

Alessandro Villa, Architect and Interior Design professor



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Alessandro Villa (Milano), architect, alternates design activity with teaching at the Design Faculty of Politecnico di Milano and at Interior Design master classes.

In 1995 he graduated with honor at the Faculty of Architecture of Politecnico di Milano, course of Industrial Design and Furniture, with a thesis on the interior urban spaces for a railway station, after spending an Erasmus scholarship at the Mackintosh School of Art in Glasgow in 1992/93.

In 1996 he was selected in a multidisciplinary team engaged on a research project on car interior design organized by Politecnico di Milano and sponsored by FIAT Auto. In the same year he was co-founder and executive editor of ArreData cd-rom the first Italian multimedia magazine on interior and industrial design. Since 2003/04 he teaches Interior Design at Politecnico di Milano and he is lecturer at MID, Master in Interior Design, Consorzio POLI.design in Milano, as well as being a supervisor and a co-supervisor of several theses.

Since late '90ties he developed a special interest in materials and finishes for interiors, also in reference to design experiences and technical articles. In 2006 he has been working on a design research project sponsored by 3M and Fincantieri. More precisely, these studies tackle relations between design, materials and technology to define a new generation of products. As far as his educational activity is concerned, since 2009 he teaches a monographic course on Materials for Interiors at the international Master Course at SPD Scuola Politecnica Design in Milan.

Still regarding the field of materials he has taken part for some time now as a lecturer in educational programs—post-degree masters in specific subjects related to interior design and furniture design (retail, hotel, office, wellness and spa).

He also dealt with other research subjects on aesthetics, surfaces and languages of design, with reference to the fashion system. In 2009/10 he held a research fellowship at Dipartimento Indaco, Facoltà del Design at Politecnico di Milano. This project was focused on new visions about cosmetic product concepts and retail design scenarios. Since 2013 he has been visiting professor at the Tongji University of Shanghai and Goenka University in New Delhi.

Design research inspires his writing of articles and reports from many areas of the interior design. In recent years he wrote columns for the magazines INTERNI, ME Materiali Edili and RE Recuperare l'edilizia. His writings monitor some leitmotifs, such as innovation in materials, processes and finishes for interior use. Technical articles alternate with analysis of senses and perception aspects.

In 1998 he opened his first own interior design practice, later transformed into "alessandrovilla" studio, covering also product design and small scale architecture. The practice designs houses, offices, showrooms and commercial set ups. Among the projects, the offices for the advertising agency Dorland Ayer in Milan, the pilot store for the franchising Liberti and the flagship showroom for Lorenzo Riva maison and Davines. Progressively, the studio has expanded its activities to the design of furniture and accessories (Wella, Rubinetterie Stella), graphic design and visual communication, thanks to an extensive network of external collaborators with different professional skills. The works of the studio have been published on interior design magazines (Ottagono, Casamica, Habitat Ufficio, Gap Casa, Casaviva) and by Italian and international press (Archivolto, Monsa Ediciones Barcelona, Sun Interieur Moscow, Gibbs Smith Publisher in US). In 2010 he was awarded at the competition "Designers Show," sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of Monza & Brianza, for "Urban Skin", a design for a new generation of photovoltaic surfaces.