Future
Urban Legacy
Lab

International Symposium

The Office Turn

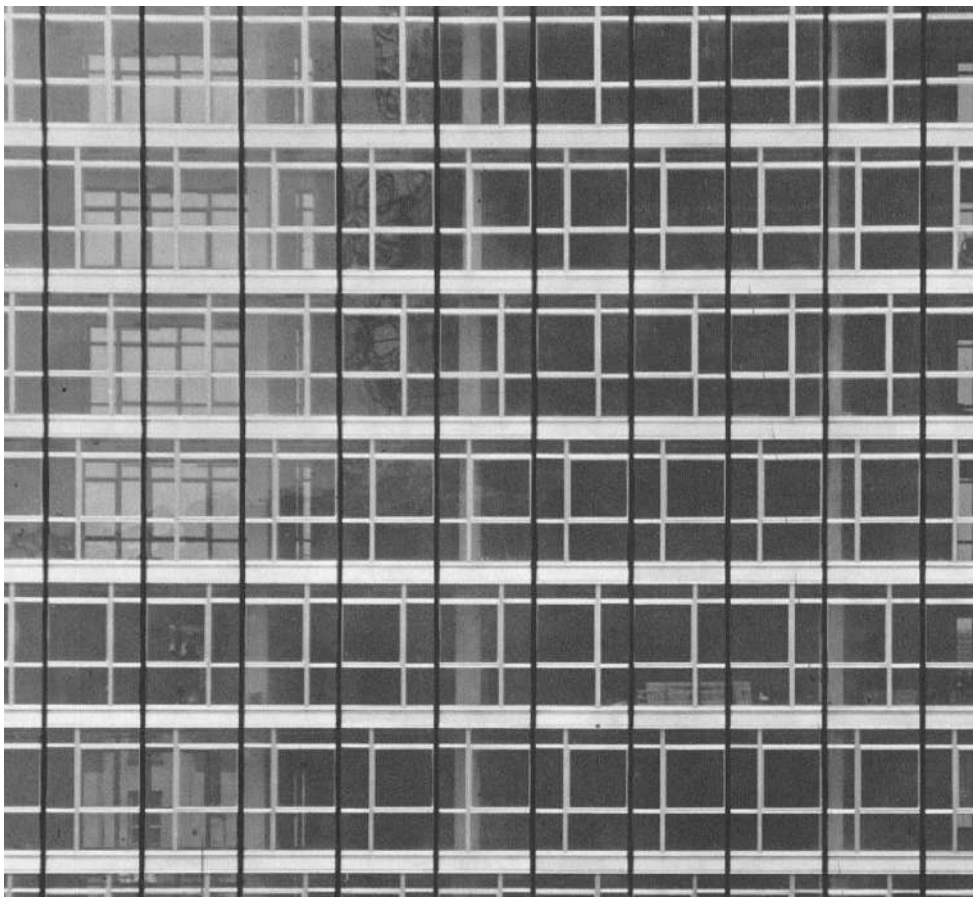
Office Vacancy and Conversion across European and North American Cities

Thursday 10 December 2026

9:00–12:45 Symposium
FULL | OGR Tech, Torino

15:00–17:00 Thesis Seminar
DAD | Castello del Valentino, Torino

Join online here
Morning session · Afternoon session
Microsoft Teams · full links on the back



Cover image: Torre Galfa, Milan, from the pages of *Domus* 377, April 1961 (Domus archive)

Since the pandemic, office vacancy has turned from a cyclical fluctuation into a structural condition of many cities shaped by post-war office expansion. As this surplus meets housing shortages and climate commitments, the conversion of offices into housing and mixed uses has moved to the centre of policy, market and architectural debate. Yet conversion is never a neutral change of use: it tests the adaptability of deep-plan, often unlisted modern buildings and raises open questions. Which buildings become eligible for transformation, and why? What housing is produced, and for whom? How much of the existing building, in material, spatial and carbon terms, is kept or lost?

The Office Turn addresses these questions at two scales. *Urban Records* compares vacancy, policies and conversion dynamics in New York, Brussels and London. *Notable Transformations* looks closely at four emblematic buildings: Torre Galfa in Milan, the Tour Montparnasse in Paris, the Steglitzer Kreisel in Berlin and The Cosmopolitan in Brussels. A round table closes the morning. In the afternoon, a thesis seminar at the Castello del Valentino presents ongoing master's and PhD research on office conversion and opens a discussion on next perspectives.

Morning — FULL | OGR Tech, corso Castelfidardo 22, Torino · online

Chaired by Caterina Barioglio and Elena Guidetti, Politecnico di Torino

9:00	**Welcome and introduction**	
	URBAN RECORDS	
9:15	**New York City**	Caterina Barioglio and Elena Guidetti, Politecnico di Torino
9:35	**Brussels**	Gérald Ledent, UCLouvain
9:55	**London**	Manuela Madeddu, University of Liverpool
10:15	**Coffee break**	
	NOTABLE TRANSFORMATIONS	
10:35	**Torre Galfa, Milan**	Giovanni Comoglio, Domus and IED Torino
10:50	**Tour Montparnasse, Paris**	Francesca Contrada and Emma Filipponi, ENSA Paris-Val de Seine
11:05	**Steglitzer Kreisel, Berlin**	Annalisa Trentin and Serena Orlandi, Università di Bologna
11:20	**The Cosmopolitan, Brussels**	Paulien Beeckman, Waldo Galle and Niels De Temmerman, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
	ROUND TABLE	
11:35	**Round table and Q&A**	**Discussants** Renato Anelli, Professor of Urbanism, Universidade Presbiteriana Mackenzie, São Paulo, and Director of the Instituto Bardi / Casa de Vidro Jörg Schröder, Dean for Research of the Faculty of Architecture and Landscape and Director of the Institute of Urban Design and Planning, Leibniz University Hannover Loris Servillo, Full Professor, Politecnico di Torino, and Director of FULL

Politecnico di Torino | Future *Urban Legacy* Lab

Organised by
Caterina Barioglio and Elena Guidetti
Department of Architecture and Design, Politecnico di Torino – FULL

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International Symposium

The Office Turn

Afternoon — Follow-up and Thesis Seminar

Master's and PhD research on office vacancy and conversion
Open to all participants

Thursday 10 December 2026

15:00–17:00 Thesis Seminar
DAD | Castello del Valentino, Sala della Caccia
viale Mattioli 39, Torino

Join online here Afternoon session (Microsoft Teams)

Afternoon — DAD | Castello del Valentino, Sala della Caccia · online

	THESIS PRESENTATIONS	
15:00	**PhD and master's theses**	Paulien Beeckman, PhD student (Vrije Universiteit Brussel); Simone Campagnucci, PhD student, and Vinicius Amaral, MSc student (Universidade Presbiteriana Mackenzie, São Paulo); Chiara Bortot, Kimia Mohammad Ebrahim, Mina Moghaddas, Mehrnaz Safaripoor, Sara Zakipour (Politecnico di Torino); Sofia Anconetani, Agnese Foiera, Milla Spada (Università di Bologna); Lucas Jaeken (Vrije Universiteit Brussel)
	NEXT PERSPECTIVES	
16:10	**Discussion**	With Renato Anelli (Universidade Presbiteriana Mackenzie, São Paulo), Caterina Barioglio (Politecnico di Torino), Michele Bonino (Politecnico di Torino), Francesca Contrada (ENSA Paris-Val de Seine), Elena Guidetti (Politecnico di Torino), Serena Orlandi (Università di Bologna), Giulia Sammartano (Politecnico di Torino), Jörg Schröder (Leibniz University Hannover)
16:45	**Final remarks**	Michele Bonino Head of the Department of Architecture and Design, Politecnico di Torino
17:00	**End of the seminar**	

Morning — Symposium

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Urban Records New York City, Brussels, London

Notable Transformations Torre Galfa, Tour Montparnasse, Steglitzer Kreisel, The Cosmopolitan

Round table Renato Anelli, Jörg Schröder, Loris Servillo

Chaired by Caterina Barioglio and Elena Guidetti

Venues and online access

Morning FULL | OGR Tech, corso Castelfidardo 22, Torino

Afternoon DAD | Castello del Valentino, Sala della Caccia, viale Mattioli 39, Torino

Online via Microsoft Teams

Morning session
teams.microsoft.com/meet/3368166554730272?p=qmZNbjDOhHNI3T1nvb

Afternoon session
teams.microsoft.com/meet/3946692873593393?p=kZAuQoGUo2z6MFzLL5

Politecnico di Torino | Future *Urban Legacy* Lab | DAD Dipartimento di Architettura e Design

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