

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Information

Verena Lenna

EDUCATION

- 06.2013 – 08.2019 **Dual PhD in URBANISM**, at Università IUAV di Venezia
and in ENGINEERING SCIENCE: ARCHITECTURE, at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
Final Defence: 30 August 2019.
Title of the dissertation: *The project of property as emancipation. A Community Land Trust in Brussels.*- Supervisors: Prof. Dr. P. Viganò, Prof. Dr. B. De Meulder. Assessors: Prof. Dr. C. Bianchetti, Prof. Dr. C. Kesteloot, Prof. Dr. M. Loopmans, Prof. Dr. M. C. Tosi.
Evaluation: Excellent with honours (*dignità di stampa*, publication recommended)
- 09.2010 - 11.2012 **Master (2nd level) - EMU - EUROPEAN MASTERS IN URBANISM**
at Università IUAV di Venezia, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Parsons The New School, New York City. Title of the dissertation: *The agonistic city. Building the political in Sunset Park.*
Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Bernardo Secchi, Prof. Dr. Paola Viganò, Prof. Dr. Bruno De Meulder.
- 03-2008 – 10.2008 **Master - ARTS AND CULTURAL SKILLS FOR MANAGEMENT**
at Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali (LUISS), Rome
- 09.1996 – 04.2007 **Master's degree in ARCHITECTURE** at Università IUAV di Venezia
Title of the dissertation: *The image of the city as infrastructure. Designing the urban identity of Barcelona. (L'infrastruttura dell'immagine. Dispositivi d'identità urbana a Barcellona)*
Supervisor: Prof. Dr. B. Secchi. Co-supervisor: Prof. P. Magli (IUAV, semiotics).
Evaluation: 110/110

AWARDS AND FUNDING

- 04.06.2020 Honourable mention at Premio Lorenzo Bargellini 2020, Florence. Dissertation award for doctoral researches dealing with social movements related to the housing question and housing practices.
- 2017-2018 Funding for *Commoning*, a participatory action research project conceived in the framework of the *Co-create* programme by Innoviris (Institut bruxellois pour la recherche et l'innovation). Partners: KU Leuven, Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), BRAL vzw, Dewey asbl, EGEB asbl, Le Vide Technique asbl.
- 2013-2015 3 years doctoral scholarship at Scuola di Dottorato, Università IUAV di Venezia, increased of 50% in the framework of the agreement with Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (dual PhD agreement).
- 02.2012-05.2012 4 months scholarship *Atlantis Exchange Program* at Parsons School of Design, The New School, New York City. Program: Transdisciplinary Design
- 09.2007-01.2008 Funding InnovareèImpresa (POR FESR) for the project *Communication and product design for Small and Medium Enterprises*, Friuli Venezia Giulia.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 15.09.2020- **Researcher for H2020 project gE.CO Living Lab project for the generativity of the commons, coordinated by Università degli Studi di Torino, partners: Newcastle University, Universitat de Barcelona, Community Land Trust Brussels, Open Lab Athens, Spazi Indecisi, estonesunsolar, Eutropian.** Activities: 1. analysis of governance models of commons oriented initiatives and policies. 2 development of governance tools aimed at supporting the generativity of existing and forthcoming commons oriented initiatives. 3. Experimentation with the CLT governance model.
- 18.07.2013- 30.08.2019 **Doctoral researcher at Università IUAV di Venezia, Scuola di Dottorato, curriculum Urbanistica and at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Faculty of engineering science: architecture, Department of Architecture, Urbanism and Architecture research group (OSA).** Performed activities: 1. Design and management of a research project on an innovative approach to home ownership and property, complying with the rules and procedures of both universities involved in the dual PhD agreement. 2 Participant observation at Community Land Trust Brussels, while collaborating as an architect to the realisation of the prototype housing project Le Nid. 3. Collection of fieldwork notes and interviews as part of the ethnographic approach. 4 Dissemination and elaboration of research findings by participating in and organising international conferences, internal and public seminars; by publishing articles and book chapters. 5. Transferable skills training sessions and workshops organised by KU Leuven 6. Synthesis of results and writing of the doctoral dissertation.
- 10.02.2017-10. 10. 2018 **Researcher for *Commoning*, a participatory action research project, funded by Innoviris** (Brussels Capital Region), in the framework of the 2017 Co-Create call for projects. Partners: KU Leuven, VUB, BRAL vzw, Dewey asbl, EGEB asbl, Le Vide Technique asbl. Performed activities: 1. Writing of the research proposal 2. Identification of potential partner organisation and collectives 3. Organisation of activities with local commons-oriented initiatives aiming at co-writing the research project and establishing collaboration 4. Collection of fieldwork notes and interviews as part of the ethnographic approach. 5. Synthesis of results and writing of final report (first phase).
- 12.02.2014 - 07.12.2017 **Co-coordinator and researcher for the participatory action research implemented for the establishment of *mare culturale urbano*, centre of artistic and cultural production, Milan.** In collaboration with **CohStra**, non-profit cooperative for socio-spatial research, design and development. <https://maremilano.org/mare-culturale-urbano/> Performed activities: 1. Socio spatial analysis of the neighbourhood 2. Identification of potentially interested individuals and community based organisations 2. Organisation of activities aiming at involving the local communities and inhabitants in the project of the cultural centre 3. Coordination of research collaborators 4. Collection of fieldwork notes and interviews 5. Synthesis of results, through texts, maps, diagrams.
- 22.02.2011 – 06.09.2011 **Research-by-design project *Common Wealth***, developed in the framework of the Master Dissertation Studio *Urbanisms & Inclusions 1*: Sint-Jans-Molenbeek/Brussels, coordinated by Prof. B.De Meulder, KU Leuven, as part of the Atlantis exchange program. Performed activities: 1. socio spatial analysis of Molenbeek (Brussels), case study of the research project. 2 individuation of potentials spaces and resources for commoning initiatives 3. Urban, architectural and governance project centred on commoning practices. 4. Dissemination encounters with local community based associations and activists.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Critic at urban design studios' mid-term reviews and final presentations

- 03/2021
05/2021 Mid term and Final Presentation Design Studio 6 Spring 2021, coordinated by Prof. Brian McGrath, at Parsons The New School, 12 March 2021 and 04 May 2021.

12/2020	Final presentations of Architecture Design Studio 5 Fall 2020, coordinated by Prof. Brian McGrath, at Parsons The New School, 08 December 2020.
03/2019 05/2019	Mid-term and final presentations of Master Dissertation Studio, <i>Homes for Flanders, homes for Brussels</i> , coordinated by Prof. Martino Tattara, Faculty of Architecture Campus Sint Lucas, KU Leuven
06/2016	Jury member at <i>Metropolitan e-Studio</i> , Faculty of Architecture La Cambre Horta, Université Libre de Bruxelles, coordinated by Nadia Casabella, Geoffrey Grulois, Gery Leloutre
2012-2016	at Master of Urbanism and Spatial Planning (MaUSP) – Master of Human Settlements (MaHS), KU Leuven: several Urban Design and Planning Studios.
	Teaching assistant at Master of Urbanism and Spatial Planning (MaUSP) – Master of Human Settlements (MaHS), KU Leuven
2015-2016	STUDIO FALL 2015-2016 - <i>Living on the Edge. Re-assembling the Brussels/ Flanders border by means of density and diversity</i> . Studio coordination with Viviana d’Auria, Tine Van Herck, Burak Pak
2014-2015	STUDIO FALL 2014-2015 - <i>The Big, the Bad and the Ugly. Building the 21st century city by redesigning the modernist utopias</i> . Studio coordination with Viviana d’Auria, Tine Van Herck.
2013-2014	STUDIO FALL 2013-2014 - <i>Molenbeek Underground/Overground. Oikos re-defined: infrastructuring the post-industrial resilience</i> . Coordinated by Prof. De Meulder, with Christian Nolf, Florence Vannoorbeeck
2012-2013	STUDIO FALL 2012-2013. <i>Deurne-Noord. A 20th century belt neighbourhood of Antwerp in transition</i> . Coordinated by Prof. De Meulder, with Maddalena Falletti, Verena Lenna, Arnout Vandenbossche

Bachelor and master thesis supervision

2014	Student: Jessica Verbruggen. Promoter: Bruno De Meulder. <i>Dismantling insecurity: the socio-spatial role of commercial activities in the neighborhood of Arcella, Padova</i> . Bachelor in de ingenieurswetenschappen: architectuur, KU Leuven. 08 September 2014
	Student: Lise Neirinckx. Promoter: Bruno De Meulder. <i>Residuals of a fast urban growth: La Mina, Barcelona</i> . Bachelor in de ingenieurswetenschappen: architectuur, KU Leuven. 08 September 2014
	Student: Ranjani Balasubramanian, Promoter: Lieven De Cauter Co-promoter: Pieter Van den Broeck. - <i>For the Common, by the Common. Reclaiming the urban spatial commons in Bangalore</i> . Master of Urbanism and Spatial Planning, KU Leuven. August 2014
	Student: Elise Candry. Promoter: Lieven De Cauter. <i>Episodes of urban activism in Brussels. From civil disobedience to architectural practice: Brussels citizens challenging the conventional urban space</i> . Master of Human Settlements, KU Leuven. June 2014.

LECTURES, SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

2021	Lecture: <i>The porous architecture of the urban commons</i> . Part 1 and Part 2, 9 -16 February 2021, Parsons The New School, at Design Studio 6, coordinated by Prof. Brian McGrath
2020	Lecture: <i>Generative and distributive by design. A community Land Trust in Brussels</i> , 24 November 2020, Parsons The New School, at Design Studio 5, coordinated by Prof. Brian McGrath
2019	Seminar: <i>Alla ricerca di un nuovo lessico</i> , 19 February 2019, Politecnico di Torino, with Cristina Bianchetti, Anna Detheridge, Lorenza Manfredi, Ianira Vassallo
2017	Seminar: <i>The right to inhabit. Commons Josaphat as a ground of possibilities</i> . Cosmopolis Lunch Seminar, 16 March 2017 , Department of Geography, VUB Brussels

2015	Book presentation and seminar: <i>Spazio, cittadinanza, solidarietà</i> , IUAV, Venice, 29 October 2015
2015	Concept, coordination and participation: Masterclass: <i>Urbanism in times of insurgency. Advocating for the just city</i> , curated by M.Basso, I. Bianchi, A. Curtoni, V. Lenna, G.Mazzorin, IUAV, Venice 16 -17 July 2015
2014	Concept, organisation and participation: Masterclass Maps II. <i>Addressing complexity in the contemporary territories</i> , by Alvise Pagnacco, Verena Lenna, Sabina Favaro, Cecilia Furlan, IUAV Venice 9-10 June 2014
2013	Book presentation and seminar: <i>La città dei ricchi e la città dei poveri</i> , IUAV, Venice 22 May 2013
2012	Organization, tutorship and participation: <i>Recycling City</i> , Erasmus Intensive Program, Venice, July 2012.

PUBLICATIONS

Research monographs

2021	(forthcoming) Lenna V., <i>The project of property as emancipation. A Community Land Trust in Brussels</i> . Springer
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Chapters in collective volumes

2021	(forthcoming) Lenna V., Martin Sanchez L., Resisting gentrification by reclaiming a work-life balance. An exercise of research-by-design in Brussels, in Cerruti But M., Kercuku A., Setti G., Vassallo I. <i>Spatial tensions: devices, practices, projects</i> . New York: Springer.
2020	Lenna, V., Randazzo, R., Trimarchi, M., Can social fractures affect the legal framework? Towards an institutional craftsmanship. In: Macri, E., Morea, V., Trimarchi, M. (eds). <i>Cultural commons and urban dynamics</i> . New York: Springer. ISBN 978-3-030-54418-8
2020	Lenna V., Preserving Urban Generativity: The Role of Porous Spaces in CLT Projects, in Davis J. E., Algoed, L., Hernandez Torrales, M. E. (eds.) <i>On Common Ground: International Perspectives on the Community Land Trust</i> , Terra Nostra Press. ISBN 9781734403008
2019	Lenna, V., Trimarchi M., For a Culture of the Urban Commons. Practices and policies. In: C.Benincasa, G. Neri, M. Trimarchi (eds.) <i>Art and Economics in the City. New Cultural Maps</i> . Bielefeld: Transcript-Verlag. ISBN: 9783837642148. Pp. 205-43
2015	Lenna, V., Scenes from the right not to be excluded. In: Bianchetti C., Cogato Lanza E., Sampieri A., Kercuku A., Voghera A. (Eds.), <i>Territories in crisis. Architecture and Urbanism facing changes in Europe</i> . Berlin: Jovis, ISBN: 978-3-86859-383-9. Pp. 164-174

Double blind peer reviewed articles in internationally recognised scientific journals and conference proceedings

2019	Lenna, V., Riconoscimento e responsabilità. Il ruolo del progetto nel Community Land Trust di Bruxelles. In <i>Ardeth</i> , issue n.4: Olmo, C. ed, Rights. Torino: Rosenberg & Sellier. ISSN 2532-6457. Pp. 31-55.
2017	Lenna V., From the body to the city. Design as a grounding process for a block as a commons in Brussels. In M. Young (ed.), <i>AMPS Proceedings Series 9. Living and Sustainability: An Environmental Critique of Design and Building Practices, Locally and Globally</i> . London South Bank University, London, 08 – 09 February (2017). ISSN 2398-9467. pp 319-331

Peer reviewed articles and conference proceedings

2021	(forthcoming) Lenna, V., Trimarchi, M., Commons, law and the city. Practices of care disrupting regulatory grids. In <i>The Munich Social Science Review</i> , vol.4, Munchen: Verlag Holler, ISSN 0170-2521
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2021	Lenna V., Il respiro della città. Riappropriarsi del pubblico praticando il comune, in <i>Tra il Dire e il Fare</i> , 20. ISSN 2532-9928
2020	Lenna V., Martin Sanchez, A., Forme emergenti di vita-lavoro. Esplorazione socio-spaziale di tre casi a Bruxelles. Presented at: <i>L'Urbanistica italiana di fronte all'Agenda 2030. XXII Conferenza Nazionale SIU</i> , Matera- Bari, 5-6-7 June 2019. Roma-Milano: Planum Publisher ISBN 9788899237219, pp 554-558

PARTICIPATORY ART AND DESIGN PROJECTS EXPERIENCE

2012	<i>Urban Intervention Camp: Casa Mare</i> . A project for <i>Spontaneous Interventions</i> , the installation at the United States Pavilion at the 13th Venice Architecture Biennale <i>Common Ground</i> . Performed activities: concept, organization and realization as member of the collective Urban Trickster, in collaboration with the collective DSGN AGNC. 30th August - 1st September 2012. https://www.aurashkhawarzad.com/uiccasamare
2011	<i>Parables</i> . Bangladesh first participation in the 54rd Venice Art Biennale, <i>Illuminations</i> . Performed activities: assistant commissioner for the art exhibition hosted by Gervasuti Foundation, Venice.
11.2008 – 12.2009	<i>Green University</i> , a participatory intervention of public art at LUISS University, Rome. Performed activities: concept and curatorship, in collaboration with Adriano Olivetti Foundation and with Rossana Miele (co-curator), as part of the programme <i>Nouveaux Commanditaires –New Patrons</i> . Artist: Ettore Favini.
01.2008 – 12.2008	Creative and art director for Small and Medium Enterprises at <i>Evenio</i> , Udine. Performed activities: 1. Analysis of the needs and values of the client and their relationship with the territory and local culture. 2. Development of a coherent corporate image and where pertinent, product design 3. Realisation of graphical artefacts
04.2004 - 07.2007	Assistant architect at <i>Studio Al Wael Architect</i> , Venice. on the project of a Worship Centre for the Muslim community in Bologna, a warehouse renovation-reuse project. Main performed activities: 1. Site analysis 2. Contact with the local community. 3. Design assistance and elaboration of the final drawings
2002	<i>Your City</i> . A participatory mapping project and installation. Conceived for the <i>Venice Utopia Seminar</i> , presented at the exhibition <i>Do it for/with someone else</i> by Hans Ulrich Obrist, at Fondazione Bevilacqua La Masa, Venice. https://www.e-flux.com/announcements/43311/do-it-for-with-someone-else/

SKILLS

Language skills	Italian and Friulian: native English and French: fluent Spanish: intermediate
Software	MS Office (word, PowerPoint, Excel and Outlook) CAD (Autocad 2D/3D); Adobe Suite – GIS