Rebuilding the Edge
Railroad infrastructure as urban aggregator

Apply through the following google form by March 10th
https://forms.gle/8EyndvyZo51M8TqN6

Once accepted, participants will have to register through MIT-Italy. Students will receive funding for the duration of the workshop.
Workshop Description

Rebuilding the Edge is a faculty-led workshop experience for MIT students that will take place in June 2022 in the Italian region of Abruzzo. Through an on-site experience, the workshop will invite students to think about the future of Italian inner and southern areas, as well as the relationship between regional infrastructure projects and small communities affected by them.

Rebuilding the Edge is the result of a partnership between MIT’s Urban Risk Lab, the MIT-Italy Program and Fondazione Ferrovie dello Stato Italiano—the Italian state railway system Foundation. The workshop will focus on the issues faced by small municipalities along the Sulmona–Carpinone rail line, where a public-private partnership is beginning to revive rail activity after decades of disinvestment. For two-and-a-half weeks, students will have the opportunity to experience the territory traversed by the rail line, working out of a popup research outpost within the recently renovated station at Roccaraso. Student enrollment is limited to approximately 12 students.

Students interested in learning through a culturally immersive experience are highly encouraged to apply and bring their area of expertise to the issues the workshop will tackle. Culinary experiences, rides on historic rail cars, hikes through nature trails, walks through historic urban settlements and much more will give breadth of understanding to the work developed at the research station. Rebuilding the Edge will allow students to engage with the particular territories and circumstances along one rail line in the Italian Apennines, and take away larger lessons about methodologies of design research, and the degrees to which design can play a role in addressing issues of social consequence.
Objective and Methodology

Architecture students will work alongside students from other disciplines to perform field research and engage with local stakeholders, experts and community members. They will learn about the major challenges faced by communities along the rail, and explore concrete avenues through which these communities may maximize their exposure to the socio-economic development opportunities the railway infrastructure project represents. The course will conclude with a public review and discussion of the work at the research station.

The workshop will enable students to build on the field experience they will develop during the first week of the program and augment their understanding of the site through granular data. Data will include GIS maps, photogrammetric models of key site features, and a synthesis of current policy frameworks that affect the region. They will then take this understanding to develop a diagrammatic strategy that tackles a focus issue, as well as a speculative image that visualizes their vision for the community.
Course Schedule
*subject to changes

WEEK 01
During the first week students will be introduced to the Region of Abruzzo and Molise and the work that is being carried out by the Fondazione Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane in these areas.

June
Thu 09 AM  Arrival FCO airport
           Lodging check-in Rome
           Lunch and afternoon off
           Program welcome aperitif and dinner
Fri 10 AM  Fondazione FS Italiane welcome and visit to archive
           Transport from lodging to Termini train station
           PM  Independent lunch at Termini station
           Termini–Sulmona train ride
           Lodging check-in Sulmona
           Program dinner
Sat 11 AM  Binari Senza Tempo (BST) train ride across site of study
           PM  Program lunch
           BST train drop off at research station
           Program introductory lecture and aperitivo
           Shuttle to Sulmona
Sun 12 AM  Off day (pre-arranged optional activities available)
           PM  Ibid
**WEEK 02**

During the second week of the workshop students will start to actively engage with different stakeholders and sites found along the railway. Students will write, draw and reflect on what is lacking and what could be envisioned for the territories.

| June       | Mon 13 AM | Site Visit 01 |
|           | PM        | On-site program lunch |
|           |           | Shuttle to research station |
|           |           | Drawing/writing diary time (2hrs) |
|           |           | Aperitivo lecture with expert discussion 01 |
|           |           | Shuttle to Sulmona |
|           | Tue 14 AM | Site Visit 02 |
|           | PM        | On-site program lunch |
|           |           | Shuttle to research station |
|           |           | Drawing/writing diary time (2hrs) |
|           |           | Aperitivo lecture with expert discussion 02 |
|           |           | Shuttle to Sulmona |
|           | Wed 15 AM | Site Visit 03 |
|           | PM        | On-site program lunch |
|           |           | Shuttle to research station |
|           |           | Drawing/writing diary time (2hrs) |
|           |           | Aperitivo lecture with expert discussion 03 |
|           |           | Shuttle to Sulmona |
|           | Thu 16 AM | Site Visit 04 |
|           | PM        | On-site program lunch |
|           |           | Shuttle to research station |
|           |           | Drawing/writing diary time (2hrs) |
|           |           | Aperitivo lecture with expert discussion 04 |
|           |           | Shuttle to Sulmona |
|           | Fri 17 AM | Shuttle to research station |
|           | PM        | Charette pt. 1 |
|           |           | Program lunch |
|           |           | Charette pt. 2 |
|           |           | Team selection based on student interest |
|           |           | Shuttle to Sulmona |
|           | Sat 18 AM | Shuttle to research station |
|           | PM        | Studio time with team desk crits |
|           |           | Program lunch |
|           |           | Shuttle to Sulmona |
|           |           | Afternoon off |
|           | Sun 19 AM | Off day (pre-arranged optional activities available) |
|           | PM        | Ibid |
WEEK 03
During the third and final week of the workshop students will mostly work out the railway station, elaborating final drawings and proposals for one of three sites found along the rail line. The workshop will conclude with a presentation and conversation with Fondazione FS and other regional entities.

June
Mon 20 AM Shuttle to research station
PM Teamwork with desk-crits
PM Program lunch
PM Teamwork with desk-crits
PM Shuttle back to Sulmona

Tue 21 AM Shuttle to research station
PM Teamwork with desk-crits
PM Program lunch
PM Teamwork with desk-crits
PM Shuttle back to Sulmona

Wed 22 AM Shuttle to research station
PM Teamwork with desk-crits
PM Program lunch
PM Optional site visits
PM Shuttle back to Sulmona

Thu 23 AM Shuttle to research station
PM Teamwork with desk-crits
PM Program lunch
PM Teamwork with desk-crits
PM Shuttle back to Sulmona

Fri 24 AM Shuttle to research station
PM Teamwork with desk-crits
PM Program lunch
PM Teamwork with desk-crits
PM Shuttle back to Sulmona

Sat 25 AM Shuttle to research station
PM Final review with guest critics
PM Program lunch
PM Final review with guest critics
PM Celebratory aperitivo
PM Shuttle to Sulmona
PM Farewell program dinner

Sun 26 AM Sulmona–Termini train ride
PM End of program
PM (students may arrange evening departures from FCO or remain for independent travel)
INSTRUCTORS
Teaching team: Miho Mazereeuw (UrbanRisk Lab)
Ginevra D’Agostino (Liminal)

Visiting Critics: Caitlin Muller, Hybrid (Digital Structure Lab)
Nicolas Delgado Alcega (Liminal)
Carmelo Ignaccolo (Liminal)

HOW TO APPLY
Submit the following to this google form by March 10th: https://forms.gle/8EyndvyZo51M8TqN6

1. Curriculum Vitae.
2. Statement of interest
   250 words max.
3. Only Arch. and DUSP submit sample of work.

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