

UID Awards 2025

UID Gold Plaques 2025

committee: Francesca Fatta, Carlo Bianchini, Paolo Giandebiaggi

UID Gold Plaque 2025 to Ornella Zerlenga

The 2025 Gold Plaque is awarded to Ornella Zerlenga, a scholar whose scientific curriculum is extraordinarily rich in achievements and recognitions.

She received her PhD in 1994, became University Researcher in 2000, Associate Professor in 2001, and Full Professor in 2011 in the disciplinary sector of Drawing at the University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli".

She has served as President of the degree programme for both the Bachelor's programmes and the single-cycle Master's programme, and as coordinator of PhD programmes. Since 2020 she has been Director of the Department of Architecture; this role is complemented by numerous other institutional responsibilities within the University, including membership of the Academic Senate. Her scientific interests originate from a solid background in Geometry and have directed her research both towards the interpretation of architectural artefacts and the built environment and towards conscious and responsible design creativity in the fields of architecture and design.

During her scientific career she has received several awards: in 1989 the 'Luigi Vagnetti' Prize promoted by the Unione Italiana per il Disegno; in 1992 the first prize in the 'Storia del Disegno di Architettura' competition promoted by the scientific journal XY; and in 2008 the UID Silver Plaque.

She is Scientific Coordinator of PRIN research projects and competitive university research projects, and coordinator of research groups working on the themes of knowledge, enhancement and digital communication of cultural heritage. Since 2013 she has been a member of the Technical-Scientific Committee of the Unione Italiana per il Disegno, serving in recent years as Treasurer. In November 2024 she was elected President of the scientific society for the three-year term 2024-2027.

UID Gold Plaque 2025 to Guendalina Salimei

Guendalina Salimei stands out in the national and international context for her original and continuous contribution to the field of Drawing, understood as a foundational language of architecture and a critical instrument for design. Her academic activity has innovated teaching by integrating freehand drawing with digital technologies, educating generations of students capable of reading, interpreting and transforming architectural space.

At the same time, as a designer she has placed Drawing at the centre of professional practice, translating it into emblematic works of urban regeneration and renewed collective identity, including the restoration and redevelopment of Corviale in Rome. At both national and international levels, projects such as the Dao Viet Eco City masterplan in Vietnam, the regeneration plan for Bagnoli, the intervention for the Egyptian Museum in Turin, and the multifunctional service centre on the waterfront of Taranto testify to her ability to combine experimentation and social responsibility in diverse and complex contexts. The culmination of this trajectory is the curatorship of the Italian Pavilion at the 2025 Architecture Biennale (*TERRÆ AQUÆ. Italy and the Intelligence of the Sea*), an extraordinary collective exhibition device reflecting on the collective intelligence required to address the challenges of territories situated at the interface between land and sea. With coherence and vision, Guendalina Salimei has made Drawing not only a tool of representation but also an inclusive, ethical and regenerative practice, fully aligned with the founding values of the Unione Italiana per il Disegno, which for these reasons has decided to award her the UID Gold Plaque 2025.

UID Gold Plaque 2025 to Laura De Carlo

The UID Gold Plaque 2025 recognises the scientific, teaching and institutional quality of a figure who, with particular passion, rigorous dedication and natural inclination, has investigated and disseminated the principles, methods and applications of Drawing within our community. She is a figure often associated, in the minds of many, with the contribution she has offered to the renewal of Descriptive Geometry, yet she has also significantly addressed many other aspects of our disciplines, combining a scientific outlook with a remarkable analytical capacity. From investigations into minor historic centres to urban transformations, she has also addressed contemporary issues, such as those related to the description of urban greenery and landscape. Always maintaining an attitude oriented towards constructive engagement and openness to the real needs of the contexts in which she has worked, she has never spared her commitment to the Department and the Faculty, serving in various roles. Among these, we must recall her profound interest in third-level education, demonstrated by her significant and continuous commitment within the PhD programme and the National Doctoral School, whose results remain evident today. Her contribution to the journal *Disegnare. Idee, immagini* has been particularly active and fertile, a journal that would still find it difficult to do without her remarkable ability to anticipate outcomes and configurations. She is therefore a figure who has fostered competencies and nourished scientific collaborations based on sincere esteem and generosity – an example that we now recognise as a living legacy for our community. For all these reasons, the UID Gold Plaque 2025 is awarded to Laura De Carlo.

Gaspare De Fiore Awards and Mentions 2025

committee: Marcello Balzani, Alessandro Luigini, Cettina Santagati

The Gaspare De Fiore Award 2025 is conferred on Dr Felice Romano, for his PhD thesis in Architecture, Arts and Planning (XXXIV cycle) entitled *Jean-Jacques Lequeu. Il disegno di un enigma architettonico* [Jean-Jacques Lequeu. The Drawing of an Architectural Enigma], defended on 28 June 2024 at the Department of Architecture of the University of Palermo (supervisor Prof. Francesco Maggio, Department of Architecture, University of Palermo; co-supervisor Prof. Edoardo Dotto, Department of Civil Engineering and Architecture, University of Catania), with the following motivation: for the originality and significance of a study that brings renewed attention to Jean-Jacques Lequeu, a figure less well known than his impact would warrant, highlighting his role within the panorama of architectural representation; for the breadth and depth of the investigation, which extends from the corpus of drawings to biography, the analysis of his library, and the historical and cultural context; for the solidity of its methodological framework and the refinement of its critical analysis, capable of offering a significant contribution to scholarship and opening new and fruitful research perspectives.

The Gaspare De Fiore Award 2025 is conferred on Dr Noemi Tomasella, for her International Innovative PhD thesis in History, Drawing and Restoration of Architecture (XXXVII cycle) entitled *Misure dello sguardo. Modelli visuali tra accessibilità e comunicazione* [Measures of the Gaze. Visual Models between Accessibility and Communication], defended on 30 January 2025 at the Department of History, Drawing and Restoration of Architecture of Sapienza University of Rome (supervisors Prof. Elena Ippoliti, Prof. Andrea Casale and Prof. Graziano Mario Valenti), with the following motivation: for the originality of the topic and the fully interdisciplinary approach, intertwining the knowledge of Drawing with that of neuroscience, aesthetics and psychology; for the methodological robustness and the coherence of the experimental framework, characterised by the precise definition of metrics and tools for measuring perceptual phenomena – from eye-tracking to the evaluation of cognitive processes; for the significant contribution to the discipline of Drawing and for opening a promising line of research, destined to have relevant implications for understanding the relationship between observer and image in both real and virtual contexts.

The Gaspare De Fiore Mention 2025 is awarded to Dr Annalisa Brancasi, for her International Innovative PhD thesis in History, Drawing and Restoration of Architecture (XXXVII cycle) entitled *Dal documento iconografico all'esperienza multimediale. Rievocazione del Ninfeo di Villa Giulia prima dei restauri del Settecento* [From the Iconographic Document to the Multimedia Experience. Re-evoking the Nymphaeum of Villa Giulia before the Eighteenth-Century Restorations], defended on 30 January 2025 at the Department of History, Drawing and Restoration of Architecture of Sapienza University of Rome (supervisors Prof. Laura Carlevaris and Dr Jessica Romor; co-tutor Dr Donato Maniello, Glowarp Studio), with the following motivation: for the accomplished integration between the rigour of historical study and digital innovation, which provides the doctoral work with solid foundations for the analysis of architectural heritage while at the same time envisioning applications of great impact in the representation of architecture through spatial augmented reality technologies; for the attention devoted to the enhancement of the historical drawings of Gilles-Marie Oppenord, which become a privileged instrument for interpreting and communicating the value of the heritage assets investigated.

The Gaspare De Fiore Mention 2025 is awarded to Dr Giulia Lazzaretto, for her PhD thesis in Architecture, City and Design, Composition area, Representation curriculum (XXXVI cycle) entitled *Zaha Hadid. Painting in an expanded field. Sul processo creativo e sulla rappresentazione nell'opera di Zaha Hadid* [Zaha Hadid. Painting in an Expanded Field. On the Creative Process and Representation in the Work of Zaha Hadid], defended on 26 September 2024 at Luav University of Venice (supervisor Prof. Agostino De Rosa), with the following motivation: for the skilful analysis of Zaha Hadid's creative process through her project drawings, capable of shaping a radically innovative visual and spatial language and recognising the centrality of the study of design representation within our disciplinary field; for the perceptive investigation of the synthesis between Middle Eastern cultural heritage and the influence of the Russian avant-gardes, which enabled Hadid to explore a non-Euclidean and dynamic perception of space; and for the valuable contribution to understanding an architecture that, through fragmentation and cinematic dynamics, was able to prefigure new horizons and challenge the conventions of representation.

The Gaspare De Fiore Mention 2025 is awarded to Dr Fabrizio Natta, for his PhD thesis in Architectural and Landscape Heritage (XXXVI cycle) entitled *Modellazione computazionale per l'interpretazione geometrica di sistemi voltati complessi fra teoria e realizzazione* [Computational Modelling for the Geometric Interpretation of Complex Vault Systems between Theory and Construction], defended on 22 July 2024 at the Department of Architecture and Design of the Polytechnic University of Turin (supervisors Prof. Roberta Spallone, Politecnico di Torino, and Prof. Pablo Rodríguez-Navarro, Universitat Politècnica de València), with the following motivation: for the methodological rigour of the research on the computational modelling of complex vault systems; for having masterfully investigated the relationship between geometric theory and architectural practice in the late Piedmontese Baroque; for having offered an innovative systematisation of vaulted structures through the use of advanced digital techniques; and for having developed a flexible and scalable methodology crucial for the understanding and conservation of architectural heritage.

