

FINAL EXAMINATION THESIS

Rules & Instructions

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Final examination Thesis



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



Final examination Thesis: calendar 2025-26

ALWAYS REFER TO:

<https://corsi.unibo.it/2cycle/ArchitectureCreativePractices/final-examination>

Period for Applying on Studenti Online	Late Deadline for Applying on Studenti Online (*)	Deadline for Requisite	Thesis Upload (PDF)	Thesis Approval	Final Exam Date
From 20/04/2026 to 11/06/2026	22/06/2026	29/06/2026	13/07/2026	15/07/2026	20-21-22 July 2026
From 10/07/2026 to 27/08/2026	11/09/2026	21/09/2026	28/09/2026	30/09/2026	5-6-7 October 2026
From 11/09/2026 to 23/10/2026	06/11/2026	13/11/2026	25/11/2026	27/11/2026	2-3-4 December 2026
From 12/11/2026 to 28/12/2026	08/01/2027	18/01/2027	25/01/2027	28/01/2027	4-5 February 2027
From 18/12/2026 to 11/02/2027	22/02/2027	04/03/2027	14/03/2027	16/03/2027	22-23-24 March 2027

(*) After the deadline, a late application is still possible by paying a € 100 fee

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From 11/09/2026 to 13/10/2026	06/11/2026	13/11/2026	25/11/2026	27/11/2026	2-3-4 December 2026
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From 11/01/2027 to 11/02/2027	22/02/2027	04/03/2027	14/03/2027	16/03/2027	22-23-24 March 2027

This calendar does not apply to those (as you) who enrolled in 2025/26 and are in second year in 2026/27, but it serves as a reference because the exam sessions are similar in terms of the time of year.

**There will be five exam sessions for graduating on time:
the first in July 2027,
the second in October 2027,
the third in December 2027,
the fourth in February 2028,
the last in March 2028.**

(*) After the deadline, a late application is still possible by paying a € 100 fee

Final examination Thesis: typologies

Although a Master's thesis can be easily associated to a professional project, it must fit some **academic requirements** which make it a unique product.

It possibly answers to real challenges and concrete market opportunities or limitations but must also set some theoretical approaches following a scientific-based methodology which allows to assess and validate the final outcomes.

Unlike a professional job, which basically aims to meet the client expectations while managing the rules and constraints of the context, a thesis is asked to produce a **useful result to improve the knowledge** about the investigated subject. Furthermore, it possibly offers a result which others (colleagues, clients, inhabitants, citizens) can benefit, because:

- a) The topic is of collective interest and is investigated according to shared and assessable methods;
- b) It provides information, data, reflections, knowledge that can be spent elsewhere replicating the process or using its outcomes as a starting point.

The final work is not simply a design activity but must possibly address one (or more) of the key topic of the ACPCL programme.

Final examination Thesis: typologies

Two main typologies
(and related presentation format):

- a) Scientific research Thesis** on a defined topic, which is expected to lead a significant and original step forward in the knowledge of the discipline.
- b) Project research Thesis** on a defined topic applied to a specific challenge or site according to a knowledge framework within a real context.

According to the calendar the student uploads the final work in digital format on the dedicated platform.

The day of the graduation, the student presents orally his/her work and related results with the support of slides / videos projection and presents the final work in paper format to the Examining Commission.



Final examination Thesis: typologies

There is also a third option, namely the **curricular thesis**, which consists of a written paper accompanied by images in which the candidate, under the guidance of the supervisor, describes their study path and critically highlights its most significant and original moments through short reports and images.



Final examination Thesis: features

Both the cases the candidate(s) must demonstrate:

- Critical ability,
- Mastery of the topics,
- Advance in the specific field,
- Design attitude and capacity,
- Ability to operate autonomously,
- Communication skills.

The final work can be developed individually or in teams of preferably two people.

The work is developed in a time frame which usually ranges on average between 5 and 9 months depending on the complexity of the topic and the capacity of the student(s).



Final examination Thesis: development steps

The work usually includes the following steps:

1. **Challenge definition** (which the problem the project/work aims to tackle)
[preliminary brief with the problem owner + overall context condition]
2. **Background knowledge gain** (state of the art review, data collection, observation, etc.)
[scientific journals, reports, conferences, seminars, repositories, etc.]
3. **Systematization** (gained data & information are organized according to a defined structure)
[research boundaries are defined, and the specific field of investigation is set]
4. **Scope & objectives** (which is the final aim of the project and which the specific objectives)
[must be clearly addressed possibly in one claim sentence]
5. **Brief definition** (which the set of requirements and needs the project is expected to answer)
[can be re-discussed with the problem owner]
6. **Methodology** (which the sequence of defined actions needed to develop the design process)
[must be defined theoretically and then applied to the test-bed site/case study]



Final examination Thesis: development steps

8. **Design implementation** (which may include an iterative loop evaluation if needed)
[must include all the phases according to the defined methodology]
9. **Outcomes presentation** (which typically reports the results in an objective way)
[this can assume many different forms depending on the topic and the project]
10. **Critical discussion** (which, based on the evidence, critically analyses the outcomes)
[this is usually performed against a benchmark or a starting position]
11. **Conclusion** (which basically summarises the main achievements)
[including also the detected barriers/obstacles and the further possible development]

This development structure is usually reflected by the sequence of slides/drawings of the final presentation and generally corresponds also to the table of contents of the final thesis book.

Final examination Thesis: supervisor

All the professors can be involved as potential supervisors; however, it is highly recommended to contact them in advance to possibly agree any possible subject or topic for your thesis.

Up to 3 co-supervisors are allowed.

A very strong suggestion, in order to optimize both your time and the work carried out during the two years of the master, is to start from one of the projects developed throughout the programme and further elaborate on it.



Final examination Thesis: cover

The **cover page** must include the following:

Title of the thesis project

Master's Degree in Architecture and Creative Practices for the Cities and Landscape
A.A. 202X / 2X

Department of Architecture | Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna (no logo)

Supervisor: prof. Name Surname | Co-supervisor: prof./dr. Name Surname

Candidate: **Name Surname** | Serial number

Templates for the book and the presentation are available here:

<https://corsi.unibo.it/2cycle/ArchitectureCreativePractices/final-examination>

at the bottom right.

Final examination Thesis: evaluation

The Commission evaluates the candidate's work according to the following criteria:

- presentation quality and ability,
- communication, quality of the final drawings, models, book,
- project relevance and consistency.

The final mark for **scientific research thesis** and **project research thesis** assigned ranges between 0 and 10 points which are added to the starting mark generated by the candidate track record within a scale over 110.

The **curricular thesis** can normally be awarded a maximum of 2 additional points.



Final examination Thesis: tips

Don't forget to cite your sources/references (books, essay/papers in scientific journals, Web sites, etc.).

Remember to properly credit your images and figures and always include a caption.

Don't use someone else's work without correctly citing the author. Not only this is highly unfair, but it prevents the reader to know the origins of the process (and eventually check them).

Adopt an internationally recognized citation format - the Harvard Reference System, also known as the author-date system, is an approved system for citing works.

- «While information sharing between the private and public sector has improved since 9/11, sharing of information requires additional enhancements» (Dacey, 2002).
- «Although much recent research has focused on the importance of long-term strategic relationships» (Morgan and Hunt, 1994; Wilson, 1995).

References format

Book

Surname, initials of the name (year of publication), *Title*, edition, Publisher, Place of publication.

E.g.

- Abbott, A. (1988), *System of professions: An essay on the division of expert labor*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago.
- Patton, M.Q. (1990), *Qualitative Evaluation and Research Methods*, 2nd ed., Sage, Newbury Park.

Book chapter

Surname, Initials of the name (year of publication), “Chapter title”, in Surname of the editor, initials of the name (Ed.), *Book title*, edition, Publisher, Place of publication, chapter page numbers.

E.g.

- Bourdieu, P. (1977), “The forms of capital”, in Richardson, J.G. (Ed.), *Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education*, Greenwood Press, New York, pp. 311-56.

References format

Journal articles

Surname, Initials of the name (year of publication), "Title of the article", *Journal title*, volume number, issue number (if existing), article page numbers.

E.g.

- Baron, R.M. and Kenny, D.A. (1986), "The moderator-mediator variable distinction in social psychological research", *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, Vol. 51, pp. 1173-82.
- Guthrie, J. and Parker, L. (1997), "Editorial: Celebration, reflection and a future: a decade of AAAJ", *Accounting, Auditing & Accountability Journal*, Vol. 10, n.1, pp. 3-8.

Electronic resources

This entry concerns sources that are only available electronically and not those that can be accessed electronically but are also available in paper format. They follow the same conventions as paper sources, but they also include details typical of the Web:

Name (year of publication), "Article title", available at: complete url (date of access).

E.g.

- Better Business Bureau (2001), "Third-party assurance boosts online purchasing", available at: <http://bbbonline.org/about/press/2001/101701.asp> (accessed 7 January 2002).
- Hummingbird (2002), Hummingbird corporate website, available at: www.hummingbird.com (accessed 2 January 2002).

Abstract

1 Introduction

2 Urban context

2.2 General overview

2.3 Project Design

2.4 Microclimatic analysis

3 Project

3.1 Case study

3.2 Preliminary analysis

3.3 Concept design

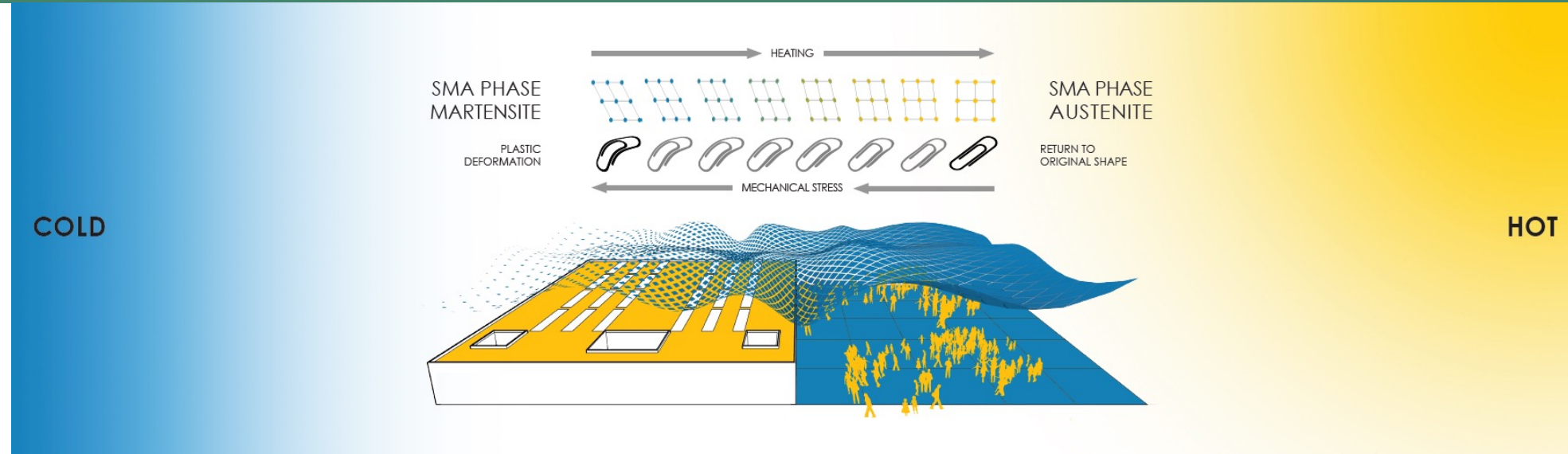
3.4 Overview on adaptive building shell

3.5 Solar canopy concept

3.6 Solar canopy modeling and optimisation

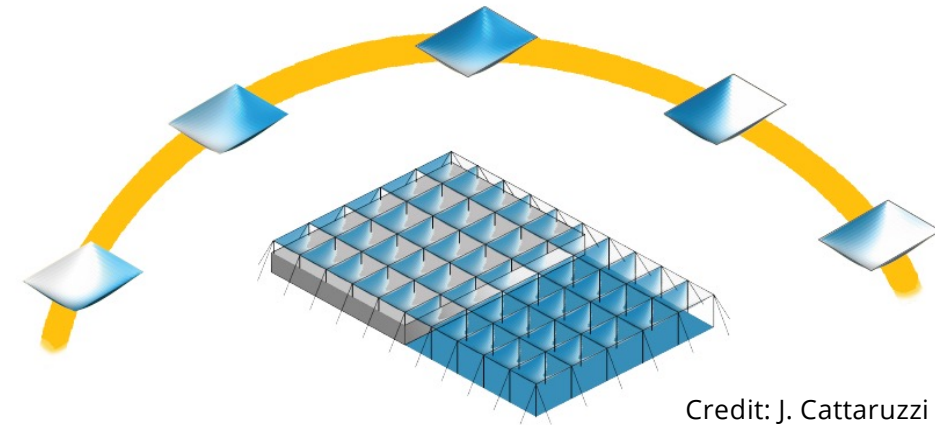
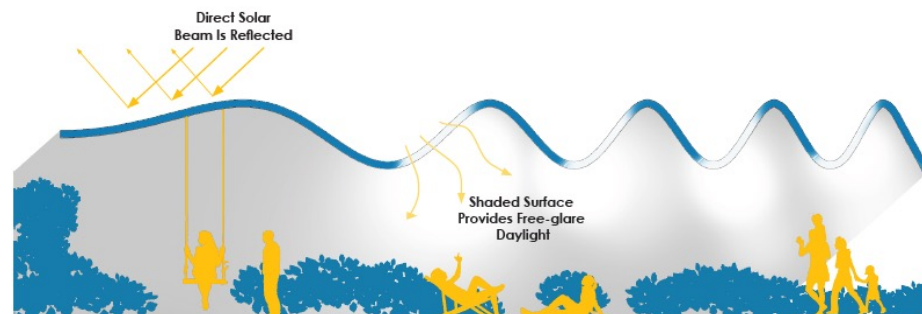
References

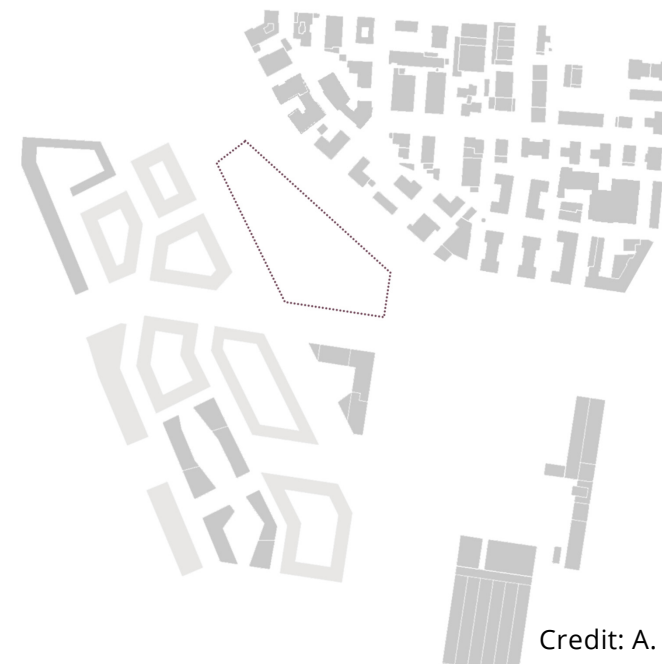
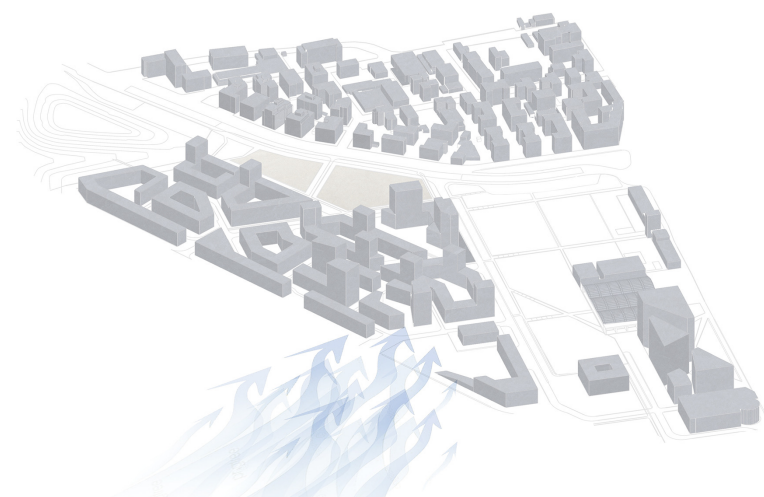
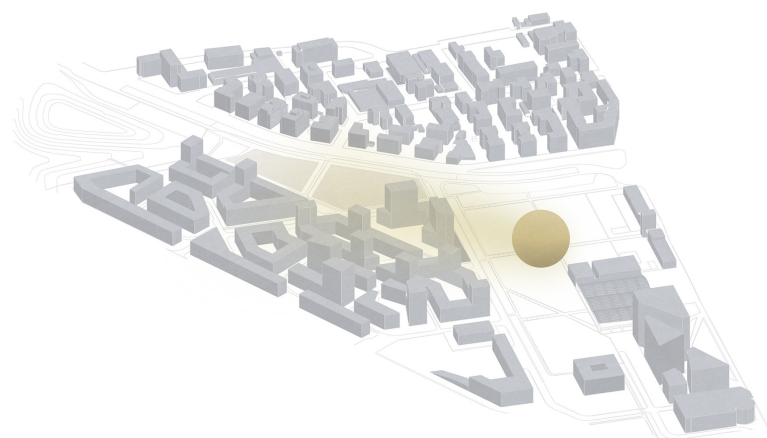
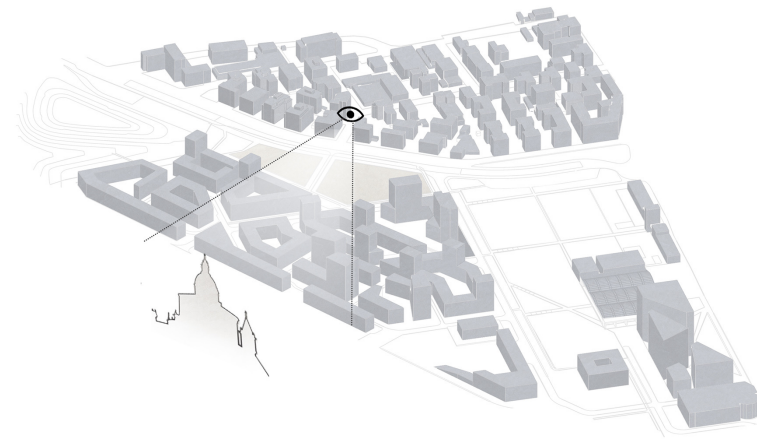
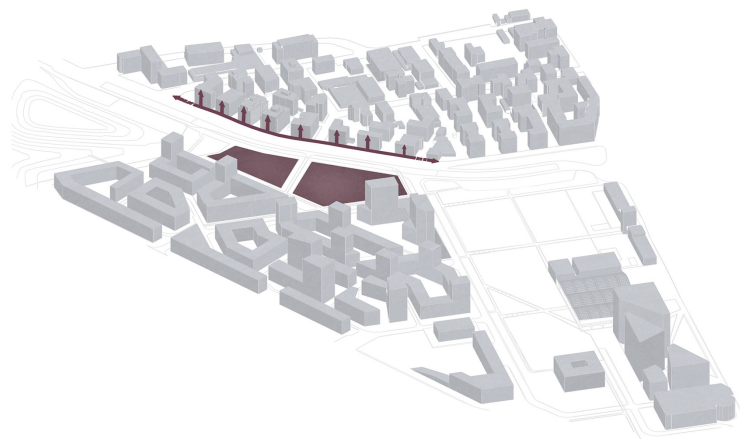
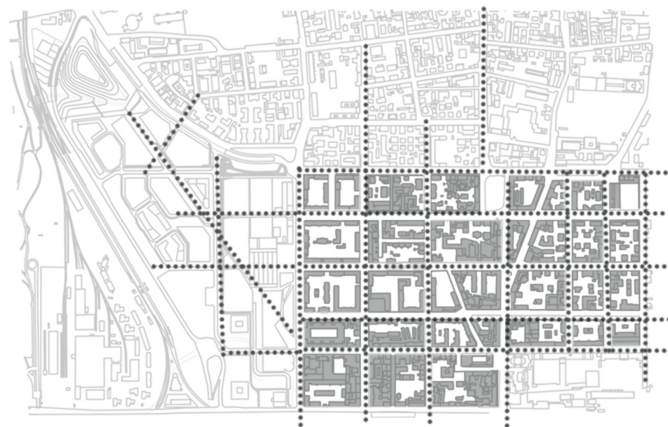
Appendix



CELLULAR SURFACE WITH CORRUGATION

Shading Just What It Need...









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ARCHITECTURE
CPCCL
CREATIVE PRACTICES
IN CITIES AND LANDSCAPES