SUMMER SCHOOL
REBUILDD

Department of Environment
Constructions and Design

SUPSI

Rethinking Built Environment

Integrated Design

Using Learning for circular and Diffusion

31.08–04.09
Campus SUPSI,
Mendrisio,
Switzerland

Project partners:

4R^{n}D circular construction hub

FabLab SUPSI

BancaStato

CARITAS TICINO

IOTI | Fili PURICELLI SA TRASPORTI - RECYCLING

Date

Mon 31 August – Fri 4 September 2026

Location

Campus SUPSI (Universiy of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland) **Mendrisio Cantone Ticino Switzerland**

Format

In person

Languages

Italian/English

Description

The REBUILDD Summer School offers an intensive programme dedicated to Circular Economy as a lever for rethinking how we design and transform the built environment and its components. Open to participants from diverse disciplines, it adopts a fully transdisciplinary approach structured around four pillars: understanding the circular potential of materials; designing and applying circularity strategies; experimenting with advanced digital tools for the Circular Economy; and measuring/communicating circular processes and outcomes in innovative ways.

The week combines interdisciplinary lectures, hands-on workshops, laboratory activities and thematic visits. The dialogue between emerging perspectives, research insights and established expertise provides significant added value, fostering critical and collaborative learning.

The experience concludes with the production of design or narrative guidelines: a concrete and transferable output that transforms the entire journey into a clear, communicable vision, useful for future projects or for enriching one's portfolio.

A chi è rivolta

- **Students (Bachelor's / Master's / PhD)**
- **Professionals and officials involved in design, production and organisational processes**
- **Academics and researchers**

Programma

Day 1

Introduction to the Circular Economy and focus on "Understanding the circular potential of materials"

The first day introduces the fundamentals of the Circular Economy and presents the initial theme centred on material knowledge, combining presentations, case studies and visits to laboratories and recycling facilities. These activities provide a concrete understanding of the potential of materials within the circular transition.
The day concludes with a guided discussion aimed at consolidating the main reflections that emerged.

Day 2

"Designing/applying Circularity"

The second day focuses on designing and applying circularity, presented through experiences, case studies and visits to organisations experimenting with innovative approaches to reuse, deconstruction and design strategies aimed at extending the lifespan of products and their components, while also enabling material recovery at end-of-life.
The day ends with a participatory workshop guiding groups through the simulation of circular (pre-)design processes, transforming observations and insights into practical redesign and reuse exercises.

Day 3

"Digitalising and Experimenting"

The third day is dedicated to the theme of digitalisation and experimentation, exploring how technology can support the transition towards the Circular Economy. Through lectures and hands-on sessions, participants delve into tools such as 3D printing, virtual reality and Digital Product Passports, testing solutions for traceability, management and the design of durable circular products intended to be re-introduced into cycles.
The day concludes with a structured debate comparing the benefits and challenges of digitalisation applied to circular processes, fostering shared and informed reflection.

Day 4

"Communicating Circular Economy and Measuring Circular Impacts"

The fourth day focuses on communication and impact measurement within the Circular Economy, through presentations on indicators, tools and strategies for transparent communication while avoiding risks of greenwashing.
Activities continue with a visit designed to stimulate debate around the day's themes. The day concludes with a discussion and prioritisation workshop helping participants reflect on the cultural value of the Circular Economy and identify leverage points for increasing the acceptance of circularity within the built environment.

Day 5

Final presentations

The final day is dedicated to interdisciplinary group work, during which participants consolidate what they have learned throughout the week by developing design/narrative guidelines for a specific object or system.
The programme concludes with a plenary presentation of the projects — an opportunity to share reflections, discuss outcomes and highlight the collective experience. This is followed by an informal moment of exchange... a special finale that participants will discover only at the end of the day.

Participation in the Summer School corresponds to 3 ECTS, calculated on a total workload of approximately 75 hours, including in-person activities and individual work.

Speaker
SUPSI lecturers, professional instructors, and partner associations/companies.

Participation fee
Participation is free of charge for SUPSI students and staff.

475 CHF for external students* (Bachelor's / Master's / PhD)

950 CHF for external professionals, academics and researchers*

*The participation fees include all Summer School activities — lectures, workshops, laboratory sessions, thematic visits, and teaching materials — as well as lunch for the entire week. Travel costs, evening meals and accommodation are not included, unless otherwise specified by special agreements.

Payment is made via bank transfer: instructions will be provided by email only after confirmation of admission.

Registration will be considered valid and effective only once payment has been received.

Registration
Deadline: **30 June 2026**.
Click the link or scan the QR code to complete the registration form:
Summer School REBUILDD - Registration form

For any issues with the registration form, please contact:
info@4rnd.ch