



POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863

The Unusual Workshop

Hands on Reuse

27.07 / 09.08 2026

Ex fabbrica Legler - Via Legler, 14 Brembate di Sopra, BG

with the support of



Fondazione Legler per la storia
economica e sociale di Bergamo

Fondazione
CARIPLO



FONDAZIONE
ARCHITETTI
BERGAMO



ORDINE DEGLI ARCHITETTI,
PIANIFICATORI,
PAESAGGISTI E CONSERVATORI
della Provincia di Bergamo

Fondazione Legler

The Hands-On Construction Workshop will take place at the former Legler Factory, one of the largest industrial archaeology sites in the province of Bergamo. The spaces, currently partly under redevelopment by Vacuum Atelier (a project funded by Fondazione Cariplo) within the Vivarium area, which is now an experimental construction site, will host the workshop, conceived as the factory's first public reopening event. The micro-architectures and furniture created during the workshop, made from leftover materials from the Vivarium site, will inhabit and activate the industrial space.

The workshop will involve Studio GISTO and Wunder as invited practices, divided across the two weeks.

Curatorial design: Vacuum Atelier
Scientific coordination of Fondazione Legler: Dr. Giuseppe De Luca
Public coordination: Arch. Gianpaolo Gritti (Fondazione Architetti Bergamo)

LEGLER Indoor spaces



© Marcello Mariana

Vacuum Atelier

The studio focuses on the active reuse of existing buildings, from architecture to furniture, with an experimental and handcrafted approach. The research on adaptive reuse has been presented at the Practices in Research conference (Brussels, 2025) and the International Conference on Adaptive Reuse (University of Pisa with UNESCO). Since 2024 Vacuum Atelier (arch. PhD Gino Baldi, arch. Serena Comi) has been overseeing the regeneration project of the former Cotonificio Legler, combining design experimentation with material reuse.



© Vacuum Atelier

Among triangles

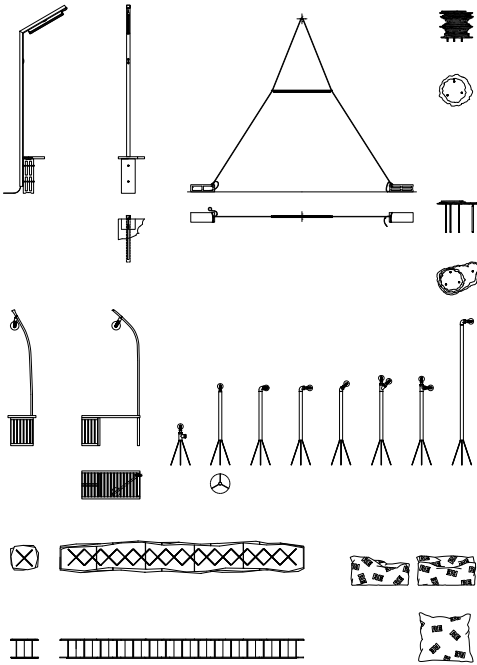
Among triangles

Workshop 2024

RERERE Lab, Among Triangles installation project, was the first event aimed at promoting a new cultural and social dynamism within the industrial complex. Participants—students from Italy and various European countries—engaged firsthand in the reuse of construction waste, exploring technologies, forms, functions, and product-making processes.

The resulting elements were designed to foster social interaction in public space, inhabiting the former factory through installations such as street lamps, benches, and tables.

RERERE Lab was carried out in collaboration with Fondazione Aedificante and with the support of Fondazione Architetti Bergamo, Fondazione Legler per la Storia Economica e Sociale di Bergamo, and under the patronage of the municipalities of Ponte San Pietro and Brembate di Sopra.



Team: Matteo Lorenzi, Sofia Macchia, Chiara Gritti, Francesca Randon, Benedetta Pozzoli, Davide Rohrich, Sofia Batyrshina



Among Triangles © Vacuum Atelier

Masterplan

Fabbrica della Cultura

The former Cottonificio Legler is a partially unused industrial complex. The project proposes to reactivate the site through three distinct phases. The first has already taken place, materializing in a self-construction workshop (Among Triangle, 2024). The second phase is represented by the Vivarium project, focused on a smaller intervention area (currently underway). The final phase extends to a broader regeneration process at the masterplan scale (Fabbrica della Cultura), currently in development, aimed at creating a socio-cultural hub.

The project seeks to transform an underutilized industrial heritage site into a decentralized cultural infrastructure, capable of generating social, environmental, and economic value beyond major urban centers.

Close-up view of the model



© Vacuum Atelier



Overall model

© Vacuum Atelier

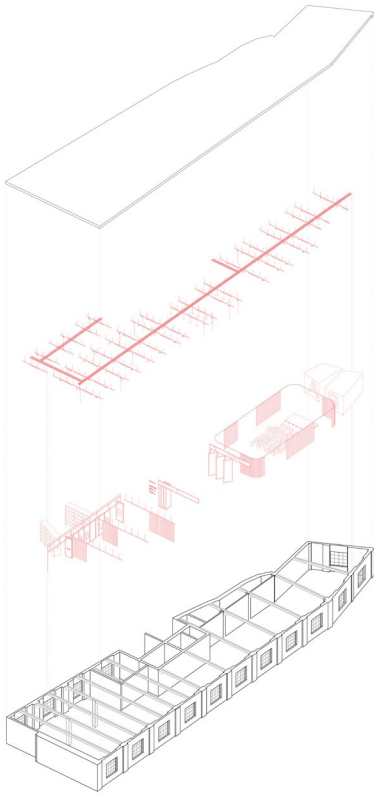
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Vivarium

A fragment of adaptive reuse

Within a broader urban and cultural regeneration masterplan, Vivarium represents a significant component, conceived as a replicable model for other areas of the complex. The intervention focuses on a specific portion, where a multifunctional space will be developed.

The project aims to reactivate an underused area by enhancing the existing heritage in its “as found” qualities. The design approach follows principles of flexibility and minimal intervention: spaces will be easily adaptable and customizable to meet the needs of art and culture, doing “more with less” and prioritizing the reuse of the building and its existing materials.



VIVARIUM concept



Final scenario

© Vacuum Atelier

Construction site

Circular Strategies

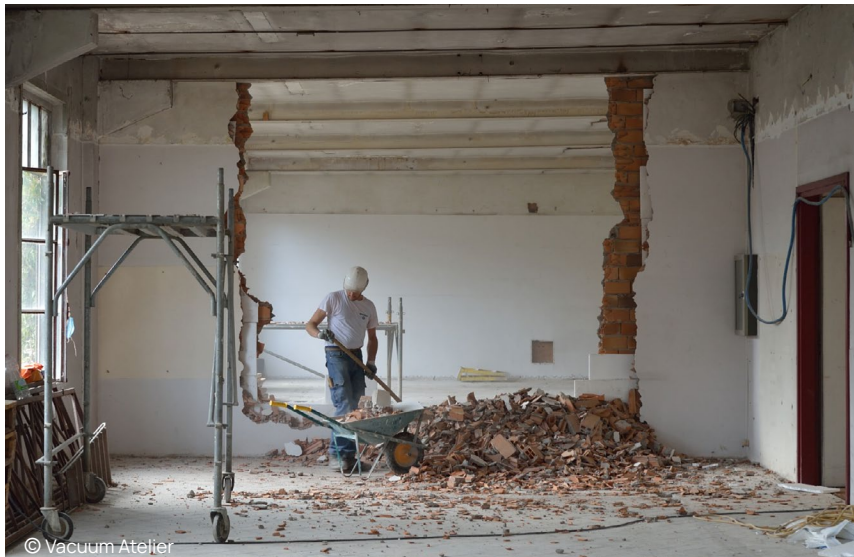
The project is currently in the construction phase, with demolitions underway and the creation of a storage area for recoverable materials, which will inform the future design of interior divisions, furniture, and outdoor spaces.

By refining workflows—removing insulation, dismantling partitions, and separating components—standard processes (with conventional costs) are transformed into circular material recovery. The demolition materials, stored and currently being measured and cataloged, will serve as the primary resources for the workshop, creating micro-architectures and furnishings that will permanently occupy the industrial space.

VIVARIUM Elimination of add-on structures



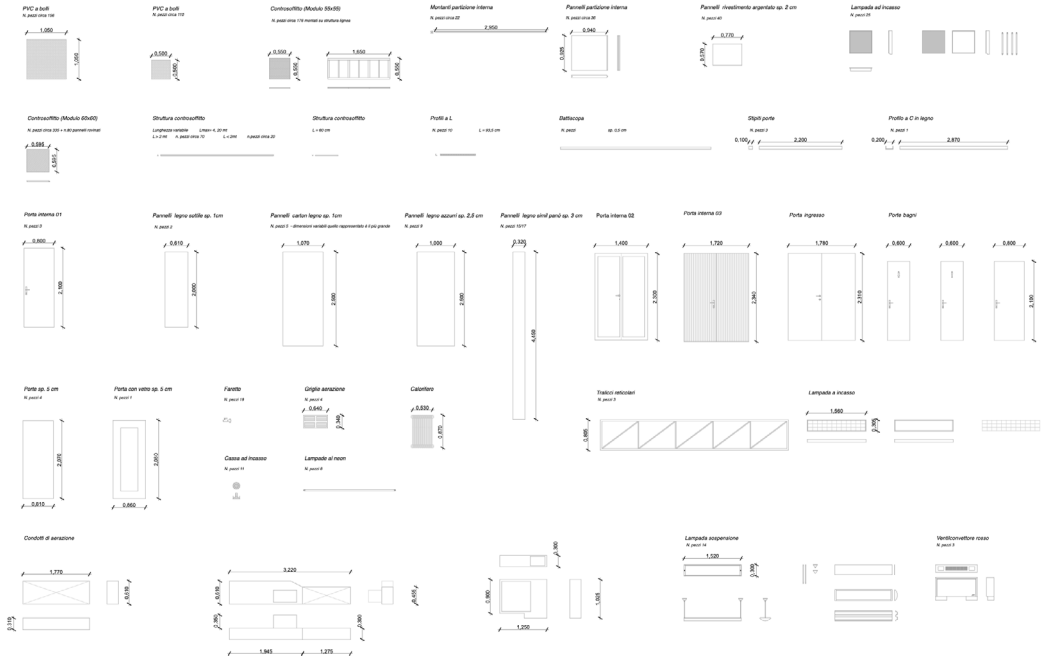
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Construction demolitions

© Vacuum Atelier

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VIVARIUM Redesign and analysis of removed materials and integrated into a material intelligence framework



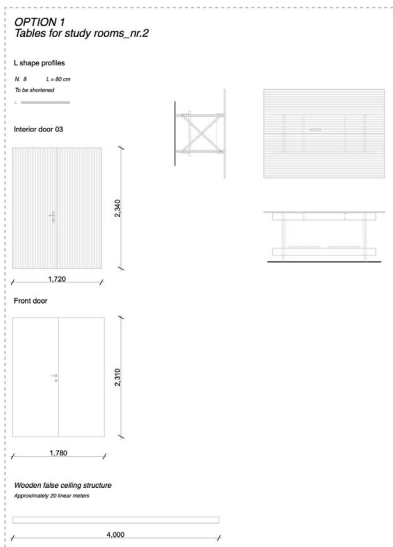


The workshop is structured as a research laboratory—a space where theory and practice, material and immaterial, come together. Products will be conceived, developed, and prototyped through research, discussion, and design proposals.

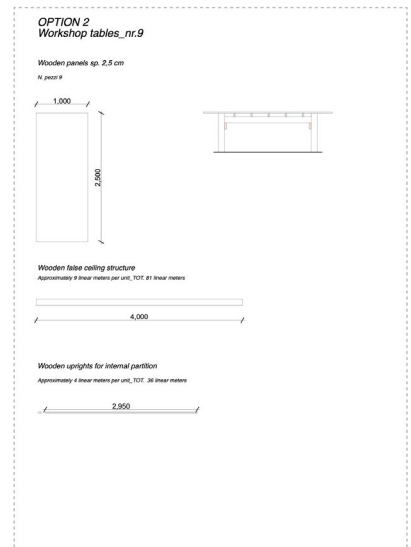


The demolition materials will become the starting resources for the workshop, where micro-architectures and furniture will be created to permanently inhabit the industrial space of Vivarium. This workshop will be the first public reopening event of the area, with the exhibition of the furniture created serving as the actual final arrangement of the spaces.

AMONG TRIANGLES Workshop documentation images



Possible furniture





© Wunder

Wunder

Wunder is a group of adventurous creatives who enjoy experimenting at the intersection of design and society, focusing on urban commons and vulnerable territories. We emerged from collective design interventions in the Milan and Bergamo regions and are interested in projects that bring people and space together. Spanning the fields of architecture, carpentry, art, design and photography, we see ourselves as facilitators who create opportunities for different communities to connect and learn from one another. We like to engage in collective forms of knowledge exchange and work together to curate and implement site-specific interventions in the form of intensive design and co-living experiences.

Studio GISTO

Founded in 2010, Studio GISTO develops projects spanning design, architecture and craftsmanship in collaboration with institutions, companies and other organisations. The studio's approach focuses on local resources, the sustainability of materials and circular development processes.



© Marco Cappelletti Studio

A Journey into Biodiversity_Triennale Milano

WHERE?

The workshop will take place at the Fondazione Legler - Brembate di Sopra (BG)

Address: Via Legler 14, Brembate di Sopra, Bergamo, Italy

WHEN?

The workshop will take place from July 27 to August 9, 2026.

PARTICIPANTS?

The workshop is open to students, recent graduates, professionals, and anyone curious to join.

LANGUAGE?

Italian + English

CREDITS?

Participants will receive CFP credits recognized by the Order of Architects

Eligible for 4 CFU (university credits) for bachelor and master students of the Politecnico of Milan

HOW?

Fill out the form at the following link

FORM

Registration deadline | July 1, 2026

*No fee

Directions



- 7-minute walk
- Accommodation

MAP

By Car

From Milan:

Take the A4 highway, exit at Capriate

From Bergamo:

Take SS342 or SS671, exit at Ponte San Pietro

By Train

From Milan:

R14 train from Milano Porta Garibaldi Station > Ponte San Pietro Station

From Bergamo:

Train or replacement shuttle from Bergamo Station > Ponte San Pietro Station

Contact

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