

New Italian connections in Architecture and Design

Professor Steffen Lehmann, Director of the Cluster for Sustainable Cities, has recently returned from a successful tour to Italy. He spent some time in Bologna (25-26 September), where he met with colleagues at the University of Bologna (UniBo), School of Engineering and Architecture, in the Department of Architecture. Prof Alessio Erioli and Niccolo Casas are teaching digital architectural design at UniBo and explore new methods of digital fabrication, such as 3-D printing and manufacturing. The University of Bologna, founded in 1088, is the oldest university in continuous operation, as well as one of the leading academic institutions in Italy, with a long proud history of educating architects, designers and engineers.



Photo: Steffen with Prof Alessio Erioli at the University of Bologna

While in Bologna, Steffen was able to meet up with architect Mario Cucinella, who recently founded a new practice-based academy, the international School of Sustainability (SOS). This post-graduate private school offers good opportunities for up-skilling and specialisation in sustainable architecture and cities. Teaching at SOS is in English and there is more information at the following link: <http://www.schoolofsustainability.it/>



Photo: Steffen with architect Mario Cucinella in Bologna

On 27-28 September he visited the University of Florence, where he was hosted by Professor Fabio Fabbrizzi, who is the Head of the Department of Architecture (DIDA). A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the University of Portsmouth and the University of Florence was recently signed, which allows for a range of collaborative activities as well as staff and post-graduate student mobility over the next 5 years.

While Florence is a city full of history and tradition, it is also a modern city around a historical core, interested in innovation and propelling into the 21st century. The DIDA facilities are excellent and the department is centrally located, only a short walking distance from Il Duomo, in a beautifully renovated historical building. More information on the University of Florence can be found here: <https://www.unifi.it/>



Photo: With the Head of Department, Professor Fabio Fabbrizzi, inspecting the model-making workshop at the University of Florence

During his visit, Steffen was also involved in a design workshop for 'New Outdoor Furniture', led by Professor Paolo Di Nardo and Professor Francesca Tosi, Head and Professor of Industrial Design.

Going as an exchange student for a year to Italy is now much easier with the close relationship to the University of Florence; it will offer UK students new perspectives and cultural experiences, as good architecture, design and food is always an important part of Italian culture.