



Saturday 18 July | 09:30-12:00

Walking Lecture II: Healing Architecture: From the Renaissance Ca' Granda to the New Milan Polyclinic

Professor Silvana Castaldi

This walking lecture will explore the historical and contemporary relationship between hospital architecture and public health, focusing on the evolution of healthcare spaces in Milan.

The visit will begin at the Ca' Granda, the monumental Renaissance hospital founded in the 15th century by Francesco Sforza and today home to part of the University of Milan. Participants will explore the historic courtyards and architectural layout of the complex, which was originally conceived according to innovative principles of hospital organization, hygiene, and patient care. The structure's system of courtyards and wards reflected early ideas about ventilation, light, and spatial separation aimed at improving health outcomes.

The lecture will then move toward the new Policlinico of Milan, currently under development, offering an opportunity to reflect on how hospital architecture has evolved to respond to modern healthcare needs. The discussion will address themes such as patient-centered design, technological integration, infection control, and the role of hospital buildings within the broader urban environment.

Led jointly by physicians and architects, this walking lecture will highlight how the design of healthcare facilities—from Renaissance hospitals to contemporary medical campuses—continues to shape the delivery of care and the health of communities.