Dear PhD Candidates,  
Dear Colleagues,  
  
We are pleased to invite you to the second lecture of the International Seminar ARCHITECTURE DESIGN AND RESEARCH 2025, which will be delivered by **Franceso Maranelli** and is entitled **"** **Architecture, computers and politics in the Italian Sixties "**. This online session will take place on  **14th of March**at **15h30 CET** and can be accessed by the following link:

<https://videoconf-colibri.zoom.us/j/93215713573>

about the lecture:   
In the Italian Sixties, the arrival of a new technology, the computer, was accompanied by great hopes, aspirations, and, at times, even fears concerning its adoption in architectural design and in the production of the built environment. From the enthusiastic years which followed the launch of Olivetti’s ELEA 9003 mainframe, at the zenith of the country’s postwar economic miracle, to the period of hard political contestation which had an apex in 1967-1968, many prominent figures of the Italian architectural scene - Giancarlo De Carlo and Manfredo Tafuri among the others - talked and wrote intensely about the computer, and in some cases even adopted it in experimental machine aided design processes. As a sort of map, this presentation identifies some of the main fields where the computer and a computer culture were envisioned as instruments which could bring about a renewal of design disciplines. Beyond poetic intentions, the expectations towards the computer expressed within these fields were tightly interwoven with the broader, burning themes which characterised the political discussions of the Italian Sixties. In particular, the complex notion of democracy in a society which had been through the fascist regime, after the end of World War Two and after the new democratic constitution; the question concerning intellectual labour (or, the role of the artist and architect within the neo-capitalistic system of production and in its relationship with the masses, which also concerned the notion of participation); and, deeply connected with the former, the question concerning the machine and the possibility of its critical and politically engaged use.

Please find attached the seminar cycle poster, which includes the upcoming events in this series. We look forward to welcoming you to these sessions and hope you will join us!

Best regards,

Spela Hudnik

The International Seminar ARCHITECTURE DESIGN AND RESEARCH 2025 is organised by Professors Maria Rita Pais, Ana Neiva, Carlos Guimarães, Dana Arnold, Tadeja Zupancic, and Spela Hudnik, through a collaboration between Universidade Lusófona, the Manchester School of Architecture, and the University of Ljubljana.