



**POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863**



DAVIDE DEL CURTO

Vice Rector of the Mantua Campus
of the Politecnico di Milano

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Davide Del Curto is Vice Rector of the Mantua Campus and a Full Professor of Architectural Conservation at the Politecnico di Milano.

His research currently focuses on the preventive conservation and restoration design of the architectural heritage as well as the relationship between heritage preservation and environmental sustainability, as part of the REACT EU-PON 2014-2020 programme. The 20th century is at the core of his research, focusing on developing innovative methods to preserve 20th-century architecture and studying the impact that the modern century has had on the heritage of earlier eras.

He has managed national and international research programmes. He has also taken part in conservation and restoration activities for monuments in Europe, Asia and South America, from antiquity to modern times, such as St Andrew's Basilica in Mantua, the National Art Schools of Cuba and the Modernist Architecture of Tashkent.

He teaches "Architectural Preservation" in the MSc programme in Architecture, School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering, "Preserving 20th-century architecture" in the Graduate School for Architectural and Landscape Heritage and "Heritage in Climate Change. Damage and Environmental Impacts" in the Built Heritage Conservation PhD programme.



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Vision

“The Politecnico di Milano as a heritage of knowledge, relationships and opportunities”. Although it is a young institution compared to the universities founded in the Middle Ages, the Politecnico has a significant history that has accompanied Italy’s development over the past century and a half. Growing and increasingly refining its educational and research activities, the university has taken part in urban transformations both within and outside of Milan.

Founded in 1863 to foster industrial growth after the Italian Unification, the Politecnico di Milano was originally called the Istituto Tecnico Superiore and was located in the former Collegio Elvetico on Via Senato. The Institute expanded with its move to the Città Studi district, which it helped establish (1927). Later, it spearheaded the revitalisation of the Bovisa industrial area (1989), repurposing the factories that once produced cables for cableways in the entire Alpine region, as well as the renowned “Goccia” district, where a major workshop had distilled illuminating gas from coal since 1908. This area is now home to the new scientific and industrial park.

The Politecnico di Milano has acted as an urban innovator in cities where it has formed campuses, giving new life to abandoned areas such as the former civil hospital of Lecco (1989), the orphanage of Santa Maddalena in Mantua (1994), the municipal slaughterhouse of Piacenza (1997), the Manfredini barracks in Cremona (in progress) and the Western China Science and Technology Innovation Harbour (2019), where the Joint School of Design and Innovation Centre Xi’an is located, i.e. the first overseas Campus of Politecnico as a result of a collaboration with Xi’an Jiaotong University.

Each campus testifies to the same founding values and drive for innovation, developing them in a specific area. For example, the Mantua Campus focuses on Architectural Design for the Historic City through the extraordinary opportunity to study in a capital of the Italian Renaissance recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in synergy with the activities of the UNESCO Chair in Preservation and Planning in World Heritage Cities that has been based on the campus since 2012.



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