

# Architecture and autism. Sensory perception and independent living

## April 20 International workshop

### Program

**9:30 - Giuseppina Scavuzzo (University of Trieste)**

Welcome and introduction

**9:45 - Marco Caniato (Free University of Bozen-Bolzano)**

Recent advances on indoor comfort for impaired individuals: the Senshome project

### SESSION 1 - DESIGN PROCESSES: THE ISSUE OF INCLUSIVITY

**10:00 - Ann Heylighen (KU Leuven)**

Beyond prevailing ways of understanding and designing space: Learning from the autism spectrum

**10:30 - Federica Bettarello, Anna Dordolin, Paola Limoncin (University of Trieste)**

State of the art of living environments for autistic people: the significant aspects of design

**11:00 - 11:15 - COFFEE BREAK**

**11:15 - Matteo Bianchin (University of Milano-Bicocca)**

Design justice: deliberative tools for inclusive design practice

**11:45 - Philip Scharf (Carinthia University of Applied Sciences)**

Participation of users in research: human-centred design in the project Senshome

**12:15 - Discussion and open questions**

(send questions to [senshome@units.it](mailto:senshome@units.it))

**13:00 - 14:30 - LUNCH BREAK**

### Date

20th April 2021

9:30-13:00

14:30-17:00

Interreg V-A Italy-Austria 2014-2020

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### Organising Committee

Giuseppina Scavuzzo

Federica Bettarello

Anna Dordolin

Paola Limoncin

Martina Di Prisco

Patrizia Cannas

### Scientific Committee

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#### SESSION 2 - DESIGN PRACTICES: INTEGRATING SENSORY PERCEPTION WITH INDEPENDENT LIVING

**14:30 - Francesca Giofrè (Sapienza University of Rome)**

Autism Spectrum Disorders: buildings requirements on evidenced based research and Italian Case Studies

**15:00 - Javier Sánchez Merina (University of Alicante)**

The Pictogram House

**15:30 - Phuong Lan Nguyen (KU Leuven)**

Detail matters: Exploring sensory preferences in housing design for autistic people

**16:00 - Anna Dordolin, Paola Limoncin (University of Trieste)**

Senshome strategic approach for a house “as normal as possible, as special as necessary”

**16:30 - Discussion and open questions**

(send questions to [senshome@units.it](mailto:senshome@units.it))

**17:00 - Conclusion and greetings**

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## Speakers

**Federica Bettarello** is a Research Fellow at the Department of Engineering and Architecture at the University of Trieste (Italy). She has a PhD in engineering sciences (acoustics) and her research topics are the building and architectural acoustics. She actually focusing on “Analysis of spatial acoustic requirements for application of AED and SSR devices in environments designed for people with cognitive deficits” for the research project “The Sensitive House SENSHOME: Sensors for Special Environments: The house as normal as possible and as special as necessary”, funded by the European program Interreg VA Italy-Austria 2014-2020.

**Matteo Bianchin** is an Associate Professor at the University of Milano-Bicocca. He has been a DAAD research fellow at the University of Cologne and a Marie Curie Research Fellow at the University of Leuven. His research focuses on the philosophy of mind, the philosophy of social sciences, and political philosophy.

**Marco Caniato** works at the Faculty of Science and Technology at the Free University of Bozen, where he teaches Technical Physics for Mechantronic (English Language). Marco is author of more than 90 papers, most of them presented in English in Conferences, Journals and books. Marco participated to many research projects, most of them designed and written by himself, both nationally and internationally. Currently he is the General Project Manager of two European Projects and Section Project Manager and communication Manager for another European Project. His main research is focused on thermal and acoustic properties of Construction and building materials as well as building elements. Another focus of Marco’s studies is related to the indoor comfort perception, evaluation and implementation of impaired people.

**Anna Dordolin** is an Architect and Research Fellow at the Department of Engineering and Architecture, University of Trieste. Her research project is about “Designing environment for independent living of people with mental disease”, part of the project “The Sensitive Home SENSHOME: The house as normal as possible and as special as necessary” founded by funded the European Community (Interreg V-A Italy-Austria 2014-2020).

She collaborates in an Architectural Design laboratory at the University of Trieste. In her professional work, she deals with living environments’ design for the elderly and people with dementia or other sensorial and mental diseases.

**Francesca Giofrè**, Architect, PhD, Associate Professor of the Technology of Architecture at the Faculty of Architecture, Department Architecture and Design, Sapienza University of Rome. Her research areas are innovation in the design and building process, design for all and healthy cities. The research projects within this framework are on health and social architecture and their environment. She is a Member of the Inter-university Research Centre TESIS “Systems and Technologies for Social, Health and Education Structures” (since 2006). She made many feasibility design studies in the field of architecture for health and she has published more than 200 papers, articles and books with national and international publishers.

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## Sensory perception and independent living

**Ann Heylighen** is a Design Researcher with a background in architectural engineering. As a Professor of Design Studies at the KU Leuven, she co-chairs Research[x]Design, a research team at the interface of design research and social sciences/humanities. She studies design practices in architecture and related design domains, and explores how the experience of people of various abilities, ages and perspectives may expand prevailing ways of understanding and designing space. Ann teaches design theory, professional ethics, and inclusive design. She is a Fellow of the Design Research Society, Associate Editor of Design Studies, and Editorial Board Member of Codesign and of Building Research and Information.

**Paola Limoncin** is an Architect and Research Fellow at the University of Trieste in the research project “The Sensitive House SENSHOME: Sensors for Special Environments: The house as normal as possible and as special as necessary”, funded by the European program Interreg VA Italy-Austria 2014-2020. Her project research focuses on critical and operational tools for the design of architectures for independent living of people with cognitive disabilities. She obtained a PhD in Architectural and Urban Composition in 2016 and she collaborates in teaching in the Architectural Design laboratory at the University of Trieste, Department of Engineering and Architecture. In addition to the teaching and research activity, she combines the professional activity in the field of architectural and interior design where the theme of the spatial experience of people with various abilities becomes an opportunity to further develop research interests.

**Phuong Lan Nguyen** is an Architect and a Lecturer in architecture at Faculty of Architecture and Planning, National University of Civil Engineering (Vietnam). She is a PhD candidate in the Research[x]Design group at the Department of Architecture, KU Leuven (Belgium). Her PhD research project is about “Housing design which supports independent living for autistic people” in which she studies the relationships between the housing environments, the design practices and autistic residents’ lived experiences.

**Javier Sánchez Merina**, Associate Professor of Architecture Design Studio at the University of Alicante. For the last 25 years he has been teaching at Kingston University in London, Carleton University Ottawa, ENSAM Reunion Island and directing international workshops with ERASMUS partners. Currently he is the Coordinator of “UNIVERSITY of Universities”, and online exchange teaching project with 24 European universities.

Winner of the Region of Murcia Award for Architecture, Nomination Award Mies van der Rohe. Referent for Therapeutic Architecture of the American National Alzheimer Plan, co-author of the series of articles “STORIES OF HOUSES”, and chapters in the books Fresh Air in my Face. Enabling people with Dementia to reconnect with Nature. An Architect’s Guide to Fame, Kristín Guðmundsdóttir, Interior Designer and EURAU Alicante.

His classes, writings and built work show a commitment to establish important relationships between teaching, research and profession, always under the ability of architecture to question and move the limits of other disciplines. The recently built house for an Autistic child just won the Award for Accessibility in Architecture of Murcia Region.

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**Giuseppina Scavuzzo**, Associate Professor of Architectural and Urban Composition at the University of Trieste and Vice-coordinator of the PhD course in Civil-Environmental Engineering and Architecture inter-university between the University of Trieste and the University of Udine.

She is the Scientific Manager for the University of Trieste of the project SensHome, funded by the European Community (Interreg V-A Italy-Austria 2014-2020) dealing with aspects related to architecture for “alternative models of mind”, Autism, Asperger’s and other forms of neurodiversity.

For some years she has been studying the relationship between forms of recognition or disrecognition of rights and their location within architecturally defined forms and limits.

Her latest publication is “Il Parco della guarigione infinita. Un dialogo tra architettura e psichiatria”, on the cultural and power relations between architecture and psychiatry.

**Philip Scharf**, MSc is a Junior Researcher at the Carinthia University of Applied Sciences. He finished his bachelor’s degree in Medical Engineering in 2018 and his master’s degree in Health Care IT in 2020. During his bachelor studies, he completed a professional internship in Germany, working on an intelligent implant as a (software) developer. In 2019, during his master studies, he started to work for the research group Active and Assisted Living, where he is involved in multiple national and international research projects in the area of healthy ageing and assistive technologies. In these projects, he mostly focuses on participatory research (human-centered design) and software development.

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