing homes, building cities
Alberto Caruso
- **Wednesday the 8th of July, 6.30 p.m.**
Reception – Perception – Scale
Pierre Bonnet
- **Thursday the 9th of July, 6.30 p.m.**
Observations on the influence of static theories on the form of construction
Jürg Conzett
- **Friday the 10th of July, 6.30 p.m.**
Pragmatic beauty. The rhetoric of transformation: a selection of projects
Dominique Salathé
- **Monday the 13th of July, 6.30 p.m.**
On the edges
Ludovica Molo
- **Thursday the 16th of July, 9.30 p.m.**
For an amiable architecture
Elisa Valero Ramos
- **Friday the 17th of July**

Final project critique, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Raffaele Cavadini, Ludovica Molo, Elisa Valero Ramos

Ordinary Assembly 2026, 3.00 p.m.

Associazione Seminario internazionale di progettazione Monte Carasso

Special event, 5.30 p.m.

Presentation of Paolo Amaldi's book, *Livio Vacchini. La construction paradoxale de la forme*, Caryatide-Mendrisio Academy Press, Paris-Mendrisio 2026. The author will be in attendance.

7.30 p.m. Dinner and Fiesta!

Lecture of 16 July
sponsored by