

## **EAAE Council Election 2021**

### **Application for the role of Member of the Council**

#### **Prof. Ilaria Valente**

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President of the Conferenza Universitaria Italiana di Architettura  
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#### *Rationale – Background and intentions*

Over the last four years, I had the honor of collaborating as Vice-president with the EAAE President Oya Atalay Franck and the Council. First of all, I want to thank them all: together, we developed extraordinary teamwork, shared ideas, and organized several initiatives contributing to the EAAE's growth. Furthermore, I want to thank the community of the associated Schools and the Colleagues that enthusiastically participated in the EAAE initiatives, dedicating energy to our joint work even in this last year and a half marked by the pandemic emergency.

The President and the Council directed the debate, research, and mutual collaboration between the Schools joining the EAAE in a direction that deserves to be continued and increased. The community constantly grows, the "Academies" have been reinforced and consolidated in their work, new conferences have been launched.

The commitment with ARCC was confirmed, collaboration with ACSA for the first two 'Teachers' Conferences started; this year, the first edition of the Deans Summit was held in Oslo.

At the same time, EAAE improved the commitment to defining policy papers, collaboration with different networks in the academic and professional world, and enhancing publications and strategic partnership in Erasmus + projects (as CA<sup>2</sup>RE+ Collective Evaluation on Design Driven Doctoral Training).

We'll have to stimulate and widen, also finding new ways to organize them, the practice of open discussion, involving professors and students from the European schools of Architecture, the organization of think tanks, charettes, staff training events, workshops.

In the context of the EAAE recent activity, I consider that some topics are central. First of all, working in coherence with the key themes of the European agenda, with particular reference with the goals of the European Green Deal and their possible declination in the domain of architecture. The discussion is now very lively in Europe, also thanks to the New European Bauhaus initiative, which, for the first time, entrusts architecture and design disciplines to a central role. At the same time, European research is reorganizing itself through the Horizon Europe program by 2027.

In this direction, I believe it is essential to finalize the contents that emerged, in particular, from the Deans' Summit in Oslo, summarized in the Oslo Pledge and Actions. It is necessary to open a broad study on sustainability, ecological transition, the impact of climate change, and how research and education within the design disciplines can offer a decisive contribution in this area.

There is no doubt that a season is opening in which it is necessary to have a vision of what the role and the organization of the Schools of Architecture will be in Europe and the world. The pandemic has marked a threshold of solid discontinuity. We still don't know how long it will take to re-enter a new normal. But new ways of teaching have entered our daily life, including through digital platforms. We are experimenting with new ways to have international relations in a world where physical barriers have suddenly been raised and, on the other hand, are increasingly interconnected.

I, therefore, believe that EAAE should make an essential contribution of reflection on a theme that will be central to the Schools of Architecture in the coming years: tackling the education of the (European) architect about the challenges of the global world during the next 20 years.

The global environment is constantly evolving; the geopolitical contexts are fastly changing. I consider it essential to deepen the topic of European architecture and the European architecture schools set in the frame of the global context. A better understanding of Europe's architectural tradition and cultural heritage focused on advanced collaboration with worldwide Schools, research, and professional institutions, could foster innovative contents and tools for education in the domain of architecture. With this aim, I consider it vital to foster and widen the EAAE in the international context, carrying on the dialogue and partnership with the other organizations of the Architecture Schools worldwide to broaden the involvement within global networks.

I have come a long way as Dean of the School of Architecture Urban Planning Construction Engineering of Politecnico di Milano. I look forward to keeping offering my contribution on the mentioned topics and in the organization of EAAE activities. At the same time, as CUIA (Conferenza Universitaria Italiana di Architettura) President, I worked organizing similar issues at a national level. Starting from this background and intending to pursue the collaboration and support of President Oya Atalay Frank, I propose if the Council and the Assembly consider it desirable, my interest and availability to play the role of Vice-President for my second mandate.

(Ilaria Valente )

Milano, July 11th, 2021

