

Maria Antonella Bruzzese

Ph.D., Full Professor in Urban design and planning
Politecnico di Milano, Department of Architecture and Urban Studies

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Academic Profile

Maria Antonella Bruzzese is Full Professor of Urban Design and Planning at the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies (DAStU), Politecnico di Milano (since 2025). She holds a Ph.D. in Urban, Territorial and Environmental Planning and has been a member of the Ph.D. Board in Urban Planning, Design and Policy (UPDP) since 2013. Since 2025, she is President of the Scientific Committee of the Off Campus Program of Politecnico di Milano, a university-wide initiative focused on applied research, teaching and engagement in urban and territorial contexts.

Her academic activity integrates research, teaching, professional practice and public administration experience, with a strong focus on urban design, public space and neighborhood-scale transformation processes. She has supervised and co-supervised Ph.D. candidates on public space, urban regeneration and social integration, and regularly coordinates research-by-design workshops at doctoral level, often in collaboration with international institutions. In 2022 she was Visiting Associate at LSE Cities (London School of Economics). In 2024 she co-founded and currently directs *M-US-T – Master Temporary Uses*, the first international postgraduate master focused on temporary uses as a tool for urban transformation.

Academic Positions and Qualifications (selected)

- 2026-present Director of the Scientific Committee Off Campus – Politecnico di Milano
- 2026-present Member of the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies-Politecnico di Milano Executive Board - Delegate for Social Responsibility and Community Engagement,
- 2025-present Full Professor of Urban Design and Planning, DAStU, Politecnico di Milano
- 2025-present President, Scientific Committee, Off Campus Program, Politecnico di Milano
- 2024-present Director, *M-US-T Master in Temporary Uses* (1st and 2nd level), DAStU, Politecnico di Milano
- 2014-present Member, Ph.D. Board in Urban Planning, Design and Policy (UPDP), Politecnico di Milano
- 2022 Visiting Associate, LSE Cities, London School of Economics (UK)

Teaching Activity (selected)

She has an extensive teaching experience at bachelor, master and doctoral levels, with a strong focus on project-based learning and the integration of urban design, planning and policy tools.

- **Bachelor's level (2009–present)**
Professor of Urbanism, Urban Planning Studio, BSc in Architectural Design, Politecnico di Milano. Teaching includes field-based activities, collaborations with local administrations, and public seminars on public space and neighborhood-scale design.
- **Master's level (2006–present)**
Professor of Urban Design, Urban Policy Design Studio, MSc in Urban Planning and Policy Design, Politecnico di Milano.
The course integrates urban design and urban policy approaches and has developed extensive international teaching activities, including study trips, international seminar series and public exhibitions.
- **Doctoral and postgraduate teaching (2014–present)**
Regular coordinator of Ph.D. courses and research-by-design workshops within the UPDP Ph.D. Program, often in collaboration with international universities (e.g. University of Brasília, FAUUSP São Paulo, École Spéciale d'Architecture Paris).
Since 2024, Director of *M-US-T – Master Temporary Uses*, an international postgraduate program focused on temporary uses and urban transformation.

Research Projects and Scientific Activity (selected)

Her research activity focuses on urban design and transformation strategies, public space, temporary uses, and participatory and policy-oriented planning tools, with strong international networking.

- **Proposal as Principal Investigator**, *JUSP – Just Public Space* (Horizon Europe Mission NEB proposal, 2024), on the evaluation and governance of co-designed public spaces, involving cities, universities and NGO's organizations.
- **Coordinator**, research agreement between DASTU (Politecnico di Milano) and the University of Genoa (Department of Law) on urban inequalities and the publicness of privately managed public spaces (2023–present).
- **Founding member**, *Reinventing City Observatory* (2022–present), an international research network on public land, planning tools and urban transformation.
- **Partner or team member** in several national and international research projects (PRIN, DUT, Polisocial, Horizon proposals) addressing public space, mobility, proximity economies, and urban regeneration.

Professional and Institutional Practice (selected)

Alongside her academic activity, Maria Antonella Bruzzese has developed extensive professional and institutional experience, which strongly informs her research and teaching.

- **Gruppo A12 (1993–2016)**
Founding member of *Gruppo A12*, a collective of architects working at the intersection of architecture, urban design and artistic practices. The group realized architectural and urban projects and public-space installations in Italy and abroad and participated in major international exhibitions and biennials, including the Venice Art Biennale (2003), Istanbul Biennial (2009), Busan Biennale (2010), PS1 New York, Kröller-Müller Museum (Otterlo), and Triennale di Milano (2014).
- **Public administration (2016–2021)**
Town Planning Councilor (Assessore Municipale all'Urbanistica, Spazio Pubblico e Verde), City of Milan, District 3. The role involved urban regeneration policies, participatory planning processes, public space and green space management, and experimentation with decentralized governance tools at the neighborhood scale.
- **Urban planning consultancy**
Consultant and scientific coordinator for public institutions and private stakeholders on urban regeneration, public space and strategic planning projects, including large-scale transformations (e.g. Milan railway yards, former industrial and military areas, Enel Futur-e program).

Selected Publications

Books and edited volumes

- **Bruzzese, A.** (ed.) (2026). *Publicness, città e territori. Ripensare la dimensione pubblica tra crisi e transizioni*. Donzelli Editore, Roma.
- **Bruzzese, A.** (2024). *Spazio pubblico: vitalità e innovazione*. Confcommercio, Rome.
- Fisker, J., Chiappini, L., Pugalis, L., **Bruzzese, A.** (Eds.) (2019). *Enabling Urban Alternatives*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Fisker, J., Chiappini, L., Pugalis, L., **Bruzzese, A.** (Eds.) (2019). *The Production of Alternative Urban Spaces*. Routledge.
- **Bruzzese, A.**, Lapenna, A. (Eds.) (2017). *Linking Territories*. Planum.
- **Bruzzese A.**, Gerosa G., Tamini L. (2016), *Spazio pubblico e attrattività urbana. L'isola e le sue piazze*, Bruno Mondadori, Milano.
- **Bruzzese, A.**, Tamini, L. (2014). *Servizi commerciali e produzioni creative. Sei itinerari nella Milano che cambia*. Bruno Mondadori, Milano.

Books Chapters

- **Bruzzese, A.** (2026). "Spazi ibridi socioculturali: risorse per la città?" in Inti, I., Cantaluppi, G., Mastropirro R., (Ed.), *Sociocultural Hybrid Spaces: A Toolbox and Open Questions for Community Welfare Places*. Lettera Ventidue, Siracusa.
- **Bruzzese, A.**, Coppola, A. (2024). "Questioning Proximity in a Fragmented, Disorderly, and Complex Urban Region: The Limits of the 15-Minute City Discourse and a Framework for a More Realistic Understanding" in Pucci, P., and Vecchio, G. (Eds.), *Questioning Proximity: Opportunities and Challenges for Urban Planning and Mobility Policies*. PoliMI SpringerBriefs Series. pp. 57-69. DOI: [10.1007/978-3-031-66071-9_5](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-66071-9_5).
- **Bruzzese, A.** (2022). "Changing Uses in Public Spaces: Dehors' Supporting Measures in Italy During COVID Times" in Armondi, S., Balducci, A., Bovo, M., and Galimberti, B. (Eds.), *Cities Learning from the Pandemic: Toward Preparedness*. Routledge, London - New York. pp. 153-167. ISBN: 978-103-2113-42-1.
- **Bruzzese, A.** (2021). "Riqualificare spazi pubblici: note intorno al rapporto tra livelli istituzionali e tra attore pubblico e privato" in Laboratorio Standard (Ed.), *Diritti in città: Gli standard urbanistici in Italia dal 1968 a oggi*. Donzelli Editore, Roma. pp. 79-86. ISBN: 978-885-5221-68-6.

Selected peer-reviewed journal articles

- **Bruzzese A.** (2026). "Reclaiming Public Space Through Governance Transformation: The Case of Piazze Aperte, Milan". *Urban Planning*, 11, Article 11032. <https://doi.org/10.17645/up.11032>
- **Bruzzese, A.** (2024). "Municipi a Milano. Ruoli, opportunità e limiti nello scambio tra istituzioni iperlocali e cittadinanza", *Tracce Urbane*.
- **Bruzzese, A.** (2023). "Quando lo spazio pubblico è privato. I POPS e il caso di Granary Square a Londra", *Archivio di Studi Urbani e Regionali*.
- Armondi, S., **Bruzzese, A.** (2017). "Contemporary Productions and Urban Change between Public and Private Actions", *Journal of Urban Technology*.

Full publication list and extensive CV are available on <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9785-7606>