



Executive Program
Strategic Design Workshop for ADA new Campus in Shaki

Italy-Azerbaijan University Project

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

In collaboration with ADA University and Politecnico di Milano within the Italy-Azerbaijan University Project, the Executive Program is designed as a policy dialogue between stakeholders in historic site conservation, management, and responsible transformation. Shaki, a UNESCO site since 2019, is a city that has recently received significant attention due to the value of its built heritage and its potential strategic role. The Executive program intends to involve some 20 local architects in developing ideas and concepts for Shaki's new ADA University campus. The project site is a central area comprising five historic villas and a recently built school building, set in a park of significant environmental value.

The aim of the workshop activity consists of the study of the state of conservation of the buildings and the development of a concept for the preservation and reuse of the New Campus Area and the Five Villas as cultural heritage - taking into high consideration their historical value and the intervention criteria specific to a UNESCO site - and in the development of an architectural and urban reuse strategy for the area towards the creation of the new ADA University campus that would serve as regional branch for the ADA School of Design and Architecture launched in collaboration with Politecnico di Milano.

Representatives from the government, private society, professionals, students, and academia will interact and brainstorm to explore answers to pressing issues and challenges of local communities and public administration in built-heritage management and enhancement through project, policy, research, and entrepreneurial response.

The executive program also aspires to have a paradigmatic and methodologically repeatable value. Indeed, participants will be trained to seek heritage reuse and transformation solutions tailored to the local context by drawing lessons from current global tendencies and best international practices following UNESCO international rules (ICOMOS and ICCROM).

Target audience

The Executive Program is offered to graduates and experienced architects and urban designers from private or public administration firms and enterprises.

The program is intended for subjects involved and interested in enhancing their knowledge, experience and capability in the management and reuse of existing, ancient, and traditional sites,

promoting an approach based on transdisciplinary training.

General objectives

- Building an academic-professional-administrative nexus by applying cutting-edge research, processes, and techniques toward new skills and expertise.
- Improving practical experiences in the building and urban sector, specifically related to cultural heritage, and transforming skills into valuable challenges at international levels.
- Understanding the techniques and tools of knowing and surveying historic buildings.
- Introducing the principles and techniques of architectural preservation.
- Understanding the characters and constraints of intervention in a UNESCO site.
- Developing an architectural strategy and design concept for the "New ADA Campus in Shaki."
- Exploring and generating new ideas for an adaptation intervention in the urban area of the "New ADA Campus in Shaki."
- Identifying short-term and long-term consequences of decision-making for the management of projects on old sites and architectural, urban, and landscape heritage sites.

Thematic areas

- Restoration and conservation of architectural heritage: culture and practice.
- Architectural and urban design applied to the regeneration, spatial intervention and reuse of historic sites and urban settings: culture and practice.
- Adaptive reuse of existing buildings and architectural heritage: culture and practice.
- Management of historical sites at the urban and landscape scale: culture and practice.
- Management and valorisation of UNESCO sites.
- New technologies and labour market in the intervention on architectural and urban heritage.

Didactic approach and method

The Executive Program aims to be an open discussion for all participants. Each session will cover specific thematic areas agreed upon to balance the interests of different stakeholders and the two universities. The Executive Program is intended to be a learning experience and project brainstorming. This kind of project-based activity is a learning-by-doing educational experience where participants develop their skills working in teams under the supervision of expert teachers from Politecnico di Milano.

The program is structured in 3 modules and a final event. Each module has specific objectives and activities, and other activities will be carried out between the modules.

During the **first module**, which will be held in **Shaki**, participants will attend a seminar on the principles and techniques of architectural heritage survey. They will also visit historic buildings and the Five-Villa complex, which will be the subject of the project proposal, and meet with local stakeholders.

During the **second module**, which will be held in **Milan**, Politecnico di Milano, participants will visit buildings and preservation and transformation interventions related to and useful for carrying out the design activity envisaged in the workshop. They will also receive a brief on the

design activity and its organisation.

In the **third module**, which will take place in **Baku**, ADA University, participants will conduct a project-based activity to formulate their proposals for the project site in Shaki. Participants will be divided into working groups (4-5 people). Each team will develop one new concept and present a draft by the end of the week. The results will be presented with analysis, surveys, drawings, sketches, 3D views and preliminary models representing the project concept.

Participants will develop the final presentation of their concepts between the third module and the **final conference**, during which the best concept will be awarded.

Format

Shaki module: April 26-27, 2024

Seminar on survey and Site visit

ACTIVITY N°1 - Seminar on the survey, Site visit, and stakeholder discussion.

In Sheki, two activities will take place:

- A seminar by experts of Politecnico di Milano on “how to make a survey”.
- A visit to the Orphanage/Zulfugarov Mansion site and surrounding area and the New Campus Area by the participants.

Milan module, 1-5 July, 2024

Preparatory workshop and visits

ACTIVITY N°2 - Preparatory workshop in Milan.

The workshop participants will go to Milan and attend a set of activities planned by the team of Politecnico di Milano:

- Visit interesting and useful building sites.
- Study of the survey and design brief.
- Team organisation of following steps.

Baku module, 2-6 September, 2024

Design week

ACTIVITY N°3 - Workshop in Baku

The teachers and tutors of Politecnico di Milano will supervise the team in their project-based activity.

Each team of 4 members will develop 1 new concept and present a draft by the end of the week. The results will be presented with analysis, surveys, drawings, sketches, 3D views and preliminary models representing the project concept.

Final event, October 4, 2024

Conference in Baku

ACTIVITY N°4

The final event consists of a conference where all concept proposals will be presented to the public, and the winner of the best concept will be awarded.

Schedule

Activities		Timing	Location
N ^o	Content	Period	
1	Seminar on the Survey, Site visit and Discussion with the Stakeholders	April 25 Travel from Baku to Shaki 26-27 Seminar in Shaki 28 Travel from Shaki to Baku	Shaki
2	Preparatory workshop and visits	June 29 Flight Baku-Milan July 1-5 Milan module 6 Flight Milan-Baku	Milan
3	Design week	September 2-6 Workshop in Baku	Baku
4	Conference	October 4 Conference in Baku (tbc)	Baku

Language

The language of the program is English.

Award

At the end of the program, all participants will receive a certificate of participation and the best concept will be awarded at the final conference.

Who can apply?

Graduated and experienced architects and researchers from private or public administration firms and enterprises. A bachelor's degree in architecture/restoration/urban planning, English language skills, and design software skills are required.

Cost

The fee for the entire program is 1500 AZN. Participants are required to cover travel, accommodation, and personal expenses of Shaki and Milan modules. Travel related organizational facilitation to be provided by the organizers.

Application:

All interested candidates must complete the Online Application form available at this link: www.ada.edu.az/apply before April 18, 2024. Candidates may be called for an evaluative interview for final selection.

Contact information:

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Organized by

ADA University

SDA - School of Design and Architecture

Politecnico di Milano

Department of Architecture and Building Construction

Department of Architecture and Urban Studies

Department of Design