

COMPLEX PROJECTS **PLAYING MIND GAMES**

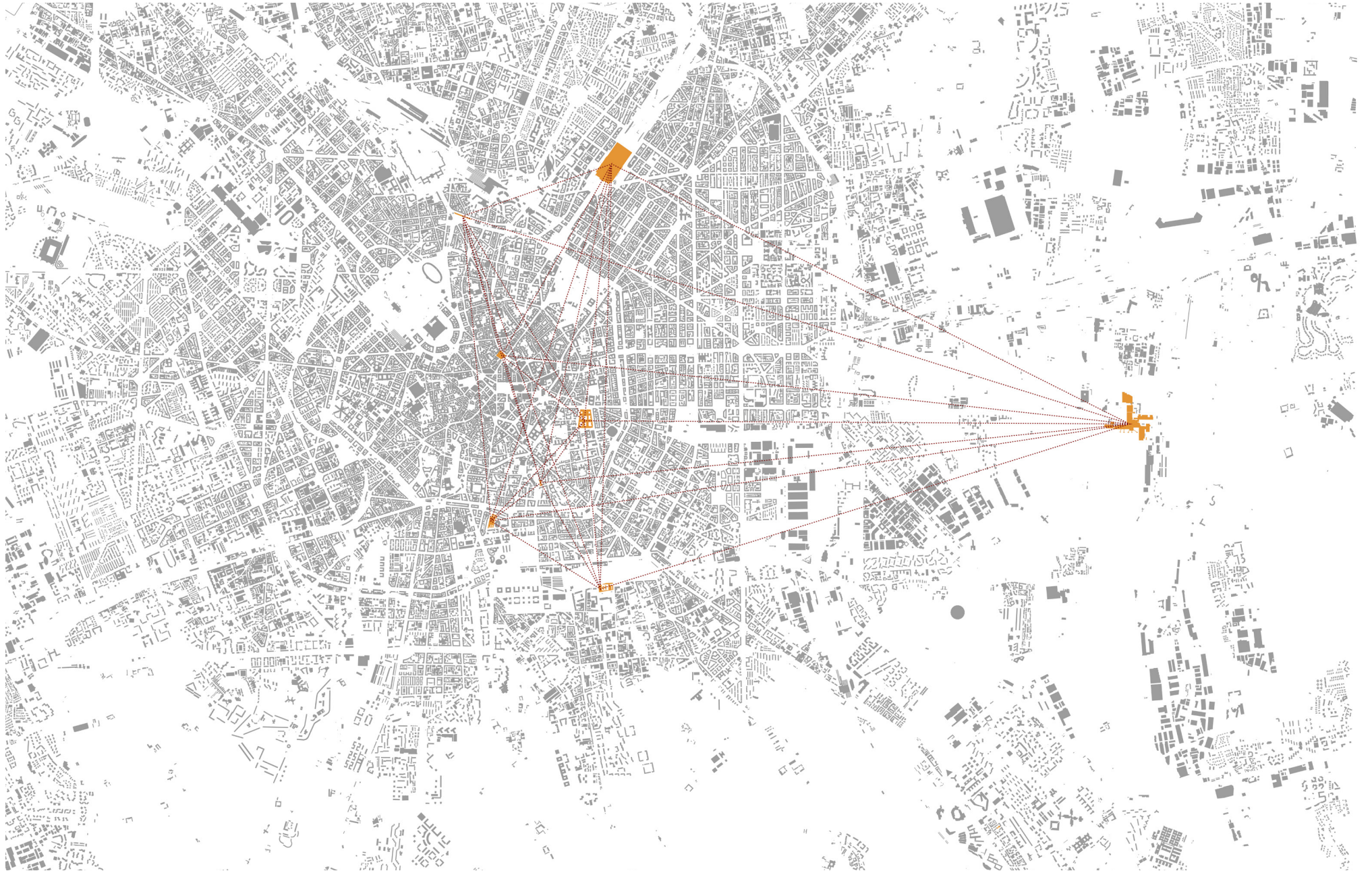
An investigation into how university design can enhance academic performance without compromising mental health

Ana-Sabina Nistor

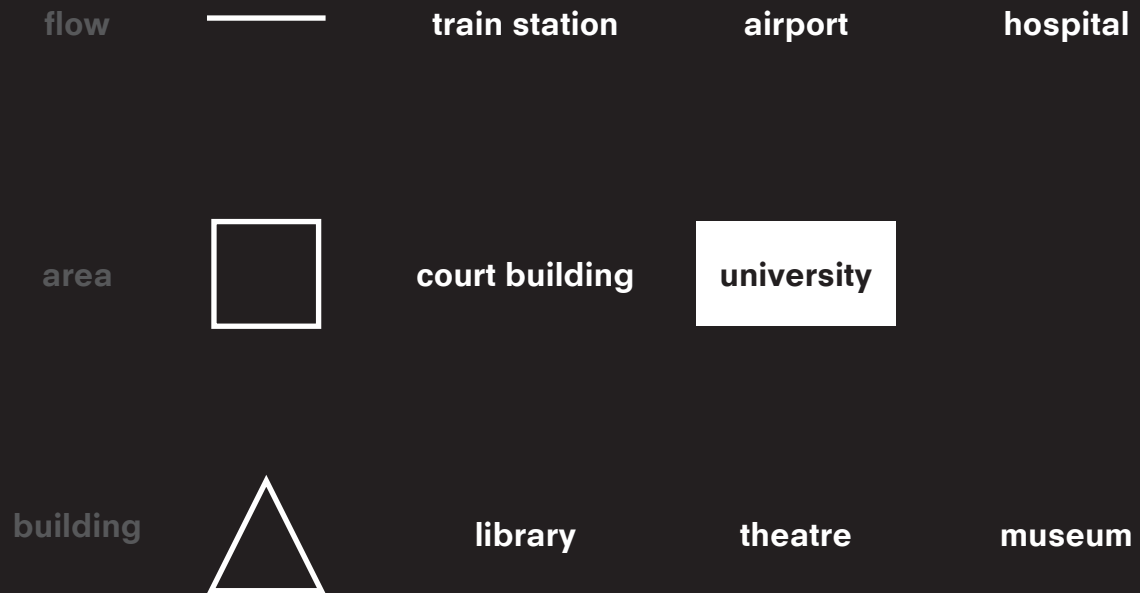
January/28/2025



COMPLEX PROJECTS- MILAN



COMPLEX PROJECTS- MILAN



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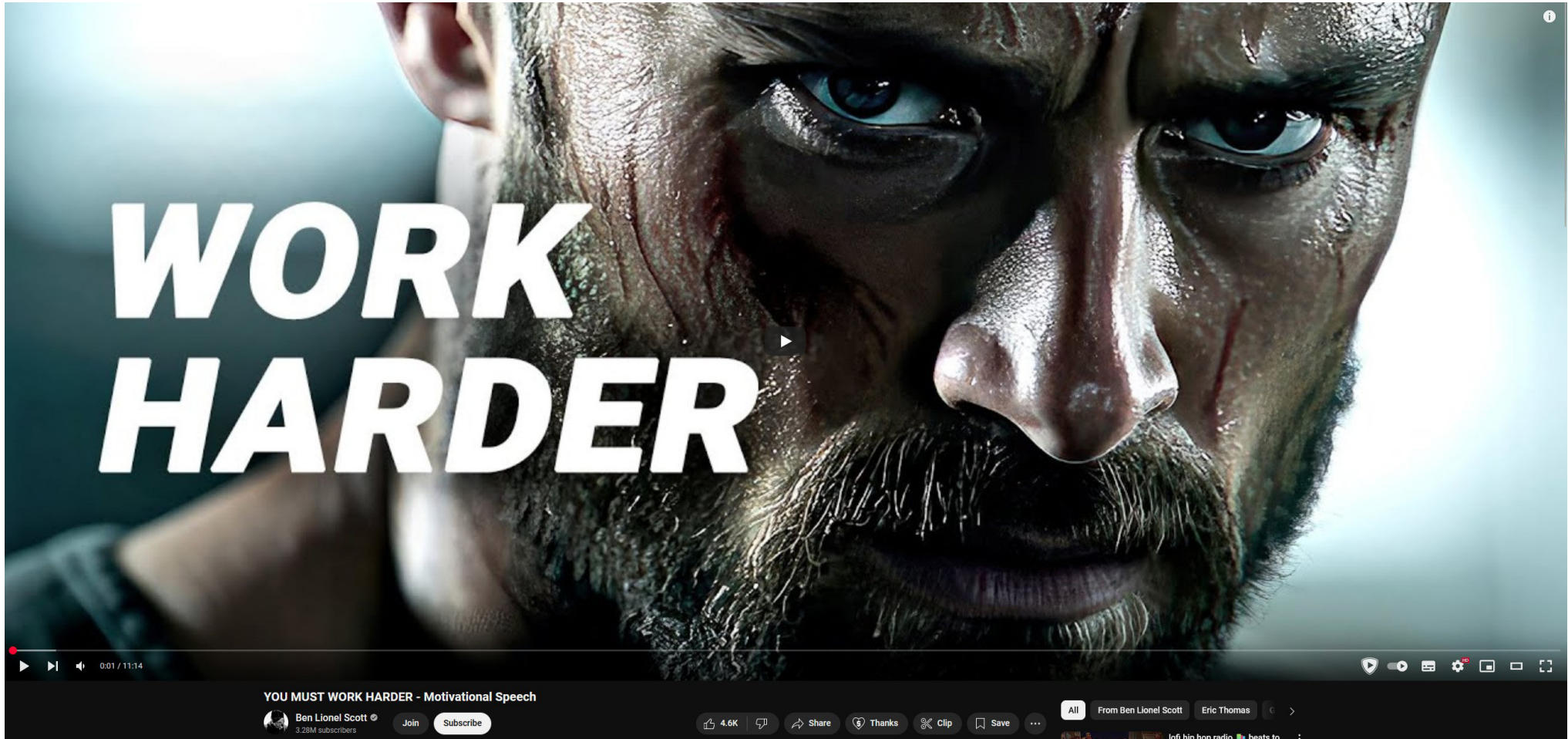
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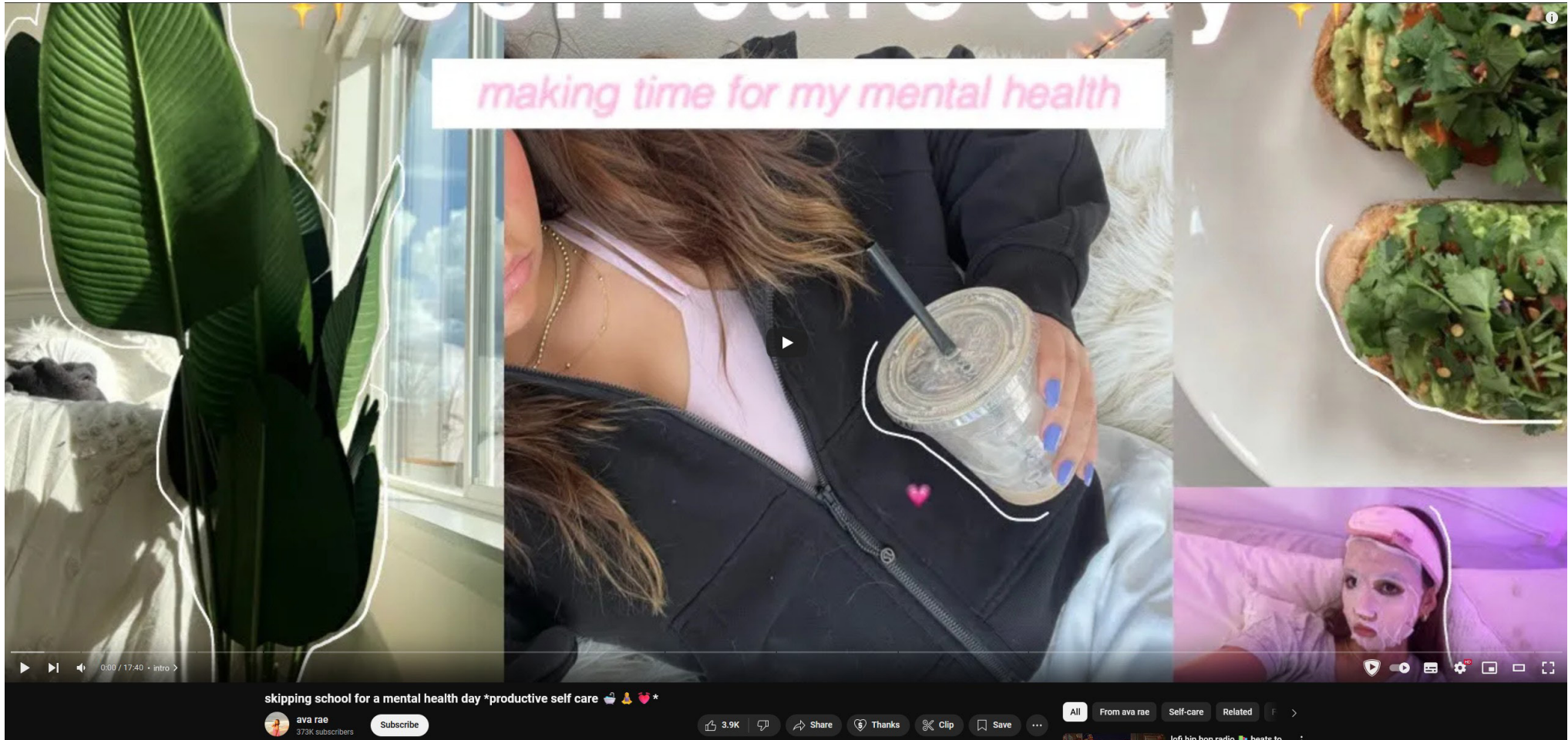
Introduction

EITHER WORK HARD



Introduction

OR TAKE A SELF CARE DAY



Thesis Topic Statement

SOCIETAL PENDULUM



Hustle culture

- highlights career as the most important aspect of one's life
- hyperfocused on performance
- damaging to one's mental health

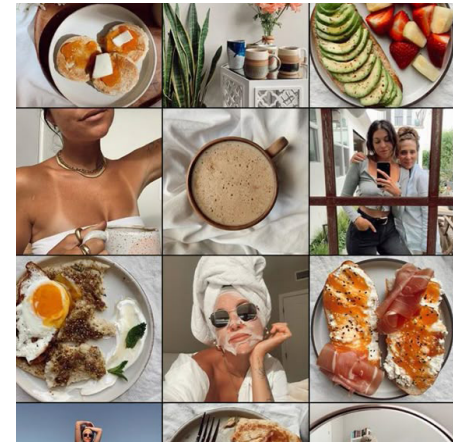
Thesis Topic Statement

SOCIETAL PENDULUM



Hustle culture

- highlights career as the most important aspect of one's life
- hyperfocused on performance
- damaging to one's mental health



Wellness culture

- prioritises mental health and living a healthy lifestyle
- hyperfocused on mental health
- damaging to one's performance

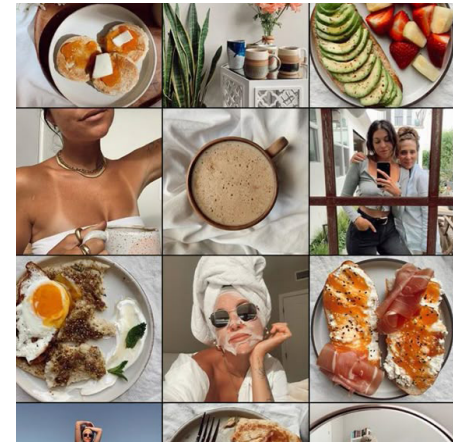
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SOCIETAL PENDULUM



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- highlights career as the most important aspect of one's life
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Wellness culture

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← PERFORMANCE

MENTAL HEALTH →

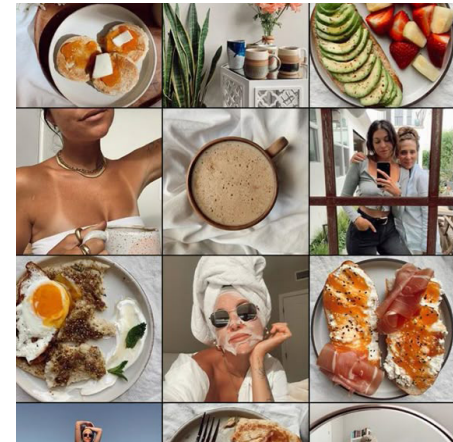
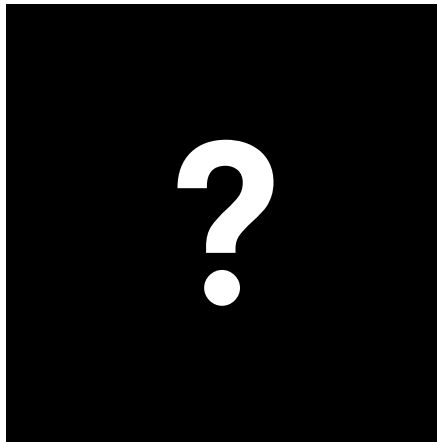
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SOCIETAL PENDULUM



Hustle culture

- highlights career as the most important aspect of one's life
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Wellness culture

- prioritises mental health and living a healthy lifestyle
- hyperfocused on mental health
- damaging to one's performance

← PERFORMANCE

MENTAL HEALTH →

MILAN IS

U
NESCO

Designated as a UNESCO **Creative City of Literature** and home to Leonardo da Vinci's '**The Last Supper**' a UNESCO World Heritage site.

E
conomy

Financial hub of Italy, home to the **Borsa Italiana** and major international businesses driving international trade and business.

F
ashion

One of the '**Big Four**' fashion capitals, hosting the prestigious Milan Fashion Week influencing the style and culture of people worldwide.

A
rt
rchitecture

Features iconic landmarks such as the **Duomo di Milano** and has a rich artistic heritage with works like '**The Last Supper**' and modern art.

D
esign

Global design capital, known for the annual **Salone del Mobile**, a leading furniture and design fair, making it a global hub for creativity.

S
ports

Hosts both football clubs **AC Milan** and **Inter Milan** uniting people worldwide, and is a key venue for the **2026 Winter Olympics**.

MILAN IS

MILAN IS A CITY OF PERFORMANCE

Thesis Topic Statement

MILAN'S ACADEMIC IDENTITY



Politecnico di Milano

Founded: 1863
Total number of students: 48,000
Total staff number: 3,000
Overall World Rank: 111 (QS 2025)
National Rank: 1 (QS 2025)

Percentage of int. students: 17,2%

World Subjects Rankings:

Architecture/Built Environment: 7
Art&Design: 7
Engineering and Technology: 23



Università degli Studi di Milano Statale

Founded: 1924
Total number of students: 53,000
Total staff number: 3,000
Overall World Rank: 285 (QS 2025)
National Rank: 6 (QS 2025)

Percentage of int. students: 7,1%

World Subjects Rankings:

Dentistry: 28
Sociology: 86
Law: 101-150



Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Founded: 1921
Total number of students: 31,500
Total staff number: 1,184
Overall World Rank: 442 (QS 2025)
National Rank: 14 (QS 2025)

Percentage of int. students: 5,6%

World Subjects Rankings:

Law: 101-150
Psychology: 101-150
Dentistry: 154



Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca

Founded: 1998
Total number of students: 26,000
Total staff number: 3,000
Overall World Rank: 513 (QS 2025)
National Rank: 16 (QS 2025)

Percentage of int. students: 5,0%

World Subjects Rankings:

Physics: 76
Psychology: 151-200
Medicine: 201-250



Università Bocconi

Founded: 1902
Total number of students: 15,000
Total staff number: 3,000
Overall World Rank: #N/A (QS 2025)
National Rank: 19 (QS 2025)

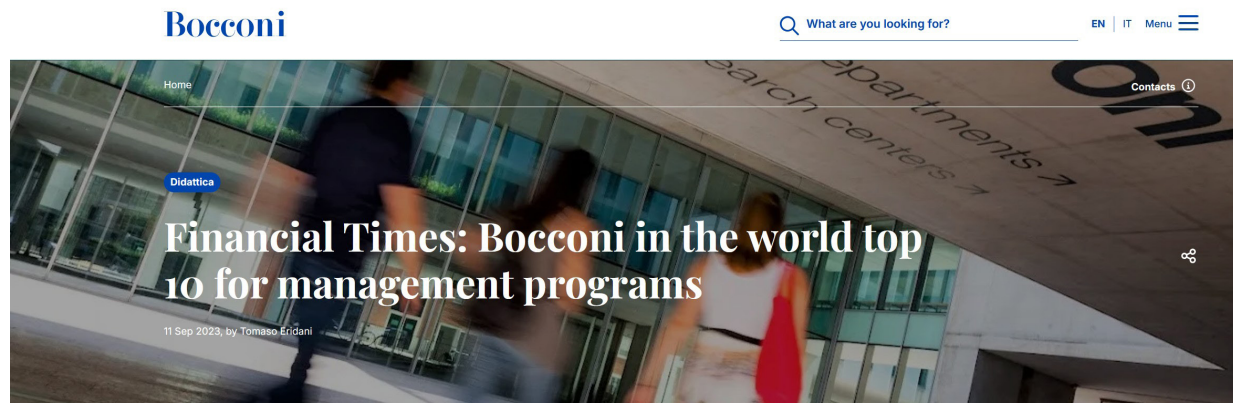
Percentage of int. students: 24,6%

World Subjects Rankings:

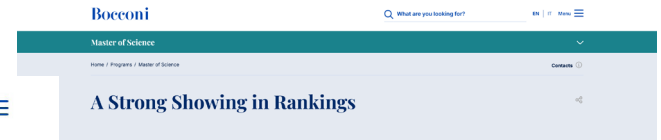
Business and Management: 7
Marketing: 8
Social Sciences and Management: 14

Thesis Topic Statement

UNIVERSITY RANKING CRITERIA



The Master in International Management climbs 12 positions to 8th place in the FT's 2023 ranking of the world's best programs. Bocconi first in the world for sustainability goals of its campus

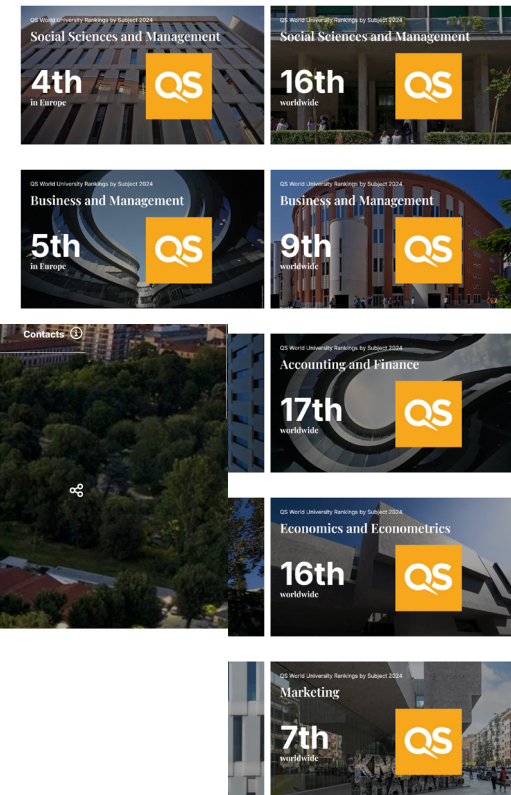


A Top 5 European University
Bocconi is an institution with a long tradition as a qualified teaching and research university, as demonstrated by improving placements in top international rankings.

Financial Times Rankings



QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024



The program takes the podium in the Financial Times ranking. Return on investment, attention to sustainability and quality of teaching are the factors behind this uptick

Thesis Topic Statement

UNIVERSITY RANKING CRITERIA



World University Rankings 2024 Methodology

DEFINITIONS

academic performance

/ə'kædəmɪk pər'fɔ:rməns/

noun

1. The level of success and accomplishments attained by students in their educational pursuits. It encompasses a range of outcomes, including grades, test scores, academic awards, completion of coursework, and participation in extracurricular activities.

UNIVERSITIES ENHANCING PERFORMANCE



Thesis Topic Statement

PROBLEM STATEMENT

In study made on students in Italy in 2020 by Porru et al.

“78.5% of the respondents experienced psychological distress, of which 21.3% mild, 21.1% moderate, and 36.1% severe levels.”

(Porru et al., 2020, p. 955)



DEFINITIONS

academic performance

/ə'kædəmɪk pər'fɔ:rməns/

noun

1. The level of success and accomplishments attained by students in their educational pursuits. It encompasses a range of outcomes, including grades, test scores, academic awards, completion of coursework, and participation in extracurricular activities.

sustainable academic performance

/sə'steɪnəbl ə'kædəmɪk pər'fɔ:rməns/

noun

1. A consistent level of academic performance that can be maintained over time without compromising mental health or well-being, allowing for a healthy balance between educational pursuits and personal life.

**HOW CAN THE DESIGN OF THE FUTURE ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY BUILDING ENHANCE SUSTAINABLE
ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE?**

THE BUILDING WITHIN THE CITY



Creating a learning oasis in a burning Milan

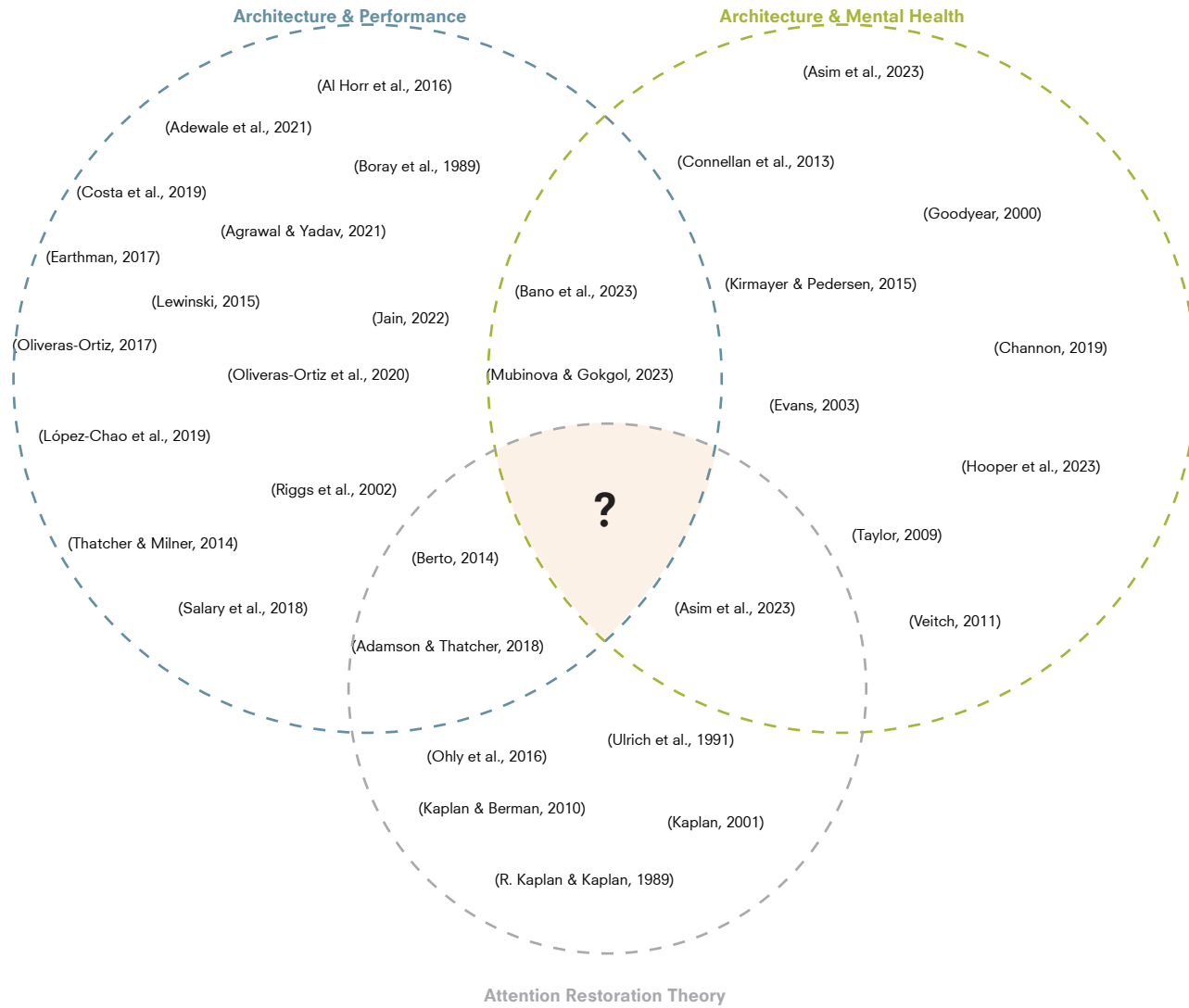
Ambition

AMBITION COLLAGE

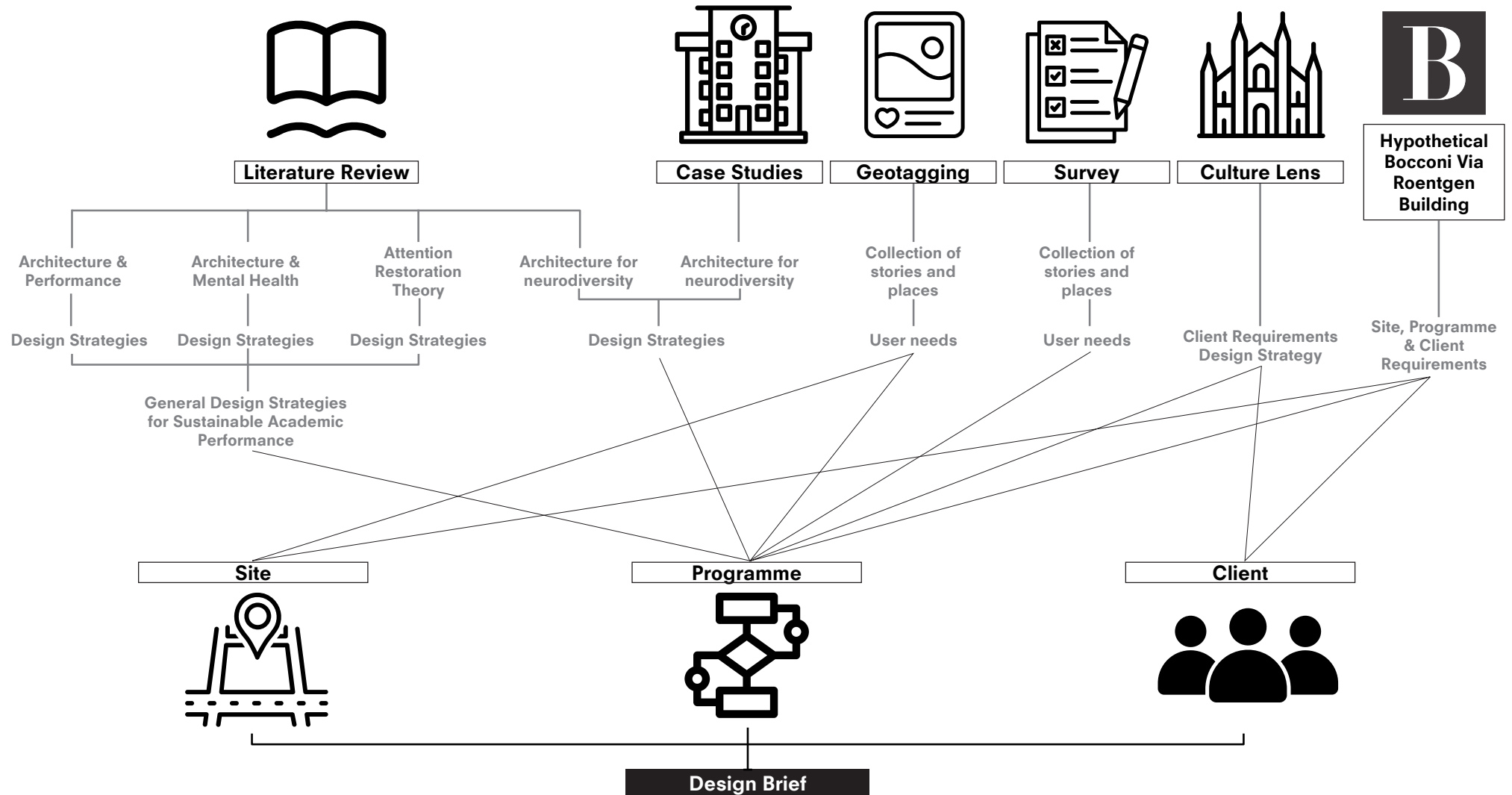


Strategy

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK



Strategy METHODOLOGY



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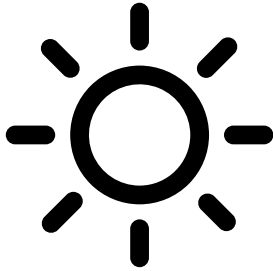
Thesis Topic & Milan
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DESIGN BRIEF

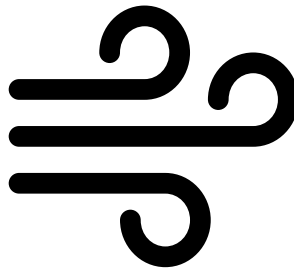
Site
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CONCLUSION

ARCHITECTURE & PERFORMANCE



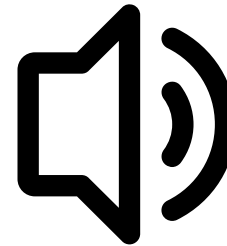
Natural light



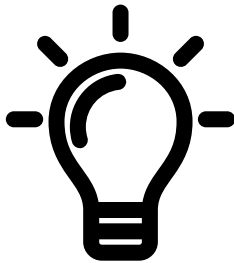
Air Quality



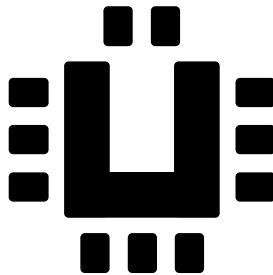
Thermal Comfort



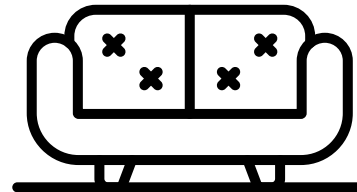
Noise levels



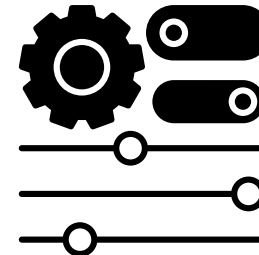
Increased light



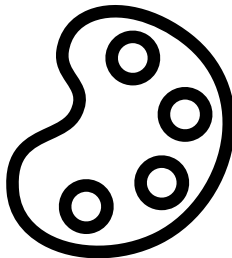
Seat Arrangement



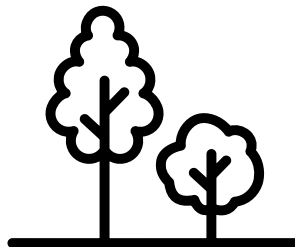
Comfort



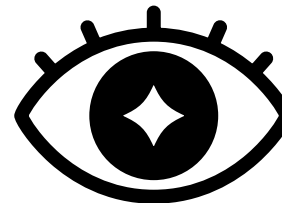
Level of Control



Colours

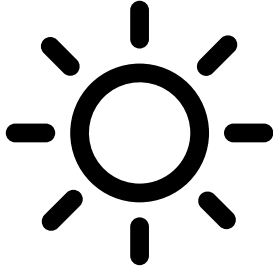


Greenery

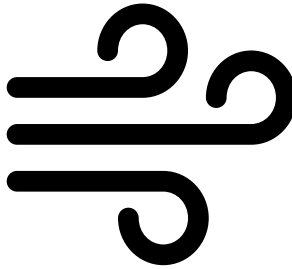


Aesthetics

ARCHITECTURE & MENTAL HEALTH



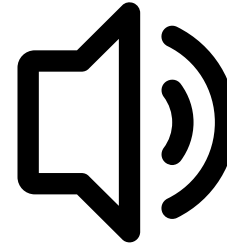
Natural light



Air Quality



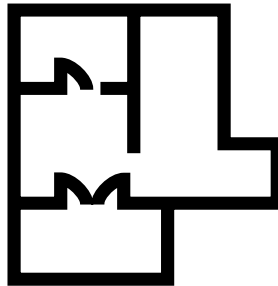
Thermal Comfort



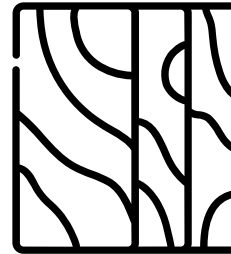
Noise levels



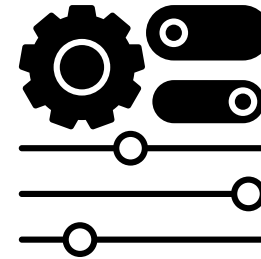
Spaces for solitude



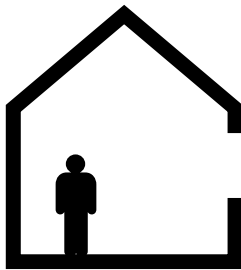
Layout and legibility



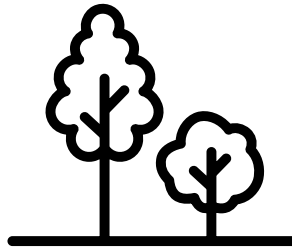
Natural Materials



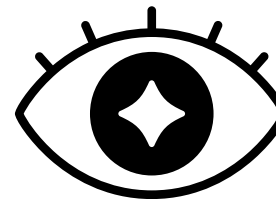
Level of Control



High ceilings

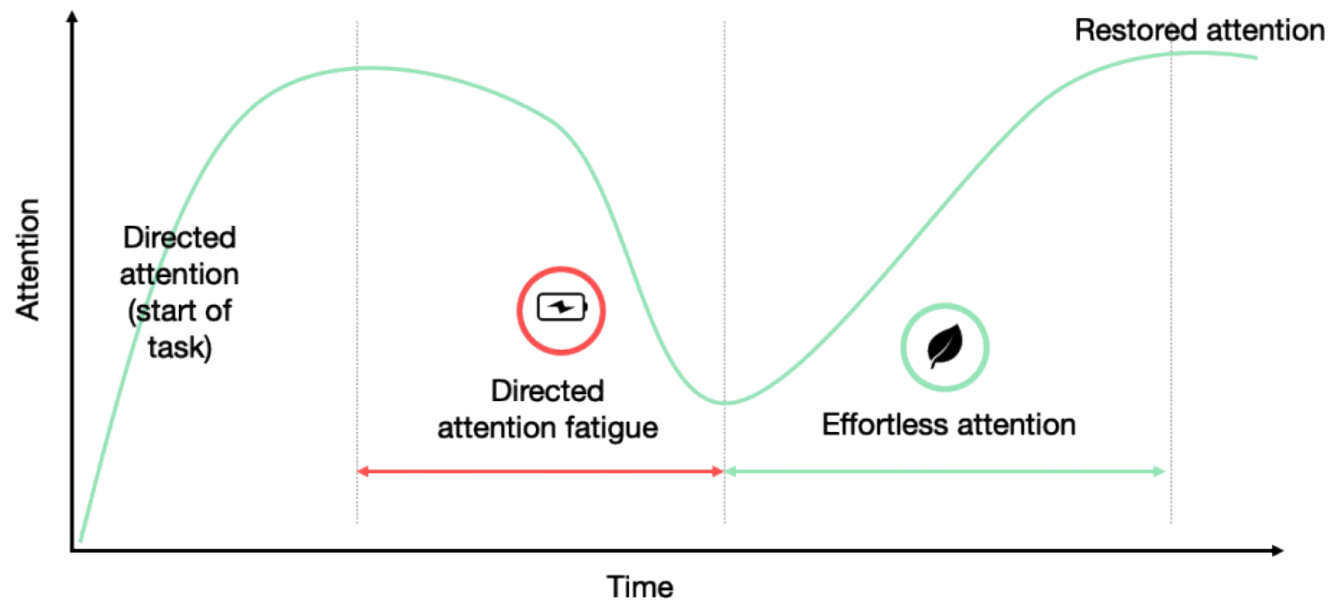


Greenery



Aesthetics

ATTENTION RESTORATION THEORY



Kaplan S. The restorative benefits of nature: Toward an integrative framework. *J Environ Psychol.* 1995;15(3):169–82.

Thesis Topic

THE FOUNTAIN

Culture

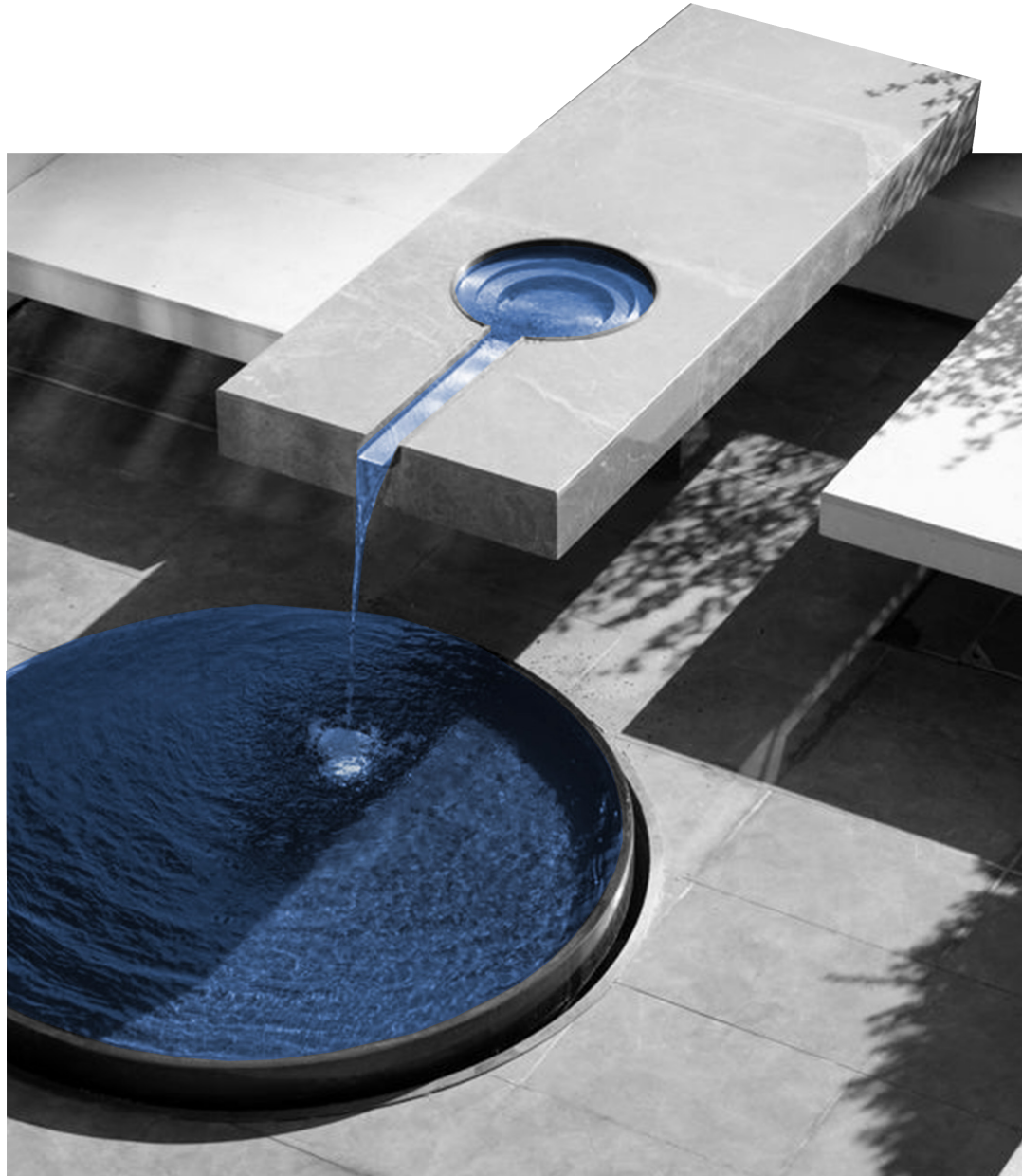
Duality of stillness and motion in the fast | slow-paced environment of Milan

Building

Learning oasis in a burning Milan

Identity

Milan as the "City of Waters"



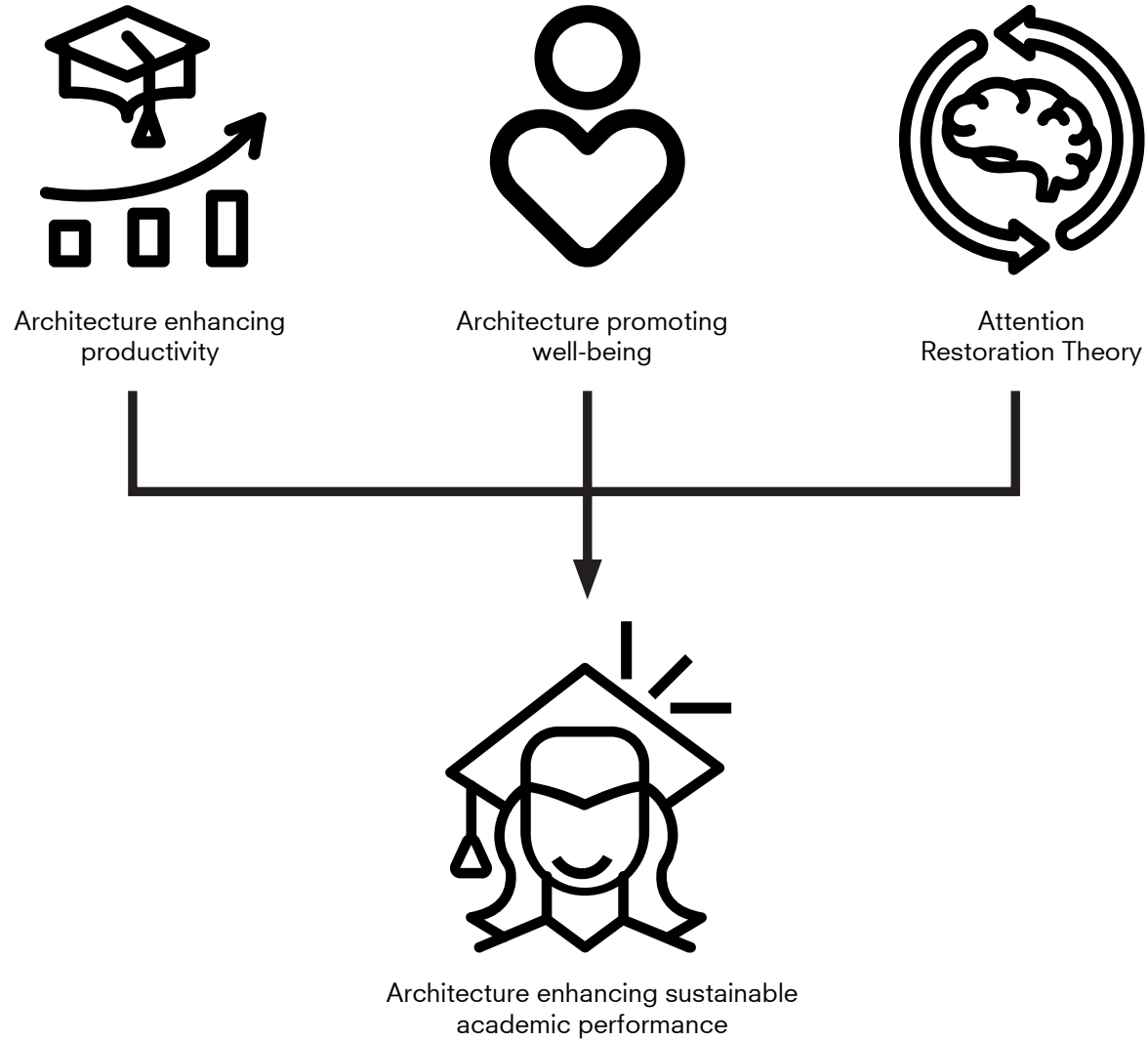
Topic

Attention
Restoration Theory

Nanjing Jiujiangtang Private Courtyard | J+S Studio

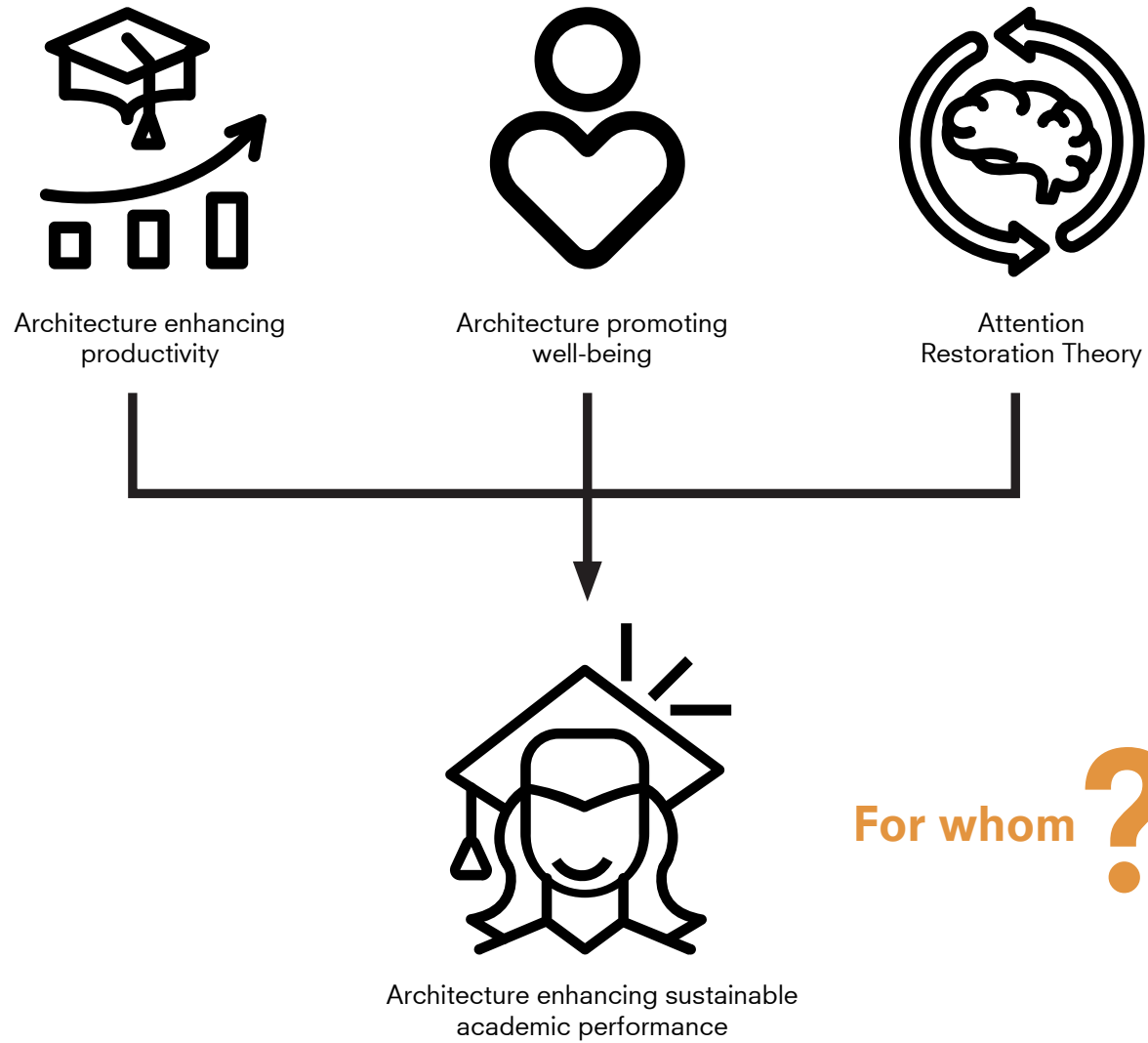
Thesis Topic

APPROACH

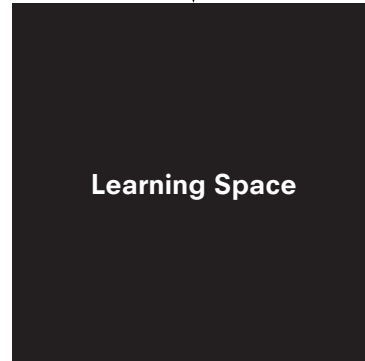
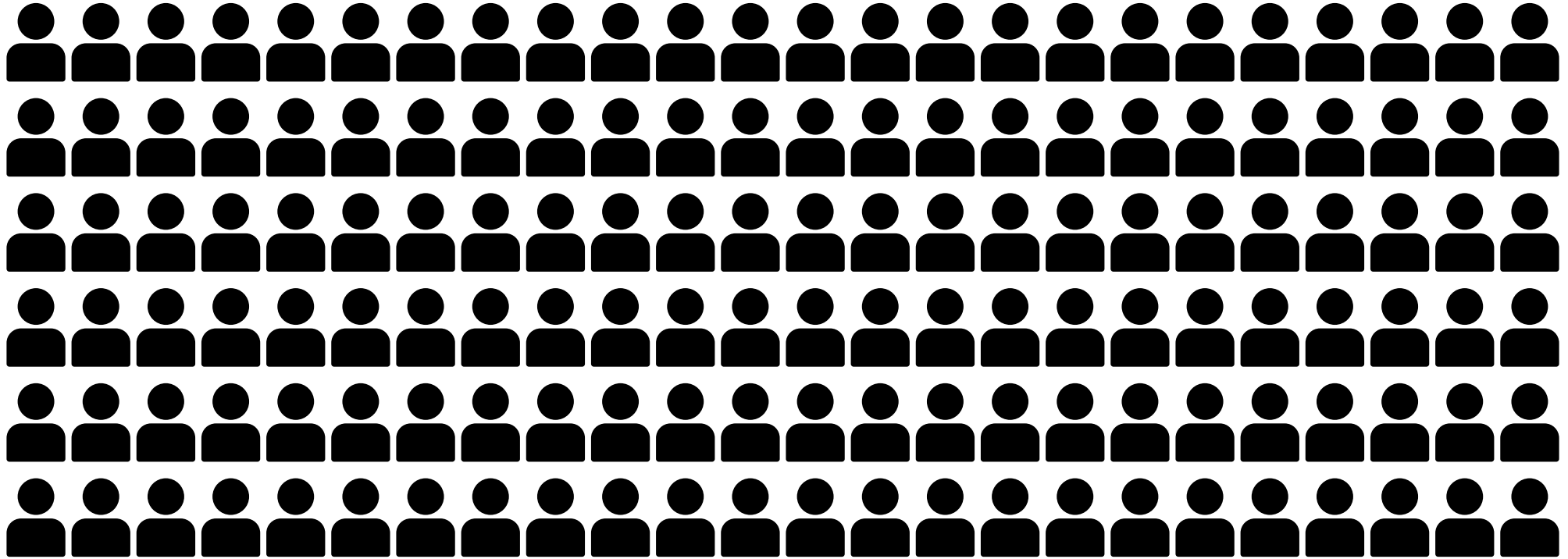


Thesis Topic

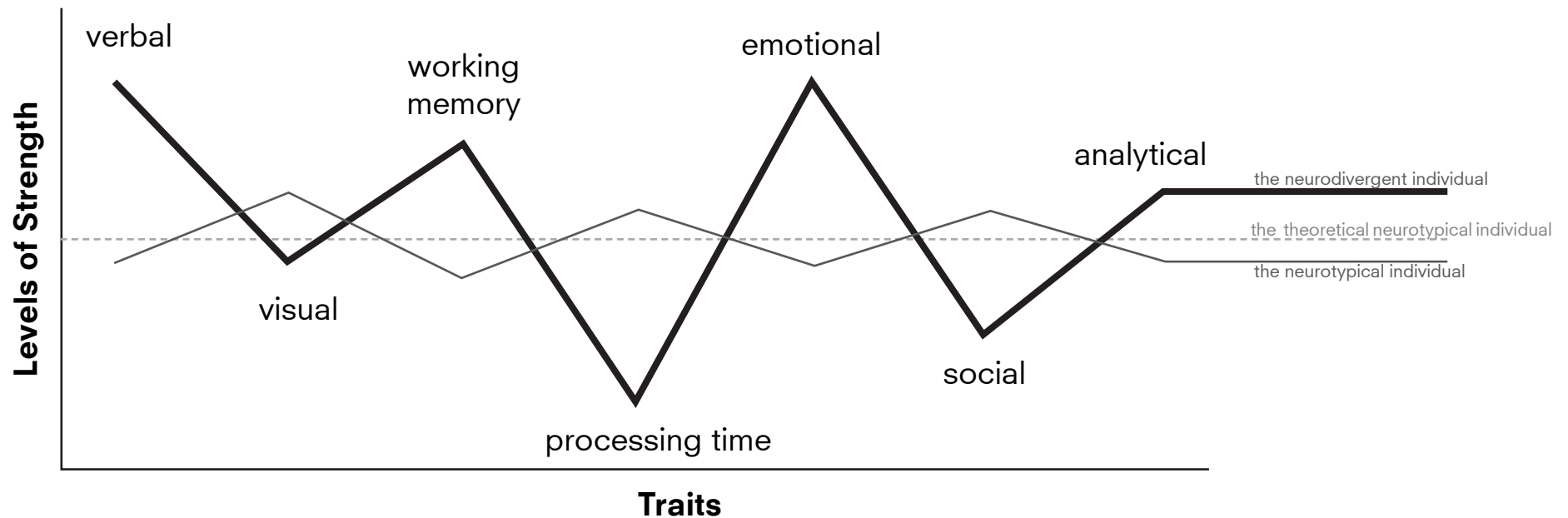
APPROACH



CURRENT APPROACH



ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND NEURODIVERSITY



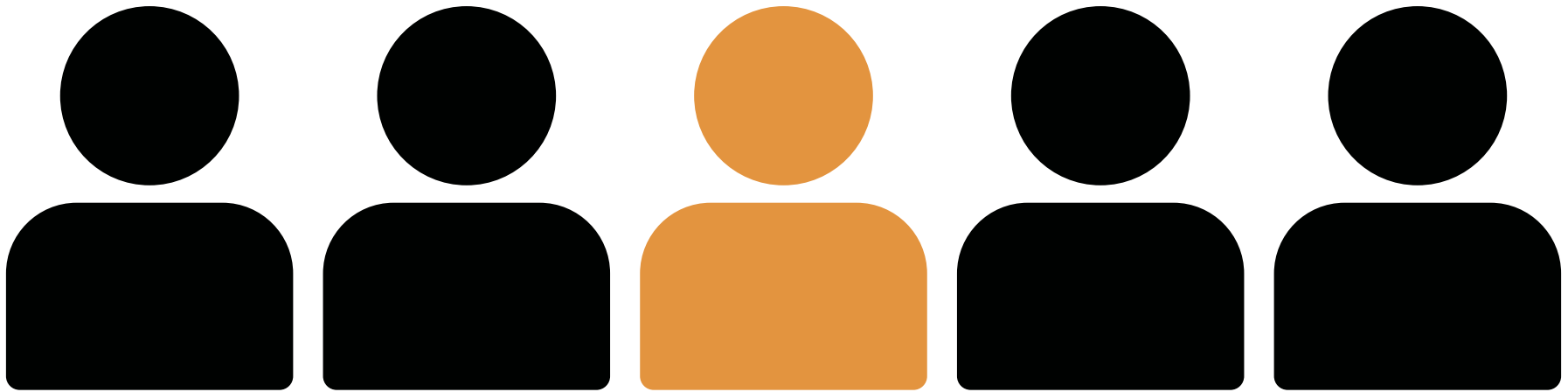
A common visual representation of neurodiversity (e.g., Doyle et al., 2020)

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND NEURODIVERSITY

“Neurotypical refers to the majority of the human population that exhibits common, typical neuronal phenotypes that fall close to the mean of the Gaussian. Neurodivergent refers to a minority of the population that express statistically less common (atypical) neuronal and cognitive phenotypes that fall at the tails of the Gaussian distribution”

(Goldberg, 2023, p. 974)

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND NEURODIVERSITY



Around 20% of the population is neurodivergent

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND NEURODIVERSITY



**But one does not have to be neurodivergent to have
different abilities and needs**

CURRENT APPROACH



Learning Space

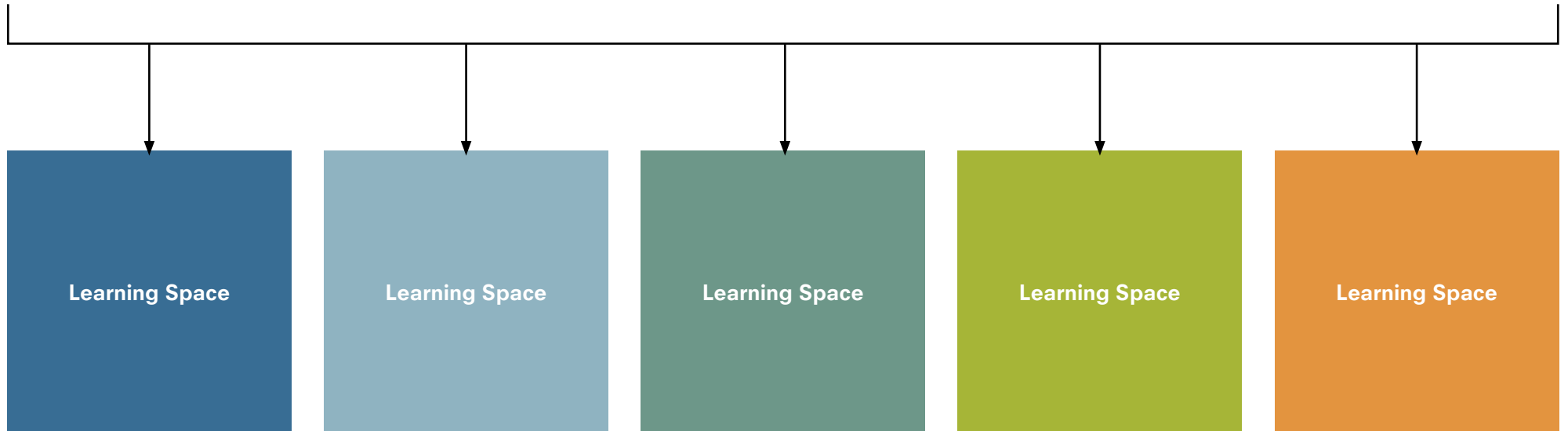
Thesis Topic

TOPIC COLLAGE



**"When a flower doesn't bloom, you fix the environment in which it grows, not the flower."
Alexander Den Heijer**

PROPOSED APPROACH



INDIVIDUALISED LEARNING SPACES



Francisco Giner de los Ríos Foundation | Amid Cero9 | 2015

SUB QUESTION

**TO WHAT EXTENT CAN LEARNING SPACES BE
INDIVIDUALIZED TO MEET THE DIVERSE NEEDS
OF USERS WHILE MAINTAINING PROGRAMMATIC
EFFICIENCY?**

Applicability in Milan

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE LOOK LIKE IN MILAN?

IS THIS MILAN?

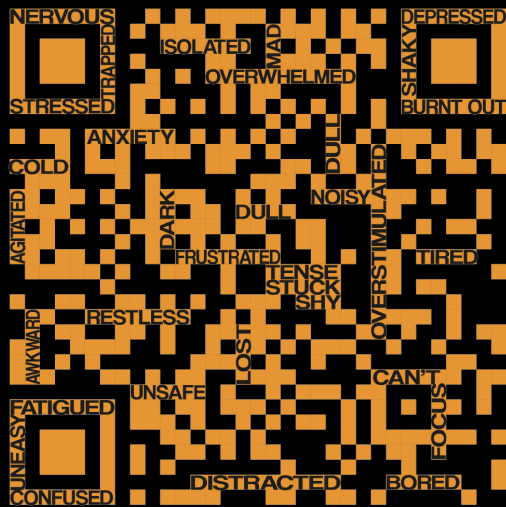


HOW DO YOU REALLY FEEL ABOUT BOCCONI?



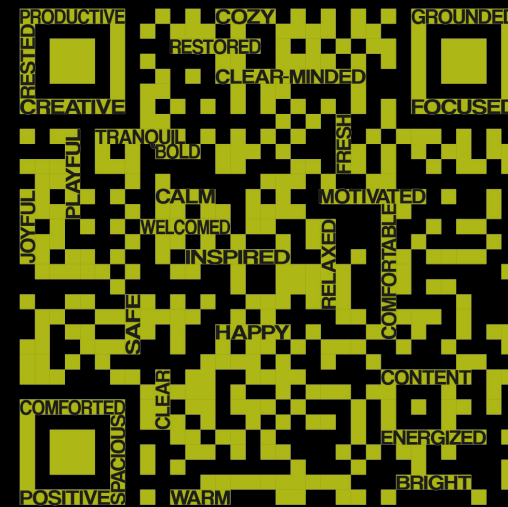
HOW DO YOU REALLY FEEL ABOUT BOCCONI?

- HOW DO YOU **REALLY** FEEL ABOUT BOCCONI?



Hi, I'm Ana and I'm an architecture master student at TU Delft investigating in my master thesis the relationship between the Bocconi Via Roentgen Building and your productivity/ performance and mental health- what works, what can be done better and what you actually need from an university building.

- HOW DO YOU **REALLY** FEEL ABOUT BOCCONI?



Hi, I'm Ana and I'm an architecture master student at TU Delft investigating in my master thesis the relationship between the Bocconi Via Roentgen Building and your productivity/ performance and mental health- what works, what can be done better and what you actually need from an university building.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

In your opinion, does the learning/ working space affect your **mental health**?

YES
70%

NOT SURE
22%

NO
8%

In your opinion, does the learning/ working space affect your **ability to focus**?

YES

67%

NOT SURE

17%

NO

16%

HOW DO YOU REALLY FEEL ABOUT BOCCONI? -STUDENTS-

100%

of the respondents from Bachelor and Master said that they **never** go to the Via Roentgen Building unless there is an event in the Aula Magna

of the respondents said that there are **not enough** learning spaces at Bocconi University

HOW DO YOU FIND THE STUDYING SPACES AT BOCCONI?

HOW DO YOU REALLY FEEL ABOUT BOCCONI?

“There’s not enough space. During exam sessions the library opens at 8:30 and **at 7:50 there is already a queue going outside.**”

Student #6

HOW DO YOU REALLY FEEL ABOUT BOCCONI?



"I only go to the library **in the night**. Otherwise, **I can't focus**. there's too much **noise**, too many people walking around"

Student #10

HOW DO YOU REALLY FEEL ABOUT BOCCONI?

“I actually study quite well in the library, **the noise doesn't really bother me**, and there's enough light. But there are **not enough group studying spaces**. Also, we need to work a lot in big groups and there are only a few separate spaces for it”

Student #11

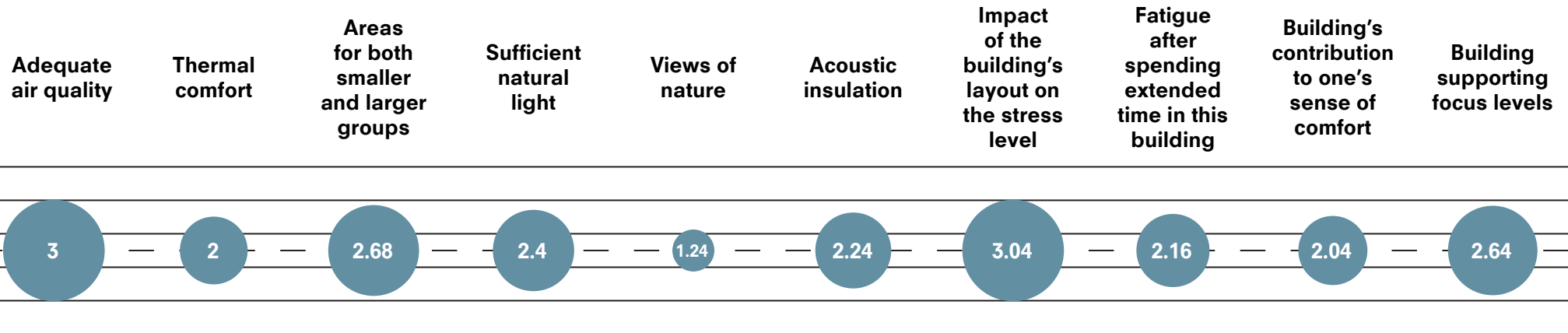
HOW DO YOU REALLY FEEL ABOUT BOCCONI?

There's just no space here

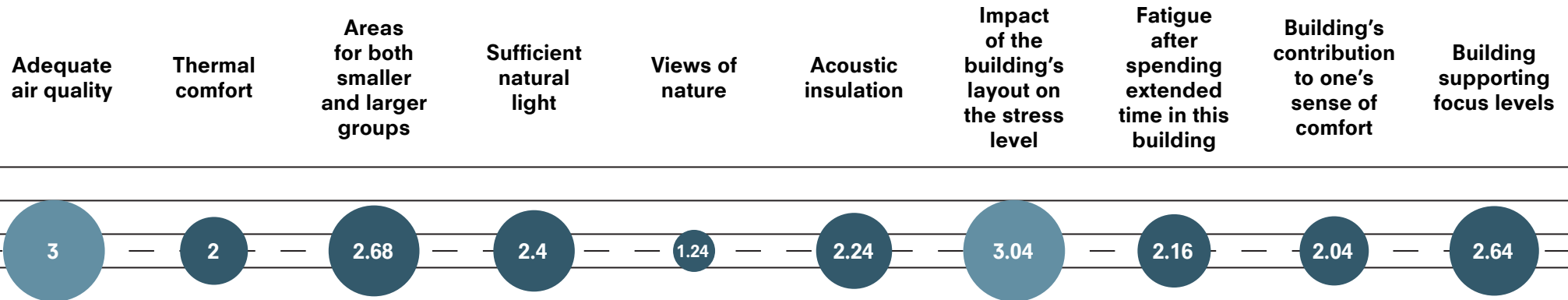
"The campus is quite small.[...]We only have two or three buildings for **classrooms** and usually they are very busy. It's **almost impossible to find a place to study alone**"

Student #5

VIA ROENTGEN THROUGH THE EYES OF THE USERS

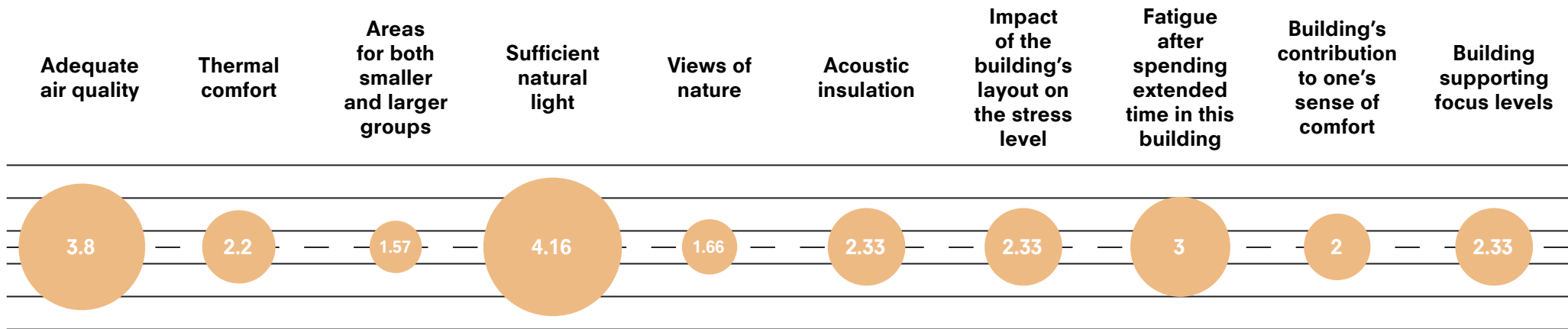


VIA ROENTGEN THROUGH THE EYES OF THE USERS



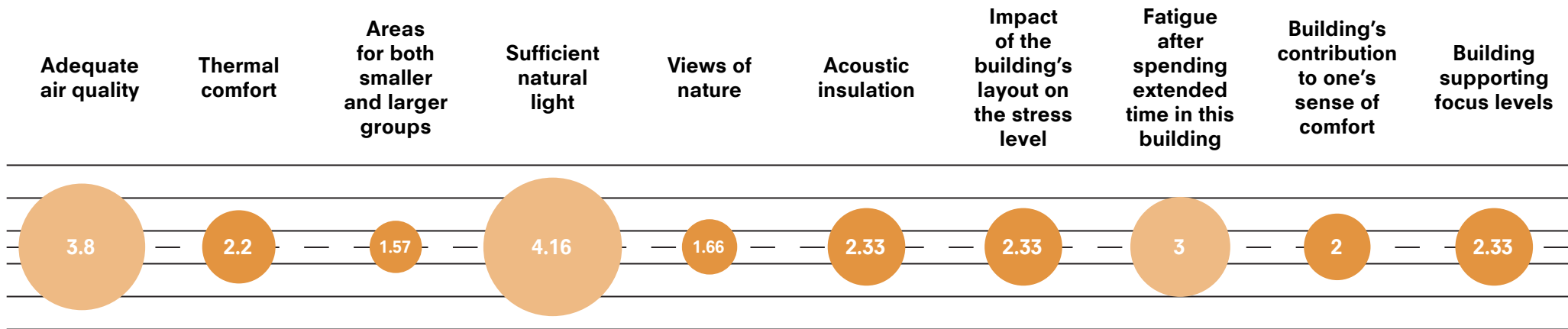
Survey Analysis

BOCCONI LIBRARY THROUGH THE EYES OF THE USERS



Survey Analysis

BOCCONI LIBRARY THROUGH THE EYES OF THE USERS



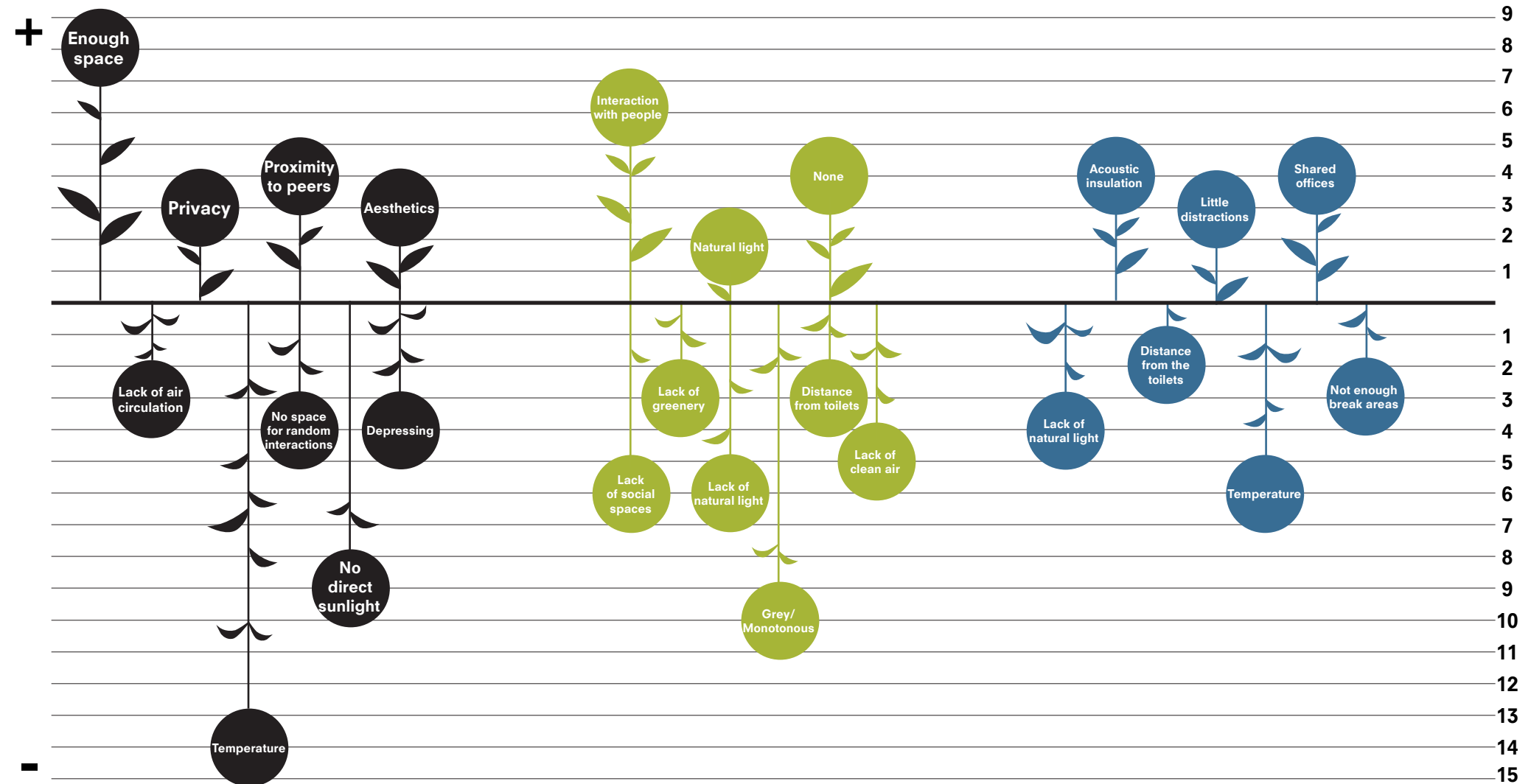
Survey Analysis

BOCCONI LIBRARY THROUGH THE EYES OF THE USERS

What do you like/dislike about the most about the learning/working space?

What aspects of the building affect positively/negatively your **mental health**?

What aspects of the building's design support/hinder your **focus** the most?



UNIVERSITY LANDSCAPE IN ITALY



Italy

90 universities
2,100,000 students
83,000 international students

UNIVERSITY LANDSCAPE IN LOMBARDY



Lombardy

17 universities
260,000 students
26,000 international students

UNIVERSITY LANDSCAPE IN MILAN



Milan

14 universities
211,000 students
14,000 international students

UNIVERSITY LANDSCAPE IN MILAN

26,000 international students in Lombardy

Where do most international students in Lombardy come from?



Romania

11,239 students



Albania

8,357 students



China

8,053 students

UNIVERSITY LANDSCAPE IN MILAN



Thesis Topic & Milan

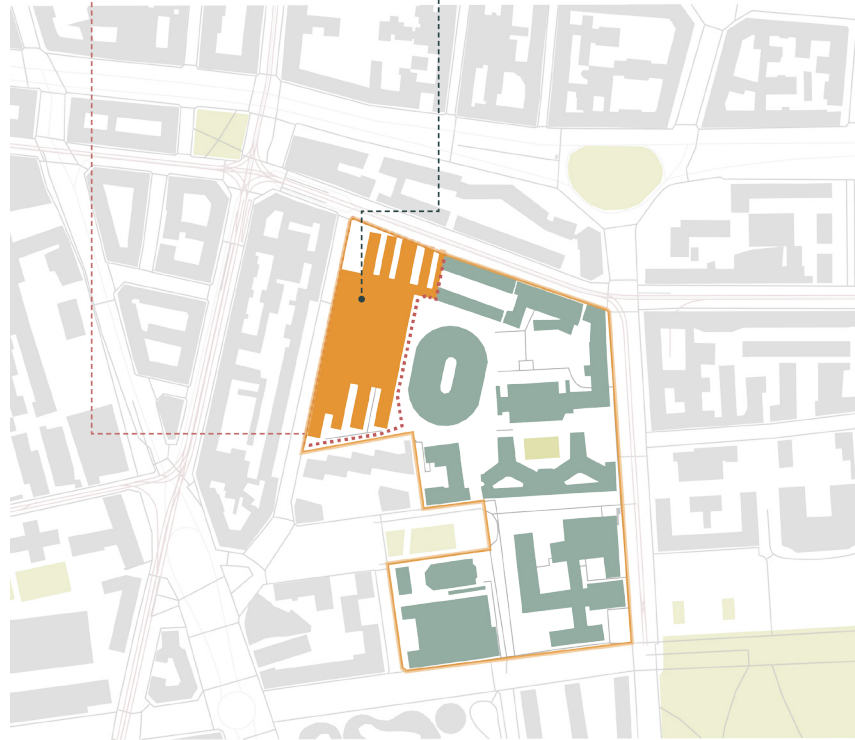
BOCCONI UNIVERSITY OVERVIEW

Grafton Architects, 2008

Client: Università Luigi Bocconi, Nicolo Di Blasi
Area: 45.000 m2 | 65.000 m2 including parking spaces
School of Economics

Università Bocconi Campus
15.000 Students
1.700 Staff

Designed as a “grand place of exchange”
Its materiality reflects the character of the city



Programme:

Aula Magna (1.000 seats)
Exhibition space 500 sqm
Library
Cafe bar
Lecture halls
Info point

Foyer area 2.500 sqm
Working places - 1.240
Offices - 731
Meeting rooms- 34
Conference spaces
Rooms for IT equipment - 11
Coffee/break rooms - 8

Commercial units
Car parking spaces 180

BOCCONI UNIVERSITY OVERVIEW



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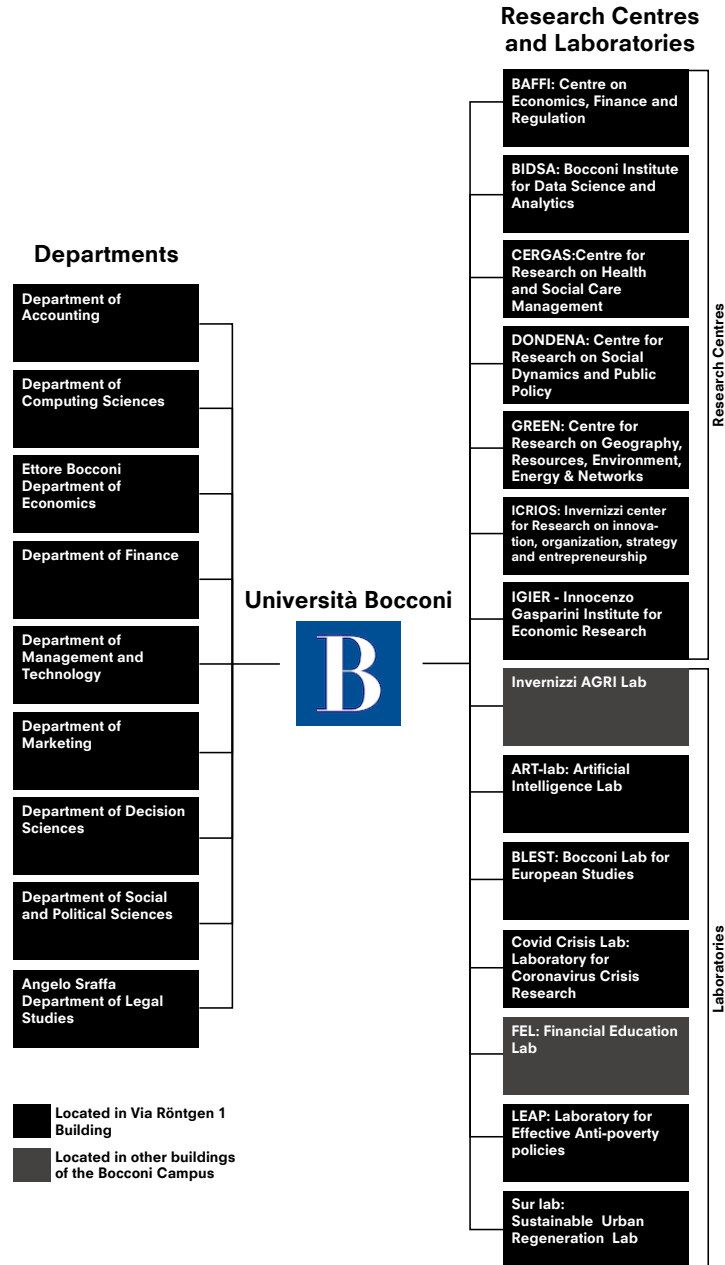
World Subjects Rankings:

Business and Management: 7

Marketing: 8

Social Sciences and Management: 14

BOCCONI VIA ROENTGEN BUILDING



Thesis Topic & Milan

EXISTING PROGRAMME

Staff

Students

Public

9 Departments

Individual per department

Office
Coffee Spaces
Break Area
Meeting Rooms
Server Rooms

Common Spaces

Rooms for IT Equipment
Storage Area
Toilets

7 Research Centres

Individual per research centre

Office
Coffee Spaces
Break Area
Meeting Rooms
Server/Database Rooms
Data Analysis Lab

Common Spaces

Rooms for IT Equipment
Storage Area
Toilets

7 Laboratories

Individual per laboratory

Office
Coffee Spaces
Break Area
Meeting Rooms
Laboratories
Data Analysis Lab

Common Spaces

Rooms for IT Equipment
Storage Area
Toilets

Lecture Halls
Cafeteria
Toilets

Info Point
Commercial Units
Foyer
Exhibition Space
Aula Magna

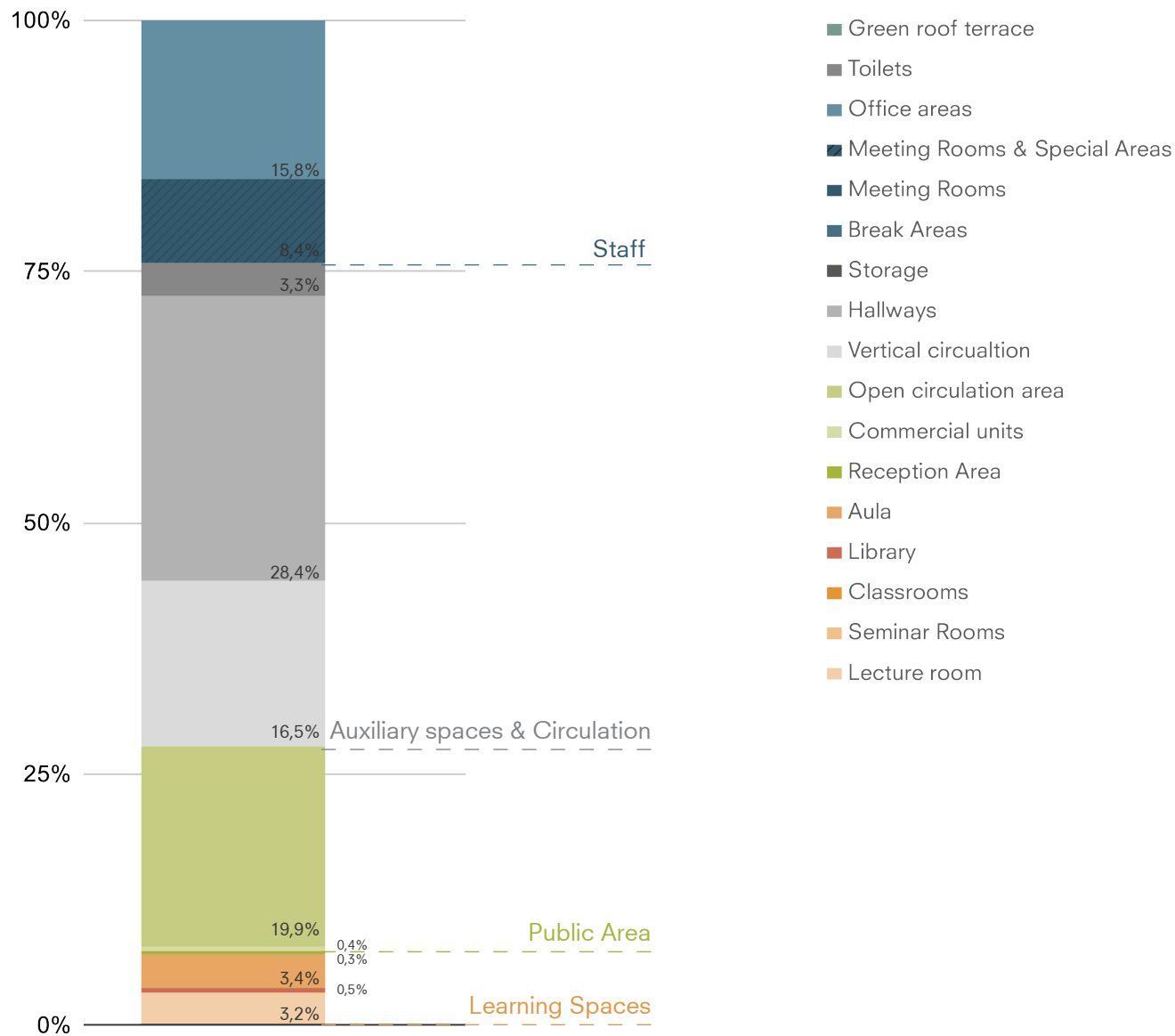
Bike Parking
Car Parking

Medical Centre
Community Kitchen

Library
Circulation Spaces

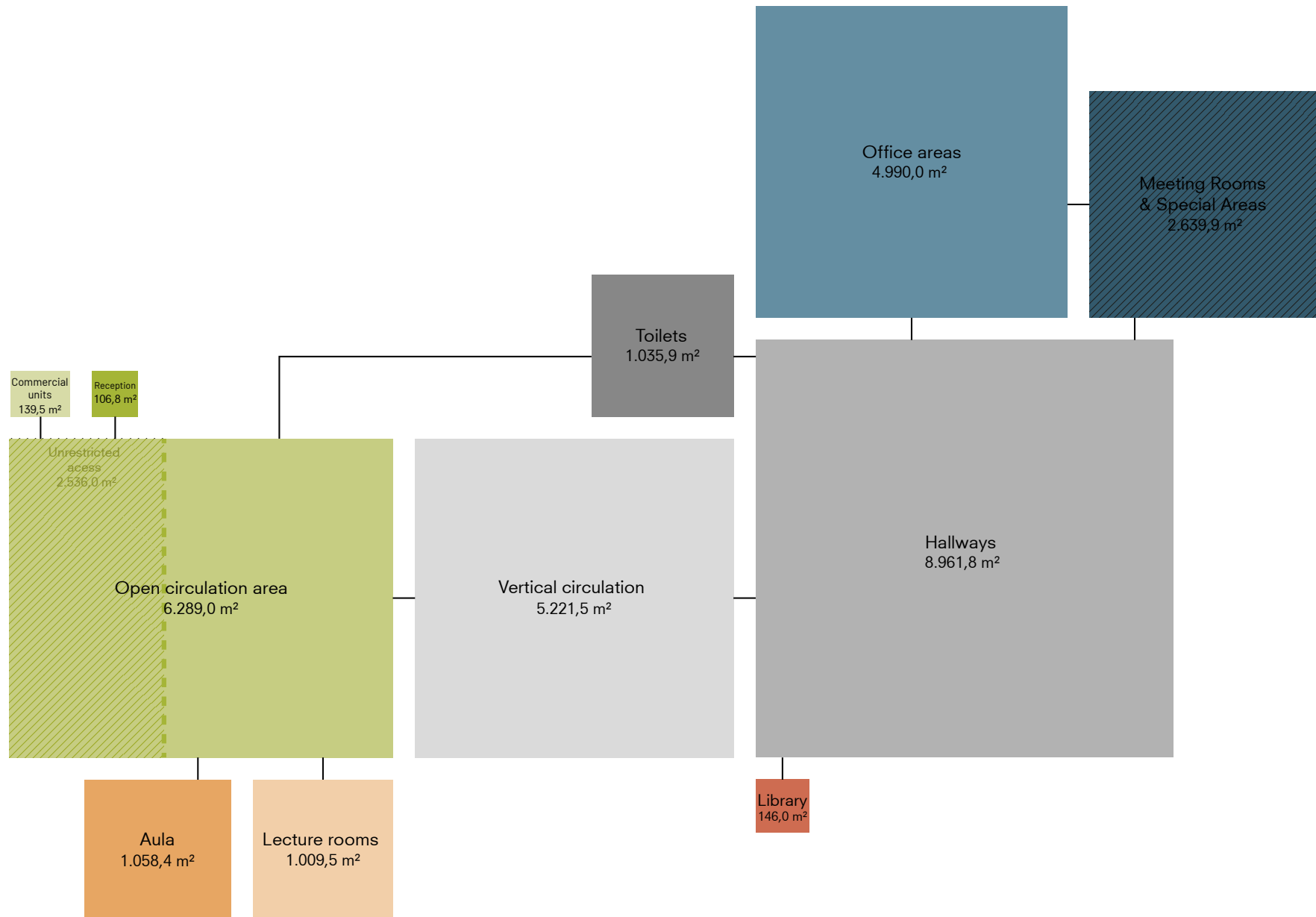
Thesis Topic & Milan

EXISTING PROGRAMME



Thesis Topic & Milan

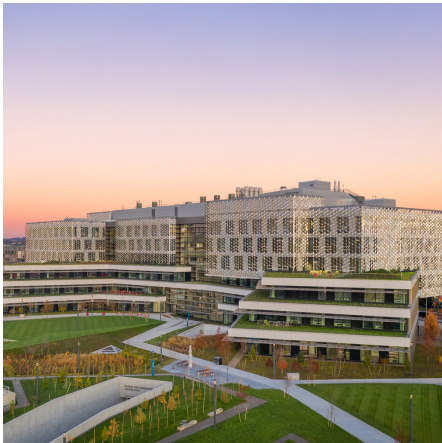
EXISTING PROGRAMME



Given Typology

CASE STUDIES

Harvard University Science and Engineering Complex



Behnisch Architekten | 2021

50500 m²

Michael Kirby Building Macquarie University



Hassell studio | 2023

8500 m²

Via Roentgen Building, Università Luigi Bocconi

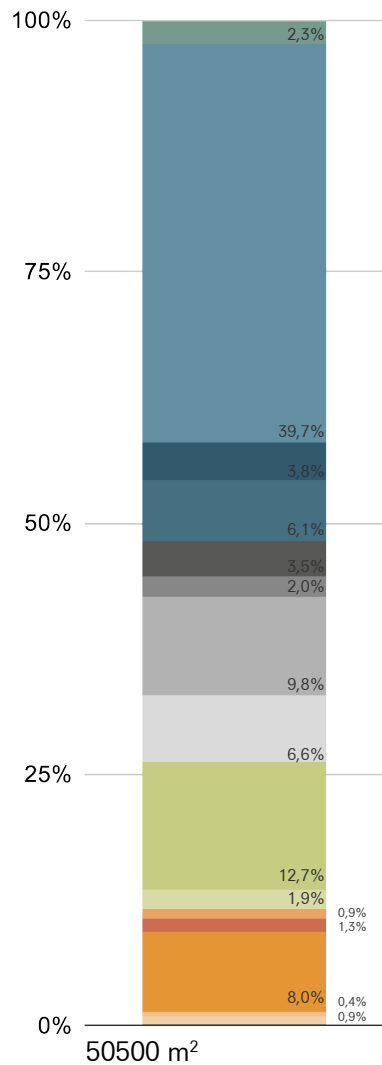


Grafton Architects | 2008

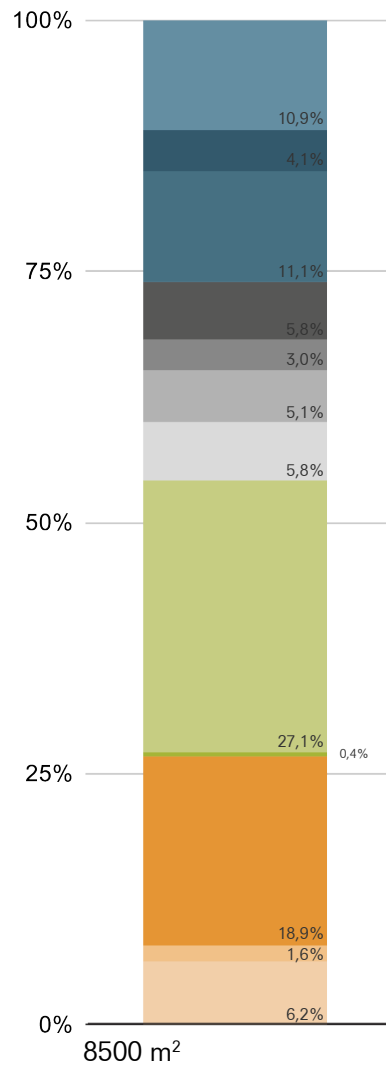
45000 m²

Given Typology

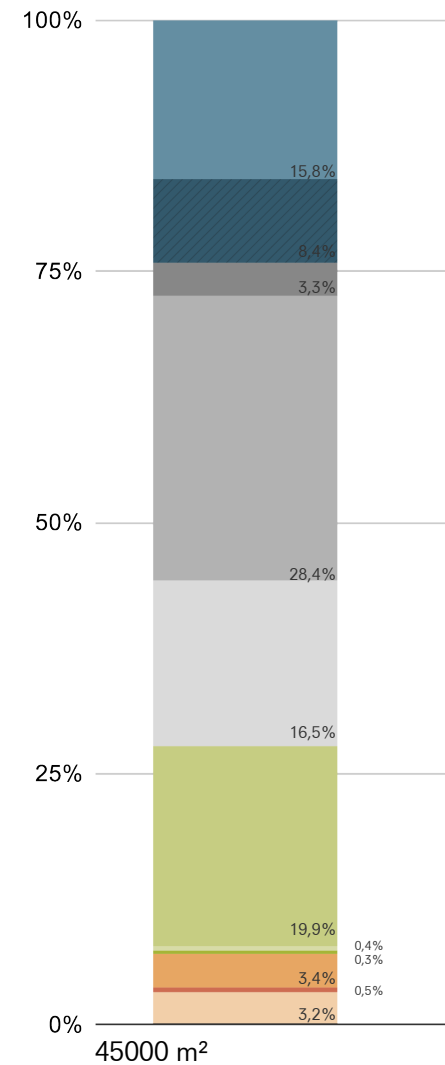
PROGRAMME COMPARISON



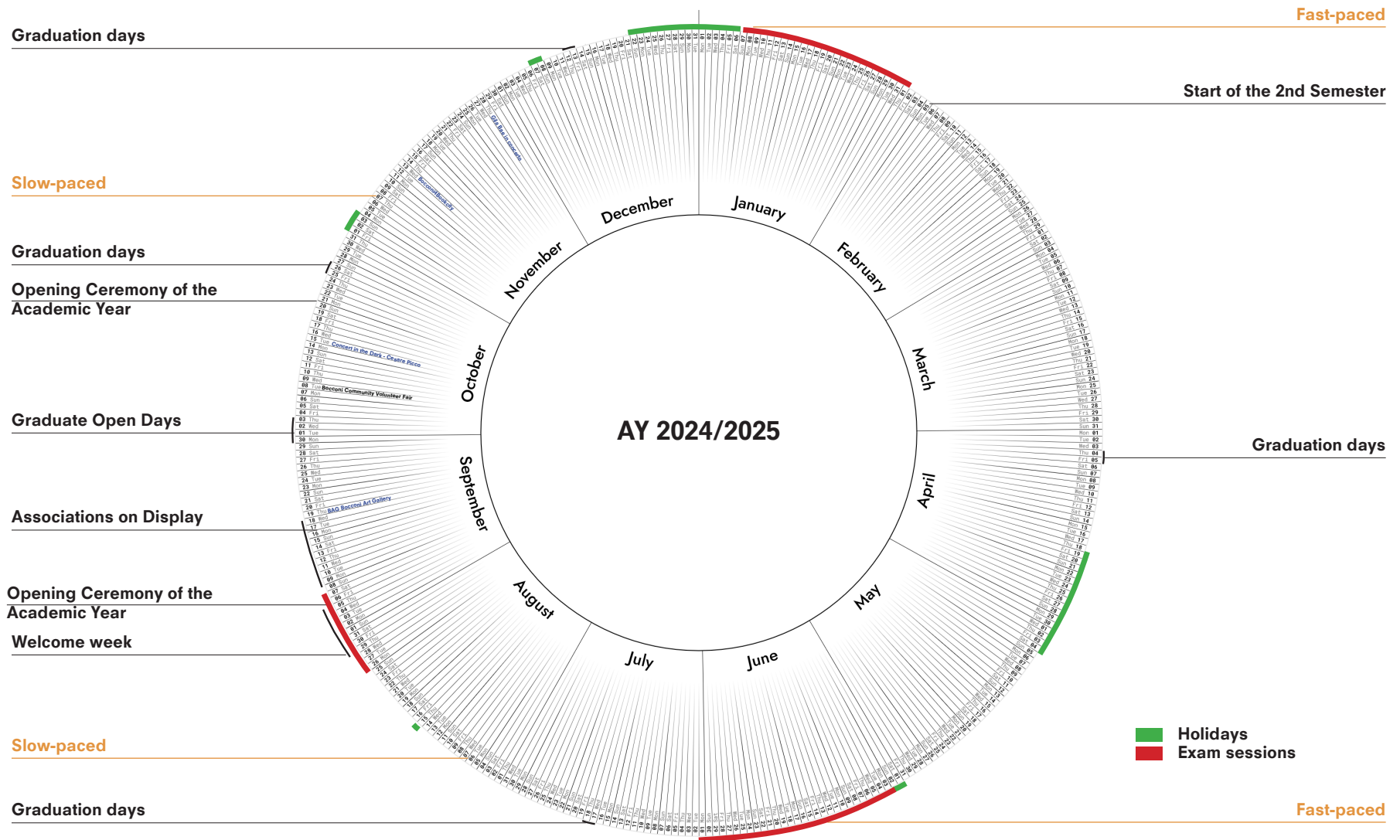
Harvard University Science and Engineering Complex



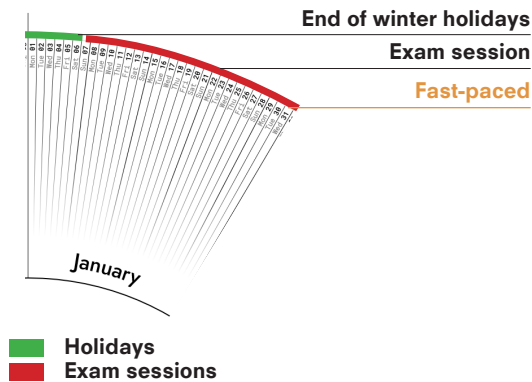
Michael Kirby Building Macquarie University



Via Roentgen Building, Università Luigi Bocconi

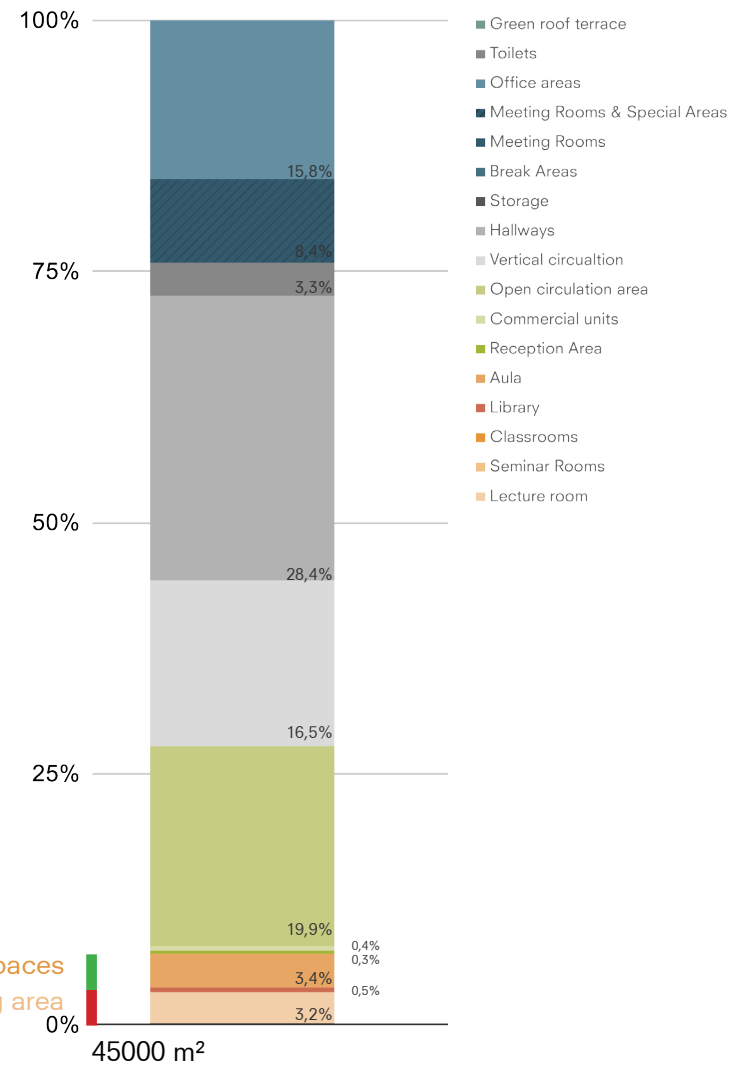


BOCCONI UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC CALENDAR



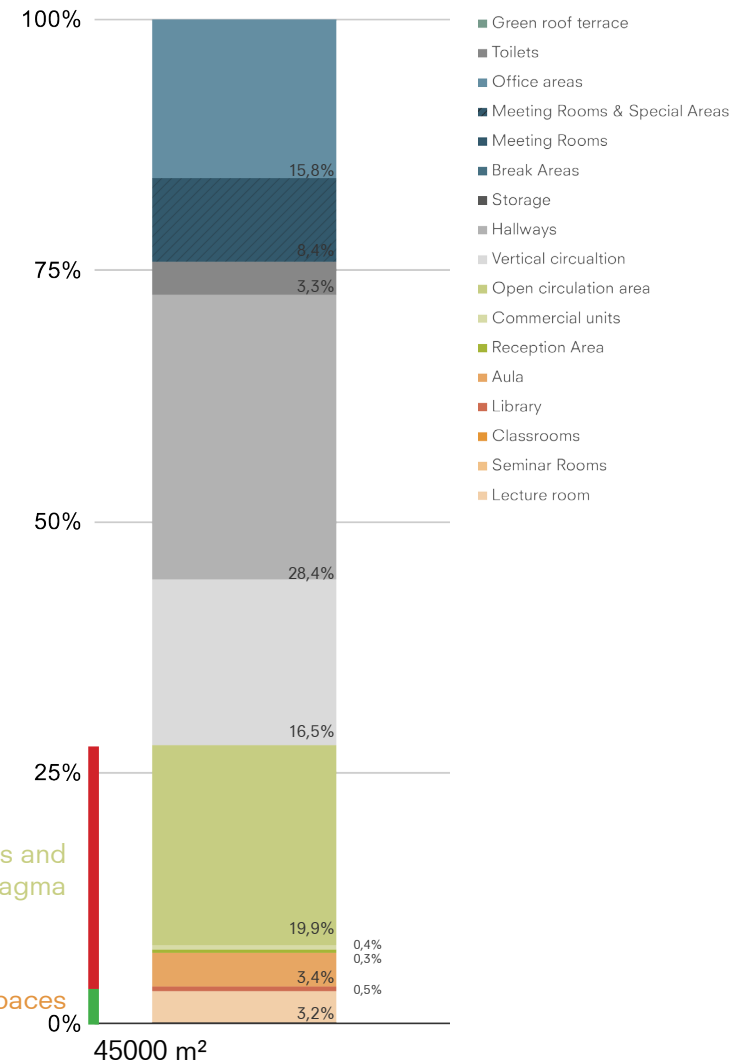
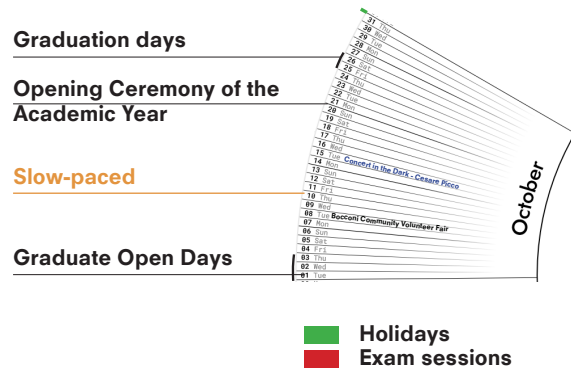
Available event spaces

Increased pressure on learning area



Via Roentgen Building, Università
Luigi Bocconi

BOCCONI UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC CALENDAR



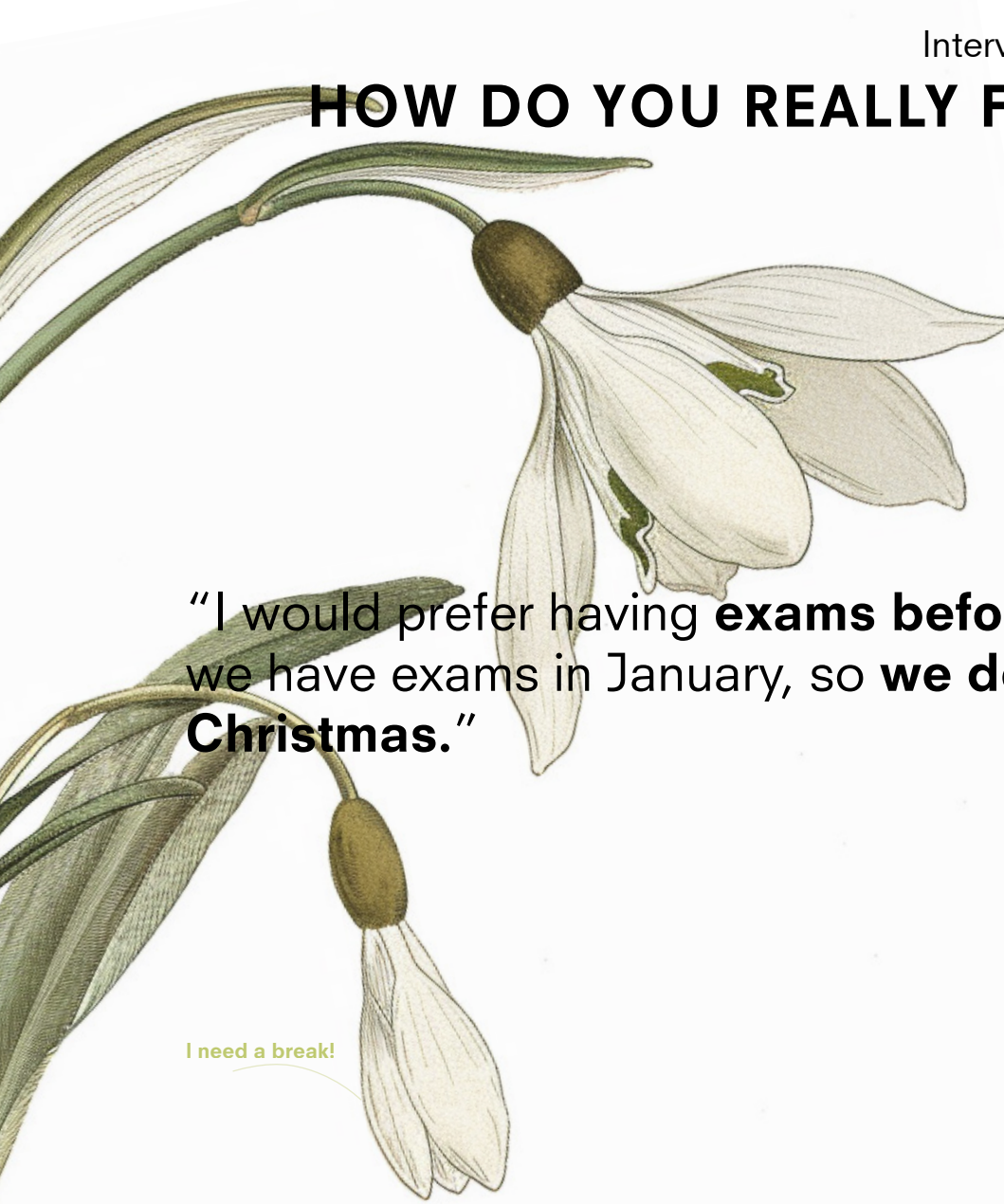
Increased pressure on public areas and Aula Magma

Available learning spaces

Via Roentgen Building, Università Luigi Bocconi

**“WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE BOCCONI
ACADEMIC CALENDAR?”**

HOW DO YOU REALLY FEEL ABOUT BOCCONI?

A detailed botanical illustration of two snowdrops (Galanthus nivalis). One flower is in full bloom, showing its six white petals and green stamens. The other is a bud, still partially covered by its protective green sepal. The leaves are long, narrow, and green.

"I would prefer having **exams before the winter break**. Because now we have exams in January, so **we don't really have a break during Christmas.**"

Student #13

I need a break!

HOW DO YOU REALLY FEEL ABOUT BOCCONI?

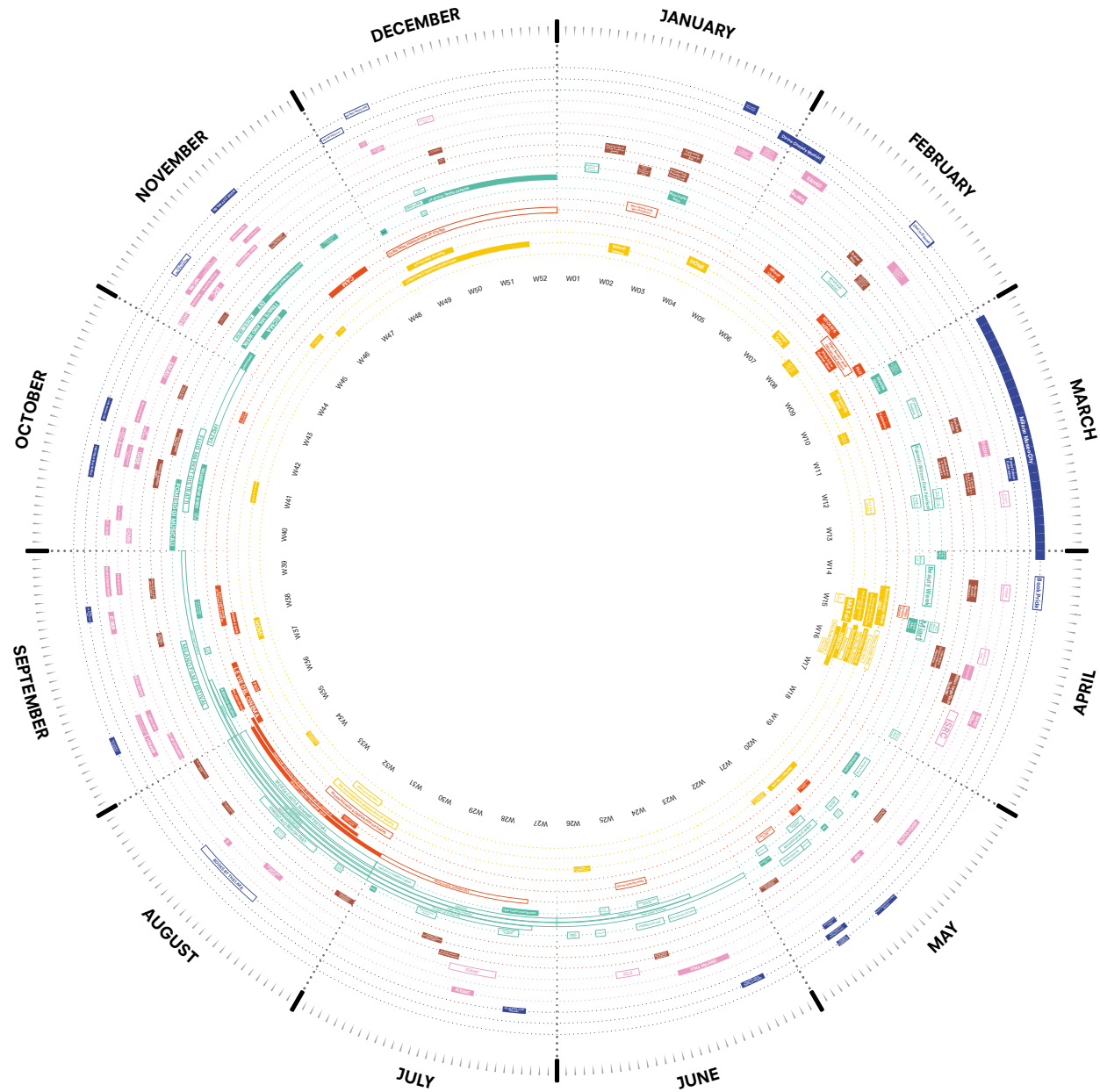
This is all too stressful



“I would love to have **more possible dates** for the exams, so there is **more flexibility** and less stress on the students. ”

Student #16

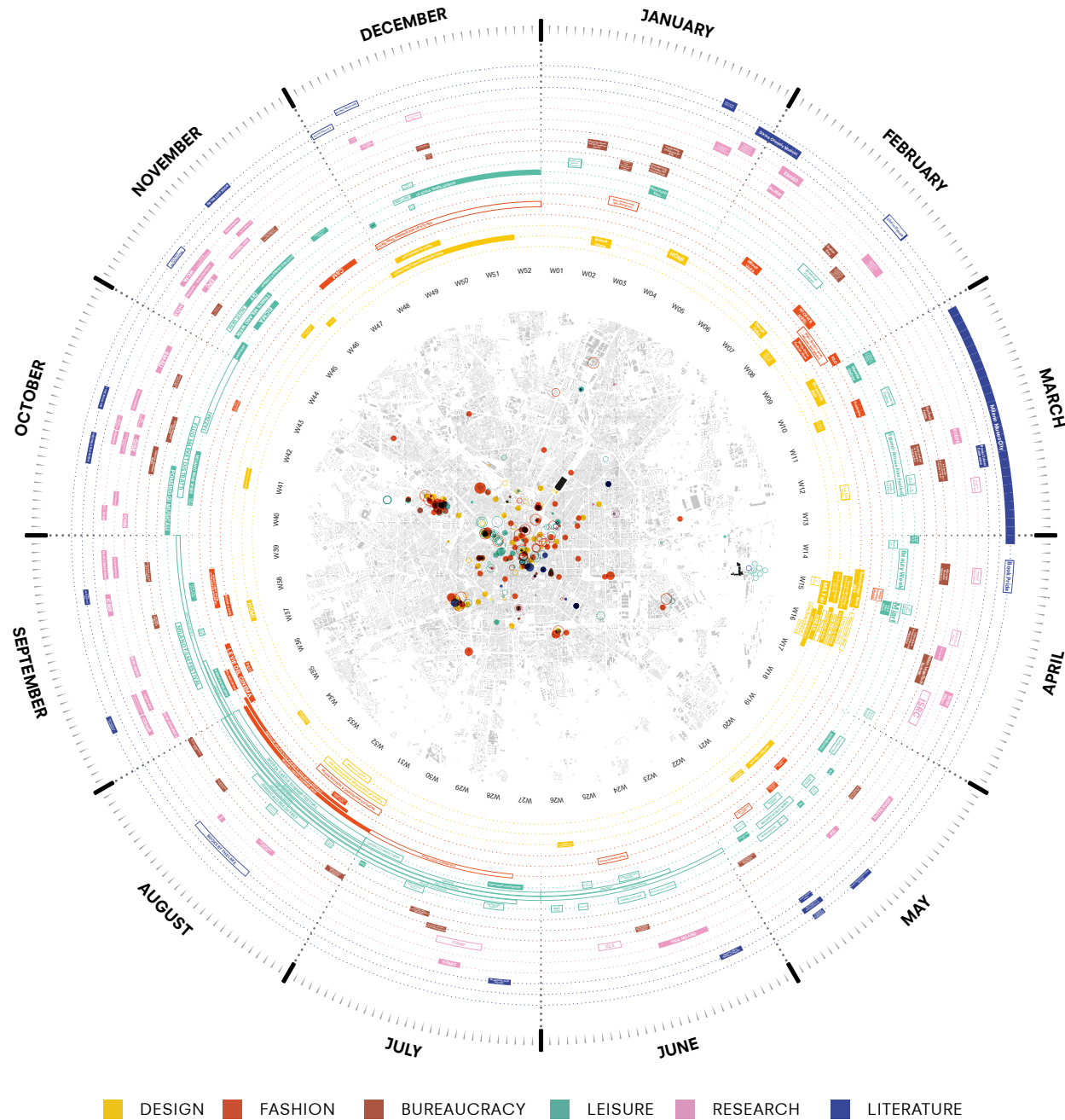
Group Theme MILAN IS



DESIGN FASHION BUREAUCRACY LEISURE RESEARCH LITERATURE

Group Theme

MILAN IS ABOUT EVENTS



DESIGN FASHION BUREAUCRACY LEISURE RESEARCH LITERATURE

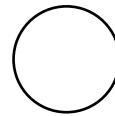
Group Theme
MILAN IS

MILAN IS A CITY OF TEMPORALITIES

Group Theme

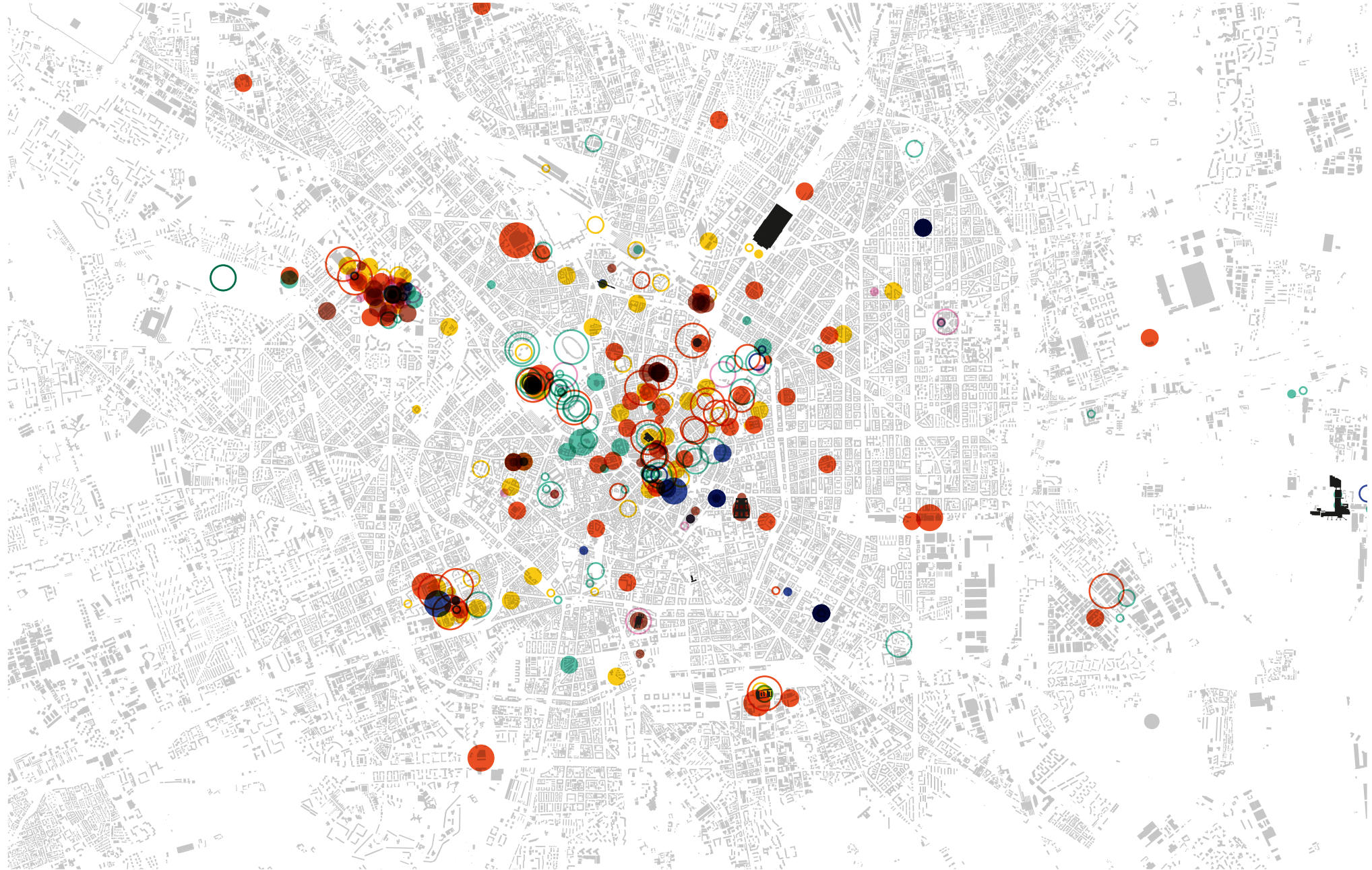
MILAN IS

INVISIBLE

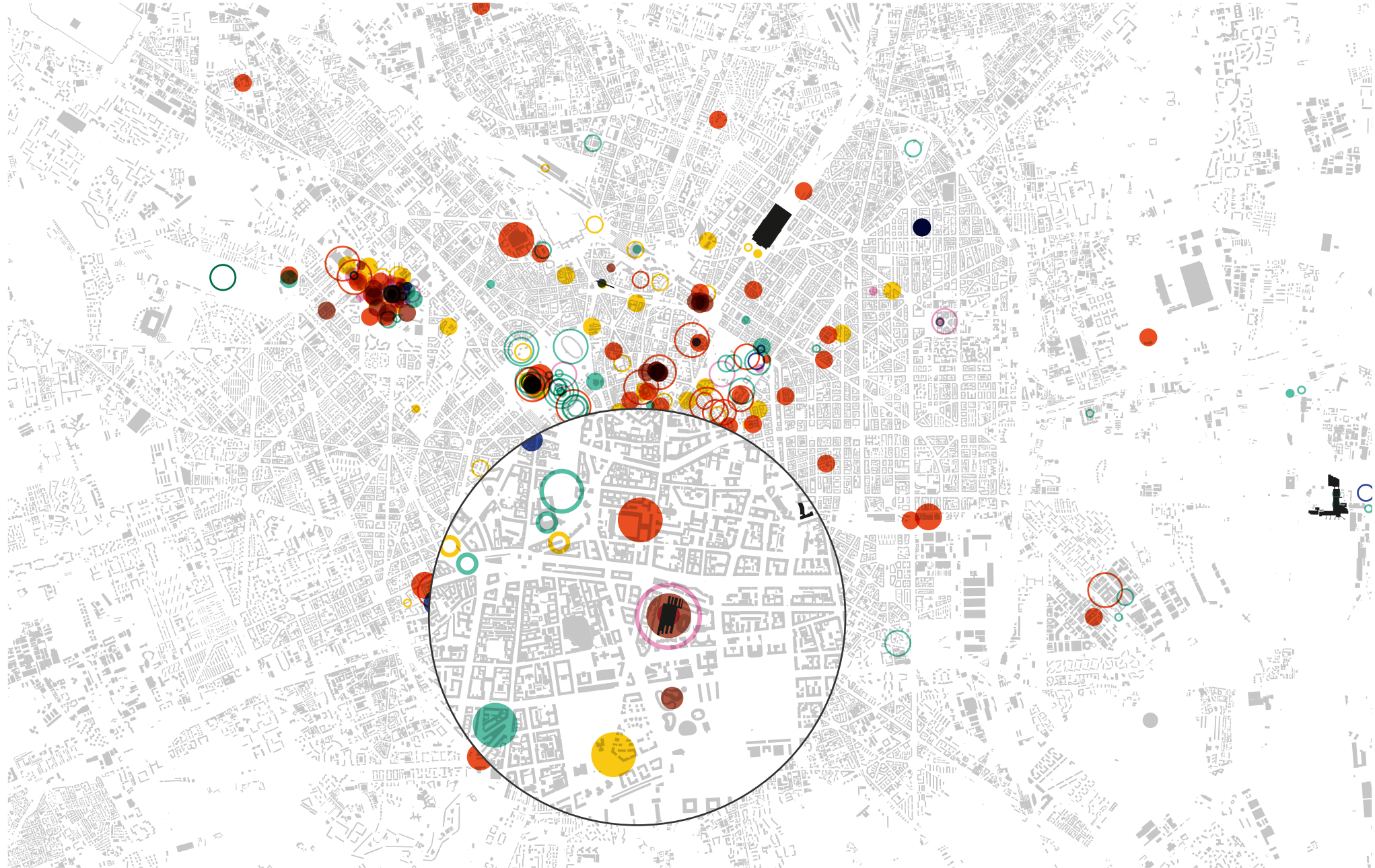


VISIBLE

MILAN AS CITY OF TEMPORALITIES



MILAN AS CITY OF TEMPORALITIES



BOCCONI AND ITS VISIBLE EVENTS



GRADUATION DAY AND THE CITY



GRADUATION DAY AND THE CITY



Group Theme

GRADUATION DAY AND THE CITY



GRADUATION DAY AND THE CITY



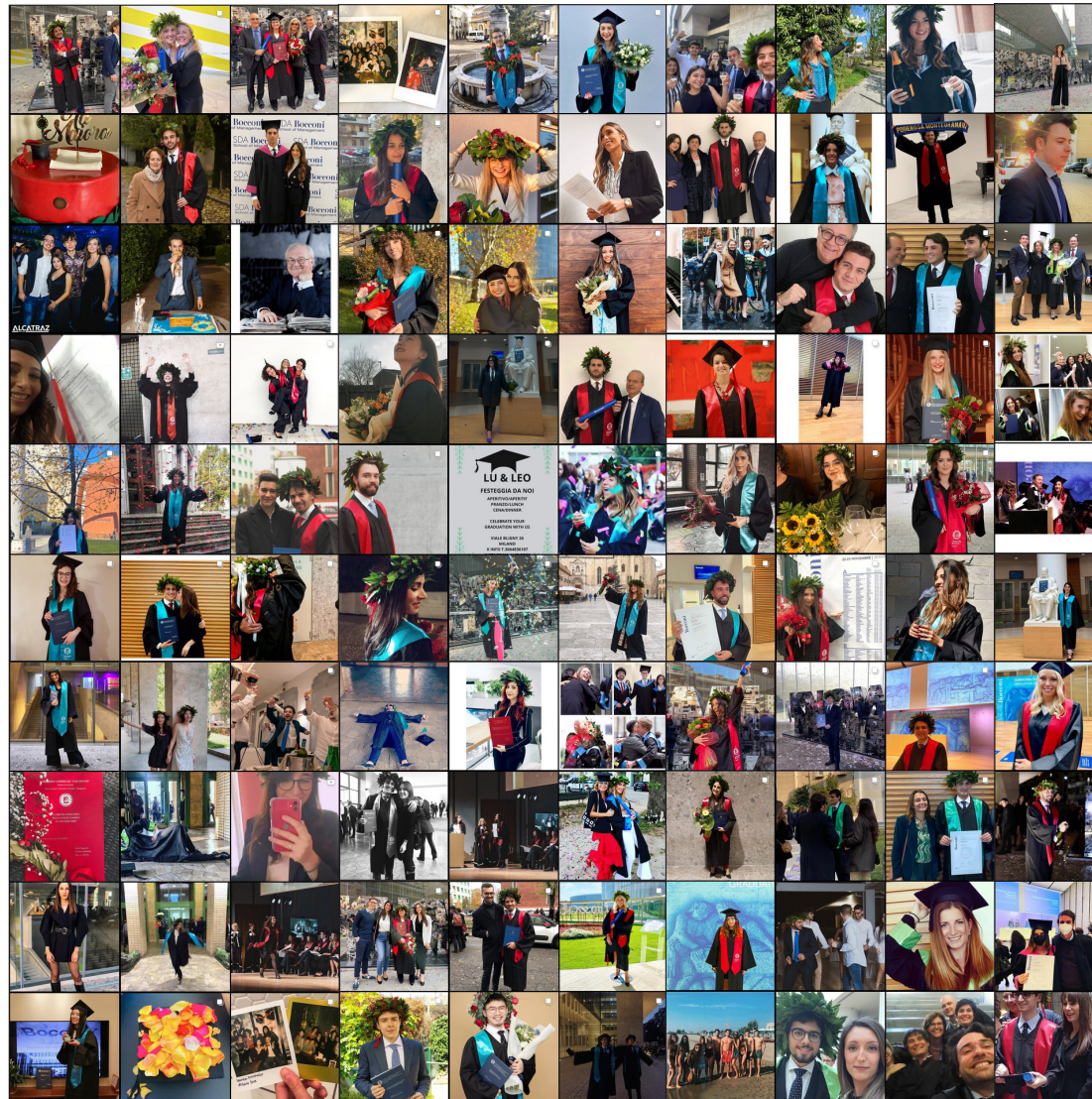
GRADUATION DAY AND THE CITY



Group Theme

#BOCCONIGRADUATION

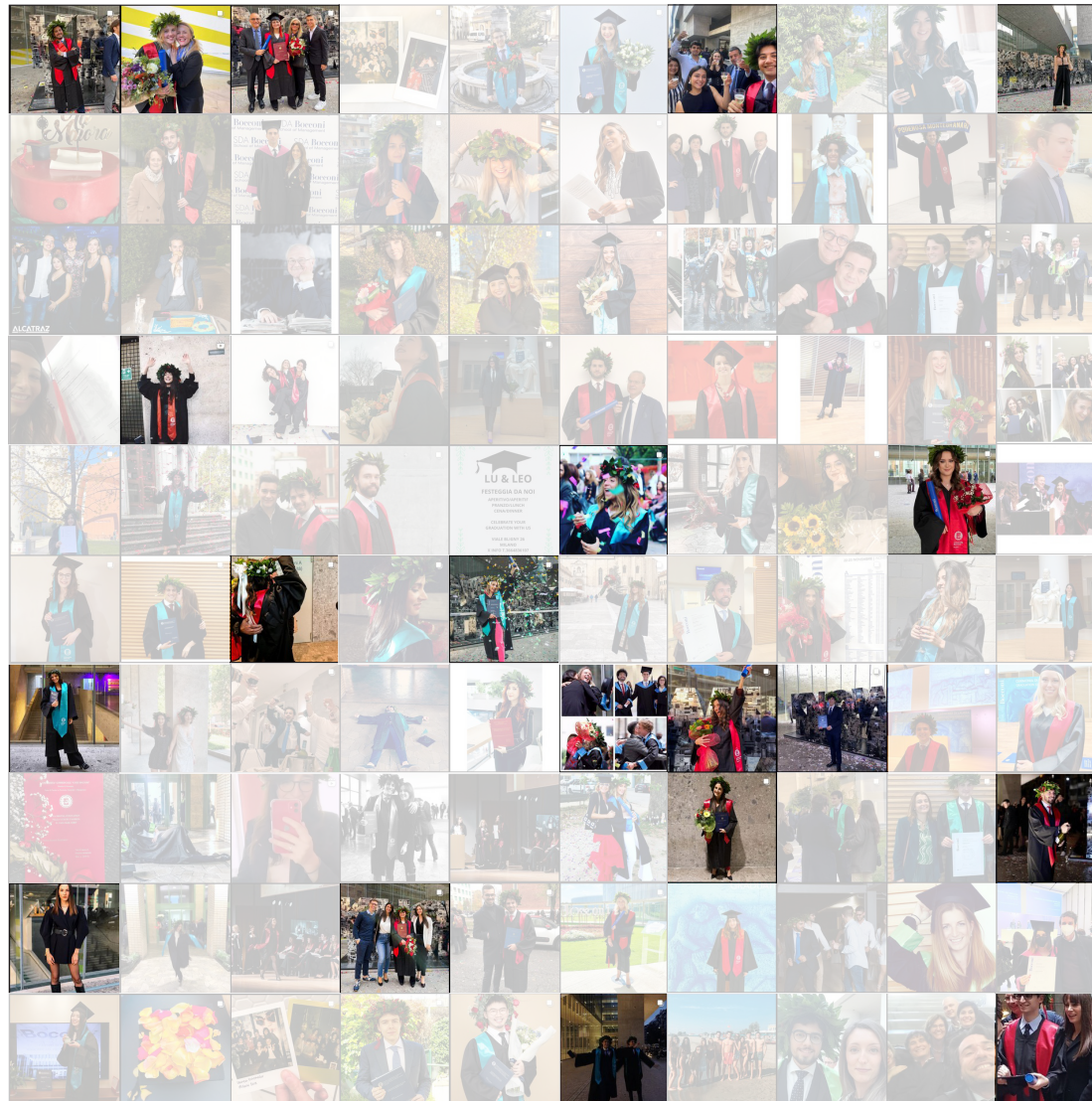
500+ posts



Group Theme

#BOCCONIGRADUATION

500+ posts



20% are made in front of the **Via Roentgen Building**

VIA ROENTGEN BUILDING AS AN EMBLEM OF THE UNIVERSITY



Group Theme

#BOCCONIGRADUATION

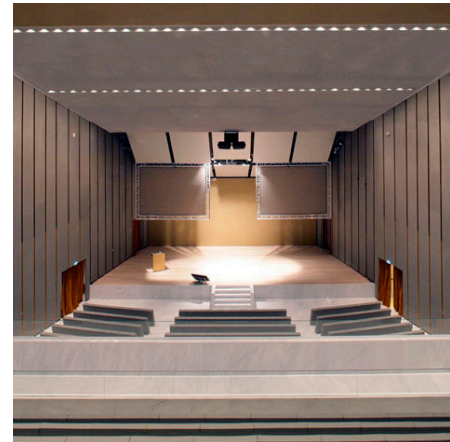
500+ posts



20% in front of the Via Roentgen Building



5% in front of the statue of Ferdinando Bocconi in the Velodromo Building



5% in the Aula Magma in the Via Roentgen Building

**IS THIS THE ONLY EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE CITY
AND BOCCONI?**

HOW DO YOU REALLY FEEL ABOUT BOCCONI?

“There is not a lot of interaction between the tourists and the students. During Fashion Week, for example, there are events in the Foyer, but **it's not for everyone**, you need to be invited to participate. If I'm honest I don't even know anyone who was invited, so in my opinion, **tourists and students don't really interact**”

Student #2

MILAN AS AN INVISIBLE CITY

the rest



the selected
few

INDEX

INTRODUCTION

Thesis Topic Statement
Research Question
Ambition and Strategy

RESEARCH

Thesis Topic & Milan
Group Theme

DESIGN BRIEF

Site
Program
Client

CONCLUSION

Site

SITE CONDITIONS - L



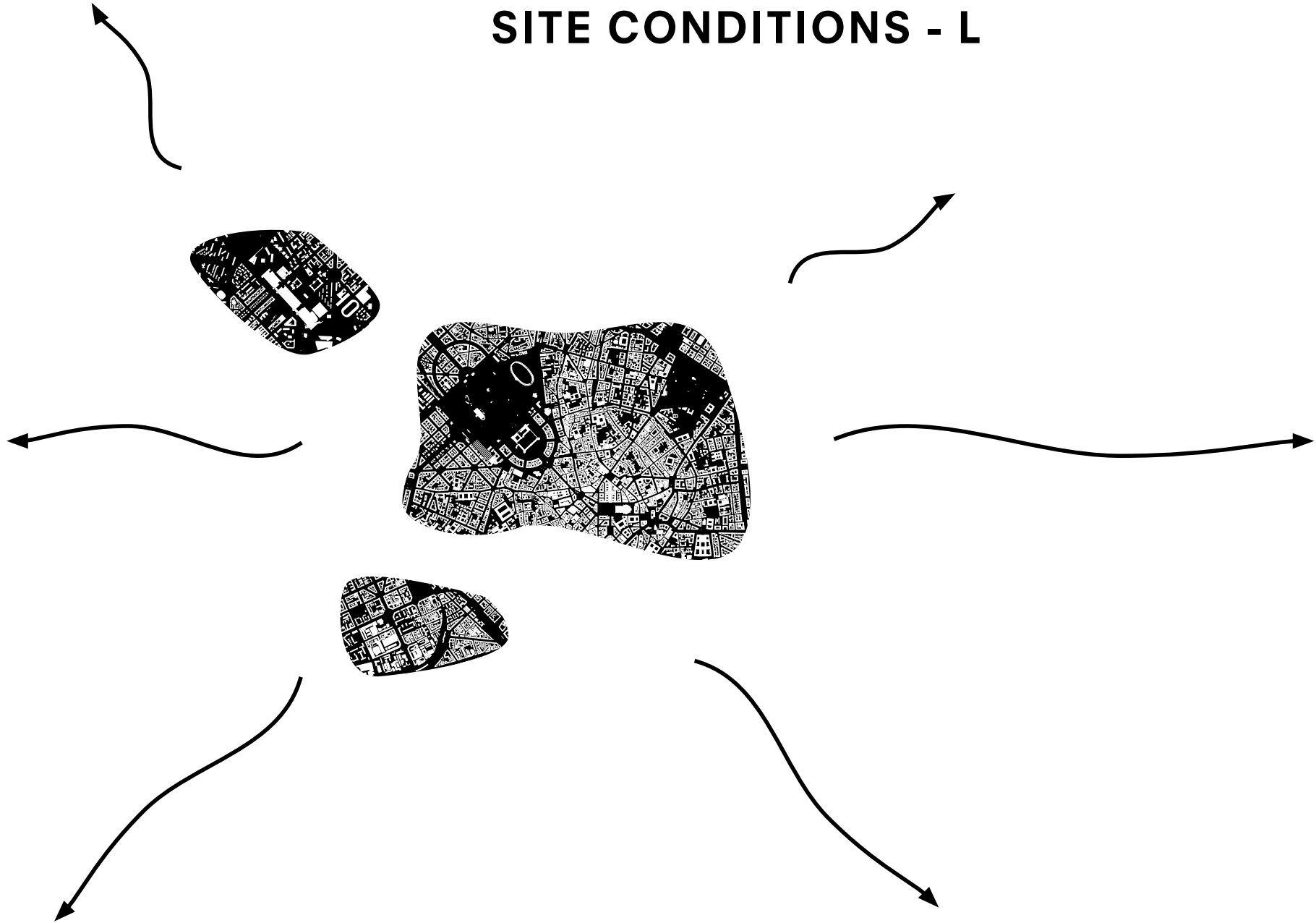
Site

SITE CONDITIONS - L



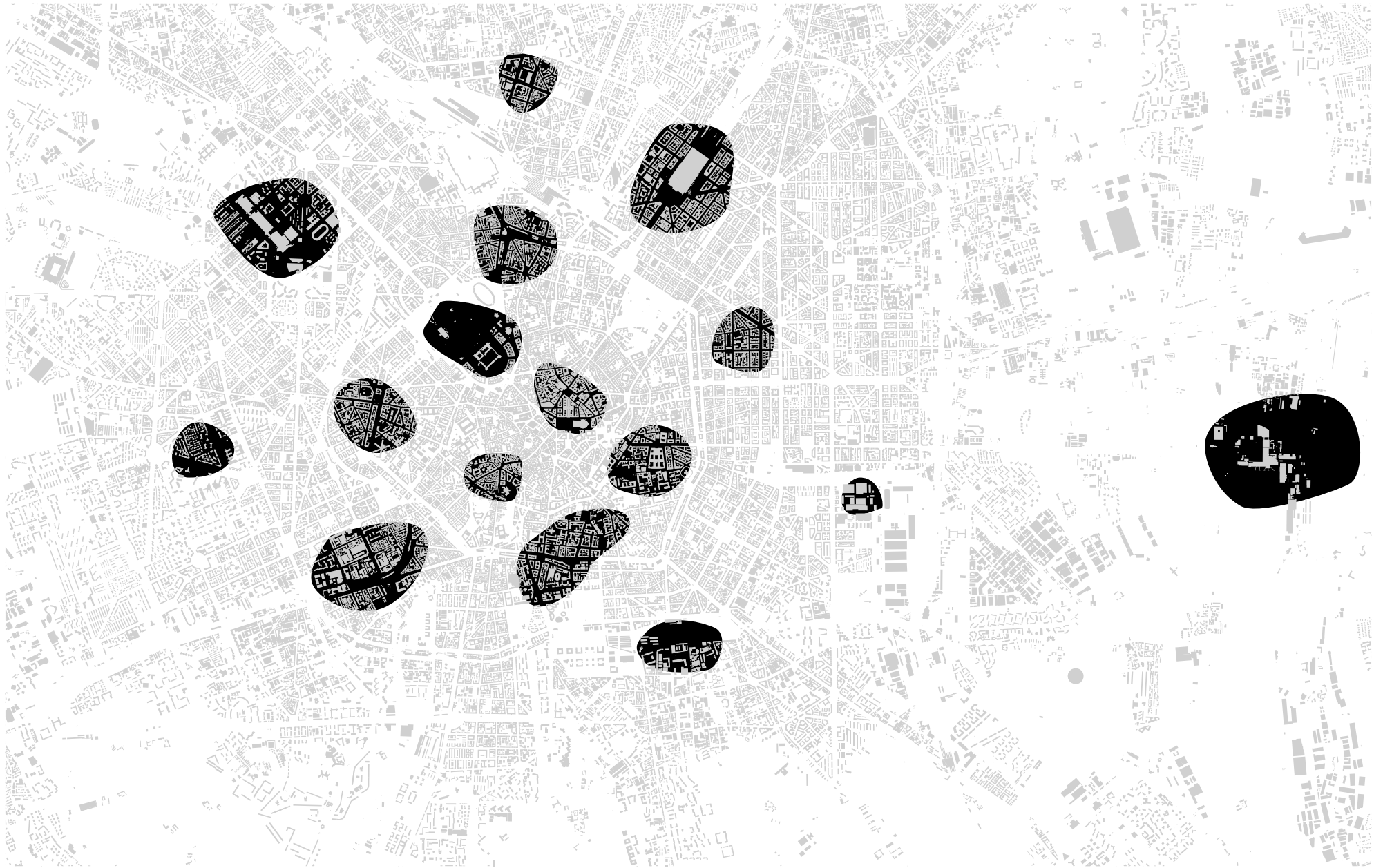
Site

SITE CONDITIONS - L



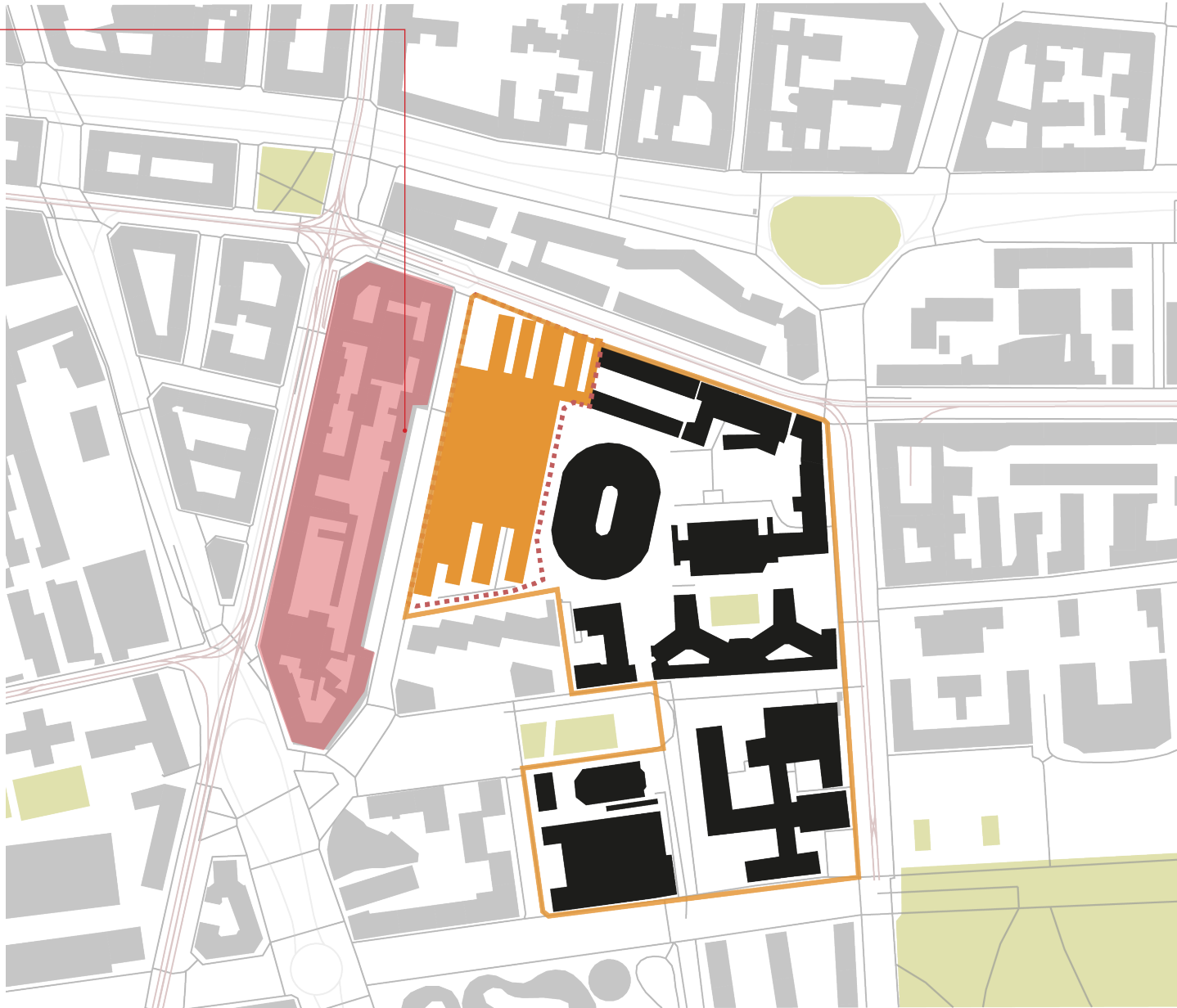
Site

SITE CONDITIONS - L



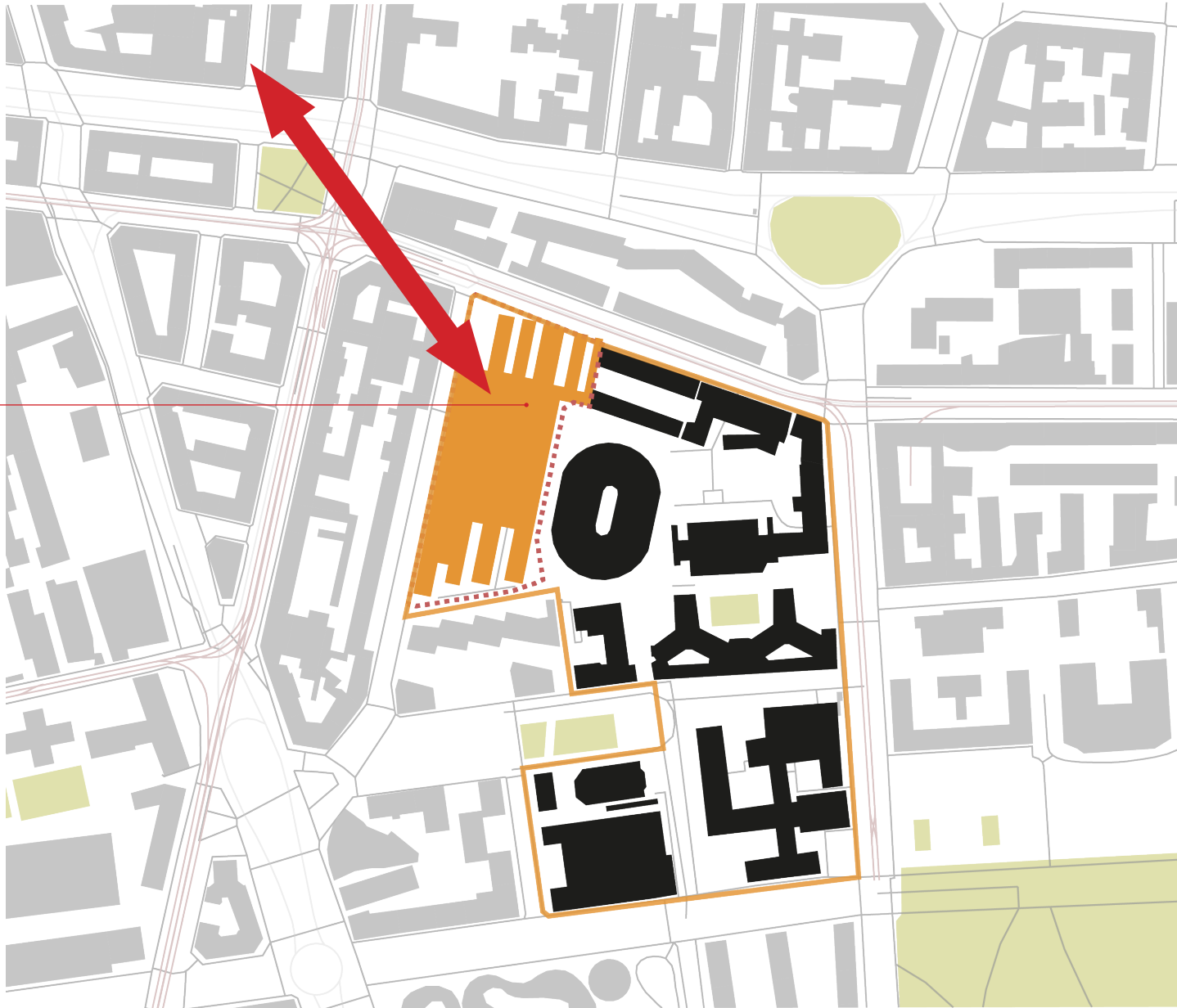
SITE CONDITIONS - M

Residential building:
no views allowed
from the university



SITE CONDITIONS - M

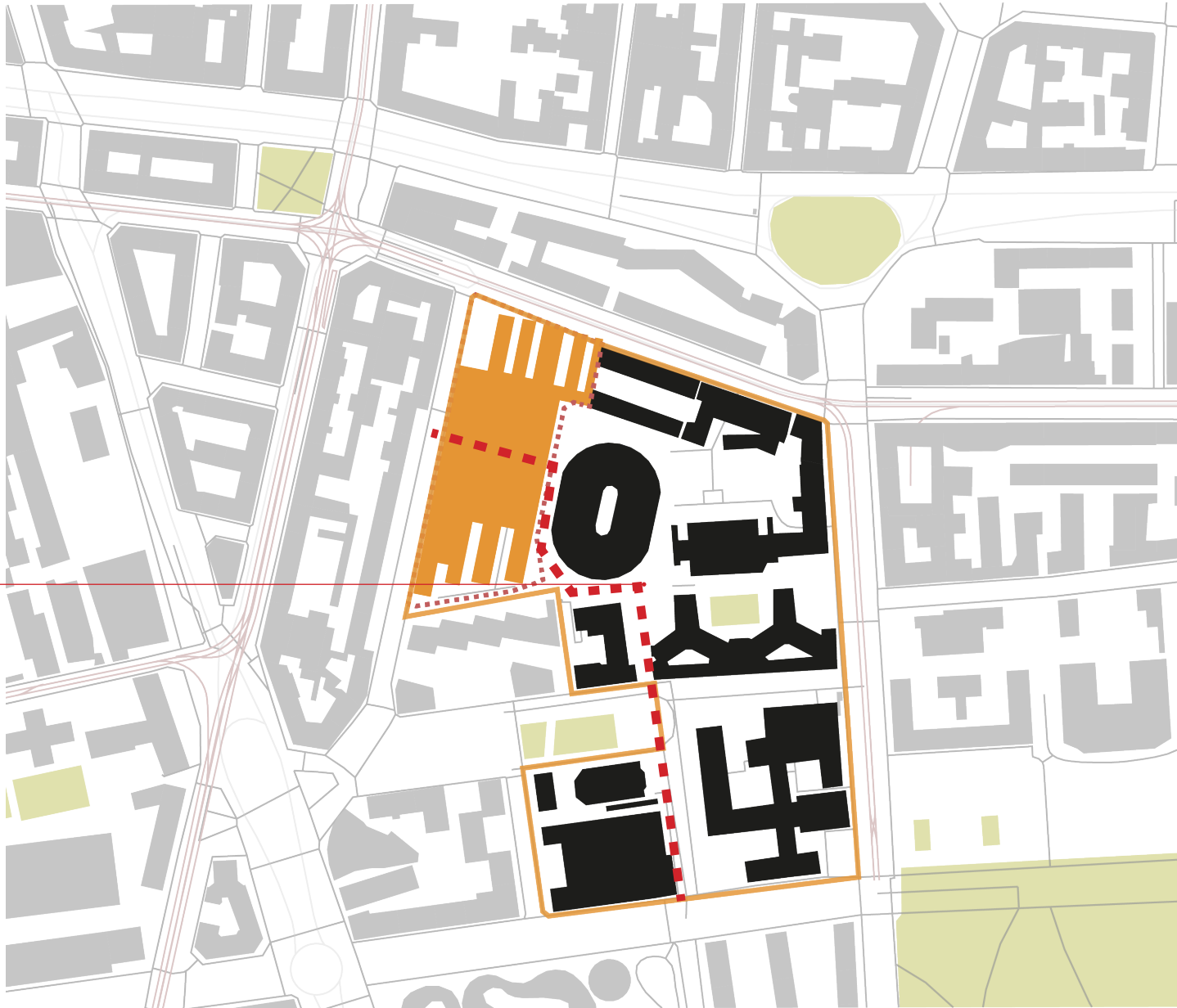
The building needs
to act as a connector
between the campus
and the city



Site

SITE CONDITIONS - M

Main circulation route
for students in the
Bocconi Campus



SITE CONDITIONS - M

Improve the greenery ratio in the campus area



SITE CONDITIONS - M

Residential building:
no views allowed
from the university

The building needs
to act as a connector
between the campus
and the city

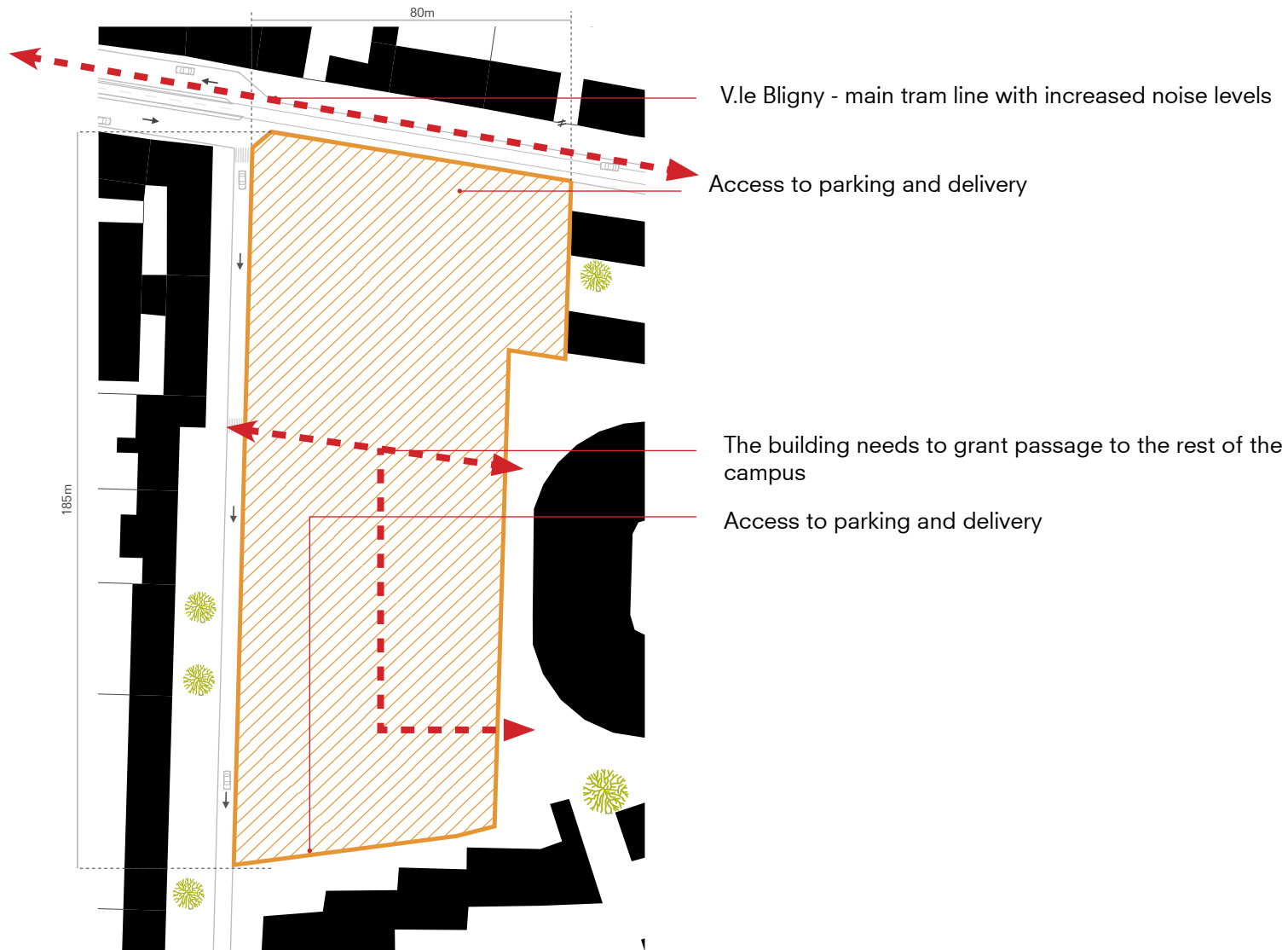
Main circulation route
for students in the
Bocconi Campus

Improve the greenery
ratio in the campus
area



Site

SITE CONDITIONS - S

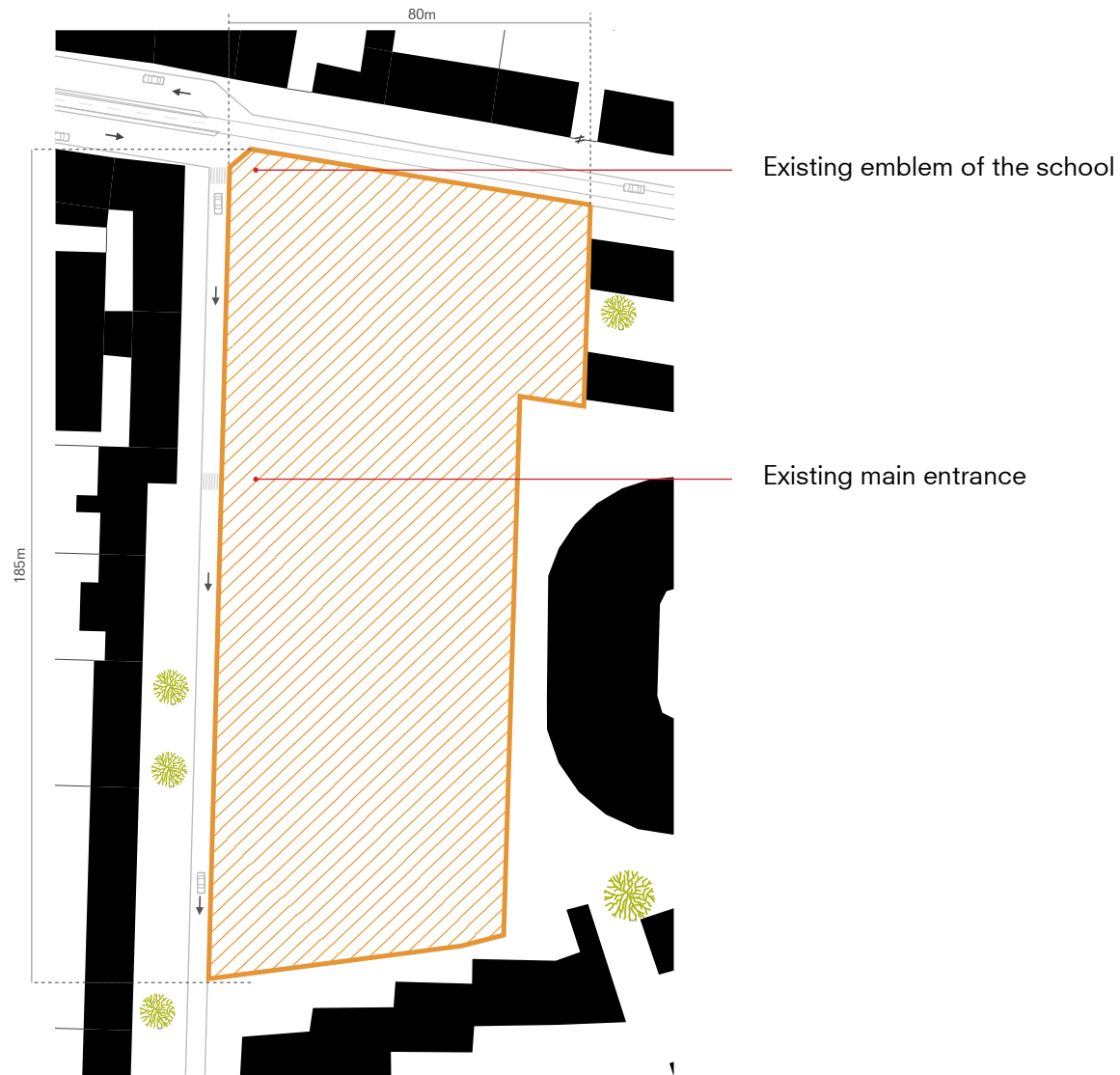


Site: 185 x 80m
Area: 11.662 m²

Site
Scale 1 : 1250

Site

SITE CONDITIONS - S

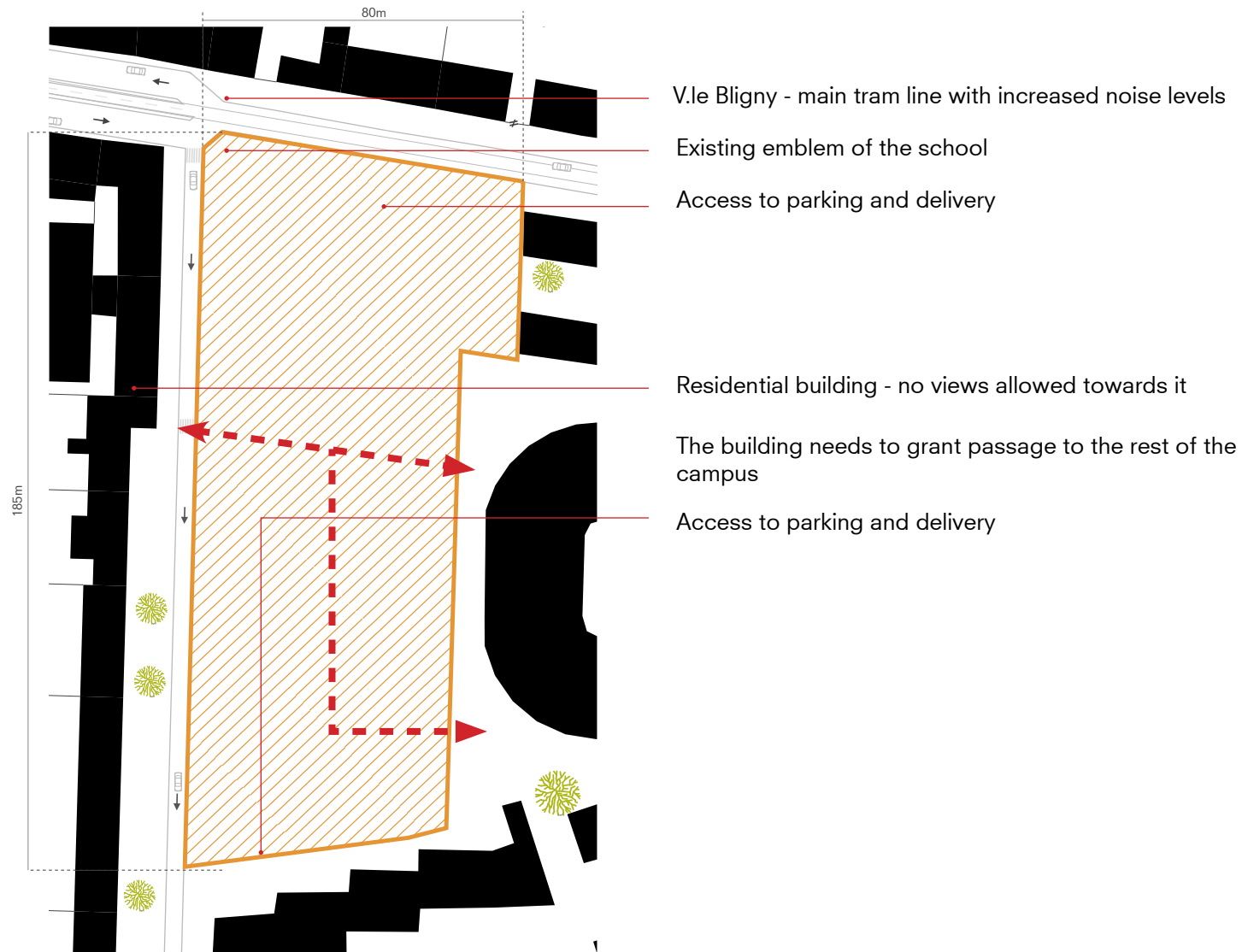


Site: 185 x 80m
Area: 11.662 m2

Site
Scale 1 : 1250

Site

SITE CONDITIONS - S

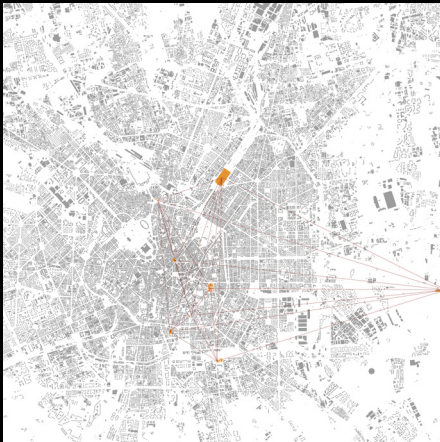


Site: 185 x 80m
Area: 11.662 m2

Site
Scale 1 : 1250

SITE CONDITIONS- CONCLUSIONS

L



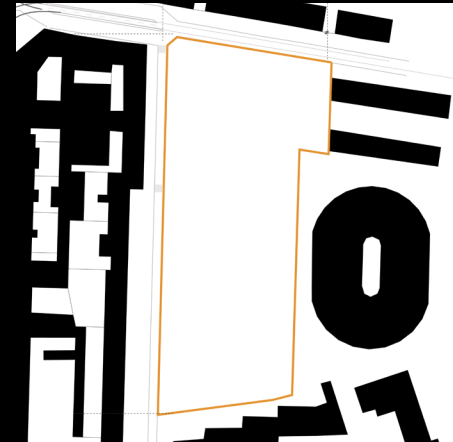
- Have a building that acts like an “knowledge exchange” centre
- Create event spaces that allows for a reduction in the event density from the city centre
- Improve visibility of research events
- Maintain the city character

M



- Preserve the privacy of the neighbouring residential buildings
- Create a circulation path connecting the tram station with the rest of the Bocconi Campus
- The building needs to act as a connector between the campus and the city

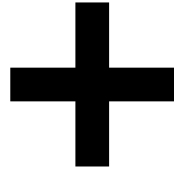
S



- Create a new emblematic location for the Bocconi University
- Create a graduation location
- Connect the tram stop with the rest of the campus
- Introduce greenery
- Minimise the noise coming from V.le Bligny

PROGRAMMATIC NEEDS FROM SURVEYS AND CASE STUDIES

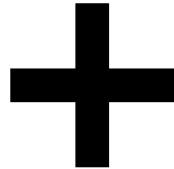
Students



Add additional spaces for the students

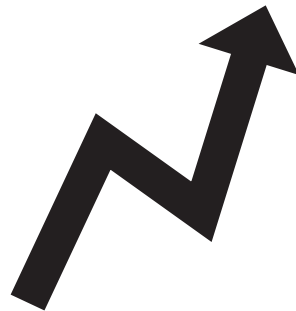
Group studying spaces
Smaller individual studying areas

PhD Students & Staff



Add additional spaces for the staff and PhD Students

Social areas
Additional toilets



Improve existing spaces for the staff and PhD Students

Diversity in colours and materials
Improve air circulation
Provide natural lighting to all offices
Add greenery

Programme

EXISTING SPACES

Staff

Students

Public

9 Departments

Individual per department

Office
Coffee Spaces
Break Area
Meeting Rooms
Server Rooms

Common Spaces

Rooms for IT Equipment
Storage Area
Toilets

7 Research Centres

Individual per research centre

Office
Coffee Spaces
Break Area
Meeting Rooms
Server/Database Rooms
Data Analysis Lab

Common Spaces

Rooms for IT Equipment
Storage Area
Toilets

7 Laboratories

Individual per laboratory

Office
Coffee Spaces
Break Area
Meeting Rooms
Laboratories
Data Analysis Lab

Common Spaces

Rooms for IT Equipment
Storage Area
Toilets

Lecture Halls
Cafeteria
Toilets

Info Point
Commercial Units
Foyer / Exhibition Space
Aula Magna

Bike Parking
Car Parking

Medical Centre
Community Kitchen

Library
Circulation Spaces

Programme

EXISTING SPACES

Staff

Students

Public

9 Departments

Individual per department

Office
Coffee Spaces
Break Area
Meeting Rooms
Server Rooms

Common Spaces

Rooms for IT Equipment
Storage Area
Toilets

7 Research Centres

Individual per research centre

Office
Coffee Spaces
Break Area
Meeting Rooms
Server/Database Rooms
Data Analysis Lab

Common Spaces

Rooms for IT Equipment
Storage Area
Toilets

7 Laboratories

Individual per laboratory

Office
Coffee Spaces
Break Area
Meeting Rooms
Laboratories
Data Analysis Lab

Common Spaces

Rooms for IT Equipment
Storage Area
Toilets

Lecture Halls
Cafeteria
Toilets

Info Point
Commercial Units
Foyer / Exhibition Space
Aula Magna

Bike Parking
Car Parking

Medical Centre
Community Kitchen

Library
Circulation Spaces

Expanded areas

Programme

EXISTING SPACES

Staff

Students

Public

9 Departments

Individual per department

Office
Coffee Spaces
Break Area
Meeting Rooms
Server Rooms

Common Spaces

Rooms for IT Equipment
Storage Area
Toilets

7 Research Centres

Individual per research centre

Office
Coffee Spaces
Break Area
Meeting Rooms
Server/Database Rooms
Data Analysis Lab

Common Spaces

Rooms for IT Equipment
Storage Area
Toilets

7 Laboratories

Individual per laboratory

Office
Coffee Spaces
Break Area
Meeting Rooms
Laboratories
Data Analysis Lab

Common Spaces

Rooms for IT Equipment
Storage Area
Toilets

Lecture Halls
Cafeteria
Toilets

Info Point
Commercial Units
Foyer / Exhibition Space
Aula Magna

Bike Parking
Car Parking

Medical Centre
Community Kitchen

Library
Circulation Spaces

 Reduced in size

Programme

PROPOSED SPACES

Staff

Students

Public

9 Departments

Individual per department

Office
Coffee Spaces
Break Area
Meeting Rooms
Phone Booths
Lobby
Server Rooms

Common Spaces

Rooms for IT Equipment
Creative Spaces
Storage Area
Toilets

7 Research Centres

Individual per research centre

Office
Coffee Spaces
Break Area
Meeting Rooms
Phone Booths
Lobby
Server/Database Rooms
Data Analysis Lab

Common Spaces

Rooms for IT Equipment
Creative Spaces
Storage Area
Toilets

7 Laboratories

Individual per laboratory

Office
Coffee Spaces
Break Area
Meeting Rooms
Phone Booths
Lobby
Laboratories
Data Analysis Lab

Common Spaces

Rooms for IT Equipment
Creative Spaces
Storage Area

Lecture Halls
Classrooms
PC Laboratories
Self-Study Areas
Collaboration Spaces
Open Kitchenette
Cafeteria
Toilets

Info Point
Commercial Units
Foyer / Exhibition Space
Aula Magna
Green terraces

Bike Parking
Car Parking

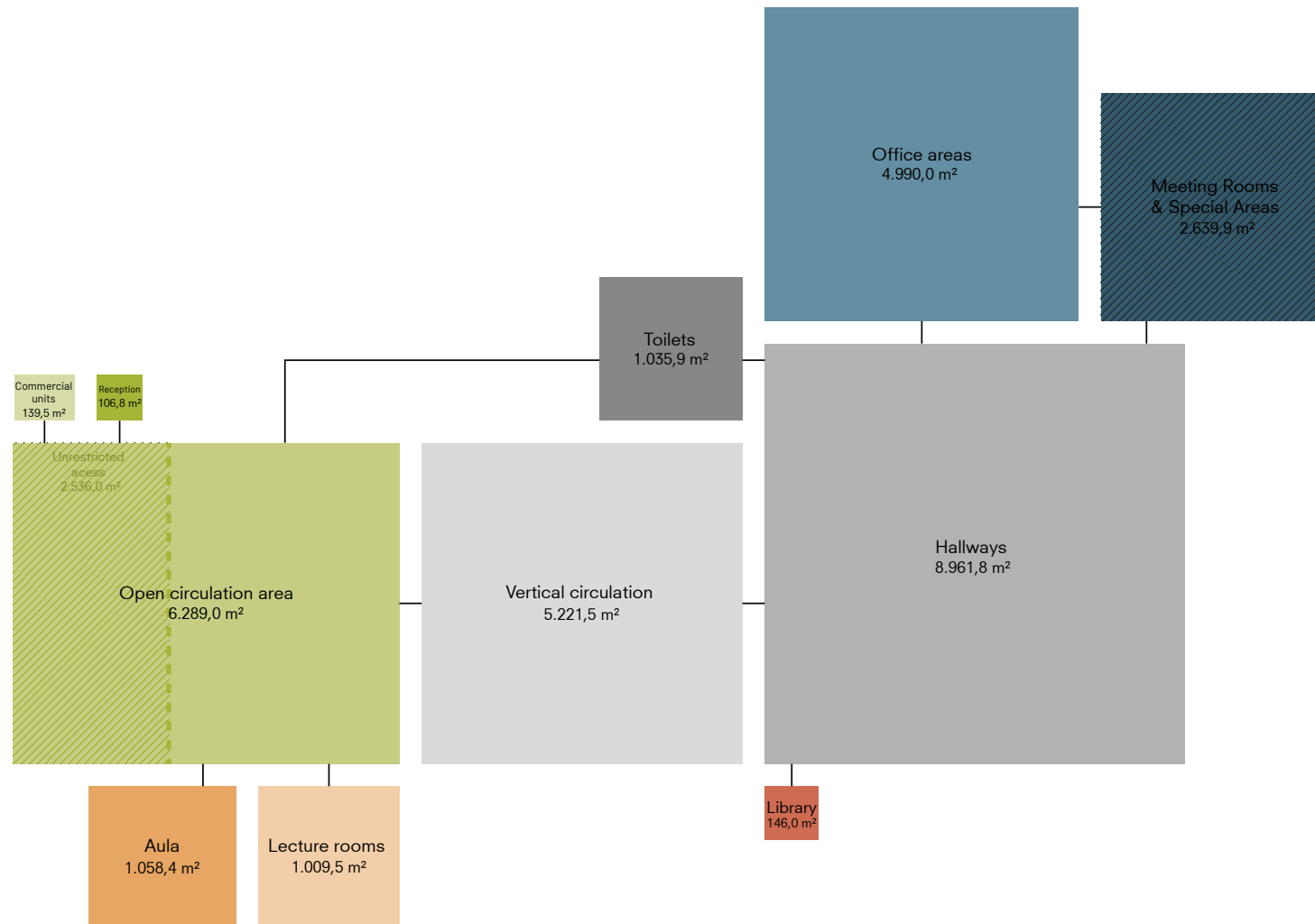
Medical Centre
Nursing Room
Prayer Room
Community Kitchen
Conference Rooms
Gaming Room

Library
Circulation Spaces

 Additional Programme

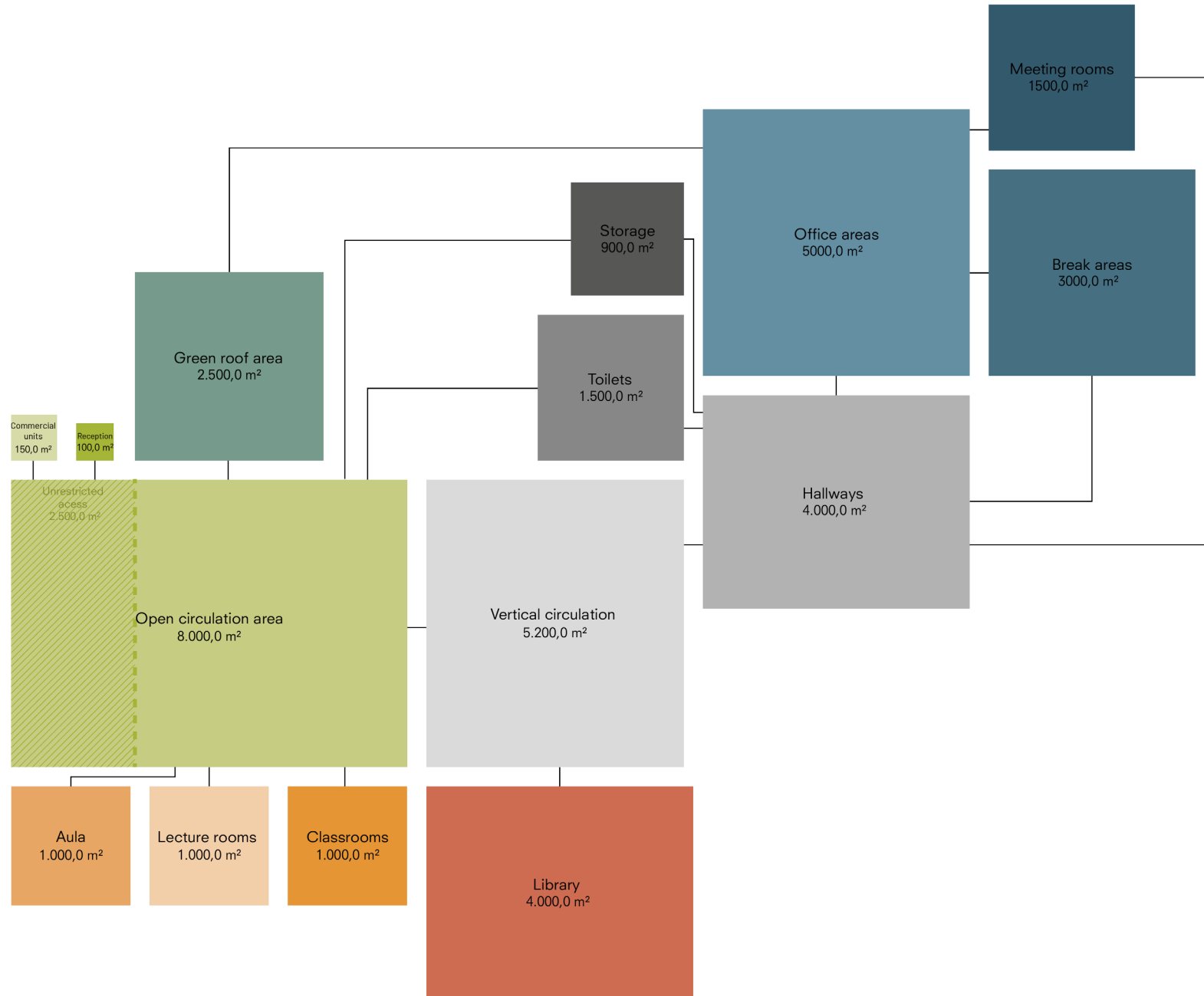
Thesis Topic & Milan

EXISTING PROGRAMME



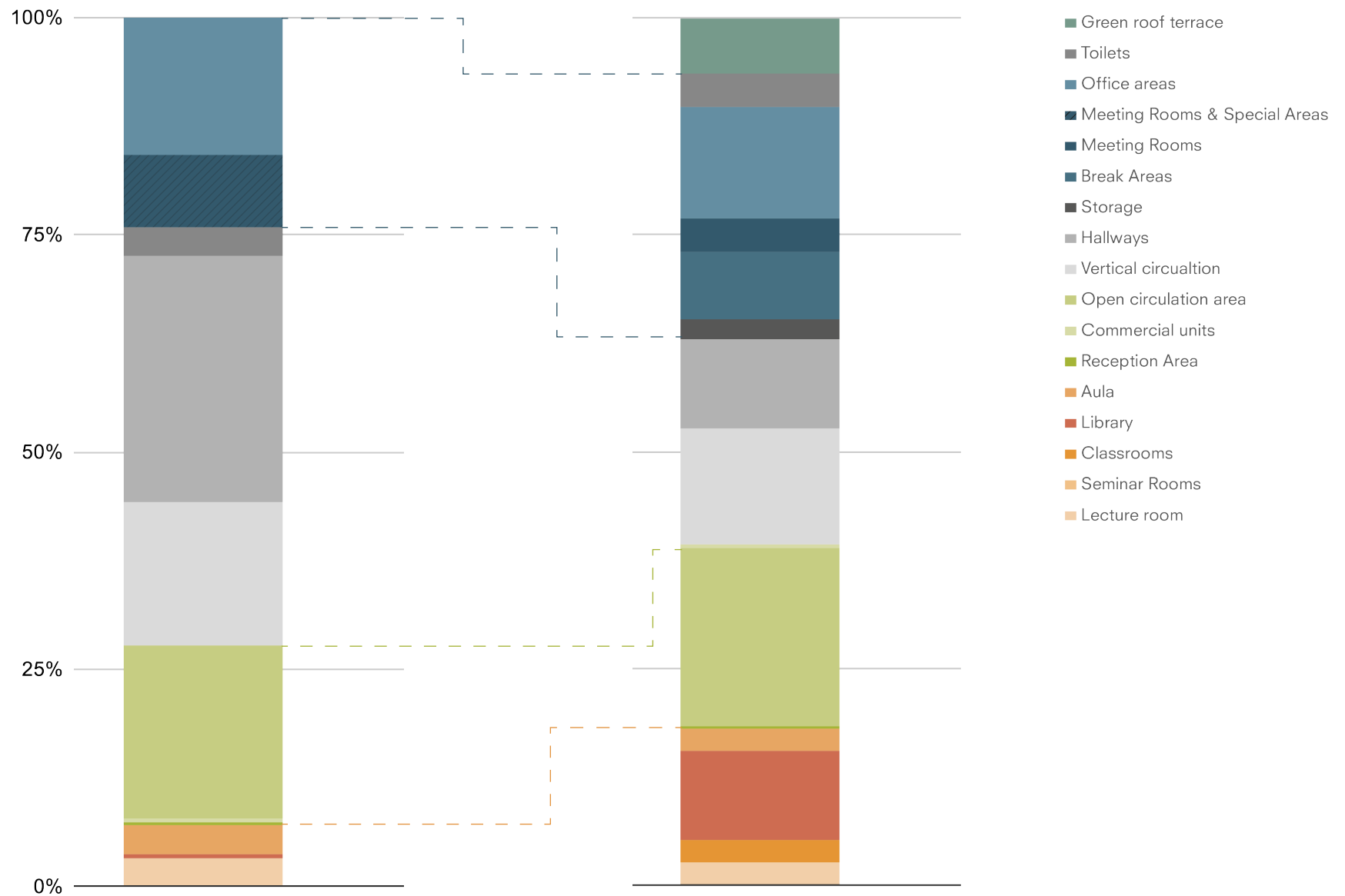
Thesis Topic & Milan

PROPOSED PROGRAMME



Programme

ADAPTED PROGRAMME



Programme

ESSENTIAL SPACES

Staff

Students

Public

9 Departments

Individual per department

Office
Coffee Spaces
Break Area
Meeting Rooms
Phone Booths
Lobby
Server Rooms

Common Spaces

Rooms for IT Equipment
Creative Spaces
Storage Area
Toilets

7 Research Centres

Individual per research centre

Office
Coffee Spaces
Break Area
Meeting Rooms
Phone Booths
Lobby
Server/Database Rooms
Data Analysis Lab

Common Spaces

Rooms for IT Equipment
Creative Spaces
Storage Area
Toilets

7 Laboratories

Individual per laboratory

Office
Coffee Spaces
Break Area
Meeting Rooms
Phone Booths
Lobby
Laboratories
Data Analysis Lab

Common Spaces

Rooms for IT Equipment
Creative Spaces
Storage Area

Lecture Halls
Classrooms
PC Laboratories
Self-Study Areas
Collaboration Spaces
Open Kitchenette
Cafeteria
Toilets

Info Point
Commercial Units
Foyer
Exhibition Space
Aula Magna

Bike Parking
Car Parking

Medical Centre
Nursing Room
Prayer Room
Community Kitchen
Conference Rooms
Gaming Room

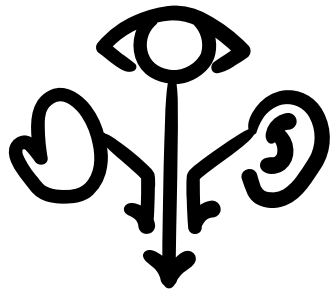
Library
Circulation Spaces



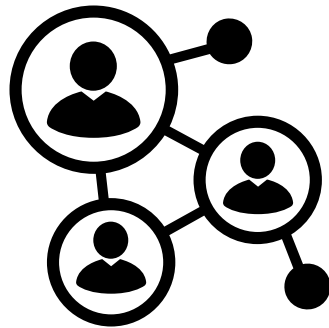
Spaces that would require variations based on different user group's needs

Programme

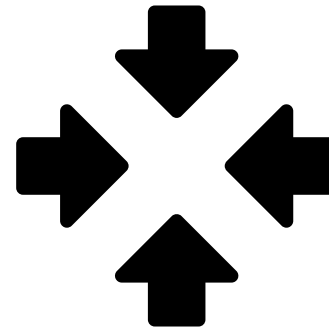
DIFFERENCES IN NEEDS



Sensory sensitivities



Social differences

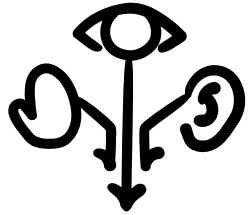


Focus difficulties



Need of movement

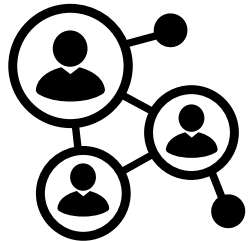
ADDRESSING DIFFERENCES IN NEEDS



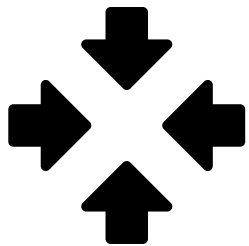
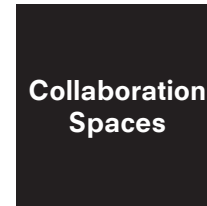
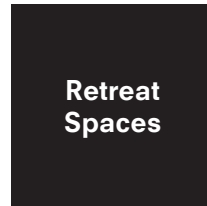
Sensory sensitivities



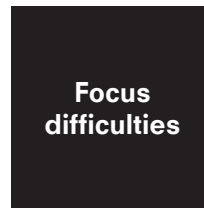
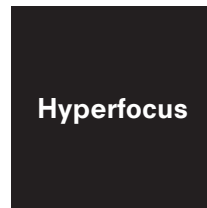
Hyposensitivity
Hypersensitivity



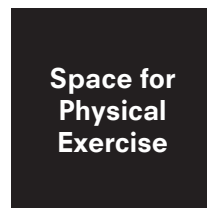
Social differences



Focus differences



Need of movement



ADDRESSING DIFFERENCES IN NEEDS

FOCUS

COLLABORATION

RETREAT

COMMUNITY

&

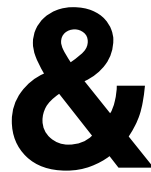
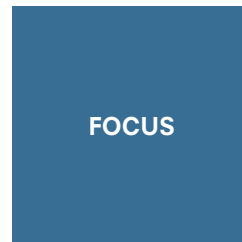
LOW STIMULATION, INDIVIDUAL

LOW STIMULATION, SOCIAL

HIGH STIMULATION, INDIVIDUAL

HIGH STIMULATION, SOCIAL

ADDRESSING DIFFERENCES IN NEEDS



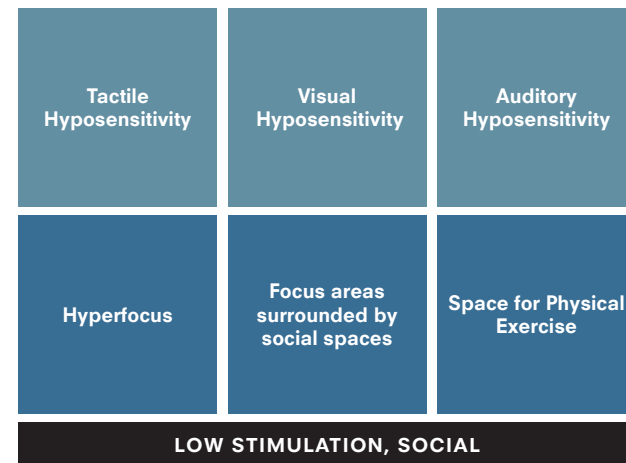
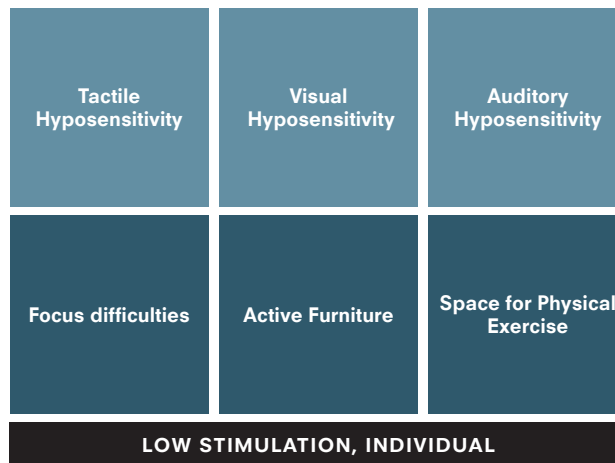
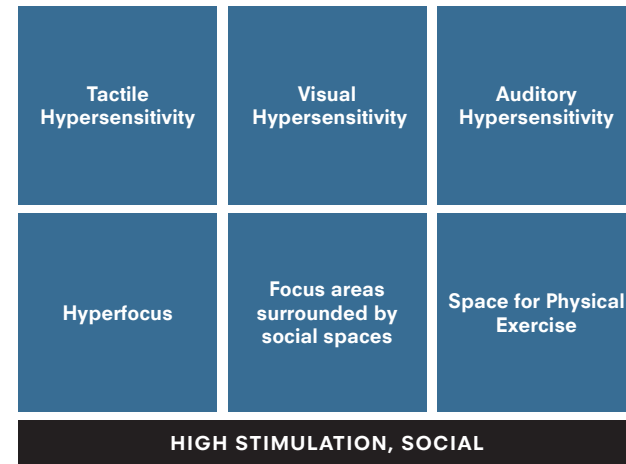
LOW STIMULATION, INDIVIDUAL

LOW STIMULATION, SOCIAL

HIGH STIMULATION, INDIVIDUAL

HIGH STIMULATION, SOCIAL

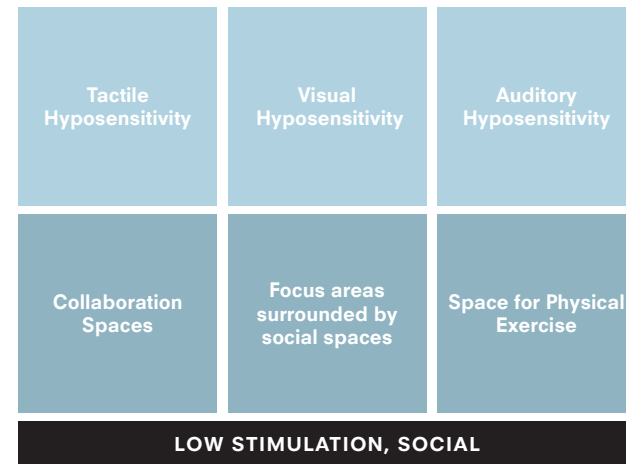
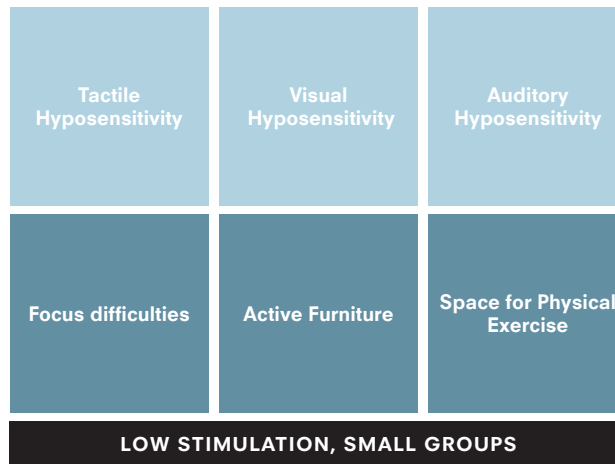
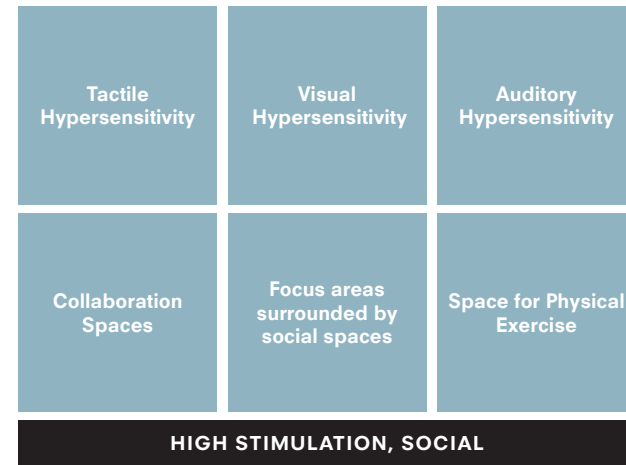
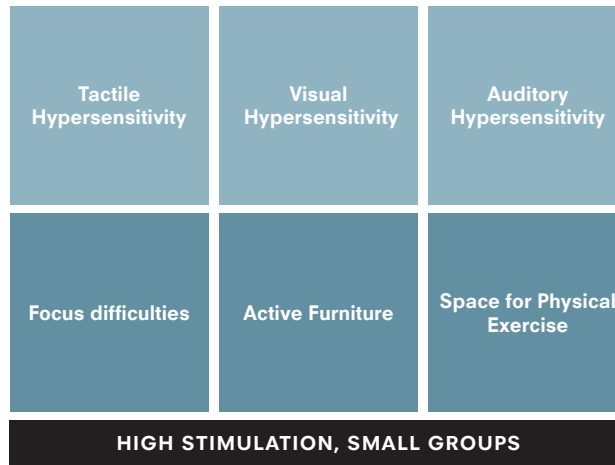
ADDRESSING DIFFERENCES IN NEEDS



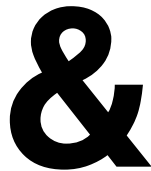
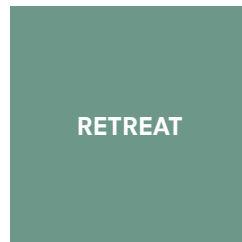
ADDRESSING DIFFERENCES IN NEEDS



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ADDRESSING DIFFERENCES IN NEEDS



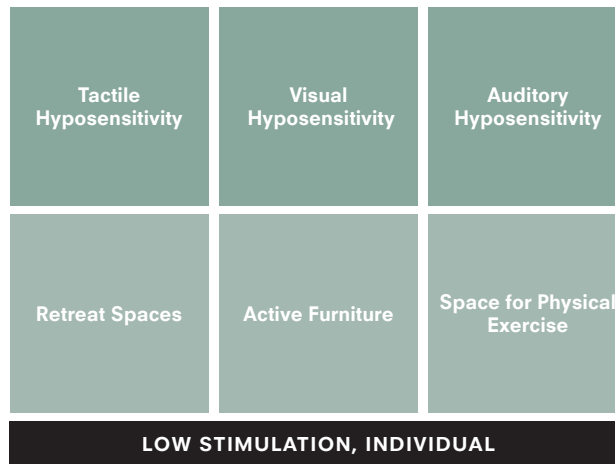
LOW STIMULATION, INDIVIDUAL

LOW STIMULATION, SOCIAL

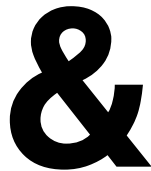
HIGH STIMULATION, INDIVIDUAL

HIGH STIMULATION, SOCIAL

ADDRESSING DIFFERENCES IN NEEDS



ADDRESSING DIFFERENCES IN NEEDS



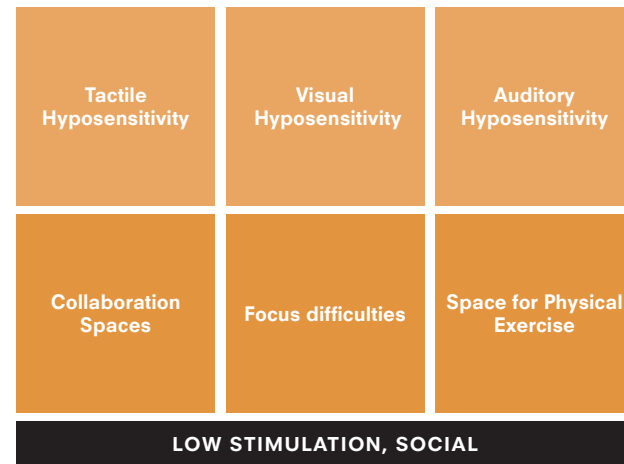
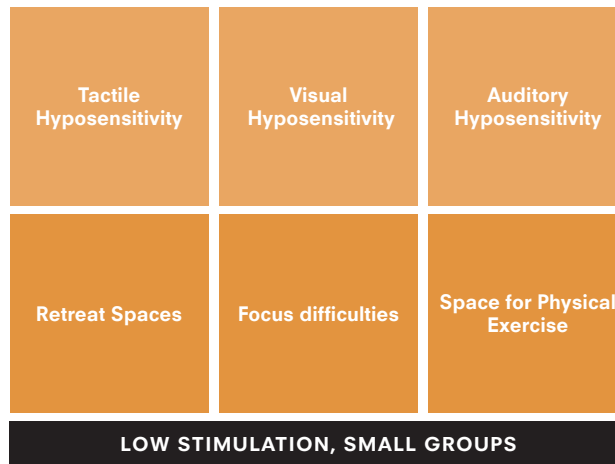
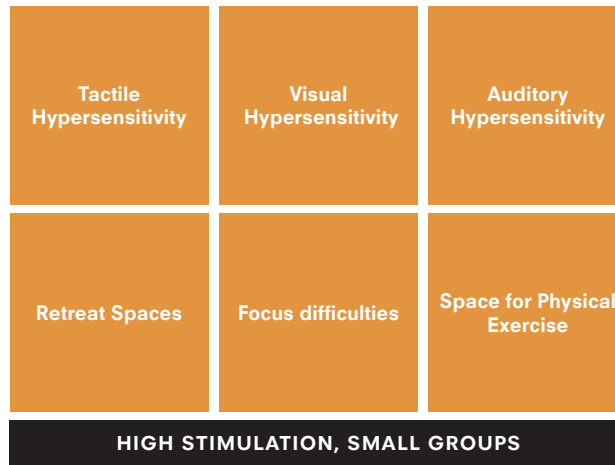
LOW STIMULATION, INDIVIDUAL

LOW STIMULATION, SOCIAL

HIGH STIMULATION, INDIVIDUAL

HIGH STIMULATION, SOCIAL

ADDRESSING DIFFERENCES IN NEEDS



ADDRESSING DIFFERENCES IN NEEDS

**ADDRESSING NEURODIVERSITY THROUGH DESIGN
IS ABOUT EMPOWERING ALL INDIVIDUALS TO TAKE
CONTROL OF THEIR ENVIRONMENTS, ENABLING
THEM TO SELECT SPACES THAT BEST SUIT THEIR
NEEDS.**

PROGRAMME - CONCLUSIONS



- Add additional break areas
- Break the hallway grid
- Create multiple types of working spaces



- Create more group study areas
- Expand the library and make it accessible for students
- Add additional self study areas



- Create a multitude of working and learning spaces that accommodate neurodiversity
- Add greenery
- Ensure an adequate amount of natural light and air circulation
- Support sustainable academic/work performance through design

Client

EXISTING CLIENTS



Bocconi University



Ministry of Culture



Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca

**Ministry of Education,
University and Research**

BOCCONI UNIVERSITY AND ITS AMBITIONS



Vision 2030

1. A **leading** independent international university in the social sciences
2. A university committed to the advancement of knowledge through rigorous and relevant research
3. A university offering a **life transforming learning experience of the highest academic quality**
4. A university promoting impact and engagement of all its stakeholders
5. An open university supporting **social mobility, inclusivity, diversity and sustainability**
6. A university promoting innovation and entrepreneurship

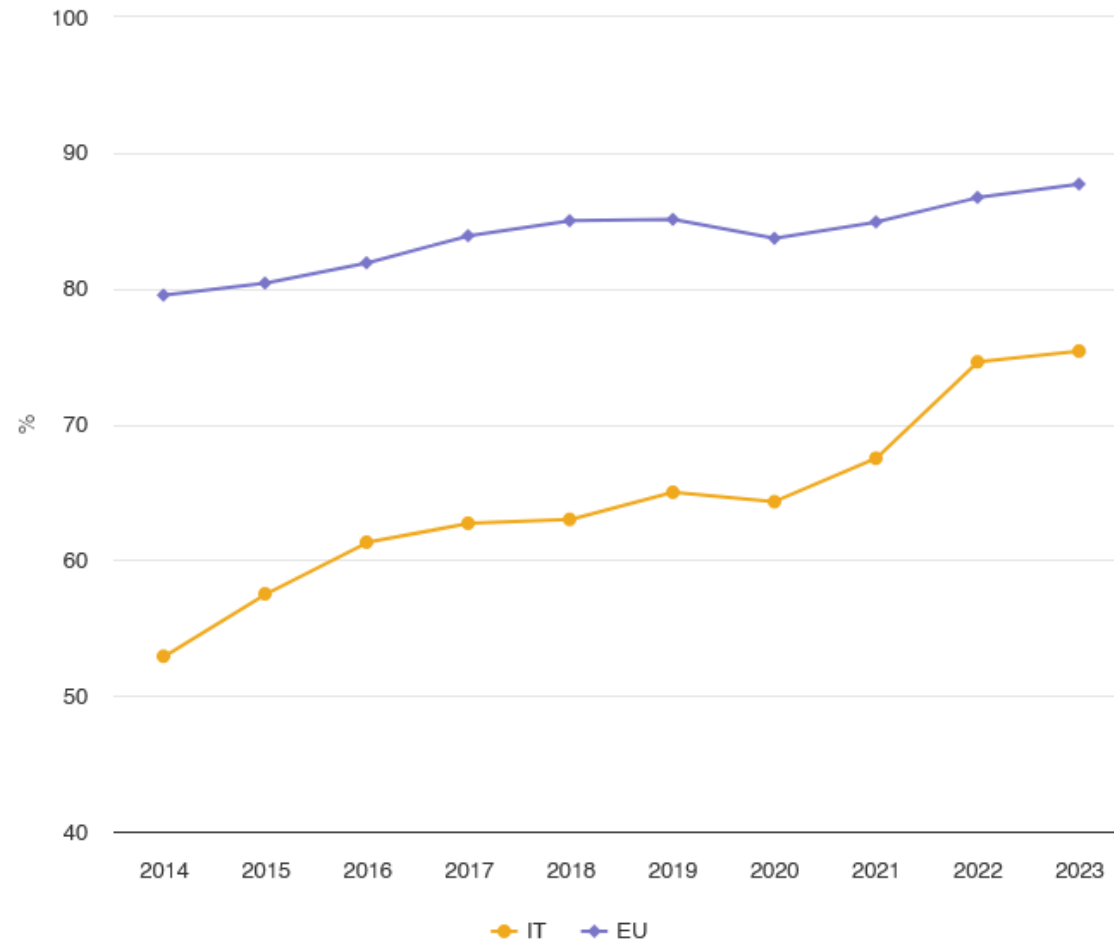
Client

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND ITS AMBITIONS



Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND ITS AMBITIONS



Source: Eurostat: edat_ifse_24.

Employment rate of recent tertiary graduates (20-34 year-olds, ISCED 5-8), 2014-2023 (%)

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND ITS AMBITIONS



Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca

Ambitions

1. Design a **new academic calendar** and Milanese economics educational institution
2. **Minimise the psychological distress levels among students** while supporting a similarly high level of academic performance
3. Create **new opportunities for students** to get in contact with the professional environment
4. Integrate the university in the **urban fabric**

MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND ITS AMBITIONS

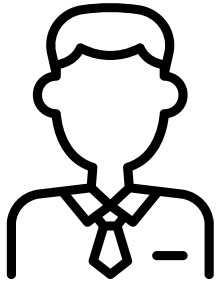


Ambitions

1. **Support the growing number of tourists** while avoiding the disneyfication of the city
2. Minimise the event pressure in the city centre to **allow space for residents**
3. Maintain the city character
4. Improve **visibility of events**
5. Encourage **investors**

Client

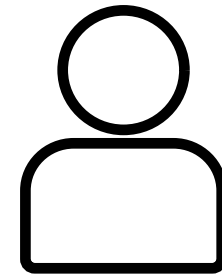
USER GROUPS



**Staff
PhD Students**



**Bachelor and Master
Students**

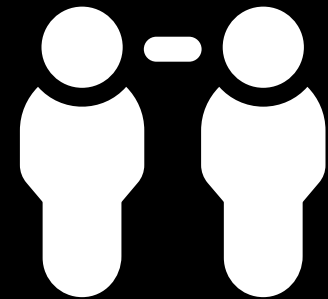
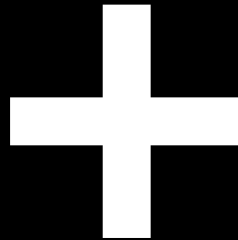
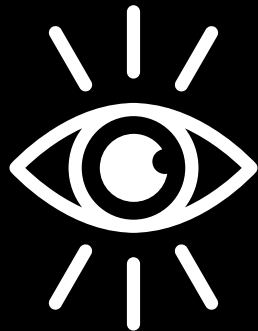


Residents

**Ministry of Culture
Ambitions**

Survey

USER - CONCLUSIONS



- Increase visibility of existing spaces in Via Roentgen Building
- Reduce the colour and material monotony
- Create learning spaces that accommodate a larger scale of needs

- Add additional learning spaces for the students
- Add greenery
- Create a space for celebrations after graduations that does not disturb the pedestrian circulation

- Minimise the Staff - Students threshold
- Create the space for social interactions
- Add more social areas
- Add networking event spaces

CLIENT - CONCLUSIONS



-Create learning/working spaces that support neurodiversity

-Create new working and learning spaces that support sustainable academic/working performance

-Design an academic and event calendar that allows for a constant use of public spaces throughout the year

-Create events spaces in order to take the pressure away from the city centre

-Design a building that acts like an exchange space and is more integrated into the urban fabric

-Integrate fountains as a central creative driver

-Encourage pedestrian circulation

-Create learning spaces that support neurodiversity

-Design a new academic calendar that supports the students needs while maintaining the academic performance levels

INDEX

INTRODUCTION

Thesis Topic Statement
Research Question
Ambition and Strategy

RESEARCH

Thesis Topic & Milan
Group Theme

DESIGN BRIEF

Site
Program
Client

CONCLUSION

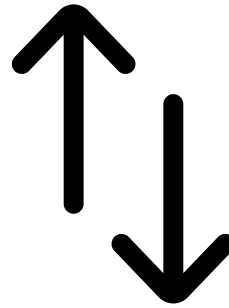
**HOW CAN THE DESIGN OF THE FUTURE ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY BUILDING ENHANCE SUSTAINABLE
ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE?**

Conclusion

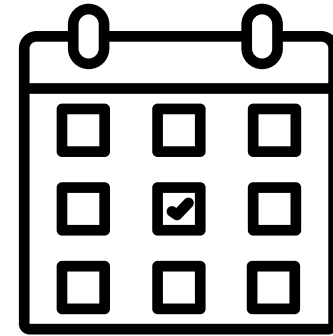
SUMMARISED



**Promote sustainable
academic performance**

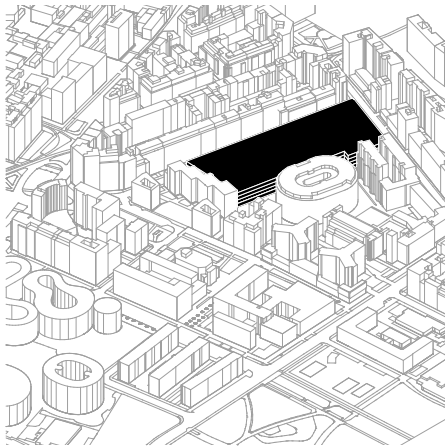


**Connector between the city
and the Bocconi Campus**

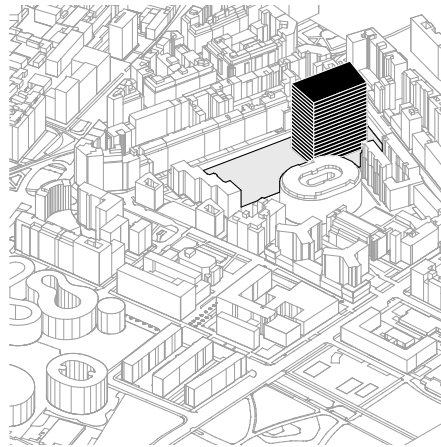


**Create spaces for visible
events**

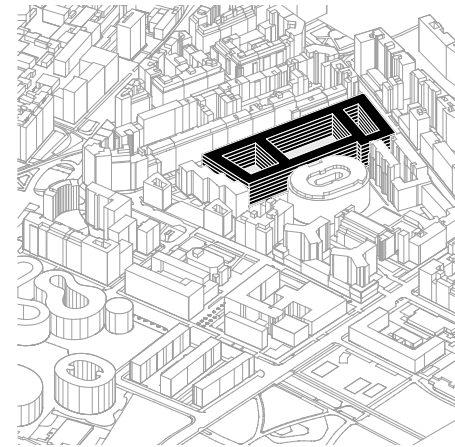
NEXT STEPS - SITE



Entire site

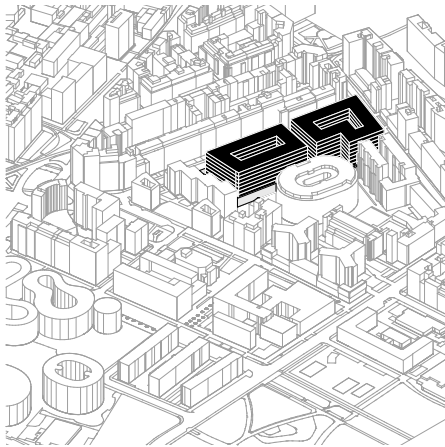


Tower

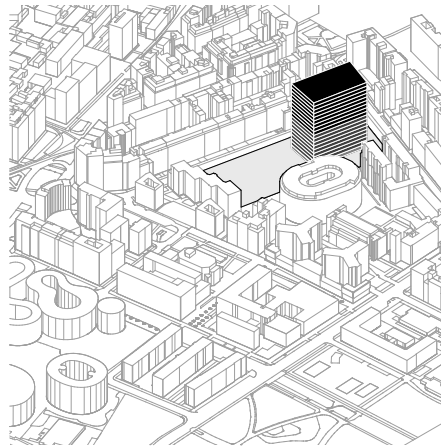


Series of courtyards

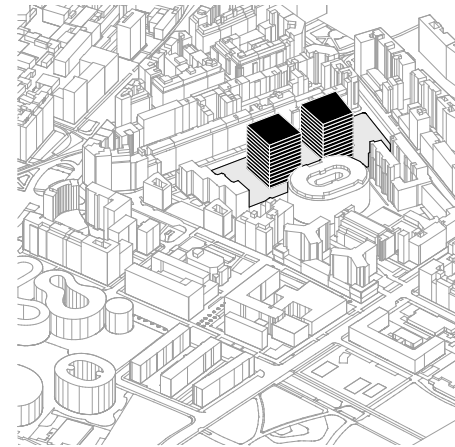
NEXT STEPS - PROGRAMME



Divided functions

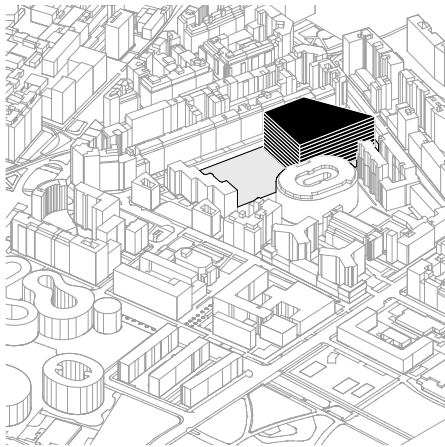


Stacked functions

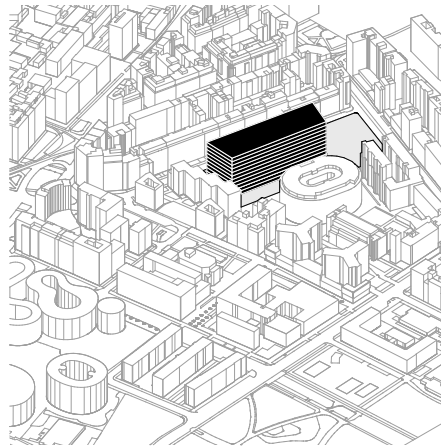


Common public areas

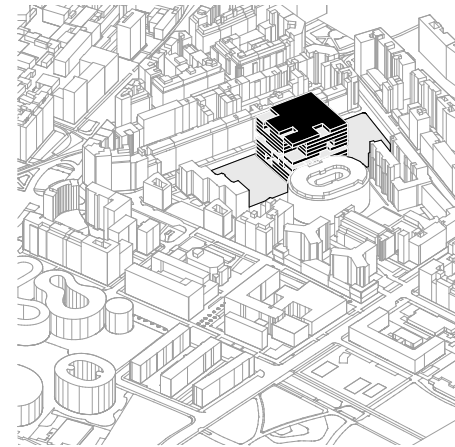
NEXT STEPS - CLIENT



Emblem of the university



Revealing the campus



Vertical interplay of greenery

THANK YOU!